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The INDIAN PANORAMA

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Indian Americans, US Lawmakers, Welcome Biden's Nomination of Eric Garcetti as Envoy to India



WASHINGTON (TIP): Powerful US lawmakers and eminent members of the Indian American community have welcomed the nomination of Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti as the country's next envoy to India.

US President Joe Biden on Friday, July 9, announced the nomination of Gracetti, 50, as the US Ambassador to India.

"I am honored to accept his nomination to serve in this role," Mr Garcetti said in a statement soon after he was nominated for the role.

Top American lawmakers and eminent members of the Indian-American community described it as an excellent choice. "Mayor Garcetti is an excellent choice to serve as US ambassador to India.

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Seen in the picture are President Biden and Eric Garcetti (in the front), and Vice President Kamala Harris, with US lawmakers

JAIPUR FOOT HAS GIVEN NEW HOPE, RAY OF LIGHT TO PEOPLE EVERYWHERE: FOREIGN SECRETARY HARSH VARDHAN SHRINGLA



India's Foreign Secretary Harsh Vardhan Shringla speaking at the welcome event hosted by Jaipur Foot USA and Gracious Givers Foundation USA. To his left (standing) is Prem Bhandari, Chairman of Jaipur Foot USA, and Ambassador T S Tirumurti, Permanent Representative of India to the United Nations (seated). Photo / Mohammad Jaffer -SnapsIndia

NEW YORK (TIP): Jaipur Foot, a prosthetic limb, has given a new hope and ray of light to people everywhere and has changed lives of people around the world, Foreign Secretary Harsh Vardhan Shringla said.

Shringla arrived in New York Wednesday, July 14 to participate in high-level events in the UN Security Council. Shringla's visit comes as India prepares to assume the Presidency of the powerful 15-nation Security Council for the month of August. Speaking at a welcome event organized in the city by Jaipur Foot USA and Gracious Givers Foundation USA, Shringla said every person in India is aware of the contributions that Jaipur Foot has done. He added that "we are proud" to work with Padma Bhushan D.R. Mehta, founder of Bhagwan Mahaveer ViklangSahayata Samiti (BMVSS) and Jaipur Foot.

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RICH TRIBUTES PAID TO VETERAN JOURNALIST TEJINDER SINGH

I.S. SALUJA

WASHINGTON (TIP): Veteran Indian-origin journalist Tejinder Singh who passed away on May 29 this year was fondly remembered by friends, colleagues, and admirers at a well-attended memorial meeting at National Press Club, Washington on July 12.

Tejinder Singh was a veteran White House correspondent and founder and editor of the India America Today newswire. He was the Vice-President (Print) for the Asian American Journalists Association (AAJA-DC) 2011-12. Tejinder Singh was born and brought up in the industrial town of Kharagpur, in the eastern Indian state of West Bengal. A veteran multimedia political and business journalist, Tejinder worked as a broadcast journalist with the BBC, South African Broadcasting Corp., and Flemish-English and Indian networks. He was the editor-in-chief for New Europe, The European Weekly, based in the EU capital of Brussels, Belgium from 1997 - 2009. Tejinder moved to the U.S. in 2009 and founded IAT in 2012. Rich tributes were paid to the ace journalist who was popular and held in esteem by his friends and colleagues.

Speaking on the occasion, Ranju Batra Chairperson, Diwali Foundation USA said: "We are all here to give tribute to a dear friend and a great journalist. I'm glad we could all come together to celebrate his life.

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Veteran Journalist Tejinder Singh

US SENATE CONFIRMS INDIAN-AMERICAN SEEMA NANDA AS SOLICITOR FOR LABOR DEPT

Nanda served as chief of staff, deputy chief of staff and deputy solicitor at the US Department of Labor in the Obama-Biden administration. Photo / Twitter/@SeemaNanda



WASHINGTON (TIP): The US Senate has confirmed Indian-American civil rights lawyer Seema Nanda as the solicitor for the Department of Labor.

A former CEO of the Democratic National Committee who also served in the Department of Labor during the Obama Administration, Nanda, 48, was confirmed by the Senate with 53-46 votes on Wednesday, July 14.

Nanda served as chief of staff, deputy chief of staff and deputy solicitor at the US Department of Labor in the Obama-Biden administration. Earlier, she spent over 15 years in various roles as a labor and employment attorney, mostly in government service. CONTD ON PAGE 38



Rahul Gupta, a former health commissioner of West Virginia, has been nominated Director of the Office of National Drug Control Policy

INDIAN AMERICAN RAHUL GUPTA NOMINATED AS AMERICA'S DRUG CZAR

I.S. SALUJA

WASHINGTON (TIP): President Joe Biden nominated Indian American Rahul Gupta, the top health official at maternal-and-child advocacy group March of Dimes, as the nation's top drug policy official, the White House announced, July 13. Gupta, a primary-care doctor who led Biden's transition efforts for the drug policy office, would be the first Indian American and as the

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Andy Singh

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:- GUEST COMMENT :-

Population control in Uttar Pradesh

CREATING AWARENESS IS THE BEST BET TO ACHIEVE GOAL

The assurance by the BJP government in Uttar Pradesh led by Yogi Adityanath that population control measures will not be aimed at any class or section is welcome, provided there is transparency in its implementation. With an estimated population of over 24 crore, UP is the most populous state of India with its accompanying developmental hazards which act as an impediment to growth. Industrial growth in the state is among the slowest in the country, resulting in high unemployment and migration of workforce. The huge population has also

impacted health parameters - UP's infant mortality rate is among the highest in India. With about one-fifth of the country's child population, UP also faces the challenge of tackling absenteeism and low enrolment in schools. The return of migrant workers in large numbers has put the onus on the state government to provide them with benefits, besides making immunisation a long-drawn process.

With Uttar Pradesh headed for the Assembly polls next year, the BJP government in the state is merely trying to fulfil the promises that it had made in its 2017 election manifesto. The manifesto had promised to accelerate development and the draft Bill released to mark World Population Day is a step in that direction. Objections to the policy have been invited and the provision to

incentivize couples who do not have more than two children, while good in intent, is bound to give rise to fears of discrimination among others.

Reassuringly, CM Yogi has stressed on creating awareness and not coercion to bring in population stabilization. The use of force could well be reminiscent of the forced sterilization campaigns carried out during the Emergency. A country like China has relaxed its two-child policy, allowing couples to have three children to address the country's long-term demographic imbalance, ageing society and reduced working age population. UP's concerns on these counts may be justified but the policy should not be directed at any particular section of society. Social cohesion is also a prerequisite for all-round progress.

(Tribune India)

:- GUEST COMMENT :-

Sedition law-Overdue review

SUPREME COURT'S REMARKS ON SEDITION CASES BODE WELL FOR ITS INEVITABLE INVALIDATION

It is gratifying to note that the Supreme Court, while indicating its intention to reconsider the sedition provision in the Indian Penal Code, has raised the question most relevant to the issue: "Why does Section 124A continue in the statute book even after 75 years of independence?" Chief Justice N. V. Ramana has also pointed to the rampant misuse of the section by the police across the country and reminded the government that it was a legal provision that the colonial regime had used to suppress the freedom movement. The issues flagged by the Chief Justice of India may set the tone for what would be a comprehensive reconsideration of a section that has been frequently and wrongfully used, especially in the last few years, to suppress dissent, criminalize strident political criticism and taint opponents with the tag of being

'anti-national'. Even though it is often argued that the misuse of a law alone does not render it invalid, there is a special case to strike down Section 124A because of its inherent potential for misuse. There is a pattern of behavior among all regimes that indicate a proclivity to invoke it without examining its applicability to the facts of any case. Recent cases show that sedition is used for three political reasons: to suppress criticism and protests against particular policies and projects of the government, to criminalize dissenting opinion from human rights defenders, lawyers, activists and journalists, and to settle political scores, sometimes with communal hues.

It is not to be forgotten that the section was upheld in 1962 by a Constitution Bench mainly by reading down the import of the terms "bring into hatred or contempt", or "to create disaffection towards the government established by law" and limit its scope to only those instances of speech or writing that show a pernicious tendency to create public disorder. Without this attenuated interpretation, the restriction imposed

on free speech by Section 124A would have been declared unconstitutional. The court is now seized of several cases that seek a reconsideration of the 1962 verdict, citing more recent judgments expanding the scope of fundamental rights and doctrines that have been subsequently evolved. In particular, the "chilling effect" that a law may have on free speech and the vague and 'overbroad' definition of sedition that renders both provocative and innocuous speeches or writings equally liable for prosecution are points to be examined. In 2016, the government itself admitted in Parliament that the definition of sedition is too wide and requires reconsideration. The Law Commission also released a consultation paper in 2018 that said "In a democracy, singing from the same songbook is not a benchmark of patriotism. People should be at liberty to show their affection towards their country in their own way." While issuing fresh guidelines and safeguards is one way of quelling the potential for its misuse, it will be more helpful if Section 124A is struck down altogether.

(The Hindu)

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Rich Tributes Paid to Veteran Journalist Tejinder Singh



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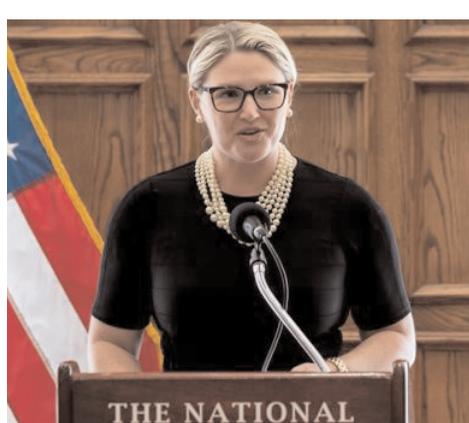
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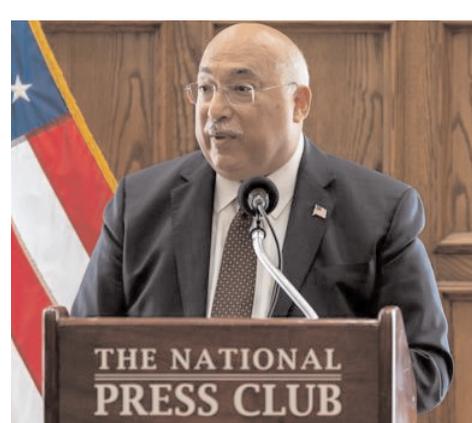
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I want to share with you how Tejinder Singh supported me as editor-in-chief of India America Today.

Today, nearly 5 years after successfully completing my 7-years long personal journey to get United States Postal Service to issue a Diwali Stamp in 2016, it's easy to forget that the dream to get one was impossible. As many before me had tried for over 20 years and given up.

During those long years full of hope and despair, when there was "no light at the end of the tunnel," the media supported me in a big way, as it was a cause dear to everyone's heart in the US, and over a billion people across the world. Tejinder Singh - a Greek Orthodox - encouraged me as a brother, and was constantly caring, kind and supportive when my Dream seemed impossible - even with support from Congress-members Carolyn Maloney, along with Grace Meng, Eliot Engel and Greg Meeks to name a few.

When the USPS finally agreed to issue the Diwali Stamp, Tejinder was so excited, and he came up to New York for the Dedication of the immortal Forever Diwali Stamp on October 5th, 2016. When he came up he had an additional reason for pride, I had personally sold 170,000 stamps for Day One making Diwali stamp the best seller ever in the USPS's 200+ years history.

Two months later, when 24 nations at the UN honored my journey, Tejinder Singh was there. When out of that UN event, based upon remarks made by a Deputy Foreign Minister, the Diwali

Foundation USA was formed in 2017 and it bestows the "Power of One" Awards for exceptional world class diplomats that honor the ideals of the U.N. Charter enhancing peace & security. And Tejinder Singh was there.

Today, we are in Washington D.C., home of Tejinder Singh's India America Today in the National Press Club, to pay tribute to him, and his life as a journalist, for he helped make dreams come true. He supported and contributed to causes, with joy and passion. With deep sadness I say We will all miss him."

Attorney Ravi Batra, Chairman National Advisory Council on South Asian Affairs, a friend to Tejinder, was filled with emotion when he paid his tribute to his friend who he described as "a firebrand of a journalist." "He was a John Wayne kind of a reporter, with true grit. He was a proud and active member of the National Press Club," Batra added.

That we are here today paying tribute to Tejinder Singh in the National Press Club, the Cathedral for Free Press, with President Lisa Mathews participating, along with Mesfin Mekonen, Paris Huang, Lalit Jha, my "better half" - a term Tejinder enjoyed using often - Ranju, the ever graceful Marie Harf, A/S Nisha Biswal, the gentlemanly John Kirby, and each of you, including, as a matter of personal privilege, our miracle daughter Angela - a bond Tejinder rejoiced and celebrated - speaks volumes both of how vital Press Freedoms are to Lincoln's Gettysburg recipe for democracy, and Tejinder Singh's dedication to journalism and to help

form a more perfect nation, and world.

Edward Bulwer-Lytton said, "The pen is mightier than the sword." Tejinder was a throwback to a mold of journalist-giants whose personal sense of righteousness was their North Star - superbly stated by Gene Kelly, as E. K. Hornbeck, in the legendary movie "Inherit the Wind" that the role of a journalist is: "to comfort the afflicted and afflict the comfortable."

We join in John Kirby's observation that Tejinder was a gentleman. Tejinder saw the First Amendment as Holy as I do. We talked often. He wanted more, much more of me and Ranju in his professional life, and with the National Press Club. I'm sad I didn't accept his multi-year desire, as we would have rocked and rolled - from issues national and geopolitical - driven to do right, or to paraphrase my late great friend and supporter, the legendary District Attorney Bob Morgenthau: Fly straight, without fear or favor.

I would often say to Tejinder, that both the Press and the Law seek the truth and abhor a lie - let alone, Big Lies. And that makes us relatives. Just like Spencer Tracy and Gene Kelly were inseparable in "Inherit the wind." As my friend, the late great NY investigative journalist Wayne Barrett would say to me, the battle between good and evil is perpetual. Our nation is convulsing from within, as exhibited by the Insurrection on January 6th and promoters of Lies for self-gain and self-importance, none more tragic than the resulting fall of America's mayor Rudy Giuliani for his

"trial by combat." January 6th troubled Tejinder greatly, and which I view as more injurious to our Republic than 9/11.

Our exceptional Founders, less imperfect given our commonplace arrogance today, bequeathed to us the First Amendment as a robust check on power - and Tejinder used it, and in so doing, heeded Ben Franklin's warning: "It's a republic madam, if you can keep it." Tejinder's life was well spent in keeping our Republic robust and vibrant, willing to look at ourselves honestly and always with the desire to help "form a more perfect union."

I can cite many examples when things might trouble Tejinder and he would call me - and I would act to remedy the problem. Perhaps, just two examples of last year when I and my family were suffering from Covid19 and I was at death's door. Two events around that time bothered Tejinder: worshippers in a Gurudwara in Kabul being slaughtered by ISIS, and soon thereafter, the killers of Daniel Pearl were released in Pakistan.

As for Kabul, aware of the global heartburn after Christchurch slaughter of innocent's worshippers at two Mosques and the resulting billionaire's family becoming suicide bombers in Sri Lanka to blow up Holy Easter, I felt there needed to be a tempered response - as this was an attack by a terror organization rather than a demented individual Facebooking his New Zealand slaughter for celebrity.

Three Indian Diaspora organizations raise \$50,000 to fight Covid-19 in India

DALLAS (TIP): Three diaspora organizations — HungerMitao, Taiwan Center Foundation and the Hindu Temple and Heritage Foundation (HTHF) — have joined hands to raise \$50,000 for the Covid-19 crisis in India.

India's coronavirus caseload of 30.91 million infections is the world's second highest behind the United States. A deadly second wave of infections in April and May has raised India's death tally to over 400,000.

Dallas based philanthropists and founders of the HungerMitao (wipeout hunger) movement, Raj and Aradhana Asava, initiated a matching donation challenge on Facebook of \$25,000 and raised \$12,343.

The Taiwan Center Foundation of Greater Los Angeles raised \$11,620.00 from the Los Angeles Taiwanese community. Pasadena-based non-profit Hindu Temple and Heritage Foundation (HTHF) raised another \$1,037.

Raj and Aradhana Asava matched the \$25,000 raised by the three organizations with a contribution of \$25,000, bringing the total donations to \$50,000.

Indiaspora, another leading community organization, is remitting the funds to India to assist



HungerMitao, Taiwan Center Foundation and the Hindu Temple and Heritage Foundation (HTHF) — have joined hands to raise \$50,000 for the Covid-19 crisis in India.

with the establishment of Covid-19 Care Centers where 7,000 patients would be cared for over a period of three months.

In May, HTHF had raised \$17,500 to supply 2,000 oxygen concentrators and assist in the establishment of an oxygen factory in India.

Meanwhile, in recognition of the passion, efforts and

“giving” by the Indian Diaspora, which calls the United States its home, the North Texas Food Bank (NTFB) has invited HungerMitao cofounder Aradhana (Anna) Asava to join its Board of Directors.

“Anna has a track record of leading organization-wide transformational programs, and over 20 years of experience in the Global IT Industry,” NTFB said announcing Asava's appointment.

In 2009, Anna left corporate America to engage in impactful philanthropy. She currently serves as President of Asava Consulting.

“She has played an instrumental role at NTFB for many years in helping to collect food, raise funds, and promote awareness for the Food Bank through #HungerMitao: an affinity group for NTFB which encourages Indian Americans to ‘give where they live,” it said.

“We are honored to have her on our hunger-fighting team and are excited to have her serve with us,” NTFB added.

As a full time, community volunteer, Anna is working on expanding the HungerMitao model to other immigrant communities and across the Feeding America network of food banks, it noted.

INDIAN AMERICAN NON-PROFIT BODY SEWA INTERNATIONAL RAISES USD 30 MILLION, AIRLIFTS MEDICAL EQUIPMENT TO INDIA



Sewa International USA is procuring needed medical equipment like oxygen concentrators and shipping them to India.

WASHINGTON (TIP): An Indian American non-profit body said it has raised more than USD 30 million towards its Covid-19 relief efforts in India and has airlifted a fresh lot of medical equipment to the country.

Sewa International USA is procuring needed medical equipment like oxygen concentrators and shipping them to India, it said in a statement.

Sewa said that a planeload of medical equipment has reached New Delhi marking yet another milestone in its efforts to supply much-needed medical equipment to India to help the country fight the Covid-19 pandemic.

Sandeep Khadkekar, vice president, Marketing & Fund Development, Sewa International, said, “I consider it to be a great privilege to be present here as a Sewa International representative at the San Bernardino Airport on this occasion to send oxygen concentrators to India by air.” For this, Sewa partnered with Another Joy Foundation to help in transporting lifesaving supplies to India. Since its inception, Another Joy Foundation has been involved in supplying medical equipment, medicines, toys, clothes, and other essential supplies to many countries around the world.

“Sewa International, rooted in the Hindu ideals of perceiving the world as one family, is looking at service to humanity as service to divinity, and is serving everyone without expecting anything in return,” Khadkekar said.

INDIAN AMERICAN PITCHER KUMAR ROCKER DRAFTED BY NEW YORK METS



The 21-year-old right-hander pitcher Kumar Rocker

NEW YORK (TIP): New York Mets drafted Indian American Kumar Rocker as the 10th overall pick in the first round of the 2021 Major League Baseball Draft on Sunday, July 11.

The 21-year-old right-hander pitcher from Vanderbilt was one of the most sought-after players in this year's draft after

several stellar years in Nashville. With a fastball in high 90s and a slider in the mid-80s, Rocker was expected to go as high as Number 1.

Kumar is the son of Tracy Rocker, a former Washington Redskins defensive tackle and current defensive line coach of the Philadelphia Eagles, and Indian American mother Lalitha.

It was reported Monday, July 12 that the Mets will pay Kumar Rocker \$6 million in signing bonus. The recommended signing bonus for the 10th overall pick is \$4.74 million. That the Mets are going above and beyond it shows how highly the team rates the pitcher.

In 2019, as a freshman, Rocker was selected as the Most Outstanding Player of the College World Series. His best performance of the year was a no-hitter against Vanderbilt's regional rivals Duke, during which he threw 19 strikeouts.

Following a 2021 season cut short by Covid-19, the righty had another great season this year, going 14-4 for Vanderbilt with a 2.73 ERA.

The 6-foot-4, 255 lbs. Rocker is considered a strikeout machine. At Vanderbilt, he struck out 321 batters in 236 2/3 innings. According to MLB.com, his career K/9 of 12.2 would make him an all-time League leader by more than a full strikeout.

Rocker's parents met in the Washington, DC, area, when his father was playing for the Redskins and mother was a student at the University of Maryland in College Park, MD.

Rocker was born in Montgomery, Alabama, on Nov. 22, 1999. He attended North Oconee High School in Bogart, Georgia.

Rocker's mom, Lalitha, who goes by Lu, is an instructional designer.

In an interview in 2019, Lu said she taught Kumar to honor both his Indian American and African American heritage. “I told Kumar when he fills out forms, put ‘blindian’ because you're black Indian,” she told the paper. “I want him to be aware of his heritage and for other people to question where his heritage is, and not look at him only as an African-American child.”

(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)

INDIAN-ORIGIN TALENT MOVING TO CANADA DUE TO OUTDATED H1B VISA POLICY, US LAWMAKERS TOLD



Indian Americans now prefer Canada to the US because of have started moving to Canada because of America's outdated H-1B visa policy

WASHINGTON (TIP): The much sought-after Indian-origin talent is now getting attracted towards Canada in large numbers, away from the United States because of its outdated H-1B visa policy, immigration and policy experts have told US lawmakers.

This is mainly because of the per-country quota on issuing employment-based green card or permanent residency, the experts said on Tuesday, urging the Congress to act fast to prevent the Indian talent from moving to Canada from the United States.

Without Congressional action, the total backlog for all three employment-based categories for Indians would increase from an estimated 9,15,497 individuals currently to an estimated 21,95,795 individuals by fiscal 2030, executive director of National Foundation for American Policy Stuart Anderson said.

“We should let that number sink in: Within a decade, more than 2 million people will be waiting in line for years or even decades for employment-based green cards,” he submitted in his testimony before the House Judiciary Committee-Subcommittee on Immigration and Citizenship.

(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)

Sirisha Bandla is the third Indian-Origin Woman to fly into Space

HOUSTON (TIP): Aeronautical engineer Sirisha Bandla on Sunday, July 11, became the third Indian-origin woman to fly into space when she joined British billionaire Richard Branson on Virgin Galactic's first fully crewed suborbital test flight from New Mexico.

Virgin Galactic's VSS Unity, as the spaceplane is called, took off for the 1.5-hour mission above New Mexico following a 90-minute delay due to bad weather.

Ms Bandla joined Branson and five others on board Virgin Galactic's SpaceShipTwo Unity to make a journey to the edge of space from New Mexico.

"I am so incredibly honored to be a part of the amazing crew of #Unity22, and to be a part of a company whose mission is to make space available to all," 34-year-old Bandla tweeted days before the flight.

"When I first heard that I was getting this opportunity, it was just... I was speechless. I think that that probably captured it very well. This is an incredible opportunity to get people from different backgrounds, different geographies and different communities into space," she said in a video posted on the Twitter handle of Virgin Galactic on July 6.

The primary objective for Unity 22 was to serve as a test flight for future commercial passenger flights by Virgin Galactic.

Ms Bandla, who was born in Guntur district in Andhra Pradesh and brought up in Houston, was astronaut No 004 and her flight role was Researcher Experience. The other crewmembers were two pilots and three other crewmates, including billionaire Branson, who turns 71 in a week.

She became the third Indian-origin woman to fly into space after Kalpana Chawla and Sunita Williams. Wing Commander Rakesh Sharma is the only Indian citizen to travel in space. The former Indian Air Force pilot flew aboard Soyuz T-11 on April 3, 1984, part of the Soviet Interkosmos program.

Ms Bandla moved to the US when she was 4-year-old and graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree from the School of Aeronautics and Astronautics, Purdue University in 2011. She finished her Master of Business Administration degree from George Washington University in 2015.

Ms Bandla wanted to be an astronaut for the US National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA). However, her poor eyesight meant she could not meet the requirements to become a pilot or an astronaut.



34-year-old Sirisha Bandla on Sunday, July 11, became the third Indian-origin woman to fly into space

When she was at Purdue University, a professor told her about an opportunity in the field of commercial space flights.

Virgin Galactic - the business Branson started in 2004 - aims to fly private citizens to the edge of space. The trips are designed to permit passengers to experience three to four minutes of weightlessness and observe the curvature of Earth.

Indian American Samir Banerjee lifts Wimbledon boys' singles title



Samir Banerjee on Sunday, July 11, lifted the Wimbledon boys' singles title with a straight set win over compatriot Victor Lilov in London on Sunday, July 11.

LONDON (TIP): Indian American tennis player Samir Banerjee on Sunday, July 11, lifted the Wimbledon boys' singles title with a straight set win over compatriot Victor Lilov, here.

Playing only his second junior Grand Slam, 17-year-old won 7-5 6-3 in the final that lasted in one hour 22 minutes. Banerjee's parents had moved to America in 1980s. At the junior French Open, Banerjee, ranked 19 in the world, had crashed out in the first round.

India has been struggling to field a worthy contender at junior Grand Slams for some time now. Due to lack of a robust domestic circuit and not having enough competitions at home to earn world-ranking points, India has been struggling to create the next crop of youngsters. Yuki Bhambri was the last Indian to win a junior singles title when he triumphed at the Australian Open in 2009 while Sumit Nagal won the Wimbledon boys doubles in 2015 with Vietnam's Ly Hoang Nam.

Ramanathan Krishnan was the first Indian to win a junior major when he won the 1954 Junior Wimbledon championship. His son Ramesh Krishnan won the 1970 junior Wimbledon and junior French Open titles while Leander Paes won the 1990 junior Wimbledon and junior US Open. Paes was also a runner-up at the junior Australian Open.

Indian American Surgeon Atul Gawande nominated to Senior Job at USAID

WASHINGTON (TIP): U.S. President Joe Biden on Tuesday, July 13 nominated writer, surgeon and public health expert Atul Gawande to lead global health development at the U.S. Agency for International Development, including for COVID-19, the White House said.

Gawande, author of four New York Times best-selling books and a professor at Brigham and Women's Hospital, Harvard Medical School and the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, would serve as the assistant administrator of USAID's Bureau for Global Health, if confirmed by the U.S. Senate.

His role at USAID will focus on efforts to prevent child and maternal deaths, control the HIV/AIDS epidemic, and combat infectious diseases, such as COVID-19, a White House official said.

Gawande appears to be taking his own advice. Last month, he told advanced degree graduates at Stanford University to be "open to trying stuff - to saying yes" to new opportunities.

"I'm honored to be nominated to lead global health development at USAID, including for COVID. With more COVID deaths worldwide in the first half of 2021 than in all of 2020, I'm grateful for the chance to help end this crisis and to re-strengthen public health systems worldwide," Atul Gawande said in a tweet.

Atul Gawande is the Cyndy and John



Biden nominated surgeon and author Atul Gawande to senior job at USAID, Tuesday, July 13

Fish Distinguished Professor of Surgery at Brigham and Women's Hospital, Samuel O. Their Professor of Surgery at Harvard Medical School, and Professor of Health Policy and Management at Harvard TH Chan School of Public Health.

He is also founder and chair of Ariadne Labs, a joint center for health systems innovation at Brigham and Women's Hospital and the Harvard TH Chan School of Public Health, and of Lifebox, a nonprofit organization making surgery safer globally.

During the coronavirus pandemic, he co-founded CIC Health, which operates COVID-19 testing and vaccination nationally, and served as a member of the Biden transition COVID-19 Advisory Board.

From 2018 to 2020, he was CEO of Haven, the Amazon, Berkshire Hathaway, and JPMorgan Chase health care venture. He previously served as a senior advisor in the Department of Health and Human Services in the Clinton Administration.

In addition, Mr Gawande has been a staff writer for The New Yorker magazine since 1998.

He is the winner of two National Magazine Awards, Academy Health's Impact Award for highest research impact on health care, a MacArthur Fellowship, and the Lewis Thomas Award for writing about science.

Indian American health policy expert Meena Seshamani appointed Director of the US Centre of Medicare



Dr Meena Seshamani has been appointed as the Director of the US Centre for Medicare.

WASHINGTON (TIP): Indian American health policy expert Dr Meena Seshamani, who served on the leadership of the Biden-Harris transition Health and Human Services (HHS) agency review team, has been appointed as the Director of the US Centre for Medicare.

Sheshamani, 43, will lead the Centre's efforts in serving the people 65 or older, people with disabilities and people with End-Stage Renal Disease that rely on Medicare coverage.

Dr Seshamani's position as Deputy Administrator and Director of Centre for Medicare started on July 6.

"Dr Meena Seshamani brings her diverse background as a health care executive, health economist, physician and health policy expert to CMS," said CMS (Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services) Administrator Chiquita Brooks-LaSure.

"Providing quality health care to the people who rely on Medicare and advancing health equity as we do it is a priority for CMS.

(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)



Colleagues, friends, and admirers of Tejinder Singh

Rich Tributes Paid to Veteran Journalist Tejinder Singh

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So, I wrote an open letter to then-President Trump asking for a response worthy of terror-eradication. Innocent Sikhs are as valuable as innocent Muslims. But as to Daniel Pearl, I knew that the State Department had tried, and still the killers who had video-taped the ghastly killing - as Daniel was Jewish - were released. I then reached out to my friend in London, who is the number one supporter of Pakistan's P.M. Imran Khan, a nation founded by a lawyer-gentleman Mohammed Ali Jinnah. I argued that Pakistan as a civilized nation cannot tolerate this, and after the Holocaust, we are all Jewish.

I'm delighted to say that Imran Khan filed an appeal and the Killers were re-arrested. The subsequent incomprehensible acquittal by Pakistan's Supreme Court left us only with an extradition option - and since this was now an inter-governmental decision, I told Tejinder I will only re-engage if Secretary Blinken asked me to. I share this as a tribute to Tejinder - for it was his being upset by these two events that real justice was sought and in fact enhanced.

Two of my defining heroes are Thomas Becket, who chose God over King, and Sir Edmund Burke, who provides a moral imperative in our lives: "all that is necessary for evil to triumph is for some men to do nothing." My final tribute to Tejinder Singh is that he honored in full measure Sir Edmund Burke's call to moral righteousness. Tejinder was a good man, who stood tall and fought evil. May his memory be forever Blessed.

So, yes, Tejinder comforted the afflicted, and afflicted the comfortable. I



Stephen Mani, First Secretary at Indian Embassy shaking hands with Ravi Batra. Also seen in the picture are Poonam Sharma, Managing Editor of India America Today who emceed the event (second from left) and Ranju Batra (third from left).



Journalists from New York with Ravi Batra, Ranju Batra and Marie Harf. From L to R: Jay Jasbir Singh, Prof. Indrajit S Saluja, Ranju Batra, Ravi Batra, Marie Harf, Sharanjit Singh Thind, and HP Singh
Photos / Curtis Jordan for India America Today

will miss my friend, and his random calls. We will miss Tejinder's good deeds, his sharing in friendship of human trials and tribulations, and his always reaching for social and political justice, using journalism's sunshine disinfectant as the pull and push for justice.

Rest In Peace my friend.

The Lord bless you and keep you;

The Lord make His face shine upon you, And be gracious to you;

The Lord lift up His countenance upon you, And give you peace."

Several others who paid tribute to Tejinder Singh included Lisa Mathews, President National Press Club, Mesfin Mekonen, Manager, Reliable source Bar and Grill, Paris Huang, Voice of America Chinese Service, Lalit Jha, Chief U.S. Correspondent, Press Trust of India (PTI), Marie Harf, former US State Department Spokesperson, and Nisha Biswal, former Assistant secretary, US Department of State.

Stephen Mani, First Secretary, Press, Information and Culture at Embassy of India represented Ambassador Taranjit Singh Sandhu.

Many journalists came from as far as New York. They included The Indian Panorama publisher and chief editor Prof. Indrajit S Saluja, Sharanjit Singh Thind, publisher and chief editor of South Asian Insider; Jay Jasbir Singh, Publisher and chief editor of Hum Hindustani, and H.P. Singh from Parikh Worldwide.

Poonam Sharma, Managing Editor, India America Today, the Master of Ceremonies spoke of carrying forward the legacy of Tejinder Singh, and thanked the guests for their attendance.

FIACONA mourns the demise of the Catholicos of the East

NEW YORK (TIP): Federation of Indian American Christian Organizations of North America (FIACONA) extends our heartfelt condolences at the demise of his holiness Baselios Marthoma Poulouse Bava of the Indian Orthodox Church. He was one of the youngest persons to become the Catholicos of the East and the only one to be consecrated by his predecessor. He was a scholar and a gentleman who cared for the welfare of the poor and the distorted. He probably ruled the church during one of its most difficult times. History may picture him as the head of the church who had to deal harshly with another sister church, but in his heart, he wanted peace with all the churches. We can only hope that the situation will improve, and the new administration of both churches will come together and



settle their issues amicably. We hope that the National Council of Churches (NCC) and Kerala Council of Churches (KCC) will play an important role to bring its member churches to a round table discussion and sort out the issues in a Christian manner rather than dragging the name of Christ in the court system and making a mockery

in front of the world. It was a welcome sign to see the heads or representatives of various denominations to sit on the same dais in Thiruvalla to celebrate the Indian Christian Day on July 3, 2021, which is sort of a miracle. FIACONA hopes that this will be the beginning of the union of Churches or at least greater cooperation between churches.

Late Catholicos was a pious and passionate person. He loved and treated all in an affectionate way. He will be missed by all those who knew and loved him. I was told by those who studied with him for post graduate studies at the CMS College that he was a caring priest with good spirit. On behalf of FIACONA we extend our heartfelt condolences to all the bishops, priests and believers who grieve at the loss of their beloved Bava.

LONG ISLAND GIRL PLACED THIRD IN SCRIPPS NATIONAL SPELLING BEE COMPETITION

PLAINVIEW, NY (TIP): Long Island's Bhavana Madini competed in the Scripps National Spelling Bee finals on Thursday, July 8, where she was placed third overall.

Bhavana made it to round 14 out of 18 before she was eliminated. She misspelled the word "athanor," which is a type of furnace used by chemists. Madini had put on a very strong showing, though. She competed in the finals in 2019, where she was placed 51st.

She managed to spell words like "theodolite" and "phylloxera," and define words like "tergiversate" and "aphyllous."

As the third-place finisher, Madini won a \$15,000 prize.



Plainview's Bhavana Madini placed third overall in the Scripps National Spelling Bee.

Jaipur Foot has given new hope, ray of light to people everywhere: Foreign Secretary Harsh Vardhan Shringla



Presenting a bouquet to Mr. Shringla. On right is Prem Bhandari, and on left, Kanak Golia, among others. Photo / Mohammad Jaffer -SnapsIndia



Receiving Mr. Shringla on arrival. Seen in the picture, among others are Ambassador Tirumurti, Consul General Randhir Kumar Jaiswal, Attorney Ravi Batra, Prof. Indrajit S Saluja. Photo / Mohammad Jaffer -SnapsIndia

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He lauded the efforts of the organization and Jaipur Foot USA Chairman Prem Bhandari for their contribution that has helped change the "lives of so many people in our country" and have worked with the Ministry of External Affairs "to change the lives of people all over the world," right from Vietnam, Bangladesh to Latin America and Sri Lanka.

Shringla recalled that a young girl in Bangladesh, who lived for 10 years without a limb after she was run over by a car when she was just 6, was fitted with a Jaipur Foot limb. The expression on her face spoke of the appreciation for the work of Jaipur Foot and its team, he said.

In March this year, India's Permanent Representative to the UN Ambassador T S Tirumurti, while speaking at a Security Council briefing on Syria, had referred to the artificial limb fitment camp of Jaipur Foot conducted in Damascus that had benefitted over 500 Syrians.

"Our artificial limb fitment camp of the well-known 'Jaipur Foot' of the Jaipur-based BMVSS in India, which was conducted in Damascus, benefited over 500 Syrians affected by the conflict. We had undertaken this Jaipur Foot initiative under the rubric of 'India For Humanity'. We certainly need humanity now more than ever on the humanitarian crisis facing Syria," Tirumurti had said.

Tirumurti had also tweeted that "In my statement... to @UN #SecurityCouncil on #Syria, I referred to our artificial limb fitment camp of 'Jaipur Foot' of BMVSS of Padma Bhushan Dr.DR Mehta, conducted in Damascus and benefiting 500+ Syrians. Initiative taken under 'India for Humanity' to celebrate Gandhi@150."

Bhandari said that under the India for Humanity initiative, nearly a dozen Jaipur Foot camps have been conducted. On August 5 last year the agreement between MEA and BMVSS has been further extended and one camp has

already been conducted in Uganda despite the COVID19 pandemic. He said under Mehta's leadership, a camp was held in Parkian in Kashmir at 9000 feet last week for the benefit of the needy.

In April this year, then Secretary (West) Vikas Swarup had said at the UNSC open debate on 'Mine action and sustaining peace: Stronger partnerships for better delivery' that in October 2018, the 'India for Humanity' initiative was launched as a part of Mahatma Gandhi's 150th anniversary celebrations, with a focus on Mahatma Gandhi's philosophy of compassion and service to humanity.

Under this initiative, 13 artificial limb fitment camps have been held by India in 12 countries and more than 6500 artificial limbs have been fitted, mainly in Asia and Africa. These camps were fully sponsored by Ministry of External Affairs and materialized by Bhagwan Mahaveer ViklangSahayata Samiti.

"We are pleased to convey that the limb fitment camps, which aim to provide for

the physical, economic and social rehabilitation of the affected persons and help them regain their mobility and dignity, have now been extended up to March 2023. In this context, we acknowledge the association of BMVSS Jaipur, led by Dr. D.R. Mehta, for contributing artificial limb 'Jaipur Foot' for thousands affected by disabilities brought by conflicts and land mines," Swarup had said.

In November 2018, Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu had inaugurated a 'Jaipur Foot' camp in Lilongwe, Malawi and distributed the free India-made prosthetic limb to several beneficiaries. The camp was launched under the 'India for Humanity' programme. Inaugurating the camp, Naidu had said the first Jaipur Foot camp in the series is launched in Malawi because it was in Africa that Gandhiji took his "first steps towards becoming a Mahatma, a great soul and later went on to inspire a number of generations". (With inputs from PTI)

AS I SEE IT

Government sans governance is unimaginable



BY SURESH KUMAR

"INSTEAD OF GUIDING THE OFFICIALDOM TO RISE AND WORK FOR THE NATION, POLITICIANS PREFER TO DEEPEN THE SPOILS SYSTEM FOR THEIR IMMEDIATE AND PERSONAL GAINS. NOT MANY TRY TO UNDERSTAND GOVERNANCE, THOUGH THEY ARE QUICK TO PROMOTE THOSE WHO TAKE REFUGE IN LEAKAGES AND PILFERAGES IN THE GOVERNMENT. A PERSON DISCREDITED WITH SQUANDERING BILLIONS OF PUBLIC MONEY CAN GET AWAY WITH JUST ONE GODFATHER WHO HAS CLOUT IN THE CORRIDORS OF POWER. GOVERNMENT SANS GOVERNANCE IS UNIMAGINABLE."

William Boyer, an American political scientist, defined governance as the action of governments plus its interaction with non-governmental partners in the process of governing - their collective relationship, the economy, and public policy. It is a collaborative process within a set of predefined laws and rules, enunciating public policies.

India is, perhaps, one of the few countries with a comprehensively written Constitution, leaving little, if any, scope for its non-compliance. It defines the framework of public policy and governance by governments. With the changing realities over time, the Indian Constitution has seen amendments over 100 times. But its basic character remains unchanged, making it a most dynamic document that has withstood the vicissitudes of politics of all shades.

Governments, if they function



following constitutional proprieties, will deliver good governance. They shall check deviations and variations from the law. For, if they start ignoring the rules of law, why would the people need them? There can, thus, be governance without a government, but the converse is not true and is unimaginable.

In the past three decades, irrespective of their political character, some of the governments did things, some of which were beyond the constitutional limits, to meet their personal and political goals. The public essence of these political establishments was missing, and their capabilities to manage and lead the bureaucratic set-up stood suspect.

These days, the basics of governance are amiss more often than expected owing to the ambitions and greed of a few. The common man suffers and those in power attempt to bribe him through subsidies, freebies and doles, to hide their sins and incapacities. The core issues of education, healthcare, employment and basic amenities, required for an improved living, are less focused goals of governments. Education and jobs, if assured and ensured as basic rights of the citizens, will minimize the need to provide doles.

A recent trend is to mislead the common man through false and unsubstantiated information through social media, which remains largely unregulated on the pretext of freedom of speech. Surely, freedom of speech does not mean freedom to lie and mislead or create divisions and unrest in society. A statutory code of conduct to ensure discipline in social media and the written law of torts is necessary for a cohesive and an informed socio-economic growth.

A rise in generational aspirations is natural, and the system has to evolve to meet them. For this, information, education and communication have to improve with modern techniques.

Governmental efforts to suppress rising aspirations through traditional or outdated methods, and even tricks, most of which are not considered credible anymore, seem to be doing more damage than imagined. Ignoring the stakeholders' consultation for any contemplated government policy or action and suppressing the common man with the use of State's power will not help. It may sharpen and deepen divisions in society.

The slow rise in maturity and inadequate understanding of and attention to the requirements of nation-building are other discernible features of our new crop of politics and bureaucracy. Instead of guiding the officialdom to rise and work for the nation, the politicians prefer to deepen the spoils system for their immediate and personal gains. Not many try to understand governance, though they are quick to promote those who take refuge in leakages and pilferages in the government. A person discredited with squandering billions of public money can get away with just one godfather who has clout in the corridors of power.

The decline in governance is so sharp, that those in power do not hesitate to defend and protect the most immoral, corrupt and even inept persons. Power is being traded for personal greed, wealth, and even for other immoral acts at the altar of interests and well-being of the common man, particularly those who have no access to information and are poorly endowed.

Another glaring drawback in governments is that they ignore facts and data. Conclusions are drawn without the knowledge of reality. Dictates of whims and fancies are believed more than what is on record. There is no accountability for uninformed conclusions and decisions. Some political philosophers assert that wrong decisions do get noticed and accounted

THE DECLINE IN GOVERNANCE IS SO SHARP, THAT THOSE IN POWER DO NOT HESITATE TO DEFEND AND PROTECT THE MOST IMMORAL, CORRUPT AND EVEN INEPT PERSONS. POWER IS BEING TRADED FOR PERSONAL GREED, WEALTH, AND EVEN FOR OTHER IMMORAL ACTS AT THE ALTAR OF INTERESTS AND WELL-BEING OF THE COMMON MAN, PARTICULARLY THOSE WHO HAVE NO ACCESS TO INFORMATION AND ARE POORLY ENDOWED.

for during the elections, but by then enough damage is done to the system and the people.

On the other hand, some information experts blame the data management policies and systems for the lack of information with the policymakers. There is no statutorily established system through which an official or a politician is guided and provided information before s/he gets on with any policy planning and implementation. Elected representatives are just thrust with power immediately on election without any orientation and prior access to information and guidance. Governance appears to be the least of their concerns.

Undeniably, judicial scrutiny of executive decisions has saved the country from many embarrassing and not-so-well-informed decisions and situations. There have been occasions when laws and rules have been either moderated or annulled by the judiciary primarily because these were violative of the well-established principles of the Constitution and public policy.

Judicial scrutiny and moderation became more pronounced after the Emergency in 1975, and more importantly after the 42nd Constitutional Amendment. But some thinkers believe that even such scrutiny can be manipulated and maneuvered.

This may not happen all the time, but it is not unheard of or unnoticed. Can judicial scrutiny be made more stringent and infallible?

The declining public essence of governance has reached alarming levels, though it may not be correct to say that all governments have not governed well. However, there is a need to wake up. For effective and people-centric governance by the governments, effective data and information management systems, enhanced transparency, and effective and un-manueverable judicial scrutiny need urgent attention.

(The author is Chief Principal Secretary to Punjab Chief Minister)

All about Xi Jinping and party

THE CENTENARY SPEECH AN EXERCISE IN SELF AGGRANDIZEMENT AND PROMOTION OF CCP



BY JAYADEVA
RANADE

"XI JINPING ASSERTING FULL REUNIFICATION INDICATES THAT HE WILL REMAIN UNYIELDING ON ISSUES OF SOVEREIGNTY. IT IS RELEVANT FOR THOSE WITH WHOM CHINA HAS UNRESOLVED TERRITORIAL OR MARITIME DISPUTES. WHILE THE CELEBRATIONS ALLOWED THE CCP TO EFFECTIVELY PROJECT ITS CONTRIBUTION TO CHINA'S 'RISE' AND ITS FUTURE RELEVANCE, THE REPEATED REFERENCES IN XI JINPING'S SPEECH TO FOREIGN BULLYING, EFFORTS TO SEPARATE THE PARTY FROM THE PEOPLE, AND CALL FOR THE PEOPLE'S SUPPORT, REVEAL THE WORRIES OF THE PARTY LEADERSHIP. HE DEFTLY FASHIONED HIS SPEECH TO TAKE CREDIT FOR CHINA'S ACHIEVEMENTS AND AFFIRM THAT THE PARTY WOULD GUIDE CHINA TOWARDS 'THE SECOND CENTURY GOALS.'"

The Chinese Communist Party (CCP) concluded its centenary celebrations with a grand event and speech by CCP general secretary Xi Jinping on July 1. It provided the CCP and Xi Jinping an opportunity to share their assessment of the journey thus far and give a broad sense of direction for the future. In his speech Xi Jinping mentioned the Belt and Road Initiative and the 'community of shared destiny' - his personal projects - hinting that he would continue in office beyond the party congress next year.

The celebrations confirmed also that the CCP leadership is sensitive to the military's morale. Contrary to its announcement in March, a carefully vetted crowd watched a military parade and flypast by the latest generation J-20 'stealth' fighter aircraft and ZL-10



In command

transport helicopters over Tiananmen Square. The party was honored with a 100-gun salute.

The entire CCP politburo was present on the Tiananmen Gate Tower. The state-owned CCTV showed Xi Jinping deferentially walking a step behind his grey-haired predecessor Hu Jintao. Former President Jiang Zemin was absent, possibly because of age. The invitees included many retired veteran cadres, including 104-year-old Song Ping and former Premier Wen Jiabao.

Suggesting that Xi Jinping is possibly seeking the support of party 'elders' at the next party congress, Jiang Zemin's long-serving chief of staff and ex-Vice President Zeng Qinghong was present. Particularly interesting was the presence of Bo Xicheng, son of one of China's 'Eight Immortals', Bo Yibo and brother of incarcerated former politburo member Bo Xilai, who tried to push Xi Jinping aside in the run up to the 18th party congress in 2012 and take over China's top three posts!

The CCP's international liaison department had requested political parties from around the world to send congratulatory letters on the occasion. Of the Indian parties, only the CPI and CPI (M) responded positively.

Xi Jinping's nearly hour-long speech was crafted to exude confidence blended with aggression and nationalism. It was calculated as much to concretize the CCP's monopoly on power in China as to rally nationalist sentiment against anti-China foreign forces and mobilize the people towards achieving the second centenary goal under the CCP's leadership. It avoided mentioning calamitous disasters like the Great Leap Forward and Cultural Revolution, in which over 80 million people lost lives, were disabled or scarred for life.

Surprisingly, neither did it list what material benefits the people could expect in the coming decades.

Xi Jinping paid the ritual obeisance to veteran Chinese communist revolutionaries, acknowledging them by name. The rest of his speech focused on the party: how it had ushered in 'socialism with Chinese characteristics', 'profoundly changed the course of Chinese history in modern times', modernized China, and its indispensability for China. Xi Jinping declared 'we must uphold the firm leadership of the party. China's success hinges on the party. Without the Chinese Communist Party there will be no new China and no national rejuvenation'. The party was mentioned 133 times.

It also conveyed a message to foreign powers, whose remarks bore Xi Jinping's imprimatur. Stressing that China was no longer 'a semi-colonial, semi-feudal society' and had ended 'all the unequal treaties imposed on our country by foreign powers and all the privileges that imperialist powers enjoyed in China', Xi Jinping was emphatic that 'any attempt to divide the party from the Chinese people or to set the people against the party is bound to fail'.

Alluding to increasing US pressure on China, he declared that 'the Chinese people will not allow any external forces to bully, oppress, or enslave us; anyone who deludes themselves into doing so will suffer a crushing and bloody head-on collision with the great wall of steel (PLA) made of the flesh and blood of 1.4 billion Chinese people'. China's official news agency Xinhua subsequently released a toned-down version saying 'anyone who would attempt to do so will find themselves on a collision course with a great wall of steel forged by over 1.4 million people'.

Xi Jinping subtly directed credit for achievements towards himself. He declared 'a historic resolution to the problem of absolute poverty in China', as China marched towards its second centenary goal. The goal of alleviating absolute poverty by 2021 was Xi Jinping's flagship programme. Xi Jinping also said, 'in this new era, we have upheld and strengthened the party's overall leadership', overcoming many 'major risks and challenges. Xi Jinping traced these achievements to the 18th party congress. He reinforced this with a call to uphold the core position of the general secretary on the party central committee and in the party as a whole.

Xi Jinping's uncompromising remarks on Hong Kong, Macau and Taiwan are revealing. He promised Hong Kong and Macau the rule of law but tempered with greater autonomy. On Taiwan, he specifically mentioned the 1992 consensus and reiterated China and the party's commitment to the 'full reunification' of China.

Xi Jinping asserting full reunification indicates that he will remain unyielding on issues of sovereignty. It is relevant for those with whom China has unresolved territorial or maritime disputes. While the celebrations allowed the CCP to effectively project its contribution to China's 'rise' and its future relevance, the repeated references in Xi Jinping's speech to foreign bullying, efforts to separate the party from the people, and call for the people's support, reveal the worries of the party leadership. He deftly fashioned his speech to take credit for China's achievements and affirm that the party would guide China towards 'the second century goals'.

(The author is President, Centre for China Analysis and Strategy)

Modi's Cabinet reshuffle

THE REVAMP BELIES PM'S CLAIM THAT CASTE IN INDIA HAS BEEN 'BURIED'



BY JULIO RIBEIRO



"MODI HAD SAID CASTE HAD BEEN BURIED, BUT HE HAD ALSO SAID BLACK MONEY WOULD BE ELIMINATED WITH DEMONETIZATION AND COVID HAD QUIETLY FLED THE COUNTRY BECAUSE OF SOME UNNAMED ADVANTAGES WE INDIANS HAVE BEEN BLESSED WITH! BUT I AM FOR IGNORING THOSE ERRONEOUS CALCULATIONS. I HAVE NO DOUBT THAT HE TRIED HARD, HE WORKED LIKE HE ALWAYS DOES, 18 HOURS A DAY, AND HE FELT VICTORY WAS HIS ON EACH OCCASION! HE SHOULD HAVE ADMITTED THOSE MISCALCULATIONS. IF HE HAD DONE THAT HIS CREDIBILITY WOULD NOT HAVE TAKEN A TUMBLE."

A Prime minister in the Westminster system of governance has the sole right to choose his or her Council of Ministers. He or she can also drop one or more ministers whenever he or she thinks it necessary and induct a minister or more whenever he or she thinks fit. There has been some criticism and many comments on Modi's recent rejig of his Cabinet. He has expanded the number to nearly 80, almost the maximum permitted by law. The salient feature is that he found representation for all castes, and even many sub-castes to please as many sections of our vast population as possible.

Scheduled Castes were allotted 12 slots, Scheduled Tribes eight. There is nothing wrong in that. In fact, that is how it should be in a multi-religious, multi-cultural society.

Some critics have pointed out that Modi had boasted, after the 2014 and the 2019 elections, that caste had died

and been buried by the electorate. He might have willed that to happen or dreamt that had happened. A leader is entitled to his fancies. The bitter truth is that caste will not go away from our ancient land in the foreseeable future. It is too deep-rooted to be wished away.

Take my Goan Christian community. Its adherents were converted from Hinduism by the Portuguese over 400 years ago. One would have expected the ubiquitous caste configurations to have disappeared after conversion, but it is practiced even today, in marriages in particular. If something so traumatic as changing gods could not excise caste from consciousness, how does any impartial observer of the political space expect this PM or any past or future PM to eliminate caste considerations from something so relevant to expectations as representations in a Cabinet?

Modi had said caste had been buried, but he had also said black money would be eliminated with demonetization and Covid had quietly fled the country because of some unnamed advantages we Indians have been blessed with! But I am for ignoring those erroneous calculations. I have no doubt that he tried hard, he worked like he always does, 18 hours a day, and he felt victory was his on each occasion! He should have admitted those miscalculations. If he had done that his credibility would not have taken a tumble.

When he gave a place to different castes in his Cabinet, he was aware that efficiency would suffer. He neutralized this by entrusting some critical portfolios to newcomers whose capabilities he had observed over a period of time. A less-known politician from his native Gujarat replaced Dr Harsh Vardhan as Health Minister. It is a calculated gamble.

Mansukh Mandaviya was the Junior Minister of Chemicals and Fertilizers in which capacity he dealt with the pharmaceutical industry, the pricing of essential drugs, etc. His work there has propelled him to higher responsibilities. Modi probably has arranged for increased supply of vaccines in the next five months, something he has kept to himself to spring a pleasant surprise.

Ravi Shankar Prasad was a vociferous proponent of his leader and his policies. Why was he dropped? I can only guess that he was more confrontational than required. This created too many hassles in the matter of appointment of judges and attracted negative attention internationally when he twisted the hands of local Twitter bosses. What Modi probably desired was a workable balance which Prasad was unable to provide.

A former bureaucrat has been saddled with three portfolios: Communications, Information Technology and Railways. Ashwini Vaishnaw was an IAS officer of the Odisha cadre. A huge responsibility has been cast on him. For succeeding here, he needs more than grey matter. He needs to learn the skills of a juggler also.

Narayan Rane from Maharashtra has, at last, got some importance after changing three parties. I cannot figure out what the BJP will gain, maybe a Lok Sabha seat or two, if at all. Rane himself lost his seat last time out. His two sons contested two Assembly seats and only one of them won. If Modi has been told that the Maratha vote will consolidate behind Narayan Rane, I can safely state that the PM has been misinformed. In the Konkan, it is the OBC vote that predominates.

My recollection of Narayan Rane is a personal one. For over 20 years, I was chairman of charitable organization called the Happy Home and School for the Blind. President Bill Clinton and PM Atal Bihari Vajpayee had visited our school. I took over the reins from retired Justice Bakhtawar Lentin of the Bombay High Court. He had succeeded former Vice-President of India and former CJI, Justice M Hidayatullah.

Despite our credentials, Narayan Rane, as CM of Maharashtra, when approached by a restaurateur of the city, cancelled our government lease of the land on which we had built the boarding school and transferred it to the restaurant owner! I met the Chief Secretary, Arun Bongirwar, and threatened to sit on the road in front of the school with 200 blind boys. I also filed a writ in the High Court, which succeeded. Our pro-bono lawyer, Navroz Searvai, told me that in his long career in the courts he had never encountered such gross abuse of power.

The rabbit that a shrewd politician like Modi intends to pull out from his hat is in the establishment of the Ministry of Cooperation (cooperative societies are a State subject under the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution) and investing the responsibility to his trusted lieutenant. What is the purpose of this unexpected move? Why does the Home Minister, the No. 2 slot in the Cabinet, with a full-time job, have to do with cooperatives? His many agencies and the Income Tax Department and Enforcement Directorate under the Finance Ministry are sufficient to tackle the ills spawned by cooperative banks and sugar manufacturers. Why has Amit Shah been roped in? We will wait and watch with bated breath.

(The author is a retired IPS officer)

TOKYO OLYMPICS- A Curtain Raiser

THE 2020 SUMMER OLYMPICS, OFFICIALLY THE GAMES OF THE XXXII OLYMPIAD AND BRANDED AS TOKYO 2020, POSTPONED BECAUSE OF COVID-19, IS AN UPCOMING INTERNATIONAL MULTI-SPORT EVENT SCHEDULED TO BE HELD FROM 23 JULY TO 8 AUGUST 2021 IN TOKYO, JAPAN.



Tokyo 2020: Rani Rampal, Manpreet Singh to lead India with 2 deputies each



BY PRABHJOT PAUL SINGH

NO SECOND GOALKEEPER IN INDIAN TEAMS



Strange are the ways the National Sports Federations (NSFs) in general and Hockey India in particular function. Even in the Olympic year, there have been no dearth of controversies in the NSFs. While the BJP government changed the union Sports minister a fortnight before the Olympic games, the IOA was still squabbling whether to include an official whose sport had no athlete representing the country at Tokyo.

Covid 19 pandemic notwithstanding, Indian contingent will be 220-plus strong with 125-odd athletes in it.

In this one of biggest ever Olympic squad to leave the shores of the country, medal hopefuls are countable on fingertips. The replaced Sports minister, Kiran Rijeeju, was hopeful that India's medal tally at Tokyo will be in double figures.

Starting with hockey, many feel that there is a clear chance for a medal in men's hockey. Going by India's world ranking of four and its recent showings in the FIH Pro League, the team looks to be in good shape. Its only handicap has been that it did not get enough of international exposure. Most of its FIH Pro League matches were cancelled because of Covid 19 related travel restrictions.

The announcement of teams, both men and women, could have been better organized than leaving scope for unnecessary speculations and controversies. On the first day, Hockey India announced the teams without naming their captains.

Secondly, both the team managements were unanimous in not including a second goalkeeper. Instead, an extra defender was taken to complete the final 16.

Men's team had some surprises as experienced forwards Akashdeep and Ramandeep were left out. Also dropped was second goalkeeper K. Pathak. Incidentally all three are from Punjab.

The Hockey India realized its folly of not naming captains. When it did, it came out with long lists of team commanders and deputy commanders. Both men and women teams, Hockey India said, will have a captain and two vice captains each.

While midfielder Manpreet Singh was named captain of the Olympic-bound men's team, Rani Rampal was given the honors of leading the women's team.

The vice captain's role of the men's team will be shared by experienced defenders Birendra Lakra and Harmanpreet Singh. In case of the women's team, goalkeeper Savita and deep defender Deep Grace Ekka will share the responsibility of the vice-captain.

Never any Indian team, bound for Olympic games had two vice captains.

The only exception had been 1968 when the then Indian Hockey Federation (IHF) named deep defenders Prithipal Singh and Gurbux Singh Kohli as joint captains of the Mexico-bound Indian men's team. And that experiment was disastrous as Indian team failed to make the final for the first time.



Manpreet Singh has been named Captain of the Indian Hockey Team to Tokyo Olympics. Under his leadership, the team has improved their world ranking to number 4.

Under Manpreet's captaincy, the Indian team over the past four years has achieved important milestones including winning the Asia Cup in 2017, winning the Asian Champions Trophy in 2018 as well winning the FIH Series Final in 2019. The team also made it to the quarterfinals of the FIH Men's World Cup 2018 in Bhubaneswar. It also performed exceedingly well in the FIH Hockey Pro League 2020 before the pandemic disrupted its schedule. This will be Manpreet's third Olympic games and under his leadership, the team has also improved their world ranking to number 4.

Birendra is a veteran defender who was also part of the London Olympic Games but missed playing in Rio owing to a major knee surgery in 2016. But since his return to the squad following the brief break, Birendra has shown considerable improvement in his performance.

Meanwhile, Harmanpreet Singh, who has since his debut in the seniors team in 2015 is now a top drag-flicker and defender. In the absence of skipper Manpreet in 2019, he led the team to a win at the FIH Olympic Test event in Tokyo.

Congratulating the three players, Chief Coach Graham Reid said, "All of them have been an integral part of the team's leadership over these past couple of years and have shown a lot of maturity in guiding the youngsters during these challenging times. Naming two vice captains we believe will also strengthen our leadership in what is going to be a demanding tournament. We are confident that together they will guide the team to success

Expressing his gratitude on being named captain, Manpreet said, "This Olympics will be truly special, and I am humbled to have this opportunity of representing India at the Olympics for the third time, this time as team Captain. It is a very proud moment for me to be given this charge. Over these past few years, we have developed a strong leadership group and have successfully overcome the challenges posed by the

pandemic to keep our form and minds and fitness focused towards doing well at the Olympics."

Birendra said that this Olympics is special for him and being named the Vice-Captain of the team has only made this all the more special. "This will be a very special Olympic Games as we have prepared really well and are poised to win a medal in Tokyo. Being named as a vice captain along with Harmanpreet Singh is a matter of pride for me and over these past years with India we have seen players show great mental toughness during our preparations despite these trying times. We just hope to make the hard work and sacrifices count by winning big," stated Lakra.

Harmanpreet on the other hand thanked Hockey India and the Coaching staff for the opportunity. He said, "When I came into the team as an absolute newcomer in 2015, there were a lot of seniors who guided me and I hope to play the same role now. We have a good, well-prepared team and everyone is excited to make this opportunity count."

Indian men will begin their campaign in Tokyo on July 24 when they take on New Zealand in their first Pool match.

For the women's team, Rani was the obvious choice not just for her on-field exploits but also for her innate ability to guide the youngsters in the team.



Rani Rampal will lead Indian Women Hockey Team at the Tokyo Olympics. Under her captaincy, the Indian team over the past four years has achieved significant results

Under her captaincy, the Indian team over the past four years has achieved significant results including winning the

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WHO chief says it was 'premature' to rule out Covid lab leak

THE FIRST HUMAN CASES WERE IDENTIFIED IN THE CHINESE CITY OF WUHAN



WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said that "checking what happened, especially in our labs, is important" to nailing down if the pandemic had any laboratory links.

BERLIN (TIP): The head of the World Health Organisation acknowledged it was premature to rule out a potential link between the Covid-19 pandemic and a laboratory leak, and he said Thursday he is asking China to be more transparent as scientists search for the origins of the coronavirus.

In a rare departure from his usual deference to powerful member countries, WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said getting access to raw data had been a challenge for the international team that travelled to China earlier this year to investigate the source

of Covid-19. The first human cases were identified in the Chinese city of Wuhan.

Tedros told reporters that the UN health agency based in Geneva is "asking actually China to be transparent, open and cooperate, especially on the information, raw data that we asked for at the early days of the pandemic".

He said there had been a "premature push" to rule out the theory that the virus might have escaped from a Chinese government lab in Wuhan - undermining WHO's own March report, which concluded that a laboratory leak was "extremely unlikely." "I was a lab technician myself, I'm an immunologist, and I have worked in the lab, and lab accidents happen," Tedros said. "It's common." In recent months, the idea that the pandemic started somehow in a laboratory - and perhaps involved an engineered virus - has gained traction, especially with President Joe Biden ordering a review of US intelligence to assess the possibility in May.

China has struck back aggressively, arguing that attempts to link the origins of Covid-19 to a lab were politically motivated and suggesting that the virus might have started abroad. At WHO's

annual meeting of health ministers in the spring, China said that the future search for Covid-19's origins should continue - in other countries.

Most scientists suspect that the coronavirus originated in bats, but the exact route by which it first jumped into people -- via an intermediary animal or in some other way -- has not yet been determined. It typically takes decades to narrow down the natural source of an animal virus like Ebola or SARS.

Tedros said that "checking what happened, especially in our labs, is important" to nailing down if the pandemic had any laboratory links.

"We need information, direct information on what the situation of this lab was before and at the start of the pandemic," the WHO chief said, adding that China's cooperation was critical. "If we get full information, we can exclude (the lab connection)." Throughout the pandemic, Tedros has repeatedly praised China for its speed and transparency despite senior WHO officials internally griping about obfuscation from their Chinese counterparts.

Last year, The Associated Press found that WHO was frustrated by a lack of

details from China during the early stages of the coronavirus' spread and showed that China was clamping down on the hidden hunt for the pandemic's origins.

Numerous public health experts have also called for an independent examination of Covid-19's origins, arguing WHO does not have the political clout to conduct such a forensic analysis and that the UN agency has failed after more than a year to extract critical details from China.

Any WHO-led mission to China also requires government approval for all experts who travel to the country, as well as permission to visit field sites and final approval on any trip report. WHO emergencies chief Dr Michael Ryan has previously said the agency works by consensus and cannot compel countries to cooperate.

Tedros' appeal for transparency was echoed by German Health Minister Jens Spahn, who urged Chinese officials to allow the investigation into the origins of the virus to proceed.

"We do appreciate the cooperation of the Chinese government so far for the first mission," Spahn said. "But that's not yet enough." (Agencies)

US LAWMAKERS DEMAND PANEL ON COVID ORIGIN



For representation only

WASHINGTON (TIP): A group of Democratic lawmakers in the US has asked the Congressional leadership to establish a bipartisan commission, modelled after the 9/11 panel, on the origins of the Covid virus in China.

The members of the Democratic Blue Dog Coalition, in a letter to House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, House Majority Leader Steny Hoyer, House Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy, Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer and Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell, said the commission should be modelled after the 9/11 commission.

"We write to you to express our strong support for the passage of legislation establishing a national commission on the Covid pandemic, modelled on the 2002 legislation creating the 'National Commission on Terrorist Attacks Upon the United States', also known as the 9/11 commission," the Democratic Blue Dog Coalition wrote on Tuesday. (Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)

Will send COVID-19 vaccines as soon as India clears legal hurdles: U.S.

WASHINGTON (TIP): The Biden administration had announced a donation of 80 million doses from its domestic stockpile with countries around the world, including India.

The United States on July 13 said that it was ready to ship COVID-19 vaccines

as soon as it got a green signal from the Indian government that has sought further time to review legal provisions related to accepting the donation.

"We are ready to ship those vaccines expeditiously when we have a green light from the Government of India," State Department spokesperson Ned Price told reporters at his daily news conference.

The Biden administration had announced a donation of 80 million doses from its domestic stockpile with countries around the world, including India. In recent weeks, the U.S. vaccines have landed in countries across the world, including Pakistan, Nepal, Bhutan and Bangladesh.

However, they have not been sent to India as the necessary legal clearance by



State Department spokesperson Ned Price said: "India has determined that it needs further time to review legal provisions related to accepting the vaccine donations".

the Indian government for such an emergency import is yet to be given.

"Before we can ship those doses, however, each country must complete its own domestic set of operational, regulatory, and legal processes.

Now, India has determined that it needs further time to review legal provisions related to accepting the vaccine donations," Mr. Price said.

"Once India works through its legal processes, our donations of vaccines to India will proceed expeditiously. We would need to refer you to the Government of India on the status of its discussions with COVAX, which, in this case, is helping to facilitate that delivery," he said.

"Throughout South Asia, we're donating millions of vaccines to Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Nepal, the Maldives, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka. Roughly 40 million doses have been delivered worldwide so far," he added. (Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)

US SURGEON GENERAL VIVEK MURTHY MAKES OUT A CASE FOR COVID VACCINATION

SAYS HE LOST 10 FAMILY MEMBERS TO COVID

WASHINGTON (TIP): US Surgeon General Dr Vivek Murthy, an Indian-American, on Thursday, July 15, said he lost 10 family members both here and in India to the Covid pandemic.



US Surgeon General Dr Vivek Murthy

File photo

Murthy, who is occupying the position for the second time, said this at a White House briefing making a strong case for people to get vaccinated to protect themselves from the deadly virus.

"On a personal note, it's painful for me to know that nearly every death we are seeing now from Covid could have been prevented. I say that as someone who has lost 10 family members to Covid and who wishes each and every day that they had had the opportunity to get vaccinated," Murthy said. "I see that also as a concerned father of two young children who aren't yet eligible for the vaccine, but I know that our kids are depending on all of us to get vaccinated to shield them from this virus," he added. (Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)

Social media platforms 'killing people' with misinformation, says Biden

WASHINGTON (TIP): The U.S. President's comments came a day after US Surgeon General Vivek Murthy declared misinformation about the vaccines a threat to public health.

President Joe Biden has said that social media companies are "killing people" by failing to police misinformation on their platforms about COVID-19 vaccines.

Mr. Biden, asked if he had a message for platforms like Facebook where false or misleading information about the coronavirus vaccines has spread, told reporters, "They're killing people." "The only pandemic we have is among the unvaccinated," he said.

Speaking on Thursday, July 15, Dr. Murthy said misinformation about

COVID-19, deemed an "infodemic" by the World Health Organization, was deadly.

"Misinformation poses an imminent and insidious threat to our nation's health," Dr. Murthy said during remarks at the White House. "We must confront misinformation as a nation. Lives are depending on it." Given the role the internet plays in spreading health misinformation, Murthy said technology companies and social media platforms must make meaningful changes to their products and software to reduce the spread of false information while increasing access to authoritative, fact-based sources.

Too often, he said, the platforms are built in ways that encourage, not counter,

the spread of misinformation.

"We are asking them to step up," Dr. Murthy said. "We can't wait longer for them to take aggressive action." Facebook spokesperson Dani Lever responded: "We will not be distracted by accusations which aren't supported by facts. The fact is that more than 2 billion people have viewed authoritative information about COVID-19 and vaccines on Facebook, which is more than any other place on the internet." "More than 3.3 million Americans have also used our vaccine finder tool to find out where and how to get a vaccine. The facts show that Facebook is helping save lives. Period," Lever said. Twitter posted on its platform, "As the COVID-19 pandemic evolves



President Biden - File picture

around the world, we'll continue to do our part to elevate authoritative health information." (Agencies)

US EDITOR JAILED IN MYANMAR FEARS HE HAS COVID: LAWYER



Picture for representation only

BANGKOK (TIP): An American journalist detained in Myanmar told his lawyer he believes he has Covid, but prison authorities deny he is infected.

Danny Fenster was detained at Yangon International Airport on May 24 as he was trying to board a flight to go to the Detroit area in the United States to see his family. He is the managing editor of Frontier Myanmar, an independent online news outlet based in Yangon, Myanmar's biggest city.

Fenster has been charged with incitement for which he could be sentenced up to three years' imprisonment. The military-installed government that took power in February has tried to silence independent news media by withdrawing their licences and by arresting dozens of journalists.

The US government and press freedom associations have been pushing for Fenster's release.

Fenster is being held in Insein Prison as Myanmar faces a coronavirus surge it is ill-equipped to fight, with a public health system in tatters due to the political turmoil that arose in reaction to the military's ouster of the elected government of Aung San Suu Kyi. It has a very small supply of Covid vaccines.

(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)

Texas Judge Orders Immediate End of DACA; NY Immigrant Rights Advocates Demand Swift Action by Biden

NEW YORK(TIP): Judge Andrew Hanen, on July 16, ruled the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program (DACA) invalid going forward. In his ruling, Judge Hanen blocked the Department of Homeland Security from approving any new grants of DACA. As of now, the Judge's order will not impact current DACA recipients or their ability to renew their grants of DACA.

In May 2018, Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton, along with six other state Attorneys General, filed a suit in the United States District Court for the Southern District of Texas. The case-Texas v. Nielsen-sought an aggressive and swift end to the DACA program. Appointed by former President George W. Bush and confirmed by the Senate in 2002, Judge Hanen quickly developed a reputation for anti-immigrant rulings and injunctions. A recent FWD.us report revealed a clear majority of Americans support legalization for Dreamers, TPS recipients, and essential workers. The report also outlines that legalization would provide \$149 billion in GDP and \$39 billion in federal, state, and local taxes.

Murad Awawdeh, Executive Director, New York Immigration Coalition:

"Today's ruling is a chilling reminder that the Republicans' far-right anti-immigrant agenda continues to outlive Donald Trump with devastating consequences for our communities. Rescinding DACA would be a disaster for America's health, economy, and legacy. Nearly 50,000 New Yorkers and their families are now at risk of being ripped from the only home they've ever known. Judge Hanen's ruling makes it crystal clear that Washington can't keep playing politics with the lives of these New Yorkers and the hundreds of thousands like them across the country. U.S. Senate Majority Leader Schumer, Speaker Pelosi, and President Biden must use the budget reconciliation process to finally pass permanent protections for not just these young people, but also TPS recipients and essential workers. We can't wait any longer."



Picture for representation only

Background:

The ruling comes a little more than a year after the Supreme Court of the United States (SCOTUS) ruled against President Donald J. Trump's attempt to end the DACA program. For years, the New York Immigration Coalition called for an establishment of permanent legalization for Dreamers. Citing the extreme urgency created by Judge Hanen's forthcoming ruling, the NYIC led the state's immigrant advocacy organizations in demanding immediate action from President Joseph R. Biden and US Senate Majority Leader, Chuck Schumer to protect Dreamers and create a pathway to citizenship for them and their families.

The New York Immigration Coalition

The New York Immigration Coalition (NYIC) is an umbrella policy and advocacy organization for more than 200 groups in New York State. We envision a New York state that is stronger because all people are welcome, treated fairly, and given the chance to pursue their dreams. Our mission is to unite immigrants, members, & allies so all New Yorkers can thrive. We represent the collective interests of New York's diverse immigrant communities and organizations and devise solutions to advance them; advocate for laws, policies, and programs that lead to justice and opportunity for all immigrant groups; and build the power of immigrants and the organizations that serve them to ensure their sustainability, to improve people's lives, and to strengthen our state.

US SENATE PASSES BILL TO BAN MOST IMPORTS FROM CHINA'S XINJIANG OVER RIGHTS ABUSES

WASHINGTON (TIP): The U.S. Senate passed on Wednesday, July 14, a bill to ban imports from China's Xinjiang



region. Several human rights groups, media outlets, and national governments have accused China of committing human rights abuses against the mostly Muslim Uyghur minority group in the region.

The Uyghur Forced Labor Prevention Act works on the presumption that all goods from Xinjiang were produced using forced labor unless proven otherwise. Imported products from the region would have to be certified as not being made with forced labor.1

The legislation would also require the Department of Homeland Security to create a list of entities that support or otherwise work with the Chinese government in oppressing Uyghurs and other ethnic minorities.

The bill will go to the House, and if passed, to the President's desk.

The U.S. previously banned the imports of cotton and tomatoes grown in Xinjiang. The region produces about one-fifth of the world's cotton supply.

In recent weeks, the U.S. has blacklisted several Chinese entities over their alleged involvement in abuses in Xinjiang.2

Earlier in July, French prosecutors opened a "crimes against humanity" investigation into four fashion brands accused of profiting from forced labor in Xinjiang.

(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)

India eases drone norms in boost for future tech

NEW DELHI (TIP): The Union civil aviation ministry on Thursday, July 15, released the draft of the national drone policy, making it significantly easier for people and companies to own and operate drones, while also streamlining a labyrinthine certification process for manufacturers, importers and users, in a move that aims to boost future tech.

Civil aviation minister Jyotiraditya Scindia underlined the key highlights of the new policy in a series of tweets on Thursday. The document has been now been put up for public inputs till August 5, following which it will be notified. The rules will replace the Unmanned Aircraft System Rules (UAS), 2021, which came into force in March.

"In a major fillip to the drone industry, I am happy to present the Draft Drone Rules 2021 that mark a stark shift from the earlier UAS Rules. 10 key takeaways: Several approvals abolished & processes made easier; number of forms reduced from 25 to 5; coverage of drones increased from 300 kg to 500 kg; fee reduced to nominal levels; yellow zone reduced from 45 km to 12 km from the airport perimeter; no flight permission required up to 400 ft in green zones..." Scindia wrote.

Drones have been in the spotlight since such a device was used to target an Indian Air Force (IAF) base in Jammu with explosives last month. Officials in defence have since said they are working on anti-drone technologies. Typical consumer drones usually have some inbuilt safeguards, which mean not all are unsafe.

Drones now form a significant new consumer tech category, particularly among hobbyists and visual artists, and are being tested for a range of practical as well as industrial uses such as automated package deliveries by e-commerce companies. *Source: HT*

Sedition law colonial, concerned over misuse: SC

NEW DELHI (TIP): Expressing concern over the "misuse" of the sedition law and "no accountability of executive agencies", the Supreme Court sought to know on Thursday, July 15, if this "colonial law" is still needed 75 years after Independence.

Hearing a petition by Major General (retired) SG Vombatkere who has challenged Section 124A of the IPC which deals with the offence of sedition, Chief Justice of India N V Ramana turned to Attorney General K K Venugopal: "It's a colonial law. It was meant to suppress the freedom movement. The same law was used by the British to silence Mahatma Gandhi, Tilak etc. Still, is it necessary after 75 years of independence?"

Venugopal told the bench – it also included Justices A S Bopanna and Hrishikesh Roy – that the provision need not be struck down and guidelines can be set out so that it meets its legal purpose.

Stating "I am indicating what I am thinking," the CJI said if one sees the history of people charged under the section, the conviction rate is very low.

"The enormous power of this section can be compared to a carpenter being given a saw to make an item, (but) uses it to cut the entire forest instead of a tree. That's the effect of this provision," he said.

He cited the example of how Section 66A of the Information Technology Act continues to be used even after being struck down by the court in 2015.

"Take the 66A IT Act. Thousands of cases were registered even after being struck down," he said, adding that if the police want to fix somebody, they can also invoke 124A, and that everybody is a little scared when the section is invoked. "These are all issues which need to be looked into," he said.

"Our concern is misuse of law and no accountability of executive agencies," the CJI said, clarifying that he was not blaming any state government for the misuse.

He said if some party doesn't want to



hear the voice of another party, they may use this type of law and implicate other people. "It's a serious question for individuals," he said.

The bench wondered why the government, which had repealed a number of pre-colonial laws, was not looking into the sedition law.

"Continuation of these types of laws after 75 years! The government has repealed a number of laws now... I don't know why you are not looking into this," the CJI said.

Venugopal told the court that the provision need not be struck down, but guidelines could be set out so that the law meets its legal purpose.

He said a similar petition is already pending before a bench headed by Justice U U Lalit and the court has directed that counter-affidavits be filed.

On April 30, the court had issued notice to the Centre on a petition filed by two journalists — Kishorechandra Wangkhemcha from Manipur and Kanhaiya Lal Shukla from Chhattisgarh.

The CJI said he was aware of this

and would decide how to proceed.

Advocate P B Suresh, appearing for petitioner Vombatkere, also drew the court's attention to the May 31 remarks by a bench headed by Justice D Y Chandrachud which, while restraining the Andhra Pradesh police from taking coercive action against two TV news channels charged with sedition, said it was of the view that section 124A of the IPC will need interpretation, especially on its application with regard to freedom of the press.

Vombatkere's plea challenges the constitutional validity of the sedition law on the ground that it has a "chilling effect" on speech and is an unreasonable restriction on the fundamental right of free expression.

He said "a statute criminalising expression based on unconstitutionally vague definitions of 'disaffection towards Government' etc. is an unreasonable restriction on the fundamental right to free expression guaranteed under Article 19 (1)(a) and causes constitutionally impermissible 'Chilling Effect' on speech".

Source: The Indian Express

Devotees can have 'darshan' of Ramlala in Ayodhya temple by 2023-end

NEW DELHI (TIP): Toward 2023-end, devotees will be able to have "darshan" of Ramlala in the Ayodhya Ram temple. Speaking to The Daily Guardian, Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra trust's general secretary Champat Rai said: "Date has been fixed for getting darshan in Ayodhya's grand Ram temple. In 2023, Ramlala will be established at the sanctum sanctorum of the Ram temple. By 2025, the vision of Ram temple complex in entire 70 acres will be completed. The decision has been taken in the meeting of Ram Mandir Trust in Ayodhya on Thursday, July 15."

Meanwhile, the construction work of Ram temple in Ayodhya is on full swing. The Daily Guardian has an exclusive picture of the construction work. It can be seen in this picture that despite the rain, the temple construction work is going on for 24 hours. At the same time, there are elaborate security arrangements in the Ram temple complex. The premises are being monitored 24 hours a day. For this, watch towers and CCTV cameras have been installed, so that the



construction and surrounding activities are monitored at all times.

Speaking to The Daily Guardian, Shri Ram

Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra Trust member Anil Mishra said that the foundation work of Ram temple will be completed by October. After this, the work of the walls and building of the Ram temple will be started from November. Till now, 15 layers of the foundation of the Ram temple have been prepared and the work of 16th layer is going on.

Anil Mishra also said that review is going on regarding the construction of Ram temple. The review is being done for the construction of Ram temple in association with Tata Consultancy and LNT. Tata Consultancy-LNT's expert and Gujarat's architect Ashish Sompura has given a presentation through a projector in the meeting regarding the construction of Ram temple. He described how in the coming days, the pace of construction of Ram temple will be further accelerated. It is expected that the work of filling the foundation will be completed by October. After this, the construction work of the main building of the temple will start from November.

Amarinder writes to Sonia, expresses reservation over Sidhu as Punjab Congress chief

Punjab Chief Minister Amarinder Singh is learnt to have written to Congress president Sonia Gandhi, expressing reservation over Navjot Singh Sidhu's possible appointment as the state party chief.

The Punjab CM is learnt to have mentioned that there could be an adverse impact on the party's prospects in the upcoming Assembly polls by ignoring the old guard, according to Congress sources.

Earlier in the day, Congress MP and senior party leader Manish Tewari gave details of the composition of the state's population, appearing to bat for a Hindu face for the post.

There are reports that Sidhu is likely to be made the Punjab Congress chief.

There is also talk of appointing two working presidents—a Dalit and a Hindu face to balance the caste equations.

The names of minister Vijay Inder Singla and MP Santokh Chaudhary are doing rounds for the post of working presidents.

But Amarinder expressed his displeasure over Sidhu being given a key post, said the sources.

Enforcement Directorate attaches Rs 4.2-crore assets of Deshmukh, kin

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on July 16 said it had provisionally attached assets worth Rs 4.2 crore of former Maharashtra Home Minister Anil Deshmukh and his family, held in the name of his wife Aarti Deshmukh and company Premier Port Links Private Limited. The attachment was ordered under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act in connection with an alleged Rs 100-crore bribery-cum-extortion racket in the Maharashtra Police establishment that led to Deshmukh's resignation in April. The attached properties include a residential flat worth Rs 1.54 crore in Worli.

11 dead in Madhya Pradesh well tragedy

Eleven bodies have been recovered and 19 people rescued from a well, which collapsed on Thursday, July 15, during a rescue operation to pull out a boy, in the Ganjbasoda area of Madhya Pradesh's Vidisha district, according to a report. News agency PTI cited MP's medical education Minister Vishwas Sarang as saying late on Friday that the boy's body was the last one to be taken out from the well. Sarang, the district's guardian minister, also said that the rescue operations have ended. Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday expressed his condolences to the families of those who died after falling into the well and also announced an ex-gratia of Rs 2 lakh for the families of the victims. "Anguished by the tragedy in Vidisha, Madhya Pradesh. My condolences to the bereaved families. An ex-gratia of Rs 2 lakh each from PMNRF would be given to the next of kin of those who lost their lives," the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) tweeted.

Call off kanwar yatra, or we will, SC tells UP

NEW DELHI (TIP): The Supreme Court on Friday, July 16, observed that "the Uttar Pradesh government cannot go ahead with the kanwar yatra - 100%", asking the state to either withdraw the decision to allow the religious pilgrimage "in the interest of health of the citizenry of India", or invite an order from the court.

Citing widespread fears of a third wave of Covid-19, the bench of justices Rohinton F Nariman and BR Gavai gave the state government time till Monday to reconsider its decision of allowing the kanwar yatra due to "compelling religious reasons" and convey it to the court.

The ultimatum effectively ends any chance of the yatra, which attracts around 30 million pilgrims from many northern and northwestern states to Haridwar in Uttarakhand, where they collect water from the Ganga (gangajal) and take it back home, on foot or on cycles. Many of the pilgrims are from Uttar Pradesh, which is keen to go ahead with the yatra despite fears that it could be a superspreader event, and despite warnings from public health officials. Uttarakhand has already cancelled the yatra and said it will not allow the entry of pilgrims. Uttar Pradesh was looking at ways to ship gangajal in tankers and then allow the pilgrims to collect it by walk or cycle. Both states go to polls early next year.

"The UP government can't go ahead with it - 100%...Either we order directly or we give you one final opportunity to reconsider your decision. Pandemic affects all of us. We are all the citizens of India. This suo motu (case initiated by the court



on its own motion) has been taken up since Article 21 (right to life) applies to all of us. It is to safeguard each one of us," the bench told senior counsel CS Vaidyanathan, who appeared for the UP government and agreed to return on Monday after a review of the decision.

Vaidyanathan earlier informed the court that the state has decided to allow a symbolic yatra with a restricted number of kanwariyas (pilgrims) who will have to follow safety protocols. He said that the district administration will ensure that the number of permissions thus granted will be kept to a minimum.

The UP government did not make any disclosure about a possible decision on Friday, but officials said they were in talks with kanwar associations, who may themselves call off the pilgrimage like last year.

"The UP government has instructed the administration to

establish a dialogue with kanwar associations so the right decision can be taken regarding the organisation of the yatra," said a government spokesperson.

"We are in talks with the kanwar sanghs and other states," added Awanish Kumar Awasthi, additional chief secretary (home), Uttar Pradesh.

For the Union government, solicitor general Tushar Mehta submitted that movement of kanwariyas for bringing gangajal from Haridwar must not be allowed in view of the pandemic. The Centre's affidavit advocated a system to make gangajal available through tankers at designated locations for devotees to collect and perform rituals. Advocate Abhishek Arey, representing the Uttarakhand government, told the court that Uttarakhand has completely banned any physical form of yatra.

Source: HT

Govt expected to take up 15 bills in upcoming Monsoon Session of Parliament

NEW DELHI (TIP): The Government is expected to take up 15 bills in the upcoming Monsoon Session of the Parliament.

"The Government is expected to take up 15 bills including the DNA Technology Bill, Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens, Assisted Reproductive Technology Bill, Tribunal Reforms Bill and Factoring Regulation Amendment Bill among others in upcoming Monsoon Session of the Parliament," said sources.

According to the "Tentative list of government legislative and financial business expected to be taken up during the Sixth Session of Seventeenth Lok Sabha" that starts July 19, the Centre has listed 23 bills to be tabled in the Lower House during the upcoming Monsoon Session.

Of the 23 bills listed by the Centre, 17 will be new bills while six have already been introduced, of which two will be introduced to replace the existing ordinances.

The Union Government is expected to table the Tribunal Reforms (Rationalisation and Conditions of Service) Bill, 2021 for consideration and passing. The bill has been already introduced on February 13 in Lok



Sabha and not referred to Standing Committee.

Among the bills that have been introduced in Lok Sabha, referred to Standing Committees and their reports presented are--The DNA Technology (Use and Application) Regulation Bill, 2019; The Factoring Regulation (Amendment) Bill, 2020; The Assisted Reproductive Technology (Regulation) Bill, 2020; and The Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens (Amendment) Bill, 2019.

The National Institutes of Food Technology, Entrepreneurship and Management Bill, 2021 has been passed by Rajya Sabha on March 15 and was laid on the Table of Lok Sabha on March 17.

India reports 38,949 new Covid-19 cases, 542 more fatalities

NEW DELHI (TIP): India's caseload of the coronavirus disease (Covid-19) climbed to 31,026,829 on Friday, July 16, after 38,949 new cases were reported in the last 24 hours, according to the Union ministry of health and family welfare. As many as 542 people died and 40,026 recovered from the viral disease in the said period, taking the cumulative death toll and recoveries to 412,531 and 30,183,876 respectively. The active cases of Covid-19 stand at 430,422 and constitute 1.39 per cent of the caseload, the health ministry's update further showed.

July 16 cases are 2,857 less than that of Thursday's when 41,806 infections were seen. Meanwhile, the toll on Friday is 39 less than that of Thursday's when 581 deaths were reported.

A total of 440,023,239 samples have been tested for the Covid-19 disease so far of which 1,955,910 samples were tested in the last 24 hours, the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) said on Friday.

Even though the daily infections in India are seeing a slight increase amid the ongoing second wave of the pandemic, the arrival of the third wave



in the country is inevitable. The recent incidents of people in massive numbers flocking to hill stations, tourist destinations and market places with no adherence to Covid-appropriate

behaviour, can prove to be super spreader events.

According to a report by news agency Reuters, apart from the above, pilgrimages can also prove to be super

spreader events of Covid-19. This is an indirect indication towards the upcoming Kanwar Yatra- an annual pilgrimage of Shiva devotees to Haridwar, Gaumukh and Gangotri in Uttarakhand to fetch Ganga water. The festival will begin on July 25.

Uttarakhand on July 13 decided to scrap the yatra to prevent overcrowding of devotees in Haridwar, a lesson which the state learned from hosting the Kumbh Mela, which turned out to be a super spreader event.

However, the neighbouring state of Uttar Pradesh has allowed the Kanwar Yatra despite the apprehensions of a massive spread of Covid-19. The Supreme Court on Wednesday pointed out that it was a little disturbed by the UP government's decision to allow the annual pilgrimage. State health minister Jai Pratap Singh said on Thursday that all Covid-19 protocols will be followed during the yatra. But, law enforcement officials in Uttar Pradesh, including the police, have pointed out it might be difficult to get thousands of devotees to follow social distancing, wear masks and undergo Covid-19 tests.

Delta sub-lineages unlikely to be more contagious than Delta itself: Insacog

NEW DELHI (TIP): The sub-lineages of the highly contagious Delta variant of the Sars-CoV-2 virus, identified in India, that causes coronavirus disease (Covid-19), are unlikely to be more transmissible than Delta itself, according to the latest Indian Sars-CoV-2 Genomics Consortium (Insacog) bulletin.

The sub-lineages, AY.1 and AY.2, of the Delta variant (B.1.617.2) are declining globally, with near-zero cases in the last week of June in the UK and the US where they were most frequently detected, according to the summary of the cumulative data based on whole genome sequencing of Covid-19 positive cases released by the department of biotechnology, government of India, on July 9.

"They also continue to be below 1% in available sequences from June in India. It is likely that neither AY.1 nor AY.2 is more transmissible than Delta. There are no indications of rising trend in the four clusters (in Ratnagiri and Jalgaon in Maharashtra, Bhopal in Madhya Pradesh and Chennai in Tamil Nadu)," said the bulletin. A new sub-lineage AY.3 has been identified, which has primarily been detected in the US with single reclassified cases in UK and India. However, there are no known significant properties of this mutation, but since it is a Delta variant of concern sub-lineage, Insacog will continue to monitor it. Meanwhile, scientists have found that the proportion of known variants of concern that are in circulation in India remain unchanged from the preceding week. Delta is the dominant lineage for new cases across all parts of India in recent samples and remains the most rapidly rising lineage globally. New data points to efficacy of vaccination against severe disease by the Delta variant.

Source: HT

Covid-19 third wave likely by August-end, will be less severe than second: ICMR

NEW DELHI (TIP): Covid-19 third wave may hit India at the end of August and will not be as deadly as the second one, a top doctor has told a television news channel. "There would be a nationwide third wave but that does not mean that it would be as high or as intense as the second wave," Dr Samiran Panda, the head of epidemiology and infectious diseases at the Indian Council of Medical Research, told NDTV.

Samiran Panda also listed four things that could lead to the third wave of Covid-19, including a drop in the immunity among people against the coronavirus disease acquired in the first and second waves of the pandemic. "If that goes down, it could lead to a third wave," Panda told NDTV.

He also said that there could be a variant of the coronavirus that can bypass the acquired immunity and if the new variant doesn't do that it can circulate fast in the population. The Covid-19 third wave could also be brought about by the premature easing of Covid-19 curbs by states, Panda said.

"I'm not expecting any more public health havoc from the Delta variant," Panda told NDTV when asked if Delta Plus could bring on the third wave.

Panda's comments come as Dr Randeep Guleria, All India Institute of Medical Science (AIIMS)



director, said on Thursday that a possible third wave of Covid-19 can be precipitated by waning immunity among people, the emergence of a more transmissible variant of the coronavirus and relaxations by governments in lockdown curbs.

Dr Guleria said that several studies and models have been conducted to project the possible third wave's trajectory under different scenarios. "One such model from an IIT shows that if all restrictions are lifted and if a virus (variant) is also able to escape

immunity then the next wave can be bigger than the second wave. If some restrictions are kept and the virus also remains stable then cases will not be much and if we keep more restrictions then cases will further reduce," he was quoted as saying by news agency PTI.

The Indian Medical Association said earlier this week the third wave is "inevitable and imminent" and urged state governments to disallow large gatherings as these could become "potential super spreader" events.

Sparks fly between Imran Khan, Ashraf Ghani at Tashkent meet

ISLAMABAD (TIP): The connectivity conference in Tashkent attended by almost all foreign ministers from Central and South Asia saw sparks fly between Pakistan and Afghanistan before both sides cooled the tensions with a meeting between their leaders Imran Khan and Ashraf Ghani.

Khan and Jaishankar also crossed swords, though indirectly.

In an indirect reference to the Pakistan Army's obdurate stance on trade and connectivity with India, Jaishankar said the real issue is of mindsets not of disputes.

Khan in his speech cited Kashmir issue as a major hindrance in connectivity projects.

With the Pak PM on stage, Afghan President Ghani criticised Pakistan indirectly for not stopping terrorists from crossing over into Afghanistan and for failing to convince Taliban to move for meaningful talks.

Imran, in turn, pointed out that the Taliban was not ready for a deal when there were 1.5 lakh NATO troops in Afghanistan.

"Why would they compromise now? Why would they listen to us when they are feeling victory?" he posed while stating that over 70,000 Pakistanis have also been victims of terrorism.

Although the Tashkent meet was primarily meant for foreign ministers, top leaders of both Pakistan and Afghanistan had landed there since the gathering was expected to carry on the discussions they had held over the previous two days in Dushanbe.



The immediate casualty of the clash between Khan and Ghani was the proposed weekend peace conference in Pakistan that was to be attended by elements close to the Kabul regime.

The Taliban had recused itself as it had held discussions several times with the Pakistanis.

Better sense prevailed after the ministers had delivered their speeches. Khan and Ghani held a meeting at which the DG Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) Lt. Gen. Faiz Hameed was also present.

Speaking at the meeting, Jaishankar wanted the Chabahar port to be included in the North-South Corridor which was the main topic of discussions. He also

said for reliable connectivity within and through Afghanistan, world must have confidence in its governance.

Describing connectivity efforts as an act of trust, he felt they must conform to international law, respect nations' sovereignty and be based on economic viability.

The inclusion of Chabahar port in the INSTC (International North-South Transport Corridor) framework would ensure a secure and unhindered access to sea for Central Asian countries, he said while welcoming the India-Iran-Afghanistan-Uzbekistan Working Group on joint use of Chabahar port. (TNS)

Danish Siddiqui: Indian photojournalist killed in Afghanistan

Pulitzer Prize-winning Indian photojournalist Danish Siddiqui has been killed in Afghanistan, said the country's ambassador in Delhi.

KABUL (TIP): The 41-year-old, who was chief photographer for Reuters news agency in India, was on assignment when he died.

He was embedded with a convoy of Afghan forces that was ambushed by Taliban militants near a key border post with Pakistan, according to reports.

It is unclear how many others died in the attack.

Afghanistan's ambassador to India, Farid Mamundzay, said he was deeply disturbed by the news of "the killing of a friend".

Based out of Mumbai, Siddiqui worked with Reuters for more than a decade.



In 2018, he won the Pulitzer Prize in feature photography. He won it alongside colleague Adnan Abidi and five others for their work documenting the violence faced by Myanmar's minority Rohingya community.

Recently, his photos of mass funerals

held at the peak of India's devastating second wave went viral and won him global praise and recognition.

"While I enjoy covering news stories - from business to politics to sports - what I enjoy most is capturing the human face of a breaking story," Siddiqui had told Reuters.

Siddiqui was covering the clashes in Kandahar region, as the US withdraws its forces from Afghanistan ahead of an 11 September deadline set by President Joe Biden.

The Taliban - a fundamentalist Islamic militia - controlled Afghanistan from the mid-90s until the US invasion in 2001. The group has been accused of grave human rights and cultural abuses.

With foreign troops withdrawing after 20 years, the Taliban are rapidly retaking territory across the country, sparking fears of a potential civil war.(BBC)

INDIA, BANGLADESH TAKE UP ROHINGYA ISSUE

DHAKA (TIP) : India and Bangladesh have reaffirmed their commitment to further strengthening the expanding multifaceted cooperation, as foreign ministers of met in Tashkent and discussed a range of issues, including regional connectivity, Covid and the repatriation of the Rohingya refugees to Myanmar.

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and his Bangladeshi counterpart AK Abdul Momen met in Uzbekistan's capital on the sidelines of an international conference on the challenges and opportunities of regional connectivity in Central and South Asia on Thursday. — (PTI)

SIX MEMBERS OF PAKISTANI FAMILY KILLED IN HOUSE COLLAPSE

LAHORE (TIP): Six members of a family, including three children, were buried alive when the roof of their house collapsed in Pakistan's Lahore city.

The incident took place at Lahore's thickly-populated area Shad Bagh on late Thursday night.

All six members of the family—Sumaira Bibi (60), her son Ali (35), his wife Mehwish (30) and the couple's three children aged between one and eight—were sleeping when the roof of their two-storey house collapsed, said Rescue official Muhammad Farooq.

The rescue team pulled out the six bodies from the debris.

"The cause of the roof collapse is the dilapidated condition of the structure and monsoon rains added further to it," he said. (PTI)

SHER BAHADUR DEUBA TAKES OATH AS NEPAL PM FOR 5TH TIME

KATHMANDU (TIP): Nepali Congress President Sher Bahadur Deuba on Tuesday formally became the country's Prime Minister for a record fifth time after the Supreme Court's intervention.

Becoming the Prime Minister of Nepal for the fifth time, the 75-year-old Nepali Congress veteran has to prove his majority in 30 days.

The Supreme Court on Monday overturned Prime Minister KP Oli's May 21 decision to dissolve the House of Representatives and ordered the appointment of Deuba as PM.

Deuba will face an uphill task because 23 MPs of the Madhav Nepal faction of Oli's party - CPN-UML — which had provided signatures to the petition against House dissolution have decided to remain with the parent party.

If Deuba wins the vote of confidence by August 12, he can remain PM for about a year and a half till the next general elections.

(TNS)

NJSO PERFORMS CI COMPOSER WORKS

BY MABEL PAIS

The New Jersey Symphony Orchestra (NJSO) announces NJSO Edward T. Cone Composition Institute composers:

Elise Arancio: "Wake"

Kevin Day: "Tango Oscuro"

Erin Graham: "Increase"

Jared Miller: "Under Sea, Above Sky"



Cone Institute Performers with NJSO Photo / Courtesy NJSO

The New Jersey Symphony Orchestra announces the composers for the seventh NJSO Edward T. Cone Composition Institute, presented July 19–24 at NJPAC, Newark. NJSO gives world premieres of institute works at public concert July 24 at NJPAC in Newark with conductor Ludovic Morlot.

The composers include Elise Arancio (Curtis Institute of Music) and her work "Wake," Kevin Day (University of Georgia) and his work "Tango Oscuro," Erin Graham (UC San Diego) and her work "Increase," and Jared Miller (The Juilliard School) and his work "Under Sea, Above Sky."

The four composers will hear their music performed by the NJSO and participate in in-depth sessions with Institute Director Steven Mackey, guest conductor Ludovic Morlot and industry leaders including Boosey and Hawkes, New Music USA, Subito Music Corporation and speech and presentation coach Sims Wyeth. To learn more, visit njsymphony.org/institute

By the conclusion of the Institute's immersive laboratory experience, participants will have gained invaluable musical and practical feedback about writing for orchestra and how to get their music published and performed.

The NJSO Edward T. Cone Composition Institute grew out of reading sessions the Orchestra has held with Princeton University graduate students biennially for more than a decade. The Institute celebrates its namesake Cone's legacy as both a composer and a Princeton University professor. The event is a collaboration between the NJSO and Princeton University Department of Music. Learn more at njsymphony.org/institute.

TICKETS

Purchase nominally priced tickets at njsymphony.org/scores

ELISE ARANCIO : To learn more about Elise Arancio, visit elisearancio.com

Program Notes: "Wake" : Wake (v.) To emerge from a state of sleep. "While this piece occurs in the wake of a traumatic event, the overwhelming focus is on using inner momentum to awaken from a slumber of desolation and return to a place of joy. It is ultimately about finding life amidst death, and while not ignoring dark echoes, overcoming them, to reach a place where the heartbeat can clearly be heard among the sounds of renewed vitality," says Arancio.

KEVIN DAY : To learn more about Kevin Day, visit

kevindaymusic.com

Program Notes: "Tango Oscuro" : "Tango Oscuro" ("Dark Tango"), says Day, is a chamber orchestra work that was composed over the span of five days' time, from an out-of-the-blue inspiration. This intense composition depicts a dark, wild and passionate dance between two aspiring lovers. He says: "'Tango Oscuro' is dedicated to the Gabriela Lena Frank Creative Academy of Music, and to my friend and mentor Gabriela Lena Frank, who inspired me to experiment and try new things, helped me to believe in myself and encouraged me to embrace my voice as a composer."

ERIN GRAHAM : To learn more about Erin Graham, visit erinegraham.com

Program Notes: "Increase" : Graham says: "Narratives which feature some form of systematic overthrow fascinate me. "Increase" is a study in various methods of escalating dramatic tension on both small and large scales, and in allowing a seemingly inconsequential idea to gradually rise to the foreground."

JARED MILLER : To learn more about Jared Miller, visit jaredmiller.com

Program Notes: "Under Sea, Above Sky" : "When I started writing this piece for the National Youth Orchestra of Canada, 'Under Sea, Above Sky.'" The piece was ultimately written as an ode to planet Earth. On one hand, Earth is massive, majestic and wild. On the other, it is incredibly fragile as climate change continues to wreak havoc upon it. "Under Sea, Above Sky" aims to capture this duality by contrasting passages of thundering resonance and textures of frail, ethereal tranquility. Ultimately, this piece serves not as an elegy for planet Earth but rather, as a reminder of both its beauty and its vulnerability.

To learn more about NJSO and the CI composers, visit njsymphony.org/institute

NJSO-NEWARK MUSEUM CONTINUE OUTDOOR MUSIC CONCERTS

The New Jersey Symphony Orchestra (NJSO) continues in-person outdoor chamber music series in The Newark Museum of Art's (newarkmuseumart.org) Alice Ransom Dreyfuss Memorial Garden this summer in July and August.

In nine performances from June through August, the NJSO Chamber Players

perform a three-concert series curated by Resident Artistic Catalyst Daniel

Bernard Roumain (DBR), a three-concert series curated by Concertmaster Eric

Wyrick and a three-concert family series for music lovers of all ages.



Family Concerts - Photo / Courtesy NJSO

Arts in the Garden

With the New Jersey Symphony Orchestra Chamber Players, in collaboration with The Newark Museum of Art

Beethoven & Wind Serenades

Wed, July 21, at 7 pm

ERIC WYRICK violin & curator

BEETHOVEN Septet in E-flat Major

VARIOUS Wind Serenades

Peter and the Wolf – Family Program

Sat, July 31, at 10 am

Experience Prokofiev's classic tale about an adventurous boy and a hapless wolf. Instruments portray the duck, bird, cat, wolf, hunters, Peter and his Grandfather, making this a wonderful introduction to the orchestra, as well as a charming story.

NJSO Storytime – Family Program

Sat, Aug 14, at 10 am

Bring your family as New Jersey Symphony Orchestra Chamber Players tell stories through the sound of music.

Who We Are with DBR

Wed, Aug 11, at 7 pm

DANIEL BERNARD ROUMAIN curator

To learn more about Resident Artistic Catalyst Daniel Bernard Roumain, visit danielroumain.com

New Jersey Symphony Orchestra

Connect with NJSO:

Website: njsymphony.org

Facebook, Twitter and Instagram: @NJSymphony

YouTube: @NewJerseySymphony

Email: information@njsymphony.org

The Newark Museum of Art

To learn about the Museum, newarkmuseumart.org

NJPAC - STANDING IN SOLIDARITY

Free on Zoom - Mon, Jul 19 @ 7PM



Reflections on Social Justice. - Photo / Courtesy NJPAC

For a year, we've all been thinking deeply about social justice.

What would a more just world look like? How can we improve our schools, our hospitals, our companies, our relationships, to ensure that everyone is treated equally, with respect and dignity? Should reparations be made to Black citizens — and how can we calculate the cost of centuries of injustice?

Throughout this year, NJPAC's "Standing in Solidarity" gatherings have examined all angles of these questions.

To conclude this year-long project of reflection on questions of race, equity and justice, NJPAC revisits some of its most thought-provoking panels, in live sessions with members of the Arts Center's own Social Justice Programming Task Force.

Join NJPAC at 7PM on Monday, July 19, to revisit two of the most intriguing discussions: "White Fragility" and "Policing the Police," during a live Zoom session.

For the discussion on the concept of white fragility, and the popular book by the same name by Robin DiAngelo, panelists will be Donna Walker-Kuhne, Senior Advisor, Diversity Equity and Inclusion at NJPAC, and Chelsea Keys, the Arts Center's Director of Special Projects.

Reflections on the "Policing the Police" panel will follow, with observations and reflections by Kitab Rollins, NJPAC's Director of Performance and Broadcast Rentals, and the producer of the Arts Center's "Standing in Solidarity events," and Eyesha K. Marable, Assistant Vice President, Community Engagement at NJPAC.

NJPAC : To learn about NJPAC, visit njpac.org

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

HISTORIC FILM IMPACTS CAMPAIGN VICTORY

BY MABEL PAIS

“BELLY OF THE BEAST” FILM EXPOSES MODERN DAY ‘EUGENICS’

ON PBS: STREAMING FREE NOW UNTIL JULY 31

DIRECTOR ERIKA COHEN: DOC NYC'S 2019 “40 UNDER 40”

CALIFORNIA: FIRST STATE TO SIGN REPARATIONS FOR ABUSES OF WOMEN IN CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM

#EndEugenicsLegacy

#ItsTime

“To this day, many survivors who were sterilized while in prison still don’t know that their reproductive capacities were stolen from them. With the launch of reparations, we will finally receive justice that we have fought so long for and the healing process can truly begin. It’s time,” said Kelli Dillon, founder of ‘Back to the Basics,’ sterilization survivor, and film participant.

“I’m thrilled “Belly of the Beast” contributed to this historic moment and we will continue to



“Belly of the Beast,” Poster - Photo / bellyofthebeastfilm.com

shine a light on our nation’s dark past until these heinous practices are eradicated.” - Erika Cohn, Director-Producer

Hailed by CBS Sunday Morning as one of the best documentaries of 2020 and a 2021 Peabody Awards nominee, the timely and powerful film “Belly of the Beast” exposes human rights abuses of women in the criminal justice system. The film supported and expanded a movement towards reparations - dozens of screenings and advocacy actions were held around California and across the nation.

The film features the Oscar Shortlisted original song “What You’ve Done” from Grammy Winning and Oscar nominated singer-songwriter Mary J. Blige who wrote and performed the song. “I was moved by Erika Cohn’s important documentary ‘Belly of the Beast.’ I immediately knew I wanted to be involved and was inspired to write a song that would amplify the voices of women in prison. ‘See What You’ve Done’ is a testimony, a call to be strong, and an anthem for a movement,” Mary J. Blige told ‘Variety.’

Kelli Dillon, the film’s protagonist, a survivor of domestic and state violence, and community intervention specialist, was humbled by Mary J. Blige’s interest in the film: “I cried when I first listened to the song. When I heard the passion behind her voice, it affirmed my strength, my ability to survive what

happened, and fight.”

These injustices are exposed in the award-winning PBS documentary “BELLY OF THE BEAST.” The 2020 feature documentary film “Belly of the Beast” has its streaming re-release on PBS.ORG this week and available for free to the public until July 31. A wider demand release is planned for later this year.

Watch the trailer till the end - youtu.be/IoD7VgF19EI

BELLY OF THE BEAST

When an unlikely duo discovers a pattern of illegal sterilizations in women’s prisons, they wage a near impossible battle against the Department of Corrections. Filmed over seven years with extraordinary access and intimate accounts from currently and formerly incarcerated people, the documentary feature “BELLY OF THE BEAST” exposes modern-day eugenics and reproductive injustice in California prisons.

Directed by Emmy and Peabody award-winning filmmaker Erika Cohn (The Judge and In Football We Trust), “BELLY OF THE BEAST” features the original song ‘See What You’ve Done’ written and performed by Mary J. Blige, the nine-time Grammy winner and two-time Oscar nominated singer-songwriter. The song was shortlisted for the Academy Awards for Best Original Song.



Handcuffed woman prisoner - Photo / bellyofthebeastfilm.com

The pastoral farmlands surrounding the Central California Women’s Facility, the world’s largest women’s prison, help conceal the reproductive and human rights violations transpiring inside its walls. A courageous woman who was involuntarily sterilized at the facility, teams up with a radical lawyer to stop these violations. They spearhead investigations that uncover a series of statewide crimes, primarily targeting women of color, from inadequate access to healthcare to sexual assault to illegal sterilization. Together, with a team of tenacious heroines, both in and out of prison, they take to the courtroom to fight for reparations. But no one believes them.

As additional damning evidence is uncovered by the Center for Investigative Reporting, a media frenzy and series of hearings provide hope for some semblance of justice. Yet, doctors and prison officials contend that the procedures were in each person’s best interest and of an overall social benefit. Invoking the weight of the historic stain and legacy of eugenics, “BELLY OF THE BEAST” presents a decade long, infuriating contemporary legal drama.

CALIFORNIA SIGNS BILL FOR REPARATIONS

This week, California Governor Newsom signs a bill for landmark reparations for the modern-day eugenics and reproductive injustices in California state prisons. Forced Sterilization survivors are featured in the award-winning PBS documentary “BELLY OF THE

BEAST.”

This will make California the first state to both provide notification of coerced sterilization and reparations to survivors who were sterilized while incarcerated in its state women’s prisons and the third state in the nation to provide monetary compensation to survivors who were sterilized under state eugenics laws.

The award-winning filmmakers behind the PBS documentary “Belly of the Beast” uncovered nearly 1,400 questionable sterilizations in California prisons during labor or unrelated abdominal surgeries between 1997-2013. The film, released widely in 2020, helped garner nearly 20,000 signatures on a petition to Governor Newsom demanding reparations for California forced sterilization survivors.

Between 1909 and 1979, California sterilized at least 20,000 people under State law — accounting for one third of eugenics sterilizations nationwide. People with disabilities, Latinas, women, and poor people were disproportionately targeted for sterilization. Although the State repealed its eugenics law in 1979, coerced and forced sterilizations continued in State prisons into the 2010’s.



Kelli Dillon (Eugenics Survivor) - Photo / bellyofthebeastfilm.com

“Lack of government accountability for its eugenic past made possible the contemporary sterilization abuse in California prisons. Reparations for survivors is a giant step toward accountability and ensuring we end eugenic State violence against families of color.” Film participant and attorney Cynthia Chandler, who has led efforts for reparations for imprisoned survivors.

Governor Newsom’s budget approves 7.5M funding for the reparations program. The budget request and accompanying bill, AB1007, was authored by California Assembly member Wendy Carrillo. Cynthia, Kelli and the “Belly of the Beast” team are a part of a larger cross-movement coalition for reparations including the AB1007 sponsors, Back to the Basics, California Coalition for Women Prisoners, California Latinas for Reproductive Justice and the Disability Rights and Education Defense Fund.

KEY CREDITS

BELLY OF THE BEAST is directed and produced by Erika Cohn, produced by Angela Tucker, Christen Marquez, Nicole Docta, executive produced by GERALYN Dreyfous, Blye Faust, Mark Lipson, Patty Quillin, Doree Friedman, Diane Philips, Lois Vossen, and Sally Jo Fifer, and music supervised by Tracy McKnight.

To learn more, visit the Official Film Website & social media

bellyofthebeastfilm.com

facebook.com/bellyofthebeastfilm

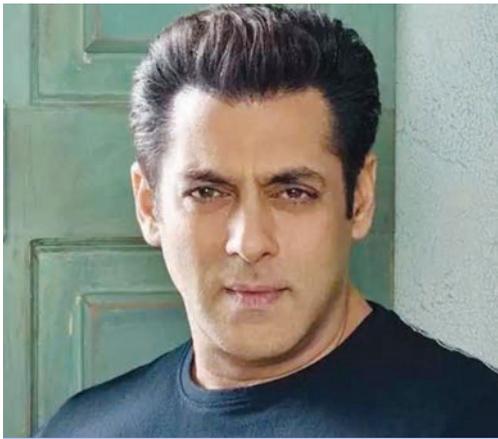
#EndEugenicsLegacy

#ItsTime

twitter.com/BOTBFilm

instagram.com/bellyofthebeastfilm

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



Salman Khan reacts as troll calls his home 'den of vice'

Arbaaz Khan has returned with a new season of his talk show, Pinch, where celebrities laugh, and also react to mean tweets. On Wednesday, he shared the promo for the show, which featured Salman Khan, Ananya Panday, Anil Kapoor, Kiara Advani, Rajkumar Rao, Ayushmann Khurrana, Farah Khan and others.

The video begins with Arbaaz Khan reading out a comment about Salman Khan, "Janta ka bhagwan mat bano (Don't try to play god for the audience)." Salman replied, "Sahi baat hai, ek hi bhagwan hai, aur woh main nahi hoon (Absolutely. There is only one God and it is not me)."

Salman then replied to a troll who commented on his home being aiyashi ka adda (den of vice), "Inhone mere post ke andar aisa kya dekh liya, jo ki humara ghar hai, unko aiyashi ka adda kaise lag raha hai (What did they see in my post that my house looks like a den of vice to them)?" he asked.

Shilpa Shetty says she needs Jennifer Lopez's physique

Actor Shilpa Shetty, who is ready to make an appearing comeback after greater than a decade, has stated that even she has folks she appears to be like as much as for magnificence targets. She stated that she wish to have Jennifer Lopez's physique.

In an interview, Shilpa Shetty was requested concerning the compliments she receives for her look at 46. She admitted that she will get complimented lots, however famous that it requires effort.

She advised The Quint, "I cannot deny it. I'll settle for that many individuals say this. Aur essential admire karti hu ke yeh acknowledge karte hain ke mehnat jaari hai (And I admire that the trouble is acknowledged). I really feel like once they acknowledge, it looks like the yoga labored."

She stated that after the delivery of her first little one, Viaan, she placed on 32 kgs. "I simply let go of myself. Main paagal ho gayi thi, essential sab kuch kha rahi thi, mujhe toh cause chahiye tha khaane ke liye (I went mad, I'd eat every little thing, I did not want a cause to eat). Toh maine ek din realise kiya ke bhaiya maine bohot saara weight placed on kar liya hai (One day I realised that I'd placed on plenty of weight). So I'm additionally such as you guys, it isn't prefer it comes naturally. So if I had been to not maintain myself, if I used to be not disciplined, I'd additionally placed on weight. I prioritise what's necessary, what is just not, and I dwell by yogic rules. I wish to have JLo's physique! We all have benchmarks. She's 52 I believe, and that is wonderful. I imply, have a look at that! There are individuals who encourage me, too. And I wish to be my finest when I'm 65," she stated.



Zareen Khan slams those 'demotivating' her for trying out gymnastics

Actress Zareen Khan, who has often talked about body positivity in her Instagram posts, shared a new video, in which she can be seen trying out gymnastics. The actress, revealed in her extensive caption about how she was "demotivated" by people for trying out the new fitness form. She wrote: "To New Beginnings! Gymnastics is something I always wanted to learn. But whenever I shared this thought with people around me, they had different takes on it. Some said I cannot learn it now as I've crossed a certain age limit and because this is something that's learnt when you are a kid and your body can be moulded as you grow."

Writing about the different reasons people suggested her to refrain from trying out gymnastics, Zareen Khan added, "Some said I'm overweight for this exercise form/sport, and only people who are thin or of certain weight can do this without injuring themselves. Some said I need to have a certain level of fitness to start something so complicated as gymnastics."

Contrary to the inputs she received, the actress did her first class and she wrote: "But finally, I said 'F*** It' to all these demotivating mouths around me and did my first class with the amazing Raakesh Yadhav. And here's how it went. Feeling happy and proud, looking forward to learning a lot more."



Taapsee Pannu announces her production house

Taapsee Pannu has been basking in glory with her back-to-back hits, latest one being Haseen Dillruba. After working for more than a decade in the film industry, the actor adds another milestone in her career, as she launches her production house, Outsiders Films.

For this new venture, Pannu has joined forces with Pranjal Khandhdiya, a content creator and producer for over 20 years. He has been involved in the production of renowned films such as Super 30, 83, Soorma, Piku, Mubarakan, Azhar and is also producing Rashmi Rocket, starring Pannu.

Elated with the launch of the production house, Pannu shares, "I'm thrilled to embark upon this new journey and diversify my love for cinema with my production house. With Outsiders Films, I aim to give back to the industry and empower talent who're looking for a breakthrough and come with no background like me. Pranjal and I together look forward to opening doors for new and fresh talents, both in front and behind the camera."



Reese Witherspoon celebrates 20 years of Legally Blonde



Two decades after the popular rom-com Legally Blonde first hit theatres, the film is still special for star Reese Witherspoon. Her latest Instagram post is proof of that!

The 45-year-old actor, who played Elle Woods in the hit 2001 comedy, celebrated the movie's 20th anniversary on Tuesday by sharing some rare behind-the-scenes pictures from the film on her Instagram account.

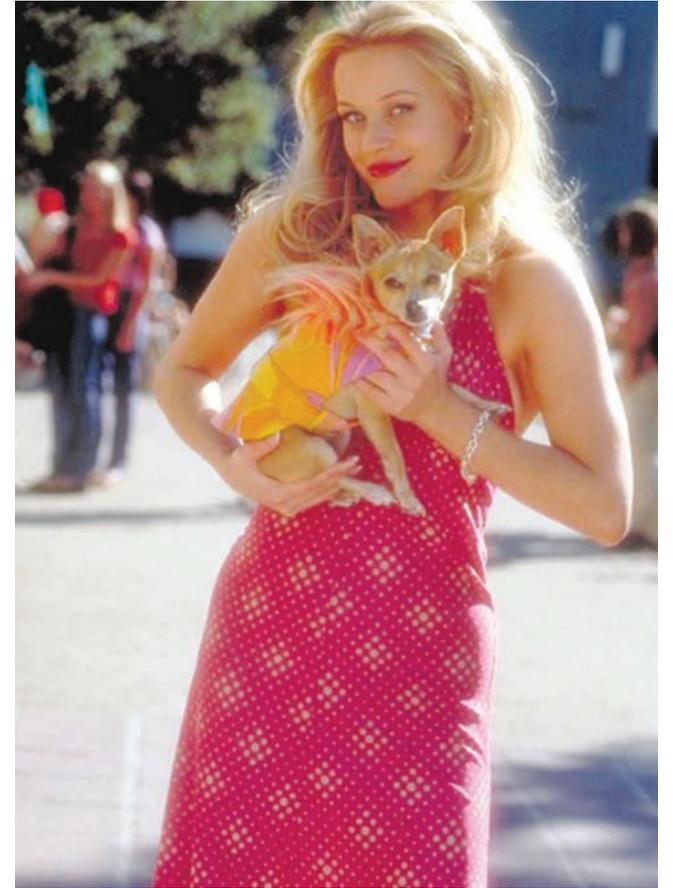
"Omigod you guys#LegallyBlonde premiered 20 years ago TODAY!" Witherspoon wrote in the post's caption.

The Oscar winner went on to say that "playing Elle Woods was the role of a life time and I'm so honoured to have been a part of sharing her story with you all."

Reese Witherspoon said, "Time flies when you're busy using legal jargon in your every day life. But truly.. playing Elle Woods was the role of a life time and I'm so honored to have been a part of sharing her story with you all. Every meme, graduation cap, musical number, halloween costume and bend and snap has brought me so much JOY over these past two decades! I wonder.. what will Elle do next?"

Some of the images, Witherspoon shared included shots from the movie's alternate ending, which featured Elle sharing a kiss with Emmett (Luke Wilson) on the courthouse steps and a blonde Vivian (Selma Blair).

"Originally it ended at the courthouse right after the trial," Legally Blonde co-writer Karen McCullah told Entertainment Weekly of that particular ending back in 2018.



Sharon Stone to return as host for amfAR Cannes

Almost after seven years, one of Hollywood's longest-serving and highest-profile celebrities, Sharon Stone, will return as a host for the 27th edition of the annual amfAR (American Foundation for AIDS Research) Cannes Gala event on July 16.

The annual event will take place outdoors at Villa Eilenroc and consist of an exclusive dinner, auction, multiple performances and a fashion show curated by French fashion editor Carine Roitfeld.

The event will be headlined by singer-songwriter Alicia Keys while Spike Lee will be a featured guest. Other guests will include Angela Bassett, Len Blavatnik, Rachel Brosnahan, Milla Jovovich, Nicole Kidman, Regina King, Heidi Klum, Catherine O'Hara, Aldis Hodge, Freida Pinto, Roitfeld, Zoe Saldana, Michelle Yeoh, Youn Yuh-Jung, global fundraising chairman Milutin Gatsby and amfAR co-chairpersons T Ryan Greenawalt and Kevin McClatchy.

Tom Cruise trolled for looking 'old' as he attends Wimbledon finals



Hollywood actor Tom Cruise was recently seen at the women's finals at Wimbledon alongside English actor and rumored girlfriend Hayley Atwell. Another co-star from his upcoming 'Mission: Impossible 7' was there -- Pom Klementieff.

At the event, Tom Cruise could be seen wearing a three-piece blue suit and a tie to complement his co-stars from Mission Impossible 7. Hayley Atwell chose a flowery dress, red heels and cream trench coat. Meanwhile, Klementieff wore a black and yellow pantsuit

and a black-buttoned trench over the shoulders.

As the trio's pictures were shared online, netizens pointed out that Cruise was looking 'old' and that he was aging. Netizens started trolling Tom Cruise soon after.

Meanwhile, in the upcoming Tom Cruise film, he reprises his role as IMF agent Ethan Hunt, with Rebecca Ferguson, Esai Morales, Hayley Atwell, Shea Whigham, Pom Klementieff and Henry Czerny also starring in the upcoming high octane action film. The film is slated for a May 27, 2022 release.

Carmen Carrera wants trans roles to go beyond trauma and victimhood



Actress, model, and activist Carmen Carrera said she wants the industry to start writing trans people in roles that focus on their joy and success rather than their pain.

She said more trans people in writer's rooms and directing will expand the kinds of roles offered to trans actors.

In 2014, actress and activist Carmen Carrera was breaking into the modeling industry as one of the first openly trans women to make it big.

She was a "W" magazine cover girl, and there was a growing campaign by fans to make her the first trans Victoria's Secret angel.

During an interview with Insider to honor Pride month, Carrera told Insider she was ecstatic to sit down with Katie Couric in 2014 to discuss the biggest moments in her budding career. But she said she was devastated when the topics mirrored all of the typical ones aimed at trans people at the time: genitals, gender-affirming surgeries, and her body.

"When I sat down and you know, I started to engage in the interview, I realized that this was more about that, a typical conversation about body parts and surgery," Carrera said. "I was really scared because I didn't think that that was what the conversation was going to be."

SMALL PLANE MAKES FORCED LANDING IN RUSSIA: ALL ABOARD SAFE

MOSCOW (TIP): Russia's emergency officials say they have found a plane that has gone missing in Siberia and all of its 19 passengers and crew are alive.

The Emergencies Ministry previously said the An-28 plane disappeared in the Tomsk region in western Siberia on Friday. It said the plane made a forced landing after one of its two engines failed.

The An-28 is a small short-range, Soviet-designed turboprop used by many small carriers across Russia and some other countries.

The plane belongs to the local Sila airline and was flying from the town of Kedrovoye to the city of Tomsk. — (AP)

9 KILLED IN STRIKES ON SYRIA'S LAST REBEL ENCLAVE

BEIRUT (TIP): At least nine civilians were killed, including three children, when Syrian government rockets hit two villages in the last rebel stronghold in northwestern Syria, rescue workers and a war monitor said on Thursday.

The Syrian Civil Defence team that operates in opposition areas, known as White Helmets, said guided missiles struck in Ibleen, a village in southern Idlib, killing a woman, her daughter and a child and injuring four others. All were from the same family, the White Helmets said.

In eastern Idlib, at least six were killed, including a child, when rockets hit an area where a quarry is located near Foa, according to the Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights. Those killed were stone cutters, the Observatory said. The White Helmets also reported the strike, but said two children were among those killed.

The discrepancy in the number of casualties in a cease-fire zone could not be immediately reconciled. — AP

MAN IN CHINA REUNITED WITH SON KIDNAPPED 24 YEARS AGO; HEARTWARMING VIDEO GOES VIRAL

BEIJING (TIP): A Chinese man, whose 24-year search for his abducted son that was turned into a movie and saw him travel over 5 lakh kilometres on a motorbike across the country, has finally reunited with his son.

The boy had been snatched aged two by human traffickers in front of their home in east China's Shandong province in 1997.

Guo Gangtang, 51, and his wife were reunited with their son Guo Xinzhen in Liaocheng, Shandong province.

(PTI)

South Africa's president says he won't allow 'anarchy and mayhem'

JOHANNESBURG (TIP): South African President Cyril Ramaphosa said on Friday he would not allow "anarchy and mayhem" to prevail, and suggested that a wave of looting and arson that has destroyed hundreds of businesses had been deliberately provoked.

Ramaphosa said his government was doing all it could to deal with the unrest that has killed more than 100 people in the past week.

The violence had severely dented investor confidence and hit South Africa's economic recovery, he said, speaking in Ethekewini Municipality, which includes the port city Durban, one of the worst-hit areas.

"We will not allow anarchy and mayhem," Ramaphosa said.

In a presentation to a parliamentary committee, police said that looting of malls and stores was still going on and foreign-owned shops were being hit.

Gauteng and Kwa-Zulu Natal provinces were still volatile, and crowds had gathered in Eastern Cape, Northern Cape and Western Cape provinces, they said. KwaZulu-Natal's main airport, King Shaka International, was also targeted, police said.

The long-term social and economic cost of the unrest was also becoming clearer, with calls for the government to address underlying problems to head off more violence and despair.

The rioting broke out in several parts of the country following the jailing of Ramaphosa's predecessor, Jacob Zuma, last week for his failure to appear at a corruption inquiry.

It swiftly degenerated into looting and destruction, driven by widespread anger over the poverty and inequality that persist nearly three decades after the end of white minority rule.

Ramaphosa said it was quite clear the incidents were "instigated" and "we are



after these people". He did not specify whom.

He also expressed concern about rising racial tensions in some parts of the country. Some white minority and Indian communities - who are generally better off than the Black community - had armed themselves to fight off rioters.

The military has called up all its reservists to bolster the army and police, with a total of 25,000 troops available to go to flashpoints.

The head of the armed forces, Lieutenant General Rudzani Maphwanya, addressing soldiers in Alexandra, Johannesburg, said: "It is no longer just thuggery, this is economic sabotage... It is a threat to our people so you have to restore that freedom."

"You don't have to lower your guns."

The official death toll stood at 91 in KwaZulu-Natal, and 26 in Gauteng, which includes Johannesburg, making a total of 117.

COUNTING THE COST

The ransacking of stores has left food and other essentials in short supply as businesses struggled to get up and running again.

State logistics group Transnet said operations at Durban and Richards Bay ports were improving though road closures and fuel and food shortages were constraining its supply chain. Richards Bay had cleared all its shipping backlogs.

Retailer Massmart said protesters had looted 41 of its stores and two distribution centres, with four sites badly damaged by arson.

The government has characterised the violence as criminality.

But the Nelson Mandela Foundation - a legacy of the late leader of the anti-apartheid struggle and South Africa's first Black president - said violence had been growing at "disturbing levels" in the last two decades and was now regarded as normal. (Reuters)

South Africa's army starts large deployment to restore order

JOHANNESBURG (TIP): South Africa's army has begun deploying 25,000 troops to assist police in quelling the weeklong riots and violence sparked by the imprisonment of former President Jacob Zuma. In the largest deployment of soldiers since the end of white minority rule in 1994, the South African National Defence Force has also called up all of its reserve force of 12,000 troops.

Trucks, armoured personnel carriers and helicopters are being used to transport soldiers to trouble spots in the Gauteng and KwaZulu-Natal provinces that have seen a week of violence in mainly poor areas. The violence erupted last week after

Zuma began serving a 15-month sentence for contempt of court for refusing to comply with a court order to testify at a state-backed inquiry investigating allegations of corruption while he was president from 2009 to 2018.

The protests in Gauteng and Kwa-Zulu-Natal escalated into a spree of theft in township areas, although it has not spread to South Africa's seven other provinces, where police are on alert.

The armed patrols appear to have succeeded in bringing stability to Gauteng, South Africa's most populous province, which includes Johannesburg, the country's largest city. Army troops



stood guard at the large Maponya mall in Soweto, which was closed.

Volunteer groups cleaned up shattered glass and debris from shops that had been stormed and looted in Johannesburg's Soweto and Alexandra townships. The unrest, however, continued in KwaZulu-Natal province, where several factories and warehouses were smouldering Thursday after being targeted in arson attacks. (AP)

More than 30 dead, dozens missing in heavy Europe floods

BERLIN (TIP): More than 30 people have died and dozens of people were missing Thursday in Germany and neighbouring Belgium after heavy flooding turned streams and streets into raging torrents, sweeping away cars and causing buildings to collapse.

Storms across parts of Western Europe in recent days caused rivers and reservoirs to burst their banks, resulting in several flash floods overnight as rain-soaked soil failed to absorb any more water.

Authorities in the Western German region of Euskirchen said eight deaths had been reported there in connection with the floods. Rescue operations were hampered by the fact that phone and internet connections were down in parts of the county, which is southwest of Cologne.

Officials said 18 people had died in Ahrweiler county, south of Euskirchen. Up to 70 people were reported missing after several houses collapsed overnight in the village of Schuld in the Eifel, a volcanic region of rolling hills and small valleys southwest of Cologne.

Dozens more were trapped on the roofs of their houses awaiting rescue. Authorities used inflatable boats and helicopters, and the German army deployed 200 soldiers to assist in the rescue operation.

"There are people dead, there are people missing, there are many who are still in danger," the governor of Rhineland-Palatinate state, Malu Dreyer, told the regional parliament. "We have



never seen such a disaster. It's really devastating." German Chancellor Angela Merkel said she was distraught by the news of the floods. "My sympathy goes to the relatives and of the dead and missing," she said during a trip to Washington.

Across the border in Belgium, the Vesdre river broke its banks and sent masses of water churning through the streets of Pepinster, close to Liege, its destructive power bringing down some buildings.

"Several homes have collapsed," mayor Philippe Godin told RTBF network. It was unclear whether all inhabitants had been able to escape

unhurt.

Several Belgian media reported that four people died in eastern Verviers. No independent confirmation was immediately available.

Major highways were inundated in the south and east of Belgium, and the railway service said all traffic was stopped.

EU Commission President Ursula von der Leyen pledged to help those affected.

"My thoughts are with the families of the victims of the devastating floods in Belgium, Germany, Luxembourg and the Netherlands and those who have lost their homes," she tweeted. "The EU is ready to help." (AP)

HAITI POLICE CHIEF LINKS VENEZUELAN TO ASSASSINATION PLOT

PORT-AU-PRINCE (HAITI) (TIP): Haiti's police chief on Wednesday accused a Venezuelan businessman who owns a security company in Florida of travelling to Haiti numerous times as part of a plot to assassinate President Jovenel Moise, who was killed last week.

Leon Charles, head of the Haiti's National Police, said Antonio Intriago of CTU Security signed a contract while in Haiti but provided no other details and offered no evidence.

"The investigation is very advanced," Charles said.

Intriago could not be immediately reached for comment.

Colombia's national police chief has said that CTU Security used its company credit card to buy 19 plane tickets from Bogota to Santo Domingo for the Colombian suspects allegedly involved in the killing.

During a news conference Wednesday evening, Charles pleaded with Haitians to help officials track down suspects who remain on the run, including a former senator he described as a key suspect and is accused of providing weapons used in the July 7 attack.

Former Sen John Joel Joseph, a Haitian politician and opponent of the Tet Kale party that Moise belonged to, is one of five fugitives whom police say are armed and dangerous.

"We are looking for these assassins, and wherever they go we need to capture them, arrest them and bring them to justice," Charles said.

In a video posted last year on YouTube, the former senator compared Moise to the coronavirus, saying Haitians have died from hunger or been killed amid a spike in violence under his administration.

"Insecurity has infected every single Haitian," Joseph said.

The police chief also announced the arrest of Gilbert Dragon, who led a rebel group known as the National Revolutionary Front for the Liberation and Reconstruction of Haiti. The group seized power in parts of Haiti after the 2004 coup that led to the ouster of President Jean-Bertrand Aristide.

Authorities said they found several weapons at his house, including a saber, two grenades and an AR-15.

In addition, officers arrested a Haitian man identified as Reynaldo Corvington, who is accused of providing the suspects with housing and giving them sirens to use on top of their cars with help from another suspect, James Solages, a Haitian American who was detained in recent days.

Corvington owns a private security company called Corvington Courier & Security Service, which he established in 1982, according to its website, which provides tips on how to survive a kidnapping. (AP)

UK Police arrest four over racist abuse of England soccer players

LONDON (TIP): Four people have been arrested over online racist abuse aimed at members of the England soccer team after Sunday's European Championship final, British Police said on Thursday.

A specialist team is looking into the offensive comments, police said, after three Black players—Marcus Rashford, Jadon Sancho, and Bukayo Saka—were targeted with racist abuse on social media sites Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

All three missed penalties in the penalty-shootout defeat against Italy at Wembley Stadium in London.

The abuse has been widely condemned, and the government has promised action against social media companies if they do not remove offensive material more quickly.

"We are working very closely with social media platforms, who are providing data we need to progress



inquiries," said Chief Constable Mark Roberts, the officer responsible for leading Britain's policing response on soccer issues.

"If we identify that you are behind this crime, we will track you down and you will face the serious consequences of your shameful actions." A hate crime investigation led by the UK Football Policing Unit is underway.

Police said dozens of data applications had been submitted to tech firms and that four people had been arrested so far.

The England players had highlighted the issue of racism by taking the knee before their matches, a protest which some fans booed.

British Prime Minister Boris Johnson has promised to tackle online abuse, but he and other ministers have been accused of hypocrisy for not condemning those who booed the players at the start of the tournament.

Police also said there had been 897 football-related incidents and 264 arrests in the 24 hours around the final, a big increase on previous soccer tournaments in 2016 and 2018.

At Wembley, fans were unruly and large groups without tickets stormed security cordons. — Reuters

UK passes COVID-19 jabs milestone but masks confusion mounts

LONDON (TIP): Two-thirds of UK adults have now been fully vaccinated against the coronavirus, the government said Wednesday, July 15, arguing that the breakthrough justified its contentious move to drop most pandemic curbs next week.

A total of 35,155,767 second doses have now been administered since the Western world's first mass vaccination rollout began in December, official figures showed.

"Barely 8 months since the first vaccine, 2/3 of UK adults have had both doses," Prime Minister Boris Johnson tweeted.

"Thank you to everyone coming forward and to those helping others get jabbed. You are the reason we are able to cautiously ease restrictions next week," he said.

From Monday, the government will lift most restrictions on public gatherings in England and allow businesses such as nightclubs to reopen, to the concern of scientists who say it is too soon with the Delta variant still spreading rapidly.

There will be a patchwork of different rules on face coverings across the UK and within England, if other cities and transport operators follow the lead of London mayor Sadiq Khan.

Source: AFP

Global Covid-19 caseload tops 188.8 mn

WASHINGTON (TIP): The overall global Covid-19 caseload has topped 188.8 million, while the deaths have surged to more than 4.06 million and vaccinations soared to over 3.53 billion, according to the Johns Hopkins University.

In its latest update on Friday, July 16, morning, the University's Center for Systems Science and Engineering (CSSE) revealed that the current global caseload, death toll and the total number of vaccine doses administered stood at 188,843,580, 4,065,528 and 3,532,172,020, respectively.

The US continues to be the worst-hit country with the world's highest number of cases and deaths at 33,973,919 and 608,384, respectively, according to the CSSE.

In terms of infections, India follows in the second place with 30,987,880 cases.

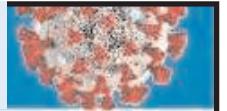
The other worst countries with over 3 million cases are Brazil (19,262,518), France (5,895,437), Russia (5,810,335), Turkey (5,507,455), the UK (5,300,971), Argentina (4,719,952), Colombia (4,583,442), Italy (4,278,319), Spain (4,069,162), Germany (3,748,379) and Iran (3,464,055), the CSSE figures showed.

In terms of deaths, Brazil comes second with 538,942 fatalities.

Nations with a death toll of over 100,000 are India (411,989), Mexico (235,507), Peru (194,752), Russia (143,657), the UK (128,862), Italy (127,840), France (111,619), Colombia (114,833) and Argentina (100,695).

Source: IANS

TRACKING THE VIRUS



GLOBAL

Cases **188,843,580** | Deaths **4,065,528**

INDIA

Cases **31,026,829** | Deaths **412,531**



'Early stages' of Covid-19 third wave, amid Delta surge: WHO

The coronavirus disease (Covid-19) pandemic is now in the "early stages" of the third wave, warned World Health Organization (WHO) chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus on Wednesday, even as he sounded a fresh alarm over a global surge in cases of the Delta variant of the SARS-CoV-2 coronavirus. "Unfortunately...we are now in the early stages of a third wave", Ghebreyesus said in an address to the emergency committee on Covid-19 established under the International Health Regulations (IHR), a treaty that guides global response to public health risks.

"The Delta variant is now in more than 111 countries and we expect it to soon be the dominant Covid-19 strain circulating worldwide, if it isn't already," a UN report quoted World Health Organization chief Ghebreyesus as saying. He added that the coronavirus is continuing to evolve and resulting in more transmissible variants.

Tedros Adhanom, the director-general of the international public health agency, pointed out that Covid-19 cases and deaths were on the decline for a while due to increasing vaccination rates in Europe and North America, but the global trend



has now reversed and cases are rising once again, the last week being the fourth consecutive one which witnessed rising cases in all but one of WHO's six regions. Deaths are also rising again, after 10 weeks of steady decline, it said.

WHO said that the recent spread of the Delta variant of the coronavirus is being fueled by "increased social mobility" and inconsistency in the use of proven public health and social measures.

Vaccination against Covid-19 is important but that alone will not stop the pandemic, the global health body said, pointing out that countries need to undertake a "comprehensive risk management approach to mass gatherings", an updated guidance for which was recently issued by WHO.

Covid cases surge in over half of US states, territories

WASHINGTON (TIP): The numbers of Covid-19 cases are surging in more than half of US states and territories, with 7-day average of daily new cases up over 65 per cent from the week before, according to the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

A total of 31,815 new cases were reported across the United States on Tuesday, July 14, highest single-day increase since mid May, latest CDC data show, Xinhua news agency reported.

The 7-day average of daily new cases is 24,141, up 65.9 percent from the week before.

Cases related to the highly transmissible Delta and other variants are rising in the United States. The CDC said it is working with its partners to analyze COVID-19 testing specimens to better understand different variants.

Delta, which was first found in India and is now in over 100 countries, represented over 50 percent of new infections in the United States over the two weeks ending on July 3, according to the CDC.

Delta is now the dominant strain in the United States, drawing concerns from experts that the variant will cause a surge in new cases this fall.



The pace of vaccinations has dropped in the country sharply in the past few months. About 48.2 percent of the US population is fully vaccinated against COVID-19, and 55.7 percent of the population has received at least one shot as of Wednesday, CDC data show.

Inequality in access to the vaccine and a racial gap have impacted the success of the nation's vaccination campaign. Federal figures show that counties with higher percentages of black residents have lower vaccination rates in the country.

Non-Hispanic Black and Hispanic persons experience higher COVID-19-associated morbidity and mortality, yet COVID-19 vaccination coverage is lower in these groups, according to a CDC study released on Thursday.

History This Week - July 16 to July 22, 2021

"A GENERATION WHICH IGNORES HISTORY HAS NO PAST AND NO FUTURE."

July 16

JULY 16, 1769 - San Diego was founded as the mission San Diego de Alcalá by Father Junipero Serra.

JULY 16, 1945 - The experimental atomic bomb "Fat Boy" was set off at 5:30 a.m. in the desert of New Mexico desert, creating a mushroom cloud rising 41,000 ft. The bomb emitted heat three times the temperature of the interior of the sun and wiped out all plant and animal life within a mile.



JULY 16, 1969 - The Apollo 11 Lunar landing mission began with a liftoff from Kennedy Space Center at 9:37 a.m.

JULY 16, 1999 - A small plane piloted by John F. Kennedy Jr. took off at 8:38 p.m. from Fairfield, New Jersey, heading toward Martha's Vineyard, Massachusetts. His wife, Carolyn Bessette Kennedy, and her sister Lauren were passengers on the 200-mile trip. The plane was expected to arrive about 10 p.m. but disappeared off radar at 9:40 p.m. Five days later, July 21, following an extensive search, the bodies were recovered from the plane wreckage in 116 feet of water roughly 7 miles off Martha's Vineyard. The next day, following an autopsy, the cremated remains of John F. Kennedy, 38, his wife Carolyn, 33, and her sister Lauren, 34, were scattered at sea from a U.S. Navy ship, with family members present, not far from where the plane had crashed.

BIRTHDAY - British portrait painter Joshua Reynolds (1723-1792) was born in Plympton, Devon, England.

BIRTHDAY - Christian Science founder Mary Baker Eddy (1821-1910) was born near Concord, New Hampshire.

BIRTHDAY - African American journalist and anti-lynching crusader Ida B. Wells (1862-1931) was born to slaves at Holly Springs, Missouri. Following the Civil War, as lynchings became prevalent, Wells traveled extensively, founding anti-lynching societies and black women's clubs.

BIRTHDAY - Norwegian explorer Roald Amundsen (1872-1928) was born near Oslo. He was the first to sail from the Atlantic to the Pacific Ocean via the Northwest Passage. He discovered the South Pole in 1911 and flew over the North Pole in a dirigible in 1926. In June 1928, he flew from Norway to rescue survivors of an Italian Arctic expedition, but his plane vanished.

July 17

JULY 17, 1918 - In the Russian town of Ekaterinburg in Siberia, former Czar Nicholas II, his wife Alexandra, and their five children were brutally murdered by Bolsheviks.

JULY 17, 1996 - TWA Flight 800 departed Kennedy International Airport in New York bound for Paris but exploded in mid-air 12 minutes after takeoff, apparently the result of a mechanical failure. The Boeing 747 jet crashed into the Atlantic Ocean off the coast of Long Island about 8:45 p.m. All 212 passengers and 17 crew members on board were killed.

BIRTHDAY - Puerto Rican patriot Luis Muñoz-Rivera (1859-1916) was born in Barranquitas, Puerto Rico. He worked tirelessly to attain self-government for his homeland.

July 18

JULY 18, 1947 - President Harry Truman signed an Executive Order determining the line of succession if the president becomes incapacitated or dies in office. Following the vice president, the speaker of the house and president of the Senate are next in succession. This became the 25th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, ratified on February 10, 1967.

BIRTHDAY - American politician Samuel Hayakawa (1906-1992) was born in Vancouver, British Columbia. He is remembered as the college president who climbed atop a sound truck at San Francisco State College in 1968 during student protests, then disconnected the wires thus silencing the demonstrators. This made him popular among conservatives including California Gov. Ronald Reagan. Hayakawa became a Republican and was elected in 1976 to the U.S. Senate, serving just one term. In 1986, he led the successful California initiative to declare English the state's official language.



BIRTHDAY - Nelson Mandela was born the son of a Tembu tribal chieftain on July 18, 1918, at Qunu, near Umtata, in South Africa. He became a lawyer, joined the African National Congress (ANC) in 1944, eventually becoming deputy national president in 1952. In 1964, he was convicted for sabotage as a result of his participation in the struggle against apartheid. He spent the next 28 years in jail but remained a symbol of hope to South Africa's non-white majority. Released in 1990, he was elected President of South Africa in 1994 in the first election in which all races participated.

July 19

JULY 19-20, 1848 - A women's rights convention was held at Seneca Falls, New York. Topics discussed included voting rights, property rights and divorce. The convention marked the beginning of an organized women's rights movement in the U.S.

JULY 19, 1863 - During the American Civil War, Union troops made a second attempt to capture Fort Wagner near Charleston, South Carolina. The attack was led by the 54th Massachusetts Colored Infantry, commanded by Colonel Robert Gould Shaw, who was killed along with half of the 600 men in the regiment. This battle marked the first use of black Union troops in the war.

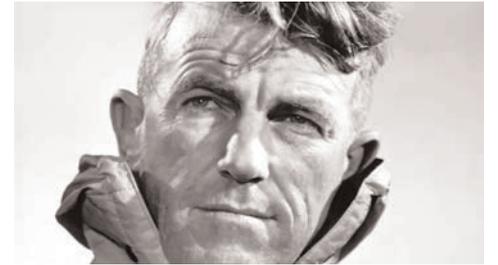
BIRTHDAY - French impressionist painter Edgar Degas (1834-1917) was born in Paris. Best known for his paintings of dancers in motion.

July 20

JULY 20, 1715 - The Riot Act took effect in Britain. If a dozen or more persons were disturbing the peace, an authority was required to command silence and read the following, "Our sovereign Lord the King chargeth and commandeth all persons, being assembled, immediately to disperse themselves, and peaceably to depart to their habitations, or to their lawful business, upon the pains contained in the act made in the first year of King George, for preventing tumults and riotous assemblies. God save the king." Any persons who failed to obey within one hour were to be arrested.

JULY 20, 1954 - An agreement was signed in Geneva, Switzerland, ending hostilities between French forces in Vietnam and the People's Army of Vietnam.

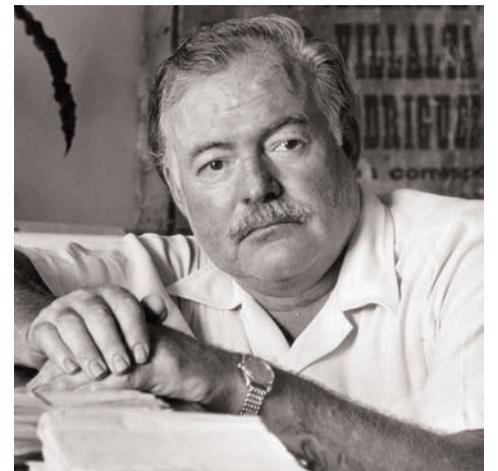
JULY 20, 1969 - A global audience watched on television as Apollo 11 Astronaut Neil Armstrong took his first step onto the moon. As he stepped onto the moon's surface he proclaimed, "That's one small step for man, one giant leap for mankind" - inadvertently omitting an "a" before "man" and slightly changing the meaning.



BIRTHDAY - Explorer Edmund Hillary was born in Auckland, New Zealand, July 20, 1919. In 1953, he became first to ascend Mount Everest, the highest mountain in the world at 29,023 ft.

July 21

JULY 21, 1898 - Guam was ceded to the United States by Spain.



BIRTHDAY - Ernest Hemingway (1899-1961) was born in Oak Park, Illinois. His works included *The Sun Also Rises* (1926), *A Farewell to Arms* (1929), *For Whom the Bell Tolls* (1940) and *The Old Man and the Sea* (1952). Awarded the Nobel Prize in 1954, he wrote little afterward, became ill and shot himself to death on July 2, 1961.

BIRTHDAY - University professor and author Marshall McLuhan (1911-1980) was born in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada. Best known for stating, "The medium is the message," regarding modern mass communication.

July 22

JULY 22, 1934 - Bank robber John Dillinger (1902-1934) was shot and killed by FBI agents as he left Chicago's Biograph Movie Theater after watching the film *Manhattan Melodrama* starring Clark Gable and Myrna Loy. Dillinger was the first criminal labeled by the FBI as "Public Enemy No. 1." After spending nine years (1924-1933) in prison, Dillinger went on a deadly crime spree, traveling through the states of Indiana, Illinois, Ohio, Wisconsin, Minnesota and Iowa. He was reportedly betrayed by the "Lady in Red."

Best oils to use during body massage

When you are super exhausted, tired and stressed out after a tough and hectic day, then a relaxing and intense massage can de-stress and calm you. So, it is always advisable to have a massage session at least once in a month to reduce the muscle stiffness and improve blood circulation. But if the massage is accompanied by some good quality essential oils, then it becomes more relaxing and rejuvenating. So, here are some good essential oils to use in massage.

Jojoba Oil

Jojoba oil is actually a wax extracted from the seed of the jojoba plant. It has antibacterial properties which is why this oil is highly beneficial for massage in people with back acne issues. It doesn't have any odour and is not greasy.

Sunflower oil

It is a light and non-greasy oil which makes the skin moisturised and smooth. Sunflower oil has linoleic acid the amount of which gets reduced as we age. So, regular massage with this oil can help you maintain the level of this acid. But if you have allergies with sunflower oil, then avoid it.

Almond oil

Almond oil can quickly be absorbed into the skin and doesn't irritate the skin at all. The oil is of pale-yellow colour which is highly popular amongst massage therapists.

Apricot Kernel Oil

This oil is highly beneficial for aromatherapy massage. It is rich in vitamin E which makes the skin soft, smooth and rejuvenating. After application, this oil may be a bit greasy on the skin, but that would be alright after some time of the massage.

Coconut Oil

Many people think that coconut oil is dense and greasy, but it is just the opposite. It is light and non-greasy, and it



gets absorbed into the skin quickly. It contains medium-chain triglycerides and is, hence, good for massages that involve shorter strokes (used for target muscles). Coconut oil is mostly used in heavy massages, such as deep tissue and prenatal massages, Shiatsu, and reflexology. Fractionated coconut oil (also known as virgin coconut oil) is the best for massages as it has several benefits.

Peanut Oil

Peanut oil is also used in spas for massage. However, a few people might be allergic to it, which is why it is important to do a patch test before using this oil. Peanut oil is also known as groundnut oil. People generally warm up peanut oil and then massage it all over their bodies. This relieves muscle and tissue pain and soothes your aching joints.

Sesame Oil

This oil is highly regarded as a massage oil in Ayurveda. Ayurvedic texts, such as Charaka Samhita, have listed the benefits of using sesame oil for massages. A massage with sesame oil is believed to strengthen your body structure that includes the ligaments, muscles, and tendons. It is a thick oil and may leave your skin feeling oily and greasy.

FOOD CORNER

Cheesy chicken fingers



Ingredients

Chicken Breast - 3, boneless, skinless
Eggs - 2, beaten
Milk - 1/2 cup
Olive Oil - 1/3 cup
Plain Flour - 1/4 cup
Breadcrumbs - 1 cup
Parmesan Cheese - 1/2 cup, grated
Salt as per taste
Black Pepper Powder as per taste

Method

- Cut the chicken breasts into even-sized strips.
- Whisk the eggs, 2 tbsps olive oil, milk and 2 tbsps water.
- Mix well.
- Add the chicken strips and keep aside for 10 to 15 minutes.
- Mix the flour, salt, cheese, pepper powder and breadcrumbs in a large bowl.
- Remove the chicken from the egg mixture, shaking off excess moisture, and dredge them in the flour mixture.
- Heat oil in frying pan over medium flame.
- Shake off any excess flour and gently add the chicken pieces.
- Fry for 10 minutes or until golden brown, turning from time to time.
- Remove and drain excess oil.
- Serve hot with a choice of dipping sauce.

There's nothing worse than having a partner who's not supportive. Even if your dreams seem a little outlandish, anything is possible with hard work and a bunch of encouragement and your partner should be your number one cheerleader. Here's how to handle a relationship with someone who doesn't seem to be on your side.

ASK YOURSELF

If you've been dating someone for years and this seems to be the first time they've been unsupportive, ask yourself why. Maybe they have issues with your plan that they're uncomfortable telling you about. If your partner is normally behind anything you do 100%, this isn't as much of a personality trait than something very specific to the situation at hand. He has a right to his opinion, and it may very well be different from yours.

BE COMPASSIONATE

Maybe you're subconsciously not very supportive of their projects and goals and they're just projecting that onto you. Sit down and talk about the whole future with your partner. Maybe they're just feeling a little excluded by your most recent idea. See if you share any similar goals and try to figure out a plan together. If they continue to be negative or almost seems controlling over what you will and won't do, then it may be

Ways to deal with unsupportive partner



time to separate.

LISTEN TO HIM

There's a good chance they're not a monster — they're just viewing the situation from a completely different perspective. Before you write them off

and get into a fight about it, listen to them and take it all to heart. If they have your best interests in mind, it's worth thinking about.

KEEP HIM INFORMED

Maybe your boyfriend doesn't know

how much research you've put into your planned move or work promotion. Maybe they're just hearing snippets and don't know how badly you want something to change. Or, if you're starting a business, perhaps they don't know that you're looking into buildings and permits and loans — maybe they just assume that you're hoping they'll take the lead. Tell them what you're doing and don't spare the details. If they're still not supportive, don't use that as an excuse to stop.

ADMIT YOUR RESERVATIONS

This will prove to them that you're not just willingly jumping into a project that's destined to fail. Showing them that you're aware of the pros and cons will help keep the conversation open, and also let them know that you're not acting on a whim.

GO TO A COUNSELOR

This might be a big issue with communication. If they're willing to bring a third person into the debate, a professional is much better than a friend. It might help both of you open up, and also work out any issues that are plaguing your relationship. It's worth giving a shot, especially if you can see the two of you having a future together.

Include these foods in your diet to get relief from migraine

Migraine has become a common health issue these days. People experience more pain in migraine, in which a person experiences severe pain in his/her head due to pulse sensation on one side of the head. Due to migraine, people also experience dizziness, weakness, and vomiting. Sometimes, migraine lasts for two days and the pain becomes unbearable.

According to health experts, a change in lifestyle with a proper diet can cure headaches and migraine, a neurological condition caused by stress, tension, or hormonal change in the body.

Various studies and research suggest that food and diet play an important role in the treatment of migraine and headache and reduce pain. The improvement in diet helps in preventing migraine attacks and reduces their frequency. Food items rich in minerals, vitamins, and fatty acids may help prevent migraine.

Here is the list of the food items you should add to your diet to prevent headache and migraine

Salmon Fish

Salmon fish contains omega-3 fatty acids, which are beneficial in reducing migraine pain. The consumption of fish also prevents migraine triggers.

Dry Nuts



Magnesium and other important nutrients for health are found in dry nuts. The regular consumption of dry nuts can prevent migraine. You can have dry nuts like almonds, cashews, walnuts and pumpkin seeds as snacks.

Green Vegetables

Green and leafy vegetables like spinach are very helpful for reducing migraine pain. Spinach contains folic acid, vitamin B and magnesium. The green vegetables help a person to reduce the pain of migraine

Ketogenic foods

Keto foods are low in carbohydrates and high in fat may help reduce migraine attacks. One should eat food like seafood, non-starchy vegetables, and eggs. However, it is advised that you should consult your doctor or a registered dietician before starting a Keto diet. People suffering from headache or migraine should keep themselves hydrated to deal with the pain. They should drink at least 8-10 glasses of water daily.

Source: News18



Flushes out toxins, slows ageing process: Benefits of drinking warm water

We have often been told that one must drink warm water first thing in the morning. Ever wondered why? Well, because drinking warm water has several benefits.

Today, we will tell you how drinking a cup of warm water in the morning, on an empty stomach, can be beneficial. Take a look:

Flushes out toxins

A warm cup of water does wonders in clearing toxins out of the body. It also helps in breaking down food, thereby aiding in the process of digestion.

Relieves constipation

Drinking warm water helps in treating even chronic constipation. In fact, one should make drinking warm water on an empty stomach in the morning a habit as it improves bowel movements.

Pain relief

Yes, drinking warm water can alleviate stomach pain. It gives instant relief from migraines, other types of headaches and also pain and/or cramps during menstruation. Moreover, warm water improves blood circulation and consequently helps the skin glow.

Aids in weight loss

Yes, drinking warm water aids in weight loss. Warm water increases body temperature thus improving its metabolic rate and consequently helps in burning more calories and aids kidneys to function better.

Slows the ageing process

This may not sound true, but drinking warm water helps in slowing down the process of ageing by repairing skin cells and increasing elasticity. In fact, drinking warm water with some lemon squeezed in it, protects pH balance of the body. Drinking it daily clear the face from acne, rashes, wrinkles and dark spots.

Source: DNA

Australian scientists develop pain-free, low-cost blood sugar test for diabetics

Australian scientists say they have developed the "holy grail" of blood sugar testing for diabetics, a non-invasive strip that checks glucose levels via saliva.

For diabetics, managing their blood sugar levels typically means pricking their fingers multiple times a day with a lancet and then placing a drop of blood on a testing strip. Understandably, some diabetes sufferers avoid the painful process by minimizing their tests.

However, this latest test works by embedding an enzyme that detects glucose into a transistor that can then transmit the presence of glucose, according to Paul Dastoor, Professor of Physics at the University of Newcastle in Australia, who led the team that created it.

Since the electronic materials in the transistor are inks, the test can be made through printing at a low cost, Dastoor said.

"The holy grail of glucose testing has been something that is non-invasive," said Dastoor.

"[This test] really does open up the prospect of pain-free, low-cost glucose testing and hopefully much better outcomes for diabetes sufferers," he said.

The new test, Dastoor said, was created by chance as scientists were working on solar cells.

The project secured A\$6.3 million (\$4.7 million) in funding from the Australian government to establish a facility to produce the test kits should clinical trials be passed.

Dastoor says the technology could also be



Professor of Physics Paul Dastoor holds up a non-invasive, printable saliva test strip for diabetics at the University of Newcastle, New South Wales, Australia.

transferred to COVID-19 testing and allergen, hormone and cancer testing.

The university is already working with Harvard University on a test for COVID-19 using same technology, but it's the implications for other testing that has the physicist excited about the potential for the sensors.

"I think its going to radically change the way we think about medical devices and in particular sensors because we can print these at remarkably low cost," said Dastoor.

Source: Reuters

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Google ends unlimited group video calling for free accounts

Google has quietly ended the unlimited group video calls facility for free accounts on its video calling app Meet, and the users will now get only an hour time for group calls.

According to an update on the Google support page for Meet users, at 55 minutes, everyone gets a notification that the call is about to end.

"To extend the call, the host can upgrade their Google account. Otherwise, the call will end at 60 minutes," the company said in the update.

One-on-one calls will be available for up to 24 hours and calls with three or more participants for up to 60 minutes.

However, Google Workspace individual subscribers can host one-on-one calls and group calls with three or more participants for up to 24 hours.

The company continued providing unlimited calls (up to 24 hours) in the free version of its video conferencing app called Meet till the end of June for Gmail accounts.

Google last year announced that anyone with a Google account was allowed to create free meetings with up to 100 people with no time limit in the pandemic times.

Google last month announced that its integrated communication and collaboration service Workspace is now available to everyone with a Google account.

The company's 3 billion-plus existing users across consumer, enterprise, and education have access to the full Google Workspace experience, including Gmail, Chat, Calendar, Drive, Docs, Sheets, Meet and more.

Twitter is getting rid of disappearing fleets

Twitter has said that it's planning to shut down fleets, a way for users to share texts, photos and video that disappear in 24 hours, because the tool isn't as widely used as the company hoped.

Fleets will no longer be available starting Aug. 3, Twitter said in a blog post. The move shows that Twitter is moving away from ephemeral content that rose in popularity after the arrival of Snapchat, followed by Facebook-owned Instagram introducing Stories in its apps.

"Although we built Fleets to address some of the anxieties that hold people back from Tweeting, Fleets are mostly used by people who are already Tweeting to amplify their own Tweets and talk directly with others," Twitter said in the post.

Twitter introduced fleets in 2020 and made them globally available in November of that year.

In its post Wednesday, Twitter said it learned through its rollout of fleets that people enjoyed sharing media and that it planned to test a full-screen camera, text formatting options and GIF stickers in the tweet composer. The company also said it would continue to highlight its audio chat tool Spaces at the top of the timeline.

Twitter lets you control replies to your tweet

Twitter is improving the conversation experience for users by allowing them more control over who can reply to a tweet after you have posted it. The option is different from the feature that was rolled out in August, that is, limiting who can reply to your tweets and that has to be set while writing the tweet. The new



update allows you to change who can reply at a later time, which is a helpful way to deal with trolls.

On Twitter, it's difficult to gauge the kind of tweets that can attract unwelcome attention and there have been times when trolls arrive in waves. To limit who can reply, tap the three-dot menu on a tweet and look for the option. You can make it so that everyone can reply, only people you follow can reply, or only people you mention in your tweet can reply.

The development comes close on the heels of three new features that have been proposed (but these haven't been confirmed for development or implementation). "Trusted Friends" would let users limit the audience for select tweets, "Facets" would allow

categorise your tweets when you send them and there could be an option to let users list certain phrases that they would rather not see in the replies. These three are ideas and not features.

Instagram too is working on ways to give users more flexibility. The Facebook-owned platform is said to be working on something called "Exclusive Stories", which will allow users access to their favourite creators' stories. The Exclusive Stories feature was uncovered by reverse engineer Alessandro Paluzzi. According to screenshots shared by Paluzzi, exclusive stories are differentiated in your feed with a purple tag and when you try to watch an exclusive story without being a fan of the person sharing, you're prompted with a pop-up that says only fans can watch.

Apple working on camera tech to reduce iPhone bump

SAN FRANCISCO (TIP): Apple is continuing to develop technology for a folded camera system that could reduce the bulkiness of the camera bump on a future iPhone while maintaining image quality.

The company has been working on a "folded camera" for years. That folded system could allow Apple to reduce the physical bulk of an iPhone's camera without compromising on features like telescopic zoom or optical image stabilisation.

In its most recent patent covering similar technology, granted on July 13 by the US Patent and Trademark Office, the tech giant continues to detail how a folded or periscope-like camera system could work, AppleInsider reported.

The patent, simply titled "Folded camera," details a system that includes "two light folding elements such as prisms and an independent lens system, located between the two prisms, which includes an aperture stop and a lens



stack."

Although the camera doesn't mention physical bulk, such a system could help reduce the size of the camera bump. Additionally, Apple appears to be placing specific emphasis on allowing high-resolution images and complex camera technologies such as autofocus or optical image stabilisation (OIS). *Source: IANS*

Rare 'teardrop' star and its invisible partner are doomed to explode in a massive supernova

Astronomers have made the rare sighting of two stars spiraling to their doom by spotting the tell-tale signs of a teardrop-shaped star.

The tragic shape is caused by a massive nearby white dwarf distorting the star with its intense gravity, which will also be the catalyst for an eventual supernova that will consume both. Found by an international team of astronomers and astrophysicists led by the University of Warwick, it is one of only very small number of star systems that has been discovered that will one day see a white dwarf star reignite its core.

New research published by the team on July 12, 2021, in *Nature Astronomy* confirms that the two stars are in the early stages of a spiral that will likely end in a Type Ia supernova, a type that helps astronomers determine how fast the universe is expanding.

This research received funding from the



Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG, German Research Foundation) and the Science and Technology Facilities Council, part of UK Research and Innovation.

HD265435 is located roughly 1,500 light years away and comprises a hot subdwarf star and a white dwarf star orbiting each other closely at a rate of around 100 minutes. White dwarfs are 'dead' stars that have burnt out all their fuel and collapsed in on themselves, making them small but extremely dense. *Source: Scitechdaily*

S&P affirms India's rating at lowest investment grade

S&P Global Ratings has kept India's sovereign rating unchanged at the lowest investment grade of 'BBB-' for the 14th year in a row, and said the government's ability to execute additional economic reforms that spur investment and create jobs will be crucial for recovery from the current economic slowdown.

S&P projected a 9.5% GDP growth in the current fiscal year that began in April and a 7.8% expansion in the following year.

The GDP which shrank from \$2.87 trillion in 2019-20 to \$2.66 trillion in the following year is projected to expand to \$3.96 trillion in 2024-25. Prime Minister Narendra Modi in 2019 envisioned making India a \$5 trillion economy and a global economic powerhouse by 2024-25.

Shareholders nod must for closing debt schemes: SC

In a key verdict, the Supreme Court on Wednesday, July 14, held that the consent of majority unit holders will be required before closing debt schemes and markets regulator SEBI will have the power to intervene if the trustees violate the regulations.

The ruling came on pleas, including the appeal filed by Franklin Templeton, against the Karnataka High Court order restraining it from winding up its six MF schemes without getting the consent of its investors.

Mastercard barred from adding new customers in India

The RBI on Wednesday, July 14, barred Mastercard from onboarding new credit, debit and prepaid card customers with effect from July 22. The action will not impact existing customers of Mastercard, the RBI said.

Taking action against Mastercard, the RBI said, "notwithstanding lapse of considerable time and adequate opportunities being given, the entity has been found to be non-compliant with the directions on Storage of Payment System Data".

Biggest US banks smash profit estimates as economy revives

WASHINGTON (TIP): The four largest US consumer banks posted blockbuster second-quarter results this week, after pandemic loan losses failed to materialize and the US economy began roaring back to life.

Wells Fargo & Co, Bank of America Corp, Citigroup Inc and JPMorgan Chase & Co posted a combined \$33 billion in profits, buoyed by the release of \$9 billion in reserves they had put aside last year to absorb feared pandemic losses.

That was beyond analyst estimates of about \$24 billion combined, compared with \$6 billion in the year-ago quarter.

Consumer spending has climbed, sometimes beyond pre-pandemic levels, while credit quality has improved and savings and investments have risen, the banks said.

Thanks to extraordinary government stimulus and loan repayment holidays, feared pandemic losses have not materialized. A national vaccination roll-out has allowed also Americans get back to work and to start spending again.

Sizzling capital markets activity has also helped the largest U.S. banks, with Goldman Sachs Group Inc



reporting a \$5.35 billion profit, more than double its adjusted earnings a year ago.

"The pace of the global recovery is exceeding earlier expectations and with it, consumer and corporate confidence is rising," Citigroup Chief Executive Officer Jane Fraser said.

That was reflected in a pick-up in consumer lending.

For example, JPMorgan said combined spending on its debit and credit cards rose 22% compared with the same quarter in 2019, when spending patterns were more normal.

Spending on Citi-branded credit cards in the United States jumped 40% from a year

earlier, but with so many customers paying off balances its card loans fell 4%.

Citigroup Chief Financial Officer Mark Mason said the bank expects more customers to go back to their pre-pandemic pattern of carrying revolving balances as government stimulus programs wind down later this year.

Wells Fargo posted a 14% gain in credit-card revenue compared with the second quarter of 2020, due to higher point-of-sale volume. Revenue was up slightly on the first quarter, the bank said.

Source: Reuters

France fines Google 500 mln euros over copyright row

PARIS (TIP): France's antitrust watchdog slapped a 500 million euro (\$593 million) fine on Alphabet's Google on Tuesday, July 13, for failing to comply with the regulator's orders on how to conduct talks with the country's news publishers in a row over copyright.

The fine comes amid increasing international pressure on online platforms such as Google and Facebook to share more revenue with news outlets.

The U.S. tech group must now come up with proposals within the next two months on how it would compensate news agencies and other publishers for the use of their news. If it does not do that, the company would face additional fines of up to 900,000 euros per day. Source: Reuters



Carmakers wary of chip crunch, fuel prices

NEW DELHI (TIP): Passenger car makers increased wholesale dispatches in June from May after states eased mobility restrictions. However, industry experts are worried over how the sharp rise in fuel and steel prices, semiconductor shortage and a possible third wave impact vehicle sales.

Dispatches of passenger vehicles to dealerships more than doubled to 231,633 units in June from 41,536 units in May, when India's deadly second wave peaked. Passenger car sales nearly tripled to 121,378 units, while sales of utility vehicles more than doubled to 100,760 units during the month, according to data compiled by the Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers (SIAM) on Wednesday.

In the quarter ended March, most passenger vehicle makers reported sustained recovery in retail sales, while supply constraints due to a shortage of semiconductors led to a longer waiting period for certain models. Many of them have started production in all three shifts from June and have set higher targets for July.

Maruti Suzuki India Ltd, the country's largest carmaker, more than tripled domestic dispatches sequentially to 124,280 units in June from just 35,293 units in the preceding month. Hyundai Motor India Ltd reported a 62% month-on-month rise in wholesale dispatches to 40,496 units in June.

Tata Motors' passenger vehicle wholesales rose 59% to 24,110 units in June, and Mahindra and Mahindra's more than doubled to 16,913 units compared to just 8,002 units in May.



Investors devour Zomato shares as IPO kicks off

NEW DELHI (TIP): Retail investors snapped up shares of Zomato Ltd on the first day of its much-awaited initial public offering, maintaining their enthusiasm for the primary market manifest in every IPO of the year.

Within minutes of opening, the retail segment of the Zomato IPO was fully subscribed, and by the end of the day, small investors had bid for 2.85 times the number of shares on offer.

At the upper end of the Rs 72-76 price band, the IPO drew retail bids worth roughly Rs 2,655 crore. Retail investors were also enthused by the previous day's Rs 4,196 crore anchor investment, where marquee investors were allotted 552.17 million shares at Rs 76 each.

The portion of shares reserved for non-institutional investors was subscribed just 14%, while that for qualified institutional buyers (QIB) was subscribed 1.03 times.

The overall subscription was 1.11 times on the first day of the three-day share sale, with bids for 756.43 million shares received against the 681.38 million shares on offer.

Zomato is India's first major new-age technology company to go public. The keen retail interest witnessed in the Zomato IPO on the first day is likely to bode well for other technology companies preparing their IPOs, including Paytm, MobiKwik, Nykaa and PolicyBazaar.



Shree Ganeshaya Namah



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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**

**WEEKLY HOROSCOPE
July 19 to 25, 2021**

Aries

Ganesha says this week you will have the time of your life as you will go through a lot of significant changes but all of them extremely positive. You will have to still be disciplined this week and take good care of your health as well. The positive thing about your sign in terms of health this week is that the planetary positions are really working in your health's favor and you won't have to put in efforts in feeling really happy.

Taurus

You will have a lot of free time this week. Use this time to improve your health both mentally and physically. Take some classes you have been wanting to for a while now. If you do not think about your future, your life will be great this week. You will be showered with a lot of love and pampering from your partner this week. You feel appreciated for your efforts. You won't face any major problems in your love life this week; it will only keep getting better and better. Do not rush into things and take the next step. Your work needs a lot of time and attention from you, hence think twice before.

Gemini

Despite being at your best behavior this week, your love life might face some problems, hence patience is your virtue this week. You will have the charm and confidence to win just about anyone over this week. For now, you will know that everything you did was for the right reasons. As you will find yourself the center of attention this week and quite enjoy getting all of it. Your partner may have a clingy attitude towards you which will lead to misunderstandings.

Cancer

You will be enthusiastic, vibrant and competitive, this week. You will do well in anything you set out to do this week. You will have to work really hard but if you do you will do amazing in this week in terms of financial gain. This is also the time for you to improve yourself and work on the things you did not have time for. Updating your knowledge during this time will help you a lot in the future this week.

Leo

Your business will be only dependent on you this week, as you handle everything it might seem tiring and tedious, but at the end of the week it will yield better results than outsourcing and getting the work done. The new investment that you make this week will make you think till your head hurts, as a lot of analysis and calculations need to be done for this investment to work in your favor, as it could go either way.

Virgo

Your love life is going pretty well, it is not the right time to say the things you need to say, for you to be able to start thinking about your future. Even though luck is by your side in matters of love, you shall definitely receive what you want, avoid being confrontational. You will face some difficult challenges in your business in the middle of the week as an unexpected inspection takes place. You will have to think really hard to work yourself out of trouble this week and be ready to answer all the questions that come your way.

Libra

A very productive week is on its way for you this week. You will have a lot of work to do, which is a good thing as you have been waiting for a new prospect for quite a while now. Take each step with the advice from your elders as you move forward with this huge business opportunity. Your partner will be very supportive this week. You won't have much time for your loved ones, but you will receive their love and support regardless. Their behavior this week will make you take the next step, as they are extremely supportive and pull their weight in this relationship. You have received more than you asked when it comes to your partner.

Scorpio

This is the week of solace for you. Work will be quite slow this week. You won't have much to do, as no new opportunities arise and you have finished up your old work. You might feel slightly lonely but this week is the week you need to focus on yourself this week. You can either take the free time that you have positively and enjoy or take it negatively and brood on the past.

Sagittarius

You will be in the pink 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. This week will be full of excitement and unique experiences for you. You will go through a positive shift when it comes to your mental and physical health. This positive shift will help you to take part and indulge more in social events. You will have a fun week this week.

Capricorn

You might feel extremely complacent which is a good thing but it does not mean that you stop working at all this week. Your love, marriage and family life will all feel simply perfect to you this week. There may be some new prospects in finding your soul mate this week. This week will also mark a change in your approach towards love. You will be more expressive and not reserved this week.

Aquarius

You will be very creative in your work and business this week which will prove to be very lucrative for you. Your relationships will get a lot better this week, with your partner as well as your colleagues and clients this week. You will feel satisfied when it comes to your social life this week. Your week will be mostly positive this week as both your business and your love life balance out and exist in perfect harmony. Focus on being yourself and not imitating an image that you think your partner will like.

Pisces

You are likely to suffer from a low mood this week. Although nothing major, delay in seeking help won't allow you to focus on anything else. Hence seek help and talk about how you're feeling as quickly as you can. Take time out to rest and for self-care as well. You will have a lot of work to do for a new prospect which has been pending for quite a while now. Take each step with a strong belief in yourself as you move forward with this huge business opportunity.

BIRTHDAY HOROSCOPE JULY 19 TO 25, 2021

By Astro Friend Chirag - Blessed Son of Astrologer Bejan Daruwalla

CONTD FROM PAGE 30

July 19

You will do amazing when it comes to your work and your family. You have been the alpha person both in your home and at work. You will feel proud of yourself for carrying on the responsibility that you do. But you might get really tired today and you have trouble expressing or even understanding why you feel defeated today which might, in turn, make you an angry person today.

July 20

Your partner will be very supportive of you and will be a major reason you get through today being completely happy. Even though you won't have time to love and appreciate your partner as you're busy with your work today make sure to express your feelings whenever you make time. As gestures as kind as this should not go unappreciated.

July 21

You are most likely to take a huge further step

with your partner today and seal your fate with them. You will learn a lot of new things about your partner's past, which will make you fall in love with them even more. Your health will assist you in achieving all that you want today. Your health is doing very well which is a blessing you receive today due to your sign. This does not mean that you need to completely ignore working on your health. A physical activity today is must as well.

July 22

Today will be a pivotal day in your life for various reasons. Be cautious about everything today. Only take risks if they are well calculated and strategized. Be aware yet open-minded, with the new opportunities as well as people that come your way today. You must understand the importance of change in your life, especially today.

July 23

Today is challenging in a very positive way for you. You will be a lot smarter and disciplined than

your colleagues at work which will give you an upper hand at work and you might be able to get a raise today. Make sure you are not egoistic and boastful to your friends and family today.

July 24

You will have a very joyous day today. As your health chakras are aligning in your favor today you will notice everything working out great, without much effort or hassle. The movement of Jupiter will provide you with the positive energy that you deserve. If you do not get the stress and anxiety of the busy life get to you, you will have the best day today.

July 25

A very good day for you today as you go through life wearing a crown. Your light and laughter are the positive highlight in anyone's life that comes across you today. You need to focus on making the most of today as the ball is in your court today and you contain the energy to light up many lives today.

|| SHREE GANESHAY NAMA ||



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Gauri Vrat

Gauri Vrat, which is also referred to as Jaya Parvati Vrat, is a fast that is observed by the women of Gujarat.

Gauri Vrat is also observed in the western parts of India other than Gujarat. The Vrat can be observed by both the married women and unmarried ones.

Gauri Vrat is generally observed for a period of five days, and some women even observe this fast for as long as five to eleven years. Women who observe the Jaya Parvati Vrat, or the Gauri Vrat, have to adhere to certain strict rituals.

The vrat begins from July 22 this year.

Women cannot consume vegetables, salt or tomatoes. According to the beliefs, Jaya Parvati bestows happiness and prosperity to the women observing the fast and blesses them with not only a good husband but also a very happy married life.

Gauri Vrat, or the Gauri Puja, is dedicated to Goddess Gauri and is observed during the Ashada month, in accordance with the Gujarati calendar. The Gauri Vrat commences on the Ashada Ekadashi or Dev Shayani Ekadashi and ends on Guru Purnima or Ashad Purnima.

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These five days are referred to as Panchuka or the Gauri Panchak by the Gujarati women. This Vrat is mostly observed by the unmarried girls, so that they get a perfect husband.

Legend of Gauri Vrat

According to the legends, the Jaya Parvati Vrat is considered to be one of the most auspicious Vrats observed by the women. The legend says that a Brahmin couple was a great devotee of Shiva. They were happy and prosperous and had almost everything that they ever wanted.

The only prized possession that they did not have is a child. They wanted a child desperately, and they worshipped Lord Shiva in His temple. Lord Shiva was greatly touched by the devotion of this Brahmin couple.

The couple decided to go and worship the Linga. They found the place that was left abandoned for ages. Once they found the Linga, the Brahmin went to look for flowers to offer to the Linga, while the women stayed back.

Unfortunately, a snake attacked the Brahmin, and he became unconscious instantly. The woman started becoming anxious when she realized that her husband had long gone and did not return yet. She set out looking for him and kept praying intensely for the safety of her husband.

Lord Shiva was moved by the love of the woman for her husband and her devotion towards Him. He brought the consciousness of the husband back. After this, the couple went back to the spot where the Linga was, prayed, and were finally blessed with a beautiful and healthy baby boy.

This is the legend behind the great Jaya Parvati Vrat or the Gauri Vrat. Unmarried women observing the fast cannot eat food that has salt in it. Wheat products and vegetables should also not be consumed during the Vrat.

More about Gauri Vrat

On the very first day, the women plant Javara or wheat seeds and place it in their temple. This is worshipped, and a necklace of cotton wool is also made. After this, the women decorate this with a number of Vermillion spots on the pot. Until the fifth day of the Vrat, the women follow the same rituals, and they continue watering the wheat seeds. The final puja is conducted in the Mataji Temple to break the Vrat.

This is when the women can take food with salt and wheat products can be eaten. The women plant the Javara in their garden, after they take a bath on the sixth day.

Rituals and celebrations

Jaya Parvati Vrat is observed in dedication to Goddess Jaya. The devotees who observe this fast should strictly abstain from eating food with salt in it for 5 days. Consumption of wheat and some vegetables is also not permitted during this period.



On the first day of this fast, Javara or wheat seeds are planted in a small earthen pot and is placed at the place of worship in one's home. Then, the devotees perform puja of this pot for 5 days continuously. The pot containing wheat seeds is watered everyday at the time of Puja. Vermillion is put on a necklace-like strand made of cotton wool which is known as Nagla. This strand is then kept around the edges of the pot.

On the last day of the fast, women who observe Jaya Parvati Vrat observe Jaya Parvati Jagran. On the night of this day, they stay awake all night long singing hymns and bhajans and chanting Aartis. This night vigil is done till the next day which is celebrated as Gauri Tertiya when this 5-day long fast is broken.

On the very next day of Jagran, the wheat grass in the pot is taken out and put in a holy river or any other water body. Puja is performed and other important religious rituals are observed, after which, women break the fast by eating a wholesome meal comprising of cereals, vegetables and salt.

Goddess Gauri

Gauri, along with her manifestations as Parvati and Uma, is represented four-armed, and with a distinctive conical Shiva-associated jatamukuta composed of hair braids, is embellished with jewels, including makara earrings and beautiful body jewelry.

According to the puranic and sastric sources, the goddess can be represented holding a variety of attributes, the most frequently cited being the gesture of granting boons, a rosary, trident or mirror, and a vase or gesturing protection, and accompanied by her children, Ganesa and Kartikeya. Here only one hand survives, and holds a lotus-stem upon which is seated Ganesa. The depiction of Ganesa affirms her Parvati-Uma lineage. From traces of the now lost attribute, her upper right hand appears to have held a hooked staff sometimes associated with this goddess. She stands in symmetrical posture (samabhanga) upon a plain pedestal where a lizard-like creature is depicted, usually identified as an iguana. In this form Gauri is characterized as godhikavahini, '[the deity] riding on an iguana'. She is flanked by a pair of female celebrants standing in tribanga posture, and at her feet two kneeling female worshippers, presumably donors.

A further distinguishing feature narrows the textual source for this specific form of the goddess. The presence of four fire altars flanking the figure of the

goddess indicate that this icon was composed on the basis of iconography described in the Agni-purana, a ritual prescription text devoted to purification fire rituals presided over by the Vedic deity Agni, god of fire.

Worship and importance of Goddess Gauri

Gauri is deeply revered by everyone but particularly more so by women, who adore the Goddess for her feminine characteristics. Her importance is underlined by the fact that a festival is also celebrated in her honor known as Gauri Habba. This festival is celebrated for reaping a rich harvest and also for protecting her female devotees. The Goddess is also venerated during the hugely popular nine day Navratri festival. This benevolent form of the Goddess is kind and blesses her devotees with boons, while at the same time punishing evil doers. Goddess Gauri is widely revered in various parts of India and has several temples dedicated to her. Two of the most prominent are the Mangla Gauri Temple in Gaya, Bihar and the Gauri Shanker Temple in Old Delhi.

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

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

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Literally known as 'the abode of clouds', Meghalaya is a hilly state landlocked between Assam and Bangladesh, abounding breathtaking scenic beauty coupled with a bracing climate. But it's the diverse cultural heritage and distinctive features of its tribal community life that bear the testimony of unity in diversity.

This 22,000 sq kms of lush green land, with the undulating Khasi, Garo and Jaintia hills and barely navigable rivers, is quite unlike other hill stations.

Meghalaya is a source of inspiration to any poet, a dramatic canvas for an artist's dream, and the ideal retreat for people in search of beauty and solitude.

Tucked away in the hills of eastern sub-Himalayas is Meghalaya, it has been blessed with virgin forests, high plateaus, tumbling waterfalls, crystal clear rivers, meandering streamlets and above all with sturdy, intelligent and hospitable people.

Emergence of Meghalaya as an Autonomous State on 2nd April 1970 and as a full-fledged State on 21st January 1972 marked the beginning of a new era of the geo-political history of North Eastern India. It also marked the triumph of democracy, negotiations and victory over violence and intrigue.

Popular Tourist Attractions

Cherrapunji

Cherrapunji is regarded as one of the wettest places on earth as the highest rainfall is foreseen during the year. Tourists from around the world come here to see the Dain-Thlen, Kynrem, and Nohkalikai waterfalls that are known as the popular waterfalls of Cherrapunji. The town encompasses some of the best waterfalls in Meghalaya.

Major attractions here are Living-Root bridges, Mawsmai cave, Seven sisters falls, Eco-park and a garden of caves. As it is situated in a forest, it does not have the option of luxury stay rather you will get resorts in Meghalaya and some hotels in the lap of nature which will be a great fit to stay with family and friends.

Balpakram National Park

If you are in Meghalaya you should visit Balpakram National park, it is considered as the traveller's paradise. This place is referred to as the 'Land of Spirits' by many tourists that come here to explore the rich biodiversity of Balpakram National park.

A paradise for all the wildlife enthusiasts or wildlife photographers as you can spot animals like Red Panda, Wild Buffalo, Elephant, Tiger, Deer, Leopards, Wild Cows, Marbled Cat, etc. Some rare species include Lesser Panda, Indian Bison, and Sterow.

One of the best places to see in Meghalaya, tourists often compare this pace to the Grand Canyon in the USA. It is one of the best national parks in Meghalaya and you can easily find budget-friendly accommodations here.

Shillong

Scotland of the East, Shillong is one of the most popular Meghalaya tourist places in the Northeast that is on everybody's checklist. Far from the busy life, it has forested hills, pleasant climate, scenic beauty which attracts many tourists from around the world.

Some of the famous tourist spots in Shillong include Shillong Peak, Elephant Falls, Lady Hydari Park, Wards, Lake, and Don Bosco Museum. The local tribes

Meghalaya: The abode of clouds



in Shillong are Khyrim, Myliem, Maharam, Mallaisohmat, Bhowal, and Langrim.

Shillong is also considered as the gateway to Meghalaya as the main airport of Meghalaya is in Shillong. You will find plenty of things to do in Shillong to make your holiday memorable.

Elephant Falls

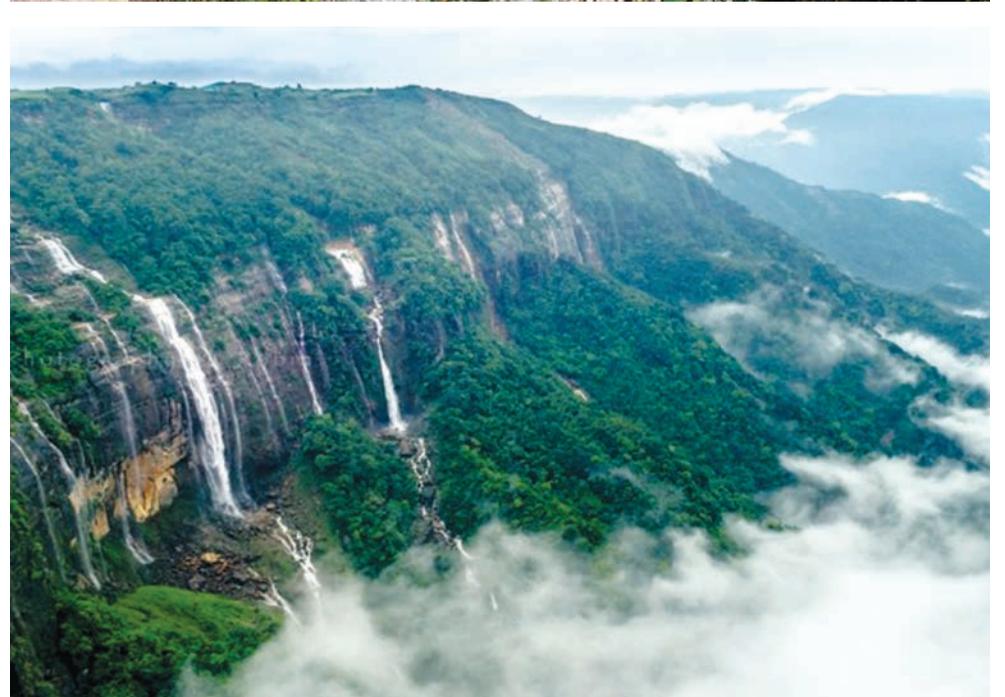
The evergreen Meghalaya which has dense forests spread out everywhere around the state is also known for the amazing waterfalls. Elephant Falls, the beauty of Meghalaya, has the elephant-like stone at its foot. One of the most popular falls in the North-East, visting here in one of the best things to do in Meghalaya.

The majestic Elephant falls were alluded to as 'Ka Kshaid Lai Patang Khohsiew' by the nearby Khasi individuals, which signifies 'The Three Step Waterfalls', as these falls comprise of three wonderful falls in progression. The first of the three waterfalls are tucked between the thick trees and are wide.

Don Bosco Museum

Many tourists are very much interested in knowing the cultural history of the state. Don Bosco Museum, situated in Shillong, is a 7-stored historical center having 17 galleries on shows that take you through the way of life of Northeast India.

Besides, these galleries display a wide arrangement of expressions, antiques, clothing types, weapons, and painstaking work that exhibit the way of life and culture of different tribes and individuals of Meghalaya. Don Bosco Museum is additionally acclaimed as one of the best in Asia.



TOKYO OLYMPICS- A Curtain Raiser

CONTD FROM PAGE 11

Asia Cup in 2017, winning silver at the Asian Games 2018, silver at Asian Champions Trophy 2018 as well winning the FIH Series Final in 2019. The team also made it to the quarterfinals of the FIH Women's World Cup 2018 in London for the first time. She was the cynosure of India's performance during the FIH Olympic Qualifiers in Bhubaneswar where her goal put the team ahead (6-5) against USA to secure the qualification.

Hockey India also announced dependable defender Deep Grace Ekka and experienced goalkeeper Savita as the two vice captains of the women's team. Both the players have been in the Indian Core Group for nearly a decade and have been an integral part of the leadership group. They also played a key role in India's feats that saw it attain the best ranking of World No.9 in 2018 following a strong performance at the FIH Women's World Cup.

Congratulating all three players named for their leadership roles, Indian women's Chief Coach Sjoerd Marijne said, "I congratulate Rani on being named the Captain of the Indian Women's Hockey Team for the Olympic Games Tokyo 2020. I also congratulate Deep Grace Ekka and Savita on being named vice captains of the team. All these three players have been part of the leadership group for a long time and have proven their abilities with this added responsibility and have guided many youngsters in the Core Group. Having two Vice Captains will also strengthen the core leadership group for the future. Their experience and role will be of importance as we aim to achieve good results in Tokyo. It has been a long journey for the team and we continue into a tough challenge at the Olympics. The



The architect of Indian victory at Tokyo Olympics 1964, Prithipal Singh has become a Hockey legend

Mr. Ashwani Kumar as he wanted Punjab police to remain the number one team in the country. As ill luck would have it, Punjab police ran into Northern Railway in the final of the prestigious Aga Khan Hockey Tournament in Bombay (1963). Mr. Ashwani Kumar flew to Bombay specially to watch the game. The first day game ended in a draw and was scheduled for a replay the next day. Northern Railway won the replay with a penalty corner goal by Prithipal Singh. Mr. Ashwani Kumar was furious with his team. Some weeks later when the Indian team for the Tokyo Olympic games was announced, the name of Prithipal Singh was missing. Prithipal went underground as the media took up his ouster from the team as an act of vengeance. Ultimately, the IHF relented and Prithipal Singh was included in the team, not as a fullback but as a half back. He refused to accept that position. It was left to the team management to decide who will play where. On its way to Tokyo, the Indian team had an extensive training-cum-competition program in New Zealand. India lost its first Test match to New Zealand 1-3. Prithipal refused to play as half back. There was hue and cry at this defeat. Even Prithipal told the team management that he would love to go back home than play as a half back. The team management relented and Prithipal was played as fullback in the second Test that India won 5-1 with a brace of penalty corner goals. India also won the third Test with a big margin. Once the team was in Tokyo, Prithipal scripted history by emerging as the top scorer with eight penalty corner goals. It was his penalty corner shot that India got a penalty stroke in the final against Pakistan. Mohinder Lal converted that stroke to give India 1-0 win and gold medal. Prithipal Singh was crowned penalty king for his performance.

When Prithipal Singh was crowned penalty king

No story about the Tokyo Olympics 1964 can be considered complete without the mention of India's deep defender and penalty corner specialist Prithipal Singh.

Initially dropped from the Indian team, this courageous postgraduate in Agriculture, not only walked his way back into the team but also stood firm for his position.

His story needs to be told. In 1963, Prithipal Singh, a fullback in Punjab police, had some differences with the then Indian Hockey Federation chief and a senior Punjab police official, Mr. Ashwani Kumar. Blunt and temperamental as he was, Prithipal Singh put in his papers and joined the equally strong Northern Railways hockey team. This was unacceptable to

MEDAL HOPEFULS...

- Other than hockey, India is hopeful of winning medals in weightlifting, badminton, boxing, wrestling, shooting, athletics, archery and tennis.
- In archery, India has world number one pair in Atanu Das and Deepika Kumari. Deepika was recently conferred world number one title and has been doing well this year.
- Weightlifter Mirabal Chanu is another medal hopeful. And is rated among the world's best in her weight category.
- Badminton star PV Sindhu who lost the gold medal match to Carolina Marin of Spain in the 2016 Olympic games is another medal prospect. This time Carolina is not playing as she had undergone a surgery.
- Wrestler Bajrang Punia, who will be the flag bearer at the closing ceremony and Vinesh Phogat also

- have bright chances of figuring in the medals list. Vinesh was unfortunate in twisting her leg against a Chinese wrestler in the Rio Olympics and had to be carried off the mat on a stretcher. But now she is a much better and mature wrestler who finished third in the World Wrestling championship recently.
- Shooters Saurabh Chaudhary and Elavenil Valarivan, too, are expected to have podium finishes.
- In athletics, Indian hopes rest on javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra, who after recovering from injury has shown considerable improvement and is touching the world standards.
- Boxer Amit Panghal is another Olympic medal aspirant. His recent performances are laudable.
- Veteran Sania Mirza will have Ankita as her partner in women's doubles in tennis while Monika Batra will compete in table tennis.

team needs to be mentally strong and I am confident with these three players at the helm, they are headed in the right direction."

Expressing her gratitude on being named Captain, Rani said, "It is a huge honor to lead the Indian Team at the Olympic games. In these years my role as a captain was made easy with teammates who have shared the responsibilities as senior players. I look forward to this added responsibility and thank Hockey India, coaching staff and selectors for this honor."

Vice Captain Deep Grace Ekka too stated that this new responsibility will motivate her to ensure the team does well in Tokyo. "To lead India as vice captain at the Olympics is a huge honor and it will surely motivate me further to do well for the team. We have players from different regions of India in the team, but we have come closer as a unit over these past 15 months during the pandemic which has been challenging for all." stated Grace who will be playing her second Olympic games.

Savita also expressed her gratitude as she said, "I thank the team's support staff and Hockey India for giving me this responsibility. We are all eagerly awaiting to do well at the Olympics in Tokyo, and it will be great to lead India to good wins."

INDIA HAS WON A RECORD NUMBER OF EIGHT GOLD MEDALS IN HOCKEY, STARTING WITH THE 1928 OLYMPIC GAMES. INDIAN TEAM WON GOLD MEDALS IN SUBSEQUENT 1932, 1936, 1948, 1952, 1956, 1964 AND 1980 OLYMPIC GAMES. IN 1960 INDIA GOT A SILVER LOSING THE FINAL TO PAKISTAN. IN 1968 AND 1972 INDIA WON A BRONZE EACH IN HOCKEY. AFTER THE 1980 MOSCOW OLYMPIC GAMES, INDIA HAS NOT WON ANY OLYMPIC MEDAL IN HOCKEY.

Four players of Indian origin will represent Canada in Tokyo Olympic games. They are wrestler Amar Dhesi, water polo player Gurpreet Sohi and hockey players Sukhpal Panesar and Keegan Pereira.

Incidentally Gurpreet Sohi is the first woman player of Indian origin to represent Canada in Olympic games. She is training to be a medical science specialist and has represented Canada in several international sports events with distinction before.

Two Table tennis players - Kanak Jha and Nikhil Kumar - will represent the USA in the Tokyo Olympics. In the Rio Olympics, Rajiv Ram of Indian origin had won a silver medal in mixed doubles in tennis in partnership with Venus Williams.

And only last Sunday, an American boy of Indian origin, Samir Banerjee (17), won the Boys singles title at Wimbledon, a great honor.

(The author is a senior journalist. He can be reached at prabhjot416@gmail.com)

Sports minister launches official song on Indian contingent at Tokyo Olympics

Sports Minister Anurag Thakur on Wednesday, July 14, launched the 'Cheer4India' song of the country's Olympic contingent and urged the public to wholeheartedly rally behind its athletes during the Tokyo Games.

Grammy Award winning composer AR Rahman and young singer Ananya Birla collaborated to present the official song of the Indian contingent for the Tokyo Olympics, titled *Cheer4India: Hindustani Way*.

"I urge all my countrymen to listen to the song, share it to fellow citizens and also cheer for the entire Indian contingent for the Tokyo Olympics to show that we are behind them," Thakur said.

He thanked Rahman and Ananya for composing the song in such difficult times of Covid-19 pandemic.

ICC confirms new WTC points system: 12 for win, 4 for draw, 6 for tie

The ICC on Wednesday, July 14, officially confirmed that teams will be awarded standardised 12 points for a win, four for a draw and six for a tie during the second World Test Championship cycle which kicks off with the five-match series between India and England in August.

The ICC further said that percentage of points won will be used to determine standings in the 2021-23 cycle.

Earlier, each Test series carried a value of 120 points which led to certain inequality in the table as a team winning a Test in a two-match series got 60 points compared to five-game series where a Test win is valued at 24 points.

PTI had last month reported that ICC was set to introduce the new standardised points system for the second WTC cycle soon.

ICC Acting Chief Executive Geoff Allardice said the changes were made to simplify the points system while taking learnings from the disruption last year.

"We received feedback that the previous points system needed to be simplified. The Cricket Committee took this into consideration when proposing a new, standardized points system for each match. It maintained the principle of ensuring that all matches in a WTC series count towards a team's standing, while accommodating series varying in length between two Tests and five Tests," Allardice said in an ICC statement.

Yashpal Sharma: Gutsy, improviser and a crisis man

NEW DELHI (TIP): "I shared a strange relationship with Malcolm Marshall. The moment I would come in, he would at least hit me twice on the chest," the late Yashpal Sharma would narrate with a straight face while sipping tea at the Feroz Shah Kotla ground.

On Tuesday, July 13, as Indian cricket lost one of its gutsiest soldiers to a massive cardiac arrest, one couldn't help but remember what a nice easy-going person Yashpal was, someone who was great at having a laugh or two even if it was at his own expense.

Yashpal was like that bridge between India being a horrible ODI outfit (he was part of the 1979 World Cup where they even lost to Sri Lanka) to their transformation into world champions and the ODI revolution that happened after that in the country.

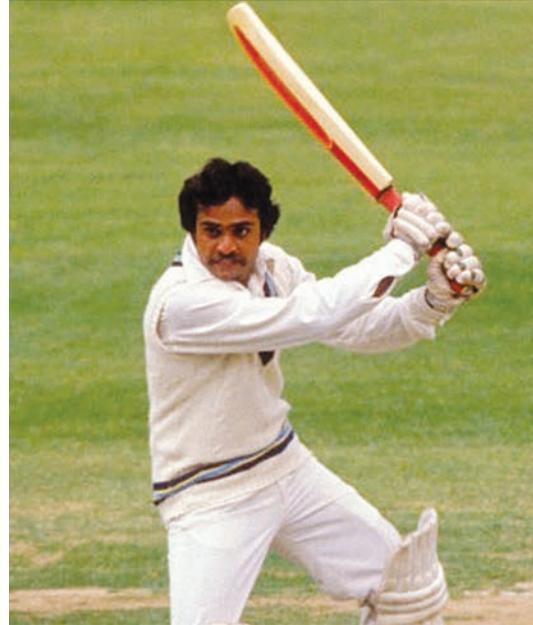
He didn't have Sunil Gavaskar's class, Dilip Vengsarkar's flair or Gundappa Viswanath's elegance but anyone who knew "Yash paaji" would vouch that he was guts personified. A batting average of close to 34 in 37 Tests, with two hundreds, and less than 30 in 42 ODIs perhaps won't give an idea about the impact he had between 1980 to 1983, his golden years as an automatic choice in middle order.

During numerous interactions with Yashpal on the sidelines of domestic games, his pride of standing up to Marshall's barrage of bouncers and 145 plus inswingers stood out.

"You know I scored that 63 at Sabina Park Test in 1983 (just before World Cup) and was last out, I came back to dressing room, opened my T-shirt and there were Malcolm ka pyaar ka nishaani (the hits he endured from Marshall's short balls). They were all great bowlers but Malcolm was special. He was scary," he would recollect.

"You never felt set against that West Indies attack. You just had to trust your instincts and not leave a loose delivery as they were a rarity from bowlers of that ilk," he once said when a couple of reporters, including this correspondent, asked him how it felt to face that Caribbean quartet.

The World Cup belonged to Yashpal as much as it belonged to



Kapil Dev, Mohinder Amarnath or Roger Binny, whose performances are often highlighted more.

Kapil's 175 not out at Tunbridge Wells is a part of sporting folklore, more so because the BBC didn't deem that game to be good enough to be covered live or even record highlights. Pakistan's encounter on that very day (June 18, 1983) was duly covered.

But very few people remember that it was Yashpal Sharma's 89 in India's opening World Cup game at Old Trafford against the West Indies, which the team won by 32 runs, that set the tone for things to come.

"You know, I had contacted BBC a number of times to check if they have footage of that game. I was in fact ready to pay at least 5000 pounds if someone gave me a recording of that innings," he once lamented during a chat with journalists.

He believed that 89 off 120 balls against

a West Indies attack that comprised Michael Holding, Marshall, Andy Roberts and Joel Garner was his "best one day knock".

"Roger (Binny) supported me a lot that day and by the time I think I was out, we would have been close to 250. So bowlers had something to bowl at. We won that match and that award was very special," one could hear the 1983 stories from him in a loop.

He was also the top scorer in a final group league game against Australia at Chelmsford but the innings that made him immortal in '80s cricket fans' memory is the 61 not out in the semi-final against England.

That match was beamed live in India by Doordarshan and Yashpal entered Indian fans' collective conscience forever, never to fade away. "Yash was a very methodical, copybook old school Test player. But that day, he did a Viv Richards. He shuffled towards off-stump and flicked a bowler like Bob Willis for a six.

"The other six was making room, moving towards leg-stump and hitting Paul Allott straight.

"And how can I forget his 'Ravi Jadeja' like throw from short leg to the non-striker's end to get Allan Lamb when I was bowling," his long-time North Zone teammate Kirti Azad nearly choked while speaking to PTI.

Source: PTI

Rishabh Pant tests positive for Covid in UK

Wicketkeeper-batsman Rishabh Pant has tested positive for Covid in the ongoing tour of England and will not travel with the team to Durham as it reassembles for next month's Test series against the hosts.

A BCCI source confirmed that it was Pant who tested positive and was in isolation for the past eight days. He is, according to the source, asymptomatic at this point.

"He is in quarantine at an acquaintance's place and won't be travelling with the team to Durham on Thursday," he said without divulging when the 23-year-old would join the squad.

The development comes close on the heels of BCCI secretary Jay Shah sending an e-mail to the Indian contingent, warning it about the rising cases of Covid in the United Kingdom.

The break was given to the players after the World Test Championship against New Zealand, which the team lost last month.

"Yes, one player has tested positive but he has been in isolation for the last eight days. He was not staying in any hotel with the team, so no other player has been affected," BCCI Vice President Rajiv Shukla told PTI.



India women lose T20I series to England; fourth on trot

CHELMSFORD (TIP): Opener Danni Wyatt smashed an unbeaten 89 off only 56 balls to overshadow an elegant 70 by Smriti Mandhana as England claimed an easy eight-wicket victory over India Women in the third T20 International to wrap up the series 2-1 here.

Having already lost the three-match WODI series by the same margin, the Indian women under Mithali Raj and Harmanpreet Kaur have now lost four successive white-ball series with two at home against South Africa.

India posted 153/6 in their 20 overs after winning the toss and England chased the target down in 18.4 overs to clinch the rubber.

With the series locked at 1-1, it was Indian vice-captain Mandhana, who was at her graceful best during the 51-ball knock which had eight fours and two sixes.

She pulled the pacers effortlessly, played some lovely lofted inside out shot off-spinners while adding 68 runs with skipper Harmanpreet (36 off 26 balls), who looked in some sort of form.

Young Richa Ghosh smashed four boundaries towards the end in her 13-ball-20 which took the score past the 150-run mark.

While India had defended 148 in the previous game, their spinners were taken to task by Wyatt who smashed as many as 12 boundaries and a six.

Source: PTI



contd from page 1

Indian Americans, US Lawmakers...

The importance of India to the global economy and national security will only continue to grow over the coming years - and having a steady hand to guide our relationship with that nation is vital," Senator Dianne Feinstein said.

Garcetti, as the grandson and great-grandson of immigrants, is committed to economic opportunity and justice for all, two bedrock American values that he will effectively champion in India, she said.

Biden's nomination of Garcetti to serve as next ambassador to India is an important step forward in the US-India partnership as the two countries work together to end the pandemic, increase economic cooperation, and ensure regional security, Indian-American Congressman Raja Krishnamoorthi said.

"Mayor Garcetti's experience in leading Los Angeles while championing international cooperation between the world's leading cities will undoubtedly serve him well as he helps strengthen the relationship between the world's largest democracy and its oldest," he said.

The choice of Eric Garcetti to be the US ambassador to India is a mark of how keen the Biden administration is on establishing strong ties with India, said MR Rangaswami, a Silicon Valley-based entrepreneur and investor, about his nomination.

Mr Rangaswami said Mr Garcetti has a strong track record as the mayor of America's second largest city and a personal connection with Biden.

"Both of these will be significant assets as he plays a leading role in the efforts to further strengthen US-India ties and we at Indiaspora are delighted with this development," he said.

"As Co-Chair of the Congressional India Caucus, I look forward to working with Garcetti to strengthen the relationship between the world's oldest and largest democracies," said Congressman Brad Sherman.

Indiaspora, a nonprofit organization of global Indian leaders, in a statement said as the Mayor of Los Angeles, the United States' second largest city, Mr Garcetti would bring valuable political and administrative experience to the role.

"A close political confidante of President Biden who served as a Co-chair of his campaign in 2020, Garcetti also would have the President's ear," it said.

Mr Garcetti has a range of international experience, having lived and worked in Asia as well as Europe and Africa.

A Rhodes' scholar, he has served as Los Angeles' first Deputy Mayor for International Affairs, where he expanded L.A.'s global ties to bring more jobs, economic opportunity, culture, education, and visitors to the city, according to Los Angeles' government website.

"Ambassadorship to India is a critical position for strengthening ties between the world's largest and the world's oldest democracy, and President Biden has made an excellent choice in Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti," said IMPACT executive director, Neil Makhija.

"As Mayor, Eric Garcetti oversaw the vaccine deployment in the nation's second largest city, where over 50 per cent of people over the age of 16 are now vaccinated. Garcetti understands the urgency and reality of addressing climate change, is familiar with geopolitics of the Indo-Pacific region from his service in the US Navy," he said.

"As a trusted ally of President Biden, Eric Garcetti will make great strides in strengthening diplomatic ties between the United States and India as ambassador, especially during this time of humanitarian crisis," Mr Makhija said.

US Senate confirms Indian-American...

Nanda led the now named Office of Immigrant and Employee Rights Section of the US Justice Department's Civil Rights Division where she served as a supervisor attorney in the Division of Advice at the National Labor Relations Board and worked as an associate in private practice in Seattle.

After the Obama-Biden administration, Nanda led the Democratic National Committee as the CEO and served as the COO and executive vice president at the Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights.

Nanda is presently a fellow at Harvard Law School's Labor and Worklife Program.

She grew up in Connecticut and is a graduate of Brown University and Boston College Law School. (Source: PTI)

Indian American Rahul Gupta...

physician to serve as drug czar if confirmed by the Senate, the reports said.

"President Biden's nomination of Dr. Rahul Gupta to be the first physician ever to lead the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy is another historic step in the Administration's efforts to turn the tide of our nation's addiction and overdose epidemic," a White House statement said.

"Dr. Gupta brings firsthand experience as a medical doctor and public health official using evidence-based strategies to address the overdose epidemic in West Virginia," the statement added. "We hope he will be confirmed by the Senate soon."

The three-decade-old drug policy office - which was created with the support of Biden, who coined the term "drug czar" in 1982 - coordinates national policy around fighting substance-use disorders, including the response to an opioid crisis that has worsened during the pandemic, the report noted.

Gupta has publicly warned that the pandemic probably exacerbated addiction-related public health problems, citing the shift from in-person care.

"When those services are either shut down or turned into virtual services, more people can be denied those services and that only leads to more suffering," Gupta told Sinclair Broadcast Group in a news report broadcast this week.

Gupta, an ally of Sen. Joe Manchin III has been favored for months to take the role of drug czar, but he faced resistance from some anti-addiction advocates, who argued he did too little to ensure safe-needle exchange during a 2017 HIV outbreak in West Virginia, the report said.

Gupta would replace Regina LaBelle, who has served as the office's acting director since January.

West Virginia Gov. Jim Justice said Tuesday that Dr. Rahul Gupta's nomination can only help the state.

"During his time in West Virginia, Dr. Gupta led the way in our battle against the opioid crisis - something that has and continues to touch the lives of nearly every one of our residents in some way. Under his leadership, our state had turned a corner in that fight," said Gov. Justice. "There's still much more work to do, especially with the additional challenges brought on in the past year by the COVID-19 pandemic, but I believe that there is no one better-suited to this important job than someone who represented a state and a people where this crisis really hits close to home. I have full confidence that Dr. Gupta will continue his distinguished record of public service on behalf of all Americans, while also putting a positive spotlight on the high quality of professionals we have working in West Virginia every day. I wish Dr. Gupta nothing but success in this critical role."

U.S. Senator Joe Manchin (D-WV) on July 13, released the following statement about the nomination:

"Dr. Rahul Gupta's nomination to serve as the Director of the Office of National Drug Control Policy means someone with firsthand knowledge of the opioid crisis, especially in West Virginia, will be coordinating the national fight against the drug epidemic that continues to ravage our nation. West Virginia has continued to lead the country in drug overdose rates for over 20 years. Dr. Gupta will bring over a decade of extensive experience combatting the drug epidemic to ONDCP - the office charged with addressing the drug epidemic that has killed over 90,000 Americans just last year. He will also be the first physician in charge of

ONDCP, bringing needed medical knowledge to this public health crisis."

On twitter Tuesday, July 13, U.S. Senator Shelley Moore Capito (R-WV) said, "Dr. Gupta understands the crippling impact the addiction crisis has had on West Virginia. Looking forward to working together to increase drug prevention efforts, support treatment and recovery, and reduce the supply of deadly drugs in our communities."

The nomination of Rahul Gupta has been widely welcomed by the Indian American community. Dr. VK Raju, an eminent ophthalmologist from Morgantown, West Virginia, who has known Dr. Gupta for years, said in a statement issued from Morgantown: "I am the President and founder of Eye Foundation of America (world without childhood blindness), and have known Dr. Rahul Gupta for many years. As our foundation has a public health approach, Dr Rahul Gupta, with his enormous public health and managerial skills, contributed to our foundation internationally. During the opioid crisis in West Virginia, while many were talking about the problem, he focused on the solutions. He believes in "working together works" and worked with policy makers and leaders of different political parties successfully. Above all, he is a man of integrity which contributed to his success. President Biden's wisdom is evident in selecting Dr. Gupta to lead the office of the national drug control policy."

Congratulating Dr. Rahul Gupta, New Jersey based H. S. Panaser

Global Marketing and Business Development Consultant, Speaker and EDP Trainer said, "Dr. Gupta has been widely recognized in his efforts to abate the substance use crisis while having a deep understanding of institutional racism and racial inequities across the nation. Someone who has been repeatedly recognized for advancing equity and civil rights, Dr. Gupta developed implicit bias training for healthcare workers as one of his first achievements at March of Dimes. He has not only developed West Virginia's definition for neonatal abstinence syndrome, but under his tenure, opioid prescribing fell to record lows, treatment systems were expanded and harm reduction services initiated. In fact, recently, both houses in the West Virginia legislature passed unanimous resolutions to request President Biden to nominate him as the next ONDCP Director.

"We are at an inflection point in our nation when it comes to war on drugs. Over the next four years, we may have a unique opportunity to impact our national drug policy through the Office of National Drug Control Policy that will set the course for the next several decades."



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Aligarh Alumni Association celebrates balmy Sunday with Picnic



The Aligarh Alumni Association of Metro-Washington (AAA-DC) organized a picnic on 11th July 2021 at the Black Hill Park, Montgomery County, Maryland. It was an impressive and successful show. The sight of so many friends, long separated by the pandemic, getting together once again after two miserable years, was a pleasant surprise.

Black Hill Park has an interesting history. A group of Union soldiers from California discovered flecks of gold in the sand near their camp at Great Falls while washing their dishes. They did not tell anyone about their find at the time but came back to the area after the war and quietly acquired the land and formed the Maryland Mining Company. The company never found much gold and the property changed hands, and ultimately a family in the late 1940s made it Black Hill Farmland named after the Black Hills of South Dakota, famous for its gold mines in the 1870s. The owner filled in all the holes, except for one, which he turned into a bomb shelter. The local Montgomery County purchased it in 1965 and opened it to the public. The Park has more than 2,000 acres of land for outdoor recreation with spectacular views of Little Seneca Lake from the many picnic shelters, volleyball courts, playgrounds, and trails. There are over 20 miles of hard and natural surface trails for hiking, mountain biking, and horseback riding. This trail includes a fitness station.

The AAA-DC is the first Aligarh Alumni Association in North America. Since 1975, it has been serving the literary, cultural, social needs of the South-Asian community. The association has provided huge financial support for the educational upliftment of the community at the university and various secondary institutions in different parts of the country. During pandemic, it raised a significant amount of money to provide financial help to needy families. It is credited with the establishment of a tradition of annual Mushaira in the continent and almost all iconic poets from the subcontinent, Europe, and North America have graced and participated in its annual mushaira. Even the pandemic could not break the tradition; it organized an international online mushaira, in 2020, using modern audio-visual electronic techniques.

The annual picnic is an eagerly awaited annual event where people drawn from Indian, Pakistani, and Bangladeshi communities get an opportunity to strengthen their bond and enjoy the food, literary exchanges, games, and share information about families. The picnic was not held last year due to pandemic restrictions. Following CDC guidelines, people who were fully vaccinated and deemed to be relatively safe decided to gather for a picnic.

Despite hot weather, more than 90 people came to the picnic and enjoyed the hospitality offered by the association. Children especially were very ecstatic about the newfound freedom to run around. There were limitless supplies of grilled chicken and meat patties, corn on the cob along with several homecooked food dishes, watermelon, ice cream, and of course hot tea.

Professor Indrajit Saluja (Chief Editor, The Indian Panorama) mingled easily with other attendees. He expressed his deep love for two prime universities in India-the Aligarh Muslim University and the Banaras Hindu University, both universities have made great contributions towards the cause of education in India. The Maulana Azad Library is the finest library he had visited in India. Professor Saluja and Bhai H. S. Singh came to the picnic at the invitation of the association.

Dr. Badruddin Khan-a senior Alig came to picnic with his family from New York City to renew their friendship with old friends. Another invited guest, Professor Marghoob Ashraf also expressed his joy by

CONTD ON PAGE 40

Aligarh Alumni Association celebrates balmy Sunday with Picnic



PHOTOS / COURTESY MOHAMMED AKBAR AND AFZAL USMANI

CONTD FROM 39

mingling with old friends from the Alig community.

"What a wonderful gathering we had. It was a delight to be there and meeting friends, and of course, enjoyed the delicious food", said Dr. Mike Ghouse, President of the Center for Pluralism.

Dr. Abu-Saleh Shariff (Executive Secretary, The Justice Sachar Commission) and family, who are relatively new to the town and were impressed with the quality of hospitality, informal atmosphere and friendly culture fostered by the association.

Although Lalit K. Jha (Chief Correspondent, the Press Trust of India)-also an invited guest was late in arrival, he appreciated the warm welcome and personal interactions with other people.

An experienced Aligarh Alumni Association worker from Chicago, Dr. Ateeq Ahmad came to this picnic

with his wife (Dr. Hina Nazli) to meet his longtime friends from Aligarh and partake in AAA-DC hospitality.

"I have been coming to AAA-DC picnic regularly and this year's event was a pleasant surprise, especially encouraging was to see so many younger faces participating enthusiastically," said Nuzaira Azam-founder-president of the Global Beat Foundation.

Tabish Hasan Khan, a Postdoctoral Research Associate from University of Virginia School of Medicine (Charlottesville) and Dr. Prabhat Pandey (New Jersey) stated that it was their first experience of AAA-DC picnic, and they were impressed with the gathering and high-quality arrangements.

Dr. Badar Shaikh (FDA scientist) enjoyed the delicious BBQ and other food items. "Although we were not members, it sure was a pleasure and refreshing to see many friends and acquaintances after a long shut-in

due to pandemic. Our congratulations to organizers for doing an excellent job," he added.

Many members from other community organizations like the University of Karachi Alumni Association, Indian American Muslim Council, Montgomery County Muslim Council, and Hyderabad Association Metropolitan Washington Area also expressed their joy and the chance to interact freely with attendees.

President Mohammed Akbar welcomed the guests, especially those who had traveled from out of town. Secretary Mohammed Jaweed thanked all guests and the families who brought delicious food and other items to make the event successful. The association expressed deep appreciation to young men who managed grills and did the cooking on-site during this hot weather.

(Report prepared by Zafar Iqbal, Ph.D. He can be reached at raabta.india@gmail.com / (240-328-0162)

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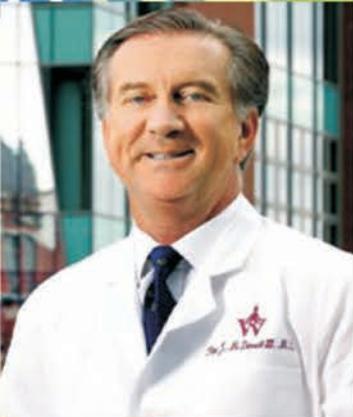
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