



WE WISH OUR READERS A HAPPY 4TH OF JULY

15 YEARS

The INDIAN PANORAMA

EVER TRUTHFUL

# 1 Indian American Weekly : Since 2006

VOL 15 ISSUE 27 • NEW YORK / DALLAS • JULY 02 - 08, 2021 • ENQUIRIES: 646-247-9458 • info@theindianpanorama.com

www.theindianpanorama.news

The INDIAN PANORAMA India celebrates the 75th Independence Day on August 15, 2021. To commemorate the historic event, we are bringing out a profusely illustrated special edition. Besides the commissioned articles, we invite readers to contribute. Please send in your articles by August 01, 2021 to salujaindra@gmail.com. Advertising space may please be booked by July 26, 2021 at salujaindra@gmail.com. For more information, please visit www.theindianpanorama.news. For all inquiries, please call 646-247-9458 or email to salujaindra@gmail.com

NYC's Democratic mayoral primary candidates demand manual recount

A first for New York city in modern history

NEW YORK (TIP): The top three Democratic mayoral contenders are demanding a manual recount of the June 22 primary election if the final vote count has narrow enough margins — a process that would be a first for the city in modern history.



Kathryn Garcia, Brooklyn Borough President Eric Adams and lawyer Maya Wiley have demanded manual count of votes.

"It is without precedent in a New York City mayoral race or any citywide office," said election lawyer Stanley Schlein, who represents former Sanitation Commissioner Kathryn Garcia in her lawsuit against the Board of Elections.

Garcia, Brooklyn Borough President Eric Adams and lawyer Maya Wiley have all filed similar petitions in court to protect their rights to challenge the

election results.

A final vote count is expected on July 12. Adams currently leads Garcia by 14,755 votes with Wiley just 347 votes behind the former Sanitation Commissioner.

The BOE has yet to tabulate some 125,000 absentee ballots and run all the

votes through the city's new ranked-choice system.

Under state law a manual recount is triggered if the difference between candidate figures is under .5 percent of the total votes cast or about 4,500 votes with 935,000 ballots cast in the primary.

CONTD ON PAGE 60

EXPERTS QUESTION IF WHO SHOULD LEAD PROBE INTO ORIGINS OF COVID



NEW YORK (TIP): As the World Health Organization (WHO) draws up plans for the next phase of its probe of how the coronavirus pandemic started, an increasing number of scientists say the U.N. agency isn't up to the task and shouldn't be the one to investigate.

Numerous experts, some with strong ties to WHO, say that political tensions between the U.S. and China make it impossible for an investigation by the agency to find credible answers.

They say what's needed is a broad, independent analysis closer to what happened in the aftermath of the 1986 Chernobyl nuclear disaster. The first part of a joint WHO-China study of how COVID-19 started concluded in March that the virus probably jumped to humans from animals and that a lab leak was "extremely unlikely."

CONTD ON PAGE 60

Americans all set to celebrate 4th of July

The traditional Macy's 4th of July Fireworks returns



I.S. SALUJA

NEW YORK (TIP): America will celebrate its 246th birthday on 4th of July. It was on this day in 1776 that the founding fathers signed the Declaration of Independence.

Also read "Making of America" on pages 24-33.

With the Pandemic fears receding, there is a perceptible evidence of enthusiasm among Americans to go all out to celebrate 4th of July. In many places, parades are back as are fireworks. BBQs and parties are being

feverishly planned around the birthday of United States of America.

This 4th of July marks the return of the traditional Macy's grand spectacle of fireworks, with some 65,000 shells and aerial effects packed onto five barges and towed out onto the East River between 23rd and 42nd Streets.

The show starts on Sunday at about 9:25 p.m. and lasts for 25 minutes. Macy's promises it will be their biggest fireworks display ever, which means it will also definitely be the largest July 4th celebration anywhere in the country.

Coney Island is also back at the blasting-explosives game with the triumphant return of the Steeplechase Spectacular Fourth of July Fireworks Show, which can be seen from anywhere along the boardwalk between West 10th to West 23rd Streets, which is basically from the Cyclone to the Childs Building. The Steeplechase Spectacular doesn't launch until 10 p.m.

CONTD ON PAGE 60

U.S. ISSUES MORATORIUM ON DEATH PENALTY AT FEDERAL LEVEL



Biden had pledged to pass law to end capital punishment

WASHINGTON (TIP): The U.S. Department of Justice (DoJ) has issued a moratorium on federal executions while it reviews policies and procedures, the Department said in a statement. U.S. President Joe Biden had said on his campaign website that he would legislate the end of capital punishment at the federal level and incentivize states to follow suit.

"The Department of Justice must ensure that everyone in the federal criminal justice system is not only afforded the rights guaranteed by the

CONTD ON PAGE 60



Uttarakhand Chief Minister Tirath Singh Rawat. File photo / PTI

UTTARAKHAND CM TIRATH SINGH RAWAT RESIGNS

DEHRADUN (TIP): Uttarakhand Chief Minister Tirath Singh Rawat resigned late Friday, July 2 night even as the BJP Legislature Party meeting is expected to be held in Dehradun on Saturday, July 3 to choose his successor.

BJP sources said that Cabinet Minister and senior BJP leader Narendra Singh Tomar will attend the meeting as the Central observer. The meeting is scheduled to be held at 3 pm on July 3 under the chairmanship of state president Madan

CONTD ON PAGE 60

OMNI MORTGAGE CORP. Residential | Commercial | SBA Loans. Andy Singh 516-441-7000 16 E. Old Country Road Hicksville, NY 11801. Herman Singh 718-441-7000 118-18 101 Avenue Richmond Hill, NY 11419. E-mail: herman@omnimortgage.com. Registered Mortgage Broker- NYS Dept of Financial Services Loans arranged thru 3rd party providers



**The INDIAN PANORAMA**  
EVER TRUTHFUL

**PRESIDENT/PUBLISHER:**

Prof. Indrajit S. Saluja

**VICE PRESIDENT:**

Chitagam Saluja

**CHIEF EDITOR:**

Prof Indrajit S. Saluja

**CONSULTING EDITOR :**

Deepak Dwivedi, Chairman,  
Bhaskar Group, Delhi

**ASSISTANT EDITOR:**

Bidisha Roy

**SPL. REPORTER UNO:**

H.S. Panaser

**GRAPHICS DIRECTOR:**

Om Parkash Malik

**DIRECTOR**

**ADMINISTRATION:**

Gauri Beri

**CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHERS:**

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

**CORRESPONDENTS :**

**SACRAMENTO:**

Parminder S. Aujla

**NEW YORK :**

Chitagam

**FRESNO:**

Tarlochan Singh

**DALLAS:**

Harjit Dhesi, Amarjit Dhillon

**OVERSEAS CORRESPONDENTS**

**LONDON**

Nirpal Singh Shergill

**SPL CORRESPONDENT**

**DELHI BUREAU CHIEF:**

Chandan Singh

**CHANDIGARH:**

Manjit Sidhu

**LUDHIANA:**

A.S. Arora,

R.P.Sharma

**JAIPUR :**

Dr. Yashpaul Goyal

**DALLAS BUREAU CHIEF & VP**

Lovliien Kaurr

972-330-3139

editor@theindianpanorama.news

**The Indian Panorama**

P.O. Box No. 190067, South

Richmond Hill, NY 11419,

Tel: 646-247-9458

Email:

editor@theindianpanorama.news

**DISCLAIMER**

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

**-: COMMENT :-**

**America Needs to Introspect**



**PROF. I.S. SALUJA**

246 years since 1776. I celebrate the journey of the greatest nation on the Earth. Proud of the vision and the farsightedness of the founding fathers who created institutions which have given strength to each individual and the nation. 4th of July is a day to celebrate the gifts. It is the day of independence from the British rule. It is a day of the birth of the United States of America. I rejoice. I am happy to be celebrating the 246th birthday of the nation of the free and the brave.

America has achieved much to be proud of in the long haul of 246 years. Today, it is the only superpower of the world. Its military might is unchallengeable. The strongest nation of the world, it is in a position to dictate the world. A world leader in almost every sphere, it creates awe among nations and peoples. A protector of human rights, America has often taken up the cause of the oppressed, and waged relentless

wars. A generous nation, America has rushed relief and aid to those in suffering and in need. Yes, there is no nation like America.

However, it is not that America is perfect. They say there is always room for improvement. I will add there always is need for improvement. No doubt, our founding fathers created the best institutions to take care of the people and the nation, yet there always is scope to add strength to them.

Take, for example, the idea of equality. Can one say there is no inequality? Discrimination. Can one say American society is free from the malaise of discrimination? Racial discrimination is the worst that America is suffering from. The North and the South are still lingering. America needs to "improve upon" the laws.

The right to bear arms is a welcome right. But when guns become a danger to lives of innocent people, Americans must

consider "improving upon" the laws.

On this 4th of July, I appeal to all - Democrats and Republicans; Left and Right, to take a good look at the issues which are creating divisions and unhappiness of the American people, and in a spirit of brotherhood, tackle them for the sake of the American nation.

We know from history how nations have been destroyed by fratricidal conflicts. We don't want them. We don't want it to happen to America. All we want is a strong America and happy Americans.

On this 4th of July, let us recall the pledge our founding fathers took: "We Mutually Pledge To Each Other Our Lives, Our Fortunes, And Our Sacred Honor", and live by it, as an expression of our gratitude to them, and as our commitment to America- "one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all."

**-: GUEST COMMENT :-**

**ALARMINGLY WARM:  
Record-smashing  
temperatures in US,  
Canada a wake-up call**

The dangers and after-effects of climate change are manifesting themselves with increasing frequency, more intensity and longer duration all over the world. As per a US study, the number of heat waves striking America in 2010 had climbed to six per year, from two per year around 50 years ago. The latest to feel the heat are northwest US and western Canada which are reeling under a heat wave. It is believed to have been caused by the heat dome that was formed due to the cocktail of high atmospheric pressure, climate change and drought. These factors are conducive for trapping the heat and keeping the air warm, like a lid on a cooking pot does.

People in cities like Seattle, Portland, Vancouver and Surrey that normally enjoy pleasantly mild summer temperatures (ranging from 11 to 22°C) — with most homes not even requiring a fan — are scrambling for ACs as the mercury has soared to breach the sizzling 46-degree mark. The 49.6°C recorded in Lytton, British Columbia, was five degrees hotter than Canada's earlier highest temperature of 84 years

ago. The region has registered a sudden spike in deaths and it is being related to the roasting conditions and hyperthermia. The blazing heat has imperiled crops and some roads and other structures are cracking and crumbling as they are not resilient enough to withstand such excessive heat.

The global warming-induced extreme weather events are a matter of concern and call for urgent remedial measures as they upend life and infrastructure with little warning. India is no stranger to the devastation wreaked by climate change. It has been suffering floods more frequently in the recent times due to the melting glaciers and receding coastlines. Unusually hot and longer summers are becoming the norm. The efforts to halt the warming of our planet — it has become dangerously warmer by more than 1°C since 1900 — are, unfortunately, not enough to lower the rate of carbon emissions. Concrete steps are needed to leave a livable planet endowed with enough essential resources for the generations to come.

(Tribune India)





# HAPPY BIRTHDAY AMERICA!

*Did we survive January 6th's Wake Up Call?*



BY RAVI BATRA

**Happy Birthday America! May God continue to bless the United States of America, and may our actions cause the word "united," to go from a useless noun to a satisfying adjective.**

**"STRIKINGLY, THE MOST SIGNIFICANT DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THOSE 56 BRAVE IMMORTALS ON JULY 4, 1776 AND TODAY'S JULY 4, 2021 IS IN WHAT THEY PLEDGED VS TODAY SOME OF US ARE OPPRESSED BY OUR PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE. THEIR PLEDGE WAS: "WE MUTUALLY PLEDGE TO EACH OTHER OUR LIVES, OUR FORTUNES, AND OUR SACRED HONOR." THEY PLEDGED EVERYTHING, INCLUDING, THEIR SACRED HONOR. TODAY, WE ARE HARD PRESSED TO FIND PERSONAL HONOR, LET ALONE COLLATERALIZE IT."**

## AMERICAN EXCEPTIONALISM BURNS BRIGHTLY.

Not since June 15, 1215 Magna Carta at Runnymede did the world evolve to its latest and highest milestone - still unsurpassed - the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776 penned by the great Thomas Jefferson and 56 brave delegates who put their "John Hancock" on it, courting either death or "freedom of man" from Kings & Emperors henceforth. It is that hallowed immortal moment that we celebrate now, as never before, thanks to the January 6th, an Insurrection to most, or a wake up call for our Republic by those who climbed the walls of Congress, as if storming the Bastille.

Strikingly, the most significant difference between those 56 brave immortals on July 4, 1776 and today's July 4, 2021 is in what they pledged vs today some of us are oppressed by our Pledge of Allegiance. Their pledge was: "We Mutually Pledge To Each Other Our Lives, Our Fortunes, And Our Sacred Honor." They pledged everything, including, their sacred Honor. Today, we are hard pressed to find personal honor, let alone collateralize it.

Slavery, as a function of war, to the sin of Slave Trading, as an engine for Equity and Profit.

Our original sin of slavery - 3/5th of a person in the 1787 Constitution - was to prevent the Slave-owning South from overpowering the Northern states and making slavery more permanent. Trying to minimize a "known" wrong (hat tip to the Donald Rumsfeld's "known knowns, unknown knowns, and unknown unknowns").

We fought a Civil War to end slavery, and succeeded. Abraham Lincoln was a Republican. (To those who find his Emancipation Declaration statue objectionable need therapy, so they can learn to applaud a singular moral correction by civil war to end slavery.) Time and politics make strange bedfellows, together, even stranger. It was not until LBJ, after JFK, given significant prodding by MLK and passage of the "civil rights act of 1964," that the Democratic party switched places with the Republican Party on racial discrimination. As a result, no one more than Lincoln

was seen scratching his head endlessly and becoming an insomniac.

## SOMETHING AILS AMERICA, AND IT'S US.

It's easy to ignore a former President, especially when his namesake company, Trump Organization, stands indicted by a grand jury in a prosecution led by Manhattan's principled District Attorney Cy Vance Jr. and New York State Attorney General Tish James. But it would be wrong to dismiss over 70 million Americans who voted to re-elect him in November 2020. It is them, our fellow Americans, whom we must heed, and unite with.



All of us should applaud Speaker Nancy Pelosi for creating a Select Committee to investigate the January 6th Insurrection, and the brave constitutional hero, the lady with an iron spine, Liz Cheney, who agreed to be a member of that Select committee. And to the GOP leadership caught in a vortex between their voters and their erstwhile Pied Piper of a former POTUS, our compassionate sympathy is theirs as an act of intrafamily healing.

Still, we need to find out why patriots, or at least people who believe themselves to be patriots, would climb the walls of Congress to stop then-Vice President Mike Pence, one of the most loyal VPs in our history, from carrying out his constitutional duties as his Oath mandated and certify the electoral college vote, thereby finalizing Joseph R. Biden Junior as our 46th president of these United States.

## HUMILITY IN 1776 VS HUBRIS IN 2020S.

Our nation was founded on Judeo Christian principles, and their collective yearning for individual liberty and justice for all, free of an intemperate king or

emperor's mandates. And yes, our founders were primarily white Europeans. It is unacceptable, if our current generation of entitled-Americans, who have achieved nothing in comparison to our founders, think that their criticisms alone make them superior to those who pledged everything. A theater critic's sarcasm, while possibly enjoyable as a soundbite, hardly qualifies that critic for being a star on the stage. Our current generation, and several generations before, need to eat "humble pie" for we have polluted the earth, the land, water and air with plastics and micro plastics, with chemicals like C8 (Teflon), and weaponizing viruses with illegal "gain of function" enhancements, such as COVID-19 - a bio warfare agent - that is reverse zoonotic, transmitting from humans to animals and creating an existential threat. It's worthy to recall that science has no soul, and no moral compass. Unfortunately, human history is littered with leaders, like Hitler, who suffer from the same malady.

"Equality" is a core principle of both constitutional law and justice. It is, however, inferior to its wiser sibling: "proportionality." Our republic needs a tune up. Our wheels are misaligned, our pride misplaced, and our compass is irreverent as it is misdirected. We argue not to convince or to compromise, but to be belligerent. We need to find unity with our fellow citizens, and respect, not insult, is key. "BLM" must not mean White is bad or inferior. Lincoln for race relations and Teddy Roosevelt for environment must remain singular heroes. Columbus must grace our land, as Thomas Jefferson must be honored as the idea of America must be.

## PRIDE IN OUR EXCEPTIONAL AMERICA THAT HONORS NATURAL LAW.

Every nation on earth, throughout history, has engaged in one form or another of discrimination. Indeed, Machiavelli taught political leaders to weaponize pride and ambition in order to enslave and control, and when that failed, fear worked. Our republic, founded under "natural law," is now against nature itself and therefore, is in a self destruct mode. Our political correctness has run amok, as our compassionate push for equal civil rights for race or orientation seeks to erase the Compassionate Supporters. We go about the world beating our chests speaking loudly against ourselves. This is not a public confession, as much as ill-advised arrogant belief that our present tense comprehension of a sliver of motivated society has the cosmic truth for the ages. It does not.

## BENJAMIN FRANKLIN AND GOD.

We need to save ourselves, from ourselves. We need to save our republic, from ourselves. We need to stand up, and tell Benjamin Franklin: thank you and all of your amazing colleagues who bequeathed to us this most exceptional and historic experiment of individual liberty under law, and despite our follies and our arrogance, we really mean to keep this republic alive and pass it down to our children and grandchildren. **Happy birthday America. May God continue to bless the United States of America, and may our actions cause the word "united," to go from a useless noun to a satisfying adjective.**

*(The author is an eminent attorney based in New York. He is Chair, National Advisory Council on South Asian Affairs, besides holding many other positions. He can be reached at ravi@ravibatralaw.com)*





**HAPPY  
INDEPENDENCE  
DAY!**

*Take time to remember those who  
worked hard to ensure a better future for us.*



NASSAU COUNTY EXECUTIVE  
**LAURA CURRAN**



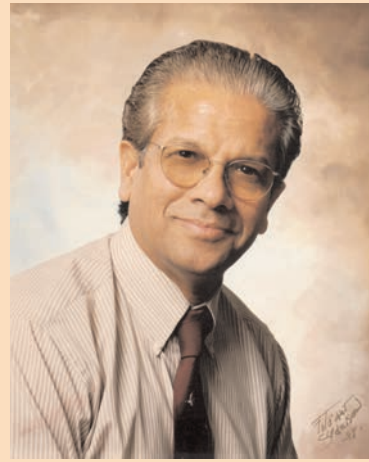
**REP. TOM SUOZZI  
NEW YORK 3RD DISTRICT**



*Message*

**Happy Independence Day! “E Pluribus Unum”; Out of Many, One. Our country is a “great experiment”. It is a chance to show that people of different backgrounds, creeds, ethnicities, endowed with certain unalienable Rights, can come together as one nation, united in freedom and democracy. Let’s celebrate our Independence and honor those who have sacrificed so much for us to maintain it. Happy Independence Day!**

**VK RAJU, MD, FRCS, FACS  
PRESIDENT AND FOUNDER, EYE  
FOUNDATION OF AMERICA  
MORGANTOWN, VA**



*Message*

The collective effort of Americans to overcome the monstrous COVID-19 has yielded results, and this 4th of July, Americans do not feel as unsafe as in 2020 to get out and get together to celebrate the Independence Day of the United States of America.

I am from the medical fraternity, and I think I should feel proud that my fraternity deserves all praise for leading the fight against the pandemic and making it possible for Americans to feel safe to celebrate 4th of July this year.

In the US, nearly 600 front-line health care workers appear to have died of COVID-19, according to Lost on the Frontline, a project launched by The Guardian and KHN that aims to count, verify and memorialize every health care worker who dies during the pandemic.

The tally includes doctors, nurses and paramedics, as well as crucial health care support staff such as hospital janitors, administrators and nursing home workers, who have put their own lives at risk during the pandemic to help care for others.

I salute my fraternity.

I congratulate The Indian Panorama for bringing out a special edition on the occasion of the American Independence Day.

I take this opportunity to greet my fellow Americans on the historic day of 4th of July.

God Bless America!

**HARRY SINGH BOLLA  
CEO, BOLLA OIL CORPORATION**



*Message*

I am pleased to know that The Indian Panorama is bringing out a special edition to mark 4th of July. I must congratulate the Indian American publisher Prof. Indrajit S Saluja for his being thoughtful that the historic event of his country of adoption is as important and worthy of celebration as a similar event in the country of his origin. We need more Indian Americans to understand the importance of getting involved in every aspect of the life in the country that we have chosen to make our home.

COVID-19 took a heavy toll not only on human lives but also on the lifestyle of people all across the world. Here in the US, over a period of more than a year we were forced to give up much of the fun that we are used to. But now, with pandemic receding, Americans are slowly trying to recover the good old times spirit. It is a matter of satisfaction that the traditional 4th of July parades and fireworks are returning, and Americans are ready to celebrate with enthusiasm the historic day of Independence.

I extend to readers of The Indian Panorama my greetings on the occasion of the 246th Independence Day of America. God Bless America!

**NAVEEN SHAH CPA  
PRESIDENT & CEO  
NAVIKA CAPITAL GROUP**



*Message*

Americans have been waiting to celebrate 4th of July which they could not in 2020 under the shadow of COVID-19. Mercifully, the pandemic, though still around, is not threatening enough to prevent Americans from getting back their traditional 4th of July parades, fireworks and parties.

I am glad to know that The Indian Panorama is bringing out a special edition in commemoration of the historic event. It was on July 4 in 1776 that the founding fathers of this great nation signed a declaration of Independence from the British rule. I am told the edition will carry a 10-page story of making of America. I congratulate the publisher/ editor Prof. Indrajit Saluja and his dedicated team for the publication’s laudable effort to educate Indian Americans on American history.

4th of July brings to mind the trials and tribulations of our forefathers, first in wresting Independence, and then with problems of diverse nature- domestic and foreign, and notwithstanding any obstacles, making America the strongest nation in the world. I bow my head to our forefathers and wish and pray that each succeeding generation keeps their sacrifices in mind and continues to build on their achievements. Happy 4th of July!



# Readers celebrate 4th of July

**READERS OF THE INDIAN PANORAMA ACROSS AMERICA HAVE SENT IN THEIR THOUGHTS ON THE AMERICAN INDEPENDENCE DAY. WE THANK THEM FOR THEIR VALUABLE THOUGHTS AND TAKE PLEASURE IN SHARING THEM WITH THE LARGER THE INDIAN PANORAMA FAMILY. HAPPY 4TH OF JULY!**



**What America's Independence Day means to us**  
**Independence Day, 4th of July, means to us like Diwali and Baisakhi celebrations.**



**S.L. Sethi**  
sethi@jackiesinternational.com  
Canton, Mississippi  
Photo by Brian Johnson

We enjoy friends and family company with sumptuous meals, fireworks and watch

Parades on TV. on 4th of July while thanking Almighty God and men like Thomas Jefferson, John Adams, Benjamin Franklin, James

Monroe and Richard Henry Lee for their efforts and sacrifices to free thirteen colonies from British King George III rule and slavery and then bring those thirteen colonies together as United States of America.

We, as a family thank America's forefathers for instituting free enterprise system and that meant--the harder we worked, the luckier we got.

We have enjoyed every Fourth of July through 2018 while thanking the Almighty God and men who built United States of America. We thank American people who are giving and forgiving more than people in Pakistan, India and Canada. However, last two and half years led me to pause and feel that we as people of this great country are on a path of self-destruction like India did after King Asoka Dynasty, Roman Empire and British Empire.

Unfortunately, we are trashing America and the great forefathers like Thomas Jefferson, John Adams, Benjamin Franklin, and Abraham Lincoln just because they could have made some mistakes in the process of freeing thirteen colonies from British rule and slavery yoke and then put the colonies together as a great nation-United States of America.

In my opinion it is high time for all of us to step back and see if we can find one perfect soul on earth beside the Almighty God.

We will continue to pray to "Almighty God to bless America, the great" and bless us with grace and sense not to trash America and the great men who built this country.

We wish you a happy Fourth of July and God's Mercy on each of you.

## WE NEED TO STAND AS ONE RACE AND ONE NATION



**Bina Sabapathy**  
binasabapathy@yahoo.com

The 4th of July is a very special day remembering and honoring our military and saluting the brave hearts that collaborated the process of bringing all the revolutionaries from across the colonies to discuss and implement Independence. For some it is a special day because of holiday to spend time with their families and friends, and for others to have backyard parties or to witness beautiful fire works

Whatever the reason to celebrate, July 4th is one of the most important dates in US History.

As an immigrant citizen of this beautiful country, it is a very special day to me to know the history that goes behind this Independence and a proud moment to honor those five founding fathers, the visionary icons who drafted the declaration of Independence. With all the heated arguments with Continental Congress, it was not an easy task put on the shoulders of committee of five named Thomas Jefferson of Virginia, John Adams of Massachusetts, Benjamin Franklin Roosevelt of Pennsylvania, Roger Sherman of Connecticut and Robert R. Livingston of New York. The approval of declaration of independence was very much a collaborative process. Even though the committee presented the first draft to the second Continental congress on June 28, 1776, and it was written, rewritten and with 86 edits finally approved on the dawn of July 4, 1776.

We have come a long way, even after two centuries the event and moment that took place under the leadership of our Founding Fathers is very remarkable. The Founding Fathers who drafted the declaration of Independence believed that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by the creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness. They strongly believed in unity and equality. They thought and dreamt of a beautiful and powerful united nation. To honor and respect our Founding Fathers hard work we should stand as one race and one Nation.

## CELEBRATING US INDEPENDENCE DAY 2021

The Indian Diaspora Council International (IDC) congratulates the people of United States of America (USA) on the 245th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence and conveys its best wishes for continuing progress in championing the cause of freedom, justice and liberty throughout the world. Despite recent setbacks due to the devastation effects of Covid-19, widespread protests to achieve racial and economic inequities, many attacks on Asians in America, and perpetuating misinformation leading to ideological disputes in some segments of society, America and its institutions remain strong and resilient as a progressive nation.

We are grateful for the enormous sacrifices made for the hard fought independence of USA and the continuing diligence and determination to maintain and advance freedom and liberty which universally endear the USA as a beacon of hope, freedom and refuge for the persecuted and downtrodden. USA's struggle for independence and promoting freedom exemplify the indomitable human spirit to choose and make decisions for "the pursuit of life, liberty and happiness", and has inspired nations, racially diverse and ethnic groups and individuals to advance their own struggles for freedom. The USA strives to be introspective and adapt to changing times and recognition of past injustices to better serve the needs of its citizens with established institutions and processes for social justice.

The celebration of USA independence is also of historic significance to the rapidly growing Indian American community who have benefited enormously from the Luce-Celler Immigration Act of 1946 signed into law on 3rd July 1946 by President Harry Truman granting naturalization rights to Filipinos and Asian Indians. The Immigration Act of 1946 also "allowed Filipino Americans and Indian Americans to naturalize and become United States citizens". Upon becoming US citizens, the new Americans could own homes and farmland, and petition for family unification. This reversed the Naturalization Act of 1870 which had denied Asians the right to gain US citizenship.

The 2020 election of Indian origin Kamala Harris as Vice President, and the appointments of the Vivek Murthy as US Surgeon General and Vanita Gupta as Associate Attorney General, as well as many others in prominent positions, reflect the changing demographics and the diversity of America as well as the rapid strides that Indian Americans are making in the political landscape.



**Ashook Ramsaran**  
President, Indian Diaspora Council International (IDC)  
New York

## GREETINGS TO ALL ON JULY 4TH -THE INDEPENDENCE DAY

As we celebrate American Independence on the Fourth of July every year, we think of July 4th, 1776 as a day that represents the Declaration of Independence as the birth of the United States of America. This day commemorates the adaptation of independence by delegates from 13 colonies. The Declaration was written in April 1776 and almost after 100 years, Congress declared July 4th to be a National Holiday. This was the most important secular holiday on the calendar.

On July 4th 1776, John Hancock, the president of the continental congress at that time signed the declaration in the presence Charles Thompson, the secretary of congress. The official signing event took place on Aug. 2nd 1776 when 50 men signed the document. As an independent country, it became free from control and influence of other person, country or entity. It became internationally recognized land and borders. It has power to levy war, make alliances with foreign nations, conduct trade and anything else that they think its right to do. Today America means Opportunity, Freedom and power

President Abraham Lincoln said, "Government of the people, by the people, for the people shall not perish from the earth." This Independence Day of July 4th, 2021 is special, as people can celebrate it together after one year of lock down from Covid Crisis that made a loss of 6000 people in this country.

First time after one and half year, people can meet their loved ones and hug them. Children can go back to school and life resume to normal routine. Thanks to the highly skilled scientist who generated the effective vaccine against Covid. This is the time of celebration the work of elected officials, Front line workers and the volunteer workers of the community. People are highly enthusiastic to celebrate this Independence Day on July 4th by Fireworks, Family reunion, Parade and concerts etc. Macy's has already declared that they will sponsor the Fireworks. Wish you all, Happy Independence Day!



**Dr. Urmilesh Arya**  
urmilesharya@yahoo.com  
President National AIA  
Long Island, NY



**GOD BLESS AMERICA AND THE PEOPLE WHO LIVE HERE!**



**Harish Thakkar**  
harishthakkar@gmail.com  
President, AIA NY, New York

Those early patriots may have come from different backgrounds and different walks of life, but they were united by a belief in a simple truth that we are all created equal, that we are all endowed by our Creator with

certain inalienable rights, that among these rights are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. But our success is only possible because we have never treated those self-evident truths as self-executing. Generations of Americans have marched, organized, petitioned, fought, and even died to extend those rights to others, to widen the circle of opportunity for others, and to perfect this Union we love so much. The Fourth of July is a time to rejoice in this success, which has inspired all who seek to break the shackles of totalitarian rule and breathe in the life-giving air of liberty.

Happy Fourth of July to all! May this day be a symbol of peace, prosperity, and happiness in your lives. God bless America and the people who live here!

**WE REJOICE IN OUR INDEPENDENCE**



**Anu Jain**  
anujainrealtor@gmail.com  
Long Island, NY

July 4th is the day that United States of America was finally free from Britain's rule. Hence it is known as the Independence Day. The 1776 victory carries on till date as we continue to

celebrate and treasure the amendments of the 1787 Constitution. The Constitution grants its citizens the many freedoms we enjoy today and gives USA the title "the land of the free."

Many of the American leaders in history recognized and tackled the long hard road ahead to create a better future for every citizen. Many wars have been fought; many brave men and women have lost their lives defending this great country on the borders. However, the citizens of US have also continued to fight for equality, freedom, and their own pursuit of happiness back at home.

Celebrating the Independence Day cannot be complete without spending quality time with our families and friends. The fireworks at the end of the day are one the most important traditions. The dazzling red, white, and blue sparkles in the night sky symbolizes the way United States of America came out strong from the Revolutionary war and gained its independence.

**REFLECTIONS ON AMERICAN INDEPENDENCE DAY**



**George Abraham**  
gta777@gmail.com  
Vice Chairman, Indian Overseas Congress USA  
Queens, NY

If we start to count from the date when the Declaration of Independence was adopted (July 4, 1776) by the United States, it is going to complete 246 years this year. America is the oldest democracy in the world. The

Greeks first coined the term democracy to describe self-rule. The term derives from the Greek word "demos" meaning people.

There will be little argument to the fact that America has been a magnet to the rest of the world. To many Americans, it is still a shining city on the Hill. America is not without its own fault lines. Slavery and lack of civil liberties for the African Americans were a blot on America's history. However, the country continued to correct those egregious errors and move forward.

As a resident of this country for the last 53 years, I do not believe there is systemic racism in this country. Systemic racism is institutionalized racism similar to Apartheid that was practiced in South Africa. Of course, there are racist people here too, they are everywhere, and they are plentiful in India as well.

However, on this Independence Day, I am more disappointed on one thing that is our national conversation has become more about race, gender and sex. There is no doubt that we need to address social justice issues to create a more equitable society. That requires dialogue not confrontation.

America has been a great experiment that has been emulated by the world over. However, there are those who are clamoring now to uproot the system for a remake. On this day, as we celebrate America's independence, let us be vigilant. As an old adage goes, 'If it ain't broke, don't fix it'.

Happy Independence Day!

**"AMERICA...IT IS THE ONLY PLACE WHERE MIRACLES NOT ONLY HAPPEN, BUT WHERE THEY HAPPEN ALL THE TIME."**



**Dave Makkar**  
davemakkar@yahoo.com  
New Jersey

"We're blessed with the opportunity to stand for something, for liberty and fairness. And these are things worth fighting for, worth devoting our lives to."— Ronald Reagan

America is far from perfect but still the greatest and most successful democracy in the world. This is the best place in the world to live and raise your family. Only in America can someone start with nothing and achieve the American Dream. That's the greatness of this country. Thomas Wolfe said, "America...it is the only place where miracles not only happen, but where they happen all the time."

US Constitution was first ratified in 1789, since than it has been amended (27) twenty-seven times. What does that tell us? That we should continue to improve upon the great foundation of America. Instead, we appear to be moving away from great principles that built America. Our founding fathers established this nation on the pillars of liberty, freedom of speech, morality, law and faith. But it appears, more and more, we are trying to weaken and ignore the very principles that have kept this nation moving in the right direction.

The principles that founded the country should not be forgotten. We may improve if it is in the best interest of the nation, but the essence should still be the same. If we forget it then we might lose the very foundation that made us who we are as a nation.

"One cannot be an American by going about saying that one is an American. It is necessary to feel America, like America, love America, and then work."— Georgia O'Keeffe

**WHAT 4TH OF JULY MEANS TO ME**



**Gobind Bathija**  
gobind.bathija@gmail.com  
Long Island, NY

Declaring independence from Great Britain allowed for an openness to immigration. They not only claimed freedom for themselves and their fellow countrymen, but they also claimed it for those who had yet to arrive and their descendants.

Since that first Fourth of July, America has become home to millions of immigrants who share our blessings of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness that the founders declared to be the rightful inheritance of all mankind.

For those immigrants and their families who came from countries where citizens do not enjoy the freedoms, we take for granted, America represents a life-changing opportunity to live in a country where they can realize their full potential. Immigrants remind us daily of the freedom and opportunity that America offers. They bring with them new ideas, skills, and an entrepreneurial spirit.

Immigrating to American in 1974 opened opportunities for me and allowed me to follow my dreams. Celebrating freedom, life, family, and the ones you love – that is what the 4th of July means to me.

**WISHING ALL A VERY HAPPY, JOYFUL, SAFE, PROUD INDEPENDENCE DAY OF AMERICA, 4TH OF JULY**



**Sangeet Sharma**  
sstar627@yahoo.com  
Queens, NY

Greetings to the families who have done their national duty and have served and sacrificed for this country. The highest form of service one can offer for their

motherland. America became independent with signing Declaration of Independence on July 4th, 1776. America celebrates this victory every year with great pomp and show, with parades and fireworks.

We live in one of the strongest Democracies of the world and enjoy all the rights of freedom. We came to America and utilized all the opportunities to grow in a free environment with our time, skills and contributions.

We all have lost and achieved simultaneously in pleasant and aggressive situations. Adverse circumstances have given rise to great achievers in Society most of the times. We have a responsibility to get along, give back to Society, care, teach, learn, take control of our actions, motivate, not oppress, but progress, and not spread hate along with many other things. These are some simple yet powerful adaptations of virtues, which can assist us in our worthwhile existence. I have been trying to assimilate these positivities in my character as I am growing and learning in American environment.

Independence brings on additional responsibilities on oneself and for society as a whole. Are we fulfilling our responsibilities as a good, caring and loving human beings on this wonderful land of independent freedom providing land? This is quite an amazing thought to ponder upon every now and then. We individually will have to look within ourselves and find the real truthful answers.

Time is flying and will pass by us without stopping and reversing. Time has given us an opportunity to analyze our existence during this sad pandemic times, where our freedom has been curtailed and we have been denied the very core right to live and enjoy life. It has become even more imperative now to know ourselves, our basic human rights, freedom to move with the flow and keep our sanity in check.

Life is a celebration and freedom is precious! Wishing all the wonderful readers of The Indian Panorama and listener families of Easy 96 Radio a very joyful, happy, Healthy and safe 4th of July 2021 Celebrations. Thank you!



AS I SEE IT

## INSURMOUNTABLE ODDS



BY PRABHU DAYAL

**“IT'S A WELL-KNOWN FACT THAT PAKISTAN IS THE NERVE CENTER OF TERRORISM. JAMAT-UD-DAWAH, LASHKAR-E-TAIBA, JAISH-E-MOHAMMED AND HIZBUL MUJAHIDEEN CARRY OUT THEIR TERRORIST OPERATIONS AGAINST INDIA FROM PAKISTAN'S TERRITORY. MOREOVER, MANY TERRORIST ORGANIZATIONS LIKE THE TALIBAN, HAQQANI NETWORK, AL QAEDA AND ISLAMIC STATE CARRY OUT ATTACKS IN AFGHANISTAN AND HAVE SAFE SANCTUARIES INSIDE PAKISTANI TERRITORY. PAKISTAN HAS BEEN CLAIMING THAT THESE ORGANIZATIONS ARE BASED IN AFGHANISTAN, HAVE SUFFICIENT FUNDS OF THEIR OWN AND THAT PAKISTAN IS NOT FINANCING OR HELPING THEM. HOWEVER, THE US IS AWARE THAT THE ISI, THE PAKISTAN ARMY'S INTELLIGENCE WING, IS FINANCING AND HELPING THE LEADERS OF THESE ORGANIZATIONS.”**

**A**braham Lincoln had once said, "You can fool some of the people all of the time, and all of the people some of the time, but you cannot fool all of the people all of the time."

This is a simple lesson that Pakistan refuses to learn while relentlessly trying to hoodwink the international community. Therefore, one is heartened by the fact that following its recent meeting on June 20-25, the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) sent across a stern message that it had not been fooled by Pakistan's jiggery-pokery.

The FATF is an intergovernmental organization founded in 1989 at the initiative of the G7 to develop policies to combat money laundering and, in 2001, its mandate was expanded to include terror financing. The FATF maintains two different lists which are informally called the 'blacklist' and the 'grey list'. The blacklist comprises "countries or jurisdictions with such serious strategic deficiencies against which the FATF calls on its members and non-members to apply counter-measures". The grey list includes those countries for which "FATF calls on its members to apply enhanced due diligence measures proportionate to the risks arising from the deficiencies associated with the country".

Pakistan was added to the grey list in October 2012 but managed to come out of it in February 2015. It was added to the grey list for the second time in June 2018. Leading the change FATF works with the International



*Pakistan's desperate attempts to hoodwink FATF have persistently failed but its leadership hardly seems to take any lessons*

Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank which take into account its findings and recommendations. For example, the IMF puts conditions for bail-out packages based on the fulfilment of FATF-related compliances. Thus, the naming and shaming by the FATF has costs, which Pakistan has found out. Pakistan's economy is already in shambles, and the FATF grey-listing adds to its woes. Therefore, Pakistan is desperately trying to wriggle its way out of the 'grey list'. When Pakistan was put on the 'grey list' in 2018, a 27-point 'Combating the Financing of Terrorism' (CFT) action plan was given to it that aimed at putting meaningful curbs on terror financing. Since then, Pakistan has been attempting to convince the FATF that it is complying with the action plan in order to exit the grey list. At its plenary meeting between October 21-23, 2020, the FATF had voted to continue keeping Pakistan on the 'grey list' for its failure to substantially deliver on six of the 27 action points. Then, at its next meeting on 22-25 February 2021, the FATF noted that Pakistan had largely addressed 24 out of the 27 action points. Now, at the recent meeting between June 20-25, the FATF has stated that "Pakistan has completed 26 of the 27 action items listed in its 2018 action plan." No doubt, Pakistan thinks that its efforts are yielding some success. Pakistan's Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi said there was "no room" to keep the country on the FATF's 'grey list' since it has implemented 26 out of the 27 points of the action handed out by the global body against money laundering and terror financing. However, the FATF has not let Pakistan off the hook because it wants the country "to address as soon as possible the remaining CFT item by demonstrating that terror financing investigations and prosecutions target senior leaders and commanders of UN-designated terrorist groups."

There are eight UN-designated terror groups that were named by FATF in the past – the Afghan Taliban, Haqqani Network, Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT), Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM), Jamaat-ud-Dawah (JuD), Falah-e-Insaniyat Foundation, al Qaeda and Islamic State. Pakistan has failed to convince the FATF that it is serious about taking action against these terror groups. Moreover, the FATF has given Pakistan a new six-point action plan that primarily focuses on combating money laundering. Thus, Pakistan will continue to find itself between a rock and a hard place. On the one hand, the

FATF is unrelenting in its insistence that Pakistan should come clean, completely break its ties with all terrorist organizations and put meaningful curbs on them. On the other hand, the Imran Khan government is unable to break these ties because Pakistan's deep state is hand in glove with terrorism and uses it as an instrument of state policy.

It's a well-known fact that Pakistan is the nerve center of terrorism. Jamat-ud-Dawah, Lashkar-e-Taiba, Jaish-e-Mohammed and Hizbul Mujahideen carry out their terrorist operations against India from Pakistan's territory. Moreover, many terrorist organizations like the Taliban, Haqqani network, al Qaeda and Islamic State carry out attacks in Afghanistan and have safe sanctuaries inside Pakistani territory. Pakistan has been claiming that these organizations are based in Afghanistan, have sufficient funds of their own and that Pakistan is not financing or helping them. However, the US is aware that the ISI, the Pakistan army's intelligence wing, is financing and helping the leaders of these organizations.

It may be recalled that Pakistan had hired a top US lobbyist firm to push its case with the Trump administration and to also get bailed out of the grey list. In pursuit of its gameplan to hoodwink the FATF, Pakistan had also hurriedly pushed through three legislations — the Anti-Terrorism (Amendment) Bill, 2020, the Anti-Money Laundering (Second Amendment) Bill and the Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) Waqf Properties Bill — by calling a special session of the Parliament in September. However, it was apparent that these were merely in the nature of window-dressing, for there was no let-up in the terrorist attacks being abetted from Pakistani soil against India or Afghanistan. Clearly, the FATF is not so gullible to be taken in by Pakistan's stratagems. India bears the brunt of Pakistan's use of terrorism and sees the FATF as an important body that can put pressure on it to dismantle the infrastructure that supports cross-border attacks. India has also furnished evidence to show how Pakistan continues to be a safe haven for UN-designated terrorists such as Dawood Ibrahim, Masood Azhar, Hafiz Saeed and Zakir ur Rahman Lakhvi. The FATF's decision to keep Pakistan on the grey list has been a vindication of India's stand.

*(First published in millennium post)*



# Opposition unity should transcend poll alliance



BY YOGENDRA YADAV

**“WHAT THE OPPOSITION NEEDS TO DEMONSTRATE AT THIS STAGE IS POLITICAL COHESION. IT NEEDS TO DEMONSTRATE A UNITY OF PURPOSE, A SHARED AGENDA (NOT JUST A HASTILY DRAWN UP MINIMUM PROGRAMME) THAT INSPIRES HOPE, AN ALTERNATIVE APPROACH TO GOVERNANCE, A CAPACITY TO WORK TOGETHER BY SUBORDINATING THEIR DIFFERENCES.”**



Big picture: The country needs not just a vipaksha, but a pratipaksha. - Photo / PTI

Opposition unity is among the most fantoosh but faltu preoccupations. At this juncture of Indian politics, it is at once a critical ask and a futile pursuit. This was the flavor of the month gone by and understandably so.

The BJP's defeat in West Bengal has opened the oppositional spaces and encouraged routine confabulations. It does not take much to see that any project to take on the BJP at the national level must gather in some way the 63 per cent voters who did not vote for the BJP or its allies in 2019. Hence, the temptation to return to some of the most over-rated moves of Opposition unity. All the tested and tired political faces coming together to oppose Prime Minister Narendra Modi is one of the laziest and disastrous political recipes of our time.

It is pointless to discuss Opposition unity unless we are clear about three things: Who counts as Opposition? What kind of unity are we talking about? And, is Opposition unity all that we need to take on Modi's BJP?

The idea of a hold-all Opposition, coming together of anyone and everyone who happens to be opposed to Modi, or to the BJP or to its current ideology, is both impossible and counter-productive. It is humanly impossible to achieve a harmonious merger of egos, ambitions and designs of all those who fall under the broad rubric of the Opposition. Even if this miracle were to happen, the cost of stitching together such an alliance would clearly outweigh its possible gains. It would have to be a sub-optimal coalition in terms of its efficacy in defeating the BJP. Besides, it might help Modi play the lone warrior who is taking on an entire 'gang'. This could also help the BJP's booth workers go for successful counter-

mobilization of the Hindus.

To abandon the idea of a hold-all Opposition unity is to give up on the current quest for a coalition of the willing. The Opposition here must be a selectively crafted coalition of the deserving. Those who enter such a coalition would have to show what they bring to the table. Those who bring heft in terms of votes would be the most obvious candidates. It is impossible to think of any meaningful Opposition unity without the Congress and many of the key regional players who have taken on, and many times defeated, the BJP. The only filter here would be the willingness to subordinate individual or party ambitions to the collective project.

The definition of Opposition must not be limited to political parties, that too electorally successful ones. We must not forget that the real opposition to the BJP hegemony has come from non-party peoples' movements. Popular mobilization is as important as electoral success.

The idea of 'unity' must be expanded beyond a one-time electoral alliance to a more enduring political union. The most common understanding of Opposition unity is that of the non-BJP parties forming a pre-election alliance for seat-sharing and vote-pooling.

But we tend to forget that such a unity is not relevant for most states of the country. There are states such as Kerala, Punjab, Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh, where the BJP is still not an electoral force that calls for a unity of the non-BJP forces. Then there are states such as West Bengal, Chhattisgarh and Odisha, where the dominant non-BJP party does not need an alliance partner. Then there are BJP-Congress contest states such as MP, HP, Uttarakhand, Gujarat and, arguably Rajasthan, where

the problem is not the lack of Opposition unity but the lack of an Opposition itself. The Congress is unable to take on the BJP and does not have anyone else to align with.

So, the formula of a pre-electoral alliance holds force in only a few states: Karnataka, Maharashtra, Bihar, Jharkhand and UP. With more than 200 Lok Sabha seats, these states carry a lot of weight, but they cannot set the template for Opposition unity in the rest of the country where the need is coordination rather than alliance.

At this stage, we need political unity more than electoral unity of the Opposition. We could do without the premature and necessarily fractious negotiations of a nationwide electoral alliance. What the Opposition needs to demonstrate at this stage is political cohesion. The voters, especially those who may have recently got wary of the BJP, do not doubt that anti-Modi leaders will come together to unseat him. They doubt if these leaders would do so in a meaningful way. They doubt if the Opposition parties can deliver a better and stable government. They doubt if these leaders can hang together even for some time.

So, the Opposition needs to demonstrate a unity of purpose, a shared agenda (not just a hastily drawn up minimum programme) that inspires hope, an alternative approach to governance, a capacity to work together by subordinating their differences.

Above all, we must realize that while Opposition unity of some sorts is necessary, it is certainly not sufficient. At this stage, the country is not ready to anyhow throw the BJP out. There is disenchantment with this government and PM Modi, but it has not reached a point where the people would vote for a

lamp post to throw the incumbent out. They are anxiously looking for an alternative that is at least as attractive as Modi was in 2014.

As it stands today, the Opposition does not fit the description. It lacks credibility. It does not have a message of hope, a vision for the nation. It does not have messengers who inspire confidence, leaders who can be entrusted with the country's future. This deficit cannot be made up by Opposition unity. Any Opposition unity that glosses over this lacuna is bound to magnify its own deficit and likely to fail in attracting new voters.

The country needs not just a vipaksha, but a pratipaksha. Vipaksha is limited to offering opposition and criticism; pratipaksha offers constructive criticism and feasible alternatives. Vipaksha is aimed at power-capture, pratipaksha is guided by a national purpose. Vipaksha is episodic, mostly active for elections; pratipaksha is omnipresent. Vipaksha has to be united; pratipaksha is unified to begin with.

The Opposition needs a glue to hold itself together and a glow to connect it to the people. That cannot happen through a mechanical stitching together of an alliance of the existing Opposition parties. The oppositional space needs a magnet to pull all the forces that seek to reclaim the republic. That magnet cannot be any one party or a leader. It has to be a coming together of citizens who enjoy credibility, movements that have demonstrated resilience and ideas that hold out hope.

Once this is achieved, the coming together of the existing Opposition parties and leaders can and will follow.

(The author is National President, Swaraj India)



## Why Are My Colleagues in Congress Throwing Flames Instead of Doing Their Jobs?



**BY THOMAS SUOZZI,  
U.S. REPRESENTATIVE  
FOR NEW YORK'S 3RD  
DISTRICT**

Why does America feel so fractured with so much division? The rancor and misinformation proffered by some of my colleagues in the House of Representatives, the blood-boiling commentary on cable "news," and the negative tone on social media, which is often amplified by our foreign adversaries, has made us "a house divided against itself." Can we continue to "stand"?

There has been much debate about censuring some of my colleagues, removing them from their committee assignments, or strongly calling them out for their sometimes mean-spirited, inaccurate, and inflammatory comments.

We see this happening on both sides of the aisle: members who throw flames and then reap all of the attention. But to what end? It hinders the advancement of important legislation and blocks opportunities to solve problems. It seems to be just to get attention, for clickbait.

What's going on? Why are the most extreme members of Congress rewarded with the most small-dollar donations, the most Twitter likes and the most cable news attention, while members who practice

civility or search for compromise are an afterthought?

I would argue that because almost 90 percent of House seats are "safe." Since district lines were drawn to heavily favor of one party over the other, over 90 percent of incumbents are reelected. The only way to beat a Congressman in one of these "safe seats" is to primary them, but few people vote in primaries—less than 10 percent—and those who vote tend to be more extreme on the political spectrum.

What this means is that the most right wing Republicans and the most left wing Democrats are the ones effectively calling the shots: Members often feel constrained to bend toward the direction of their "primary" voters and become less inclined to stand in the middle or compromise. Many believe that the more hyperbolic their positions and excessive their behavior, the more likely they are to win primaries, raise online contributions, and appear on news talk shows.

And yet, in so doing, those members are representing the few, rather than the many. Most voters would rather see their representatives seek common ground to solve the many problems we face. All of this polarization has resulted in Americans becoming disenchanted and disengaged from their government, and social media has only heightened their discontent.

But it's coming at us from all sides. We

have all seen the nasty posts that sometimes even outperform cat videos. Depending on the show and the target audience, cable news will hire talent and invite guests that will reinforce their narrative that "the other side is destroying our country." Scariest of all, the Russians and Chinese are using these divides and platforms to further promote our civil unrest.

Meanwhile, our cell phones and laptops have become a treasure trove of misinformation, fake news, and phony websites. Some say it's become a dystopian wilderness where bots and trolls roam free. Our screens are stained by "disinformation," the phrase aptly translated from the Russian word, *dezinformatsiya*, where it originated.

And computer algorithms are deliberately programmed to feed us more and more of the same content we seem interested in. We are inundated with our own carbon-copy thinking. We build ourselves echo chambers to reinforce our views. Conspiracy buffs become conspiracy nuts. Those prone to hate become more hateful. "Violence begets violence."

For many years, political scientists were worried that the "uninformed" voter might sway close elections. We now face a more dangerous risk: "misinformed" elected officials and others peddling a false narrative.

And it's never-ending. We have been overcome by the phenomenon of the new 24-month campaign cycle. The Republican effort to take back Congress began even before last year's election was called. Earlier this year, many opposition candidates announced their candidacy for late next year. Elected representatives find themselves automatically shifted into perpetual campaign mode, which is good for election season but lethal to the legislative session. It's no wonder we can't compromise to get things done.

Almost three years ago, an American hero, John McCain, gave his farewell speech to the Senate. He spoke clearly of the necessity of compromise, and the need for humility and cooperation among his colleagues. No matter how much they disagreed, they had an "obligation to work collaboratively," Senator McCain said.

"Stop listening to the bombastic loudmouths on the radio and television and the internet," Senator McCain said. "To hell with them. They don't want anything done for the public good. Our incapacity is their livelihood."

Congress must turn away those who peddle fear and loathing, who seek out the worst in us, rather than the best. They mean us harm. They feed on our failures, grow stronger from our dissension. Worse they replicate, like a virus, ten-fold our own malice, mistrust, and malevolence.

We must continue to condemn hate speech at all costs, in every corner of Congress, on both sides of the aisle, and throughout society, so we can take back the House from those who would divide it.

*(First published in Newsweek)*

## Happy 4th - India and America have a special bond



**BY MIKE GHOUSE**

America is the greatest nation on the Earth. Indeed, India is a part of the American Heritage from the very beginning. Upon declaration of our Independence on July 4, 1776, one of the first three heads of State who recognized the sovereignty of the United States was Tipu Sultan from India.

Morocco was the first country to recognize the Independence of the United States of America and signed the Moroccan-American Treaty of Friendship, the first of its kind. Friesland, one of the seven United Provinces of the Dutch Republic were the next to recognize, and Tipu Sultan, the King of Mysore State (India), was the third.

Today, we celebrate our Independence and democracy. Indians and Americans have a shared heritage. America is the oldest democracy in the world, and India is the largest democracy.



*Tipu Sultan, ruler of the kingdom of Mysore in India, was one of the first three heads of State who recognized the sovereignty of the United States*

Both George Washington and Tipu Sultan fought our common enemy Lord Cornwallis – Washington chased him out of America, and Tipu Sultan defeated him in one of three wars but lost to him in the 4th war of Mysore. Cornwallis bribed Tipu's confidant Mir Sadiq to get information about Tipu's whereabouts and hit him from the back. Had Mir Sadiq not betrayed Tipu

Sultan, India would have achieved her freedom in 1799, right behind America in 1776.

Tipu Sultan also sent a congratulatory message to George Washington, which I believe is in the National Library of France. I am seeking a copy of the same as a record.

Both George Washington and Tipu Sultan died in the same year, 1799, Washington on December 14, 1799, and Sultan on May 4, 1799.

Dr. Chik Range Gowda, an authority on Tipu Sultan in Bangalore, whom I met several times, believes that Tipu Sultan funded George Washington's Army. So, we have to find that document, and I welcome the reader to do the research.

Dr. Gowda also presented me with a brass bust of Tipu Sultan made on the Bicentenary of Tipu's death in 1999, and it is one of my cherished possessions. I had let go of many of my collections to choose to live a minimalist life, but I have kept Tipu's bust. So, I may have to present this to the Smithsonian to preserve it. But unfortunately, my kids will have no value for it.

The Mysorean Rocket was Tipu Sultan's invention. He also invented the Torpedo, known as Bangalore Torpedo, which is considered the precursor for American rockets that went to the Moon.

Thomas Jefferson wrote the immortal Declaration of our Independence on July 4, 1776. "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed, by their Creator, with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness."

Bhimrao Ramji Ambedkar also made an immortal declaration about India's Preamble on January 22, 1947. "It was, indeed, a way of life, which recognizes liberty, equality, and fraternity as the principles of life, and which cannot be divorced from each other: Liberty cannot be divorced from equality; equality cannot be divorced from liberty. Nor can liberty and equality be divorced from fraternity. Without equality, liberty would produce the supremacy of the few over the many. Equality without liberty would kill individual initiative. Without fraternity, liberty and equality could not become a natural course of things."

Article 19(1)(a) of the Indian Constitution says that all citizens have the right to freedom of speech and expression. Freedom of Speech and expression means the right to express one's own convictions and opinions freely by words of mouth, writing, printing, pictures, or any other mode.

**CONTD ON PAGE 60**







**LET US PAY TRIBUTE TO OUR AMERICAN HEROES ON THIS DAY AND FOREVER**



*Indu Jaiswal  
indu@jaiswal.net  
Chairperson, Indian American Forum  
Long Island, NY*

As we Celebrate July 4th Holiday this year, we are entering the new normal lifestyle after a Pandemic. We are grateful and thankful to the Almighty God for giving us strength and direction to overcome and

move forward in a positive direction.

We remember and pay tributes to all those lives lost their lives during this Pandemic. We salute our front-line workers, healthcare professionals and members of Law enforcement for saving our lives and providing a safe environment. As Abraham Lincoln said, "I like to see a man proud of the place in which he lives. I like to see a man live so that his place will be proud of him"

We are the land of the free We are the home of the brave, let us pay tribute to our American heroes on this day and forever. Our flag does not fly because the wind moves it. It flies with the last breath of each soldier who died protecting it. May your 4th of July be overfilled with cheer and blessings. Wishing you a wonderful time, joyful and safe celebration on this remarkable special Day- n American History. HAPPY 4th of JULY

*Incredible American Dream*

**BY ASHOK VYAS**

**Ashok Vyas shares his take this 4th of July on what makes America great**

American dream is synonymous with a comfortable lifestyle. Immigrants are drawn to the well-structured system. This is known as the land of opportunities. Is it a myth? Let us examine with our own experience. On the Independence Day of this great nation, as I am encouraged to think of the dynamic adopted land, throbbing with dynamism, 'can do' spirit and millions of 'rags to riches' stories. This can't be a coincidence. Indeed, USA is not a perfect country but I take this liberty to say, it is near perfect with all its shortcomings.

In any nation, there are two factors which weave a pattern of overall honest or dishonest functioning. To simplify it, let me say, one of the factors is the network of 'rules and regulations, law and order' with provision of auto-correction or at least openness for evolving with new understanding and awareness with changing times.

One has seen, American system is geared to evolve and absorb the needs and requirements of the changing circumstances. President Obama realized the significance of respecting and imbibing 'LGBT community'. These couples found a way to legally live together. This is the example of social dynamics but there are many examples of fine tuning the overall economic fabric with tweaking of policies, rules and regulations.

On the broad level, these changes also trickle down and affect common folks. I came from India and I love my motherland. USA has the greatness and

practical generosity to respect my love for my roots. This is visible in so many parades, celebrations of people from different countries and there is a sense of harmony and acceptance. What more can you ask for?

Well, we immigrant ask to be recognized, we seek a pie in the economic package. We appreciate the attention given to minority and women owned business owners in New York.

You must have stories of millionaires who landed here with eight dollars in their pocket. While we acknowledge their hard work, vision and leadership in their respective fields. On July 4th, it would be justified to give equal or more credit for their success to this great nation. They were received well, they found mentors, they found a supportive system admiring and standing with their spirit to succeed.

This land of the brave is full of innovative ideas, the zeal to seek 'out of the box' solutions, makes this country a land of achievers. Whether you look at the top rich people of the world or the number of Nobel Prize winners in the field of science or the number of medals in Olympics.

You feel proud to be among this group of individuals who are chasing excellence in their respective field.

I also feel elated with respect to the grooming of kids in the school system here. Leaving aside what is lacking, looking at what we have, here is a fine system that helps students develop self-confidence, communication skills and leadership skills too.

Indian Americans are actively participating in American Politics and currently many Indian Americans are at high positions in President Biden's white house.

Let us share the proud space by recollecting that US Surgeon General Dr



*Ashok Vyas with Michael Rosenthal, currently director of North India office of US Embassy, this picture was taken at Foreign Service Institute of the US State Department, Washington DC, where Michel learnt about India and also learnt Hindi before his posting to India*

Vivek Murthy has his roots in Bharat and career diplomat Atul Keshap is appointed as the country's Chargé d'affaires in Delhi.

There are many more names in this ladder but let me conclude by expressing my joy with gratefulness on being a naturalized citizen of America. May America lead the world towards peace and harmony. This vast land has also preserved nature with special attention and by engaging resources through several national parks. We are blessed to have beautiful greenery amidst concrete jungle in Manhattan. This itself speaks volumes about the farsightedness of forefathers of America, who projected future needs and acted on building bridges, tunnels, parks etc. to meet the future demands.

Isn't that incredible?

Indeed, it is!! Happy Independence Day of America

*(Ashok Vyas is a poet, program director with ITVGold, founder, Insight for Creativity, presenter of 'Everyday Gita' daily on YouTube Channel and Facebook page of Heramba Studio since Jan 1, 2021)*



*Krishnendu Rudra  
Krishnendu.Rudra@well  
sfargo.com  
Long Island, NY*

*I am grateful to this Land of Opportunity*

Fourth July, to me, it's a celebration of Freedom. Freedom to believe what we want, freedom to speak what we feel and the Freedom to choose.

Freedom is my primary aspiration. I believe, Freedom is the first condition of creativity. America is most creative because we have the Freedom.

Sure, Fourth of July is about gathering, grilling and inevitably running out of ice, but above all, it's about celebrating America as a nation and its spirit of Freedom. Freedom comes with responsibility. We as a citizen, need to understand the degree of responsibility that comes with Freedom. That's why the very test of our democracy is in our own hands.

I am grateful to this country for whatever I achieved. I may be an average Joe or a little-known regular Desi. But the self fulfilment I got in this land of opportunity is beyond my imagination. So, I salute to this land of opportunity. President Benjamin Franklin's words pop up in my mind, "Where Liberty dwells, there is my country"

Oscar Handlin, the great American Historian, said and I quote "Once I thought to write a history of the immigrants in America. Then I discovered that the immigrants were American history"

Yes, indeed, you, me, and all of us the immigrant community are the American history. The diversity we bring is a true precious gift to our American society. Some say, it's melting pot. I am not in dispute; I am comfortable with the concept of salad bowl. This American society is encouraging and accepting "Cultural Pluralism" from all over the globe. Still,

we are one out of many.

This society is not perfect one but here in America, we have the least discrimination and human rights abuse in comparison to any part of the globe.

We the Indian Americans should be very proud to know that 38% of our immigrants came on the basis of Employment - Based preferences, like me as compared to rest of the U.S immigrants 13% only. This census data 2019 validates the fact, we are the provider and leader of high tech. employment in this country. No need to mention all the Indian C.E.O.'s in corporate America.

If we see in retrospection, the data 1980-2019, Indian immigrant population in the United States, it's very encouraging. 1980 -206,000; 1990 - 450,000; 2000 - 1,023,000; 2010 - 1,780,000 and 2019 - 2,688,000. The largest share of Indian approximately 41% arrived in 2010 or later as compared to just 25 % of the overall foreign - born population.

So, we have a role to play in every sphere of the mainstream, political, social, cultural, spiritual, academic and in all other fields and professions. We can all do our part, small or big. Not everyone will be a candidate for leadership role or Ellis Island Medal of Honor.

To me, changing people's life, doing small things in a big way, extending helping hand to the helpless, creating positive impact on individuals and standing tall for fairness are no less than any honor.

Lastly, I thank you America and Indian Americans as we are the significant contributor of nearly 3% of India's Gross Domestic Product, GDP. As per 2019 data source, \$83.01 Billion in remittance to our mother India, we did via formal channels, according to World Bank estimates. This is truly a big pay back to our motherland. So, I conclude with greetings and gratitude to this Land of opportunity.

God Bless America!



**WE PRAY FOR GOD'S BLESSINGS ON OUR ADOPTED LAND AND STRONGER TIES WITH OUR COUNTRY OF ORIGIN**



*Nuzaira Iqbal and Zafar Iqbal  
raabta.india@gmail.com  
Washington DC*

The fourth of July is the day of celebration for every American, especially with the start of the new era. We should not take freedom for granted as it has come after many sacrifices. Let us come together to salute all those people who gave their lives as a token of thanks. Let us pray to the Almighty to shower his blessings on our adopted land and stronger ties with our place of birth.

**WE CELEBRATE AMERICA ON 4TH OF JULY**



*Vikas S Dhall  
singhminder@gmail.com  
Chairman, Gurdwara Plainview,  
Long Island, NY*

On the Fourth of July we not only honor America's Independence, but also celebrate a nation that is surely a melting pot of many different cultures. As immigrants, we were embraced by this country and were afforded a new beginning and great privilege that were a true embodiment of the principles of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.



Be a part of The Indian Panorama Team. So much is happening around. Share your observations. Email your report / story to [editor@theindianpanorama.com](mailto:editor@theindianpanorama.com)



*Tirlok Malik  
Appleproduction1@gmail.com  
Emmy nominated filmmaker  
Manhattan, NY*

**4TH OF JULY TO ME IS A CELEBRATION OF LIVING AS AN INDIAN AMERICAN IN THE TRULY FREE COUNTRY IN THE WORLD**

I personally feel America gives you a space to explore freedom. and gives you an opportunity to make your dreams come true. Your dreams may come true or

not, but you have the freedom to explore which is not available in every country.

Many Indian Americans may feel the same: if you got the wings to fly sky's the limit.

America may have its problems, but you can truly experience what freedom means.

4th of July I get a lot of invitations for the parties, get together for Barbecues, pool parties to celebrate the Independence Day of America. It is a celebration of 4th of July 1776 when Americans got freedom from British rule.

The 4th of July is traditionally celebrated with fireworks, barbecues, festivals, and other public events, including readings of the Declaration of Independence. Due to the patriotic nature of the holiday, it often involves red, white, and blue decorations (after the US flag), as well as tributes to American troops and government institutions. On the 4th of July, many people get to enjoy a day off from work to enjoy a long weekend or vacation.

God Bless our America!



**Sweeping Offensive to Eliminate COVID-19 Pandemic  
SAVE THE VILLAGES.  
SAVE THE COUNTRY.**



**Rooted in Education, and Blossoming into Empowered Village Development.**



Mask Making



Oxygen on Wheels



Facilitating Vaccination



Patient Isolation Center



Awareness Campaign



Mass Motivation

**EKAL EFFORTS TO FIGHT COVID-19**

- Dispensing OTC medications and immunity boosters
- Providing diagnostic equipments e.g. Oximeter, Digital Thermometer
- Supporting government efforts
- Delivering Oxygen on mobile vans
- Information campaign about vaccine, pandemic & safety

**WAYS TO SUPPORT EKAL**

- **Diagnostic Kits - \$250**  
For 5 Kits
- **Adopt a Village - \$500**  
One village for COVID fight
- **Supporting COVID Center - \$5,000**  
For 1 center
- **Supporting Victim's family - \$5,000**  
One time per family
- **Funding Telehealth - \$15,000**  
For 30 villages

**DONATE WITH CONFIDENCE**



Scan to Donate

Please donate generously [www.ekal.org/us](http://www.ekal.org/us)  
All proceeds will go for COVID relief efforts in India.

Donations are tax deductible in USA. Tax ID: 77-0554248

**Ekal Vidyalaya Foundation of USA**

PO Box 821369, Houston, TX 77282-1369 USA | P: 1-800-EKAL-USA | E: [ekalusa@ekal.org](mailto:ekalusa@ekal.org)





# Meet the Top Three richest Indian-origin women in the US

**NEW YORK (TIP):** Every time a power list comes out or an Indian American success story is mentioned, typically it is the name of some of the most famous men of Indian origin.

However, alongside every big stalwart like Sundar Pichai or Satya Nadella is also the success story of some Indian American women, who are making more than a dent in the glass-ceiling.

The American Bazaar lists the top 3 richest Indian origin women in America today who are not just inspiring a new generation of immigrant women, but are changing the power dynamics in boardrooms too.

## Jayshree Ullal, Net Worth: \$1.43 billion

The president and CEO of Arista Networks, Jayshree Ullal is the topmost name when it comes to richest and most successful Indian origin woman in business in America today.

Ullal has the distinction of being the only Indian origin woman in the US to make it to the Forbes Billionaire Club. Ullal's story is especially significant because her chart to success is totally self-made.

Ullal's success story, Arista Networks is a computer networking firm headquartered in Santa Clara. Ullal was appointed the CEO of Arista Networks in 2008. Before that she had worked in Cisco for 15 years.

Ullal was also featured on Forbes 2018 list of billionaires for her net worth \$1.43 billion.

The London born and Delhi raised girl, Ullal came to the US at the age of 16 as a student. She graduated in electrical engineering from San Francisco State



Jayshree Ullal (Net Worth: \$1.43 billion); Neerja Sethi (Net Worth: \$1 billion), and Neha Narkhede (Net worth: \$600 million) are the top three richest Indian origin women in the US

University and did her master's in engineering management from Santa Clara University.

Ullal got a big break in her career when Cisco Systems acquired Crescendo Communications and she was made senior vice president of Data Center & Switching.

Ullal was also the first woman to receive the Entrepreneurial and Leadership award in Silicon Valley in 1999. Ullal owns about 5% of Arista's stock. She lives in Saratoga, California.

## Neerja Sethi, Net Worth: \$1 billion

The next name on the big list is Neerja Sethi. Sethi's success story began when she cofounded IT consulting and outsourcing firm Syntel with her husband Bharat Desai back in 1980.

What began in the couples' small apartment in Troy, Michigan turned into a global success story. In 2018 French IT firm Atos SE bought Syntel for \$3.4 billion. Sethi got an estimated \$510 million for her stake.

Sethi, who has been working as an executive at Syntel since 1980, did not join Atos after the acquisition.

Sethi and her husband worked for IT firm Tata Consulting Services and met at work. Together they tried to create a similar model. They began their venture by investing just \$2,000 out of their pocket.

## Neha Narkhede, Net worth: \$600 million

Neha Narkhede is cofounder and chief technology officer of Confluent, a streaming data technology company currently valued at \$4.5 billion.

Narkhede's first job was at Oracle, where she worked as a principal software engineer. She then joined LinkedIn as lead of streams infrastructure.

In 2011, Narkhede along with her colleagues Jun Rao and Jay Kreps created the Platform Apache Kafka. In 2014 she co-founded Confluent, a Palo Alto based startup.

She is also the co-author of the book "Kafka: The Definitive Guide."

She along with her team at Confluent raised \$125 million in 2019, bringing its total funding to \$206 million in 2019.

And in April 2020, the company raised \$250 million bringing its total funding to \$456 million.

Pune born Narkhede studied at the University of Pune where she got her BSc degree in engineering. She did her MSc in technology from Georgia Tech.

## Indian-origin Michael Kuruvilla set to become police chief of Chicago suburb

**CHICAGO (TIP):** Michael Kuruvilla is set to make history as the first Malayalee American police chief in the US when he becomes head of the police force in Brookfield, a Chicago, Illinois, suburb.

Currently Deputy Chief, Kuruvilla, 37, the first Indian-American hired by Brookfield police in 2006, is expected to take over from Edward Petrak, who is stepping down as chief effective July 12.

Recommending Kuruvilla as his successor to Village Manager Timothy Wiberg, Petrak said. "We just have a great, talented bench of people here and for years and years to come."

"I'm not ready to announce anything yet, but [Kuruvilla] would sure seem to be the logical way to go," Wiberg told local Riverside-Brookfield Landmark. "I'll be posting the job internally first and see what that results in."

Kuruvilla was presented with the "40 Under 40" Award by the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP), the world's largest and most influential professional association for police leaders, in September 2020.

In nominating Kuruvilla for the award, Petrak wrote that his deputy was "an up-and-coming leader in our ever-changing field of law enforcement.

"Over the last 14 years, I have watched Mike grow from an eager learner to a true leader in our police department. His positive and progressive attitude is infectious and makes him a strong, naturally suited leader."



Michael Kuruvilla is set to make history as the first Malayalee American police chief in the US when he becomes head of the police force in Brookfield, a Chicago, Illinois, suburb.

Kuruvilla, joined the department in 2006 after obtaining a master's degree in social work and then working as a police crisis worker in Brookfield.

"Although I have shed the formal title of social worker, my job still requires mediating between and for people in crisis and discord almost daily," Kuruvilla wrote in his application for the award.

"Our profession has shifted immensely in recent years to increased mental health awareness, and I have proudly led the charge to model and teach my department members and those in neighboring communities how best to serve those in need."

In addition to his role as a deputy police chief, Kuruvilla and his wife volunteer with a nonprofit that serves the needs of at-risk women victimized by the adult entertainment industry and human/sex trafficking. Kuruvilla has been a member of the organization's board for more than six years. *(Read full story at [www.theindianpanorama.news](http://www.theindianpanorama.news))*

## Indian American Family among 150 Missing after US State of Florida Building Collapse

**HOUSTON (TIP):** An Indian American couple and their one-year-old child are among more than 150 people who are still missing after the collapse of part of a 12-story residential building in the US state of Florida on Thursday, June 24, according to media reports on Monday, June 28.

Search and rescue teams have been feverishly scouring the site since shortly after 55 of the building's 136 units fell. Nine people have been confirmed killed, officials have said.

Vishal Patel, 42, his wife Bhavna Patel, 38, and their one-year-old daughter Aishani Patel are believed to be among the missing, their niece Sarina Patel told media, adding that Bhavna Patel is four months pregnant.

Sarina Patel said she last spoke to her family on Father's Day.

"I had actually called them to tell them I had just booked a flight to come visit because they've been asking me to come to see their home and to meet their daughter. I haven't met her due to the pandemic," she said on Friday.

They were home at the time the collapse took place, she said. "We have tried calling them countless times and there's just been no answers, text messages, nothing. They haven't contacted anybody," she said.

Bhavna is a British and US citizen, the British media reported.

Umma Kannayan, a family friend of the



Vishal Patel, 42, his wife Bhavna Patel, 38, and their one-year-old daughter Aishani Patel are believed to be among the missing after the collapse of part of a 12-story residential building in Florida, June 24.

Patels, told the BBC that they were a "very loving" family who were closely involved in their religious community.

"Aishani was like the little baby of the temple," she said. "It feels like you've lost a part of yourself."

She said she was waiting with the Patel family's relatives for news, but that "not much information has been shared" about the victims.

"I think all of us, the family included, and the folks that are very closely associated with them [at temple] would want to know the list of survivors currently present," she said. "Perhaps from there some hope either might be given or might be shattered, but some names out there would be very helpful for all."

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



# Nine Indian Americans among 11 US Spelling Bee Finalists this Year

**WASHINGTON (TIP):** Nine of the 11 finalists for this year's US Spelling Bee contest are Indian Americans, reflecting the dominance young kids from the small ethnic community have had on this prestigious and high-pressure endurance test for more than a decade now.

The 11 spellers, of which nine are Indian-Americans, will compete for the champion title during the 2021 Scripps National Spelling Bee Finals on July 8, a statement said on Monday, June 28.

During the in-person finals, the Bee will have the option of activating a spell-off if needed. The spell-off would be activated in the closing minutes of the competition if a champion has not yet been declared in a traditional, one-person, one-word round, it said.

"We are honored to introduce our 2021 Scripps National Spelling Bee Finalists. Round after round, this group of spellers proved their mettle, and we look forward to seeing them show off their knowledge and hard work as they square off against the dictionary on the national stage," said Dr J Michael Durnil, executive director of the Bee.

"Congratulations to all of this year's 209 national qualifiers - they've persevered over a year that has been



The 11 finalists are Roy Seligman, 12, from Nassau, The Bahamas; Bhavana Madini, 13, from New York; Sreethan Gajula, 14, from Charlotte, North Carolina; Ashrita Gandhari, 14, from Leesburg, Virginia; Avani Joshi, 13, from Illinois; Zaila Avant-garde, 14, from New Orleans; Vivinsha Veduru, 10, from Texas; Dhroov Bharatia, 12, from Dallas; Vihaan Sibal, 12, from Texas; Akshainie Kamma, 13, from Texas and Chaitra Thummala, 12, from San Francisco.

challenging in many ways, and our team is proud to have witnessed their journey," he said.

The National Bee is a high-profile, high-pressure

endurance test as much as a nerd spelling match and spellers spend months preparing for it.

The final rounds of this year's contest will be hosted in person at ESPN Wide World of Sports Complex at Walt Disney World Resort near Orlando, Florida, and will be broadcast live in prime time on ESPN2.

The 11 finalists are Roy Seligman, 12, from Nassau, The Bahamas; Bhavana Madini, 13, from New York; Sreethan Gajula, 14, from Charlotte, North Carolina; Ashrita Gandhari, 14, from Leesburg, Virginia; Avani Joshi, 13, from Illinois; Zaila Avant-garde, 14, from New Orleans; Vivinsha Veduru, 10, from Texas; Dhroov Bharatia, 12, from Dallas; Vihaan Sibal, 12, from Texas; Akshainie Kamma, 13, from Texas and Chaitra Thummala, 12, from San Francisco.

Over the past 20 years, Indian Americans have been dominating the Spelling Bee contest even though they comprise only about 1 per cent of the US population.

The Bee was cancelled in 2020 due to the coronavirus pandemic. But there were eight co-champions in 2019, seven of whom were Indian Americans, bringing the total number of Indian-American champions since 1999 to 26.

## Indian American Senior Foreign Service Diplomat Atul Keshap posted to India as CDA

**WASHINGTON (TIP):** The Biden Administration has appointed Indian American diplomat Atul Keshap as Chargé d'Affaires, ad interim, in New Delhi to "reinforce the close US partnership with the Government and people of India."



Atul Keshap has been appointed US Chargé d'Affaires, ad interim, in New Delhi

A career member of the Senior Foreign Service, Keshap will be departing for India following the retirement of US Ambassador Daniel Smith, the State Department said announcing his appointment Tuesday, June 29.

"Keshap's appointment will reinforce the close US partnership with the Government and people of India, demonstrated by our collaboration to overcome global challenges like the Covid-19 pandemic," the spokesperson's office said in a media release.

He "will bring a wealth of experience to the role, having served previously at US Embassy New Delhi and as Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for South Asia," it added.

Keshap most recently served as the Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for the Bureau of East Asian and Pacific Affairs and as the US Ambassador to Sri Lanka and Maldives.

Across his 27-year career as an American diplomat, Keshap has served at postings in India, Morocco, and Guinea, according to his official biography. He has served as Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for South

Asia, as US Senior Official for Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation, and as an Office Director in the Bureau of South and Central Asian Affairs and in the Bureau of International Organization Affairs.

Keshap has negotiated or advanced bilateral and multilateral initiatives at senior levels with counterparts from the European Union, United Nations, ASEAN, APEC, and governments across the Indo-Pacific, Middle East, Africa, and North and South America.

Previously Keshap served at the Department of Defense as the National Defense University's Vice Chancellor for the College of International Security Affairs.

Earlier in his career, he served as Director for North Africa and Middle East regional affairs on the National Security Council staff in the Executive Office of the President of the United States.

In 2018, Keshap received one of the State Department's highest honors, the Distinguished Honor Award, in recognition of his leadership in advancing US interests in the Indian Ocean region.

He is also the recipient of a 2019 Presidential Meritorious Rank Award, as well as numerous individual State Department Superior and Meritorious Honor Awards, and six senior executive performance pay awards.

## Indian American Shalina D Kumar Nominated as Federal Judge

**WASHINGTON (TIP):** US President Joe Biden has nominated Indian American circuit court chief judge Shalina D Kumar as a federal judge for the Eastern District of Michigan, the White House announced on Wednesday, June 30.

Nominated by Biden to the US District Court for the Eastern District of Michigan, Chief Judge Shalina D Kumar has served on the Oakland County Sixth Circuit Court since 2007. She was appointed Chief Judge of the Circuit Court by the Michigan Supreme Court in January of 2018, a media release said.

Shalina D Kumar would be the first federal judge of South Asian descent in Michigan, the White House said.

In addition to her chief judge duties, Judge Shalina D Kumar retains a full caseload covering both civil and criminal matters, the White House said.

Throughout her years on the bench, Shalina D Kumar has served as a presiding judge of the Adult Treatment Court, the Chairperson of the Oakland County Criminal Assignment Committee, the bench liaison to the Oakland County Bar Association Circuit Court Committee, a member of the Michigan State Bar Professionalism Committee, and a member of the Executive Committee of the Michigan Judges' Association.

Prior to taking the bench, Shalina D Kumar was a civil litigator in private practice from 1997 to 2007, including as an associate with Weiner & Cox PLC from 2004 to 2007 and Sommers,



Shalina D Kumar has been nominated as a federal judge for the Eastern District of Michigan, the White House announced on Wednesday, June 30.

Schwartz, Silver & Schwartz PC from 2000 to 2004.

She graduated from the University of Michigan in 1993 and the University of Detroit-Mercy School of Law in 1996.

She was appointed judge for the 6th Circuit Court in Oakland County, Michigan by former Governor Jennifer Granholm on August 20, 2007, to fill the vacancy created by the retirement of Judge Gene Schnelz. Shalina D Kumar was then elected to the court in 2008 and re-elected in 2014.



## Drone spotted over Indian High Commission in Pak, protest lodged

A drone was spotted over the Indian High Commission premises in Pakistan's Islamabad, prompting India to strongly object to the security breach, news agency ANI reported on Friday, 2 July.

In a briefing on Friday evening, the Ministry of External Affairs said that the drone had been spotted on 26 June.

"This has been taken up officially with the Government of Pakistan. We expect Pakistan to investigate the incident and prevent the recurrence of such breach of security," the MEA added.

The news comes days after two low-intensity explosions rocked the technical area of Jammu Air Force Station on 27 June in a terror attack that was reportedly conducted using drones for the first time.

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) has taken over the probe. Two IAF personnel sustained injuries in the incident. Earlier on Friday, the Border Security Force (BSF) said that its troops fired at a small hexacopter "belonging to Pakistan" around 4:25 am "as it was trying to cross the International Border in Arnia sector" in Jammu. "Due to this firing, it returned immediately. It was meant for carrying out surveillance of the area," the force was quoted as saying.



## Monsoon session begins on July 19

The monsoon session of Parliament would be held from July 19 to August 13, a Parliament secretariat statement said after the President summoned the two Houses to commence from July 19.

The sixth session of the 17th Lok Sabha would commence on Monday (July 19).

"Subject to exigencies of government business, the session is likely to conclude on Friday (August 13)," the official communique said. The Rajya Sabha secretariat issued a separate statement. There would be 19 sittings, the statement said.

# Turf war over theatre commands escalates, IAF chief rejects CDS Rawat's 'supporting role' view

**NEW DELHI (TIP):** The bitter turf within the armed forces over the four proposed theatre commands escalated further with the Indian Air Force (IAF) Chief Air Chief Marshal RKS Bhadauria rejecting Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) General Bipin Rawat's views that the IAF remains a supporting arm just as artillery or engineers support the fighting forces.

Speaking to India Today TV, Air Chief Marshal RKS Bhadauria said, "It's not a supporting role alone. Air power has a huge role to play. In any of the integrated battle areas, it's not an issue of support alone. A whole lot of things go into any air plan that's made. And those are the issues that are under discussion."

"CDS was a big reform. The next biggest reform is the integrated theatre command. And it is much more complex. We're for establishing integrated theatre command. But the issues that we have raised are in our internal discussions, and it's to do with how we should do it. We must get it right. It's the most important reform that has an impact on war fighting," Air Chief Marshal RKS Bhadauria said.

He gave his vision for the integrated theatre command. "We already have a functional system today. But when we do an integrated theatre command, we should reach the next level of ability to protect our comprehensive national power. We should be able to synergise, we should be able to put up a power that is more synergistic and has more flexibility. We cannot have more boundaries," Air Chief Marshal RKS Bhadauria said.

He said he would not like to share the issues under discussion but denied the IAF was putting any spanners.

"So there are issues in terms of some of the options being discussed and those are issues we're internally discussing. I would not like to go to the media and describe what my concerns are, what the Air Force has said or what somebody else has said. But these are all methods of deliberations, these are all issues to be deliberated upon to get it right. It's not the issue of putting spanners. Absolutely not. If I have come to the



Chief of Defence Staff General Bipin Rawat (left) and Chief of the Air Staff Air Chief Marshal Rakesh Kumar Singh Bhadauria. Source: PTI

media, it doesn't mean we're the ones putting spanners. Out of question," Air Chief Marshal RKS Bhadauria said.

He said the IAF is totally committed to the theatre command. "But we must get it right. And that's the focus area with which we're doing all our deliberations," Air Chief Marshal RKS Bhadauria said.

"I will not go into listing my concerns before the media. There is a proposal. That's there. There are issues that need to be discussed," he said.

Earlier, during his interview with India Today TV, General Bipin Rawat had said, "Do not forget the IAF continues to remain a supporting arm just as artillery support or engineers support the combatant arm in the Army. They will be a supporting arm."

General Bipin Rawat said that the Air Force is responsible for the air defence of the entire country, but along with it, it was also mandated to provide close air support to land forces when they undertook operations. Source: India Today

## WB Post-Poll Violence: Ruckus in assembly interrupts Guv's speech

**KOLKATA (TIP):** Amid ruckus created by the MLAs of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), which is the Opposition in West Bengal, Governor Jagdeep Dhankhar on Friday, 2 July, was compelled to cut his inaugural address to the new Assembly short.

The ruckus created by the BJP was over the reported post-poll violence in West Bengal.

News agency PTI cited Assembly sources as claiming that on being unable to speak, Dhankhar tabled his speech in the House and left. The governor was reportedly escorted by Speaker Biman Banerjee and Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee as he left the Assembly premises.

Later during the day, Leader of the Opposition Suvendu Adhikari told the press that the BJP legislators were forced to protest as there was no mention of post-poll violence in the speech copy circulated among the MLAs.

### 'STATE IS IN DENIAL': HC ORDERS POLICE TO REGISTER ALL CASES

Saying that "the state is in denial mode," a special five-judge bench of the Calcutta High Court headed by Justice Rajesh Bindal on Friday, added that the administration had been caught "on the wrong foot".

Meanwhile, according to ANI, the high court ordered the West Bengal police to register all cases of post-poll violence in the state. The state government, on its part, was asked to ensure medical treatment of all victims, as well as ration for the affected, including those without ration cards. Further, a show cause notice was issued to DCP Jadavpur, Rashid Munir Khan IPS, asking him to explain why contempt of court proceedings should not be initiated against him after the NHRC team was attacked in Jadavpur.

Multiple instances of violence, loot, and plunder have been reported across West Bengal since 2 May, after the results for the Legislative Assembly elections were declared and the Trinamool Congress (TMC) came back to power with a massive majority.

## Rafale deal: French judge to probe corruption allegations in sale to India

**NEW DELHI (TIP):**

A French judge has been appointed to lead a judicial probe into the alleged "corruption and favouritism" in the 7.8 billion euros (approx Rs 59,000 crore) worth

Rafael deal with India for the sale of 36 Dassault-built fighter jets. The financial crimes branch of the French public prosecution services (PNF) has said that the investigation will look into allegations of corruption and favouritism in the pact for 36 fighter planes between the Indian government and French aircraft manufacturer Dassault.

French publication Mediapart on Friday, July 2, reported that the criminal investigation, formally opened on June 14, will be led by an independent magistrate "who will, among other elements, examine questions surrounding the actions of former French president François Hollande.

"The highly sensitive probe into the inter-governmental deal signed in 2016 was formally opened on June 14, Mediapart reported.

Former French president Hollande was in office when the Rafale deal was inked, and current French president Emmanuel Macron, who was at the time Hollande's economy and finance minister.

The development came following a series of investigations done by Mediapart and a subsequent complaint filed by the French NGO Sherpa. A similar complaint filed earlier by Sherpa was rejected by the PNF in 2018. Source: India Today





## 'Mind the gap': Rahul targets Centre over vaccination rate

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi once again took a shot at the central government on Saturday, July 3, over the coronavirus disease (Covid-19) vaccination rate in the country. Sharing a cumulative vaccination tracker graphic, Gandhi pointed out that India's actual Covid-19 vaccination rate is 27% below the government's target rate to avoid a potential third wave of the pandemic.

The graphic shared by Rahul Gandhi was sourced from information published by a Delhi-based news organisation. It tracks the actual cumulative vaccination rate in India, said to be 50.8 lakh vaccine doses a day, versus the vaccination rate targetted by the central government to avoid a potential third wave -- 69.5 lakh doses a day. Therefore, the Congress leader said, there is a 27% gap between the actual vaccination rate and the government target.

"Mind the gap!" Rahul Gandhi remarked, sharing the graphic from his official Twitter handle on Saturday.

Gandhi has been a harsh critic of the central government's vaccination policy ever since its inception. He has urged Prime Minister Narendra Modi, on numerous counts, to end the 'shortage' of vaccine doses in the country. On Friday, he questioned the government on vaccine availability and said, "It's July already, yet there are no vaccines."

At least two Union ministers, including health minister Dr. Harsh Vardhan, hit back at the Congress leader over his tweet. The minister, in turn, had asked, "What is Rahul Gandhi's problem Does he not read, Does he not understand?" The minister added that he had a day ago put out "facts" regarding vaccine availability for the month of July. "There is no vaccine for the virus of arrogance and ignorance," he remarked, adding that Congress must think about a "leadership overhaul".

# Govt rushes teams to six states with 36% Covid cases

**NEW DELHI (TIP):** The Indian government has rushed expert teams to six states showing an increase in Covid-19 cases of late, the health ministry said on Friday, and top officials reiterated warnings that the second wave has not receded fully and that states must bring back restrictions if infection or hospitalisation trends cross certain thresholds.

The warnings come at a time when cities have recorded increased rush at markets and places of business as lockdowns are lifted. Friday's announcements identified six states where "localised" pockets are causing concern: Kerala, Arunachal Pradesh, Tripura, Odisha, Chhattisgarh and Manipur.

The six states together accounted for, on average, 36% of the daily cases seen across the country over the seven days to Thursday, with Kerala alone accounting for 26%, or 11,815 new infections a day. The seven-day daily case numbers of the other five states are: Arunachal (279 cases a day), Tripura (389), Odisha (3,184), Chhattisgarh (357), and Manipur (590). As of Thursday night, these six states also accounted for 29% of the 516,378 active cases in the country.

"There are 71 districts that are showing a test positivity rate of over 10%... The second wave is still not over," said Lav Aggarwal, joint secretary, Union health ministry, at a press briefing on Covid-19 on Friday, July 2.

The official added that states have been asked to identify locations where the test positivity rate is above 10% or hospital occupancy is higher than 60%, and implement strict restrictions which should be in place for at least two weeks.

Aggarwal's caution was echoed by Niti Aayog member (Health) VK Paul, who said that outbreaks must now be nipped as soon as possible. "There still are certain problematic districts that are being closely monitored. Expert teams of the health ministry have been deployed in some of these states such as Kerala, Odisha, Manipur, Chhattisgarh,



etc. The pockets of outbreak that are currently visible, those need to be nipped right there as these are in localised pockets at the moment. We do not allow it to spread further," he said.

The teams sent to each state comprise two members -- a clinician and a public health expert. They will assess the overall management of Covid-19, particularly testing, surveillance and containment operations, and monitor the enforcement of Covid-safe behaviour among the public.

The teams will also assess the Covid-19 vaccination speed and as a whole, suggest remedial actions, the health ministry said.

An analysis of case numbers from the six states identified by the government suggest that as a whole, most of these regions are not particularly logging a resurgence, but that the problem may be in particular districts.

According to the University of Michigan-led COV-IND-19 Study Group, Arunachal Pradesh and Nagaland (not identified as one of the six states), have an effective reproduction number (R) of more than 1 -- which suggests the outbreak in these regions is growing.

No other state reported an R number above 1. Kerala and Maharashtra have an effective R number of 0.97 and 0.96, but the latter has recorded a consistently high test positivity rate of around 10% -- this proportion should be below 5% for an outbreak to be considered under control.

Officials said that of particular concern were some pockets in the northeastern states. "Certain north-eastern states are showing increase in case load and containment is important in these states as there are many hard to reach areas in these states where health care delivery system is not as strong. Therefore, it is important to stop the spread before it grows beyond control," said a senior central government official, who asked not to be named.

Paul said close monitoring is crucial at this stage and the country "cannot lower its guard". "As we are seeing in Europe right now, the disease transmission has started growing again, with cases having dropped to 50 per million at one point, which is now almost double... It is in our control to ensure India doesn't see the third wave," he said.

## Bank fraud: ED attaches assets of Ahmed Patel's son-in-law, Dino Morea

**NEW DELHI (TIP):** The Enforcement Directorate on Friday, June 2, said it has attached assets of late Congress leader Ahmed Patel's son-in-law, actors Dino Morea and Sanjay Khan and DJ Aqeel in a criminal investigation into a money laundering case linked to an alleged bank fraud. The case involves a Gujarat-based pharmaceutical company called Sterling Biotech group and its absconding main promoter brothers, Nitin Sandesara and Chetan Sandesara.

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has alleged that this is a bigger bank scam in volume than that of the Punjab National Bank (PNB) fraud by fugitive diamondaires Nirav Modi and Mehul Choksi, as it involves fraud to the tune of about Rs 16,000 crore.

A consortium of banks led by Andhra

Bank were alleged to have been duped, it said. The amount involved in the PNB case is pegged at about Rs 13,400 crore.

The federal probe agency said four separate provisional orders were issued under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) to attach the assets of the four people which are worth a total Rs 8.79 crore.

Out of this, the value of attachment of assets for Khan is Rs 3 crore, for Dino Morea it is Rs 1.4 crore, for Aqeel Abdulkhalil Bachooali, popularly known as DJ Aqeel, it is Rs 1.98 crore and for Irfan Ahmed Siddiqui, who is Patel's son-in-law, it is Rs 2.41 crore, the central probe agency said in a statement.

It added that the attached properties include three vehicles, several bank accounts, shares and mutual fund.

Siddiqui, Morea (45) and Aqeel (44) have been questioned by the agency in the past in this case. The ED had recorded the statement of Sunil Yadav, an employee of the Sandesara family, where he told the agency that Siddiqui "occupied" a house in Delhi's Vasant Vihar, which reportedly belonged to Chetan Sandesara.

The agency had then said that it has evidence to say that Morea and Aqeel were paid some money in an alleged unauthorised manner by the Gujarat-based pharmaceutical group between 2011-12 when they reportedly attended some family events organised by the Sandesara brothers. While Morea, also a model, has worked in a number of Hindi films, Aqeel is a popular DJ. Aqeel is married to the eldest daughter of veteran actor and director Sanjay Khan (80). Late Ahmed

Patel and his son Faisal were also questioned and their statement was recorded by the ED last year in July in this case.

Patel, after the fourth round of questioning, had told reporters that the ED action was "political vendetta and harassment against me and my family and I do not know under whose pressure they (investigators) are working."

He died on November 25 last year at the age of 71 resulting from complications linked to Covid. The ED statement linked the four to the Sandesara family.

"Investigation by ED revealed that Sandesaras' diverted proceeds of crime of Rs 3 crore, Rs 1.4 crore, Rs 12.54 crore and Rs 3.51 crore to Sanjay Khan, Dino Morea, Aqeel Bachooali and Irfan Ahmed Siddiqui respectively," it alleged.



# India reports 738 more Covid deaths, lowest in 86 days

**NEW DELHI (TIP):** Cases of the coronavirus disease (Covid-19) dipped again on Saturday, July 3, as India recorded 44,111 fresh infections, taking the country's cumulative tally past 30.5 million, the Union health ministry's data showed.

And 738 related fatalities were recorded in the last 24 hours, the lowest in 86 days, according to the Union Health Ministry data, pushing India's death toll to 401,050 so far.

India's active cases of Covid-19 also dropped further by 14,104 in the last 24 hours and settled at 495,533, accounting for 1.67% of total infections.

The country's recovery rate stood at 97.01% on Saturday, as more people were cured of the coronavirus disease and outnumbered the daily new cases for nearly two months.

The health ministry data showed that 34,46,11,291 people have been vaccinated in the country so far, out of which 4,399,298 were vaccinated in the last 24 hours.

Covid-19 cases in India dipped below 50,000 for the first time on June 21 and have since remained stagnant in the bracket of 30,000-50,000. The country has



seen a sharp fall of Covid-19 cases in the second wave after they peaked with 414,188 fresh infections on May 6.

However, experts have cautioned people saying they need to follow Covid

appropriate norms. NITI Aayog member (health) VK Paul said close monitoring is crucial at this stage and the country "cannot lower its guard". "As we are seeing in Europe right now, the disease

transmission has started growing again, with cases having dropped to 50 per million at one point, which is now almost double... It is in our control to ensure India doesn't see the third wave," he said.

Officials on Friday, July 2, said India is vaccinating on average 5 million individuals daily since June 21. This is equivalent to inoculating the entire population of Norway every day and asserted that the process is like a "marathon and not a 100-metre race".

To date, 340 million people or equivalent to the entire population of the US have been vaccinated with at least one dose of the Covid-19 vaccine since the nationwide inoculation drive began on January 16, health ministry joint secretary Lav Agarwal said on Friday in a press briefing.

Responding to the de-acceleration in the rate of inoculation, Agarwal said, "We are in a marathon and not a 100-metre sprint."

Even as the second wave has declined to 1/7th of its peak, officials have abstained from announcing its end. "The second wave of Covid-19 is not over yet," Agarwal said.

## Pregnant women in India now eligible for COVID vaccination

**NEW DELHI (TIP):** Pregnant women in India are now eligible to get vaccinated against Covid with the union health ministry Friday, July 2, giving the approval based on recommendations of the National Technical Advisory Group on Immunization (NTAGI).

The decision empowers pregnant women to make an informed choice on taking the Covid vaccination, the ministry said, adding these women can now register on CoWIN or walk-in to the nearest Covid vaccination centre to get themselves inoculated.

The decision has been communicated to all the states and union territories to implement it under the ongoing National Covid Vaccination Program, it said in a statement.

India's Covid vaccination program incorporates recommendations of the foremost experts in the field of immunization, public health, disease control and information technology.

Based on scientific and epidemiological evidence, the programme gives priority to strengthening the country's healthcare system by protecting the professionals, health and frontline workers, manning it, as well as protecting the most vulnerable population groups, the ministry said.

Till now, all groups except pregnant women were eligible for Covid vaccination. Now, it is expanded to even pregnant women in the world's largest immunization drive, the statement said.

Studies have shown that Covid infection during pregnancy may result in rapid deterioration of health of pregnant women and they are at an increased risk of severe diseases and it might affect fetus too, it said.

Source: PTI

## Bharat Biotech says completed final analysis for Covaxin, claims 77.8% efficacy

**NEW DELHI (TIP):** Hyderabad-based Bharat Biotech on Friday, July 2, said that it has completed the final Phase-3 analysis for Covaxin, its indigenous vaccine against the coronavirus disease (Covid-19). Citing pre-print data from "India's largest efficacy trial", the pharmaceutical claimed that an overall efficacy of 77.8% against symptomatic Covid-19 patients has been found in Covaxin.

Elaborating on its findings from the efficacy analysis, Bharat Biotech added that Covaxin also demonstrates 93.4% effectiveness against severe symptomatic Covid-19 cases. On the other hand, Covaxin provides 65.2% protection against the B.1.617.2 (Delta) strain, currently the most predominant Covid-19 variant in India, it said.

Against asymptomatic Covid-19 patients, Covaxin provides an efficacy of 63.6%, Bharat Biotech said at the conclusion of its Phase-3 efficacy trial.

The Covaxin Phase-3 analysis, published on the medRxiv pre-print server, was reportedly conducted across 25 hospitals in India as trial sites. The large-scale final analysis deployed a double-blind, randomised, multi-center clinical trial, using a sponsor-supplied randomisation scheme where volunteers received two intramuscular doses of either the Covid-19 vaccine or a placebo -- four



weeks apart. It consisted of 25,800 volunteers from the age group of 18 to 98 years, the report said.

The vaccine was approved for emergency use in the Indian population in January, and the Hyderabad-based company had then said it would release phase III data by March. The release was since pushed back on several occasions. It had earlier shared the data with Indian drug regulators, however, the data regarding the multiple analyses had not been released until now.

Earlier, Bharat Biotech's US partner Ocugen had reported similar findings regarding Covaxin, adding that adverse events reported

in the study were low. Only 12.4% of the subjects experienced commonly known side-effects, it said. Both adverse events and severe adverse events reported in the vaccine group were found at similar rates to the placebo group, the company added.

Covaxin, along with the Oxford University-Astrazeneca shot, has been used since the beginning of India's nationwide vaccine drive against the viral disease on January 16. Russia's Sputnik V was given emergency use authorisation (EUA) in April, while US pharmaceutical firm Moderna's mRNA-based vaccine on Tuesday received approval to be used. Source: PTI





**The Four Great Ethical Principles**

**F**riendship with all, sympathizing towards the sick, feeling of profound satisfaction upon recovery and overlooking even those who feel ill towards him, are sufficient to fulfil the ethical requirements of a doctor". (Translated from Sanskrit)

The frontline medical fraternity, not caring for their lives, battled to save lives

of Americans from COVID-19, and made it possible for Americans to feel safe enough to get out and get together and celebrate the Independence Day of America.

**A salute to the medical fraternity.**

**Happy 4th of July.**



**A World Without Childhood Blindness**

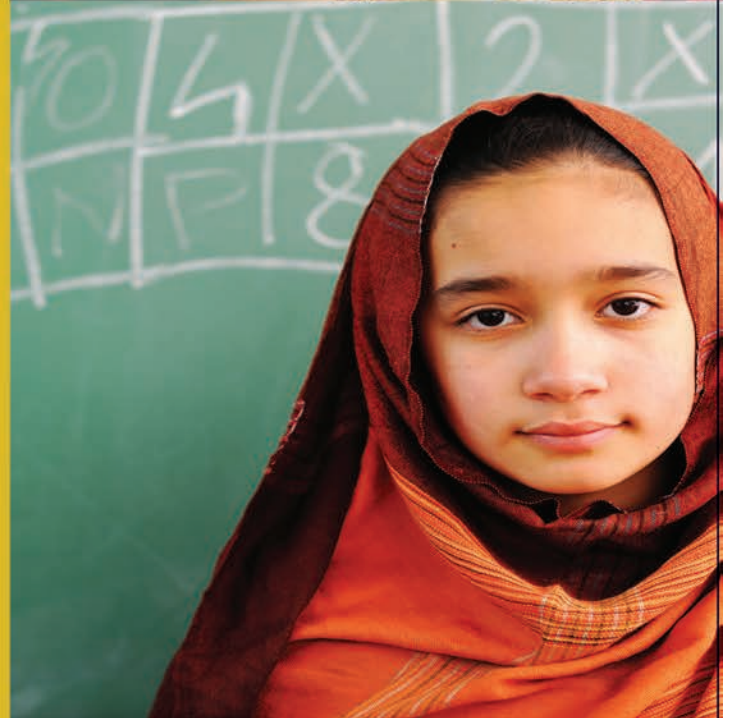
Did you know that 80% of learning happens through vision? It all starts with vision exams. Often, a simple pair of glasses is enough to change the life of a child and allow for 75+ years of productivity. In some cases, children may need sight-saving surgery.

The Eye Foundation of America and Goutami Eye Institute provide all these services free of charge in Andhra Pradesh, India.

**Help save the a child's sight by donating today via PayPal, DonorView, cash, or check.**

LEARN MORE ABOUT THE EYE FOUNDATION OF AMERICA AT [WWW.EYEFUNDATIONOFAMERICA.ORG](http://WWW.EYEFUNDATIONOFAMERICA.ORG)

695 Westview Avenue  
Morgantown, WV 26505  
Non-Profit, Tax Exempt ID# 55-0621735





# Indian American Attorney-General Appointed US Securities and Exchange Commission Director



*Gurbir S Grewal, 48, will become SEC's director of the enforcement division, which regulates financial markets, from July 26*

**NEW YORK (TIP):** Gurbir S Grewal, a prominent Indian-American and the longest-serving Sikh Attorney-General of the US state of New Jersey, is stepping down to take up a key position with the US Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC).

Gurbir S Grewal, 48, will become SEC's director of the enforcement division, which regulates financial markets, from July 26 after serving since January 2018

as the state's top law enforcement officer, the SEC said in a statement on Tuesday, June 29.

"I'm honored and delighted to welcome Attorney General Gurbir S Grewal to the SEC," said Gary Gensler, the SEC Chairman.

"He has had a distinguished career as New Jersey's chief law enforcement officer and as a prosecutor at both the local and federal levels. He has the ideal combination of experience, values, and leadership ability to helm the Enforcement Division at this critical time. I look forward to working closely with him to protect investors and root out wrongdoing in our markets," Gary Gensler said.

Gurbir S Grewal is the second pick for the post since President Joe Biden took office in January.

The commission had tapped attorney Alex Oh to lead the enforcement division in April, but she stepped down only days later for unstated "personal reasons," the NJ.com reported.

"The Enforcement Division has a

critical role to play in finding and punishing violations of the law," said Gurbir S Grewal.

Gurbir S Grewal has been the state's top law enforcement leader for more than three years, the first to hit that mark since the early 1990s, the report added.

As the nation's first Sikh state attorney general, Gurbir S Grewal, and his office have overhauled the rules governing police use of force in New Jersey for the first time in a generation and joined other states to sue the federal government more in three years than the Garden State had in the previous four decades, while simultaneously investigating and prosecuting a range of crimes.

The Attorney General in New Jersey has more direct authority over local police than in any other state, NJ.com noted.

Gurbir S Grewal graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Foreign Service from the Georgetown University School of Foreign Service in 1995. He obtained his law degree from the College of

William & Mary, Marshall-Wythe School of Law in 1999.

New Jersey Governor Murphy, a Democrat who appointed Gurbir S Grewal, in a statement said that he will miss Grewal's leadership.

"Though we'll miss his leadership, I know he's the right person to protect investors all across the nation."

"Through his efforts standing up to the Trump administration's attacks on New Jersey and our diverse communities, instituting historic reforms in policing, and leading the fight against gun violence, Attorney General Gurbir S Grewal has been an invaluable member of our administration," Murphy said in a statement.

"I'm excited to get to work with the talented team of public servants to uncover and prosecute misconduct and protect investors. I thank Governor (Phil) Murphy for the opportunity to serve the people of New Jersey and all of the colleagues with whom I've had the pleasure to work during my career in the state."

## Indian American Abhimanyu Mishra becomes youngest grandmaster in chess history

**NEW JERSEY (TIP):** Abhimanyu Mishra, Indian American teen from New Jersey, has become the world's youngest chess grandmaster breaking Sergey Karjakin's 19-year-old record with a third norm in Budapest on Wednesday, June 30.

Mishra did it at just 12 years, 4 months and 25 days, while Karjakin, who was a world championship challenger to Magnus Carlsen in 2016, had earned his GM title at 12 years, 7 months, ESPN reported.

In chase of the GM title, Abhimanyu and his father Hemant Mishra, a data management professional, who introduced him to chess when he was just two-and-a-half, have been camping in Budapest since April this year.

He earned two norms over two months, and his final norm arrived with a win over Indian GM Leon Mendonca with black pieces at the Vezerkepzo GM mix on Wednesday in what was his final tournament opportunity in the Hungarian capital before he travels to Sochi for the Fide World Cup.

For a grandmaster title, a player must score three GM norms and touch an Elo rating of 2500 and above. The norms can be awarded only in tournaments where at least 50% of the opponents are titleholders, and at least one-third of them GMs. Named after Hindu epic Mahabharata's young hero in strategic warfare who went to battle in the face of certain death, Abhimanyu matches his age with the number of hours he spends daily on chess. He has coaching support in GM Arun Prasad and GM Magesh Chandran, and the months starved of competitions last year due to Covid-19 pandemic have been spent in doubling down in intense training. "Up until now I've been taking the calls, but once he becomes GM, he's free to choose what he wants to do with his life," Hemant told ESPN. "Whether it's the tournaments he plays or if he wants to continue to play chess at all. It'll be his decision."



*Abhimanyu Mishra, 12 years, 4 months and 25 days from New Jersey, has become the world's youngest chess grandmaster*

The 12-year-old himself, of course, is dreaming of being world chess champion one day.

Abhimanyu has made something of a habit of youngest-ever distinctions and currently holds the record for youngest international master.

Soon after he became the highest-rated under-9 player in the world, he was invited by the Kasparov Chess Foundation for a rigorous three-day assessment in November 2018.

He was the youngest of the flock of players who were called, and among the handful picked for the Young Stars program.

It threw open the opportunity to interact, present his games and seek feedback from Kasparov twice a year, apart from individualized training sessions with GM coaches.

"At his age, to have Garry mentor and go over his games is straight out of a dream for any chess player," Hemant was quoted as saying. "There was a parent interview as well, and that was perhaps the best day of my life."

He was granted special permission to be present in the room when Kasparov analyzed Abhimanyu's games, taking copious notes of every remark by the former world champion. Since last year, the pandemic forced a shift of the sessions online.

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

## A 4th of July Cheer: MTA Unveils Next-Generation Subway Cars

**NEW YORK CITY (TIP):** The next generation of subway cars is poised to hit the rails.

MTA unveiled their long-awaited R211 subway cars Thursday, July 1. Officials literally pulled a curtain to reveal the city's first look at what could be a 1,600-car fleet crisscrossing subway lines.

Passenger service with the cars likely won't start until September 2022, said Demetrius Crichlow, executive vice president and COO of New York City Transit.

"We start qualifying and testing within the next few weeks, so if you're lucky you may see them out on the road at some point," he said. Perhaps fittingly for the MTA, the cars experienced myriad delays in arriving.

Kawasaki had promised their delivery more than a year ago but hit problems amid the coronavirus pandemic. Janno Lieber, president of MTA construction and development, said the pandemic also sapped the agency's capital budget.

"I am here to tell you today that we are back on track," he said. "The capital program is alive and well."

MTA will spend \$1.4 billion on its initial order of 535 cars, Crichlow said. Assuming testing goes well, the total order of 1,600 will carry a \$6 billion price tag, Lieber said.

The cars have a host of new features, including cutting edge signal technology that allows them to run faster and more safely between stations, Lieber said.

One feature is decidedly low-tech but will help passengers get on and off the trains faster: wider doors.

Crichlow said the new cars have 58-inch doors, about 8 inches larger than the current fleet's doors.

"This has the potential of reducing our dwell time between 25 and 30 percent at each station," he said.

The cars also include digital display that will provide real-time information about service and stations, new guard rails, brighter LED lighting and state-of-the-art closed-circuit television systems, Crichlow said.



*MTA unveiled the first of its new R211 subway cars on Thursday, July 1 - Photo / Metropolitan Transit Agency*





## **Parker Jewish Institute's Indian Cultural Unit**

A dedicated Indian unit to honor the traditions and culture for residents and families of East and West Indian cultures



- Caring for your Health & Personal Care Needs.
- Staff that Know Your Language & Culture, many of whom speak Hindi, Punjabi, Gujarati, Bengali and others.
- Recreational activities focusing on special festivals.
- Special prayer room in the unit for the residents.
- Traditional Indian vegetarian cuisine served daily.
- Culturally inspired decor on unit, access to Indian newspapers, books and Indian TV channels.



**Parker Jewish Institute**  
HEALTH CARE AND REHABILITATION

**271-11, 76th Avenue,  
New Hyde Park, NY 11040**

For more information:

**1-877-727-5373**  
[www.parkerinstitute.org](http://www.parkerinstitute.org)



# 43rd IALI gala honors Community Builders



*The Awardees*

**GARDEN CITY, NY (TIP):** North America based one of the oldest and biggest nonprofit organizations, the India Association of Long Island (IALI), organized the annual 43rd gala event and proudly dedicated this year's gala ceremony to honor the teachers of the American society.

The esteemed attendees along with Nassau County Executive Laura Curran, Deputy Consulate General of India in New York Shatrughna Sinha, New York State Senator Brian Benjamin, New York State Congresswoman Janifer Rajkumar, Acting Police Commissioner of Suffolk County Stuart K. Cameron, Friends for Good Health Founder Chairman Dr. Bobby K. Kalotee, Chairman & Co-Founder of The South Asian Times Kamlesh C. Mehta, Nassau County Human Rights Commissioner Zahid Syed, IDP USA president Deepak Bansal, others attended the event.

IALI secretary Kuljeet Ahluwalia started the event and a known Indo-American businessman and vice president of IALI Jasbir Jay Singh played the role of Master of ceremonies MC. In her opening remarks, IALI President welcomed all the attendees and presented the remarkable year-long activities of the organization under her leadership.

Addressing the media IALI President Shashi Malik mentioned that IALI dedicated this year's Gala to honor the builders of our society, The Teachers. I am happy our selection committee selected the remarkable teachers, who have been honored today.

In today's gala event eleven teachers were honored in which six of them are teaching the students of the Indo-American community in special classes run by IALI. Knitting and crochet class teacher Chander Kanta, Indian Classical music and harmonium teacher Perry Walia, Punjabi Class teacher JapNeet, Meditation teacher Rajeev Dixit, Hindi Class teacher Sadhvi Ji, and Kids Computer class teacher Shveta were the honorees.

The five other honorees were the First African-American Female Superintendent of the East Ramapo Central School District in Spring Valley, New York, Dr. Deborah L. Wortham. Before IALI honor, Dr. Wortham was also awarded as a public figure in the top 100 Most Influential Educators in New York State 2020. Social Studies teacher with 19 years of service Ilora Majumder-Afzal was second who was honored today evening. Ms. Ilora currently serves as a high school educator in New York City. The third honoree of the evening was Jenine Joslin for her 14 years of service as



*IALI Past Presidents and President Shashi Malik with Nassau County executive Laura curran*



*Speakers at the gala*

a teacher. Ms. Joslin's dedicated services as a babysitter, camp counselor, camp director, and now in the classroom helped a lot of the students to grow.

The fourth awardee was New York City educator Shakila Mumtaz-Roman. She was born and raised in Queens NY into a family of mixed heritage:



*IALI President Shashi Malik addresses the gathering*

Guatemalan and Pakistani. She has serviced students in grades K-12 as a general educator, a Spanish teacher, an ENL teacher, as Language Department Chair; She led local, national, and international trips with students to open their minds and build their experiences.

The fifth honoree of the evening was Music teacher Vincent Guerra. Mr. Guerra is currently teaching the students of Locust Valley Central School District Middle and High School. He has been appointed as a band director with the School District. During his 25 years with the Locust Valley Central School District, Mr. Guerra has helped to facilitate the many band programs within the music department.

Addressing the gathering, Nassau County Executive Laura Curran praised the services and dedication of IALI towards the American Society. Ms. Laura also applauds the IALI's decision to honor the society builders.

Deputy Consulate General of India in New York Shatrughna Sinha also applauded the help of IALI and other Indo- American organizations for their financial and logistic help towards the Indian people during the pandemic. Mr. Sinha also thanked the IALI for the 43 years of promotion and prosperity of Indian culture and heritage by different humanitarian services in the United States of America.

On the occasion, Indo-American Community leader Mohinder Singh Taneja was also honored for his community work, dedication, and tireless services towards Indo-American society.

IALI thanks all the volunteers, supporters, and sponsors; especially grand sponsors of the event, John Paladini and Tahir Ahmed of King of Queens Auto Services Corp. and Dr. Jay Sarkar, for their generous donation support to make this gala event successful. (Press release)



*IALI team with Honorees*



CELEBRATING 16 YEARS OF CUSTOMER SERVICE

*happy*  
**4<sup>TH</sup>**  
*OF*  
*July*

# INDO AMERICAN QUARTZ

**(Leaving No Stone Unturned)**

**THE ONE STOP  
DESTINATION  
FOR ALL YOUR  
STONE NEEDS**



## CONVENIENTLY LOCATED IN THE NORTH OF NEW JERSEY

**Just 7 Minute drive from  
the commercial capital  
of the World, Manhattan**

**Completely covered  
88,000 Sq. ft.  
Warehouse**

**In house Inventory  
of over  
12,000 slabs**

**Over 300  
colors to  
choose from**

**Extensive collection  
of exotic stones  
from 16 different countries**

**Fleet of trucks  
to assure  
timely deliveries**

# INDO AMERICAN QUARTZ

DISTRIBUTORS OF NATURAL & ARTIFICIAL STONES

4-24 Sellers Street, Kearny, NJ 07032

Phone: 201-955-9181 Fax: 201-955-9185

[www.indoamericanstone.com](http://www.indoamericanstone.com), [info@indoamericanstone.com](mailto:info@indoamericanstone.com)

CELEBRATING 16 YEARS OF CUSTOMER SERVICE

CELEBRATING 16 YEARS OF CUSTOMER SERVICE

CELEBRATING 16 YEARS OF CUSTOMER SERVICE



## MAKING OF A DEMOCRACY

# America celebrates Independence Day - the 4th of July

American Independence Day is annually celebrated on July 4 and is often known as the Fourth of July. It is the anniversary of the publication of the declaration of independence from Great Britain in 1776. Patriotic displays and family events are organized throughout the United States.

Americans across the country are set to celebrate July 4 -also known as Independence Day or July 4th-this weekend with parades, barbecues and red, white and blue gear. In the nation's capital, President Joe Biden is set to host a group of essential workers and military families on the South Lawn of the White House on Sunday, 4th of July. The National Park Service is also hosting the annual Independence Day fireworks celebration on the National Mall.

The Fourth of July has been a federal holiday in the United States since 1941, but the tradition of Independence Day celebrations goes back to the 18th century and the American Revolution. On July 2nd, 1776, the Continental Congress voted in favor of independence, and two days later delegates from the 13 colonies adopted the Declaration of Independence, a historic document drafted by Thomas Jefferson.

## A History of Independence Day

When the initial battles in the Revolutionary War broke out in April 1775, few colonists desired complete independence from Great Britain, and those who did were considered radical.

By the middle of the following year, however, many more colonists had come to favor independence, thanks to growing hostility against Britain and the spread of revolutionary sentiments such as those expressed in the bestselling pamphlet "Common Sense," published by Thomas Paine in early 1776.

On June 7, when the Continental Congress met at the Pennsylvania State House (later Independence Hall) in Philadelphia, the Virginia delegate Richard Henry Lee introduced a motion calling for the colonies' independence.

Amid heated debate, Congress postponed the vote on Lee's resolution, but appointed a five-man committee-including Thomas Jefferson of Virginia, John Adams of Massachusetts, Roger Sherman of Connecticut, Benjamin Franklin of Pennsylvania and Robert R. Livingston of New York-to draft a formal statement justifying the break with Great Britain.

On July 2nd, the Continental Congress voted in favor of Lee's resolution for independence in a near-unanimous vote (the New York delegation abstained, but later voted affirmatively). On that day, John Adams wrote to his wife Abigail that July 2 "will be celebrated, by succeeding Generations, as the great anniversary Festival" and that the celebration should include "Pomp and Parade...Games, Sports, Guns, Bells, Bonfires and Illuminations from one End of this Continent to the other."

On July 4th, the Continental Congress formally adopted the Declaration of



Independence, which had been written largely by Jefferson. Though the vote for actual independence took place on July 2nd, from then on, the 4th became the day that was celebrated as the birth of American independence.

## Early celebrations

In the pre-Revolutionary years, colonists had held annual celebrations of the king's birthday, which traditionally included the

ringing of bells, bonfires, processions and speechmaking. By contrast, during the summer of 1776 some colonists celebrated the birth of independence by holding mock funerals for King George III as a way of symbolizing the end of the monarchy's hold on America and the triumph of liberty.

Festivities including concerts, bonfires, parades and the firing of cannons and muskets usually accompanied the first

public readings of the Declaration of Independence, beginning immediately after its adoption. Philadelphia held the first annual commemoration of independence on July 4, 1777, while Congress was still occupied with the ongoing war.

George Washington issued double rations of rum to all his soldiers to mark the anniversary of independence in 1778, and in 1781, several months before the key American victory at the Battle of Yorktown, Massachusetts became the first state to make July 4th an official state holiday.

After the Revolutionary War, Americans continued to commemorate Independence Day every year, in celebrations that allowed the new nation's emerging political leaders to address citizens and create a feeling of unity. By the last decade of the 18th century, the two major political parties-the Federalist Party and Democratic-Republicans-that had arisen began holding separate Fourth of July celebrations in many large cities.

## Fourth of July fireworks

The first fireworks were used as early as 200 BC. The tradition of setting off fireworks on the 4 of July began in Philadelphia on July 4, 1777, during the first organized celebration of Independence Day. Ship's cannon fired a 13-gun salute in honor of the 13 colonies. The Pennsylvania Evening Post reported: "at night there was a grand exhibition of fireworks (which began and concluded with thirteen rockets) on the Commons, and the city was beautifully illuminated." That same night, the Sons of Liberty set off fireworks over Boston Common.

## Federal holiday

The tradition of patriotic celebration became even more widespread after the War of 1812, in which the United States again faced Great Britain. In 1870, the U.S. Congress made July 4th a federal holiday; in 1941, the provision was expanded to grant a paid holiday to all federal employees.

Over the years, the political importance of the holiday would decline, but Independence Day remained an important national holiday and a symbol of patriotism.

Falling in mid-summer, the Fourth of July has since the late 19th century become a major focus of leisure activities and a common occasion for family get-togethers, often involving fireworks and outdoor barbecues. The most common symbol of the holiday is the American flag, and a common musical accompaniment is "The Star-Spangled Banner," the national anthem of the United States.



## MAKING OF A DEMOCRACY

# The Founding Fathers

**These military leaders, rebels, politicians and writers varied in personality, status and background, but all played a part in forming a new nation and hammering out the framework for the young democracy**

Without them, there would have been no United States of America. The Founding Fathers, a group of predominantly wealthy plantation owners and businessmen, united 13 disparate colonies, fought for independence from Britain and penned a series of influential governing documents that steer the country to this day.

All the Founding Fathers, including the first four U.S. presidents, at one point considered themselves British subjects. But they revolted against the restrictive rule of King George III—outlining their grievances in the Declaration of Independence, a powerful call for freedom and equality—and won a stunning military victory over what was then the world's preeminent superpower.

The Founders proved equally adept later on in peacetime. When the federal government tottered under the Articles of Confederation, prominent citizens met anew to hammer out the U.S. Constitution, overcoming major areas of disagreement between large and small states and Southern and Northern ones to form a stable political system. Showing foresight, they included a Bill of Rights, which enshrined many civil liberties into law and provided a blueprint for other emerging democracies.

There's no official consensus on who should be considered a Founding Father, and some historians object to the term altogether. On the whole, though, it's applied to those leaders who initiated the Revolutionary War and framed the Constitution. Here are eight of the most influential characters in America's origin story:

## George Washington



Before he fought against the British, George Washington fought for the British, serving as a commander in the French and Indian War. A prosperous Virginia farmer who owned hundreds of slaves, he came to resent the various taxes and restrictions being imposed on the colonies by the British crown.

Once the Revolutionary War broke out in 1775, he was placed in charge of the Continental Army and quickly suffered a near-disastrous defeat at the Battle of Brooklyn. More defeats followed—all in all, Washington lost more battles than he won. Nonetheless, he kept his ragtag troops together even through a freezing winter at Valley Forge and, with the help of his French allies, was able to expel the British by 1783.

Washington then returned to Virginia intent on resuming his career as a farmer. But he was persuaded to re-enter politics as head of the Constitutional Convention in Philadelphia, believing that a stronger federal government was

needed to preserve the nation. In 1789, Washington was overwhelmingly elected the first president of the United States. He is aptly known as the "Father of His Country."

## Alexander Hamilton



A poor, illegitimate orphan, Alexander Hamilton emigrated as a teenager from the British West Indies to New York. Rising to prominence as an aide-de-camp to Washington during the Revolutionary War, he became an impassioned supporter of a strong central government.

After attending the Constitutional Convention in 1787, he wrote the majority of the highly persuasive Federalist Papers, which argued for the Constitution's ratification. Washington then tapped him to serve as the first U.S. treasury secretary, a position he used to push for the creation of a national bank. Later immortalized on the \$10 bill, Hamilton was killed in an 1804 duel with his bitter rival Aaron Burr, the sitting vice president.

## Benjamin Franklin



Early America's foremost Renaissance man, Benjamin Franklin was a skilled author, printer, scientist, inventor and diplomat despite a formal education that ended at age 10.

When not designing bifocals, harnessing electricity, playing music or publishing Poor Richard's Almanack, he worked constantly on civic projects to improve his adopted city of Philadelphia.

In the beginning stages of the American Revolution, Franklin was appointed to the five-member committee that drafted the Declaration of Independence. He then traveled to France, where he secured French assistance for the war effort and helped negotiate the 1783 Treaty of Paris, the official end to the conflict. Just prior to his death, Franklin served as a sort of elder statesman at the Constitutional Convention.

## John Adams

A distinguished Massachusetts lawyer, John Adams became a relatively early proponent of the revolutionary cause. Just like Franklin, he served on the committee that wrote the Declaration of Independence, journeyed overseas to secure French military aid and helped negotiate the Treaty of Paris. He chaired other key committees as well and even found time to draft the Massachusetts Constitution (which is still in use).



After about 10 years of diplomatic service abroad, Adams returned home in 1788 and subsequently became vice president under Washington. Following Washington's two terms, he was then elected president, serving from 1797 to 1801. In a striking coincidence, Adams and his friend-turned-rival-turned-friend Thomas Jefferson both died on the same day, July 4, 1826, the 50th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence.

## Samuel Adams



The second cousin of John Adams, Samuel Adams was a political firebrand who drummed up immense opposition to British policies in Boston, a hotbed of the resistance. Believing that the colonists were subject to "taxation without representation," he joined the Sons of Liberty, an underground dissident group that at times resorted to tarring and feathering British loyalists.

Adams likely planned the 1773 Boston Tea Party, and in 1775 his attempted arrest helped spark the Battles of Lexington and Concord, the first skirmish of the Revolutionary War. Unlike many of the Founders, Adams was staunchly anti-slavery. He signed the Declaration of Independence and went on to serve as governor of Massachusetts.

## Thomas Jefferson



Well educated and prosperous, Thomas Jefferson was a Virginia lawyer and politician who came to believe the British Parliament held no authority over the 13 colonies.

In 1776, he was given the immense task of writing the Declaration of Independence, in which he famously declared that "all men are created equal" and "that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights," such as "life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness." (A lifelong slaveholder, he did not extend these concepts to African-Americans.)

As secretary of state under Washington, Jefferson clashed constantly with Hamilton over foreign policy and the role of government. He later served as vice president to John Adams prior to becoming president himself, in 1801.

## James Madison

A close friend of Jefferson's, James



Madison likewise grew up on a Virginia plantation and served in the state legislature. At the 1787 Constitutional Convention, he proved to be perhaps the most influential delegate, developing a plan to divide the federal government into three branches—legislative, executive and judicial—each with checks on its power. This plan, which was largely adopted, earned him the moniker "Father of the Constitution."

Madison next co-authored the Federalist Papers and, as a U.S. congressman, became the driving force behind the Bill of Rights. He was elected president in 1808 after serving as Jefferson's secretary of state.

## John Jay



Not nearly as recognized as his major Founder cohorts, John Jay nonetheless played a pivotal role in the creation of the United States. A lawyer, he originally preferred reconciling with Britain rather than fighting for independence. Once war broke out, however, he wholeheartedly joined the side of the colonists, serving, among other roles, as a diplomat to Spain and linking up with Franklin and Adams to negotiate the Treaty of Paris.

Upon returning to the United States, Jay served as secretary of foreign affairs under the Articles of Confederation and authored a few of the Federalist Papers. In 1789, he became the first chief justice of the U.S. Supreme Court, and six years later he was elected governor of New York.

## Additional Founders

Many other figures have also been cited as Founding Fathers (or Mothers). These include John Hancock, best known for his flashy signature on the Declaration of Independence; Gouverneur Morris, who wrote much of the Constitution; Thomas Paine, the British-born author of Common Sense; Paul Revere, a Boston silversmith whose "midnight ride" warned of approaching redcoats; George Mason, who helped craft the Constitution but ultimately refused to sign it; Charles Carroll, the lone Catholic to sign the Declaration of Independence; Patrick Henry, who famously declared "Give me liberty, or give me death!"; John Marshall, a Revolutionary War veteran and longtime chief justice of the Supreme Court; and Abigail Adams, who implored her husband, John, to "remember the ladies" while shaping the new country.

Source: History.com



## MAKING OF A DEMOCRACY

## Columbus discovers the land

Americans get a day off work on October 12 to celebrate Columbus Day. It's an annual holiday that commemorates the day on October 12, 1492, when the Italian explorer Christopher Columbus officially set foot in the Americas, and claimed the land for Spain. It has been a national holiday in the United States since 1937.

It is commonly said that "Columbus discovered America." It would be more accurate, perhaps, to say that he introduced the Americas to Western Europe during his four voyages to the region between 1492 and 1502. It's also safe to say that he paved the way for the massive influx of western Europeans that would ultimately form several new nations including the United States, Canada and Mexico. But to say he "discovered" America is a bit of a misnomer because there were plenty of people already here when he arrived.

### European colonization

The invasion of the North American continent and its peoples began with the Spanish in 1565 at St. Augustine, Florida. Then came British in 1587 when the Plymouth Company established a settlement that they dubbed Roanoke in present-day Virginia. This first settlement failed mysteriously and in 1606, the London Company established a presence in what would become Jamestown, Virginia. From there, the French founded Quebec in 1608, then the Dutch started a colony in present-



The First Landing of Christopher Columbus (1450-1506) in America.

day New York. While Native Americans resisted European efforts to amass land and power during this period, they struggled to do so while also fighting new diseases introduced by the Europeans and the slave trade.

### English, French, and Spanish colonies

The history of colonial North America centers primarily around the struggle of England, France, and Spain to gain control of the continent. Settlers crossed the Atlantic for different reasons, and their governments took different

approaches to their colonizing efforts. These differences created both advantages and disadvantages that profoundly affected the New World's fate.

France and Spain, for instance, were governed by autocratic sovereigns whose rule was absolute; their colonists went to America as servants of the Crown.

The English colonists, on the other hand, enjoyed far more freedom and were able to govern themselves as long as they followed English law and were loyal to the king. In addition, unlike France and Spain, England encouraged immigration from other nations, thus boosting its colonial population.

By 1763 the English had established dominance in North America, having defeated France and Spain in the French and Indian War. However, those regions that had been colonized by the French or Spanish would retain national characteristics that linger to this day.

### Massacre of native Indians

In "An American Genocide, The United States and the California Catastrophe, 1846-1873", historian Benjamin Madley recorded the numbers of killings of California Indians between 1846 and 1873. He found evidence that during this period, at least 9,400 to 16,000 California Indians were killed by non-Indians.

### African blacks brought in as slaves

Hundreds of thousands of Africans, both free and enslaved, aided the establishment and survival of colonies in the Americas and the New World. However, many consider a significant starting point to slavery in America to be 1619, when the privateer The White Lion brought 20 African slaves ashore in the British colony of Jamestown, Virginia. The crew had seized the Africans from the Portuguese slave ship Sao Jao Bautista.

Throughout the 17th century, European settlers in North America turned to enslaved Africans as a cheaper, more plentiful labor source than indentured servants, who were mostly poor Europeans.

On July 16, 1969, Apollo 11 blasted off from Kennedy Space Center in Florida. This spacecraft would take 3 American astronauts to the Moon, landing 2 on its surface and return all 3 safely to Earth, less than a decade after the first manned space flight. The US and Americans have achieved many great things, and here is a list 10 of them. Not all significant inventions or achievements are necessarily for humanitarian purposes, some of them are for war. Some, like DDT and the polio vaccines saved millions of lives.

### The Internet, 1985

Although no official opening date exists, the Internet was an American concept actually put forth by the US Government in the 1960's, interlinking thousands of public and private computer and communication systems, going into effect in the mid-1980's. During the first few years, almost all Internet use was by government and academic users, with the 1990's seeing enormous expansion in use by businesses and private individuals. About 100 times more people use the Internet today than in 1995 and well over 90% of US classrooms have Internet access. Al Gore did not invent the Internet, nor did he say he did, but he and others were advocates that made it happen.

### Cell Phones, 1973

First shown to the world in 1973 by American television and radio manufacturer, Motorola, the cell phone has become a worldwide device that makes

## Historic achievements

communications in most civilized places oh so easy. It is hard to even remember what teenagers did before this invention.

### Machine Guns, 1862, 1884

Dr. Gatling invented his hand cranked multi-barrel gun in time for limited use during the Civil War, and his guns were still in service until 1911. Hiram Maxim, born in Maine, immigrated to England at age 41 and perfected his automatic machine gun, the first modern such weapon, which was used from then until the 1950's. The Maxim Gun is the basis for other machine guns that have followed.

### Panama Canal, 1914

A project that dwarfed the problems in building the Suez Canal (or any other canal), the US accomplished what the French could not, and provided easy access between the Atlantic and Pacific. Facing incredible engineering obstacles and especially disease, this US achievement accommodates close to 15,000 ships passing through per year and is approaching its millionth customer. The canal and canal zone were turned over to Panama on December 31, 1999. Modifications to accommodate much larger ships are being undertaken at this time.

### Modern Submarine, 1900

Invented by John Holland, an Irish-American who sold his idea to the US

Navy, which commissioned their first submarine, the USS Holland in 1900. Other attempts at undersea craft go back a few hundred years, including the US Turtle and the CSS Hunley, but these were limited range hand powered craft. In the 19th Century attempts were made at producing steam powered subs, but no practical model appeared until Holland invented a sub that ran on a gasoline internal combustion engine on the surface and on powerful electric batteries and motors under water. Unfortunately, Holland was allowed to sell his designs to other countries and the US Navy failed at a big chance to have a monopoly on modern submarines.

### Trans-Oceanic Cable Communication, 1858

American Cyrus West Field masterminded the massive project of laying a telegraph cable from North America to Europe, producing the first trans-Atlantic electronic communication, featuring a message between Queen Victoria (United Kingdom) and President Buchanan (US). An improved version was completed in 1866, and later telephone and other electronic data transmission cables were laid across other oceans as well as the Atlantic. Before this project, communication from Europe to North America took 10 days by boat, but with the cable it would take only a few minutes.

### First Nuclear Reactor, 1942

Built in Chicago as part of the Manhattan Project, Chicago Pile-1 became the first man-made nuclear reactor with a controllable self-sustaining nuclear reaction. This led to the production of nuclear electricity producing plants, a potential source of energy for humankind without burning fossil fuels, if only we could design and supervise enough safety measures into such plants.

### Model T Ford, 1908

Built from 1908 to 1927 this was not the first practical car, but it was the first mass produced practical car that normal people could afford, costing as low as \$260. At one point in the 1920's, almost half the cars in the world were Model T Fords, truly the car that put the masses behind the steering wheel. 15 million were built.

### First in Flight, 1903

Many inventors around the world were working on controlled, powered, manned flight projects, but the Wright brothers from Ohio were the first to make it reality. Unfortunately, they also invented the airplane crash fatality.

### Men on the Moon, 1969

The US moon landing in 1969 and subsequent lunar forays made the US not only the first to the moon, but also the only country ever to accomplish a manned moon landing. The Apollo program also provided some really neat photography.

Source: History and Headlines



## MAKING OF A DEMOCRACY

## Constitution of the United States of America

Constitution of the United States of America is the fundamental law of the U.S. federal system of government and a landmark document of the Western world. The oldest written national constitution in use, the Constitution defines the principal organs of government and their jurisdictions and the basic rights of citizens.

**Constitutional Convention**

The Constitution was written during the summer of 1787 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, by 55 delegates to a Constitutional Convention that was called ostensibly to amend the Articles of Confederation (1781-89), the country's first written constitution. The Constitution was the product of political compromise after long and often rancorous debates over issues such as states' rights, representation, and slavery. Delegates from small and large states disagreed over whether the number of representatives in the new federal legislature should be the same for each state-as was the case under the Articles of Confederation-or different depending on a state's population. In addition, some delegates from Northern states sought to abolish slavery or, failing that, to make representation dependent on the size of a state's free population. At the same time, some Southern delegates threatened to abandon the convention if their demands to keep slavery and the slave trade legal and to count slaves for representation purposes were not met. Eventually the framers resolved their disputes by adopting a proposal put forward by the Connecticut delegation. The Great Compromise, as it came to be known, created a bicameral legislature with a Senate, in which all states would be equally represented, and a House of Representatives, in which representation would be apportioned on the basis of a state's free population plus three-fifths of its enslaved population. (The inclusion of the enslaved population was known separately as the three-fifths compromise.) A further compromise on slavery prohibited Congress from banning the importation of enslaved people until 1808 (Article I, Section 9). After all the disagreements were bridged, the new Constitution was signed by 39 delegates on September 17, 1787, and it was submitted for ratification to the 13 states on September 28.

In 1787-88, in an effort to persuade New York to ratify the Constitution, Alexander Hamilton, John Jay, and James Madison published a series of essays on the Constitution and republican government in New York newspapers. Their work, written under the pseudonym "Publius" and collected and published in book form as *The Federalist* (1788), became a classic exposition and defense of the Constitution. In June 1788, after the Constitution had been ratified by nine states (as required by Article VII), Congress set March 4, 1789, as the date for the new government to commence proceedings (the first elections under the Constitution were held late in 1788). Because ratification in many states was



Thomas P Rossiter Signing the Constitution.

contingent on the promised addition of a Bill of Rights, Congress proposed 12 amendments in September 1789; 10 were ratified by the states, and their adoption was certified on December 15, 1791. (One of the original 12 proposed amendments, which prohibited midterm changes in compensation for members of Congress, was ratified in 1992 as the Twenty-seventh Amendment. The last one, concerning the ratio of citizens per member of the House of Representatives, has never been adopted.)

The authors of the Constitution were heavily influenced by the country's experience under the Articles of Confederation, which had attempted to retain as much independence and sovereignty for the states as possible and to assign to the central government only those nationally important functions that the states could not handle individually. But the events of the years 1781 to 1787, including the national government's inability to act during Shays's Rebellion (1786-87) in Massachusetts, showed that the Articles were unworkable because they deprived the national government of many essential powers, including direct taxation and the ability to regulate interstate commerce. It was hoped that the new Constitution would remedy this problem.

The framers of the Constitution were especially concerned with limiting the power of government and securing the liberty of citizens. The doctrine of legislative, executive, and judicial

separation of powers, the checks and balances of each branch against the others, and the explicit guarantees of individual liberty were all designed to strike a balance between authority and liberty-the central purpose of American constitutional law.

**Civil liberties and the Bill of Rights**

The federal government is obliged by many constitutional provisions to respect the individual citizen's basic rights. Some civil liberties were specified in the original document, notably in the provisions guaranteeing the writ of habeas corpus and trial by jury in criminal cases (Article III, Section 2) and forbidding bills of attainder and ex post facto laws (Article I, Section 9). But the most significant limitations to government's power over the individual were added in 1791 in the Bill of Rights. The Constitution's First Amendment guarantees the rights of conscience, such as freedom of religion, speech, and the press, and the right of peaceful assembly and petition. Other guarantees in the Bill of Rights require fair procedures for persons accused of a crime-such as protection against unreasonable search and seizure, compulsory self-incrimination, double jeopardy, and excessive bail-and guarantees of a speedy and public trial by a local, impartial jury before an impartial judge and representation by counsel. Rights of private property are also guaranteed. Although the Bill of Rights is a broad expression of individual civil liberties, the ambiguous

wording of many of its provisions-such as the Second Amendment's right "to keep and bear arms" and the Eighth Amendment's prohibition of "cruel and unusual punishments"-has been a source of constitutional controversy and intense political debate. Further, the rights guaranteed are not absolute, and there has been considerable disagreement about the extent to which they limit governmental authority. The Bill of Rights originally protected citizens only from the national government. For example, although the Constitution prohibited the establishment of an official religion at the national level, the official state-supported religion of Massachusetts was Congregationalism until 1833. Thus, individual citizens had to look to state constitutions for protection of their rights against state governments.

**The Fourteenth Amendment**

After the American Civil War, three new constitutional amendments were adopted: the Thirteenth (1865), which abolished slavery; the Fourteenth (1868), which granted citizenship to those who had been enslaved; and the Fifteenth (1870), which guaranteed formerly enslaved men the right to vote. The Fourteenth Amendment placed an important federal limitation on the states by forbidding them to deny to any person "life, liberty, or property, without due process of law" and guaranteeing every person within a state's jurisdiction "the equal protection of its laws." Later interpretations by the Supreme Court in the 20th century gave these two clauses added significance. In *Gitlow v. New York* (1925), the due process clause was interpreted by the Supreme Court to broaden the applicability of the Bill of Rights' protection of speech to the states, holding both levels of government to the same constitutional standard. During subsequent decades, the Supreme Court selectively applied the due process clause to protect from state infringement other rights and liberties guaranteed in the Bill of Rights, a process known as "selective incorporation." Those rights and liberties included freedom of religion and of the press and the right to a fair trial, including the right to an impartial judge and to the assistance of counsel. Most controversial were the Supreme Court's use of the due process clause to ground an implicit right of privacy in *Roe v. Wade* (1973), which led to the nationwide legalization of abortion, and its selective incorporation of the Second Amendment's right to "keep and bear arms" in *McDonald v. Chicago* (2010).

The Supreme Court applied the equal protection clause of the Fourteenth Amendment in its landmark decision in *Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka* (1954), in which it ruled that racial segregation in public schools was unconstitutional. In the 1960s and '70s the equal protection clause was used by the Supreme Court to extend protections to other areas, including zoning laws, voting rights, and gender discrimination. The broad interpretation of this clause has also caused considerable controversy.



## MAKING OF A DEMOCRACY

## America's involvement in World Wars

World War I was the deadliest conflict until that point in human history, claiming tens of millions of casualties on all sides. Under President Woodrow Wilson, the United States remained neutral until 1917 and then entered the war on the side of the Allied powers (the United Kingdom, France, and Russia).

President Woodrow Wilson sought to maintain US neutrality but was ultimately unable to keep the United States out of the war, largely because of escalating German aggression. On May 7, 1915, the Germans sunk the British ocean liner RMS Lusitania, which had over a hundred Americans on board. Wilson warned that the United States would not permit unrestricted submarine warfare or any further violations of international law.

In January 1917, the Germans resumed submarine warfare. A few days after this announcement, the Wilson administration obtained a copy of the Zimmermann Telegram, which urged Mexico to join the war effort on the side of Germany and pledged that in the event of a German victory, the territories of Arizona, Texas, and New Mexico would be stripped from the United States and returned to Mexico. The publication of the Zimmermann Telegram and the escalation of German submarine attacks on US merchant vessels led the US Congress to declare war on Germany on April 6, 1917.

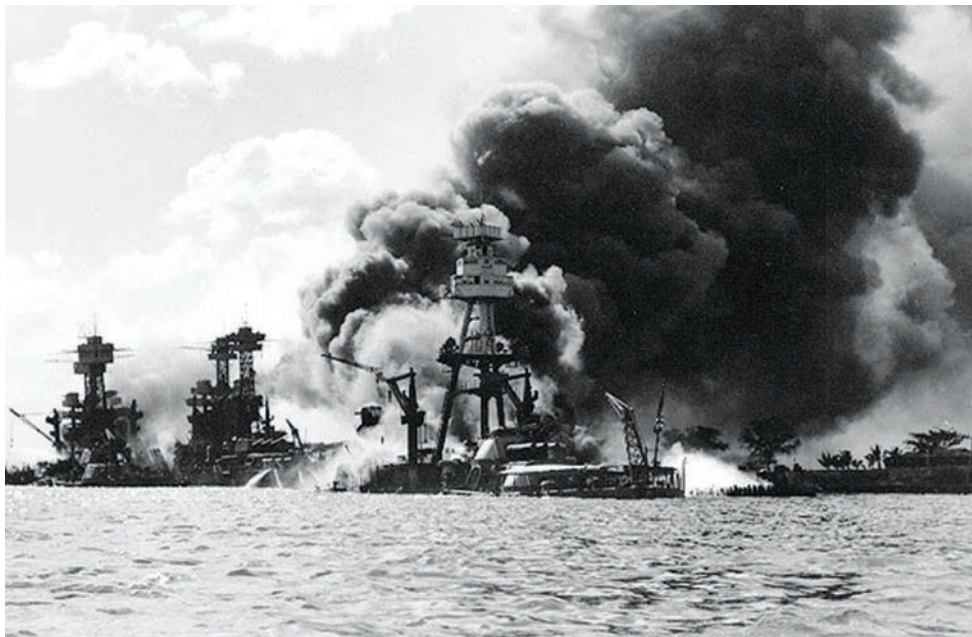
More than 1.3 million men and twenty thousand women enlisted in the armed forces. Though some Americans opposed US entry into the war, many believed they had a civic duty to support the war effort. US government propaganda sought to mobilize the American citizenry through appeals to patriotism and civic duty, and by linking US democracy with support for the democracies of Western Europe.

The Selective Service Act of 1917 authorized the conscription of military manpower for the war effort so that the United States did not have to rely solely on volunteers. Because many American citizens believed it was their patriotic duty to support the war effort, the draft was well-received and rates of draft-dodging were relatively low.

The First World War had an enormous impact on US politics, culture, and society. Advocates of female suffrage successfully linked the patriotic efforts of women in the war with voting rights. This strategy was highly effective, and in 1920, the US Congress ratified the Nineteenth Amendment, which guaranteed women the right to vote.

Others were not so lucky. Hypervigilance on the home front led to spontaneous outbreaks of violence against groups whose loyalty to the United States was considered suspect. German-Americans, labor activists, suffragists, immigrants, African Americans, and socialists were subjected to threats, harassment, imprisonment, and physical violence.

At the same time, civil liberties were sharply curtailed. The Espionage Act of 1917 and the Sedition Act of 1918 criminalized the expression of antiwar sentiment and criticism of the US government and armed forces. Voluntary



The Attack on Pearl Harbor.

associations were created to identify dissidents, and many of these worked together with the Federal Bureau of Investigation to patrol the home front and punish perceived "enemies."

### America and World War II

When events began happening in Europe that would eventually lead to World War II, many Americans took an increasingly hard line toward getting involved. The events of World War I had fed into the United States' natural desire of isolationism, and this was reflected by the passage of Neutrality Acts and the general hands-off approach to the events that unfolded on the world stage.

America's isolation from war ended on December 7, 1941, when Japan staged a surprise attack on American military installations in the Pacific. The most devastating strike came at Pearl Harbor, the Hawaiian naval base where much of the US Pacific Fleet was moored. In a two-hour attack, Japanese warplanes sank or damaged 18 warships and destroyed 164 aircraft. Over 2,400 servicemen and civilians lost their lives.

Though stunned by the events of December 7, Americans were also resolute. On December 8, President Roosevelt asked Congress to declare war against Japan. The declaration passed with just one dissenting vote. Three days later, Germany and Italy, allied with Japan, declared war on the United States. America was now drawn into a global war. It had allies in this fight—most importantly Great Britain and the Soviet Union. But the job the nation faced in December 1941 was formidable.

The United States faced a mammoth job in December 1941. Ill-equipped and wounded, the nation was at war with three formidable adversaries. It had to prepare to fight on two distant and very different fronts, Europe and the Pacific. America needed to quickly raise, train, and outfit a vast military force. At the same time, it had to find a way to provide material aid to its hard-pressed allies in Great Britain and the Soviet Union.

The military history of the United States in World War II covers the war against the Axis Powers, starting with

the 7 December 1941 attack on Pearl Harbor. During the first two years of World War II, the United States had maintained formal neutrality as made official in the Quarantine Speech delivered by US President Franklin D. Roosevelt in 1937, while supplying Britain, the Soviet Union, and China with war material through the Lend-Lease Act which was signed into law on 11 March 1941, as well as deploying the US military to replace the British forces stationed in Iceland.

Following the "Greer incident" Roosevelt publicly confirmed the "shoot on sight" order on 11 September 1941, effectively declaring naval war on Germany and Italy in the Battle of the Atlantic. In the Pacific Theater, there was unofficial early US combat activity such as the Flying Tigers.

During the war some 16,112,566 Americans served in the United States Armed Forces, with 405,399 killed and 671,278 wounded. There were also 130,201 American prisoners of war, of whom 116,129 returned home after the war.

Key civilian advisors to President Roosevelt included Secretary of War Henry L. Stimson, who mobilized the nation's industries and induction centers to supply the Army, commanded by General George Marshall and the Army Air Forces under General Hap Arnold. The Navy, led by Secretary of the Navy Frank Knox and Admiral Ernest King, proved more autonomous. Overall priorities were set by Roosevelt and the Joint Chiefs of Staff, chaired by William Leahy. The highest priority was the defeat of Germany in Europe, but first the war against Japan in the Pacific was more urgent after the sinking of the main battleship fleet at Pearl Harbor.

Admiral King put Admiral Chester W. Nimitz, based in Hawaii, in charge of the Pacific War against Japan. The Imperial Japanese Navy had the advantage, taking the Philippines as well as British and Dutch possessions, and threatening Australia but in June 1942, its main carriers were sunk during the Battle of Midway, and the Americans seized the initiative. The Pacific War became one of island hopping, so as to move air bases closer and closer to Japan. The Army,

based in Australia under General Douglas MacArthur, steadily advanced across New Guinea to the Philippines, with plans to invade the Japanese home islands in late 1945. With its merchant fleet sunk by American submarines, Japan ran short of aviation gasoline and fuel oil, as the US Navy in June 1944 captured islands within bombing range of the Japanese home islands. Strategic bombing directed by General Curtis Lemay destroyed all the major Japanese cities, as the US captured Okinawa after heavy losses in spring 1945. With the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, the Soviet invasion of Manchuria, and an invasion of the home islands imminent, Japan surrendered.

The war in Europe involved aid to Britain, her allies, and the Soviet Union, with the US supplying munitions until it could ready an invasion force. US forces were first tested to a limited degree in the North African Campaign and then employed more significantly with British Forces in Italy in 1943-45, where US forces, representing about a third of the Allied forces deployed, bogged down after Italy surrendered and the Germans took over. Finally, the main invasion of France took place in June 1944, under General Dwight D. Eisenhower. Meanwhile, the US Army Air Forces and the British Royal Air Force engaged in the area bombardment of German cities and systematically targeted German transportation links and synthetic oil plants, as it knocked out what was left of the Luftwaffe post Battle of Britain in 1944. Being invaded from all sides, it became clear that Germany would lose the war. Berlin fell to the Soviets in May 1945, and with Adolf Hitler dead, the Germans surrendered.

The military effort was strongly supported by civilians on the home front, who provided the military personnel, the munitions, the money, and the morale to fight the war to victory. World War II cost the United States an estimated \$341 billion in 1945 dollars - equivalent to 74% of America's GDP and expenditures during the war. In 2020 dollars, the war cost over \$4.9 trillion.

### Creation of NATO

The North Atlantic Alliance was founded in the aftermath of the Second World War. Its purpose was to secure peace in Europe, to promote cooperation among its members and to guard their freedom - all of this in the context of countering the threat posed at the time by the Soviet Union. The Alliance's founding treaty was signed in Washington in 1949 by a dozen European and North American countries. It commits the Allies to democracy, individual liberty and the rule of law, as well as to peaceful resolution of disputes. Importantly, the treaty sets out the idea of collective defense, meaning that an attack against one Ally is considered as an attack against all Allies. The North Atlantic Treaty Organization - or NATO - ensures that the security of its European member countries is inseparably linked to that of its North American member countries. The Organization also provides a unique forum for dialogue and cooperation across the Atlantic.



## MAKING OF A DEMOCRACY

## America's involvement in conflicts

## Vietnam War

The involvement of the United States in the Vietnam War began after World War II and escalated into full commitment during the Vietnam War from 1955 to 1973. The U.S. involvement in South Vietnam stemmed from a combination of factors: France's long colonial history in French Indochina, the U.S. war with Japan in the Pacific, and both Joseph Stalin and Mao Zedong's pledge in 1950 to support Ho Chi Minh and the Viet Minh's guerrilla forces.

Related to this, the U.S. was adamantly against providing any aid to France that would in any way prop up France's struggle to maintain its pre-WWII colonial empire. However, Stalin and Mao's offering their support to the Viet Minh in 1950, changed the battlefield dynamic and geopolitical character of the struggle to one of a global conflict against Maoist and Stalinist expansionism. It was at the time, in September 1950, that French forces began to be moderately backed by America.

Beginning with US\$10M worth of military supplies, President Harry S. Truman from that initial support provided progressively increasing amounts of financial and military assistance to French forces fighting in what was still in the minds of the Western powers French Indochina. Beginning in 1950, U.S. involvement increased from just assisting French coalition forces to providing direct military assistance to the associated states (Annam, Tonkin, Laos, and Cambodia).

Eventually, U.S. missions were carried out at a more consistent rate by sending increasing amounts of military assistance from the United States. Their main intent was to restrict Communist expansion in Indochina as they thought it would soon lead to Communist takeovers in Thailand, Laos, Malaya, and all of what later became Vietnam. This would have resulted in a change in balance of power throughout Asia. The U.S. foreign policy establishment saw the U.S.'s national security and Western Europe's interests being marginalized due to the rise of this Communist expansion, and thus it strived to restrict it. Under Truman, the support went from \$10M in September 1950 to \$150M by the end of 1951. The struggle passed from Truman to Eisenhower, who saw the fall of French Indochina, and in 1961 the Eisenhower administration passed the conflict to Kennedy. In May 1961, Kennedy sent 500 more military advisers, bringing American forces there to 1,400. With the budget increased and with American boot on the ground in Vietnam by at least 1961, these actions came to be questioned by other segments of the U.S. government and among the people of the United States.

Ultimately, estimates of the number of Vietnamese soldiers and civilians killed vary from 966,000 to 3,812,000. 2017 records report that the conflict resulted in 58,318 U.S. fatalities.

## Cuba (The Spanish - American War)

The Spanish-American War (April 21 - August 13, 1898) was an armed conflict



U.S. Marines at a landing zone in Vietnam on December 1969.



The Spanish - American War



The first Allied troops landed in North Russia in 1918, while the last to leave (celebrating above) finally departed Vladivostok in 1920.

between Spain and the United States. Hostilities began in the aftermath of the internal explosion of USS Maine in Havana Harbor in Cuba, leading to U.S. intervention in the Cuban War of Independence. The war led to the U.S. emerging predominant in the Caribbean region and resulted in U.S. acquisition of Spain's Pacific possessions. That led to U.S. involvement in the Philippine Revolution and later to the Philippine-American War.

The main issue was Cuban

independence. Revolts had been occurring for some years in Cuba against Spanish colonial rule. The U.S. backed these revolts upon entering the Spanish-American War. There had been war scares before, as in the Virginius Affair in 1873. But in the late 1890s, American public opinion swayed in support of the rebellion due to reports of concentration camps (death estimates range from 150,000 to 400,000 people) set up to control the populace.

The business community had just

recovered from a deep depression and feared that a war would reverse the gains. Accordingly, most business interests lobbied vigorously against going to war. President William McKinley ignored the exaggerated news reporting and sought a peaceful settlement. However, after the United States Navy armored cruiser Maine mysteriously exploded and sank in Havana Harbor on February 15, 1898, political pressures from the Democratic Party pushed McKinley into a war that he had wished to avoid.

On April 20, 1898, McKinley signed a joint Congressional resolution demanding Spanish withdrawal and authorizing the President to use military force to help Cuba gain independence. In response, Spain severed diplomatic relations with the United States on April 21. On the same day, the U.S. Navy began a blockade of Cuba. Both sides declared war; neither had allies.

The 10-week war was fought in both the Caribbean and the Pacific. As U.S. agitators for war well knew, U.S. naval power would prove decisive, allowing expeditionary forces to disembark in Cuba against a Spanish garrison already facing nationwide Cuban insurgent attacks and further wasted by yellow fever. The invaders obtained the surrender of Santiago de Cuba and Manila despite the good performance of some Spanish infantry units, and fierce fighting for positions such as San Juan Hill. Madrid sued for peace after two Spanish squadrons were sunk in the battles of Santiago de Cuba and Manila Bay, and a third, more modern fleet was recalled home to protect the Spanish coasts.

The result was the 1898 Treaty of Paris, negotiated on terms favorable to the U.S. which allowed it temporary control of Cuba and ceded ownership of Puerto Rico, Guam, and the Philippine islands. The cession of the Philippines involved payment of \$20 million (\$620 million today) to Spain by the U.S. to cover infrastructure owned by Spain.

The defeat and loss of the Spanish Empire's last remnants was a profound shock to Spain's national psyche and provoked a thorough philosophical and artistic reevaluation of Spanish society known as the Generation of '98. The United States gained several island possessions spanning the globe, which provoked rancorous debate over the wisdom of expansionism.

## Cold war

The Cold War was a period of geopolitical tension between the United States and the Soviet Union and their respective allies, the Western Bloc and the Eastern Bloc, which began following World War II. Historians do not fully agree on its starting and ending points, but the period is generally considered to span the 1947 Truman Doctrine (12 March 1947) to the 1991 Dissolution of the Soviet Union (26 December 1991). The term "cold" is used because there was no large-scale fighting directly between the two superpowers, but they each supported major regional conflicts known as proxy

Continued on Page 30



## MAKING OF A DEMOCRACY

## From Page 30

wars. The conflict was based around the ideological and geopolitical struggle for global influence by these two superpowers, following their temporary alliance and victory against Nazi Germany in 1945. Aside from the nuclear arsenal development and conventional military deployment, the struggle for dominance was expressed via indirect means such as psychological warfare, propaganda campaigns, espionage, far-reaching embargoes, rivalry at sports events and technological competitions such as the Space Race.

The Western Bloc was led by the United States as well as the other First World nations of the Western Bloc that were generally liberal democratic but tied to a network of the authoritarian states, most of which were their former colonies. The Eastern Bloc was led by the Soviet Union and its Communist Party, which had an influence across the Second World. The US government supported right-wing governments and uprisings across the world, while the Soviet government funded communist parties and revolutions around the world. As nearly all the colonial states achieved independence in the period 1945-1960, they became Third World battlefields in the Cold War.

The first phase of the Cold War began shortly after the end of the Second World War in 1945. The United States created the NATO military alliance in 1949 in the apprehension of a Soviet attack and termed their global policy against Soviet influence containment. The Soviet Union formed the Warsaw Pact in 1955 in response to NATO. Major crises of this phase included the 1948-49 Berlin Blockade, the 1927-1950 Chinese Civil War, the 1950-1953 Korean War, the 1956 Hungarian Revolution, the 1956 Suez Crisis, the Berlin Crisis of 1961 and the 1962 Cuban Missile Crisis. The USA and the USSR competed for influence in Latin America, the Middle East, and the decolonizing states of Africa and Asia.

Following the Cuban Missile Crisis, a new phase began that saw the Sino-Soviet split between China and the Soviet Union complicate relations within the Communist sphere, while US ally France began to demand greater autonomy of action. The USSR invaded Czechoslovakia to suppress the 1968 Prague Spring, while the US experienced internal turmoil from the civil rights movement and opposition to the Vietnam War. In the 1960s-70s, an international peace movement took root among citizens around the world. Movements against nuclear arms testing and for nuclear disarmament took place, with large anti-war protests. By the 1970s, both sides had started making allowances for peace and security, ushering in a period of détente that saw the Strategic Arms Limitation Talks and the US opening relations with the People's Republic of China as a strategic counterweight to the USSR.

Détente collapsed at the end of the decade with the beginning of the Soviet-Afghan War in 1979. The early 1980s was another period of elevated tension. The United States increased diplomatic, military, and economic pressures on the Soviet Union, at a time when it was already suffering from economic stagnation. In the mid-1980s, the new



A convoy of U.S. armored vehicles patrols the northeastern town of Qahtaniyah, Syria, on Oct. 31, 2019. Source: AFP/GETTY IMAGES

Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev introduced the liberalizing reforms of glasnost ("openness", c. 1985) and perestroika ("reorganization", 1987) and ended Soviet involvement in Afghanistan. Pressures for national sovereignty grew stronger in Eastern Europe, and Gorbachev refused to militarily support their governments any longer.

In 1989, the fall of the Iron Curtain after the Pan-European Picnic and a peaceful wave of revolutions (with the exception of Romania and Afghanistan) overthrew almost all communist governments of the Eastern Bloc. The Communist Party of the Soviet Union itself lost control in the Soviet Union and was banned following an abortive coup attempt in August 1991. This in turn led to the formal dissolution of the USSR in December 1991, the declaration of independence of its constituent republics and the collapse of communist governments across much of Africa and Asia. The United States was left as the world's only superpower.

The Cold War and its events have left a significant legacy. It is often referred to in popular culture, especially with themes of espionage and the threat of nuclear warfare.

### Endless wars in the Middle East

The Iraqi invasion of Kuwait on August 2, 1990 marked the beginning of America's "endless wars" in the Middle East. Before that point, American combat operations in the region had been

generally temporary and short-term. President George H.W. Bush wanted to continue that pattern when he responded forcefully and appropriately to Iraq's aggression, but it did not work out that way. Four presidents since have discovered it's hard to get home.

Americans fought the Nazis in North Africa in World War II, but the first combat operation in the Middle East proper did not come until July 18, 1958, when President Dwight Eisenhower sent Marines ashore in Beirut, Lebanon. Operation Blue Bat was prompted by a coup, not in Lebanon but in Iraq. On July 17, 1958, the Iraqi army overthrew the most pro-Western government in the Middle East, the Hashemite monarchy that then ruled both Iraq and Jordan. King Faisal II and his family were brutally murdered.

The normally cautious Ike panicked and sent the Marines to Beirut to prop up a Maronite Christian president facing a popular revolt against his effort to get a second and unconstitutional term in office. President Eisenhower was worried that the whole region was about to fall into the hands of the charismatic Egyptian President Gamal Abdel Nasser, hailed throughout the Arab world as an anti-colonialist who was routing the forces of Western imperialism. Nasser was a Soviet proxy, Ike believed, but he had not been behind the coup in Baghdad. In fact, Nasser was as surprised as Eisenhower.

On the ground, the heavily armed Marines rushing ashore were met by vendors selling Coca-Cola and girls sunning in bikinis. It was a bit of a farce,

but it was also extremely dangerous and could have turned into a quagmire. Fortunately, cooler heads in the American Embassy prevailed and made a deal with the opposition, and then Washington backed down. Another Maronite was selected president and the civil war ended peacefully. Only one American soldier died in combat, and after 102 days ashore the Marines left Lebanon.

The next combat operation also involved fears of Nasserism and the Russians. Egypt and the Soviets intervened in Yemen in 1962 to support a republican coup against a monarchy. Saudi Arabia and Jordan backed the royalists against Egypt and civil war ensued. The Egyptians bombed royalist camps in Saudi Arabia, and King Faisal appealed to John F. Kennedy for help.

JFK sent the United States Air Force to protect the Saudis in mid-1963. Operation Hard Surface lasted six months. U.S. Air Force jets flew combat air patrols along the border with Yemen. No actual combat took place, as Nasser did not want to take on the Americans and Kennedy did not want a war.

In the years after 1964, American combat operations in the region were usually short-lived. Americans did lose troops. Thirty-four crewmen were killed on June 8, 1967 when Israel attacked the USS Liberty. Two hundred and forty-one Marines and sailors died back in Beirut on October 23, 1983, when Ronald Reagan foolishly intervened in another Lebanese civil war. Reagan then wisely pulled out of Lebanon.

Reagan got involved in the region's longest modern conventional war, the Iran-Iraq war in the 1980s. After Iraq attacked the USS Stark in May 1987, killing 34 sailors, the Reagan administration blamed Iran for the war. The U.S. Navy fought an undeclared naval war in the Persian Gulf for over a year against the Iranians. It ended when Iran and Iraq accepted a ceasefire. The navy largely left the Gulf, leaving only a small base in Bahrain. In 1990, that was the only American military base in the Middle East outside Turkey.

The Iran-Iraq war cost Iraq a fortune, including tens of billions in loans from Kuwait and Saudi Arabia.

Bush and his National Security Advisor Brent Scowcroft created a coalition to fight Iraq that included dozens of countries with major troop contributions from Britain and France in particular, as well as Egypt and Syria. Over a half-million American troops were deployed to the Gulf. More went to Israel after the war began and Saddam fired his Scuds at Israel.

Bush tried to avoid an open-ended war. He wisely did not invade Iraq after the liberation of Kuwait, but he created a no-fly zone in northern Iraq, Operation Provide Comfort, that led to years of combat patrols over Iraq. The northern zone was extended to include another no-fly zone in the south, Operation Southern Watch, to protect Iraqi Shiites and keep the Iraqis away from Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, at least in the air. Thankfully, no Americans were shot down by the Iraqis, although tragically two American helicopters were shot down over Kurdistan on April 14, 1994 by Air Force jets, killing 26 Americans on board.

Continued on Page 31



## MAKING OF A DEMOCRACY

### From Page 30

August 1990 was a turning point for Americans. Bush did the right thing, but as ever in war there were unanticipated consequences to the use of force. President Barack Obama and his Vice President Joe Biden tried to get out of Iraq but were drawn back in by ISIS. President Donald Trump talked about leaving the endless wars, but actually put more troops on the ground, including sending them back into Saudi Arabia after Americans left the kingdom in 2005. Washington has discovered getting in is easy, getting out is seemingly impossible.

### The U.S. War in Afghanistan

Afghanistan emerged as a significant U.S. foreign policy concern in 2001, when the United States, in response to the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, led a military campaign against Al Qaeda and the Afghan Taliban government that harbored and supported it. In the intervening 19 years, the United States has suffered over 22,000 military casualties (including around 2,400 fatalities) in Afghanistan and Congress has appropriated approximately \$144 billion for reconstruction and security forces there.

In that time, an elected Afghan government has replaced the Taliban; improvement in most measures of human development is limited; and future prospects of gains remain mixed. The United States and its international partners are removing their military forces from Afghanistan as part of a withdrawal announced by President Biden on April 14, 2021, heralding a possible end to the nearly two-decade U.S. military presence in the country. In a February 2020 agreement with the Taliban, the Trump Administration had committed to withdrawing military forces by May 2021, in return for which the Taliban committed to preventing other groups, including Al Qaeda, from using Afghan soil to recruit, train, or fundraise towards activities that threaten the United States or its allies. U.S. officials contend that the Taliban have not fulfilled their commitments, as violence between the Taliban and Afghan government has increased and Taliban links with Al Qaeda remain in place, according to United Nations sanctions monitors.

Afghan government representatives were not participants in U.S.-Taliban talks, leading some observers to conclude that the United States would prioritize a military withdrawal over securing a political settlement that preserves some of the social, political, and humanitarian gains made since 2001. After months of delays, on September 12, 2020, Afghan government and Taliban representatives officially met in Doha, Qatar, to begin their first direct peace negotiations toward such a settlement, a significant moment with potentially dramatic implications for the course of the ongoing Afghan conflict. Talks between the two sides continue but have not made substantial progress and remain complicated by a number of factors.

In light of the stalling of intra-Afghan talks, the United States appears to have intensified its efforts to broker an intra-Afghan agreement. The United States reportedly produced a draft peace agreement to "jumpstart" negotiations



A U.S. soldier during a firefight near Sirkankel, Afghanistan, March 2002. Source: AP



A B-52 drops a load of bombs in Afghanistan.



The compound where al Qaeda leader Osama bin Laden was killed in Abbottabad, Pakistan. Source: Reuters

that includes a variety of options, including the establishment of an interim "transitional" government, which Afghan President Ashraf Ghani has rejected. The culmination of these efforts was to be a senior-level Afghan conference in Turkey planned for April 2021, but the Taliban refused to attend and continue to reject participating in such a meeting. Observers speculate about what kind of political arrangement, if any, could satisfy both the elected Afghan government and the

Taliban, who have not specified in detail their vision for Afghanistan's future beyond creating an "Islamic government."

Afghan officials have sought to downplay the impact of the U.S. military withdrawal on their own forces' capabilities, but some official U.S. assessments indicate that the withdrawal could lead to Taliban gains on the battlefield. By many measures, the Taliban are in a stronger position now than at any point since 2001,

controlling as much as half of the country. Future changes in political arrangements and/or in the security environment may in turn influence U.S. policymakers' consideration of future levels and conditions of development assistance. It is unclear to what extent, if at all, the prospect of continued U.S. assistance to Afghanistan (which remains one of the world's poorest countries) represents leverage over the Taliban.

### Killing of Osama bin Laden

Osama bin Laden, the founder and first leader of the Islamist militant group al-Qaeda, was killed in Pakistan on May 2, 2011, by United States Navy SEALs of the U.S. Naval Special Warfare Development Group.

The operation, code-named Operation Neptune Spear, was carried out in a CIA-led operation with Joint Special Operations Command, commonly known as JSOC, coordinating the Special Mission Units involved in the raid. In addition to SEAL Team Six, participating units under JSOC included the 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment (Airborne)-also known as "Night Stalkers"-and operators from the CIA's Special Activities Division, which recruits heavily from former JSOC Special Mission Units. The operation ended a nearly 10-year search for bin Laden, following his role in the September 11 attacks on the United States.

The raid on bin Laden's compound in Abbottabad, Pakistan, was launched from Afghanistan. U.S. military officials said that after the raid U.S. forces took the body of bin Laden to Afghanistan for identification, then buried it at sea within 24 hours of his death in accordance with Islamic tradition.

Al-Qaeda confirmed the death on May 6 with posts made on militant websites, vowing to avenge the killing. Other Pakistani militant groups, including the Tehrik-i-Taliban Pakistan, vowed retaliation against the U.S. and against Pakistan for not preventing the operation.

The raid, supported by over 90% of the American public, was welcomed by the United Nations, NATO, the European Union and a large number of governments, but was condemned by others, including two-thirds of the Pakistani public. Legal and ethical aspects of the killing, such as his not being taken alive despite being unarmed, were questioned by others, including Amnesty International. Also controversial was the decision not to release any photographic or DNA evidence of bin Laden's death to the public.

In the aftermath of the killing, Pakistani Prime Minister Yousaf Raza Gillani formed a commission under Senior Justice Javed Iqbal to investigate the circumstances surrounding the attack. The resulting Abbottabad Commission Report, which revealed Pakistani state military and intelligence authorities' "collective failure" that enabled bin Laden to hide in Pakistan for nine years, was leaked to Al Jazeera on July 8, 2013.

In an interview in 2019, Pakistani prime minister Imran Khan claimed that Pakistani intelligence led the CIA to Osama bin Laden.



## MAKING OF A DEMOCRACY

## How 9/11 Changed America?

Before September 11, 2001, the United States wasn't officially engaged in any wars. Few Americans had ever heard of al-Qaeda or Osama bin Laden, and ISIS didn't even exist.

The US deported half the number of people it does today. American surveillance state was a fraction of its current size. And - perhaps hardest to believe - Americans didn't have to take off their shoes to go through airport security.

America's involvement in the War on Terror - prompted by the 9/11 terrorist attacks - resulted in a dramatic change in American nation's attitudes and concerns about safety, vigilance and privacy.

It ushered in a new generation of policies like the USA Patriot Act, prioritizing national security and defense, often at the expense of civil liberties.

These changes continue to have ripple effects across the globe, particularly in the Middle East, where American-led military operations helped foment rebellions and ongoing warfare throughout the region.

Below are four of the many dramatic impacts - nationwide and in California - resulting from the events of that one tragic day.

### Ongoing Wars

Less than a month after 9/11, U.S. troops invaded Afghanistan in an attempt to dismantle al-Qaeda - the terrorist group that claimed responsibility for the attacks - and remove the Taliban government harboring it. Two years later, in March 2003, the United States invaded Iraq and deposed President Saddam Hussein. Although not directly linked to the terrorist attacks, Hussein was suspected of producing weapons of mass destruction (none were ever found). The invasion was a key part of America's newly launched War on Terror, under the leadership of President George W. Bush.

American military involvement in Afghanistan, which continues today, has turned into the longest-running war in U.S. history. And although formal U.S. combat operations ended in late 2014, more than 8,000 U.S. troops are still there to stem the ongoing Taliban insurgency. In August 2017, President Trump announced his intention to boost troop levels in the region in response to deteriorating security conditions.

In December 2011, remaining U.S. troops were pulled out of Iraq, leaving that nation in a far more volatile state than when military operations first began in 2003. But as the Islamic State extremist - which sprouted from the chaos of war - continues to terrorize the region, the U.S. has resumed intermittent air strikes.

In 2002, the Bush Administration also opened the Guantanamo Bay detention center in Cuba, where it began sending suspected enemy combatants. Held indefinitely, prisoners were denied access to trials or legal representation, and were subject to brutal interrogation techniques. There were more than 650 foreign inmates at the facility by 2003.

Critics have long pushed to shut down the Guantanamo facility, calling it a gross violation of basic human rights and a stain on America's image abroad. And although early in his first term, Obama vowed to



September 11, 2001, 19 militants associated with the terrorist group al-Qaeda hijacked four planes in the United States, crashing three into buildings (the fourth crashed in Pennsylvania) and killing some 3,000 people.

close it - and significantly reduced the population (there are only 41 inmates remaining) - he failed to completely shut it down. Guantanamo remains operational, and President Trump vowed to begin refilling it with foreign-born prisoners.

After 9/11, budgets for defense-related agencies skyrocketed: Homeland Security's discretionary budget jumped from about \$16 billion in 2002 to more than \$43 billion in 2011. Meanwhile, the budgets of the Coast Guard, Transportation Security Administration and Border Patrol have all more than doubled since 2001.

In the last 15 years, millions of young U.S. soldiers have been deployed overseas, thousands have been killed and many have returned home with debilitating physical and mental injuries.

According to U.S. Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, roughly 3.1 million Americans entered military service between 2001 and 2011, and nearly 2 million were deployed to Afghanistan or Iraq. In that time, more than 6,000 American troops have been killed, and roughly 44,000 wounded. Of returning service members, more than 18 percent have post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) or depression, and almost 20 percent reported suffering from the effects of traumatic brain injury (TBI).

### Immigration and Deportation

The Bush Administration created the Department of Homeland Security in 2002, a cabinet-level office that merged 22 government agencies. The Immigration and Naturalization Service and the U.S.

Customs Service -- both formerly part of the Department of Justice -- were consolidated into the newly formed U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). The agency has overseen a massive increase in deportations; they have nearly doubled since 9/11.

According to the Department of Homeland Security's Yearbook of Immigration Statistics, there were roughly 200,000 annual deportations a year between 1999 and 2001. While that number dropped slightly in 2002, it began to steadily climb the following year. In the first two years of the Obama Administration (2009 - 2010), deportations hit a record high: nearly 400,000 annually. About half of those deported during that period were convicted of a criminal offense, although mostly low-level, non-violent crimes.

The Secure Communities program, established in 2008 and officially phased out in 2014, allowed local law enforcement to check the immigration status of every person booked in a county or local jail -- even if not ultimately convicted of a crime -- by comparing fingerprints against federal immigration records. The program resulted in numerous instances of undocumented immigrants entering deportation proceedings after being stopped for minor infractions (like not using a turn signal while driving).

By 2014, when Obama announced plans to phase out the program, ICE had established Secure Communities partnerships with every single law

enforcement jurisdiction in the nation (all 3,181 of them).

### At airports

Long airport lines, full body scans, the occasional pat-down (for the lucky ones). It's all part of the course when one flies these days. But not so long ago, it wasn't unusual to show up at the airport a half-hour before a domestic flight, keep one's shoes tied tight, and skip through the metal detector while sipping a Big Gulp, all without ever having to show an ID.

Before the advent of color-coded security threat warnings, pat downs were rare, liquids were allowed, and the notion of having to go through full-body scanners was the stuff of science fiction. Heck, prior to 9/11, some airport security teams even allowed passengers to take box cutters aboard (the supposed weapon used by the 9/11 hijackers). Any knife with a blade up to four inches long was permitted. And cigarette lighters? No problem!

In the wake of the terrorist attacks, airport security underwent a series of major overhauls. And a service that was once largely provided by private companies is now primarily overseen by the massive Transportation Security Administration.

Created in the wake of the 9/11 attacks, the TSA is tasked with instituting new security procedures and managing screenings at every commercial airport checkpoint in the country (although, private contractors still operate at some airports). It marks the single largest federal start-up since the days of World War II. The agency is authorized to refer to watch lists of individuals who could pose flight safety risks.

Although advocates argue that the changes have made air travel safer, the additional security steps have also tacked on a significant amount of travel time for the average passenger, while sometimes infringing on privacy rights and, in many instances, increasing scrutiny of minority travelers, particularly those of Middle Eastern descent.

### Big surveillance

The U.S. intelligence state boomed in the wake of 9/11. The growth resulted in a marked increase in government oversight, primarily through a vast, clandestine network of phone and web surveillance.

Classified documents that were leaked in 2013 by former government contractor Edward Snowden detail the expansion of a colossal surveillance state that's seeped into the lives of millions of ordinary Americans. The exponential growth of this apparatus -- armed with a \$52.6 billion budget in 2013 -- was brought to light when the Washington Post obtained a "black budget" report from Snowden, detailing the bureaucratic and operational landscape of the 16 spy agencies and more than 107,000 employees that now make up the U.S. intelligence community.

Further audits reveal that the National Security Agency alone has annually scooped up as many as 56,000 emails and other communications by Americans with no connection to terrorism, and in doing so, had violated privacy laws thousands of times per year. *Source: Kqed.org*



## MAKING OF A DEMOCRACY

# America as the world leader

With the world's most powerful military, a huge economy, and a leading role in international institutions such as the UN and NATO, the USA is a superpower

## Economic influence

The United States of America is the world's foremost economic and military power. It has the third largest population in the world (331,449,281) and its economy produces around one quarter of the world's wealth - \$19.485 trillion. Income in 2015 was \$66,080 per capita, one of the highest in the developed world.

The US is home to many entrepreneurs and has created many iconic products which are highly sought after around the world, for example Apple and Facebook.

The US also provides the greatest amount of international aid. Although its percentage contribution to the UN is relatively small - 0.2% of its GDP - this represented over \$30 billion. In addition, private American companies and foundations also donate billions of dollars in aid every year. The U.S. Agency for International Development - USAID is involved in 87 missions around the world, has 3500 partnerships and is allocated 1% of the federal budget.

## Military influence

Militarily, the US remains the world's only superpower. Although the US does not spend the most in the world on defense as a proportion of GDP (3.8%), in absolute terms it spends vastly more than any other country - \$715 billion. Over one third (36%) of the total world's defense spending is by the US alone.

The US has the largest naval fleet in the world. The US carrier fleet dwarfs every other country in the world, particularly in terms of in size and technological hardware. The scale of the US navy allows it to have a military presence anywhere in the world.

## Cultural influence

The USA's cultural influence extends across the world, for example over two billion people speak some English in the world today with the majority speaking an Americanized version of the language. US TV programs, films, video games and music have a large domestic market of more than 300 million customers, in addition to their influence on the rest of the world. The USA also has a social and cultural impact on immediate neighbors such as Mexico and Canada and on North/Central America as a whole.

The USA is a leading member of a number of important international organizations.

## G8 and G20 Group

These groups contain most of the countries in the world with the largest economies. Summits or meetings of the leaders of the G8 countries offer the opportunity for the US and other group members to develop closer economic ties to expand trade. In addition, it allows the US another forum to discuss issues of global concern such as climate change, terrorism or conflict and poverty. In 2014, Russian membership of the G8 was suspended because of its involvement in



*Militarily, the US remains the world's only superpower.*



*The USA is a founding member of the United Nations.*

the crisis in Ukraine. The G20 has similar aims to the G8 but includes an additional 12 members to reflect the growing economic importance of countries such as Brazil, India and Indonesia.

## The United Nations

The USA is a founding member of the United Nations (UN). It is one of the five permanent members (P5) on the UN Security Council, alongside the UK, China, Russia and France. It is the biggest single contributor to the UN budget, providing 22% of its total. The USA contributes 27% of the UN peacekeeping budget.

Although the US is an important member of the UN, the relationship between the two has been strained. The US hosts the UN headquarters in New York and contributes the most of any single country to UN programs but in most years the US has failed to pay its contribution in full. As a permanent member of the UN Security Council, the US has the opportunity to veto any Security Council proposal put forward. Since the Security Council is the part of

the UN responsible for peace making and peacekeeping as well as international sanctions, this gives the US a very influential role.

The US has at times found decision making within the UN Security Council frustrating or time consuming.

On occasions, the US has ignored the UN and its decision-making procedures. For example, the US did not seek UN approval when it decided to invade Iraq in 2003. The US has also consistently backed Israeli actions financially and militarily despite widespread UN and international condemnation. Like many other countries, the US will do what it believes is in its best interests regardless of what the UN or the rest of the world think. However, on most occasions, the US does work within the decision-making processes of the UN Security Council, e.g., leading a response to the crisis in Libya in 2011. More recently, the USA's diplomatic efforts have led to resolving issues in Syria.

## The North Atlantic Treaty Organization

The US has been a member of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) since it was established in 1949. NATO is the largest and most powerful military alliance in the world. In theory, the 28-nation organization is made up of members of equal standing, where each country has one vote in decision making.

The USA is the dominant player within NATO. It contributes far more troops, resources and finances than any other single member of the alliance.

## 2021 Capitol attack

On January 6, 2021, the United States Capitol in Washington, D.C., was stormed during a riot and violent attack against the U.S. Congress. A mob of supporters of President Donald Trump attempted to overturn his defeat in the 2020 presidential election by disrupting the joint session of Congress assembled to count electoral votes to formalize President-elect Joe Biden's victory. The Capitol Complex was locked down and lawmakers and staff were evacuated while rioters occupied and vandalized the building for several hours.

Five people died either shortly before, during, or after the event: one was shot by Capitol Police, one died of a drug overdose, and three succumbed to natural causes. More than 140 people were injured.

## COVID-19 pandemic in the United States

The COVID-19 pandemic in the United States is part of the worldwide pandemic of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19).

34,561,403 confirmed cases have been reported since January 2020, resulting in more than 620,645 deaths, the most of any country, and the twentieth-highest per capita worldwide.

As many infections have gone undetected, the Centers for Disease Control estimated that, as of March 2021, there are a total 114.6 million infections in the United States, or more than a third of the total population. The U.S. has about one-fifth of the world's confirmed cases and deaths. COVID-19 became the third-leading cause of death in the U.S. in 2020, behind heart disease and cancer. U.S. life expectancy dropped from 78.8 years in 2019 to 77.8 years in the first half of 2020.

Notwithstanding the power and position of pre-eminence of America, the nation has been facing on domestic front quite a few problems-the most serious being the problem of racial divide which has a 100-year-old history. The January 6, 2021 attack on the Capitol should be viewed as a manifestation of that racial divide. One hopes, a more just system will soon see an end to the divisive racial divide.

With that hope and faith in the American people to overcome any situation, we wish readers of The Indian Panorama a Happy 4th of July.





## Ahan Shetty to star in Aashiqui 3

Even before the release of his debut film, *Tadap* alongside Tara Sutaria, newcomer Ahan Shetty has bagged a second biggie. The young actor has been signed on for Mahesh Bhatt's franchise *Aashiqui*'s third instalment.

Speaking of this, a source close to the actor revealed, "After the full-on action in *Tadap*, Ahan wanted to prove himself in an emotional romantic theme. *Aashiqui 3* will give him just the vehicle that he needs to prove his versatility."

The source also gave an update on *Tadap* and said, "Ahan has completed his debut film *Tadap* with producer Sajid Nadiadwala. All the work is done. They are waiting for the theatres to open before announcing the date."

There was also rumour of Khan doing a film with Akshay Kumar but this close source squashed the news and said there is no truth to the matter.

# Kareena Kapoor celebrates 21 years in Bollywood

Actor Kareena Kapoor Khan on Wednesday celebrated the 21st anniversary of her debut film *Refugee* by sharing a reel featuring throwback clips and stills with co-star Abhishek Bachchan and director JP Dutta.

Sharing the reel, Kareena wrote, "21 years Grateful, happy, blessed, motivated, passionate... 21 more to go... I'm ready Thank you to everyone for the continuous love and support." The actor's post received a lot of love from her friends in the industry, including best friend Amrita Arora, designer Manish Malhotra and singer Neeti Mohan.

"I remember watching *Refugee*-First day First show," Neeti wrote in the comments section.

*Refugee*, which marked the Bollywood debut of Kareena Kapoor and Abhishek Bachchan, was a cross-border romance set in the aftermath of the formation of Bangladesh in 1971. The film also featured Suniel Shetty, Jackie Shroff, Sudesh Berry, Anupam Kher, Kulbushan Kharbanda and Reena Roy.

While *Refugee* was a moderate success, Kareena earned praise for her screen presence. The actor has since been a part of blockbusters as well as critically-acclaimed films, becoming one of the biggest stars in the country.

Source: *Indian Express*



## Mandira Bedi's filmmaker husband Raj Kaushal dies after cardiac arrest

Filmmaker Raj Kaushal, who made movies such as *Pyaar Mein Kabhie Kabhie* (1999), *Shaadi Ka Ladoo* (2004) and *Anthony Kaun Hai* (2006), died on Wednesday morning after a heart attack.

Kaushal was 49. He is survived by his wife, actor and TV presenter Mandira Bedi and two children.

His last rites were held at the Shivaji Ground crematorium. Among those who attended the funeral were actors Rohit Roy, Ashish Chaudhari and Samir Soni.

Kaushal entered the Hindi film industry with a background in ad copywriting and soon worked as an assistant director with Subhash Ghai and Mukul Anand on films. In the meantime, he also set up his production venture and went on to produce and direct hundreds of ad films with brands such as Nestle, Surf and Hero Honda.

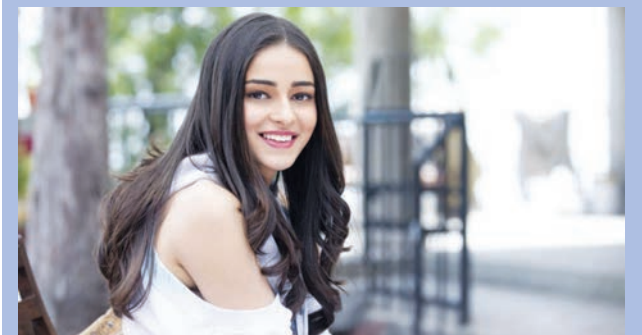
Kaushal also produced *My Brother...Nikhil* (2005) directed by his close friend Onir. The film was one of the first mainstream films in India to talk about AIDS and HIV and was based on the life of Dominic D'Souza — an Indian gay rights activist based in Goa.



## Ananya launches 'Social Media For Social Good' campaign

Two years ago, Ananya Panday launched 'So Positive', an initiative that took into cognisance cyber-bullying and the gravitas of it and today, the actress has launched 'Social Media For Social Good'. This campaign focuses more on the importance of keeping social platforms positive and healthy.

Panday wrote on Instagram, "We often talk about the negative side of social media - the bullying, trolling and hatred. During the pandemic, I saw the power of people on social media- the humanity. Strangers helping strangers, sharing resources and information, saving lives. It reinforced my belief in kindness, compassion and empathy. 'Social media for Social good' is a series in which I'm going to be talking to some of the 'Heroes' of social media who have used it positively and constructively for the good of society! Social media can be a kinder place - let's all do our part in making sure that happens! @sopositivedsr #SocialMediaForSocialGood."







*Gal Gadot welcomes third daughter Daniella*

Wonder Woman actor Gal Gadot on Tuesday shared that she has welcomed her third daughter with husband Jaron Varsano and has named the newborn Daniella.

Gal announced the happy news with a family portrait featuring the new member along with her husband Jaron Varsano and their daughters, 3-year-old Maya and 9-year-old Alma, on Instagram, and wrote, "My sweet family... I couldn't be more grateful and happy (and tired) we are all so excited to welcome Daniella into our family. I'm sending all of you love and health."

Jaron also shared the happy news on his Instagram handle and wrote, "And now we are So happy and grateful. My dear wife is a lioness!! So thankful and humbled by your powers." The couple married in 2008.

**Vanessa Kirby to star with Hugh Jackman in Oscar winner The Father's follow up**

Actor Vanessa Kirby has been tapped to play a pivotal role in The Son, filmmaker Florian Zeller's follow up to his feature directorial debut The Father.

According to Variety, the movie also features Hollywood stars Hugh Jackman and Laura Dern.

Like The Father, The Son has been adapted by Florian and Christopher Hampton, from Florian's critically-acclaimed stage play. The duo recently won the best adapted screenplay Oscar.

The Son centres on Peter (Hugh) as his busy life with new partner Emma (Vanessa Kirby) and their baby is thrown into disarray when his ex-wife Kate (Laura) turns up with their teenage son, Nicholas.

"The young man is troubled, distant and angry, playing truant from school for months. Peter strives to be a better father, searching to help his son with those intimate and instinctive moments of family happiness. But the weight of Nicholas' condition sets the family on a dangerous course," the plotline reads.

Iain Canning and Emile Sherman are producing the movie along with Joanna Laurie of See-Saw Films and Christophe Spadone. Florian is also producing.

Source: PTI



**Black Widow: Scarlett Johansson film is a satisfying detour for Marvel**



The early reviews of the much-awaited Scarlett Johansson-starrer Black Widow are out, and it looks like the actor has a win under her belt. Black Widow, which will hit US theatres and streaming platform Disney Plus with Premier Access on July 9, has received largely positive reactions from critics.

The Variety's Owen Gleiberman wrote in his review, "In Scarlett Johansson's appearances in the MCU thus far, going back to Iron Man 2, she's been a kick-ass fighter in sleek leather with a few signature jackknife moves. I wondered, or maybe feared, that Black Widow would be two hours of that. It's not; it's much more interesting and absorbing."

The Guardian's Peter Bradshaw noted, "The sensuous cough-syrup purr of Scarlett Johansson's voice is something I've missed in lockdown; now it's back with a throaty vengeance in the highly enjoyable standalone episode for which her character Black Widow was well overdue."

*Bridgerton star Phoebe Dynevor to feature in thriller 'I Heart Murder'*



Phoebe Dynevor, who will reprise her role of Daphne Bridgerton in the second season of the hit Netflix series Bridgerton, will star in a film called I Heart Murder for Sony Pictures.

Bridgerton breakout star Phoebe Dynevor is set to headline the feature I Heart Murder, a thriller from Sony Pictures.

Sources told Deadline that Phoebe Dynevor will star in the film to be directed by Matt Spicer, known for Ingrid Goes West. Matt Spicer has co-written the screenplay with Tom O'Donnell.

Academy Award winner Doug Wick and Lucy Fisher's Red Wagon Entertainment will produce the film which is billed as a female-driven thriller. Maia Eyre is overseeing for the studio. Other details on the plot are currently under wraps.

Phoebe will next reprise her role of Daphne Bridgerton in the second season of the hit Netflix series Bridgerton, which is currently in production.

The actor also recently completed filming Sky Cinema's Original movie The Colour Room, opposite Matthew Goode.

Source: PTI



# CINEMA VILLAGE OPENS

BY MABEL PAIS

**REOPENING OF NEW YORK CITY'S CULTURAL LIFE CENTERPIECE OF REOPENING OF INDEPENDENT THEATER 'ABEL FERRARA'S CINEMA VILLAGE'**

**STARTS**

**WEDNESDAY, JUNE 30**

**NINE DAY LONG**

**RETROSPECTIVE AND TRIBUTE**

**\$5 TICKETS TO FILMS, LIVE MUSIC, SPECIAL GUESTS**

Cinema Village, after a year without cinemas in New York City, independent movie theater owner Nicolas Nicolaou has invited Abel Ferrara to jump start the re-opening of Cinema Village - now in its 58th year of operation - for a week-long retrospective and tribute to movie-going running Wednesday, June 30 through Thursday, July 8.

As a further celebration of the independent spirit, tickets for all shows will be \$5.00. A ticket gets a filmgoer into any other show that day that is not sold out.

To kick things off, the advance screening Tuesday, June 29, 7:30 pm of the documentary "THE PROJECTIONIST" will be free. Ferrara and his band will be playing in the street that night. "Come share a movie in one of the great old school theaters," said Ferrara.

Filmgoers are invited to join in celebrating a special screening of Ferrara's newest film SIBERIA (Lionsgate), starring Willem Dafoe, alongside the New York theatrical premiere of "THE PROJECTIONIST" (Kino Lorber) a love letter to legendary New York City indie cinema impresario Nicolas Nicolaou himself and his four-decade legacy of operating the city's most distinct neighborhood theaters. Nicolaou currently owns and operates Cinema Village in Manhattan, Alpine Cinemas in Bay Ridge, Brooklyn, and Cinemart in Forest Hills, Queens.

Cinema Village is located at 22 East 12th Street, New York, NY 10003 (east of Broadway). Tickets may be purchased in advance at [cinemavillage.com](http://cinemavillage.com) or in-person at the box office.

**'ABEL FERRARA'S CINEMA VILLAGE'**

**PROGRAM (in alphabetical order)**

**4:44 LAST DAY ON EARTH**

**DIR: Abel Ferrara | 1h 22m**

In a large apartment high above the city lives our couple. They're in love.



Abel Ferrara and Nicolas Nicolaou in "The Projectionist." - Photo / Kino Lorber



Keanu Reeves in "Siberia." - Photo / Lionsgate

Skye (Shanyn Leigh) is a painter, Cisco (Willem Dafoe) is a successful actor. Tomorrow at 4:44 am, the world will come to an end far more rapidly than even the worst doomsayer could have imagined. There will be no survivors. As always, there are those who, as their last cigarette is being lit and the blindfold tightened, will still hope against hope for some kind of reprieve. For a miracle. Not our two lovers. They - like the majority of the Earth's population - have accepted their fate: the world is going to end. Starring: Willem Dafoe and Shanyn Leigh.

**THE CONFORMIST**

**DIR: Bernardo Bertolucci | 1h 48m**

Synopsis: A weak-willed Italian man becomes a fascist flunky who goes abroad to arrange the assassination of his old teacher, now a political dissident.

**THE DRILLER KILLER**

**DIR: Abel Ferrara | 1h 41m**

An artist slowly goes insane from struggling to pay his bills, work on his paintings and care for his two female roommates. This leads him to the streets of New York after dark where he randomly kills derelicts with a power drill.

**DESPERATE LIVING**

**DIR: John Waters | 1h 30m**

A neurotic society woman murders her husband with the help of her maid and, on the lam, escapes to Mortville, a homeless community ruled over by a fascist queen.

**EL TOPO**

**DIR: Alejandro Jodorowsky | 2h 5m**

A mysterious black-clad gunfighter wanders a mystical Western landscape encountering multiple bizarre characters.

**HAPPY LIFE**

**DIR: Michael M. Bilandic | 1h 13m**

New York Tunez, an all techno record store, is going under. The owner, Keith, a down and out trance DJ, struggles to cope with the changing cultural climate. In a final effort to save the store he organizes a rave. Unfortunately, 2009 is a far cry from the early '90's.

**HONKY KONG**

**DIR: Stephen Gurewitz | 1h 18m**

While touring Hong Kong on a work trip, an American chef stomachs the mounting regrets of a tumultuous affair from his past. Starring Sean Price Williams and Hannah Gross.

**MS. 45**

**DIR: Abel Ferrara | 1h 20m**

A timid and mute seamstress goes insane after being attacked and raped twice in one day, in which she takes to the streets of New York City after dark and randomly shoots men with a .45 caliber pistol. Starring: Zoë Lund, Bogey, and Albert Sinkys.

**PASOLINI**

**DIR: Abel Ferrara | 1h 24m**

A kaleidoscopic look at the last day of Italian filmmaker Pier Paolo Pasolini in

1975. Starring: Willem Dafoe, Ninetto Davoli, Riccardo Scamarcio  
[cinemavillage.com/Now-Playing/pasolini-1.html](http://cinemavillage.com/Now-Playing/pasolini-1.html)

**THE PROJECTIONIST**

**DIR: Abel Ferrara | 1h 21m**

"The Projectionist," by Abel Ferrara, the director of controversial cinema, traces the life and livelihood of friend and fellow cinephile Nicolas "Nick" Nicolaou, a Cypriot immigrant who moved to America as a young boy and began working as a teenager in a small neighborhood movie theater around Manhattan, defying gentrification, changing viewing habits and corporate dominance in the 1980's, only to emerge decades later as one of New York City's last independent theater owners (he currently operates Manhattan's Cinema Village, Bay Ridge's Alpine Cinemas and Forest Hills' Cinemart). At once a walking tour of New York City's evolving theatrical landscape, a history of movie-going over the last 50 years, and a moving tribute to friendship, tenacity and movie love, The Projectionist is an indelible tribute and timely paean to what going to the movies is all about. Starring: Abel Ferrara and Nicolas Nicolaou. [cinemavillage.com/Now-Playing/the-projectionist.html](http://cinemavillage.com/Now-Playing/the-projectionist.html)

**THE ROCKY HORROR PICTURE SHOW**

**DIR: Jim Sharman | 1h 40m**

A newly engaged couple have a breakdown in an isolated area and must seek shelter at the bizarre residence of Dr. Frank-n-Furter.

**SIBERIA**

**DIR: Abel Ferrara | 1h 32m |**

Clint is a damaged man who has retreated to a wintry remote mountain cabin where he hopes to find serenity. He runs a modest cafe where the rare traveler or native of the region visits. But even in his relative isolation he cannot find peace nor escape. On a fateful evening, to confront himself, he begins a journey by dogsled to the world he once knew. He travels through dreams, memory and imagination in an attempt to find his true nature. Starring: Willem Dafoe.

<https://www.lionsgate.com/movies/siberia>

**TOMMASO**

**DIR: Abel Ferrara | 1h 55m**

The story of an American artist living in Rome with his young European wife Nikki and their 3-year-old daughter, Dee Dee. Starring: Willem Dafoe, Cristina Chiriac, and Anna Ferrara.

<https://www.cinemavillage.com/Now-Playing/tommaso.html>

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



# TFF@20 Audience Award Winners Are...

BY MABEL PAIS

## PAN NALIN'S "LAST FILM SHOW" wins SECOND PLACE: BEST NARRATIVE FEATURE

### And the TFF 2021 Audience Award Winners Are...

The 20th annual Tribeca Festival's Audience Awards winners are for Best Narrative Feature, Best Documentary Feature and the first-ever Best Online Premiere. The first-place winners of Best Narrative Feature and Best Documentary Feature each receive a cash prize of \$10,000.

Audiences/viewers were able to vote in person and online for their favorite films from the Festival, which just wrapped its 20th edition featuring 250 in-person events inside and out, and close to 100,000 attendees in all five New York City boroughs and via the Tribeca at Home online viewing portal, as part of the virtual arm of Tribeca's 20th-anniversary festival.

### AUDIENCE AWARDS

The Audience Award for Best Narrative Feature went to "Catch the Fair One," directed and written by Josef Kubota Wladyka, produced by Mollye Asher, Kimberly Parker, Josef Kubota Wladyka (United States) and executive produced by Darren Aronofsky. In this absorbing revenge thriller, a Native American boxer embarks on the fight of her life when she goes in search of her missing sister.

The Award for Best Documentary Feature went to "Blind Ambition," directed by Robert Coe and Warwick Ross, written by Warwick Ross, Robert Coe, Paul Murphy, Madeleine Ross and produced by Warwick Ross and Robert Coe (Australia) - World Premiere. The inspiring story of four Zimbabwean men who form their country's first Wine Tasting Olympics team and the mission that drives them to compete. In English, Shona with English subtitles.



Ferguson Rises." - Photo /TFF2021

The Award for Best Online Premiere went to "Ferguson Rises," directed by Mobolaji Olambiwonnu, written by Mobolaji Olambiwonnu, Bradinn French, Jeff Striker, Kai Bowe, Daisy Moand produced by Mobolaji Olambiwonnu, Daisy Mo, Tanayi Seabrook, TJ Ode-bunmi, Lisa Smithline, David Oyelowo, Jessica Oyelowo, Nick Moon and Tamika Lamison (United States). Before George Floyd, before Breonna Taylor, before America knew about Black Lives Matter, there was Michael Brown, Jr. Six years after the fatal shooting of an unarmed Brown by a white police officer, and the subsequent days of protest, filmmaker Mobolaji Olambiwonnu brings a new portrait of the



Samay in "Last Film Show." - Photo /TFF2021

community of Ferguson, including Dorian Johnson, and a narrative from within the city of hope, love and renewal.

Second Place for Best Narrative Feature went to "Last Film Show," written and directed by Pan Nalin. Produced by Dheer Momaya. (India) - World Premiere. It tells the story of a 9-year-old boy Samay in a remote village in India who begins a lifelong love affair with cinema when he bribes his way into a rundown movie palace and spends a summer watching movies from the projection booth. With Bhavin Rabari, Vikas Bata, Richa Meena, Bhavesh Shrimali, Dipen Raval, Rahul Koli. In Gujarati with English subtitles. Opening Night Film Spotlight Section.

Second Place for Best Documentary Feature went to "A-ha the Movie," directed and written by Thomas Robsahm, co-directed by Aslaug Holm. Produced by Yngve Sæther. (Norway, Germany) - World Premiere. Featuring new interviews and behind-the-scenes footage, Thomas Robsahm's portrait of the band behind "Take On Me" follows their creative adventures and challenges after reaching global superstardom—all set to their catchiest synth hooks. With Morten Harket, Magne Furuholmen, Pål Waaktaar-Savoy. In English, Norwegian with English subtitles.

Second Place for Best Online Premieres went to "Venus as a Boy," directed and written by Ty Hodges.

### THE TRIBECA FESTIVAL

The Tribeca Festival is curated by Festival Director and VP of Programming Cara Cusumano along with a team of associate programmers.

The Festival was founded by Robert De Niro, Jane Rosenthal, and Craig Hatkoff in 2001 to spur the economic and cultural revitalization of lower Manhattan following the attacks on the World Trade Center. Tribeca celebrated its 20th year June 9 – 20, 2021. To learn more, visit [tribecafilm.com/festival](http://tribecafilm.com/festival)

### THE 2021 TRIBECA FESTIVAL PARTNERS

The 2021 Tribeca Festival is presented by AT&T and with the support of several corporate partners.

## ASIA



TFF2020

DIR: RUTHY PRIBAR L 2020 L ISRAEL L HEBREW & RUSSIAN/W ENG SUBS L FEATURE NEW YORK PREMIERE L 1H 25M TRIBECA FESTIVAL 2020 WINNER: BEST ACTRESS NORA EPHRON AWARD, BEST CINEMATOGRAPHY

"A hypnotizing performance by Shira Haas." - Eric Kohn, IndieWire

"Even when in the darkest part of your life, you can see beauty." - Moment Magazine

Shira Haas made an indelible impression (she was nominated for an Emmy and won an Independent Spirit

Award) as the lead in the recent TV series "Unorthodox." In "Asia" she stars as a Russian emigre (Vika) to Israel, navigating her teenage years with her single mother Asia (Alena Yiv), burdened by an illness that makes all of her decisions infinitely more poignant.

Young single mother Asia (Alena Yiv) hides nothing about her work-hard, play-hard lifestyle, and expects the same openness and honesty from her teenage daughter Vika (Shira Haas). But when Vika's health declines, her need for independence and romantic exploration become paramount, and Asia realizes she must change her ways to allow her daughter to live her own life.

RELEASE: Playing At Home and in Theaters nationwide.

### THE PRICE OF FREEDOM



TFF2021

DIR: JUDD EHRLICH 1 1h 30m

OFFICIAL SELECTION: TRIBECA FESTIVAL 2021

"The Price of Freedom" is an unflinching look at the gun violence epidemic in America and the role the National Rifle Association, with its outsized political and cultural influence, has played over time. The NRA believes the deaths of innocent Americans are a necessary price to pay for the freedom to own firearms without restrictions. By manipulating the narrative around guns and backing politicians who commit to upholding their agenda, the NRA has cost us far more than we realize.

Featuring passionate pleas from President William J. Clinton, Representative Lucy McBath (D-GA) and Senator Chris Murphy (D-CT); NRA Board Member and former NRA President David Keene, and activists on all sides of the issue, The Price of Freedom presents a compelling case for those brave enough to take a stand against the NRA in defense of our communities and collective future.

Website: [thepriceoffreedommovie.com](http://thepriceoffreedommovie.com)

Socials - FB: @ThePriceOfFreedomDoc TW: @TPOFMovie IG: @thepriceoffreedommovie

### The Neutral Ground

DIR: CJ HUNT 1 2021 1

OFFICIAL SELECTION: TRIBECA FESTIVAL 2021 On PBS-POV-ITVS Broadcasts: July 5, 2021

"The Neutral Ground," which debuted at the 2021 Tribeca Film Festival, documents the fight over monuments in New Orleans and America's troubled romance with the Lost Cause. In 2015, director CJ Hunt begins filming the New Orleans City Council's vote to remove four Confederate monuments. But when that removal is halted by death threats, Hunt sets out to understand why a losing army from 1865 still holds so much power in America. To learn more, visit [neutralgroundfilm.com](http://neutralgroundfilm.com)

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



## UK OPENS NEW POST-STUDY WORK VISA ROUTE FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

**LONDON (TIP):** The UK Home Office on July 1 formally opened its new post-study work visa for international students, which would offer overseas graduates from India and other destinations the option to apply for the right to stay on for job experience at the end of their university courses.

The Graduate route visa, announced last year by UK Home Secretary Priti Patel, is now open for applications from this week and is expected to particularly benefit Indian students, who are known to choose their degree courses based on the prospect of work experience.

The Graduate route is designed for international graduates who have been awarded their degree from a recognised UK university to stay on and look for work for at least two years.

“To put it into some context, last year more than 56,000 Indian nationals were granted a student visa, that’s a 13 per cent increase on the previous year, and that is almost now a quarter of all student visas issued by the UK,” Patel told PTI.

“When you think about those numbers, think about the totality in terms of how this route will benefit India, it’s a very, very big move. And, we will continue to work with the various academic institutions on making this route viable,” she said.

For the new route, international graduates must have completed an eligible course at a UK higher education provider with a track record of compliance with the government’s immigration requirements.

It is unsponsored, meaning applicants do not need a job offer to apply and crucially they can use a two-year period to stay on and look for a job. There are no minimum salary requirements or caps on numbers, allowing graduates on the route to work flexibly, switch jobs and develop their career as required.

“As we build back better, it is vital that the UK continues to be a beacon for talented young people across the globe who want to make a difference. The new Graduate route does just that, giving the best and brightest graduates the opportunity to continue contributing to the UK’s prosperity and the freedom to kickstart their careers in the UK,” said Patel.

A coronavirus concession on the date by which students must enter the UK to qualify for the route, if they started courses in 2020 and are unable to travel due to the pandemic, was recently extended.

Applicants who began their studies in autumn 2020 or in spring 2021 will need to be in the UK on a student visa by September 27 this year. Students beginning their course later this year or early next year will need to be in the UK by April 6, 2022. (PTI)

## China building over 100 new silos for intercontinental ballistic missiles: Report

**BEIJING (TIP):** China has begun construction of over 100 new silos for intercontinental ballistic missiles in a desert near the country’s northwestern city of Yumen, signalling a major expansion of its nuclear capabilities, a leading American daily has reported citing satellite imagery.

The silo construction project could provide China—which celebrated its 100th anniversary on Thursday at the Tiananmen Square—a means of concealing its nuclear weapons, The Washington Post reported on July 1.

The 119 nearly identical construction sites, that could potentially house powerful weapons capable of reaching the American mainland, are similar to those seen at existing launch facilities for China’s arsenal of nuclear-tipped ballistic missiles, the report said.

It said that commercial satellite images obtained by researchers at the James Martin Center for Nonproliferation Studies in California show work underway at scores of sites across a grid covering hundreds of square miles of arid terrain in Gansu province, some 2,100 km from Beijing.

The acquisition of over 100 new missile silos, if completed, would represent a historic shift for China, a country that is believed to possess a stockpile of 250 to 350 nuclear weapons, the report said.

The actual number of new missiles intended for those silos is unknown but could be much smaller. China has deployed decoy silos in the past.

The construction suggests a major effort to bolster the credibility of China’s nuclear deterrent, said researcher Jeffrey Lewis, an expert on China’s nuclear arsenal and part of a team that analysed the suspicious sites, first spotted by colleague Decker Eveleth as



he scoured photos taken by commercial satellites over northwestern China.

Lewis described the scale of the building spree as “incredible.” “If the silos under construction at other sites across China are added to the count, the total comes to about 145 silos under construction,” Lewis, director of the East Asia Nonproliferation Program at the Center for Nonproliferation Studies, part of the Middlebury Institute of International Studies, said in a summary of his findings provided to The Washington Post.

“We believe China is expanding its nuclear forces in part to maintain a deterrent that can survive a US first strike in sufficient numbers to defeat US missile defences,” he said.

The discovery of over 100 silos follows recent warnings by Pentagon officials about China’s rapid advances in nuclear capability.

Admiral Charles Richard, who

commands US nuclear forces, said during a congressional hearing in April that a “breathtaking expansion” was underway in China, including an expanding arsenal of Intercontinental Ballistic Missile (ICBMs) and new mobile missile launchers that can be easily hidden from satellites.

Lewis said the silos are probably intended for a Chinese ICBM known as the DF-41, which can carry multiple warheads and reach targets as far away as 9,300 miles, potentially putting the US mainland within its reach.

Major excavation work on the sites began early this year, although preparations were probably underway for months, Lewis said.

Emails and faxes seeking comment from China’s Foreign Ministry in Beijing and the Chinese Embassy in Washington did not receive a response, the Washington Post noted.

(PTI)

## South Africa’s Zuma doesn’t say if he will comply with jail

**JOHANNESBURG (TIP):** Former South African President Jacob Zuma has denounced the 15-month prison sentence he has been given by the country’s highest court and has not said if he will voluntarily comply with the order to turn himself over to the police.

Legal experts and anti-corruption experts have widely welcomed the Constitutional Court’s ruling this week that Zuma should be imprisoned for defying a court order to testify before a judicial inquiry into widespread allegations of corruption during his presidential term from 2009 to 2018.

Zuma criticised the ruling by Justice Sisi Kampempe as “judicially emotional and angry and not consistent with our Constitution”, in a statement issued on Thursday by the Jacob Zuma Foundation.

Zuma gave no indication of whether

he will hand himself over to South Africa’s police within five days, as the Tuesday ruling ordered, or if he will wait for police to come and get him after that period expires.

About two hundred of Zuma’s supporters, many carrying traditional Zulu shields and sticks, arrived at Nkandla, the former president’s home in rural KwaZulu-Natal, to show their support.

Among those welcoming the sentence for Zuma was Mac Maharaj, a veteran leader of the ruling African National Congress party who had served as Zuma’s presidential spokesman from 2011 until 2015. Maharaj said he resigned because he did not want to be associated with the corruption that he witnessed.

“The evidence is overwhelming that under his administration corruption developed to a point where it became

endemic in our system,” Maharaj told the public broadcaster, the South African Broadcasting Corporation.

He hailed the ruling against Zuma as a watershed moment for South Africa.

“History may find that this was the moment that constitutes the turning point in our closing the chapter in the abuse of power and corruption, and entrenching our constitutional democracy,” Maharaj said.

Professor Lesiba Teffo, a political analyst at the University of South Africa, said Zuma had been given more than enough time to comply with the court order.

“As the saying goes, he was given a long rope. And he reached a cul-de-sac. What has happened is a resounding judgment that I embrace in full,” said Teffo.

(AP)



## World takes note of Chinese President Xi Jinping's 'blood and steel wall' speech

**BEIJING (TIP):** Led by the US, the international community has taken note of Chinese President Xi Jinping's strident message on July 1 foreign coercion, but is likely to come out with reasoned reactions later due to time difference issues.

The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) did not touch on the issue during its media briefing on Friday but said the Government did not send any greeting on the 100th anniversary of the Communist Party of China because the event was not a government matter.

Asked whether US Secretary of State Tony Blinken had paid attention to President Xi Jinping's address which used aggressive language towards the West like "heads bashed against the bloody great wall of steel", State Department spokesperson Ned Price admitted that the US has taken note of the remarks. "But we're not going to comment on the specifics," he said.

The Biden administration, in the months it has been at the helm, "has been very clear about our impressions of the CCP in general, but I don't have a specific response for you on President Xi's remarks today," he added.

Former US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo reacted by stating that Xi was serious about 'bashing heads bloody' and called on Biden to strengthen policies.

Addressing over seven lakh people on Thursday at Beijing's Tiananmen



Square to mark the Chinese Communist Party's 100th birthday, Xi made several exhortations calls to rouse patriotic passions but the line about foreign forces trying to bully China crashing into "a great wall of steel" was the biggest takeaway for international observers.

The debate in the global community was over the translation of the message that was delivered in unmistakably militaristic tones using a very strong choice of words.

Taiwan, which was at the receiving end of one of the remarks, chose to react

instantaneously by pointing out that its core principles were "democracy, freedom, human rights and the rule of law" which is a "major institutional difference from the other side of the strait."

Commerce Secretary Gina Raimondo was the sole US Cabinet Minister to respond but she focused on the business and trade aspects. "We'll do everything we can to make sure that our US companies are treated fairly and are able to have access to the Chinese market," she said. (TNS)

## Deaths spike as heatwave scorches parts of Canada, linked to climate change

**OTTAWA (TIP):** Hundreds of deaths in Canada's British Columbia province and in the US states of Washington and Oregon have been linked to a record breaking heatwave scorching the two countries, sending thousands of people scrambling for relief, according to authorities.

Lisa Lapointe, British Columbia's chief coroner, said on July 1 486 deaths had been reported in the province between June 25, a period in which about 165 deaths would normally be documented, reports Xinhua news agency.

Deaths were expected to increase, she said.

"While it is too early to say with certainty how many of these deaths are heat related, it is believed likely that the significant increase in deaths reported is attributable to the extreme weather British Columbia has experienced." Oregon's state medical examiner's office on Wednesday attributed at least 63



deaths in five days to the punishing heat in the state, including 45 in Multnomah County, which includes Portland, where temperatures reached a record 46 degrees Celsius.

Washington, officials reported nearly a dozen lives lost to hyperthermia on Wednesday alone in King County, which includes Seattle; two heat-related deaths were reported there the day before.

In Snohomish County, Washington, at least three people died this week from

heatstroke, according to the medical examiner's office, which added that investigations are pending into at least two more suspected heat-related deaths.

"This was a true health crisis that has underscored how deadly an extreme heat wave can be, especially to otherwise vulnerable people," Jennifer Vines, the Multnomah County health officer, said in a statement on Thursday.

"I know many county residents were looking out for each other and am deeply saddened by this initial death toll." This year a study found that 37 per cent of heat-related deaths could be linked to climate change.

"Climate change is increasing the frequency, intensity and duration of heat waves," Kristie Ebi, a professor in the Center for Health and the Global Environment at the University of Washington, was quoted as saying.

"When you look at this heat wave, it is so far outside the range of normal." IANS

## AUSTRALIA'S NSW STATE SAYS DELTA OUTBREAK GROWS DESPITE LOCKDOWN

**SYDNEY (TIP):** Australia's New South Wales (NSW) state on July 1 warned that significant numbers of new COVID-19 cases were being found in the community, raising fears of fresh clusters as it reported a rise in new infections for a third straight day.

With state capital Sydney in the middle of a two-week lockdown to contain an outbreak of the highly infectious Delta variant, authorities said half of Thursday's total of 24 new cases had spent time in the community when infectious.

"(This) is a cause of concern. That is what we will be looking at in the next few days and beyond as a measure of our success," NSW Premier Gladys Berejiklian told reporters.

Berejiklian said many people with flu-like symptoms were ignoring lockdown orders and "going about their business".

"We can't allow that to happen ... assume that you have the virus or that people you come into contact with have the virus and act accordingly," she said.

Australia is battling simultaneous flare-ups of infections in several states and nearly half of all Australians are under stay-at-home orders to prevent any major outbreak of the Delta strain.

Sydney, Perth, Brisbane and Darwin imposed lockdowns in the past few days, following months in which Australia had nearly eliminated the virus.

The remote outback town of Alice Springs, gateway to UNESCO World Heritage-listed Uluru, was also locked down on Wednesday after an infected traveller spent hours in the city's airport.

The total number of cases in the latest outbreak in NSW, the worst affected state, neared 200 since the first case was detected more than two weeks ago in a limousine driver who transported overseas airline crew.

Queensland state on Thursday detected two new local cases, as it tracks four different virus clusters - three of them the Delta variant. The Northern Territory detected one new case, South Australia and Western Australia recorded no cases.

Australia has fared much better than many other developed countries in containing the novel coronavirus through lockdowns, swift contact tracing and strict social distancing, with just over 30,550 cases and 910 deaths.

However, a sluggish vaccination drive has put the federal government on the back foot.

The government earlier this week decided to indemnify doctors who administered AstraZeneca's vaccine shots to people under 60, in an effort to ramp up inoculation.

(Reuters)



## New York to end state of emergency for Covid

New York State Governor Andrew Cuomo has announced that the state will end the statewide disaster emergency on Thursday thanks to substantial progress made in combating the Covid-19 pandemic.

New York State declared a state of emergency in early March of 2020 to contain the spread of coronavirus.

A number of laws, rules and regulations were modified or suspended to facilitate emergency purchase, testing, treatment, cleaning and quarantine.

"New York went from one of the worst infection rates to the lowest infection rate in the country, and it was all because of the efforts of New Yorkers who were smart, united and did what they needed to do throughout this entire pandemic," Cuomo said on Wednesday, Xinhua reported.

As of Wednesday, New York State had a 0.34 percent positivity rate in Covid-19 testing with 474 Covid-19 patients hospitalized and 104 people in intensive care units.

The state reported 42,942 accumulative deaths from the pandemic on Wednesday with 71.2 percent of residents administered with at least one dose of Covid-19 vaccine.

Source: IANS

# Global COVID-19 cases top 183mn

WASHINGTON (TIP): The overall global Covid-19 caseload has topped 183 million, while the deaths have surged to more than 3.96 million, according to the Johns Hopkins University.

In its latest update on Saturday, July 3, morning, the University's Center for Systems Science and Engineering (CSSE) revealed that the current global caseload and death toll stood at 183,015,891 and 3,962,894, respectively.

The US continues to be the worst-hit country with the world's highest number of cases and deaths at 33,693,352 and 605,309, respectively, according to the CSSE. In terms of infections, India follows in the second place with 30,458,251 cases.

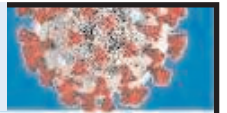
The other worst countries with over 3 million cases are Brazil (18,687,469), France (5,842,616), Russia (5,495,513), Turkey (5,435,831), the UK (4,871,807), Argentina (4,512,439), Colombia (4,297,302), Italy (4,261,582), Spain (3,833,868), Germany (3,737,630) and Iran (3,232,696), the CSSE figures showed.

In terms of deaths, Brazil comes second with 521,952 fatalities.

Nations with a death toll of over 100,000 are India (400,312), Mexico (233,428), Peru (192,687), Russia (134,302), the UK (128,453), Italy (127,615), France (111,297) and Colombia (107,723).

**The US continues to be the worst-hit country with the world's highest number of cases and deaths at 33,693,352 and 605,309, respectively**

## TRACKING THE VIRUS



### GLOBAL

Cases | Deaths  
**183,015,891** | **3,962,894**

### INDIA

Cases | Deaths  
**3,05,02,362** | **4,01,050**



## Australia to halve international arrival cap

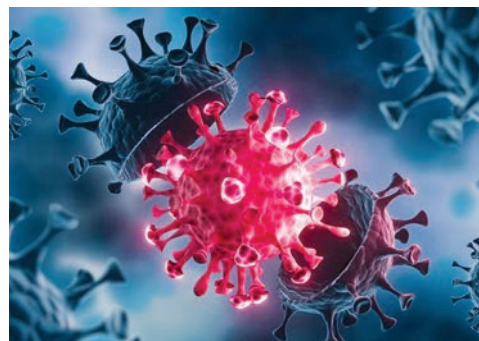
The number of international flight arrivals into Australia will be halved nationwide in a blow to Australians stranded abroad, while Scott Morrison attempts to reassure the public that the federal government is working with states and territories on a plan out of the Covid crisis.

The prime minister called on Australians to "get vaccinated" in order to "change how we live as a country" – but he indicated it might take until next year to reach the next stage of the four-stage opening-up plan.

The cuts to caps on international arrivals aim to reduce the pressure on hotel quarantine facilities and are in line with increasingly loud calls from a number of states – but the move was not the preferred approach of the New South Wales premier, Gladys Berejiklian, nor Morrison.

Speaking after a meeting with state and territory leaders on Friday, Morrison said the halving of the caps would not necessarily prevent further breaches of infection control – but "it is believed that is a prudent action" because of the increased virulence of the Delta variant.

That will see the weekly cap on international passenger arrivals into



Australia tighten from 6,070 to 3,035 by 14 July. Within those numbers, the cap on arrivals into Sydney – which takes about half of all arrivals into Australia – will go from 3,010 to 1,505.

Morrison said leaders wanted to "try to minimise the disruption for people with already planned flights". There are currently 34,000 Australians registered with the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade as wishing to return from overseas.

People arriving on federal government-organised flights into Australia, and who quarantine for two weeks at the Howard Springs site in the Northern Territory, are already outside the flight cap numbers, so those arrivals are unaffected by the announcement.

## Delta variant to become dominant strain of Covid in coming months: WHO

GENEVA (TIP): The World Health Organization has said the Delta variant of Covid-19 is now present in nearly 100 countries as per conservative estimates, and warned that in the coming months the highly transmissible strain will become the dominant variant of the coronavirus globally.

In its Covid Weekly Epidemiological Update, the WHO said as of June 29, 2021, "96 countries have reported cases of the Delta variant, though this is likely an underestimate as sequencing capacities needed to identify variants are limited. A number of these countries are attributing surges in infections and hospitalisations to this variant."

Given the increase in transmissibility, the WHO warned that the Delta variant is "expected to rapidly outcompete other variants and become the dominant variant over the coming months." The world body noted that the tools that exist today to combat the coronavirus – individual, community level-public health and social measures, infection prevention and control measures that have been used since the beginning of the pandemic – remain effective against current variants of concern (VOCs), including the Delta variant.

"Although the increased transmissibility of VOCs (Variants of Concern) means that

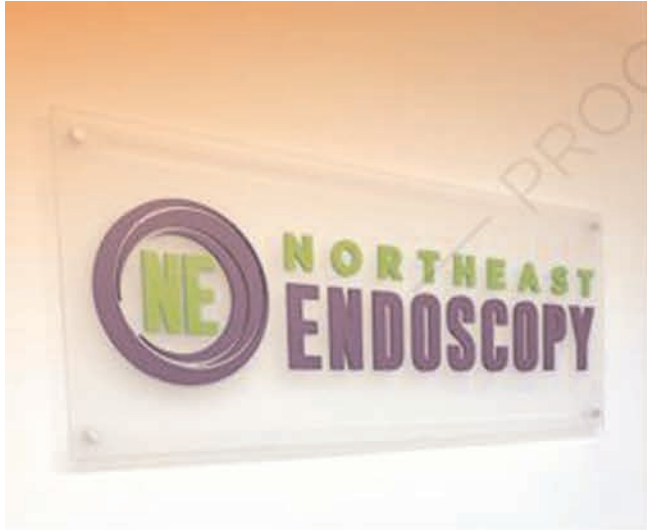


measures may need to be maintained for longer periods of time, particularly in a context of low vaccination coverage, these measures must be targeted, time-bound, reinforced and supported by member states," it added.

Last week, WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said the Delta variant is the "most transmissible" of the variants identified so far and is spreading rapidly among unvaccinated populations.

"I know that globally there is currently a lot of concern about the Delta variant, and WHO is concerned about it too. Delta is the most transmissible of the variants identified so far... spreading rapidly among unvaccinated populations," Ghebreyesus had said.





**DIGESTIVE  
DISEASE  
CARE**

**DDC**  
Advanced  
Comprehensive  
Personalized

INVEST IN YOUR HEALTH

Mrs. Prabha & Mr. Kanak Golia would like to  
**CONGRATULATE DR. PREETI (GOLIA) MEHTA  
AND DR. NILESH MEHTA**  
on the  
**GRAND OPENING**  
of their State-of-the-Art Endoscopy Center  
in East Setauket, Suffolk County

**CALL US: 631-450-1500**

You always come first: providing our patients with prompt, outstanding service & compassionate care is our highest priority.

Meet our Board-Certified Gastroenterologists:



Preeti Mehta MD



Nilesh Mehta MD



Shirley Johnson-Hall MD



Biju Abraham DO



Alan Sandberg MD



Merajur Rahman MD

**AVAILABLE  
& ACCESSIBLE**

Weekend Appointments, Late Hours, Multiple Locations, Same-Day Appointments, and Easy Access by Train, Bus or Car

**MULTI-LINGUAL  
CAPABILITY**

English, Spanish, Russian, Hindi, Gujarati, Malayali, Telugu, Urdu, Punjabi, Tamil

For more information, visit us online:  
**DigestiveDiseaseCare.com**

Office Locations:

235 N. Belle Mead Rd.  
**East Setauket**  
631.450.1500

104-40 Queens Blvd.  
**Forest Hills**  
718.313.0051

1991 Marcus Ave. Ste. M200  
**Lake Success**  
516.204.4242

380 S. Broadway  
**Hicksville**  
516.934.0500





## FORMER PAK PRESIDENT ZARDARI ADMITTED TO HOSPITAL AFTER FEELING UNWELL: REPORTS

**KARACHI (TIP):** Pakistan's former president and PPP co-chairperson Asif Ali Zardari was on July 2 admitted to a hospital here after feeling unwell, according to media reports.

Pakistan People's Party (PPP) co-chairperson and his son Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari arrived here from Islamabad while his daughter Bakhtawar Bhutto-Zardari also reached the city from Dubai along with her husband, Geo News quoted party sources as saying.

Zardari "fell ill due to the exertion and exhaustion from travelling for court appearances and the budget session", The Express Tribune quoted party sources as saying.

In October last year, the 65-year-old former president and husband of the country's first woman prime minister Benazir Bhutto was admitted to a private hospital due to low sugar level.

Bilawal, during his recent address in Parliament, said that Zardari had attended a budget session despite being unwell.

Zardari, who was the 11th President of Pakistan from 2008 to 2013, recently arrived here from Lahore and Islamabad. In Lahore, he had attended a meeting with former Punjab chief minister Pervaiz Elahi, the report said.

The veteran PPP leader, who is facing multiple corruption cases, was released from jail in December 2019 after the Islamabad High Court approved his bail on medical grounds. He had been suffering from ischemic heart disease, which means his heart may have an inadequate supply of blood and oxygen.

An accountability court in Islamabad last year indicted Zardari, his sister Faryal Talpur and other accused in the mega-money laundering pertaining to the fake accounts case. Zardari is facing multiple corruption cases that have stemmed from a mega money laundering scandal, which came into the limelight in 2018.

He, Faryal and several of their business associates are being probed as part of a 2015 case over fake accounts and fictitious transactions, which were initially found to have totalled Rs 35 billion, conducted through 29 'benami' accounts. (PTI)

# Pak court lifts ban on Chinese short video-sharing platform TikTok

**ISLAMABAD (TIP):** A top Pakistani court on July 2 withdrew its earlier decision to ban the popular Chinese short video-sharing platform TikTok for spreading immorality in the country.

The Sindh High Court (SHC) on June 28 had asked the Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA), the telecom regulator, to suspend the TikTok app on the complaint by a citizen regarding "immorality and obscenity" on the mobile app.

During a hearing on Friday, the PTA informed that access to the app was already blocked by it but it also requested the court to review its decision and allow it to restore the services.

The high court accepted the plea to lift the ban but it asked the PTA to expedite the process on the petitioner's request and issue a ruling by July 5.



PTA representatives assured the court that the appeal, seeking removal of 'objectionable content', will be decided upon by the court by the given date.

The court adjourned to meet again on Monday when the PTA would share the

decision it made to address the concern of the petitioner so that indecent content on the app were not uploaded.

It was for the second time that the app has been banned this year after its suspension in March by the Peshawar High Court (PHC), which had taken action on a petition filed by several citizens.

However, the PHC after a few weeks lifted the ban by asking the PTA to take measures so that no "immoral content" was uploaded. Last year in October, the PTA for the first time banned TikTok after receiving complaints regarding indecent and immoral content but lifted the ban after just 10 days.

Then the app assured the PTA that it would operate as per local laws to ensure that no indecent content was uploaded. (PTI)

## Era ends, war looms as US forces quit main base in Afghanistan

**KABUL (TIP):** American troops pulled out of their main military base in Afghanistan on July 2, leaving behind a piece of the World Trade Center they buried 20 years ago in a country that the top US commander has warned may descend into civil war without them.

"All American soldiers and members of NATO forces have left the Bagram air base," said a senior US security official on condition of anonymity.

Though a few more troops have yet to withdraw from another base in the capital Kabul in coming days, the Bagram pullout brings to an effective end the longest war in American history.

The base, an hour's drive north of Kabul, was where the US military has coordinated its air war and logistical support for its entire Afghan mission. The Taliban thanked them for leaving.

"We consider this withdrawal a positive step. Afghans can get closer to stability and peace with the full withdrawal of foreign forces," Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid told Reuters.

It was here, on a bullet-ridden Soviet-built air strip on an irrigated plain surrounded by the snow-capped peaks of the Hindu Kush, that New York City firefighters and police were flown to bury a piece of the World Trade Center in December, 2001, days after the Taliban were toppled for harbouring Osama bin Laden.

It was also here that the CIA ran a "black site" detention centre for terrorism suspects and subjected them to abuse that President Barack Obama subsequently acknowledged as torture.

Later it swelled into a sprawling fortified city for a huge international military force, with fast food joints, gyms and a cafe serving something

called "the mother of all coffees". Two runways perpetually roared. Presidents flew in and gave speeches; celebrities came and told jokes.

An Afghan official said the base would be officially handed over to the government at a ceremony on Saturday.

The U.S. defence official said General Austin Miller, the top U.S. commander in Afghanistan "still retains all the capabilities and authorities to protect the force" stationed in the capital, Kabul.

Earlier this week, Miller told journalists in Kabul that civil war for Afghanistan was "certainly a path that can be visualised", with Taliban fighters sweeping into districts around the country in recent weeks as foreign troops flew home.

Two other U.S. security officials said this week the majority of U.S. military personnel would most likely be gone by July 4, with a residual force remaining to protect the embassy.

That would be more than two months ahead of the timetable set by Biden, who had promised they would be home by Sept. 11, the 20th anniversary of the attack that brought them here.

Washington agreed to withdraw in a deal negotiated last year with the Taliban under Biden's predecessor Donald Trump, and Biden rejected advice from generals to hang on until a political agreement could be reached between the insurgents and the U.S.-backed Kabul government of President Ashraf Ghani.

"MANAGE THE CONSEQUENCES"  
Last week, Ghani visited Washington. Biden told him: "Afghans are going to have to decide their future, what they want". Ghani said his job was now to "manage the consequences" of the U.S. withdrawal. (Reuters)

## SRI LANKA TAKES 'ALL MEASURES' TO CURB FURTHER SPREAD OF DELTA VARIANT

**COLOMBO (TIP):** Sri Lankan health authorities said that they were taking "all precautionary measures" to curb the further spread of the Delta Covid-19 variant, and also urged people to cooperate to prevent a major crisis.

Deputy Director-General of Health Services, Hemantha Herath told journalists on July 1 that the authorities have received adequate data on the spread of the Delta variant in Sri Lanka and the preventive measures included carrying out tests and surveillance, reports Xinhua news agency.

State Minister of Primary Health Care, Epidemics and Covid-19 Disease Control, Sudarshani Fernandopulle said the Delta variant could be the most prevalent strain in Sri Lanka within 10 weeks if the public fails to adhere to health and safety guidelines.

Herath said with more patients testing positive for the Delta variant, there was no guarantee that it would not spread in more areas of the country unless strict health practices were observed.

"We as health authorities need the cooperation from people to face this critical situation, otherwise the whole country would be at stake," Herath said.

Sri Lanka is presently facing a third wave of the pandemic with the spread of the Delta and Alpha variants in the country in recent weeks, health officials said.

Since April, over 150,000 people have tested positive for the virus while the country's overall patient count reached 257,225.

Meanwhile, 2,973 deaths have been reported so far, official statistics showed. (IANS)





**SHIV DASS**

*President, Jackson Heights Indian Merchants' Association*

*Member, Queens Community Board*

*Member, Advisory Board, Elmhurst Hospital*

*Recipient of Ellis Island Medal of Honor*

**LAVANYA**

37-08 Kalpana Chawla Way (74th Street), Jackson Heights, NY 11372

718-565-5404; 347-254-0730

**WANT TO OWN A PROFITABLE FAST-FOOD BUSINESS!**  
CAREER/OWNERSHIP

**BUMPERS "America's Favorite Foods" is a flourishing Drive-In and Drive Thru operation with over 37 years of successful History and Booming Future in Covid-19 Pandemic.**



**We are ready to Franchise and share Bumpers Success!**  
Please contact: **John Bullard, Marketing Director**  
769-226-1604  
1554 West Peace Street • Canton, MS 39046



**My best wishes on the occasion of American Independence Day.**



Indian Americans have excelled in all fields to contribute in making this country the best in the world. It is now time for us to seek more political representation in making policy decisions that will preserve, protect and assist our future generations in this country.

**RAJENDAR DICHPALLY**  
National General Secretary  
Indian Overseas Congress



# Things you should never say during a fight with your partner

Little disagreements or loud fights - they're all a part of long-term relationships. And once you've been in enough fights, you learn a thing or two about what is acceptable to say and what is completely out of line. Many of them are easy to point out - you can just reverse the situation and imagine what it would feel like if he said the same hurtful things to you. Seems perfectly reasonable in theory, but it's easy for all of that to go out of the window in the heat of the moment. Let us help you with some of the worst things that you could possibly say during a fight with your partner.

## 'You're pathetic'

When you reach the point of almost throwing insults at each other, you know that it's time to pause, take a deep breath, and come up with another way to tackle the situation. It doesn't matter if you think the other person deserves it or not - it's a painful thing to hear and guaranteed to make the other person withdraw and shut down. Or worse, double down with worse things that might seriously wound you. The problem with insults is also that they're a slippery slope. How do you decide that 'this' is okay, but 'that' is too much? Keep the respect, always.

## 'We should break up'

Making major decisions when you're vulnerable and feeling too many things at the same time is never a good idea. Even if you've been wondering where the relationship is going, in the middle of a fight is not the time to call it quits. It seals the fate of your relationship in a minute - your partner will never feel comfortable with you if they think that you'll run away at the first sign of trouble.

## 'You always do this'

Every fight is different, even if just by a little. If you say



this, you're essentially bringing up all of those older fights that you both had eventually resolved. This just goes on to make the fight about so many other things that were in the past - but, are not anymore. If your aim is to resolve a fight and come to a solution both can live with, this is not going to help in the slightest.

## 'You won't understand'

This is just a way of dismissing your partner and making them feel like they are not good enough - as they clearly can't understand how you're feeling. We get it: sometimes when you're hurting yourself, it's difficult to be rational and think things through before saying them. Saying "you won't understand" too often during fights will only make your partner give up without even trying. And that's counter-intuitive, to say the least. Ending a fight on this note means you can't be bothered enough to try and make the other person understand... That you're giving up, not only on them, but on the relationship too, by constantly saying this to them.

## FOOD CORNER

### Punjabi dry daal

#### Ingredients

- 1 cup Urad daal (white lentil)
- 2 chopped onions
- 1 chopped tomato
- 2 tiny green chillis (you can add more if you like your food spicy)
- 1 teaspoon chopped ginger - garlic
- Oil
- Turmeric, Salt, Coriander powder
- Garam Masala powder



#### Method

- Since the daal takes more time to get cooked, you need to soak daal for 6 hours before getting on to the gas burner.
- Heat oil in a cooker and add chopped ginger and garlic. As they turn golden, add the onions.
- Keep the flame on medium so that the flavours get enough time to diffuse into the oil. Fry onions till golden brown and then add chillis and the juicy red tomatoes.
- Saute the ingredients till they are cooked and then add the soaked daal. Mix the ingredients and add salt, turmeric, coriander powder and garam masala powder.
- Add 1/4th cup of water and pressure cook for 5 mins on high flame. We need to wait only for the first whistle and we are done.
- Serve the daal topped with coriander leaves and a green chilli cut into halves. You can also try your hand at the tomato flower - this will add colour as well as exquisite look to your dish. Serve along with crispy papads and mango pickle.

# Natural home remedies to get rid of dark lips

Are you wondering why your lips are suddenly not as pink as they used to be and are turning darker day by day? Well, worry not you are not alone. Unless it is genetic, several health, dietary and lifestyle factors can make your lips dark. If you smoke, you may have darker lips than your non-smoking friends. Sometimes, cosmetics may also have chemicals that can turn your lips dark. A vitamin deficiency may also lead to lip discoloration. Maintain a healthy diet and eat lots of fruits and vegetables rich in Vitamin C to get rid of dark lips.

## Natural home remedies

### Lemon

Lemon has natural bleaching and exfoliating properties. You can either squeeze half a lemon and apply the juice directly on your lips daily or you can also take a thin slice of lemon, sprinkle a bit of sugar on top and rub it on your lips. It will exfoliate dead cells for fresher skin to appear. Use this remedy daily for a few weeks to ensure perfect lips. The acid in lemon also help remove blackness and bring back the original lip color.

### Olive Oil

You may have known about olive oils



benefits for your health, skin and hair, but did you that it can also give you rosy pink lips and moisturize them too? Prepare your own natural scrub by mixing one-half teaspoon of sugar and a few drops of extra virgin olive oil. Scrub your lips gently with this mixture once a week for best results. In fact, you can use olive oil alone to protect them from drying out or

becoming chapped. Use it just like any other commercially bought lip balm or chap-stick.

### Rose Water

Rose water has several healing properties which can work well for soothing and moisturizing your lips. Mix a drop of rose water with a teaspoon of

honey and apply on your lips. Do this two to three times a day. You can also mix a tablespoon of rose petal paste and one teaspoon of butter, honey, or milk cream and apply the paste on your lips at least twice a day for best results.

### Pomegranate

The pink fruit can also bring back the natural pinkish hue of your lips. Mix together a tablespoon of pomegranate juice, beetroot juice and carrot juice. Apply it on your dark lips once daily, for best results. You can also use some milk and crushed pomegranate seeds to bring back the red rosy lips you once had. Thankfully, there are no known side-effects of any of these remedies; therefore, you can use them on a daily basis.

### Almond Oil

Almond oil can work wonders in making your lips supple and help you get rid of pigmentation. Apply the oil on your lips before bedtime. You can also mix lime juice with almond oil and apply to prevent darkening of lips. It is also the emollient properties of almond oil will rejuvenate the skin. It is its sclerosant properties that help lighten the lips, thus reducing any dark spots.



# Are you deficient in potassium? Look for these signs

Potassium is an essential mineral that helps in regulating muscle contraction, maintains healthy nerve function, regulates fluid balance, and promotes a healthy cardiovascular system. And if you're dealing with potassium deficiency, it can raise your risk of high blood pressure, kidney stones, lower bone turnover, urinary calcium excretion, and salt sensitivity.

Low potassium is medically known as hypokalemia and if your problem is temporary, you might not feel any symptoms. Once your potassium levels fall below a certain level, there are certain signs and symptoms that can show up to indicate deficiency.

## Weakness and fatigue

Low potassium levels in your blood can cause weakness, fatigue and sometimes light headache. Every cell in your body needs the right amount of potassium to function and its deficiency might cause you to feel dizzy, faint or light headed.

## Muscle cramps

Potassium plays a key role in smooth muscle contraction and growth. So, when levels are low, you might experience cramps, aches, and spasms. You might experience these cramps any time of the day and they can increase while



exercising.

## Constipation

Digestive problems have many causes, one of which is potassium deficiency. Low potassium levels in your body can affect the bowel function, thus leading to constipation, bloating and cramping.

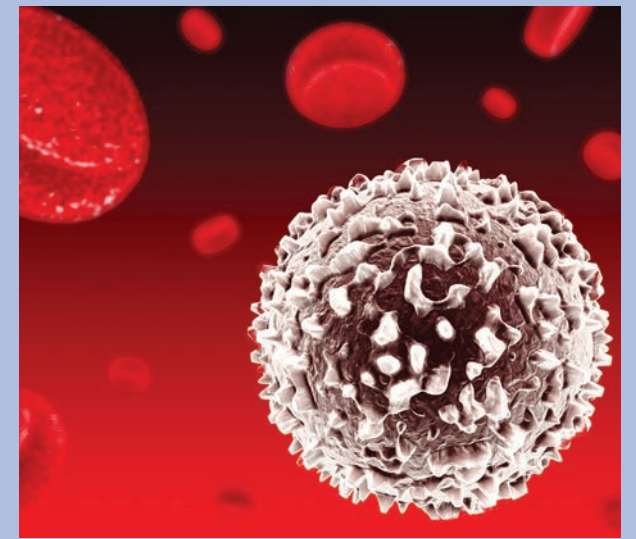
## High blood pressure

Since potassium plays an important part in maintaining blood pressure, you may experience episodes of high blood pressure. Without enough potassium in the

body, blood vessel walls can become constricted, which results in hypertension. Our body needs potassium, because it helps relax blood vessels, thus preventing high blood pressure problems.

## Breathing problems

Severe hypokalemia can also lead to breathing problems. Potassium regulates the contraction of all muscles, including heart muscles. Very low levels of potassium can lead to irregular heart rhythm or breathing issues. Seek medical care immediately, if you experience abnormal heart rhythm.



## Can white blood cells help kill Covid-19 virus?

**TORONTO (TIP):** Immunologists have discovered a previously unknown mechanism of a type of white blood cells, which acts like a spider web, trapping and killing pathogens such as influenza or SARS-CoV-2, the virus responsible for Covid-19.

The researchers, from McMaster University in Canada, have found that neutrophils -- the most abundant white blood cells in the human body -- explode when they bind to such pathogens coated in antibodies and release DNA outside of the cell, creating a sticky tangle which acts as a trap.

The findings, published online in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Science, are significant because little is understood about how antibodies neutralise viruses in the respiratory tract.

The discovery also has implications for vaccine design and delivery, including aerosol and nasal spray technologies that could help the body head off infections before they have a chance to take hold, the researchers said.

"Vaccines can produce these antibodies that are present in our lungs, which are the first type of antibody to see viruses like flu or Covid-19, which infect our lungs and respiratory tracts," says the study's lead author Matthew Miller, Associate Professor at McMaster's Michael G DeGroot Institute for Infectious Disease Research.

"Mechanisms that can stop the infection at the site where it enters our body can prevent the spread and serious complications," he added.

By comparison, injectable vaccines are designed to bolster antibodies in the blood, but those antibodies are not as prevalent at the sites where infection begins.

"We should be thinking carefully about next generation Covid-19 vaccines that could be administered in the respiratory tract to stimulate antibodies," said lead author Hannah Stacey, a graduate student in the Miller's Lab.

"If you want a lot of these antibodies that are really abundant in blood, then injections make the most sense, but if you want antibodies that are abundant in the respiratory tract, then a spray or an aerosol makes sense," she noted.

Source: IANS

## AstraZeneca vaccine produces stronger immune response with 11-month gap, 3rd dose

**NEW DELHI (TIP):** The AstraZeneca Covid-19 vaccine produces an improved immune response with a longer dose gap of up to 45 weeks, and a third shot is able to boost antibody levels even further, according to a study in the UK.

The yet-to-be peer-reviewed study shows that antibody levels remain elevated for at least one year following a single dose of the Oxford-AstraZeneca vaccine, known as Covishield in India where the gap between its two doses has been set at 12-16 weeks.

The authors of the study noted that an extended interval of up to 45 weeks, or about 11 months, between the first and second dose of the AstraZeneca vaccine resulted in up to an 18-fold increase in antibody response measured 28 days after the second dose.

The research, posted on the pre-print server of The Lancet, included volunteers aged 18 to 55 years who were enrolled in the trials and had already received either a single dose or two doses of AstraZeneca vaccine.

The researchers from the University of Oxford in the UK assessed immune response after a single dose, immunity after an extended interval between the first and second dose, and the response to a third dose as a late booster.

With a 45-week dosing interval between the first and second dose, antibody levels were four times higher than with a 12-week interval.

The finding demonstrates that a longer interval between the two doses of the vaccine is not



detrimental but can derive stronger immunity, the researchers said.

"This should come as reassuring news to countries with lower supplies of the vaccine, who may be concerned about delays in providing second doses to their populations," said Professor Andrew J Pollard, chief investigator and director of the Oxford Vaccine Group at the University of Oxford.

"There is an excellent response to a second dose, even after a 10-month delay from the first," Pollard said in a statement.

The researchers noted that some countries are considering administering a third 'booster' dose in the future.

Source: PTI

PAGE SPONSORED BY

### DR. SATISH AND GITANJLI ANAND



**DR. SATISH ANAND**  
Former Chairman, Board of Trustees, AAPI National  
E-Mail: sanandmd@gmail.com

**GITANJLI ANAND**  
Former President, India Association of Long Island (IALI)  
E-mail: gitanjlianand@gmail.com



## Facebook launches 'Bulletin' for independent writers

With an aim to promote independent writers, Facebook has announced a set of publishing and subscription tools—Bulletin—to support these creators in the US.

The tech giant said that Bulletin will include support focused on content creation, monetisation and audience growth.

"The popularity of our local Groups and Pages has shown us that people are hungry for locally-relevant, longer-form content produced by expert and authoritative voices," the company said in a statement.

"Through Bulletin, we want to make Facebook a better place for these creators, and unify our existing tools with something that could more directly support great writing and audio content—from podcasts to Live Audio Rooms—all in one place," it added.

Each Bulletin creator will have a standalone website under their brand and will be able to customise their publication's name, logo and colour palette.

Creators can also customise their articles with multi-media embeds and other styling options.



# Life could exist in clouds of Jupiter, not Venus: Research

**NEW DELHI (TIP):** Jupiter's clouds have water conditions that would allow earth-like life to exist, but this isn't possible in Venus' clouds, according to the groundbreaking finding of research led by Queen's University Belfast scientists.

For some decades, space exploration missions have looked for evidence of life beyond earth where we know that large bodies of water, such as lakes or oceans, exist or have previously existed.

However, the new research shows that it isn't the quantity of water that matters for making life viable, but the effective concentration of water molecules -- known as 'water activity'.

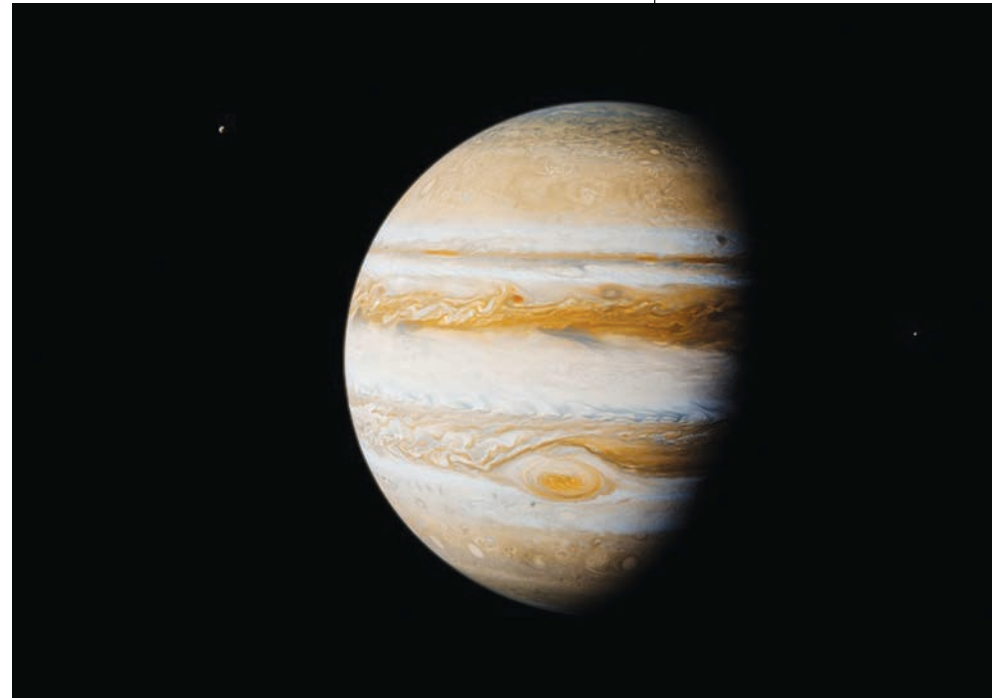
The new study also found that research published by an independent team of scientists last year, claiming that the phosphine gas in Venus' atmosphere indicates possible life in the sulphuric acid clouds of Venus, is not plausible.

Through this innovative research project, Dr John E. Hallsworth from the School of Biological Sciences at Queen's and his team of international collaborators devised a method to determine the water activity of atmospheres of a planet.

Using their approach to study the sulphuric acid clouds of Venus, the researchers found that the water activity was more than a hundred times below the lower limit at which life can exist on earth.

The research also shows that Jupiter's clouds have a high enough concentration of water, as well as the correct temperature, for life to exist there. The study has been published in Nature Astronomy.

Hallsworth said: "Our research shows that the sulphuric acid clouds in Venus have too little water for active life to exist, based on what we know of life on earth. We have also found that the



conditions of water and temperature within Jupiter's clouds could allow microbial-type life to subsist, assuming that other requirements such as nutrients are present.

"This is a timely finding given that NASA and the European Space Agency just announced three missions to Venus in the coming years. One of these will take measurements of Venus's atmosphere that we will be able to compare with our findings."

Co-author of the report, an expert on physics and chemical biology of water, Dr Philip Ball, commented: "The search for extraterrestrial life has sometimes been a bit simplistic in its attitude to water. As our work shows, it's not enough to say that liquid water equates with habitability. We've got to think too about how earth-like organisms actually use it -

- which shows us that we then have to ask how much of the water is actually available for those biological uses."

Co-author of the report, NASA-based planetary scientist Prof. Christopher P. McKay, said: "We derive water activity of atmospheres without a model of any sort, based only on direct observations of pressure, temperature, and water concentration."

Hallsworth added: "We have also performed calculations for Mars and earth and show that these calculations can be done for planets outside our solar system. While our research doesn't claim that alien (microbial-type) life does exist on other planets in our solar system, it shows that if the water activity and other conditions are right, then such life could exist in places where we haven't previously been looking." *Source: IANS*

## Massive comet moving towards sun, and will be visible from Earth in 2031

A never-before-seen comet has been observed in our solar system. The comet reportedly hails from the Oort Cloud which is believed to be one the most distant region in our solar system. At first scientists noticed the comet as a tiny, moving dot in archival images which were obtained from the Dark Energy Camera at the Cerro Tololo Inter-American Observatory in Chile.

The comet has now been named as Comet C/2014 UN271, or Bernardinelli-Bernstein named after its discoverers, University of Pennsylvania graduate student Pedro Bernardinelli and astronomer Gary Bernstein. According to calculations by Pedro Bernardinelli, the comet's dusty, icy nucleus is between 62 and 125 miles long.

The comet is speculated to be 62 miles (100 kilometers) wide. The comet is speculated to reach its closest point to the sun in its orbit on Jan 23, 2031. It is also at this point that those with a good telescope will be able to view it from



Earth, according to reports. At this point, it will be just beyond the orbit of Saturn, which is about 10.95 times the distance between Earth and the sun.

"We will have practically 20 years to study it," Peter Vereš, an astronomer at the Center for Astrophysics Harvard & Smithsonian, said.

The Comet had first made its appearance in the 2014 archives of the Dark Energy Camera.

## YouTube TV '4K Plus' tier brings 4K streaming

**SAN FRANCISCO (TIP):** Google-owned video-streaming giant YouTube TV is introducing a new add-on that introduces 4K quality, downloads and unlimited simultaneous streaming on a home network to the Google live TV subscription service.

The "4K Plus" add-on, which costs \$19.99 a month extra, will allow viewers to stream 4K content on YouTube TV for the first time. That's assuming that they have a compatible TV and streaming device, such as an Apple TV 4K.

In addition, the add-on allows users to download recorded shows to watch offline on their phone or tablet, AppleInsider reported. It also introduces unlimited streaming on a user's home Wi-Fi network. The standard YouTube TV subscription only allows three streams simultaneously.

Along with the announcement of 4K Plus, YouTube also previewed other new features and changes, such as an option to join various segments within a sports program and the ability to easily search



for and add sports to a DVR.

For all YouTube TV users, the company is adding Dolby 5.1 audio capabilities.

The feature will begin rolling out to select devices "over the coming weeks," YouTube said.

Although the add-on will cost \$19.99 a month, YouTube is running a special promotion that will bring the price down to \$9.99 a month for one year. Users can also net a one-month free trial of 4K Plus.

*Source: IANS*



## Economy recovering, rising cyber attacks a risk: RBI

The second wave of the pandemic took a "grievous toll" on India, but the dented economic activity has started recovering from late-May, RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das said on Thursday, July 1.

In a first, Das flagged the rising data breaches and cyber attacks as a risk facing the economy, along with others like firming global commodity prices.

"The recovery that had commenced in the second half of 2020-21 was dented in April-May 2021, but with the wave of infections abating as rapidly as it had set in, economic activity has started to look up in late May and early June," Das wrote in his foreword to the bi-annual Financial Stability Report prepared by the RBI.

The report said the gross non-performing assets of banks have been stable at 7.5% in March 2021 — the same level as six months ago — but are expected to go up to 9.8% in March 2022, as per its baseline scenario.

Das said the dent on balance sheets and performance of financial institutions in India have been much less than what was projected earlier, but was quick to add that a clearer picture will emerge as the effects of regulatory reliefs fully work their way through.

## Exports touched \$95 billion in June quarter

Indian merchandise exports touched \$95 billion in the three months ended June, recording an all-time high in any single quarter, commerce and industry minister Piyush Goyal said on Friday, July 2, adding that the country is set to achieve its \$400 billion export target in 2021-22. He attributed the performance, which came despite the second wave of the coronavirus disease pandemic, to excellent performance by labour-intensive sectors such as engineering goods, rice, oil meals and marine products.

Merchandise exports in the first quarter of 2021-22 jumped 16% over \$82 billion in the same quarter two years ago (Q1, FY19), when compared with a normal year preceding the first wave, he said. The previous record was \$90 billion in the fourth quarter of 2020-21.

The first wave of the Covid-19 pandemic and the consequent 68-day nationwide lockdown since March 25, 2020 adversely affected merchandise exports in the first quarter of the previous financial year (April-June, 2020-21), which clocked \$51 billion.

According to official data, the highest growth of 168% was achieved in iron ore exports, which touched \$1.7 billion compared to the same period two years ago [Q1 FY-20].

## London replaces Amsterdam as Europe's trading hub, first time after Brexit

London moved back ahead of Amsterdam as Europe's largest share trading center in June, reclaiming the top spot for the first time this year after Brexit pushed much of the city's volumes to the continent.

An average 8.92 billion euros (\$10.6 billion) of shares a day were traded on various London venues in June, compared with 8.8 billion euros for various Dutch venues, according to data from Cboe Europe.

This compares with about 9.4 billion euros average daily trading value for Amsterdam in May and around 8.7 billion euros in London. Paris, the third largest venue, saw its daily trading decline from almost 6.1 billion euros in May to 5.8 billion euros in June.

While London's return to the top spot is a welcome boost for the stock trading sector buffeted by Brexit, the city's lead over Amsterdam is a fraction of what it was before the end of the transition period. In December, London's share trading volumes stood at 14.3 billion euros compared to 2.2 billion euros for Amsterdam, according to Cboe



data.

Britain lost its rights to access the European Union's single market on Dec. 31 and the bloc has not permitted investors inside its borders to trade shares in companies such as Airbus SE and BNP Paribas SA from the UK. The EU could eventually reopen access by recognizing the UK markets as equivalent to its own, though there is little sign of movement in this process.

London has gained some volumes this year from Swiss

equity trading, which resumed after the UK dropped out of an EU-wide ban that has been in place since 2019.

"The return of Swiss share trading has helped overturn what has been just a temporary phase," said Alberto Tocchio, a portfolio manager at Kairos Partners. "London will soon regain the status of European and global trading hub and it could easily benefit from being away from the restrictive EU rules." *Source: Bloomberg*

## India Inc foreign borrowings plunge by 51%

India companies' foreign borrowings plunged by nearly 51 per cent to USD 738.45 million in May this year amid the second wave of COVID-19, according to the RBI data.

Indian businesses had raised USD 1.49 billion by way of external commercial borrowings (ECB) in May 2020.

The entire fund raised in May 2021 came through the automatic route of the ECB.

Also, not a single borrower tapped the rupee-denominated bonds (or masala bonds) to raise funds from foreign markets in May, same as in the year-ago month.

BW Global United LPG India Pvt Ltd (USD 198.41 million for import of capital goods); Renew Sun Waves (USD 140 million for new projects); and Indian Oil Corporation (USD 100 million for working capital requirement) were among the major borrowers.

Tata SIA Airlines Ltd raised USD 110.40 million for the import of capital goods, the data showed.

## Amazon to grant new CEO Andy Jassy over \$200 million in stock

Amazon.com Inc plans to award incoming Chief Executive Andy Jassy more than \$200 million in extra stock, which will pay out over 10 years, the company said in a regulatory filing on Friday.

Amazon will record the grant of 61,000 shares on July 5, the filing said. That's the date Jassy succeeds Jeff Bezos in the online retailer's first CEO transition since its founding in 1994. As of Friday's close, those shares are worth about \$214 million.

The award's exact value will depend on how the shares are trading when they pay out in future years, encouraging Jassy to grow a company that's worth \$1.77 trillion today. Though Amazon did not disclose the vesting schedule, its previous stock grants have not vested right away. Jassy's base salary has been \$175,000, filings show. On top of that, he has \$45.3 million in previously awarded stock that is vesting this year and had \$41.5 million vest in 2020.

The annual median pay at Amazon was \$29,007 last year across full, part-time and temporary employees worldwide, excluding Bezos, whose base salary was \$81,840. The founder's outsized stake in Amazon has made him the richest person in the world.

Jassy's vested equity was still smaller than payouts to rival CEOs in the technology industry. Microsoft Corp's Satya Nadella had \$215 million in stock vest for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2020, on top of a base salary of \$2.5 million, for instance. Apple Inc's Tim Cook had \$281.9 million in stock vest, according to its 2021 proxy.

*Source: Reuters*



## Japan's SoftBank invests \$200 million in largest crypto exchange of Brazil

Japan's SoftBank Group Corp has invested \$200 million in Mercado Bitcoin, one of the largest cryptocurrency exchanges in Latin America, said Roberto Dagnoni, executive chairman and chief executive officer of 2TM Group, the trading platform's parent company.

The investment, raised in a Series B funding round, was made through SoftBank Latin America Fund and represents the Japanese multinational company's largest investment in a Latin American crypto company. As a result of the investment, 2TM said its valuation reached \$2.1 billion.

The SoftBank capital raise comes at a time when investor sentiment on cryptocurrencies has soured amid regulatory crackdowns in China, Britain and Japan. That has led to outflows from crypto investment products and funds the last few weeks.

Dagnoni, however, was unfazed by the current slump in cryptocurrencies. "We are strong believers in the fundamentals of crypto," Dagnoni told Reuters in a phone interview.

Mercado Bitcoin will use the funds to scale its operations, expand offerings, and invest in infrastructure to meet rising demand for crypto in the region, 2TM said in a statement. "The platform is quite integrated. So custody is very important in releasing the power of the institutional market," Dagnoni said in the interview.

*Source: Reuters*





## R & R Dental Lab

86-24 Whitney Ave. Elmhurst, NY 11373

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

Email: rbarua1953@gmail.com



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

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



## SONU INSURANCE AGENCY INC.

**Insurance, Money Transfer, Tax Preparation**

**Specializing in:**

- Auto ● Home ● Business
- Construction
- Workers Compensation

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



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

**CALL TODAY**  
**OPEN 9 AM to 6 PM**

**113-09 101st Avenue (Opposite Gurdwara),  
Richmond Hill, NY 11419**  
**Phone: 718-847-1878/ 1885 Fax: 718-847-1879**  
**Email: sonuinsurance@yahoo.com**



77 North Broadway Hicksville, NY 11801  
127-24 101 Ave. Richmond Hill, NY 11419  
(516) 932-3400  
www.hprealty1.com

- Residential & Commercial Real Estate
  - Single Family, Multi-family, Investment properties
  - Hotels/Motels, Gas Stations, Restaurants
  - Relocation Assistance - brokers licensed in
  - New York and Indiana
- Insurance Services
  - Home Life and Health
- Mortgages (provided by affiliate lenders)
  - New Purchase Refinance
  - Hard Money Loans Business/SBA Loan

**ARE YOU BEHIND ON YOUR MORTGAGE PAYMENTS?**  
**IS THE BANK GIVING YOU A HARD TIME FOR MORTGAGE DEFERRAL OR FORBEARANCE?**  
**STOP FORECLOSURE!**

**CALL THE EXPERTS AT HP REALTY FOR MORTGAGE RELIEF ASSISTANCE**



**Pal Singh Dhillon**  
Licensed Real Estate Broker  
QA Software Engineer, E-Pro Certified  
Notary Public  
(516) 304-2630

**Jeet Dhillon**  
Licensed Real Estate Broker  
New York and Indiana

(516) 830-0352

hprealty1@gmail.com







# US HISTORY THIS WEEK

## July 02 - 08, 2021

History of a nation is probably one of the most important aspects of a nation's life. History is the best educator and also the most important index of human mind. It is a record of human achievements and failures; of humanity and inhumanity of human beings; of the beauty and the ugliness of human life. Never to be ignored, history remains the best friend of a person, a community and a nation. Let us know our history.

In commemoration of the 4th of July, The Indian Panorama will bring to readers, beginning July 2, 2021, the significant events from the US History week after weeks.

### July 2

**JULY 2, 1776** - The Continental Congress in Philadelphia adopted the following resolution, originally introduced on June 7, by Richard Henry Lee of Virginia: "Resolved, That these United Colonies are, and of right ought to be, free and independent States, that they are absolved from all allegiance to the British Crown, and that all political connection between them and the State of Great Britain is, and ought to be, totally dissolved. That it is expedient forthwith to take the most effectual measures for forming foreign Alliances. That a plan of confederation be prepared and transmitted to the respective Colonies for their consideration and approbation."

**JULY 2, 1788** - Congress announced the United States Constitution had been ratified by the required nine states and that a committee had been appointed to make preparations for the new American government.

**JULY 2, 1881** - President James A. Garfield was shot and mortally wounded as he entered a railway station in Washington, D.C. He died on September 19th.

**JULY 2, 1917** - A race riot occurred in St. Louis, Missouri, resulting in an estimated 75 African Americans killed and hundreds injured. To protest the violence against blacks, W.E.B. DuBois and James Weldon Johnson later led a silent march down Fifth Avenue in New York.

**JULY 2, 1964** - President Lyndon B. Johnson signed the Civil Rights Act of 1964, prohibiting discrimination on the basis of race in public accommodations, publicly owned or operated facilities, employment and union membership and in voter registration. The Act allowed for cutoff of Federal funds in places where discrimination remained.

**BIRTHDAY** - The first African American on the U.S. Supreme Court, Thurgood Marshall (1908-1993) was born in Baltimore, Maryland. Nominated by President Johnson, he began his 24-year career on the High Court in 1967.

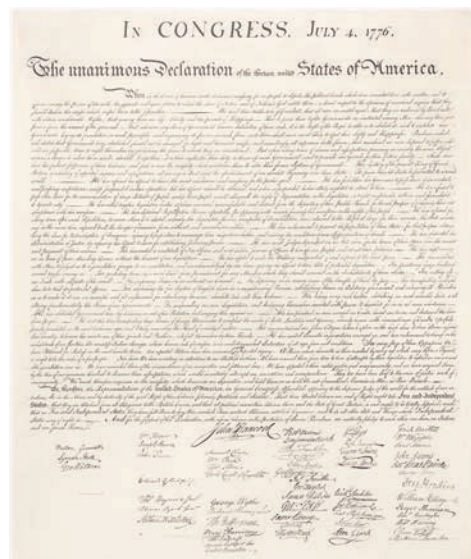
### July 3

**JULY 3, 1775** - During the American Revolution, George Washington took command of the Continental Army at Cambridge, Massachusetts.

**JULY 3, 1976** - The raid on Entebbe airport in Uganda occurred as an Israeli commando unit rescued 103 hostages on a hijacked Air France airliner. The jet had been en route from Tel Aviv to Paris when it was hijacked by pro-Palestinian guerrillas. Three hostages, seven hijackers and twenty Ugandan soldiers were killed during the rescue.

July 3, 1988 - Iran Air Flight 655 was destroyed while flying over the Persian Gulf after the U.S. Navy Warship Vincennes fired two surface-to-air missiles, killing all 290 passengers aboard. A subsequent U.S. military inquiry cited stress related human failure for the mistaken identification of the civilian airbus as an enemy F-14 fighter jet.

### July 4



*The Declaration of Independence was approved by the Continental Congress on July 4, 1776*

**JULY 4, 1776** - The Declaration of Independence was approved by the Continental Congress.

**JULY 4, 1863** - Vicksburg, the last Confederate stronghold on the Mississippi River, surrendered to General Grant and the Army of the West after a six-week siege. With the Union in control of the Mississippi, the Confederacy was effectively split in two, cut off from its western allies.

**JULY 4, 1882** - The "Last Great Buffalo Hunt" began on Indian reservation lands near Hettinger, North Dakota as 2,000 Teton Sioux Indians in full hunting regalia killed about 5,000 buffalo. By this time, most of the estimated 60-75 million buffalo in America had been killed by white hunters who usually took the hides and left the meat to rot. By 1883, the last of the free-ranging buffalo were gone.

**BIRTHDAY** - Novelist and short-story writer Nathaniel Hawthorne (1804-1864) was born in Salem, Massachusetts. His works included *The Scarlet Letter*, *The*

*House of the Seven Gables* and *The Blithedale Romance*.

**BIRTHDAY** - Song writer Stephen Foster (1826-1864) was born in Lawrenceville, Pennsylvania. Among his nearly 200 songs were *Oh! Susanna*, *Camptown Races*, *Swanee River*, *Jeanie with the Light Brown Hair*, and *Beautiful Dreamer*. He died in poverty at Bellevue Hospital in New York.

**BIRTHDAY** - Calvin Coolidge (1872-1933) the 30th U.S. President was born in Plymouth, Vermont. He became President on August 3, 1923, after the death of Warren G. Harding. In 1924, Coolidge was elected President but did not run for re-election in 1928.

### July 5

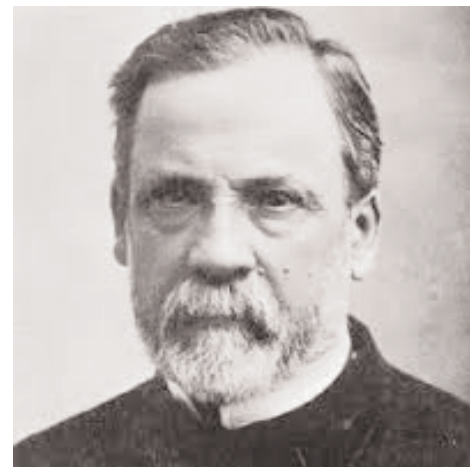
**JULY 5, 1775** - The Continental Congress adopted the Olive Branch Petition expressing hope for a reconciliation with Britain. However, King George III refused even to look at the petition and instead issued a proclamation declaring the colonists to be in a state of open rebellion.

**BIRTHDAY** - Civil War Admiral David Farragut (1801-1870) was born near Knoxville, Tennessee. He is best remembered for his yelling "Damn the torpedoes, full speed ahead!" during an attack on his fleet by the Confederates.

**BIRTHDAY** - Promoter and showman P.T. Barnum (1810-1891) was born in Bethel, Connecticut. His American Museum opened in 1842, exhibiting unusual acts such as the Feejee Mermaid, Siamese Twins Chang and Eng, and General Tom Thumb. In 1871, Barnum opened "The Greatest Show on Earth" in Brooklyn, New York. He later merged with rival J.A. Bailey to form the Barnum and Bailey Circus.

**BIRTHDAY** - Cecil J. Rhodes (1853-1902) was born at Bishop's Stortford, Hertfordshire, England. As a South African millionaire and politician, he was said to have once controlled 90 percent of the world's diamond production. His will established the Rhodes Scholarships at Oxford University for young scholars aged 18-25. Rhodesia was also named for him.

### July 6



*Louis Pasteur gave the first successful anti-rabies inoculation to a boy who had been bitten by an infected dog on July 6, 1885*

**JULY 6, 1885** - Louis Pasteur gave the first successful anti-rabies inoculation to a boy who had been bitten by an infected dog.

**BIRTHDAY** - Revolutionary War Naval Officer John Paul Jones (1747-1792) was born in Kirkbean, Scotland. He is best remembered for responding "I have not yet begun to fight!" to British opponents seeking his surrender during a naval battle.

### July 7

**JULY 7, 1898** - President William McKinley signed a resolution annexing Hawaii. In 1900, Congress made Hawaii an incorporated territory of the U.S., which it remained until becoming a state in 1959.

**BIRTHDAY** - Baseball pitcher Leroy R. (Satchel) Paige (1906-1982) was born in Mobile, Alabama. Following a career in the Negro Leagues, he became, at age 42, the first African American pitcher in the American League. He was inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame in 1971.

### July 8

**JULY 8, 1776** - The first public reading of the Declaration of Independence occurred as Colonel John Nixon read it to an assembled crowd in Philadelphia.

**JULY 8, 1943** - During the Nazi occupation of France, Resistance leader Jean Moulin died following his arrest and subsequent torture by the Gestapo. He had been sent by the Allies into France in 1942 to unite the fledgling Underground movement. In June of 1943, he was arrested in Lyon, tortured for eleven days but betrayed no one. He died aboard a train while being transferred to a concentration camp.



*Nelson Rockefeller (1908-1979) was born in Bar Harbor, Maine*

**BIRTHDAY** - Nelson Rockefeller (1908-1979) was born in Bar Harbor, Maine. He served as Governor of New York from 1958 to 1973. He became vice-president under Gerald Ford in 1974, serving until January 20, 1977.

*(Source: The History Place)*



# IAF Honors Community leaders at Indian American Night



Honorees

**LONG ISLAND, NY (TIP):** Indian American Forum under the leadership of Founding Member Dr. Bobby K. Kalotee and Chairwoman Indu Jaiswal brought the community together to celebrate "Back to Life – Indian American Night", both In-person and Zoom.

Chaired by Beena Kothari & Co-chaired by Flora Parekh, the event honored distinguished community leaders who made a significant stride through these unprecedented times.

In the presence of Nassau County Executive Hon. Laura Curran, several distinguished community leaders, students and achievers were honored by Special Citations - namely Mukesh Modi, Beena Kothari, Dr. Jag Kalra, Deepa Goyal, Priya Suri, Ankur Sahani, Anika Tolat and Hardev Singh. Nassau County executive Hon. Laura Curra shared valuable county resources and information as we move along post difficult times.



Dance performers

Beautifully Emceed by Royal International Miss Rhea Manjrekar & Royal International Miss Teen Simran Kohli, Graceful young Bollywood dancers, choreographed by Shilpa Mithaiwala & individual performers Varinder Khaas, Singers Gaurav & Kulbhooshan, added colors to the programs rocking the floor with DJ Parminder. Mouth-watering dinner boxes by Sheetal from Rajbhog were served.

Several community leaders and IAF Board Members graced the event - to name a few Mohinder Taneja, Jasbir (Jay) Singh, Vijay Goswami, Anu Gulati, Bina Sabapathy, Sunil Modi, Pinky Jaggi, Dr. Urmilesh Arya, Indu Gajwani, Suhag Mehta, and many more. The event was generously covered by several print and TV media. Additional information can be found at [www.indianamericanforum.org](http://www.indianamericanforum.org).

(Press Release)

## Christians to Celebrate 3 July as 'Indian Christian Day / Yeshu Bhakti Divas'

**NEW YORK (TIP):** Over an estimated 30 million Indian followers of Lord Jesus Christ will celebrate 3 July 2021 as 'Indian Christian Day' or 'Yeshu Bhakti Divas'. This day is historically observed as St. Thomas Day. Christians traditionally believe that the Gospel of Jesus Christ was brought to India in 52 AD, by Apostle St. Thomas, one of Jesus' disciples, who was then martyred near Chennai in 72 AD.

The celebration on 3 July 2021 will also launch the 'Decade of Celebration' (2021-2030), to honor the 2000th anniversary of the earthly ministry of Jesus Christ whose followers have helped in the development of India and the world. Their contribution to nation building, including the development of vernacular languages, literature, printing, publishing, education, journalism, health care, health education, women empowerment and other socio-economic enhancement, will be honored.

The celebration will include a number of social help projects among the marginalized, the underprivileged and the Covid affected families. Seminars and discussions on contemporary economic and social issues will be organized, and positive steps will be taken to create a peaceful and prosperous nation. A number of cultural programs also will be staged with special stress on Indian music and cultural dances. Christians of Indian origin will celebrate the event not only in India but also among the Indian diaspora globally.

Email: [indianchristianday@gmail.com](mailto:indianchristianday@gmail.com)  
Website: [www.indianchristianday.com](http://www.indianchristianday.com)

## FIA SHIPS ESSENTIAL MEDICAL EQUIPMENT TO INDIA AHEAD OF LIKELY 3RD WAVE OF PANDEMIC



The federation recently sent multiple shipments shipped 8 containers of medical cargo comprising pulse oximeters, ventilators machines, and its supplies.

**KEASBEY, NJ (TIP):** The Federation of Indian Associations of the tri-state area of New York, New Jersey and Connecticut (FIA-NY NJ CT) has once again proved its commitment to serve its motherland India in times of need. The federation recently shipped nine containers of Oximeters, Rescuation bags, medical cargo, and two shipments of 350 ventilators and its supplies via Air India donated by the City of New York, to India as the country

prepares for a likely third wave of the Covid-19 pandemic.

The cargo, which comprises •300 - Hamilton T1 Ventilators•3000 -Ventilator circuits•3000 - Ventilator Filters•3000 - Ventilator Flow Sensors•3000 - Ventilator Expiratory Valves60 - Ventilator Battery Calibrator with cords•50 - Philips Trilogy 100 Portable Ventilators•310,176 - Pulse Oximeters•1000Sunmed Rescuation Bags was compiled at the warehouse, packaged, labeled and shipped with the help of a partnered transporter and freight forwarders all of which was coordinated and executed by FIA and sponsored by FIA donors. The cargo is headed to Delhi and Mumbai. FIA had arranged for a see-off at the warehouse in Keasbey, NJ to allow for the sponsors and donors to personally see the packaging and loading of the cargo into the containers from the warehouse.

Besides the executive and board members of FIA, in attendance was Deputy Consul General of New York Shatrughna Sinha who took inventory of the shipment. He praised the efforts of FIA in taking charge of the cargo and handling the logistics for its timely shipment and thanked the City of New York, Maersk Air India and all the sponsors for their contributions.

Parveen Bansal, general secretary and executive committee member of FIA Tristate who was appointed to lead the logistical efforts, said, "It is a privilege to be part of such an unprecedented relief effort and to serve our motherland".

Prabir Roy, the senior-most FIA board member in attendance, said, "The successful engagement of FIA in seeing this medical cargo through has turned the page in its history and made a statement with its work in service of the motherland."

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

## MAYOR DE BLASIO AND CHANCELLOR PORTER ANNOUNCE RECORD NUMBER OF 3-K FOR ALL OFFERS

**33,000 families receive 3-K for All offers as program expands across all 32 community school districts**



Meisha Porter - File photo

**NEW YORK CITY (TIP):** Mayor Bill de Blasio and Schools Chancellor Meisha Porter, on June 30, announced 33,131 families are receiving offers to free, full-day, high-quality 3-K for All across all 32 community school districts following an historic expansion of the program – up from 17,455 in 2020 and 9,518 in 2019.

"By expanding 3-K to every district across our city, we're bringing a record number of families access to a free, high-quality, early education for their child. As we build a recovery for us all, 3-K and Pre-K will continue to lead the way in supporting New York City's children and working families," said Mayor Bill de Blasio. "Access to free, high-quality early education has transformed the lives of so many families across New York City, and today a record 33,000 children are receiving offers to a 3-K for All program," said Schools Chancellor Meisha Porter.

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





FREE  
RUPEE  
REMITTANCE  
TO INDIA

CREATING HISTORY AND FORGING THE FUTURE

*Celebrating 75 Years of India's Independence*

4<sup>TH</sup> JULY  
INDEPENDENCE DAY

*Attractive Interest Rates on Certificate of Deposit*

\*\*Please visit our website for current Interest Rates and more information

**MEMBER FDIC**

We are happy to continue offering services and patronising our valued customers in United States of America

Acceptance of Certificates of Deposit  
Trade Finance • Syndicated/Bilateral Loans  
Corporate Finance • Allied Services in Foreign Exchange • Correspondent Banking Business

One Park Avenue, New York, NY 10016  
USA - Phone 212-578-4550 • Fax - 212-578-4565

E-mail: [newyor@bankofbaroda.com](mailto:newyor@bankofbaroda.com)  
Web: [www.bankofbaroda-usa.com](http://www.bankofbaroda-usa.com)



**Shree Ganeshaya Namah**



**VEDIC ASTROLOGER NASTUR BEJAN DARUWALLA**

**By Vedic Astrologer  
Nastur Bejan Daruwalla  
is available for astrological  
consultations.**

**He can be reached at  
info@bejandaruwala.com  
and on phone**

**+91 8141234275  
for astrological  
queries**

**www.bejandaruwala.com**



*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 5 to July 11, 2021**

**Aries**

This week you will be silly and immature because you're laid back this week. You should thank your lucky stars because you will get away with everything and make sure that you're not taking too many risks. Even though motivation is not your biggest virtue this week, you can still manage to do your best this week. You will get to learn a lot about your partner's nature and behavior when things don't work out their way which will help you feel secure about being in a relationship with them.

**Taurus**

You will love your business very much this week hence you will like to work under deadlines and pressures this week. Your passion for your business speaks volumes to you. You are always fearless and inspiring. You will do well if you work hard as well as smart this week. Things will be much better for you on the health aspect if you can stay calm and keep your mind tension free. The root cause of most of the health issues is stress this week.

**Gemini**

You're likely to go on a spiritual journey this week, to find your purpose and life and get to know yourself better. This week will be quite intense for you but in a positive way. Your loved ones will not bother you and let you do your thing which is exactly what you need this week. You won't spend much time with your loved one this week but things will be great between you and your loved one. You will receive an unexpected amount of empathy from them which will make you feel very confident about your relationship.

**Cancer**

Great opportunities will come to you this week, be careful about them, they can really work in your favor in the near future. Focus on outsourcing your work; it will be beneficial for your personal as well as professional life because you need to give your attention and time to both. Your health is doing good. It's neither too great nor too bad. You might be overwhelmed with the

amount of work you have, so remember to take out time for your health; it will pay you in the future. Physically you might need some help you get through all the obstacles this week as it will be a little tiring, but you will receive all the help you need easily.

**Leo**

Tough week for your Business this week as it will suddenly spiral downwards, you need to pick up the slack this week itself before it gets even worse. You will have to become the inspiration and motivate your employees this week, as they will be quite disappointed and low from the sudden blow to your business.

**Virgo**

Your love life is progressing rapidly. Taking the next step will be a good idea this week as you feel secured and confident in your partner. 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.

**Libra**

This week brings a minor health warning that you could suffer from long time cough and cold. At the same time, you might find that you are recovering from a disease, and you will need to take some time to care about yourself this week. If you are careful about what you eat and how you exercise, you will do amazing health wise and recover fairly quickly.

**Scorpio**

Your love life will be better than it's ever been. If you have been trying to get a specific someone's attention for a while now, luck will be with you this week. Live in the moment and try not to rush things. Your partner may have a good attitude towards you which will lead to solutions of misunderstandings. Your relationship which has been stuck at the same stage since a while now will move forward this week. You will experience a new sense of being this week as your relationship

moves forward due to your efforts.

**Sagittarius**

This week is just a relatively easy week for you as you work with your team with ease and also have a lot of fun at work this week. Your work life will be the most positive part of your week. A very productive week is on its way for you this week. You will have a lot of work to do, which you will thoroughly enjoy.

**Capricorn**

Positive energies are mild for you this week. You have been lazy for a while now and the consequences of that are showing up this week. While it might seem like a negative thing, it is actually the biggest positive for you this week and it will help you in the long run to be more responsible.

**Aquarius**

You will feel really content and secure in your relationship this week. You can rest assured that this is the person you want to spend the rest of your life with and work on being the best partner yourself. You will face some serious and unavoidable obstacles in your business this week. You will find yourself alone in the entire mess as your business partner is likely to flee the wrecked ship. Your spouse will help you get out of this mess but they can only help you to a certain level. You will need to pull your weight when it comes to working hard this week.

**Pisces**

This week you will realize the importance of your family as you will have to go through something very challenging and difficult in your life this week itself. Make sure to express your gratitude to them and apologies for your past mistakes genuinely. Embarking on an unknown journey alone will be nerve wrecking even for someone who is as confident as you. You need to work on being disciplined and being punctual if you want to succeed as a lot of work and a lot less time lies ahead of you.



**BIRTHDAY HOROSCOPE JULY 5 TO JULY 11, 2021**

By Astro Friend Chirag - Blessed Son of Astrologer Bejan Daruwalla

**CONTD FROM PAGE 52**

**JULY 5 :** You will be pampered a lot by your family today. They need to feel appreciated for their efforts towards you. You won't face any major problems in your life today and it will only keep getting better. Do not rush into things and think about the next step. Your work needs a lot of time and attention from you, hence think twice before you decide to take this relationship further.

**JULY 6 :** You will be relaxed in terms of your work to the point of being lazy as things will simply work out without requiring your time or effort. Luck is on your side when it comes to business and finances today. Your wellbeing will improve over the past few days, and positivity will arrive in your relationships. There is nothing that you can't handle if you chose to remain calm and peaceful. Focus on being kind caring and gentle and make way for a very long-lasting relationship.

**JULY 7 :** You will spend a lot of quality time with your loved ones. Your health will be good

today but you will need to work on improving it even more. Even though you will have a lot of work today, it will be very beneficial for you. Any health concerns that you previously had will be alleviated today. Any situation that was causing you a lot of stress and hence health issues is likely to be resolved and hence you feel a lot better today.

**JULY 8 :** A happy and jolly day for you today. Be prepared for a lot of amazing surprises. You are extremely close to finding that person that will support you in everything. Be open to the affection being shown to you. Today is a great day for your life to flourish into the next big thing. You will do okay today if you do not let your thoughts get to you as today is a sensitive day for you. Avoid any kind of stress today because your health is totally in your hands and you will need to make today count by making the correct choices.

**JULY 9 :** Work on being resilient and self-reliant today, it will save you from a lot of losses in the future. Your business has been pretty

down lately. Today might be different, do not over think and waste your time, keep working instead. Make sure you focus on yourself today and do not waste time on anyone else today.

**JULY 10 :** You will experience a positive shift in your life today, which will keep you happy and bubbly throughout the day. Today you're doing great in your life. Consider that the stars are in your favor today. Great things are coming your way. You will meet some new friends today which will be good for you.

**JULY 11 :** Finances and prosperity are on your way today. Due to the immense luck, you have today. This could mean that at work you'll be more satisfied with less amount of work. Make sure you make the most of the luck that you have today because it won't last long. You will earn a lot of money from a new prospect today and all of your colleagues might be a little jealous of you today. The stars are really making you be the best you can be today. You'll be really happy today, thinking about the deal you closed today.

|| SHREE GANESHAY NAMA ||



# Know/Buy your Lucky Gemstones

From the House of Astrologer Bejan Daruwalla

To buy any Gemstone, visit [www.BejanDaruwalla.com](http://www.BejanDaruwalla.com)

Contact us for all kind of Astrology Services

Call/ Whatsapp **+91 8141234275**

Email: [info@bejandaruwala.com](mailto:info@bejandaruwala.com)



World Famous Astrologer Bejan Daruwalla



Nastur Bejan Daruwalla



**LADOO MATRIMONIAL**

ਰਿਸ਼ਤੇ ਹੀ ਰਿਸ਼ਤੇ RISTHE HI RISTHE

We Provide Worldwide Services



**Jetander Sapra**

212-470-7175, 516-309-0236

ladoomatrimonial@gmail.com

jetandersapra@gmail.com

261-03, Hillside Ave, Floral Park-11004

[www.ladoomatrimonial.com](http://www.ladoomatrimonial.com)

**Indian Visa Center**

VISA / OCI PIO / PASSPORT  
APPLICATION ASSISTANCE CENTER

349 S. Broadway, Hicksville, NY 11801

**DEEPAK BANSAL**

Email: [deepakbansalny@gmail.com](mailto:deepakbansalny@gmail.com)

Cell: 516.304.8808 Fax: 516.218.8009

WE THANK OUR CUSTOMERS FOR THEIR TRUST & LOYALTY

26 YEARS OF EXCELLENT CUSTOMER SERVICE



**INDO US EXPRESS, INC**

HICKSVILLE, NEW YORK

WORLDWIDE COURIER FREIGHT-FORWARDER  
DOMESTIC & LOCAL DELIVERY

CALL US AT: 212-447-5720 or FAX 516-932-3750

ALTERNATE NUMBER: 347-538-7041

OR EMAIL US: [INDOUSEXPRESS@GMAIL.COM](mailto:INDOUSEXPRESS@GMAIL.COM)

[www.indousexpress.com](http://www.indousexpress.com)

GREAT SERVICE, 7 DAYS A WEEK, 365 DAYS A YEAR!

CALL ABOUT OUR SPECIAL RATES

TO INDIA/WORLDWIDE

Do you want to succeed in a very rewarding career?

NEW YORK LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY

**IS HIRING**

Do you want to capitalize on your ability to produce?

**COME CHECK IT OUT!**

CALL MR. ROHAN HANDA 718-286-1132 | 516-435-6120



Rohan Handa  
Executive Partner  
New York Life

Conveniently located at:  
95-25 Queens Blvd., 4th Floor  
Rego Park, N.Y. 11374



Get  
to the  
Point



*The* **INDIAN PANORAMA**

EVER TRUTHFUL

A DELIGHTFUL READING EVERY WEEK

**Widest Coverage**

Your Trusted Partner in Business

**The Indian Panorama**

P.O. Box No. 190067, South Richmond Hill, NY 11419, Tel: 646-247-9458  
Dallas Edition - P.O. Box 121695, Arlington, TX 76012

[www.theindianpanorama.news](http://www.theindianpanorama.news)



**The Indian Panorama  
FOR FREE AT**

[www.theindianpanorama.news](http://www.theindianpanorama.news)



There are four holy shrines in Uttarakhand dedicated to Hindu Gods and holy rivers of India. The four shrines are situated within the Garhwal Region. These are collectively referred as "Char Dham of Uttarakhand". Pilgrims from all over India and abroad visit the shrines as "Char Dham Yatra". In Hindu religion, Char Dham Yatra holds great importance and sanctity. It is believed that every Hindu should undertake Char Dham Yatra at least once in a life time to avail the blessings of gods adorning the shrines.

**Char Dham Yatra 2021**

As per Covid-19 pandemic guidelines, pilgrims/devotees cannot visit Uttarakhand Char Dham yatra-2021 in person till further notice. But they can book online for Puja / Path / Archana /Arti / Bhog etc with online payment through this portal, which will be performed on their behalf by chief priest of temple on the given date with their name and gotra.

The Char Dham (meaning four abodes) is a set of four pilgrimage sites in India. It is believed that visiting these sites helps achieve moksha (salvation). The four Dhams are Badrinath, Dwaraka, Puri and Rameswaram.

It is believed that every Hindu should visit the Char Dhams during one's lifetime. The Char Dham as defined by Adi Shankaracharya consists of four Hindu pilgrimage sites. Another small circuit in Uttarakhand of four pilgrimage sites: Yamunotri, Gangotri, Kedarnath, and Badrinath is referred to as Chota Char Dham.

**Yamunotri**

The Shrine of Yamunotri at the source of river Yamuna. Atop is a flank of Bandar Poonch peak (3615 meters). The actual source, a frozen lake of ice and glacier (Champasar Glacier) located on the Kalind Mountain at the height of 4421 m above sea level is about 1 km further up is not easily accessible. Hence the shrine has been located on the foot of the hill. The Temple of divine mother Yamuna was built by Maharaja Pratap Shah of Tehri Garhwal. The tiny Yamuna has icy cold water and its absolute innocence and the infantile purity heightens that deep feeling of reverence, which Yamunotri has for the devout. According to the legend ancient sage Asit Muni had his hermitage here. The trek to Yamunotri is truly spectacular, dominated by a panorama of rugged peaks and dense forests.

The deity or Goddess Yamuna is made of black marble. The temple is dedicated to the river Yamuna, who is represented in the form of a silver idol, bedecked with garlands.

Close to the temple are hot water springs gushing out from the mountain cavities. Suryakund is the most important Kund. Near the Suryakund there is a shila called Divya Shila, which is worshipped before puja is offered to the deity. Pilgrims prepare rice and potatoes to offer at the shrine by dipping them in these hot water springs, tied in muslin cloth. Rice so cooked is taken back home as prasadam.

**Gangotri**

Gangotri is one of the origin sources of Holy River Ganga (Ganges), and one of the important Char Dham pilgrimage in Hindu Religion. The main origin of the river is Gaumukh which is a glacier located 19 km away from gangotri temple. Ganga river is the longest and most sacred river in world.

The Gangotri temple was built by the Gorkha General Amar Singh Thapa, in the 18th century and is situated on the left bank of Bhagirathi river. The temple is nestled amidst the beautiful surroundings of deodars and pine trees. It lies close to the holy rock or the Bhagirath Shila where King Bhagirath had worshiped Lord Shiva. The Gangotri temple is dedicated to Goddess Ganga.

The Pujaris and Priests who perform in the temple belong to the village of Mukhwa. The water from Gangotri is carried to offer to Lord Shiva. It is believed that this water has nectar in it and will soothe the throat of Shiva who gulps the poison.

**Kedarnath**

Kedarnath temple is one of the sacred pilgrimage centre in Northern India, located on the bank of Mandakini river at an altitude of 3584 meters above sea level. The historical name of this region is "Kedar Khand". Kedarnath temple is a part of Char Dhams and Panch Kedar in Uttarakhand and one of the 12

# Char Dham Yatra



Jyotirlingas of Lord Shiva in India.

There are more than 200 shrines dedicated to Lord Shiva in Chamoli district of Uttarakhand itself, the most important one is Kedarnath. According to legend, the Pandavas after having won over the Kauravas in the Kurukshetra war, felt guilty of having killed their own Kith and Kin and sought blessings of Lord Shiva for redemption. He eluded them repeatedly and while fleeing took refuge at Kedarnath in the form of a bafellow.

On being followed, the Lord dived into the ground, leaving his hump on the surface at Kedarnath. The remaining portions of Lord Shiva appeared at four other places and are worshipped there as his manifestations. The arms of the Lord appeared at Tungnath, the face at Rudranath, the belly at Madmaheshwar and his locks (hair) with head at Kalpeshwar. The Kedarnath and four above mentioned shrines are treated as Panch Kedar (Panch means Five in Sanskrit). The Temple at Kedarnath presents an imposing sight, standing in middle of a wide plateau surrounded by lofty snow covered peaks. The temple was originally built in 8th century A.D. by Jagad Guru Adi Shankaracharya and stands adjacent to site of an even earlier temple built by the Pandavas. The inner walls of the assembly hall are decorated with figures of various deities and scenes from mythology. Outside the temple door a large statue of the Nandi Bafellow stands as guard.

Dedicated to Lord Shiva, the Kedarnath temple has exquisite architecture Built of extremely large, heavy and evenly cut grey slabs of stones, it evokes wonder as to how these heavy slabs were moved and handled in the earlier centuries. The temple has a Garbha Griha for worship and a Mandap, apt for assemblies of pilgrims and visitors. A conical rock formation inside the temple is worshipped as Lord Shiva in his Sadashiva form.

**Badarinath**

Badarinath is one of the holy shrines for Vaishnavites among the 108 divya desams incarnation of Lord Vishnu. Badrinath town is also the part of Panch Badri temples including Yog Dhyam Badri, Bhavishya Badri, Adi Badri and Vriddha Badri, along with Badrinath temple.

The main entrance gate of Badarinath temple is colourful and imposing popularly known as Singhdwar. The temple is approximately 50 feet tall with a small cupola on top, covered with a gold gilt roof. The

Badarinath temple is divided into three parts (a) The Garbha Griha or the sanctum sanctorum (b) The Darshan Mandap where rituals are conducted and (c) The Sabha Mandap where pilgrims assemble.

At the Badarinath Mandir Gate, directly opposite the main Idol of Lord himself, is seated idol of Bird Garuda, vehicle / carrier of Lord Badarinath. Garuda is seen in sitting position and in prayer with his hands folded. The walls and pillars of the mandapa are covered with intricate carvings.

The Garbha Griha portion has its canopy covered with a sheet of gold and houses Lord Badari Narayan, Kubera (God of wealth), Narad rishi, Udhava, Nar and Narayan. The complex has 15 idols. Especially attractive is the one-metre high image of lord Badarinath, finely sculpted in black stone. According to legend Shankara discovered a black stone image of Lord Badarinath made of Saligram stone in the Alaknanda River. He originally enshrined it in a cave near the Tapt Kund hot springs. In the sixteenth century, the King of Garhwal moved the murti to the present location of the temple. It represents Lord Vishnu seated in a meditative pose called Padmasan.

PAGE SPONSORED BY

**ARISH K. SAHANI**

Serving Since 1972

Please Call or Write for Your Insurance Needs

**Arish K Sahani (Father)**

**Shiv Sahani (Son)**

**Priya Sahani Sood (Daughter)**

**718 - 271 - 1906**



arish.sahani@gmail.com

"If Hindus don't maintain Hinduism, who shall save it?"  
 "If India's own children don't cling to their faith, who shall guard it?"  
 "Indians alone can save India, and India and Hinduism are one."





# SAI MANDIR USA

1889 Grand Avenue, Baldwin, NY 11510. PH: 516-867-8008



**20<sup>th</sup>**  
(2001 - 2021)

## Anniversary Celebrations

Sunday, July 4th, 2021

- 09:00am : Kakada Aarati
- 09:45am : Special Baba Abhishekam & Samoohika Baba Archana
- 12:30pm : Madhyana Aarati Followed by Mahaprasadam (Boxes in Geeta Mandir)
- 2pm-5pm : Satcharitra Parayana & Baba's experiences from Devotees
- 06:00 pm : Dhoop Aarathi
- 06:30 pm : Pallaki Seva
- 08:00 pm : Shej Aarati
- 08:30 pm : Mahaprasadam

**11am-12pm**  
Special program and address by Chief Guest  
**Shri Randhir Jaiswal, Consul General of India, NY**

MASK IS MANDATORY | FREE PARKING ACROSS THE STREET

For Additional Information  
& Sponsorship Opportunities Please call:

Bala Nori: 917-407-0462 | Dr. Nori: 914-320-5925

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

[www.facebook.com/saimandirNY](https://www.facebook.com/saimandirNY)

### OTHER MANDIR LOCATIONS

#### SHIRDI SAI

DEVIKAL & COMMUNITY CENTER

455 Lincoln Highway, Iselin, NJ 08830. Ph: 732-263-1800

#### SAI MANDIR

59 West Old Country Road, Hicksville, NY 11801. Ph: 732-538-1235



Monsoon is one of the best times of the year to experience the beauty of every exotic part of India that offers ecstasy, beauty, and heavenly pleasure when you are vacationing. Although people may not find it very safe to travel during monsoon, rains have the magical spell to change your fear to become a little more adventurous. The lush greenery in the mountains, the lakes getting overflowed with sparkling water, driving around the waterfall, create a heavenly scenery that is too hard to resist. You will find a list of top gorgeous places to visit in monsoon in India that looks even more spectacular during this time.

### Shillong, Meghalaya

When it comes to best places to visit in monsoon, Shillong, also known as the 'Scotland of the East', is considered one of the top travel destinations in India during this season. The captivating beauty becomes even more mesmerizing when the entire hill town gets drenched in rains. Misty clouds, with lush green everywhere and rumbling waterfalls with a beautiful view, can surely be the best reason for visiting Shillong, Meghalaya. Road-tripping around the hills and staying at nearby cozy hotels with gorgeous views, visiting the Elephant Falls, and the Spread Eagle Falls, trying out the local delicacies, are what you need for a vacation. Both the nearest airport and railway station are in Guwahati (Assam), at a distance of 149 km.

### Goa

Goa is surely a major attraction point for any time in the year, but the Monsoon in Goa will make you spellbound. The land of beaches becomes gorgeous during Monsoon with the never-ending view of the sea and other picturesque sceneries. Ideal place for all nature lovers during the rainy season, you can go for trekking, heritage tour, shopping, birdwatching, etc. Road-tripping from Mumbai to Goa is the ultimate adventure you need. Apart from that, you can go there through Goa international airport in Dabolim.

### Coorg, Karnataka

The dense forest is covered with a wide variety of flora and fauna which makes it an even more romantic destination during Monsoon. The enchanting waterfalls, lakes, vast coffee plantations, and delicious cuisines to treat your taste buds are

# Monsoon destinations in India



the reasons to consider it as one of the best places to visit in monsoon. Trekking, bird watching, horse ride, coffee plantation tour are a few options you can indulge in when you are in Coorg. The 5 hours road trip from Bangalore (~270.4 km) is surely a great idea especially if you want to enjoy the mesmerizing view in rains, however, the nearest airports are Mysore at 120 km, Mangalore which is 135 km far and Bangalore at 260 km.

### Munnar, Kerala

South India looks heavenly with lush greenery and witnessing it getting drenched in rain surely makes it one of the best places to visit in rainy season. And Munnar will surely offer you a great view with all of that, with silvery mist, vast tea gardens, hills, etc.

This hill station has become one of the favourite tourist places in India during monsoons because of its beauty. The crowd-free Munnar is famous for trekking trails, sight-seeing, tea gardens, getting hypnotized by the natural bliss, and indulging in delicious Kerala cuisine. It takes nearly 3 hours via NH49 route

from Cochin, and the nearest railway station is Aluva and Ernakulam, and the nearest airport is Cochin at 110 km and Madurai international airport which is 140 km away.

### Mahabaleshwar

With the greenery, calm surroundings, the beauty of the Sahyadri range, which is a part of the Western Ghats, Mahabaleshwar becomes one of the most romantic places in India, especially in the rainy season. Pratapgad is a beautiful place to explore if you're in Mahabaleshwar, along with Lingamala waterfalls and The Elephant's Head Point is another major attraction among tourists that make a captivating sight during Monsoon. Mahabaleshwar is definitely one of the best places to visit in rainy season which is very close to Mumbai and Pune. A road trip (120 km from Pune and 250 km from Mumbai) is the best idea in the rains.

### Udaipur, Rajasthan

During monsoons, this place flourishes with more greenery around

the lakes and palaces making it a breathtaking view drenched with rain and majesty altogether. The beauty of the Fateh Sagar Lake becomes extra captivating during this time. Boat riding in rains with your partner sounds romantic around those royal architectural properties. For heritage lovers, monsoon is pleasant weather to visit all the spots like City Palace, Monsoon Palace, Lake Palace. Udaipur railway station and Maharana Pratap airport in Dabok make it easier to reach the main city.

### Spiti Valley, Himachal Pradesh

Spiti Valley is one of the most unusual places in India to visit during Monsoon, and have become quite popular among people who like the calm and mystical vibe of the "Little Tibet". Definitely a great place for camping, and wildlife viewing, and rains make it even more magical. The Lhalung monastery will give you a calming effect if you are looking for it. The nearest railway station is in Shimla and the nearest airport is the Kullu airport at Kullu.











## Karsten Warholm breaks 29-yr-old 400 metres hurdles world record

Norway's Karsten Warholm fired out a shot at potential Tokyo Olympics rivals when he shattered the long-standing 400m hurdles world record at Thursday's, July 1, Diamond League meet in Oslo and warned he had "more in the tank". Warholm, the world and European champion, clocked 46.70 seconds in his first hurdles race of the season to beat the previous best of 46.78sec set by American Kevin Young back in 1992.

As the Norwegian raced through the line to loud cheers from the 5,000 fans at Oslo's famed Bislett Stadium, onlooking Swedish pole vaulter Armand Duplantis -- himself the world record holder in his event -- was left punching the air and reaching for his mobile phone to take a photo.

"I knew that I had fast times in my body for a long time, but it's one thing to know you're in good shape and another to go out and perform," said the 25-year-old Warholm.

"This was just a perfect moment, everyone's talking about this world record that's been standing for many, many years -- it's older than me actually. "I knew I had it in me but of course it's very special to do it, I'm just really happy and really proud, it's an amazing moment."

## Wrestler Malik gets two-year ban

His hopes of competing in the Olympics are all but dashed. Indian wrestler Sumit Malik was today banned for two years by the sport's world governing body UWW after his 'B' sample also returned positive for a prohibited stimulant.

The 28-year-old has one week to decide if he would accept the sanction or challenge it. Malik was handed a provisional suspension last month for failing a dope test during the Olympics qualifier event in Sofia, where he had qualified for the Games in the 125kg category.

His B sample was opened on June 30 and expectedly that also provided the same result. A specified substance was found, though, the 2018 Commonwealth Games gold medallist had told PTI that he only took painkillers to manage right knee niggle.

Euro 2020

# Italy edge Belgium in thriller to reach semifinals

Italy reached the Euro 2020 semi-finals with a thrilling 2-1 win over Belgium as first-half goals from Nicolò Barella and Lorenzo Insigne settled a gripping encounter against the number one-ranked team in the world on Friday, July 2.

Barella fired the opener after 31 minutes before Insigne's wonderful curling strike doubled Italy's advantage on the brink of halftime.

Romelu Lukaku pulled one back for Belgium in first-half stoppage time with a penalty but neither side could find another goal and Roberto Mancini's exciting side held on for a 13th straight win, extending their record unbeaten run to 32 games.

"I don't think we suffered too much at any moment of the game. To beat a team like Belgium, you need a great performance from everybody and that's exactly what happened today," Mancini said.

Italy will face Spain at Wembley on Tuesday for a place in the final after setting another record by winning 15 consecutive games including European Championship qualifiers and the finals.

Luis Enrique's Spain side squeezed past Switzerland 3-1 in a penalty shootout earlier on Friday after their battling opponents clung to a 1-1 draw after extra time despite going down to 10 men.

"We didn't have a minimum goal, we wanted to do our best. The road is still long, there are two games to go, we will see what happens," Mancini said.

"Spain? Let's enjoy this victory, then



Belgium's Romelu Lukaku looks dejected as Italy players celebrate (Source: Reuters)

we'll think about it. Congratulations to my boys, they were very good."

### MORE DISAPPOINTMENT

It was another disappointment for a talented Belgium squad lauded as a 'golden generation', but who have failed to win any trophies or reach a final at a major tournament.

"I think we tried everything to win this match. They scored a fantastic goal, but the first one may have been a mistake on our part," said Belgium midfielder Kevin de Bruyne.

"They had more possession and the ball

didn't go in for us, which is a shame. Getting eliminated is always a disappointment."

Italy started strongly when Leonardo Bonucci bundled the ball into the net after 13 minutes from a free-kick, but his celebrations were cut short when it was ruled out for offside.

Italy's Gianluigi Donnarumma then produced a superb one-handed save to deny De Bruyne, who was fit enough to start after picking up an injury in Belgium's last game, before the goalkeeper tipped a Lukaku effort wide.

Source: Reuters

## England-Pakistan ODI at Lord's approved for full capacity

LONDON (TIP): The one-day international between England and Pakistan on July 10 was approved on Friday, July 2, for a full capacity crowd of 31,100 at Lord's.

It joins other sporting events such as Wimbledon and the European Championship in a British government research program studying the effects of fan attendance as Covid-19 restrictions are eased.

Wimbledon opened at 50% capacity across the All England Club and will be allowed to have a full crowd of 15,000 at Centre Court for the men's and women's finals on July 10-11.

Wembley Stadium is expected to host at least 60,000 fans for the upcoming European Championship semifinals and finals.

Lord's was permitted to host fans last month for England's Test against New Zealand, beginning at 25% capacity.

Ticket-holders for the ODI must show proof of either full vaccination or a negative coronavirus test. They can also be admitted with proof of immunity -- from a positive test in the past six months though not in the previous 10 days.

The Marylebone Cricket Club, which owns Lord's, said on Friday it confirmed receiving government permission for full capacity at the home of cricket. "In addition to being at full capacity, the COVID restrictions will be disapplied to Lord's during this match, but risk-mitigation measures will still be in place including test and trace, hand sanitization and face coverings worn when moving around the ground," the MCC said. MCC chief executive Guy Lavender added: "To have England men's first ODI at the home of cricket in almost two years and in front of a capacity crowd, will be truly memorable." Source: AP

## Wimbledon ends in tears for injured Serena

LONDON (TIP): Seven-time champion Serena Williams' hopes of claiming a record-equalling 24th Grand Slam singles title at Wimbledon ended in tears as the American quit with an injury early in her first-round match against unseeded Belarusian Aliaksandra Sasnovich.

The 39-year-old needed treatment off the court when leading 3-2 in the first set and was clearly in distress on her return before being forced to retire at 3-3. "I was heartbroken to have to withdraw today after injuring my right leg," Williams wrote on Instagram. Source: Reuters





contd from page 1

## NYC's Democratic mayoral primary candidates demand manual recount

In the event of a hand re-cavass, BOE officials would pour over individual ballots where voters made irregular markings like circling a candidate's name instead of filling in the bubble. A judge would oversee the laborious process.

Experts believe it would take "weeks and weeks" to do a manual recount.

While there hasn't been a manual recount in a local mayoral race in recent times, there was a hand re-cavass in a 1917 Republican primary.

There was also hand recount in the 2019 Queens district attorney race that took about three weeks for 100,00 votes.

## Experts question if WHO should lead probe into Origins of Covid

The next phase might try to examine the first human cases in more detail or pinpoint the animals responsible – possibly bats, perhaps by way of some intermediate creature.

But the idea that the pandemic somehow started in a laboratory – and perhaps involved an engineered virus – has gained traction recently, with President Joe Biden ordering a review of the U.S. intelligence within 90 days to assess the possibility.

Earlier this month, WHO's emergencies chief, Dr. Michael Ryan, said that the agency was working out the final details of the next phase of its probe and that because WHO works "by persuasion," it lacks the power to compel China to cooperate.

Some said that is precisely why a WHO-led examination is doomed to fail.

"We will never find the origins relying on the World Health Organization," said Lawrence Gostin, director of the WHO Collaborating Center on Public Health Law and Human Rights at Georgetown University.

"For a year and a half, they have been stonewalled by China, and it's very clear they won't get to the bottom of it." Mr. Gostin said the U.S. and other countries can either try to piece together what intelligence they have, revise international health laws to give WHO the powers it needs, or create some new entity to investigate.

The first phase of WHO's mission required getting China's approval not only for the experts who travelled there but for their entire agenda and the report they ultimately produced.

Richard Ebright, a molecular biologist at Rutgers University, called it a "farce" and said that determining whether the virus jumped from animals or escaped from a lab is more than a scientific question and has political dimensions beyond WHO's expertise.

The closest genetic relative to COVID-19 was previously discovered in a 2012 outbreak, after six miners fell sick with pneumonia after being exposed to infected bats in China's Mojiang mine. In the past year, however, Chinese authorities sealed off the mine and confiscated samples from scientists while ordering locals not to talk to visiting journalists.

Although China initially pushed hard to look for the coronavirus's origins, it pulled back abruptly in early 2020 as the virus overtook the globe.

An Associated Press investigation last December found Beijing imposed restrictions on the publication of COVID-19 research, including mandatory review by central government officials.

Jamie Metzl, who sits on a WHO advisory group, has suggested along with colleagues the possibility of an alternative investigation set up by the Group of Seven industrialized nations.

Jeffrey Sachs, a professor at Columbia University, said the U.S. must be willing to subject its own scientists to a rigorous examination and recognize that they might be just as culpable as China.

"The U.S. was deeply involved in research at the laboratories in Wuhan," Mr. Sachs said, referring to the U.S. funding of controversial experiments and the search for animal viruses capable of triggering outbreaks.

"The idea that China was behaving badly is already the wrong premise for this investigation to start," he said. "If lab work was somehow responsible (for the pandemic), the likelihood that it was both the U.S. and China working together on a scientific initiative is very high." (Agencies)

## Americans all set to celebrate 4th of July

right after the Macy's one ends— but like all big boardwalk parties out here at Coney, it promises to be a raucous affair.

Jones Beach on Long Island is also ready for the traditional 4th of July fireworks.

So, get set and ready to celebrate the Independence Day! Happy 4th of July.

## U.S. issues moratorium on death penalty at federal level

Constitution and laws of the United States but is also treated fairly and humanely. That obligation has special force in capital cases." Attorney General Merrick Garland said in a statement released on Thursday, July 1.

Apart from the moral case against the death penalty, the data show that in its application, it is biased against racial minorities especially African Americans.

Under Donald Trump, the federal government

carried out 13 executions. This is the highest number of executions under any presidency since the 19th Century, Reuters reported.

The review ordered by Mr. Garland will include an assessment of the "risk of pain and suffering" caused by pentobarbital – a lethal injection drug. The Trump administration's DoJ, under Attorney General Bill Barr, had adopted a single drug, instead of a three drug protocol. The review will also look into a November 2020 expansion of federal execution methods beyond lethal injection and policy changes from last December and January to expedite executions. (Agencies)

## Uttarakhand CM Tirath Singh Rawat resigns

Kaushik, said state's media in-charge Manveer Singh Chauhan. Rawat said due to the Constitution limitations he has decided to submit his resignation.

The names of Pushkar Dhama, Ritu Khanduri, Dhan Singh Rawat and Satpal Maharaj are doing the rounds to replace Tirath Singh.

Earlier, Rawat, who was in Delhi where he had met BJP chief J.P. Nadda twice in three days, left for Dehra Dun. Rawat, who had met Nadda and Union Home Minister Amit Shah late on Wednesday night, is currently the MP from the Garhwal Lok Sabha seat, and as per the rules, needs to be sworn in as an elected MLA within six months of taking over as the Chief Minister.

Earlier in the day, Rawat met the BJP chief again to discuss the political situation and the need of his election to the state Assembly before September 10 to remain in office.

Before leaving for Uttarakhand capital, Rawat said that holding of by polls will be decided by the Election Commission and he will follow whatever the Central leadership of the party decides.

BJP national General Secretary and Uttarakhand in-charge, Dushyant Gautam told IANS that there was no discussion of Uttarakhand by-polls held at the party level. A party leader explained that after the meeting with the Central leadership, the indications are that it will be difficult for the Chief Minister to continue in the office.

Sources said that Nadda had explained to Rawat that Section 151 of Representation of the People Act, 1951 has created hindrance in his election to the Assembly.

"In an hour-long meeting on Wednesday, June 28, night at Home Minister Amit Shah's residence, all the possibilities were discussed and Rawat was explained about exception provided under Section 151 of Act for not holding by-elections -- if the remainder of the term in relation to the vacancy is less than a year or if the Election Commission, in consultation with the Centre, certifies that it is difficult to hold the by-election within the said period," a party insider said.

(With inputs from IANS)

## CONTD FROM PAGE 10

## Happy 4th - India and America have a special bond

"Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof, or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances." The first amendment of the Constitution of the United States

Both India and America have identical Human Rights – the right to equality, right to freedom, rights against exploitation, right to freedom of religion, and constitutional remedies.

Indeed, the objectives stated by the Preamble are to secure justice, liberty,

equality for all citizens and promote fraternity to maintain unity and integrity of the nation.

The above declarations resonate with Muslims as well. Prophet Muhamad (pbuh) made a similar announcement on March 6, 632 AD, Eleven hundred forty-four (1144) years before Jefferson's declaration. "All mankind is from Adam and Eve; an Arab has no superiority over a non-Arab, nor a non-Arab has any superiority over an Arab; also, a white has no superiority over a black nor a black has any superiority over white except by piety and good action."

When Mahatma Gandhi was seeking Independence from the British, Churchill had said nasty things about Indians. He did not believe Indians can handle democracy, and they have

proven him wrong repeatedly. Indians are inherently democratic in their views.

Until 2014, India was a stable democracy and was on track to become a great nation as a non-aligned leader. However, India is going through a turbulent time now, and we pray for her recovery. Prime Minister Modi has failed the Indians on the economy, social cohesion, human rights, and democracy, and he will be voted out in the 2024 elections. Indians believe in freedom, and fascism is anathema to them. Indian democracy is resilient.

India and the United States will continue to have a strong relationship to bring peace and security to the world.

As Indian Americans, and Muslim Americans, we uphold, protect, defend, and celebrate the values enshrined in

the U.S. constitution. We believe in the creed of "One Nation under God, with liberty and justice for all."

**God bless America, India, and the humanity.**  
**Happy 4th**  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-JXYK3hcm2kE>

*(Dr. Mike Ghouse is the founder and president of the Center for Pluralism. He is a speaker, thinker, author, peacemaker, community consultant, pluralist, activist, newsmaker, and interfaith wedding officiant. Mike is deeply committed to Free speech, Human Rights, and Pluralism in Religion, Politics, Societies, and the workplace. He has dedicated his life to building cohesive societies and offers pluralistic solutions to the media and policymakers. He can be reached at [mikeghouse@gmail.com](mailto:mikeghouse@gmail.com)*

*More about him at [www.TheGhouseDiary.com](http://www.TheGhouseDiary.com).)*





\*\*\* HAPPY \*\*\*  
4<sup>th</sup> OF JULY



Hilton | Huntington

598 Broadhollow Road. Melville, NY 11747. 631-845-1000

30,000  
SQ/FT  
event space

10,000  
SQ/FT  
ballroom

600  
reception  
guests



Weddings

1,200  
conference  
guests

17 meeting  
rooms



Social



Corporate



Hilton

LONG ISLAND/HUNTINGTON





# State Bank of India Foundation Day Celebrations



US Smashers and NY Strikers with Mr. Virendra Bansal, Country Head of SBI US Operations and Mr. Prasanta Kumar Tripathy, CEO of New York branch.



In action: Batsman in his best form

**NEW YORK (TIP):** State Bank of India, New York celebrated its 66th State Bank Foundation Day on July 1st, 2021, with great vigor and enthusiasm. The excitement was palpable in the various competitions and contests held over the last few days involving all the staff members of the Bank. The Cricket Tournament, Photography competition and Quiz contest were the major highlights of the celebrations.

State Bank of India has a lineage from Bank of Calcutta, founded in 1806 via the Imperial Bank of India making it a 215 years old commercial bank in India. Pursuant to the provisions of the State Bank of India Act of 1955, Imperial Bank of India became State Bank of India on 1st July 1955. The Bank has become a synonymous with Indian economy and the choicest Bank for the Indian diaspora across the globe. The Bank has grown stronger since then and provides all possible Banking services to its 46 million customers. State Bank of India is 43rd among largest banks in the World and 221st in Fortune Global 500. The New York branch of the Bank has been serving its customers since 1971 through their dedicated and diligent team of staff members.

The New York branch is now completing 50 years of existence in the financial capital of the world. On this occasion of 66th State Bank Day and 50th anniversary of SBI New York, the Bank has organized a three-match



Both team captains congratulating each other after the series

series of Cricket matches with the purpose of team building and creating bonding among its staff members. Mr. Virendra Bansal, Country Head of US Operations has been motivating and encouraging all local and India based employees to actively participate in the matches.

With the idea of promoting Cricket in the vicinity of New York city, bank employees have been regularly playing Cricket matches with other local players. To commemorate the occasion, the Bank under the guidance of Mr. Prasanta Tripathy, CEO of New York branch, announced two teams – US Smashers led by Mr. Mayank Goyal and NY Strikers led by Mr. Ashish Kumar for the Cricket series. The 3-match series played over the weekends, saw many young cricket stars as well, was won by US Smashers 2-1. The tournament gave the much-awaited boost to local players after the pandemic and kicked-off the summers in the right spirit.



Jubilation at taking top level wicket



Mr. Bansal awarding Mr. Rajat Kumar as Man of the Match



# EAST WEST OPTICIANS



**\*Eye Exam**  
**\*Contact Lens**  
**\*Eye Glass**  
**\*Sunglass**

Authorized Dealer of  
Rayban, Prada, G.A.,  
Versace, Flexon  
& Much More.....

**MOST INSURANCES ACCEPTED**



**263-18 Hillside Avenue, Floral Park, N.Y. 11004**  
**Phone: 718-335-6000; 718-533-6664**  
**Phone / fax: 718-457-5988, Phone /Text:718-514-0025**

Order Online: [www.eastwestopticians.com](http://www.eastwestopticians.com)  
Email: [anilguptaus@yahoo.com](mailto:anilguptaus@yahoo.com)  
Mon to Sat : 12.00 P.M to 7.00 P.M. Sunday with Appt.

## Full Service Unisex Salon

# Rita's Beauty Parlor

**THREADING SPECIALIST**  
**SPECIALIZING IN :**

- Eyebrow Threading
- Ayurveda Herbal Facials • Mini Facials
- Full Body Waxing • Brazilian Waxing
- Bridal Makeup • Mehendi
- Unisex Hair Cuts and Hair Styling
- Fruit Based Color Highlights and Ladies Body Massage

Soothing Relaxing Atmosphere  
Quality Services  
High on Hygiene & Sanitized Parlor



Open Tuesday to Sunday  
10.00 am to 7.30 pm

454 S BROADWAY, HICKSVILLE, NY 11801  
**516-622-9300 / 347-608-9424**

Email: [ritabeautyparlor@aol.com](mailto:ritabeautyparlor@aol.com)  
[www.ritasbeautyparlor.com](http://www.ritasbeautyparlor.com)

**Call now**  
and say coupon TIP50FF  
to avail discounts  
**BOOK ONLINE APPOINTMENT**

## Dr. Frederick M. Ruffen Audiologist

**Restoring your ear power**

**CELEBRATE THE SOUNDS OF YOUR LIFE**




**\*Hearing Aid Evaluation \* Hearing Aid Repair**  
**\*Tympanometry \* Ear Wax Removal**

- Complete Audiological Evaluations
- Tympanometry and Acoustic Reflex Testing
- Hearing Aid Evaluations
- Advanced Ear Mold Selection Skills
- Swim Plugs, Musician Plugs, etc.
- Wide Selection of Hearing Aids
- Hearing Aid Accessories
- Assistive Listening Devices
- Amplified Telephones
- Complete Hearing Help Care for Hearing Aids
- Quarterly Cleanings and Hearing Aid Checks
- Hearing Aid Repair, Loss/Damage and Loaner Services
- Yearly Evaluations
- Computerized Expert Fitting of Hearing Aids

If you are missing the sounds of your life call to schedule a **FREE** hearing screening.  
**TOLL FREE: 1-800-924-7413**

**LOCATIONS**

<b>Nassau University Medical Center</b> 2201 Hempstead Turnpike, East Meadow, NY 11554 Phone: 516-296-2704 Fax: 516-572-8885	<b>30 Roosevelt Street,</b> Glen Cove, NY 11542 Phone: 516-759-0008 Fax: 516-759-0013	<b>680 Broadway,</b> Massapequa, NY 11758 Phone: 516-541-4353
--	--	---

**OFFICE HOURS BY APPOINTMENT / WALK INS WELCOME**

## ATLAS ROLL OFF CORP.

# DISPOSAL SITE

**OPEN Monday - Friday 6.30 AM to 4.00 PM**  
**Saturday 6.30 AM to 1.00 PM**

For construction Debris,  
Demolition & Cleanouts



Located at 895 Essex Street, Brooklyn, NY 11208  
Just 5 minutes from JFK

## Roll Off Dumpster Service

10, 15, 20, 30 & 40 Yards

Serving all the five boroughs of New York Since 1983  
NYC BIC LIC #711

Reasonable low rates \*\* All major credit cards accepted

# 718-345-6451





## A World without Childhood Blindness



Only by doing good can one benefit  
-Rig Veda

An Eye Institute in Rajahmundry, Andhra Pradesh to prevent avoidable childhood blindness

Vision of Dr. V.K. Raju, the Eye Foundation of America and Goutami Eye Institute

- \* 3.5 million + served
- \* 350 thousand + surgeries
- \* 30 thousand + on children



**Message from Peter J. McDonnell, M.D. Director Wilmer Eye Institute, Johns Hopkins University, USA on the occasion of laying the foundation stone on December 10, 2020**



"On behalf of all my colleagues of the Wilmer Eye Institute in Baltimore, MO, I send my best wishes and congratulations to our friends in Goutami on this extremely important occasion. This beautiful facility will match the wonderful world class work of your doctors, nurses and staff in preserving and restoring the vision of so many patients. We in the United States are inspired by your dedication and admire your tireless efforts to serve so many who need your skills and compassion. Best wishes, Peter"

"There can be no keener revelation of a society's soul than the way in which it treats its children". - Nelson Mandela



**POST SURGERY**



**PRE SURGERY**

Triplets Prasanth, Susanth and Nisanth, who were treated by Goutami Eye Institute three years ago and gifted vision for life, as ROP babies under GEMROP (Goutami Eye tele Medicine Retinopathy Of Prematurity).

- Treating disease and vision problems
- Performing free cataract surgeries
- Screening infants and children
- Distributing glasses and visual aids
- Conducting Research
- Providing Education

Be a part of the movement. Donate now at [www.eyefoundationofamerica.org](http://www.eyefoundationofamerica.org)  
Tax Exempt # 55-0621735

The work by the Eye Foundation of America team started in 1977 and has spread from India to 21 different countries. Additionally, EFA focuses on teaching and training of health professionals who receive the Foundation's support at every level.  
<https://youtube/B23VvUaloN4> <https://youtube/KiCzqLQe2VE>

To know more about the work of Eye Foundation of America or to donate, visit [www.eyefoundationofamerica.org](http://www.eyefoundationofamerica.org)

ॐ सर्वे भवन्तु सुखिनिः Sarve Bhavantu Sukhinah,  
सर्वे सन्तु नरिमायाः । Sarve Santu Niramayah  
May all be prosperous and happy!  
May all be healthy!

The Eye Foundation of America  
695, West View Avenue, Morgantown, WV 26505  
Phone: 304-599-0705  
[www.eyefoundationofamerica.org](http://www.eyefoundationofamerica.org)