



The

INDIAN



PANORAMA

15 YEARS

EVER TRUTHFUL

1 Indian American Weekly : Since 2006

VOL 15 ISSUE 32 • NEW YORK / DALLAS • AUG 06 - 12, 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 10, 2021 to salujaindra@gmail.com.

Advertising space may please be booked by August 10, 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

A real 'Chak De' moment for Indian hockey: Men's team wins Olympic medal after 41 years

A SWEET GIFT TO INDIA DAYS BEFORE 75TH INDEPENDENCE DAY



TOKYO (TIP): Determined to clinch a medal, the Indians made one of the most memorable comebacks in the history of the game, fighting back from a two-goal deficit to turn the match in their favor.

There were tears and hugs on the field as the Indians led by Manpreet Singh and coached by Australian Graham Reid savored the historic moment.

It is India's third hockey bronze medal in the history of the Olympics.

CONTD ON PAGE 42

A resolute Indian men's hockey team rewrote history as it claimed an Olympic medal after 41 years, defeating a plucky Germany 5-4 to win the bronze in an edge-of-the-seat play-off match of the ongoing Games here on Thursday, August 5

CENTRE UNABLE TO SUPPLY ENOUGH VACCINES: NOBEL LAUREATE ABHIJIT BANERJEE

West Bengal has effectively used the vaccines supplied by the Centre, economist says



West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee at a meeting with Nobel laureate Abhijit Banerjee in Kolkata on August 5, 2021. - Photo / PTI

KOLKATA (TIP): West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Thursday, August 5, met Nobel laureate Abhijit Vinayak Banerjee and discussed India's management of the COVID-19 pandemic with him. Mr. Banerjee, who is a member of West Bengal's COVID-19 management committee, said that his

CONTD ON PAGE 42

Calls to resign grow even as a defiant Cuomo denies allegations

PRESIDENT, LAWMAKERS CALL FOR CUOMO'S RESIGNATION OVER SEXUAL HARASSMENT REPORT

WASHINGTON / NEW YORK (TIP): U.S. President Joe Biden, along with lawmakers in the House and Senate, on Tuesday, August 3, called for New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo to step down following the release of an investigative report alleging he sexually harassed and otherwise engaged in inappropriate behavior with 11 women.

Earlier in the day, New York Attorney General Letitia James released a report, the result of an almost five-month, independent investigation, on the sexual harassment allegations against the governor that concluded Cuomo had engaged in the inappropriate behavior.1 The alleged victims of Cuomo's harassment included his staff members and other women who worked for the state, and members of the public he encountered.2

In March, Biden had said that if the investigation confirmed the allegations, he thought Cuomo should resign. When a



Calls are growing for New York Governor Andrew Cuomo to resign after an independent investigation found he had sexually harassed 11 women.

reporter asked about his March comments during a press briefing on COVID-19 vaccination efforts, Biden stood by them.3 Following yet another question about Cuomo, the president addressed his March comments again. "What I said was if the investigation by the attorney general concluded that the allegations were correct, back in March, I would recommend he resign.

CONTD ON PAGE 41

DELTA VARIANT NOW REPORTED IN 135 COUNTRIES, GLOBAL COVID-19 CASES COULD EXCEED 200 MILLION BY NEXT WEEK: WHO

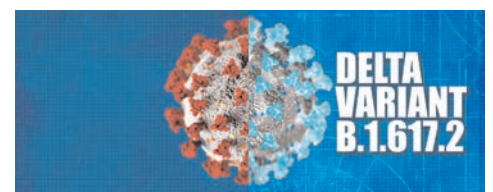


Photo for representational purpose only.

UNITED NATIONS (TIP): The highly transmissible Delta variant of Covid-19 has now been reported in 135 countries, according to the World Health Organisation which said the cumulative number of coronavirus cases reported globally could exceed 200 million by next week.

The Covid-19 Weekly Epidemiological Update dated August 3, released by WHO, said globally 132 countries have reported cases of the Beta variant and 81 countries of the Gamma variant.

CONTD ON PAGE 42



The Supreme Court on Thursday, August 5, agreed to hear a bunch of petitions seeking a court-monitored SIT probe into the Pegasus snooping controversy on August 10

PEGASUS ALLEGATIONS SERIOUS IF TRUE: SUPREME COURT OF INDIA; AGREES TO HEAR PETITIONS SEEKING PROBE ON AUG 10

NEW DELHI (TIP): The Supreme Court on Thursday, August 5, agreed to hear a bunch of petitions seeking a court-monitored SIT probe into the Pegasus snooping controversy on August 10 as it asked the petitioners to serve copies of their respective petitions on the Centre.

CONTD ON PAGE 41



Andy Singh

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

E-mail: herman@omnimortgage.com



OMNI MORTGAGE CORP.
Residential | Commercial | SBA Loans



Herman Singh

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

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

PRESIDENT/PUBLISHER:

Prof. Indrajit S. Saluja

VICE PRESIDENT:

Chitagam Saluja

CHIEF EDITOR:

Prof Indrajit S. Saluja

CONSULTING EDITOR :

Deepak Dwivedi, Chairman,
Bhaskar Group, Delhi

ASSISTANT EDITOR:

Bidisha Roy

SPL. REPORTER UNO:

H.S. Panaser

GRAPHICS DIRECTOR:

Om Parkash Malik

DIRECTOR

ADMINISTRATION:

Gauri Beri

CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHERS:

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

CORRESPONDENTS :

SACRAMENTO:

Parminder S. Aujla

NEW YORK :

Chitagam

FRESNO:

Tarlochan Singh

DALLAS:

Harjit Dhesi, Amarjit Dhillon

OVERSEAS CORRESPONDENTS

LONDON

Nirpal Singh Shergill

SPL CORRESPONDENT

DELHI BUREAU CHIEF:

Chandan Singh

CHANDIGARH:

Manjit Sidhu

LUDHIANA:

A.S. Arora,

R.P.Sharma

JAIPUR :

Dr. Yashpaul Goyal

DALLAS BUREAU CHIEF & VP

Lovliien Kaurr

972-330-3139

editor@theindianpanorama.news

The Indian Panorama

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

Email:

editor@theindianpanorama.news

-: GUEST COMMENT :-

Pandemic of distrust: On resisting COVID-19 vaccination

THOSE RESISTING VACCINATION MOSTLY CONFORM TO A SPECIFIC SOCIAL, CULTURAL, AND POLITICAL PROFILE

President Joe Biden and the director of the CDC warned this week that the COVID-19 crisis in the U.S. was becoming a "pandemic of the unvaccinated". This underscores the growing divergence across U.S. States and communities in terms of the prevalence and intensity of the Delta variant infection, depending on the extent to which these cohorts had been vaccinated. Approximately 30% of the adult population has yet to be vaccinated, along with 58% of those in the 12-17 years age group. The country has reached this troubling impasse despite a strong start. To date, 348 million doses have been given so far. This came on the back of the firm commitment by the Biden administration to follow the science in the tackling of the pandemic, and quickly secure pledges from vaccine manufacturers - including Pfizer, Moderna and Johnson & Johnson - to supply 700m doses by the end of July

2021, enough to cover 400m people. Using everything from consistent high-level messaging by the President and his team to get vaccinated, to lottery tickets and cash gifts offered by local and State governments to those willing to step and get a shot, the country has powered through to the point where 193 million Americans have received at least one dose, and at least 165 million people have received all the required doses.

Yet, it is now increasingly clear that there are two cohorts of adults resisting vaccines: the first, who are averse to getting vaccinated in all circumstances - preponderantly those who are rural, white, politically conservative, and evangelical Christian, according to surveys; and the second that are open to considering getting vaccinated but would like to wait for some time before committing to it. The second cohort is, like the first, mixed to an extent, but primarily consists of a diverse urban group, younger in age, often Democratic,

and includes minorities such as African Americans, and Latino Americans. Regardless of the reasons for resisting, the statistics paint a grim picture, of 95% or higher of COVID-19 hospitalizations and deaths being of unvaccinated people; and of the highest toll affecting States with lower-than-average vaccination rates, including the likes of Florida and Texas. The Biden administration has an unenviable, multi-pronged task at hand. On the one hand, it must continue to put out facts and data as well as advocacy messaging for ever-widening vaccine reach, and this includes working alongside social media platforms to clamp down on rampant misinformation. On the other hand, it needs to avoid succumbing to any and all pressures to relax precautions, for example the disastrous - and now reversed - guidance supplied by the CDC on May 13 to the effect that people need not wear masks if they had been vaccinated. (The Hindu)

Pegasus controversy

BIHAR CM NITISH KUMAR BREAKS RANKS TO DEMAND PROBE

With the Supreme Court set to hear the pleas seeking a court-monitored probe into the Pegasus snooping row on Thursday, a new dimension has been added to the controversy. Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, an ally of the BJP-led NDA government at the Centre, has lent his weight to the demand for a probe. The Bihar CM asked the Opposition to put pressure by placing the relevant facts and figures before the government if it was not prepared for an inquiry. Nitish's demand came on the eve of a meeting of leaders from several Opposition parties convened by Congress leader Rahul Gandhi to present a united front on the Pegasus issue even as the controversy continued to rock both Houses of

Parliament, prompting PM Modi to slam the Opposition for its conduct.

Ever since the revelation about the phone-tapping incident was made, there have been demands for an inquiry. The demand was earlier raised by TMC chief and West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee who called for an all-party meeting on the issue. West Bengal even constituted a commission to probe the controversy. The Centre, on its part, has continued to deny that it has got anything to do with the snooping row, calling it instead an attack on Indian democracy. With the country figuring on the list of global democracy watchdogs that are concerned over the growing trend towards 'authoritarianism' and the plight of minorities, the government

may well be on the defensive, but the attempts at stone-walling the Opposition have not helped matters either. In fact, the meetings of the parliamentary panel on information technology have seen BJP members boycott the proceedings and spar with the chairman who is from the Congress.

Allegations of surveillance remain a matter of concern as it is as much about security as about privacy. With France and Israel initiating an inquiry into the Pegasus row, India should also look into ways to prevent such incidents. Democracy is about reconciling governmental concerns with individual rights. Misuse of technology can prove to be detrimental in furthering its cause. (The Tribune)

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.



The Indian Panorama
FOR FREE AT
www.theindianpanorama.news

MAKE YOUR BRAND ROAR IN THIS FEROCIOUS MARKET



Advertise for as little as \$10.00.
Call 646-247-9458

Countdown begins for the 10th India Day Parade in Hicksville on Sunday, Aug 8



Ambassador Jaiswal, film star Ileana D'Cruz and Dr Jay Sarkar are Grand Marshalls.

I.S. SALUJA

HICKSVILLE, NY (TIP): Countdown has begun for the 10th IDP USA Parade of Long Island on Sunday, August 8 to celebrate India's 75th Independence Day. Notwithstanding fresh threats from Covid variant Delta and warnings from health experts of a possible wave of the virus spreading across the country, there is a huge enthusiasm among the Indian community to participate. Moreover, the two other India Day parades - one in Manhattan and the other in Queens - are not happening, leaving the IDP USA of Long Island as the only India Day celebratory parade that people can participate in.

According to the parade organizers, tens of thousands are expected to march in the parade and cheer it from the sidewalks as it starts at 1 PM from Patel Brothers and walks down the Little India part of Hicksville to culminate near Asa Mai Hindu temple on East Barclay Street where the entertainment stage will be set up with a live DJ as well as stalls selling ethnic goodies and food. Admission is free.



IDP USA Past President and current Vice President Jay Jasbir Singh implored the community and community organizations to support the parade with presence and generous contributions

Giving details of the program at a press conference, IDP USA Vice President and a former President Jay Jasbir Singh disclosed that Consul General Randhir Jaiswal, who had graced the parade curtain raiser at the Indian Consulate on June 24, is Grand Marshall. The other two Grand Marshalls are renowned film star Ileana D'Cruz and Philanthropist, Entrepreneur and Life Consultant Dr Jay Sarkar. Deepak Bansal, President of IDP USA, who thanked the IDP USA office bearers and committee chairs for working day in and day out to make preparations for the massive parade, appealed to the gathering at the press conference to loosen their purse strings and bring their families and friends to the Parade to make the parade an event to remember.



IDP USA President Deepak Bansal thanked the IDP USA office bearers and committee chairs for working day in and day out to make preparations for the massive parade.

Mr. Bansal thanked in particular active support and guidance from Jasbir Jay Singh, under whose presidency the parade in 2019 and the gala that followed were the talk of Long Island. He said that the parade this year is expected to be super-successful, coming as it does after the peak of the pandemic.

The parade's four Guests of Honor are: internationally renowned oncologist and Padma Shri Dr Dattatreya Nori, Diwali Foundation USA Chair Ranju Batra, Navika Group CEO and President Naveen Shah and young guru and motivational speaker Ishan Shivanand.

The names of honorees at the parade and at the gala



A view of the gathering at the press conference

will be announced subsequently, the organizers said.

A highlight of the parade will be a raffle, where the top prize is a car sponsored by DP Singh of Meetu Magic. Other exciting prizes include jewelry, smartphone and cash.

The parade this year is supported by top brands and names as Grand Sponsors including Phalguni Chintu Patel, Shiv Yog, Navika Group, Bolla Market, The South Asian Times, CheapOair, Patel Brothers, Vass Pipe, The Portables Choice Corp, PICC, Flushing Bank, Maharaja, Badshah, Commercial Capital Funding Group, Elevator the movie, Indian Visa Center, Omni Mortgage, and HAB Bank. Several media organizations



IDP USA key officials with a co-founder Bobby Kalotee (Standing 2nd from left)

are also supporting the parade by promoting it.

Addressing the press conference attended by representatives of leading newspapers and electronic media, IDP USA Founders Bobby K. Kalotee and Kamlesh C. Mehta said that this parade is special as it is celebrating India's landmark 75th Independence Day and that it is timed well as pandemic restrictions have been lifted. It is also the only parade in the entire New York state.

Past President Jay Singh implored the community and community organizations to come one and all to the parade in Hicksville on August 8 and support it by way of taking out floats and booths as well as booking ads in the souvenir which will be released at the gala celebrating the success of the parade at Antun's by Minar on Thursday August 19, 2021. 30 booths and 9 floats have already been booked.

Dr Jay Sarkar said he is honored to represent India and the community, and that we should thank both India, our motherland, for our heritage and culture, and America, our adopted country, which allows us to practice our traditions and showcase them at an event like this parade.

"IDP USA was established in 2012 to create awareness of Indian contributions to the local community by celebrating India's Independence Day every year. A 501(c) non-profit tax-exempt organization, its mission is to empower the Indian community through promoting economic development, education, community leadership, social advancement and environmental awareness. The non-partisan and secular IDP USA brings together over 100 religious, cultural, regional, and charity organizations serving the community", the press release said.

(With inputs from a Press release)

Indian-Origin Entrepreneur Ajay Dilawri Honored with Order Of British Columbia Award

VANCOUVER, BC (TIP), August 4: Leading Indian-origin entrepreneur Ajay Dilawri has been honored with Canada's prestigious Order of British Columbia award, the province's highest form of recognition.

Mr. Dilawri, the owner of Canada's largest automotive group -- Dilawri Group -- is among 16 "exceptional people" to be appointed to the Order of British Columbia, according to a statement by the Government of British Columbia.

"As representative of the Crown in British Columbia and as Chancellor of the Order of British Columbia, I am delighted to welcome 16 new members to the order," Lt. Gov. Janet Austin, chancellor of the order, has announced.

Their extraordinary leadership has been a source of strength for communities across the province, she said.

"In difficult times, they have connected us through art, culture, public service and more. As we move with optimism toward the future, their achievements will be a foundation of success for future generations. It is with great honor (that) I share congratulations to these remarkable individuals," Janet said.

According to the British Columbian government's citation, Mr. Dilawri is a leading entrepreneur whose vision, perseverance, leadership, and social



Ajay Dilawri has been honored with Canada's prestigious Order of British Columbia award, the province's highest form of recognition.

conscience continue to improve the lives of many people in the province.

"He has made a significant and far-reaching impact throughout British Columbia. Ajay and his brothers Kap and Tony are the founders of the Dilawri Group - the largest automotive group in Canada, with more than 4,000 employees and 76 automotive dealerships across Canada.

"With 24 dealerships in B.C. alone, he supports more than 2,000 employees and

their families in his home province. His significant investment in electrical vehicle development is also helping address climate change and contributes to a greener economy," it said.

The Dilawri brothers' success is largely based on learning a strong work ethic from their parents, who immigrated to Canada from India, according to the citation.

"They haven't forgotten their upbringing and have built the business

not only for financial success, but to generate enough capital to give back to the community.

"With a focus on children and healthy outcomes, the Dilawri Foundation has donated tens of millions of dollars to help charitable causes in health care, mental health, education, autism and public safety," it said.

His commitment to making B.C. a better place to live creates a healthier and more productive population, which benefits everyone in the province, it added.

Since its inception, 475 British Columbians have been appointed to the Order of British Columbia, the province's highest form of recognition.

Each one of this year's Order of British Columbia recipients has made tremendous contributions to their communities, Premier of British Columbia John Horgan said.

"I want to extend my congratulations and honor them for their leadership and dedication as community leaders. Trailblazers in medicine, that carried us through an incredibly difficult pandemic with expertise, grace and ofcourse, kindness, inspiring philanthropists, determined protectors of the environment and powerful Indigenous leaders. We are all truly grateful for your leadership," he said.

INDIAN-ORIGIN KARNAL BASED TRUCK DRIVER DIES IN ROAD ACCIDENT IN ARIZONA, HIS COMPANION FROM AMBALA BATTLING FOR LIFE



Nirmal Singh from Karnal District in Haryana, India driver has died after his vehicle skidded off a busy highway in the US state of Arizona

WASHINGTON (TIP): A 37-year-old Indian-origin truck driver has died after his vehicle skidded off a busy highway in the US state of Arizona, his friends have said.

Nirmal Singh from the Karnal district of Haryana was the sole bread earner of his

family back home. He lived in Indiana, which has emerged as a hub of Sikh drivers in the country over the years.

The incident is reported to have occurred around 11 pm Monday on Highway 40 near Flagstaff in Arizona, as the victim was taking a consignment from Georgia to California. The police are investigating the accident.

Singh is believed to have died on the spot, while his companion Rahul is battling for life at a local hospital. Rahul is said to be from Ambala.

According to his friends, Singh is survived by his wife and an 11-year-old daughter - who live in Karnal. Last year, his son, 14, died in a road accident in India. Because of Covid-19 and the lockdown, he was not able to fly back home, according to his friends. He was planning to travel to India later this year.

His friends in the US have launched a GoFund campaign to support his family and for his last rites.

Indian-origin business veteran Vindi Banga appointed as chair of the UK government Investments

LONDON (TIP): Indian-origin business and industry veteran Vindi Banga has been appointed as Chair of the UK Government Investments (UKGI), the government's center of expertise in corporate finance and governance and an arm's length body of the Treasury department.

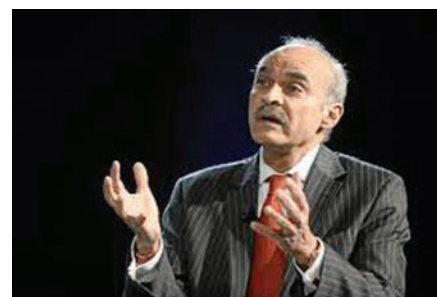
Banga, 66, currently Chair at Marie Curie and a senior non-executive director (NED) at GlaxoSmithKline, will take over the prestigious role from September, the Treasury said on Monday.

Banga, also a NED at The Economist Group and Partner of private equity firm Clayton, Dubilier & Rice (CD&R), has 33 years of experience at Unilever, where his last role was President of the Global Foods, Home and Personal Care businesses, and on the Unilever Executive Board.

"His extensive leadership experience will be a great asset for guiding the UKGI board in the coming years," said John Glen, the Economic Secretary to the Treasury, who made the formal appointment.

"UKGI provides invaluable advice and support to the government on corporate governance and corporate finance, and Vindi's appointment will ensure this continues," he said.

Banga will take over at the agency,



Vindi Banga has been appointed as Chair of the UK Government Investments (UKGI)

which oversees taxpayer interests in state-owned entities of the country, following a handover with incumbent chairman Robert Swannell CBE.

Charles Donald, CEO of UKGI, said: "Vindi joins UKGI with a wealth of experience from his previous and current positions. I am particularly pleased that someone who embodies our ambitious diversity and inclusion agenda and is passionate about helping me to build on the progress made to date will lead this critical organization.

"I very much look forward to working with Vindi in his new role as we continue to deliver on our objectives over the next year and beyond."

The appointment is regulated by the Commissioner for Public appointments (OCPA) and is made in accordance with the Governance

Code on Public Appointments published by the UK Cabinet Office.

The Chair is appointed based on merit and, in accordance with the code, there is a requirement for appointees' political activity, if any declared, to be made public. Banga did not declare any such political activity, the Treasury said.

The UKGI provides expert advice and proposes solutions that inform and translate government decisions into outcomes. It acts as a shareholder for and leads the establishment of other UK government arm's length bodies; advises on all major UK government corporate finance matters, including financial interventions into corporate structures and corporate finance negotiations; analyses and advises on the UK government's contingent liabilities; and acquires, manages and executes the sale of all significant UK government corporate assets.

The UKGI is owned by Her Majesty's (HM) Treasury and independently managed with a Board, comprised predominantly of independent NEDs.

It works closely with both the private and public sectors, advising and interacting with ministers, Parliament and civil service departments.

Indian American climate expert Jainey Bavishi likely to get key role at NOAA

WASHINGTON (TIP): President Joe Biden has announced his intent to nominate Jainey Bavishi a leading Indian American expert on climate change, to a top leadership position at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

If confirmed by the Senate, she will serve as Assistant Secretary for Oceans and Atmosphere in the Department of Commerce under NOAA Administrator Rick Spinrad, an ocean scientist.

Bavishi's appointment at an agency responsible for environmental prediction and monitoring and protecting the nation's coasts, oceans and fisheries is in tune with the Biden-Harris administration emphasis on confronting climate change as one of its top priorities. "Bavishi currently serves as the Director of the New York City Mayor's Office of Climate Resiliency," the White House said announcing her nomination with two others on July 28.

"In this role, she leads a cross-disciplinary team that prepares the city



Jainey Bavishi a leading Indian American expert on climate change, is likely to be nominated to a top leadership position at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

for the impacts of climate change through science-based analysis, policy, program, and project development, and capacity building," it noted.

"The Biden administration has picked a tremendous climate champion to serve the American people," New York Mayor Bill de Blasio said in statement.

"Jainey's leadership and vision has transformed New York City's coastline and has helped to protect New Yorkers from destructive flooding and deadly heat

waves."

During the Obama Administration, Bavishi served as the Associate Director for Climate Preparedness at the White House Council on Environmental Quality and Director of External Affairs and Senior Policy Advisor at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

Bavishi also served as the Executive Director of R3ADY Asia-Pacific, focused on enhancing disaster risk reduction and resilience in the Asia-Pacific region, based in Honolulu, Hawaii.

Previously, she was the Founding Director of the Equity and Inclusion Campaign, a coalition of community-based leaders in the Gulf Coast region that focused on recovery from Hurricanes Katrina, Rita, Gustav and Ike, at the Louisiana Disaster Recovery Foundation.

Bavishi has a Master's degree in city planning from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and a Bachelor's degree in public policy and cultural anthropology from Duke University.

INDIAN AMERICAN RASHAD HUSSAIN NOMINATED AS AMBASSADOR-AT-LARGE FOR INTERNATIONAL RELIGIOUS FREEDOM



US President Joe Biden has nominated Indian American attorney Rashad Hussain as the Ambassador-at-Large for International Religious Freedom

WASHINGTON (TIP): US President Joe Biden has nominated Indian American attorney Rashad Hussain as the Ambassador-at-Large for International Religious Freedom, the first Muslim to be nominated to the key position, according to the White House.

Hussain, 41, is currently Director for Partnerships and Global Engagement at the National Security Council.

"Today's announcement underscores the President's commitment to build an Administration that looks like America and reflects people of all faiths. Hussain is the first Muslim to be nominated to serve as the Ambassador-at-Large for International Religious Freedom," the White House said in a statement on Friday.

He previously served as Senior Counsel at the Department of Justice's National Security Division. During the Obama administration, he served as US Special Envoy to the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), US Special Envoy for Strategic Counterterrorism Communications and Deputy Associate White House Counsel.

In his roles as envoy, Hussain worked with multilateral organizations such as the OIC and the UN, foreign governments and civil society organizations to expand partnerships in education, entrepreneurship, health, international security, science and technology and other areas.

He also spearheaded efforts on countering anti-Semitism and protecting religious minorities in Muslim-majority countries. Prior to joining the Obama administration, Hussain worked on the House Judiciary Committee, serving as a judicial law clerk.

Hussain received his Juris Doctor from Yale Law School where he served as an editor of the Yale Law Journal, and Master's degrees in Public Administration (Kennedy School of Government) and Arabic and Islamic Studies from Harvard University.

He has also taught as Adjunct Professor of Law at Georgetown Law Centre and the Georgetown School of Foreign Service. He speaks Urdu, Arabic and Spanish. (Read full story on www.theindianpanorama.news)

INDIAN AMERICAN NATASHA PERI DECLARED ONE OF BRIGHTEST STUDENTS IN WORLD



Natasha Peri, 11, a student at Thelma L Sandmeier Elementary School, in New Jersey, has been honored for her exceptional performance on the SAT, ACT, or similar assessment taken as part of the Johns Hopkins Centre for Talented Youth Talent (CTY) Search

NEW YORK (TIP) :An Indian American girl has been declared one of the brightest students in the world by a top US university.

Natasha Peri, 11, a student at Thelma L Sandmeier Elementary School, in New Jersey, has been honored for her exceptional performance on the SAT, ACT, or similar assessment taken as part of the Johns Hopkins Centre for Talented Youth Talent (CTY) Search, a media release said on Monday, August 2.

Peri was one of nearly 19,000 students from 84 countries who joined CTY in the 2020-21 Talent Search year. CTY uses above-grade-level testing to identify advanced students from around the world and provide a clear picture of their true academic abilities.

Peri took the Johns Hopkins Talent Search test in Spring 2021, when she was in Grade 5. Her results in the verbal and quantitative sections leveled with the 90th percentile of advanced Grade 8 performance.

Peri made the cut for Johns Hopkins CTY High Honors Awards. "This motivates me to do more," she said, adding that doodling and reading JRR Tolkien's novels might have worked for her.

As part of Johns Hopkins policy, granular information is not broken down by age or race. Likewise, it is left to the guardian to disclose the prodigy's name. Within the US, awardees come from all 50 US states.

Less than 20 per cent of CTY Talent Search participants qualified for CTY High Honors Awards. Honorees also qualified for CTY's online and summer programs, through which bright students can form a community of engaged learners with other bright students from around the world.

"We are thrilled to celebrate these students," said Virginia Roach, CTY's executive director. "In a year that was anything but ordinary, their love of learning shone through, and we are excited to help cultivate their growth as scholars and citizens throughout high school, college, and beyond," she said in a statement.

There are more than 15,500 enrolments in CTY Online Programs courses each year. In addition, CTY's in-person Summer Programs for bright students is offered at about 20 sites in the United States and Hong Kong, the release said.

SIKH AMERICAN SOLDIER HONORED IN A MEMORIAL SERVICE HELD AT ARLINGTON NATIONAL CEMETERY IN US

WASHINGTON

(TIP): Recognizing the valor of Sikh American Gurpreet Singh who died in a combat mission in Afghanistan over a decade ago, the Arlington National Cemetery on Thursday, July 29 held a service in his honor more than six months after he was memorialized at America's most hallowed ground with the placement of a memorial headstone.

The service was held at the memorial marker of Corporal Gurpreet, the first and only Sikh service member from the Afghanistan campaign to be memorialized at the Arlington National Cemetery.

"The ceremony that was done today was for my brother late Cpl Gurpreet Singh. He was killed in action 10 years ago in Afghanistan. We didn't do a proper burial; we had his cremation. We actually wanted to have a place at Arlington (National Cemetery)," his sister Manpreet Singh told media after the ceremony.

After he joined the armed forces, Gurpreet was assigned to 1st Battalion, 5th Marines, 1st Marine Division, and Camp Pendleton, California. He made the ultimate sacrifice on June 22, 2011, in Helmand Province, Afghanistan while conducting Combat Operations. He was awarded the Bronze Star with Combat "V" for valor, posthumously for heroic service in Sangrin District. He was 21 when he died.

In November 2020, he was memorialized at the Arlington National Cemetery with the placement of a memorial headstone. His memorial marker is one of two, symbolizing Sikh warriors in the American wars. The other one is of Uday Singh, who died in the war in Iraq.

Manpreet said that Gurpreet joined the Marine Corps right after high school, as he always wanted to be in the Marine Corps.



The Arlington National Cemetery on Thursday, July 29 held a service in honor of Gurpreet Singh who died in a combat mission in Afghanistan over a decade ago

(Read full story on www.theindianpanorama.news)

Indian American author Dr. Vipin Gupta's 2 new books focus on mysteries of nature

SAN BERNARDINO, CA (TIP) Indian American author Dr. Vipin Gupta has unveiled two new books, which delve into the hidden mysteries of Mother Nature, and are based around consciousness and para-consciousness. The books show the interconnectivity of modern science and the ancient spiritual world. His work is now available in Chandigarh and other cities.

Dr. Gupta, globally recognized for exploring the vastly integrated processes of nature, says, "My book 'What is Consciousness' reveals the secret origin of consciousness - soul, spirit, space and time. The other book 'What is Para Consciousness' reveals the secret thread of life that lies hidden within our para-consciousness.

I am planning to write six more books in this series." Dr. Gupta takes a management approach to advancing sciences while explaining the hidden mysteries of nature. The earlier four books by him- What is Divine Energy, What is Present Reality, Is Present Reality? and Is Divine Energy? are available on Amazon and elsewhere in paperback, hardcover, digital and audible forms.

The books are part of his Project VIPIN (Vastly Integrated Processes Inside Nature).

Dr. Vipin Gupta is a professor of management, and co-director of the Center for Global Management at the Jack H. Brown College of Business and Public Administration, California State University, San Bernardino. He was previously at Simmons University,



Dr. Vipin Gupta's books are a part of Project VIPIN (Vastly Integrated Processes Inside Nature).

Boston, Grand Valley State University, and Fordham University.

Vipin Gupta has a Ph.D. in managerial science and applied economics from the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania. He has been a gold medalist for outstanding academic performance in the post-graduate MBA program at the Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad; a top rank holder in the B.Com. (Hons) Program at Sri Ram College of Commerce, University of Delhi, India; and an all-India rank holder at the graduate program of the Institute of Cost and Works Accountants of India.

Professor Gupta has authored about 180 journal articles and book chapters, including in Journal of Business Venturing, Family Business Review, Research in Organizational Behavior, Asia-Pacific Journal of Management,



Multinational Business Review, Journal of World Business, Advances in Global Leadership, and Management Review. Besides delivering lectures and keynotes in several nations, he has presented at international academic conferences worldwide, including the Academy of Management, IFSAM, EGOS, Society of Industrial Organization Psychologists, Global Entrepreneurship Conference, and Family Enterprise Research Conference. He has been on the governing board and organizing committee of several international conferences. In 2017, he served as the academic program chair for the 52nd CLADEA Assembly.

Dr. Gupta is the co-editor of the seminal GLOBE (Global Leadership and Organizational Behavior Effectiveness Program) book Culture, Leadership, and Organizations - The GLOBE Study of 62

Societies (Sage Publications, 2004). He is the principal investigator of the path-breaking CASE (Culturally-sensitive Assessment Systems and Education) Project on family businesses. He edited two critically acclaimed books on the theme of strategic management, performance, and leadership in the emerging markets: Creating Performing Organizations (Sage Publications, 2003) and Transformative Organizations (Sage Publications, 2004). He is the author of the Strategic Management and Business Policy: Concepts and Applications (PHI Learning, 2003 and 2005). He has been the principal editor of ten books on family business models in ten different regional clusters and the eleventh book on family businesses' gender dimension (ICFAI University Press, 2004). He has also co-authored a research manuscript MNC Subsidiaries in China: An empirical study of growth and development strategy (Information Age Publishing; 2015), and a textbook Leadership Across the Globe (Routledge USA, 2015).

Vipin Gupta has been a recipient of the coveted 2005 Scott Myers Award for Applied Research in the Workplace from Society for Industrial Organization Psychologists, USA. As a 2015-16 American Council of Education fellow, he visited sixty-two universities, colleges, and higher education institutions in nine European nations, the USA, and India.

Dr. Gupta has offered several training programs and workshops on strategic planning and cross-cultural management to senior executives, administrators, defense personnel, and research methods to doctoral students and faculty in India and the US. He has been a visiting or guest faculty at more than thirty business schools in India. His workshops and lectures have been covered by several newspapers and television channels.

Indian origin Tycoon Arrested following blabbing about \$100 Million Fraud in Email

DUBAI (TIP): Kalpesh Kinariwala, an Indian-born businessman based in the United Arab Emirates, allegedly did not heed that guidance. The 49-year-old was arrested last month in Dubai, where he now faces criminal charges for forgery and embezzling at least \$10.8 million from a Chilean iodine company. Kinariwala pleaded not guilty. His next hearing is scheduled for August 22, according to an August 5 report in The Daily Beast.

A separate civil action underway alleges that, in total, Kinariwala's scheme caused \$107 million in damages for the Chilean firm, Cosayach, whose parent company is one of the planet's largest iodine producers. According to the claims, he bribed a Cosayach executive sales manager in Chile, who in turn helped Kinariwala secure higher volumes of iodine than his competitors and lie about the resale prices he was able to generate.

The pair's relationship eventually devolved, and the sales director blew the whistle on the operation. Near the end, as Kinariwala had become increasingly

frustrated, he told the director that he hoped they could mend their disputes "without any bloodshed," according to court documents. Evidently intimidation didn't work.

If convicted, the allegations could deal a major financial and reputational blow to Kinariwala and his business, Pantheon Group, which has interests in mining, oil and gas, and luxury real estate. Founded in 2001, Pantheon claimed in 2020 that its annual revenue exceeded \$325 million.

Kinariwala and his companies did not respond to numerous requests for comment. In recent weeks he took his Facebook page offline and deleted the contents of his LinkedIn profile.

Kinariwala's alleged scheme was simple. According to a forensic analysis conducted on behalf of the plaintiffs, he paid an initial series of bribes totaling \$412,000 to the sales director, plus a cut of future illicit profits that ultimately surpassed \$2 million. In return, the director guaranteed Kinariwala's companies the bulk of Cosayach's production of iodine, an element used

for pharmaceuticals, human nutrition, fertilizers, electronics, and other applications. The companies would resell the iodine on behalf of Cosayach in Asia and North America and receive a commission on the final sale.

At the same time, the director agreed to help Kinariwala's businesses lie about those resale prices-allegedly understating to Cosayach what the iodine products were actually selling for, and then pocketing the difference. The director would receive a "personal economic compensation for the above," according to a written affidavit signed in December 2020.

Kinariwala bluntly outlined the arrangement in an email to the director in the fall of 2011, including Pantheon's "commitment to revenue sharing" with him. "I'm glad we could... spend some quality time to take our relation to the next level," Kinariwala wrote, according to a document filed with the court.

The lack of discretion alarmed his new co-conspirator. "I sincerely do not like such an aggressive document you have sent me," the director replied. "I am



Kalpesh Kinariwala, the self-described biggest iodine distributor in the world, allegedly used an American firm to help defraud over \$100 million from a Chilean mining company.

really concerned about it. Please call me to discuss."

The pair nonetheless continued with their alleged plan. The forensic analysis claims that Kinariwala's companies falsified bank letters to dupe Cosayach into accepting below-market invoices for iodine sales. In one transaction, for instance, they fraudulently underreported the sale price by about 4 percent, documents claim, generating an embezzled sum of nearly \$25,000.

(Read full story on www.theindianpanorama.news)

India Takes Over UN Security Council Presidency for the month of August, Thanks France

AS UN SECURITY COUNCIL PRESIDENT IN AUGUST, INDIA WILL ORGANIZE, BESIDES OTHER EVENTS, A SOLEMN ONE IN THE MEMORY OF PEACEKEEPERS.

NEW YORK (TIP): India, on August 1, assumed the rotating Presidency of the United Nations Security Council for the month of August. It has several important items on its agenda for the world body's functioning under this period, especially those focusing on areas of its core interests.

This is India's tenth tenure. So far it has been President of the body nine times: June 1950, September 1967, December 1972, October 1977, February 1985, October 1991, December 1992, August 2011, and November 2012.

Flagging off its tenure, India thanked France, its immediate predecessor in the position, for leading the Council in July.

"During our Presidency in August, India is organizing three high-level signature meetings, focusing on our priority areas: maritime security, peacekeeping, and counterterrorism," India's Permanent Representative to the UN, Ambassador TS Tirumurti, said in a video message straight from the Security



India's permanent representative to UN Ambassador TS Tirumurti at UNSC -

Photo courtesy / PTI

Council.

"India will also be organizing a solemn event in the memory of peacekeepers," he said.

The Council, he said, plans several important meetings, including those with representatives of Syria, Iraq, Somalia, Yemen, and other countries of

the middle east.

"I'm confident that India's Presidency will contribute to strengthening international peace and security further," Ambassador Tirumurti said.

Expressing happiness over India taking over the Security Council Presidency, the French Ambassador in New Delhi, Emmanuel Lenain, said his country would work with India in tackling several issues faced by the world today.

"Delighted that India is today taking over #UNSC presidency from France. We are committed to working with India on strategic issues as maritime security, peacekeeping & counterterrorism, and upholding a rules-based, multilateral system to face today's many ongoing crises," Ambassador Lenain tweeted.

The United Nations Security Council will be holding a meeting on August 6 to take stock of the situation in Afghanistan, Ambassador Tirumurti said. (With inputs from PTI)

Nassau County Coronavirus Transmission 'High': CDC

THE CDC RECOMMENDS INDOOR PUBLIC MASK USE FOR VACCINATED AND UNVACCINATED NASSAU RESIDENTS

MINEOLA, NY (TIP): The delta variant of the coronavirus continues to drive case rates higher in the U.S., especially in places with low vaccination rates.

Nassau County has a "high" level of coronavirus transmission as of Aug. 3, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. There were 112 new cases per 100,000 residents between July 27 and Aug. 2.

The positive test rate was 3.5 percent between July 25 and July 31, which was a 0.8 percentage point increase from the previous seven days.

There were 1,526 recorded cases in Nassau County between July 27 and Aug. 2, which is 42 percent higher than the previous seven days.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends that fully vaccinated people wear masks indoors in public if they live in an area with "substantial" or "high" transmission levels. Those who aren't fully vaccinated are urged to wear masks in those settings, regardless of transmission level.

Transmission levels are determined either by new cases per 100,000 residents in the last seven days or the percentage of coronavirus tests that come back positive; the higher category determines the transmission level. Around 61 percent of U.S. counties are in the "high" transmission level and 19 percent are "substantial," according to the CDC.

The CDC also recommends indoor public mask use for people with compromised immune systems or other high-risk factors, regardless of vaccination



status. People who live with someone at higher risk for coronavirus complications should also consider using masks.

Vaccines even more important as delta variant spreads

The U.S. seven-day average of daily new cases reached 72,000

on Monday, August 2 which is a 44 percent increase from the previous seven-day average and higher than last summer, CDC Director Rochelle Walensky said at a Monday press briefing. The highly contagious delta variant is behind the increase.

"To put this in perspective, if you get sick with the alpha variant, you could infect about two other unvaccinated people," Walensky said. "If you get sick with the delta variant, we estimate that you could infect about five other unvaccinated people."

States with low vaccination rates are now hot spots for infections, White House Coronavirus Response Coordinator Jeff Zients said at the Monday briefing. The seven states with the lowest vaccination rates have 8.5 percent of the U.S. population but more than 17 percent of new cases.

Vaccination rates have increased over the past few weeks after a temporary lull.

"Over the past few weeks, we've seen a nearly 70 percent increase in the average number of new people getting vaccinated each and every day," Zients said. "In the last seven days alone, 3 million Americans have gotten their first shot. That's the highest seven-day totals since July 4."

(With inputs from CDC)

Nassau Legislature makes First Responders a Protected Class

OPPONENTS SAY IT GIVES POLICE OFFICERS AND OTHERS MORE RIGHTS UNDER THE LAW THAN MINORITY CITIZENS AND IS UNCONSTITUTIONAL.

MINEOLA, NY (TIP): After multiple hours of comments from the public - which was almost exclusively against the bill - the Nassau County Legislature passed a bill that would make police officers and other first responders a protected class of citizen on par with racial and religious minorities, adding to the already considerable protection they have under the law. It would also, according to critics, give those officers more rights than minority groups.

The law, which was put forward by Legislator Joshua Lafazan, makes it a hate crime to "harass, menace, assault or injure" any first responder. The part of the law that most riled up critics is that it says that if the incident occurs while the officer is in uniform, there is an "irrebuttable presumption" that the officer was targeted because of their profession.

Under the law, an officer could sue a citizen for harassment, and the citizen would not be able to prove in court that they were not targeting the officer because of their profession. That is not something that is offered to minorities when they are the victim of hate crimes - they have to prove that they were targeted because of who they are.

"There is no justification for violence against first responders," Lafazan said at the meeting. "And these bills will add further protections into law for Nassau County's first responders as they protect us."

The bill passed the Legislature 12-6. It will now go to Nassau County Executive Laura Curran to either be passed or vetoed. Prior to the meeting, Curran did not indicate how she would vote on the bill.

AS I SEE IT

Hockey turnaround heralds a new dawn



BY YOGENDRA YADAV

HOCKEY OF THE 1970S AND CRICKET TILL THE 1980S REPRESENTED THE PRIDE OF THE UNDERDOG, THE HESITANT ENTRANT ON THE WORLD STAGE. MASS HYSTERIA AROUND CRICKET TODAY IS THE CULTURAL CARRIER OF BOORISHNESS, ITS OUTWARD CONFIDENCE BARELY MASKING THE HOLLOWNESS INSIDE. THE RESURGENCE OF INDIAN HOCKEY ASSURES ME THAT ANOTHER DEEPER AND POSITIVE NATIONALISM STILL LIVES INSIDE US. IT MAY HAVE BEEN OVERSHADOWED, BUT IT IS NOT ERASED FROM OUR NATIONAL CONSCIOUSNESS.

I am not a morning person. But Tuesday, August 3 morning was different. I was up early, as was the entire family, for the India-Belgium match in the Olympic hockey semi-final. The game moved us, like millions of Indian fans, from ecstasy to anxiety, and pain. The Indian men's team was outplayed, yet this defeat did not leave us humiliated, it did not erase the earlier joy of watching that brilliant solo goal



Sea Change: Indian hockey players are the new national icons. - Photo / PTI

against Britain by Hardik Singh. Or the sheer pride of the Chak De moment when our women's hockey team defeated Australia.

It took me back nearly half a century ago, to my school days. The only claim to fame of my school, SGN Khalsa Higher Secondary School, Sri Ganganagar, with a preponderance of rural Sikh boys, was its sports prowess. In those days, 6-8 members of Rajasthan's playing XI used to be from my school. My college, SGN Khalsa College, enjoyed the same reputation in hockey and athletics. I played hockey, never went beyond the school's Team C, but was enough to be selected for AIR's panel of hockey commentators for the Asian Games in 1982.

Like everyone around me, I was an avid hockey fan then. Indian hockey was past its golden era, but not out of international reckoning. We had only heard about Dhyani Chand, but his son Ashok Kumar was our hero. I did not know much about Balbir Singh, but I remember how awestruck I was when I got to shake hands with Ajit Pal Singh, the legendary center-half. The defining moment of hockey glory was the last-minute goal by Aslam Sher Khan in the semi-final of the Kuala Lumpur World Cup in 1975 that India went on to win. There was no television in my town then. The pleasure of hockey came through Jasdev Singh's radio commentary. You had to add visuals, action and colors on your own. For my generation then, Indian hockey team was the flag-bearer of our national pride. It wasn't a safe bet, yet worth it.

Like most of my friends, my passion for hockey quietly gave way to cricket. It began with the visit of Clive Lloyd's team to India in the winter of 1974-75, a series in which Gordon Greenidge, Vivian Richards and Andy Roberts made their debut. My personal favorites were G. Viswanath, Brijesh Patel, and of course,

BS Chandrasekhar, all from Karnataka. India lost the series, but not its pride. The introduction of astroturf in the 1976 Olympics had begun a steep and irreversible decline of Indian hockey, notwithstanding the facile gold in the 1980 Moscow Olympics. It coincided with the rise of cricket, leading up to the dream victory in the 1983 World Cup.

Some friends came together to form a local cricket team, grandly named the Eleven Star Club. The new APMC yard, not yet inaugurated, was our cricket ground. TV had just entered my town, though not my home. Its five-meter-high antenna, the new symbol of social status, was more likely to catch Lahore TV station than our own Doordarshan's signal from Amritsar. Cricket stars - I had added Kapil Dev to the list now - were the new national heroes. India was still an underdog, with an occasional upset that uplifted our pride. When India was not playing, I was happy to support West Indies or Pakistan and admire Vivian Richards or Zaheer Abbas. That was the heyday of Third World solidarity and the Non-aligned Movement.

For nearly two decades after, I lost touch with the world of sports. Professional passions overshadowed my occasional interest in cricket. Hockey was a faint memory. Lagaan tickled but failed to rekindle my interest in cricket. Chak De! India did bring tears, but for a world that did not exist anymore.

By the time my sports fanatic son reconnected me to that world a few years ago, cricket was a new game. Twenty20 has changed the format and the pace, even for Test cricket. Thankfully, I don't look down upon these changes. I love T20 matches. Who wouldn't enjoy a feast of sixers? I marvel at how a format designed for batsmen is now dominated by bowlers. I am truly in awe of the talent pool that Indian cricket is now.

Yet, I don't feel a thing. Cricket is now an extension of the entertainment

THE RESURGENCE OF INDIAN HOCKEY IN THIS CONTEXT ASSURES ME THAT ANOTHER DEEPER AND POSITIVE NATIONALISM STILL LIVES INSIDE US. IT MAY HAVE BEEN OVERSHADOWED, BUT IT IS NOT ERASED FROM OUR NATIONAL CONSCIOUSNESS

industry. I cannot bear to read about the players' auction. I fail to connect IPL teams to the cities and regions they supposedly represent. I know we are the hub of international cricket, but that does not add in any way to my national self-esteem. I see and hear India fans, within and outside the country, with face paints and T-shirts, but I cannot tell them from English football fans. I simply cannot join their roar. The victory in the 2007 T20 World Cup did not mean what the triumph in the 1983 cricket World Cup or the 1975 hockey World Cup meant.

I felt something similar with our hockey teams in the Olympics this time. No doubt, hockey too has changed: the four-quarter format, the pace of the game, and the new set of rules. Yet it is the same game. The Indian women's hockey team's victory over Australia the other day tugged at my heart the same way as the victory of Ajit Pal Singh's team did 46 years ago. The stories of women hockey players are not dissimilar to the stories of Indian hockey in the 1970s. I don't care if they don't win any Olympic medals. For me, even in their defeat, the women and men of Indian hockey are the new national icons.

My story is not quite my story. It is very much the story of a generation that saw the transition from a thick yet porous post-colonial nationalism to the hard, flat and thin ultra-nationalism so typical of our times. Hockey of the 1970s and cricket till the 1980s represented the pride of the underdog, the hesitant entrant on the world stage. Mass hysteria around cricket today is the cultural carrier of boorishness, its outward confidence barely masking the hollowness inside. Ashis Nandy, who wrote a story of politics of colonialism around cricket, reminded us: "Cricket heroes have become, for the increasingly uprooted, humiliated, decultured Indian, the ultimate remedy for all the failures - moral, economic and political - of the country."

The resurgence of Indian hockey in this context assures me that another deeper and positive nationalism still lives inside us. It may have been overshadowed, but it is not erased from our national consciousness. Or am I dreaming?

(The author is National President, Swaraj India)

(First published in The Tribune)

Poverty in India is on the rise again



SANTOSH
MEHROTRA
&



JAJATI
KESHARI
PARIDA

"WHILE THE ECONOMY MAINTAINED SOME GROWTH MOMENTUM TILL 2015, THE MONUMENTAL BLUNDER OF DEMONETIZATION FOLLOWED BY A POORLY PLANNED AND HURRIEDLY INTRODUCED GOODS AND SERVICES TAX, BOTH DELIVERED BODY BLOWS TO THE UNORGANIZED SECTOR AND MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES. THE ECONOMIC SLOWDOWN FOLLOWED. NONE OF THE FOUR ENGINES OF GROWTH WAS FIRING AFTER THAT. PRIVATE INVESTMENT FELL FROM 31% INHERITED BY THE NEW GOVERNMENT, TO 28% OF GDP BY 2019-20. PUBLIC EXPENDITURE WAS CONSTRAINED BY A SILENT FISCAL CRISIS. EXPORTS, WHICH HAD NEVER FALLEN IN ABSOLUTE DOLLAR TERMS FOR A QUARTER CENTURY SINCE 1991, ACTUALLY FELL BELOW THE 2013-14 LEVEL (\$315 BILLION) FOR FIVE YEARS. CONSUMPTION STAGNATED AND HOUSEHOLD SAVINGS RATES FELL. JOBLESSNESS INCREASED TO A 45-YEAR HIGH BY 2017-18 (BY THE USUAL STATUS), AND YOUTH (15-29 YEARS OF AGE) SAW UNEMPLOYMENT TRIPLE FROM 6% TO 18% BETWEEN 2012 AND 2018.

REAL WAGES DID NOT INCREASE FOR CASUAL OR REGULAR WORKERS OVER THE SAME PERIOD, HARDLY SURPRISING WHEN JOB SEEKERS WERE INCREASING BUT JOBS WERE NOT AT ANYWHERE CLOSE TO THAT RATE. HENCE, CONSUMER EXPENDITURE FELL, AND POVERTY INCREASED."

India has not released its Consumption Expenditure Survey (CES) data since 2011-12. Normally a CES is conducted by the National Sample Survey Office (NSO) every five years. But the CES of 2017-18 (already conducted a year late) was not made public by the Government of India. Now, we hear that a new CES is likely to be conducted in 2021-22, the data from which will probably not be available before end-2022.

Meanwhile, we know that the economy has been slowing for nine quarters prior to the outbreak of the novel coronavirus pandemic. Unemployment had reached a 45-year high in 2017-18, as revealed by NSO's Periodic Labor Force Survey (PLFS).

Sufficient to estimate change

India's labor force surveys, including the five-yearly Employment-Unemployment Rounds from 1973-4 to 2011-12, have also collected consumption expenditure of households. The PLFS has maintained that tradition. While the PLFS's questions on consumption expenditure are not as detailed as those of the CES, they are sufficient for us to estimate changes in consumption on a consistent basis across time. It enables any careful researcher to estimate the incidence of poverty (i.e., the share in the total population of those below the poverty line), as well as the total number of persons below poverty. That is exactly what we do in the table.

There is a clear trajectory of the incidence of poverty falling from 1973 to 2012. In fact, since India began collecting data on poverty, the incidence of poverty has always fallen, consistently. It was 54.9% in 1973-4; 44.5% in 1983-84; 36% in 1993-94 and 27.5% in 2004-05. This was in accordance with the Lakdawala poverty line (which was lower than the Tendulkar poverty line), named after a distinguished economist, then a member of the Planning Commission.

Methodology

In 2011, it was decided in the Planning Commission, that the national poverty line will be raised in accordance with the recommendations of an expert group chaired by the late Suresh Tendulkar (then professor of Economics

at the Delhi School of Economics). That is the poverty line we use in estimating poverty in the table. As it happens, this poverty line was comparable at the time to the international poverty line (estimated by the World Bank), of \$1.09 (now raised to \$1.90 to account for inflation) person per day.

Based on the Tendulkar poverty line, the poverty estimates for 2004-05 and 2011-12 are to be found in the Planning Commission's own estimates using the CES of those years. Hence, we have extended the 2011-12 poverty line for each State and used the consumption expenditure reported by the PLFS to estimate a consistent poverty head count ratio (i.e., incidence of poverty in the population) as well as the absolute number of the poor. We feel confident about using the PLFS, because in the absence of CES data, the PLFS can be used to estimate the incidence of poverty. It also collects the household monthly per capita consumption expenditure data based on the Mixed Recall Period methodology. Similar to the CES, the PLFS (PLFS annual report, 2019-20, page 6) also asks the household questions about expenses on health, clothing and bedding, education, footwear and consumer durables for a 365 day recall period - prior to the day of the survey; but for non-durable consumption goods/services - including expenses on food, housing and conveyance, etc. - its question expects a recall period of 30 days prior to the day of survey. We naturally updated the Tendulkar poverty line, using the Consumer Price Index for each State to 2019-20, to arrive at the estimate for the last year before COVID-19.

An urban and rural rise

What is stunning is that for the first time in India's history of estimating poverty, there is a rise in the incidence of poverty since 2011-12. The important point is that this is consistent with the NSO's CES data for 2017-18 that was leaked data. The leaked data showed that rural consumption between 2012 and 2018 had fallen by 8%, while urban consumption had risen by barely 2%. Since the majority of India's population (certainly over 65%) is rural, poverty in India is also predominantly rural. Remarkably, by 2019-20, poverty had increased significantly in both the rural and urban areas, but much more so in rural areas (from 25% to 30%).

It is also for the first time since the estimation of poverty began in India on a consistent basis, that the absolute number of poor has risen: from 217 million in 2012 to 270 million in 2019-20 in rural areas; and from 53 million to 71 million in the urban areas; or a total increase of the absolute poor of about 70 million.

It is important here to recall two facts: between 1973 and 1993, the absolute number of poor had remained constant (at about 320 million poor), despite a significant increase in India's total population. Between 1993 and 2004, the absolute number of poor fell by a



Photo used for representation purpose only

marginal number (18 million) from 320 million to 302 million, during a period when the GDP growth rate had picked up after the economic reforms.

It is for the first time in India's history since the CES began that we have seen an increase in the absolute numbers of the poor, between 2012-13 and 2019-20.

The second fact is that for the first time ever, between 2004-05 and 2011-12, the number of the poor fell, and that too by a staggering 133 million, or by over 19 million per year. This was accounted for by what has come to be called India's 'dream run' of growth: over 2004 and 2014, the GDP growth rate had averaged 8% per annum - a 10-year run that was not sustained thereafter. By contrast, not only has the incidence of poverty increased since then, but the absolute increase in poverty is totally unprecedented.

The contributory factors

The reasons for increased poverty since 2013 are not far to seek. While the economy maintained some growth momentum till 2015, the monumental blunder of demonetization followed by a poorly planned and hurriedly introduced Goods and Services Tax, both delivered body blows to the unorganized sector and Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises. The economic slowdown followed. None of the four engines of growth was firing after that. Private investment fell from 31% inherited by the new government, to 28% of GDP by 2019-20. Public expenditure was constrained by a silent fiscal crisis. Exports, which had never fallen in absolute dollar terms for a quarter century since 1991, actually fell below the 2013-14 level (\$315 billion) for five years. Consumption stagnated and household savings rates fell. Joblessness increased to a 45-year high by 2017-18 (by the usual status), and youth (15-29 years of age) saw unemployment triple from 6% to 18% between 2012 and 2018. Real wages did not increase for casual or regular workers over the same period, hardly surprising when job seekers were increasing but jobs were not at anywhere close to that rate. Hence, consumer expenditure fell, and poverty increased.

Poverty is expected to rise further during the COVID-19 pandemic after the economy has contracted.

(Santosh Mehrotra is a professor of economics and Chairperson of the Centre for Labor, JNU. E-mail:

santoshmeh@gmail.com Santosh Mehrotra has recently edited 'Reviving Jobs: An Agenda for Growth, 2020'.

Jajati Keshari Parida is Assistant Professor of Economics at the Central University of Punjab, Bathinda)

OPED

Back-to-School is on the Horizon, so Plan Ahead: Get Vaccinated by August 9



BY MEISHA PORTER

AND



DR. DAVE A. CHOKSHI



In early July, we were elated to welcome students to classrooms for Summer Rising, the City's free summer academic and enrichment program. Children were clearly excited to be back with their teachers and friends, and those feelings have only grown over the past few weeks. In an elementary school in East Harlem, youngsters proudly displayed the solar-powered ovens they'd built to cook s'mores. In a school in Chinatown, students gasped with joy over the "magical" science experiments performed by Jason Latimer of YouTube's Impossible Science channel. And in a school in the Bronx, students dove into their lessons and demonstrated an outdoor mindfulness activity.

Experiences like these are reflected in the smiles of hundreds of thousands of children who are in school to learn, play, connect, and grow this summer. Both children and their parents are grateful to have this bridge to the next school year.

We see the first day of school—Monday, September 13—as a homecoming. In fact, it comes shortly after NYC Homecoming Week, a five-borough celebration of the city's resilience throughout the COVID-19 pandemic.

As we think ahead to the fall, the health and safety of students and school communities are at the forefront of our planning. We are asking New Yorkers to help with a crucial part of this work: get vaccinated. If your child is between 12 and 17 years old, August 9 is the last day for your child to get the Pfizer vaccine in order to be fully vaccinated in time for school.

This date is important to remember because the vaccine for adolescents involves a two-dose regimen, and it takes two weeks from the second shot for someone to be considered fully

vaccinated. So, think of this as your doctor's orders: Schedule your vaccine today if you have not already.

Safely and fully reopening schools this fall is a milestone for our city, and we are eager to see students back in their school communities. We are doing everything in our power to create a safe learning environment—from disinfecting every school, to re-configuring classrooms and improving ventilation, to stocking up on face masks and hand sanitizer.

And last week, Mayor de Blasio announced that school staff must show a one-time proof of vaccination or weekly COVID-19 tests. The new requirement recognizes that the single most important way we can help our children go back to learning, and save lives, is with vaccination.

As parents ourselves, we know the

decision to vaccinate is important, and we would do anything to protect our children. The vaccine is safe and very effective. Over 250,000 young New Yorkers have now gotten the shot.

At school, vaccination allows children to be in the classroom, participate in afterschool activities and sports, and gather with friends—safely. It also provides a more stable learning environment, (for example, students who are considered fully vaccinated are not required to quarantine).

Getting the shot has never been easier in New York City. Access to vaccination is widely available in all five boroughs, and the City is offering a new \$100 incentive for anyone (including children) who gets their first dose at a City-run site. Nearly all New Yorkers live within half a mile of a public vaccination site, and everyone is eligible to request and receive at-home vaccination. Pediatricians and other health care providers can also help answer questions, and many are able to give the COVID-19 vaccine at a back-to-school check-up, along with other routine immunizations. If you need a provider, call 1-844-NYC-4NYC and you will be transferred.

We're so excited to welcome all New York City students back into classrooms in September. Because of vaccination, our buildings will soon be fully open and our young people will be learning. We deeply appreciate the partnership of the city's families and the commitment to keeping our school communities safe and healthy.

(Meisha Porter is Chancellor of the NYC Department of Education. Dave A. Chokshi, MD, MSc, is Commissioner of the NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene)

KEEP DISTANCE FROM TALIBAN

THE MODI GOVERNMENT HAS RIGHTLY IGNORED THE CALLS FOR 'TALKS'



BY G PARTHASARATHY

There is an erroneous perception in India that Afghanistan is a monolithic country, where the Taliban represents the majority of the country. The Taliban is made up almost exclusively of Pashtuns, who constitute around 45% of Afghanistan's population. The Taliban's leaders and its cadres returned to Afghanistan from their hideouts in Pakistan, just as the occupying Soviet Forces began withdrawing from Afghanistan in February 1989. Having been trained and ideologically indoctrinated in some of the most fundamentalist madrasas, the Taliban sought to fill the political and security vacuum after the Soviets withdrew from Afghanistan. The Taliban let loose a reign of terror and oppression in Afghanistan, which



The Taliban are, and will remain, tools of the ISI

was quite unique.

The Taliban faced armed opposition from virtually every other Afghan ethnic grouping. This resistance was spearheaded by the Tajiks, who constitute around 35% of Afghanistan's

population. The Taliban ruled Afghanistan and soon became a safe haven for radical Islamist terrorist groups from across the world. American intervention in Afghanistan commenced in 2003, after the 9/11

terrorist strikes. Driven out of Afghanistan, the Taliban operated from Pakistan. Strangely, the Americans accepted Pakistani claims of innocence, despite the ISI's obvious support for Taliban's terrorism. Washington provided Pakistan all economic and military aid it could absorb. The Taliban, however, retained close links with terrorist groups, like the JeM and LeT, while colluding with the ISI.

The US presence in Afghanistan did not deter or prevent the Taliban from strengthening its ties with radical Islamic groups across the world, while hosting these radicals in Afghanistan. These groups included the Al Qaeda, the IS, the Tehriq-e-Taliban (Pakistan), and the East Turkistan Independence Movement, which operated in China's Xinjiang province. China received assurances from the Taliban that they would cease support for insurrection and seek peace with the Afghan government. That has not happened. Pakistan had led the US up the garden path by providing safe haven to Osama bin Laden, who was the mastermind of the 9/11 attacks.

CONTD ON PAGE 43

Mob attacks temple in Pakistan, damages idols; Imran Khan orders arrest of all culprits

LAHORE (TIP): A mob attacked a Hindu temple in a remote town in Pakistan's Punjab province, damaging idols and burning down parts of it, prompting Prime Minister Imran Khan to promise to restore the vandalised temple and order the arrest of all culprits.

Pakistan's Chief Justice Gulzar Ahmed also expressed "grave concern" over the incident and fixed the matter before court for hearing on August 6.

Police said the mob attacked the Hindu temple at Bhong city of Rahim Yar Khan district, some 590 kms from Lahore, on Wednesday in reaction to an alleged desecration of a Muslim seminary by a minor Hindu boy.

The eight-year-old Hindu boy last week had allegedly urinated at a library of the seminary that caused tensions in Bhong, where Muslims and Hindus have been living peacefully for decades.

A police officer said the boy was arrested last week and booked under the blasphemy laws, but subsequently released on bail for being a minor.

"The situation got out of control after the court granted bail to the boy," he said.

"The attackers were carrying sticks, stones and bricks. They smashed the deities while raising religious slogans," District Police Officer Asad Sarfraz said.

He said a part of the temple was also burnt down.

Sarfraz said the law enforcement agencies have controlled the situation and managed to disperse the mob. "Rangers have been called and deployed



around the Hindu temple," he said.

India on Thursday summoned the Pakistani charge d'affaires in New Delhi and lodged a firm protest, expressing grave concerns at this reprehensible incident and the continued attacks on the freedom of religion of the minority communities and their places of religious worship in Pakistan.

Prime Minister Khan on Thursday strongly condemned the attack on Ganesh temple and promised that his government will restore the damaged structure.

"Strongly condemn attack on Ganesh Mandir in Bhung, RYK yesterday. I have already asked IG Punjab to ensure arrest of all culprits & take action against any police negligence. The govt will also restore the Mandir," Khan tweeted.

Earlier, Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Political Communication, Dr Shahbaz Gill, said that the PM Office

had taken notice of the sad and unfortunate incident.

Prime Minister Khan had directed the district administration to probe the matter and take strict action against the culprits, he said.

Pakistan's Constitution provides freedom and protection to minorities to perform their worship freely," Dr Gill added.

A lawmaker from Khan's Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf party, Dr Ramesh Kumar Vankwani, met Chief Justice Ahmed on Thursday and informed him about the attack on the temple.

Chief Justice Ahmed "showed grave concern over the tragic incident," said a statement issued by the apex court on Thursday.

"Taking cognizance of the issue, the chief justice has fixed the matter before court on Friday at Islamabad with the directions to Chief Secretary of Punjab and IGP Punjab to appear along with a report on Friday," the statement said.

On Wednesday, Vankwani posted videos of the temple attack on his Twitter wall, requesting law enforcement agencies to rush to the spot to stop its "burning and vandalising".

In a series of tweets, Vankwani said, "Attack on Hindu temple at Bhong City District Rahimyar Khan Punjab. Situation was tense since yesterday. Negligence by local police is very shameful. Chief Justice is requested to take action." He further said, "Strict action must be taken against those who attacked Hindu temple at Bhong. (PTI)

PAKISTAN HAS OTHER 'OPTIONS', PM IMRAN KHAN'S AIDE TELLS US

ISLAMABAD (TIP): Upset over US President Joe Biden's reluctance to telephonically contact Prime Minister Imran Khan, Pakistan's National Security Adviser Moeed Yusuf has said that Islamabad has other "options" if the American leader continues to ignore the country's leadership.

"The president of the United States hasn't spoken to the prime minister of such an important country who the US itself says is make-or-break in some cases, in some ways, in Afghanistan - we struggle to understand the signal, right?" Yusuf said in an interview with The Financial Times of London, according to the Dawn newspaper here.

"We've been told every time that... (the phone call) will happen, it's technical reasons or whatever. But frankly, people don't believe it," he said. "If a phone call is a concession, if a security relationship is a concession, Pakistan has options," he added, refusing to elaborate.

US State Department, however, has assured Islamabad that Washington recognises Pakistan's vital role in restoring peace in Afghanistan and wants Islamabad to play that role.

"Pakistan has much to gain and will continue to have a critical role, and be well-positioned to have a role in supporting the outcome" in Afghanistan, said US State Department spokesperson Ned Price.

"We'll continue to work and to communicate closely with our Pakistani partners on this," he added. (PTI)

LIGHTNING STRIKES WEDDING PARTY IN BANGLADESH, 17 DEAD

DHAKA (TIP): At least 17 members of a wedding party travelling on a boat were killed on August 4 during a massive lightning strike in Bangladesh's Chapainawabganj district, some 302 km northwest of capital Dhaka, a senior official said.

Sakib Al Rabbi, head of Chapainawabganj's Shibganj sub-district administration, told Xinhua over the phone that "17 people were killed on the spot after lightning struck a wedding party boat".

The incident took place at a boat terminal on the bank of the river Padma on Wednesday noon.

The boat carrying dozens of people of the wedding party was crossing the river amid a heavy downpour.

After the boat anchored at a terminal on the riverbank, it was struck by a massive lightning, killing 17 people and injuring 6 others.

Lightning strikes over the past couple of months have killed scores and has been on the rise over the past few years.

Experts here blame the rise in lightning strike deaths directly on climate change that made Bangladesh more vulnerable to the impacts. IANS

Blast in Afghan capital as Taliban claim attack on minister's compound

KABUL (TIP): An explosion near the office of Afghanistan's main security agency wounded three people on August 4, hours after a bomb and gun attack on a minister's compound brought surging Taliban violence to the capital.

The Taliban claimed responsibility for the late Tuesday attack on the home of acting Defence Minister Bismillah Mohammadi. There was no immediate claim for the Wednesday blast.

Mohammadi survived the attack on his compound in a heavily fortified part of Kabul, but the violence was a stark illustration of the deterioration in security as US-led foreign forces complete their withdrawal and the Islamist insurgents seize swathes of territory.

Taliban spokesperson Zabihullah Mujahid said his group targeted the minister's residence as an important meeting was underway there.

Government forces battled the attackers for more than four hours and the Ministry of Interior said at least eight civilians were killed and 20 wounded.



The blast on Wednesday near a facility of the National Directorate of Security wounded two civilians and a security official, police said.

The Taliban have stepped up their campaign to defeat the U.S.-backed government since April as foreign forces complete their withdrawal after 20 years of war.

Fighting has been particularly heavy around the city of Herat, near the

western border with Iran, and Lashkar Gah and Kandahar in the south.

An Afghan military spokesman said an emergency had been declared in Lashkar Gah and government forces were getting reinforcements and US air support. "Special forces have been sent to the area. They are in good morale," armed forces spokesman General Ajmal Omar Shinwari told Reuters. (PTI)

GOPIO-CT to Celebrate India Independence Day in Stamford with Flag Hoisting, India Festival and Kite Flying on August 8th

STAMFORD CITY JOINING HANDS WITH GOPIO-CT TO CELEBRATE INDIA INDEPENDENCE DAY



Honored guest and elected officials at the celebration - Indian Consul A.K. Vijaykrishnan, Stamford Mayor David Martin, CT Attorney General William Tong, CT State Senator Patricia Billie Miller representing Senate District 27, CT Rep. Harry Arora representing 151st District and Caroline Simmons representing 144th District

Shailesh R. Naik, Recipient of GOPIO-CT's Liberty Award 2021

STAMFORD, CT (TIP): India got its independence from the British in 1947. To mark the 74th Anniversary of India's independence, the Connecticut chapter of the Global Organization of People of Indian Origin (GOPIO-CT) has joined hands with Stamford City and Mill River Collaborative to host India Festival in Stamford to commemorate Indian Independence, when the then Prime Minister Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru raised the Indian flag at the Red Fort on August 15, 1947. The Indian Diaspora in Connecticut is a growing community consisting generally IT and management professionals, healthcare workers and a large number of entrepreneurs in hospitality and small businesses. They will join for a celebration organized by the GOPIO-CT by hoisting American, Indian and Connecticut flags at the Government Center in Stamford on

Sunday, August 8th at 11.30 a.m.

Following the flag hoisting, at 12.00 Noon, there is an official ceremony to celebrate Indian Independence Day at the adjacent Mill River Park (corner Broad St. and Washington Blvd., Stamford). Honored guests are Indian Consul A.K. Vijaykrishnan, Stamford Mayor David Martin, CT Attorney General William Tong, CT State Senator Patricia Billie Miller and CT State Representatives Harry Arora representing CT 151st district and Caroline Simmons representing 144th district. Baseball legend Bobby Valentine will also join the celebration as a honored guest.

After the ceremony, the Mill River will witness Kite flying and an India Festival with colorful Folk and Classical Dances of India, Music, Magic Show and Bollywood Dances. There will be vendors

for Indian food, Indian arts and crafts, Indian clothing and other items. Admission is FREE for both events.

Stamford Resident Mr. Shailesh Naik will be bestowed with Indian Independence Liberty Award. An engineer by profession and Principal of Charles A. Manganaro Consulting Engineers, Naik has been serving the Indian American community for the last 15 years. Shailesh served as President GOPIO-CT from 2010 to 2014 and as President of Society of Indo-American Engineers and Architects (SIAEA) for two years. When Covid hit India badly in 2021 Spring, Shailesh came forward and coordinated GOPIO-CT's efforts to raise funds and to send Oxygen concentrators to India. Naik is a licensed professional engineer with over 30 years of experience in the field of engineering.

The celebration is hosted by Mill River

Park Collaborative and the sponsor is First County Bank of Stamford.

Over the last 15 years, GOPIO-CT, a chapter of GOPIO International has become an active and dynamic organization hosting interactive sessions with policy makers and academicians, community events, youth mentoring and networking workshops, and working with other area organizations to help create a better future. GOPIO-CT - Global Organization of People of Indian Origin - serves as a non-partisan, secular, civic and community service organization - promoting awareness of Indian culture, customs and contributions of PIOs through community programs, forums, events and youth activities. It seeks to strengthen partnerships and create an ongoing dialogue with local communities.



New York Auto Show Canceled Over COVID Delta Variant Concerns

NEW YORK CITY (TIP): The delta variant of coronavirus forced organizers to once again pump the brakes on the New York International Auto Show.

"It is with great disappointment that the upcoming 2021 New York International Automobile Show at the Jacob K. Javits Convention Center has been cancelled due to the growing incidences of the Covid-19 Delta variant and the increased measures announced recently by State and local officials to stop its spread," organizers said in a statement released Wednesday.

THE EVENT WILL RETURN TO ITS REGULAR SPRING SCHEDULE IN APRIL 2022, ORGANIZERS SAID. THE CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC ALREADY FORCED ORGANIZERS TO CANCEL THE 2020 NEW YORK AUTO SHOW.

The show's return to the Javits Center was unveiled in a splashy June



announcement by Gov. Andrew Cuomo. Find out what's happening in New York City with free, real-time updates from Patch.

"This is a sure sign that New York is coming back stronger and better than ever," he said at the time.

But it appears the Auto Show spun out, much like Cuomo's political fortunes.

The delta variant has prompted New York City, state and federal officials to adopt strict vaccination and mask mandates to stop its spread, especially in

indoor spaces.

Mayor Bill de Blasio this week announced that indoor entertainment and performance events in the city will require proof of vaccination starting Aug. 16. It's unclear whether the mandate would apply to the Auto Show, but organizers seemed to allude to similar strict measures in their release.

"Increased delta-variant measures force event's hand," the release is subtitled.

"Over the past few weeks, and especially within the last few days, circumstances have changed making it more difficult to create an event at the high standard that we and our clients expect," the statement reads.

"At the onset of planning for the August Show, we were increasingly excited at the prospect of hosting the event as the number of vaccinations in New York continued to climb and mask-wearing reduced the spread in the City. All signs were positive, and the Show was coming together stronger than ever, but today is a different story."

AAPI Raises over \$5 Million towards Covid Relief Efforts in India

PROVIDES 2300 OXYGEN CONCENTRATORS, 100 VENTILATORS AND 100 HIGH FLOW NASAL CANULA MACHINES TO 45 HOSPITALS IN INDIA

CHICAGO (TIP): The deadly Corona virus has claimed millions of lives and it has placed the entire healthcare sector both in India and the United States under tremendous stress. While the Indian American medical fraternity has been at the frontlines of the fight against the pandemic, American Association of physicians of Indian origin (AAPI), the largest ethnic medical organization in the USA representing the interest of more than 100,000 physicians in the USA, has stepped up to the plate to deal with the crisis of India during its second deadly wave.

"The generosity of the members of AAPI and Indian community has been unprecedented," says Dr. Anupama Gotimukula, President of AAPI. "I want to thank the AAPI fraternity, for not only contributing \$5 Million towards Covid Relief Funds, but has spent hundreds of hours in coordinating and disbursing the vital medical supplies to the most needed hospitals across India."

"Thanks to the overwhelming support of its members that AAPI has raised almost \$5 million in the past few months," said Dr. Kusum Punjabi, Chair of AAPI BOT, who has dedicated her services at the Emergency Department, serving thousands of Covid patients in the New Jersey.

"During my entire year of presidency, impacted by the deadly pandemic, AAPI has initiated several efforts to help our Mother India," recalls Dr. Sudhakar Jonnalagadda, Immediate past president

of AAPI. "Aptly so, the annual Convention last month in Atlanta was a tribute to frontline healthcare professionals who have devoted their lives and work serving humanity during the COVID-19 pandemic," he added.

Many parts of India continue to face the deadly second wave of COVID-19. Number of reported Covid positive cases seems to be on the rise and thousands reportedly die daily. Hospitals and medical facilities face shortage of oxygen and ICU beds, with patients lacking in adequate care.

"We have been working very diligently in sending oxygen concentrators and ventilators to India, to deal with the calamity in India and are in the process of helping to set up oxygen generator plants in different hospitals in India," added, Dr. Ravi Kolli, President-Elect of AAPI.

Dr. Sujeeth Punnam, AAPI's Regional Director, who has been one of the many AAPI leaders who has been coordinating the efforts said, "Thus far, AAPI has provided 2300 Concentrators, 100 Ventilators and 100 High Flow Nasal Canula Machines To 45 Hospitals in India as part of the Covid Pandemic Relief Efforts."

As some predict a 3rd wave of the pandemic in India, AAPI has been planning and collaborating with several agencies and the government of India to help reach the much-needed care and supplies to the remotest places in India. "AAPI will continue to use the remaining

funds in preparation of the impending Covid 3rd wave," said Dr. Anjana Samaddar, Vice-President of AAPI.

Dr. Satheesh Kathula, Secretary of AAPI said, "AAPI has been coordinating several efforts, including tele-health to patients and Doctors in India. Thanks to the overwhelming support of its members that AAPI has raised over \$5 million." "The outbreak of Covid 19 has caused significant health-related social, political and economic consequences worldwide. AAPI members have been working very hard in sending medical equipment to India," Dr. Krishan Kumar, Treasurer of AAPI pointed out.

"We are discussing about coordinating efforts to make available the much-needed vaccines in the Slum areas in Delhi and Hyderabad where compliance is very low and apart from lifesaving equipment for severe Covid patients' management in ICUs," said Dr. Anil Tibrewal, who has been in the forefront leading AAPI's efforts to help India during the Covid.

As AAPI cannot direct its resources to specific areas and relies on government of India to distribute its supplies, Dr. Amit Chakrabarty, past Secretary of AAPI and several other AAPI leaders have been working outside of the umbrella of AAPI for direct transfer of the essential material, focusing mainly on the peripheral hospitals who do not get aid readily. HELP INDIA BREATHE is a part of ApShiNi ventures' endeavor by a group of doctors in helping



"The generosity of the members of AAPI and Indian community has been unprecedented," says Dr. Anupama Gotimukula, President of AAPI

individuals to donate Oxygen related supplies to India during this unprecedented calamity.

"The past year, while posing major challenges have also provided opportunities for AAPI to continue to work together in helping realize the mission of AAPI," said Dr. Gotimukula. "We are proud that several Indian American physicians are recognized globally for their contributions to combat the deadly pandemic. We will continue our efforts and give our best to our Motherland in her fight against the deadly pandemic." For more information on AAPI, please visit: www.aapiusa.org

(Press Release)

Spirit Airlines apologizes as widespread cancellations stretch into fourth day

DALLAS / NEW YORK (TIP): Spirit Airlines apologized on Wednesday, August 4, for disruptions that have upended its flight schedule for three days and counting.

"The last three days were extremely difficult for our Guests and Team Members, and for that we sincerely apologize," the airline said in a statement. "We continue to work around the clock to get our Guests where they need to be."

As of mid-day Wednesday, more than 50% of the airline's schedule -- nearly 350 flights -- had already been canceled, according to the aviation tracking website FlightAware, marking a fourth consecutive day of severe disruptions.

The low-cost carrier canceled 61% of its schedule on Tuesday and another 20% of its schedule was delayed, FlightAware reported.

On Monday, cancellations and delays disrupted 71% of Spirit's schedule, and Sunday saw 60% of its schedule canceled or delayed, FlightAware said.

The airline cited overlapping weather challenges, system outages and staffing



Longlines of travelers faced with cancellation of flights at the Spirit counters in Dallas Fort Worth Monday, August 2 - Photo / The Indian Panorama

shortages as causes for the widespread cancellations and delays.

"Cancellation numbers will progressively drop in the days to come," Spirit said. The airline has performed "a more thorough reboot of the network," which it said will ease some of the operational challenges.

The peak summer travel season with very high aircraft load factors across the industry has intensified the issues, Spirit said.

Spirit has enlisted staff members from other areas of the company to help with tasks such as processing of vouchers for meals and hotels.

The airline confirmed that problems with a crew scheduling IT system have contributed to the disruptions. A union representing some crew members, the Association of Flight Attendants, said Spirit's schedulers were locked out of a staff scheduling system on Tuesday "for over an hour."

The airline also noted that a rumor about a pilot strike is "completely untrue."

Spirit is encouraging passengers to check their flight status and look for notifications before heading to the airport.

(With inputs from CNN and FlightAware)

Protests erupt after 9-year-old girl raped and murdered in Indian capital

NEW DELHI (TIP): Hundreds of people protested in the Indian capital Delhi on Wednesday, August 4, for the fourth day straight, as outrage continues to build over the alleged rape and murder of a 9-year-old girl from one of India's most oppressed castes.

Protesters marched holding signs that demanded accountability for the girl's death. "We want justice," they chanted, with placards that read: "Justice for India's daughter."

The parents of the 9-year-old girl attended the protests as well, sitting on a makeshift stage with supporters from their village. The girl's mother sobbed and screamed, at times calling out for her daughter to "come back."

Around late morning, police estimated there were approximately 80 protesters present. However, the crowd soon swelled, with a CNN team on the ground placing the estimate at closer to 300. Police confirmed that 200 security personnel had been deployed to the protest site.

The 9-year-old girl -- a member of the Dalit community, the most oppressed group in India's Hindu system of caste hierarchy -- had gone to fetch water from a Delhi crematorium on Sunday, according to Ingit Pratap Singh, a senior Delhi police official, citing a statement from the victim's mother.

After the girl did not return for half an hour, the crematorium's priest, 55-year-old Radhey Shyam, called the mother and showed her the body of her deceased daughter, said Singh.



Protesters at a demonstration in Delhi, India, on August 3 after the alleged rape and murder of a 9-year-old Dalit girl.

3 Bills cleared in Rajya Sabha, two introduced in Lok Sabha amid din

NEW DELHI (TIP): Three Bills were passed in Rajya on Thursday, August 5, amid protests by Opposition members over Pegasus spyware, the farm laws and alleged rape and murder of a minor Dalit girl.

The Constitution (Schedule Tribes) Order Amendment Bill 2021 introduced by Tribal Affairs Minister Arjun Munda, The Commission for Air Quality Management in National Capital Region and Adjoining Areas Bill, 2021 by Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav and the Essential Defence Services Bill, 2021 moved by MoS Defence Ajay Bhatt were passed even as the Upper House saw repeated adjournments.

The Essential Defence Services Bill, introduced by Bhatt in the presence of Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, sparked heated debate, with Opposition members questioning why it had been tabled in such a rushed manner.

The Bill is aimed at preventing staff of government-owned ordnance factories from going on strike. The government has said that the Bill will ensure uninterrupted supply of ordnance items to armed forces for defence preparedness and national security.

Leader of Opposition Mallikarjun Kharge said the government has been breaking "many precedents" and the Bill had been rushed in Parliament, whereas it should have been referred to a standing committee because it involved denationalisation of ordnance factories.

BJD MP Sujeet Kumar, YSRCP MP



Ayodhya Rami and AIADMK MP M Thambidurai supported the Bill saying it was important for national security, while DMK MP M Shanmugam asked why such a Bill "has been brought".

The debate became heated after several Opposition members said they were not being allowed to discuss issues in detail in Parliament.

TMC MP Sukhendu Shekhar Ray raised a point of order that Article 105 sub article 1 of the Constitution says there should be freedom of speech within Parliament. To which Deputy Chairman Harivansh said that Rule 110 says that discussion in Parliament should be limited to the Bill being tabled.

"If the aim of the Bill is to ensure national security, then why are people of the country being snooped on and why is Pegasus being used to enter people's bedrooms?" said NCP MP Fauzia Khan.

Binoy Viswam of CPI said, "How can workers be against national security? What right does the government have to stop their right to strike? And what about Pegasus?"

Responding to the MPs, Defence Minister Singh said, "There no longer seems to be the possibility of a peaceful protest. Corporatising of army ordnance factories was thought of to improve autonomy as well as services. I want to assure the members that the Bill will in no way affect the service conditions of the ordnance employees... We have spoken to employees' unions before bringing the Bill and it will only be applicable when it is invoked."

Sources in the defence ministry said that corporatisation of OFB, which has been done to improve its competitiveness and efficiency, will not impact autonomy of ordnance factories. The Bill "does not curb the right of peaceful protest", sources said.

In signal to global investors, govt moves to bury controversial retrospective tax policy

NEW DELHI (TIP): In a move to bury the controversial policy of retrospective taxation, the government on Thursday, August 5, proposed amendments to the Income-tax Act and Finance Act, 2012 to effectively state that no tax demand shall be raised for any indirect transfer of Indian assets if the transaction was undertaken before May 28, 2012.

The Bill adds that demand raised for indirect transfer of Indian assets made before May 2012 shall be nullified on fulfilment of specified conditions such as withdrawal or furnishing of an undertaking for withdrawal of pending litigation, and furnishing of an undertaking to the effect that no claim shall be filed.

Following the retrospective amendment moved by the UPA government in 2012, tax demands have been raised in 17 cases, including against British telecom company Vodafone and gas major Cairn Energy.

The government has collected Rs 8,100 crore in four cases, including Rs 7,800 crore from Cairn, Finance Secretary T V Somanathan said.

While the move to amend the legislation marks a step in the direction of addressing the long-pending demand of foreign investors seeking the removal of retrospective tax for the sake of better tax clarity, it



The Taxation Laws (Amendment) Bill introduced by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman.

comes seven years into the tenure of the NDA government — and at a time when the government has suffered reverses in its arbitration cases against Cairn Energy and Vodafone.

In May this year, Cairn initiated the process to seize Indian assets to enforce the \$1.2-billion arbitration award it won against the Indian government in its longstanding tax dispute.

In September last year, the Permanent Court of

Arbitration at The Hague had ruled that India's retrospective demand of Rs 22,100 crore as capital gains and withholding tax imposed on Vodafone for a 2007 deal was "in breach of the guarantee of fair and equitable treatment" that the company was entitled to in respect of its investments made in mobile telephone business in India.

The Taxation Laws (Amendment) Bill introduced by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman Lok Sabha, "proposes to amend the Income-Tax Act, 1961 so as to provide that no tax demand shall be raised in future on the basis of the said retrospective amendment for any indirect transfer of Indian assets if the transaction was undertaken before 28th May, 2012 (i.e., the date on which the Finance Bill, 2012 received the assent of the President)", the Finance Ministry said in a statement.

It has also been proposed "to provide that the demand raised for indirect transfer of Indian assets made before 28th May, 2012 shall be nullified on fulfilment of specified conditions such as withdrawal or furnishing of undertaking for withdrawal of pending litigation and furnishing of an undertaking to the effect that no claim for cost, damages, interest, etc., shall be filed.

Source: The Indian Express



Karnataka HC issues notice to Yediyurappa, others in corruption case

BENGALURU (TIP): The Karnataka High Court has issued notices to former chief minister B S Yediyurappa and others including his son B Y Vijayendra, who is BJP state unit vice president, to appear before it on August 17 in a case alleging corruption in a housing project.

The notices were issued on a petition by activist T J Abraham seeking quashing of an order of additional city civil and sessions judge, who had dismissed his petition for want of sanction from a competent authority to try Yediyurappa, the then chief minister and former minister S T Somashekar. Challenging the dismissal, Abraham had moved the High Court, which served notice to Yediyurappa and others.

"You are hereby directed to appear before this court in person or by a pleader duly instructed on August 17 at 10.30 am to show cause against the petition failing wherein the said petition will be heard and determined ex-parte," the court notice issued said.

Assam, Mizoram to resolve boundary dispute amicably

Senior ministers in the governments of Assam and Mizoram held a detailed discussion on the boundary dispute between the two states and issued a joint statement saying the issues related to it would be resolved amicably.

As deputed by Assam CM Himanta Biswa Sarma, two senior ministers of the state government — Atul Bora and Ashok Singhal — today travelled to Aizawl and held discussion with Mizoram Home Minister Lalchamliana on the issue.

Earlier, the Assam Government issued an order revoking and withdrawing a travel advisory for the state residents, asking them to think before visiting Mizoram, officials said.

"The Governments of Assam and Mizoram agree to take forward the initiatives taken by the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India, and the CMs of the two states to remove tension prevailing around the interstate borders and to find lasting solutions to the disputes through discussion," the statement read.

Rahul Gandhi leads bicycle rally to Parliament over fuel price hike

NEW DELHI (TIP): Former Congress president Rahul Gandhi on Tuesday, August 3, gave a call to Opposition leaders to "unite the majority voice of the people of India" that is represented by their parties.

Accompanied by his party colleagues and Opposition leaders, Gandhi rode a bicycle to Parliament to protest against the rise in the prices of fuel and cooking gas.

Just before the cycle protest, he hosted a breakfast meet for leaders of 15 Opposition parties at the Constitution Club, close to Parliament.

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi rides a bicycle in a symbolic protest over rising fuel price after a breakfast meeting with the Opposition leaders on August 3, 2021.

"We [the Opposition parties] represent 60% of the people, the majority of the people. When the government shuts us up, they are not humiliating us as members of Parliament but the majority voice of the people of India. The single most important thing in my view is: let's unite this voice," he told all the Opposition MPs.

"The more this voice unites, the more powerful it will become, more difficult it will become for the BJP and RSS to suppress this voice," he asserted. The principles for the foundation of such unity should be worked out now, he added.

Congress spokesperson and Rajya Sabha member Abhishek Singhvi called the meet "historic" and claimed that it was "a trailer for 2024 [Lok Sabha polls]". He said, "This shows you the new resolve, new direction, new momentum and a new determination and grit.... We will proceed unitedly without fear and deterrence. Be it Pegasus, the terrible price rise, the farmers' issue or any number of governance issues".

He, however, played down a question on who would be the face of the "united Opposition" by terming it "irrelevant" at this point in time. DMK's Kanimozhi, NCP's Supriya Sule and Praful Patel, Trinamool Congress's Saugato Roy, Kalyan Banerjee and Mahua Moitra, Shiv Sena's Sanjay Raut and Priyanka Chaturvedi,



Congress leader Rahul Gandhi rides a bicycle in a symbolic protest over fuel price hike after a breakfast meeting with the opposition leaders, at the Constitution Club in New Delhi, Tuesday, August 3, 2021. Photo source: PTI

Samajwadi Party's Ram Gopal Yadav and Rashtriya Janata Dal's Manoj Jha were among those present. The BSP was a notable absentee. The Congress is clearly sending a subtle message that it continues to occupy the pole position when it comes to taking on the Narendra Modi government. Gandhi said on Twitter, "Neither our faces are important nor our names. What is essential is that we are the people's representatives. Behind every face lie crores of faces who are troubled by price rise and inflation. Are these the 'acche din' [good days]".

In its third week now, Parliament has failed to function properly, as the Opposition has been insisting on discussing the Pegasus issue and the three farm laws before every other issue. Gandhi's is one among the select few Indian numbers that were identified as a possible suspect for hacking by an international consortium of investigative journalists.

Editors Guild moves SC seeking SIT probe into Pegasus Spyware row

NEW DELHI (TIP): The Editors Guild of India has approached the Supreme Court seeking a court-monitored investigation by a Special Investigation Team (SIT) into the Pegasus spyware controversy, reports said on Tuesday, 3 August.

The plea was filed through Advocates Rupali Samuel, Raghav Tankha, and Lzafeer Ahmad B F (AOR).

The group has also called for the Centre to be directed to furnish the details of contracts with foreign companies for deploying spyware for surveillance and the people against whom the spyware was used.

The plea also stated, "The citizens of India have a right to know if the executive government is infringing the limits of their authority under the Constitution and what steps have been taken to safeguard their fundamental rights."

Five potential targets, including four Indian journalists and one activist have also moved the Supreme Court to protect their fundamental right to privacy.

Meanwhile, various other parties



have also filed petitions in the apex court regarding the Pegasus spyware row, including senior journalists N Ram and Shashi Kumar as well as CPI(M) Rajya Sabha MP John Brittas and Advocate ML Sharma.

A Supreme Court bench comprising Chief Justice NV Ramana and Justice Surya Kant will be hearing petitions seeking a court-monitored probe into the Pegasus 'snoopgate' on

5 August.

What is the Pegasus Row?

Reports published since 18 July, under the 'Pegasus Project' by the online news portal The Wire have revealed that over 300 journalists, activists, Opposition leaders, government officials and even current Union ministers may have been potential targets of surveillance through the Israeli NSO-made Pegasus spyware over the past few years.

While the Centre on Friday, 30 July, had said that the controversy over allegations of spying was a "non-issue", the Opposition among other parties involved has demanded answers in Parliament.

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, Former Election Commissioner Ashok Lavasa, poll strategist Prashant Kishor, as well as the woman staffer who had levied sexual harassment allegations against the former Chief Justice of India Ranjan Gogoi and some of her family members were revealed as potential targets of the spyware.

India's fresh Covid tally at 44,646 with single-day rise of over 2,000 cases

As many as 44,646 fresh cases of the coronavirus (Covid-19) disease were registered in India in the last 24 hours pushing the cumulative tally to 3,18,56,757 on August 6. This is the third straight day when the country saw more than 40,000 new cases being registered, while there has been a rise in over 2,000 cases from Thursday's (August 5) figures when 42,982 were recorded.

According to the latest update from the Union ministry of health and family welfare, India's active Covid-19 figures now stand at 4,14,159 constituting 1.29 per cent of the total infections. The daily positivity rate now stands at 2.72 per cent. This has remained below three per cent since the last 11 days.

So far, India has seen 4,26,754 deaths from the viral disease, including 464 loss of lives recorded in the last 24 hours. The fatality rate has now touched 1. per cent. Also, 41,096 patients recovered from the virus during the same period, taking the total tally of discharges to 31,015,844, the updated bulletin read. With this recovery rate is now at 97.37 per cent.

The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) said 47,65,33,650



samples have been tested for the virus since the pandemic hit the country. Of these, 16,40,287 tests were conducted on

Thursday.

Meanwhile, 57,97,808 vaccine doses were administered against the virus

during the day. This pushed the total count of jobs to 49,53,27,595 as part of the nationwide vaccination drive launched earlier this year.

Kerala's Covid deaths per million per week highest in India

Kerala now reports the highest deaths per million per week in the country. Between July 25 and 31, Kerala reported 24 deaths per million per week, while Maharashtra came second with 12 deaths per million per week, followed by Odisha's 9 deaths per million per week. India's average is about 2 deaths per million per week.

"Kerala's case fatality ratio (CFR) on May 15 was 0.3% and it increased to 0.49% by July 31. But Kerala continues to have one of the lowest CFRs in the country," said public health expert Dr Padmanabha Shenoy, who has been analysing Covid patterns across India on a weekly basis.

Kerala's seven-day average daily growth rate in cases is 0.61% while India's is 0.13%. The state's R-naught (reproduction rate) is 1.28, with its daily active cases and deaths now highest in the country.

Over 49 crore Covid vaccine doses administered in India

NEW DELHI (TIP): The cumulative number of Covid-19 vaccine doses administered in the country has gone past 49 crore, the Union health ministry said on Thursday, August 5.

More than 50.29 lakh (50,29,573) vaccine doses were administered on Thursday, according to a provisional report compiled at 7 pm.

The ministry said 27,26,494 beneficiaries in the age group of 18-44 years received the first dose, while 4,81,823 were administered the second dose of the vaccine on Thursday.

Cumulatively, 16,92,68,754 people in the 18-44 age group have received the first dose and 1,07,72,537 have been administered the second dose of the vaccine since the start of the third phase of the nationwide inoculation drive, the ministry said.

Five states—Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, Rajasthan, Maharashtra and Uttar Pradesh—have administered more than one crore vaccine doses each to beneficiaries in the 18-44 age group.

Also, the first dose of the vaccine has been administered to more than 10 lakh beneficiaries in the said age group each in Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Chhattisgarh, Delhi, Haryana, Jharkhand, Kerala, Telangana, Himachal Pradesh, Odisha, Punjab, Uttarakhand and West Bengal.

On the 202nd day of the vaccination drive (August 5), a total of 50,29,573 vaccine doses were given -- 37,13,231 beneficiaries received the first dose and 13,16,342 received the second dose—according to the provisional report.

The final report for the day would be compiled by late night.

The vaccination exercise as a tool to protect the most vulnerable population groups in the country from COVID-19 continues to be regularly reviewed and monitored at the highest level, the ministry said.

Facing threat of third COVID wave, India is still planning a booster shot

NEW DELHI (TIP): With many countries completing the vaccination of the majority of their population, the development and supply of booster COVID-19 doses has begun as more dangerous variants of the virus threaten to prolong the global pandemic.

Apart from Israel, where booster shots have already become available to those fully vaccinated, Germany, France and UK have stated that they might begin supplying booster shots to the public.

India has a long way to go as less than 8 per cent of the population has received both doses of the COVID-19 vaccine, according to data provided by the Union Health Ministry.

According to a report by the New Indian Express, Samiran Panda, chief epidemiologist with the ICMR and member of the National Expert Group on Vaccine Administration for COVID said that there is insufficient data to suggest a booster is needed for those who are fully vaccinated.

Many people still want the government to explore the possibility of booster doses, mainly for healthcare workers who were the first to be vaccinated and are still fighting on the frontlines.

The WHO recently called for a "moratorium" on booster shots of the COVID-19 vaccine until at least the end of September, noting with



concern the disparity in vaccination levels in low and high-income countries.

World Health Organisation Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said at a news conference in Geneva that while high-income countries have now administered almost 100 doses for every 100 people, low-income countries have only been able to administer 1.5 doses for every 100 people, due to lack of supply.

"We need an urgent reversal, from the majority of vaccines going to high-income countries, to the

majority going to low-income countries," he said.

"Accordingly, WHO is calling for a moratorium on boosters until at least the end of September, to enable at least 10% of the population of every country to be vaccinated," the WHO chief said.

WHO urged 'everyone with influence' - Olympic athletes, investors, business leaders, faith leaders, and every individual in their own family and community - to support its call for a moratorium on booster shots until at least the end of September.

CDC ISSUES NEW EVICTION BAN FOR MOST OF U.S. THROUGH OCTOBER 3

THE NEW MORATORIUM COULD HELP KEEP MILLIONS IN THEIR HOMES AS THE CORONAVIRUS' DELTA VARIANT HAS SPREAD AND STATES HAVE BEEN SLOW TO RELEASE FEDERAL RENTAL AID

WASHINGTON (TIP): The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention on August 3 issued a new moratorium on evictions that would last until October 3, ending some of the political pressure being placed on President Joe Biden.

The new moratorium could help keep millions in their homes as the coronavirus' delta variant has spread and states have been slow to release federal rental aid.

Earlier in the day, President Joe Biden stopped short of announcing the new ban on evictions during a press conference at the White House. But he said he asked the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to see what it could do after its previous ban expired over the weekend. The new 60-day eviction moratorium would cover areas heavily impacted by the coronavirus, where about 90% of the U.S. population lives, according to three people familiar with the plans who insisted on anonymity to discuss the forthcoming announcement.

"My hope is it's going to be a new moratorium," Mr. Biden told reporters.

The extension could help heal a rift with liberal Democratic lawmakers who were calling on the president to take executive action to keep renters in their homes as the delta variant of the coronavirus spread and a prior moratorium lapsed over the weekend.

The new policy came amid a scramble of actions by the Biden team to reassure Democrats and the country that it could find a way to halt potential evictions. But pressure mounted as key lawmakers said it was not enough.

Top Democratic leaders joined Rep. Cori Bush, D-Mo., who has been camped outside the U.S. Capitol, the freshman

congresswoman who once lived in her car as a young mother, leading a passionate protest urging the White House to prevent widespread evictions.

"For 5 days, we've been out here, demanding that our government acts to save lives," she tweeted. "Today, our movement moved mountains."

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi said it was a day of "extraordinary relief".

"The imminent fear of eviction and being put out on the street has been lifted for countless families across America. Help is Here!" Ms. Pelosi said in a statement.

Administration officials had previously said a Supreme Court ruling stopped them from setting up a new moratorium without congressional backing, saying states and cities must be more aggressive in releasing nearly \$47 billion in relief for renters on the verge of eviction.

The President said he sought input from legal scholars about whether there were options and said the advice was mixed, though some suggested, "It's worth the effort." Mr. Biden also said he didn't want to tell the CDC, which has taken the public health lead in responding to the pandemic, what to do.

"I asked the CDC to go back and consider other options that may be available," he said.

The CDC has identified a legal authority for a new and different moratorium for areas with high and substantial increases in COVID-19 infections.

Mr. Biden also insisted there is federal money available - some \$47 billion previously approved during the COVID-19 crisis - that needs to get out the door to help renters and landlords.

"The money is there," Mr. Biden said.

The White House has said state and local governments have been slow to push out that federal money and is pressing them to do so swiftly.

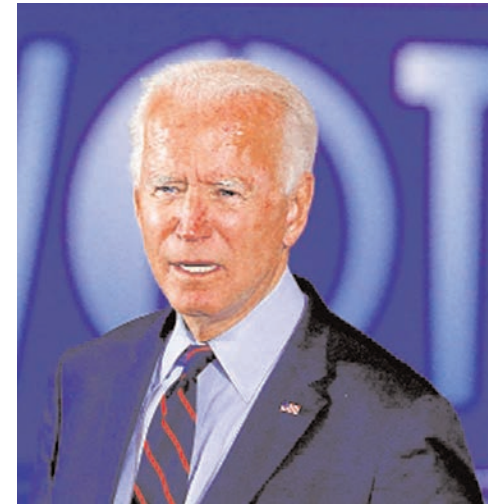
Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen briefed House Democrats on Tuesday about the work underway to ensure the federal housing aid makes it to renters and landlords. She provided data so that lawmakers could see how their districts and states are performing with distributing the relief, according to a person on the call.

The Treasury Secretary tried to encourage Democrats to work together, even as lawmakers have said Mr. Biden should act on his own to extend the eviction moratorium, according to someone on the private call who insisted on anonymity to discuss its contents.

Mr. Yellen said on the call, according to this person, that she agrees "we need to bring every resource to bear" and that she appreciated the Democrats' efforts and wants "to leave no stone unturned."

As the eviction crisis mounted, the White House frequently said Mr. Biden was doing all he could under legal constraints. The administration had repeatedly resisted another extension because the Supreme Court appears likely to block it. When the court allowed the eviction ban to remain in place through the end of July by a 5-4 vote, one justice in the majority, Brett Kavanaugh, wrote that Congress would have to act to extend it further.

As the initial moratorium expired, the administration emphasized many Americans will be able to stay housed with money already approved for aid and other efforts underway. The White House noted that state-level efforts to stop



U.S. President Joe Biden

File photo

evictions would spare a third of the country from evictions over the next month.

Still, Mr. Biden faced stinging criticism, including from some in his own party, that he was slow to address the end of the moratorium. Some people were at immediate risk of losing their homes.

Ms. Pelosi had called the prospect of widespread evictions "unfathomable." The Congressional Black Caucus, the Congressional Hispanic Caucus and other progressive lawmakers intensified pressure on the White House to issue an immediate extension.

Late last week, Mr. Biden announced he was allowing the ban to expire, pushing Congress to act, but lawmakers were unable to swiftly rally the votes as even Democrats questioned prolonging the eviction ban for a few more months.

The CDC put the eviction ban in place as part of the COVID-19 response when jobs shifted, and many workers lost income. The ban was intended to hold back the spread of the virus among people put out on the streets and into shelters.

Democratic lawmakers said they were caught by surprise by Mr. Biden's decision to end the moratorium, creating frustration and anger and exposing a rare rift with the administration. The CDC indicated in late June that it probably wouldn't extend the eviction ban beyond the end of July.

Lofgren Introduces Legislation to Create New Visa Program for Immigrant Entrepreneurs to Spur U.S. Economic Growth

The Let Immigrants Kickstart Employment Act encourages the establishment of start-up companies in America



U.S. Congresswoman Zoe Lofgren (CA-19), Chair of the House Subcommittee on Immigration and Citizenship

WASHINGTON, DC (TIP): U.S. Congresswoman Zoe Lofgren (CA-19), Chair of the House Subcommittee on Immigration and Citizenship, on July 26, introduced H.R. 4681, the Let Immigrants Kickstart Employment (LIKE) Act, a bill that encourages immigrant innovators to establish and develop their venture capital-backed start-up companies in the United States to spur economic growth, create jobs for American workers, and enhance our competitive advantage on the world stage.

Start-up companies create an average of 3 million net new jobs per year, more than four times as many jobs as mature companies. Despite widespread evidence that high-skilled immigrants are fueling the next generation of high growth companies, our current immigration laws don't provide a viable visa option for such individuals to start a new venture. The LIKE Act creates a new temporary visa for founders of start-up entities, as well as the opportunity for lawful permanent residence if the start-up entity meets certain growth-related benchmarks that demonstrate the founder has a proven track record of success in business development. (Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)

US TAKING STEPS TO PROVIDE CITIZENSHIP TO IMMIGRANTS' CHILDREN

WASHINGTON (TIP): The Biden administration is taking steps to provide a legal pathway to citizenship to children of legal immigrants, the White House has said after a group of such youths, mostly Indians, expressed fear of being deported when they turn 21. These children, known as documented dreamers, are living in the United States as dependents of long-term non-immigrant visa-holders, including H-1B workers. The H-1B visa is a non-immigrant visa that allows US companies to employ foreign workers in specialty occupations that require theoretical or technical expertise. Technology companies depend on it to hire tens of thousands of employees each year from countries like India and China. According to Improve the Dream, a group representing such children, they number more than 2,00,000, a significant number of whom are Indians.

TEMPORARY 'SAFE HAVEN' TO HONG KONG RESIDENTS IN US : The Biden administration on Thursday, August 5, granted temporary refuge to people fleeing China's crackdown on dissent in Hong Kong. Hong Kong residents who are in the US and facing deportation will be allowed to remain for 18 more months. (Source: PTI)



These children, known as documented dreamers, are living in the United States as dependents of long-term non-immigrant visa-holders, including H-1B workers.

NJPAC IN AUGUST By Mabel Pais

STANDING IN SOLIDARITY



Standing in Solidarity, poster - Photo / Courtesy NJPAC

FREE on ZOOM - MON, AUG 9 @ 7PM

NJPAC revisits two of the discussions on Black women in the workplace, and on the impact of racism on the lives of those who are both Black and LGBTQ+.

A discussion of the film "She Did That," and reflections on the experiences of Black women in the business world, will be led by Latoya Dawson, NJPAC Marketing Manager, and Danielle Vauters, Senior Manager of Programming and Performances at NJPAC's Center For Arts Education.

Reflections on the panel "Queer, Black, Trans," will follow, led by panelists Kitab Rollins, and Jennifer Tsukayama, Vice President of Arts Education at



Maks & Val - Photo / Courtesy NJPAC

NJPAC.

MAKS AND VAL LIVE - August 10

Get up close and personal with Latin and ballroom champions Maksim and Valentin Chmerkovskiy! You already know and love the Chmerkovskiy brothers from many seasons on ABC's "Dancing with the Stars."

Now, join them for a new live production packed with dazzling dancing and world-class showmanship true to the Chmerkovskiy name. The Stripped Down Tour will take your emotions for a ride, and have you smiling all the way home. The boys leave their hearts on the stage... and maybe a shirt or two.

A post-show virtual VIP Meet and Greet is available for this performance. Tickets to the show are not



Le'Andria Johnson - Photo / Courtesy NJPAC

included in this virtual offer. Visit events.loopedlive.com/maksandval for Meet and Greet details.

SOUNDS OF THE CITY - CHAMBERS PLAZA

Every Thursday in August, join "Sounds Of The City" for FREE outdoor concerts at Chambers Plaza of NJPAC.

TONY VEGA - August 5

August 5 stars salsa singer and bandleader Tony Vega! Born into a family of musicians in Puerto Rico, Tony learned the bongos and conga at an early age before moving to New York City and jumping into the salsa scene. Celebrating 40 years of entertaining audiences around the world, Tony will get you on your feet and feeling the Latin rhythms all night long.

LE'ANDRIA JOHNSON - August 12

On August 4, watch and listen to gospel singer Le'Andria Johnson. A struggling single mother in the midst of heartbreak and hardship, Le'Andria overcame every obstacle to win BET's gospel competition show, Sunday Best, in 2010. Just two years later, she won a GRAMMY® Award for Best Gospel/Contemporary Christian Music Performance. Her story will move you and her music will raise you up.

For August 19 and 26 performances, visit njpac.org/event/horizon-foundation-sounds-of-the-city-brass-against and

njpac.org/event/horizon-foundation-sounds-of-the-city-third-world

JCC SCREENS ROOFTOP FILMS

BY MABEL PAIS

HIGHLIGHTS:

SNEAK PREVIEWS OF

"MISHA AND THE WOLVES", "CODA", "THE MEANING OF HITLER"

THEATRICAL RELEASE: THE MAGNIFICENT MEYERSONS

ARTIST Q&As

In August, the Carole Zabar Center for Film at the Marlene Meyerson JCC Manhattan (MMJCCM), has an exciting lineup of in-person rooftop and virtual screenings with a diverse mix of sneak previews, film festival favorites, and theatrical releases.

Highlights of August film programming on the JCC's Meyerson Family Roof Terrace include a sneak preview of "Misha and the Wolves" (Dir. Sam Hobkinson) prior to its wide release on Netflix on August 11; a preview screening of "CODA" (Dir. Siân Heder) prior to its wide release on AppleTV+ on August 13; a sneak preview of "The Meaning of Hitler" (Dir. Petra Epperlein and Michael Tucker) prior to its theatrical release on August 13 by IFC Films; an accessible screening of ReelAbilities Film Festival favorite "Not Going Quietly" (Dir. Nicholas Bruckman) as part of its theatrical run; and the theatrical release of "The Magnificent Meyersons" (Dir. Evan Oppenheimer).

These films will include Q&As with the filmmakers and talent, including a virtual panel on August 11 with "CODA" director Siân Heder, Academy Award-winning actress Marlee Matlin, and actor Troy Kotsur. For the full August film schedule and tickets, visit mmjccm.org/film.

FILM LINEUP:

Misha and the Wolves - DIR: Sam Hobkinson | 2021 | UK/Belgium | 1h 30m

Rooftop Sneak Preview Screening: Tuesday, August 3, 8:15 pm

The dramatic tale of a woman whose Holocaust memoir took the world by storm, before a fallout with her publisher-turned-detective revealed an audacious deception created to hide a darker truth. Official

selection, Sundance 2021

CODA - DIR: Siân Heder | 2021 | US | 1h 51m

Rooftop Preview Screening: Tuesday, August 10, 8:00 pm

Streaming: Tuesday, August 10-Wednesday, August 11
Virtual Q&A with Director Siân Heder and actors Marlee Matlin and Troy Kotsur: Wednesday, August 11, 8:00 pm

Seventeen-year-old Ruby (Emilia Jones) is the sole hearing member of a deaf family - a CODA, child of deaf adults. Her life revolves around acting as interpreter for her parents (Marlee Matlin, Troy Kotsur) and



CODA - Photo / MMJCCM

working on the family's struggling fishing boat every day before school with her father and older brother (Daniel Durant). Ruby finds herself torn between the obligations she feels to her family and the pursuit of her own dreams.

The Meaning of Hitler - DIR: Petra Epperlein & Michael Tucker | 2020 | US | 1h 33m

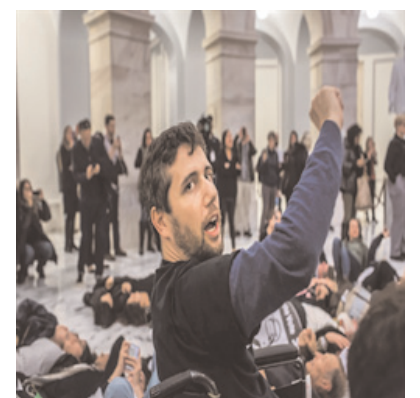
Rooftop Sneak Preview Screening: Thursday, August 12, 8:00 pm

Using the eponymous 1978 bestselling book as its framework, "The Meaning of Hitler" interrogates our culture's fascination with Hitler and Nazism against the current rise of white supremacy and antisemitism.

Not Going Quietly - DIR: Nicholas Bruckman | 2021 | US | 1h 36m

Rooftop Screening: Tuesday, August 17, 8:00 pm

When activist and new father Ady Barkan is diagnosed with ALS and given four years to live, he finds himself directly impacted by a new legislation proposal jeopardizing essential healthcare programs critical to Ady's and others' survival.



Not Going Quietly - Photo / MMJCCM

Film presented with captions and audio description

The Magnificent Meyersons - DIR: Evan Oppenheimer | 2021 | US | 1h 28m

Rooftop Theatrical Release: Sunday, August 22 and Tuesday, August 24 at 8:00 pm

Streaming: August 20-26

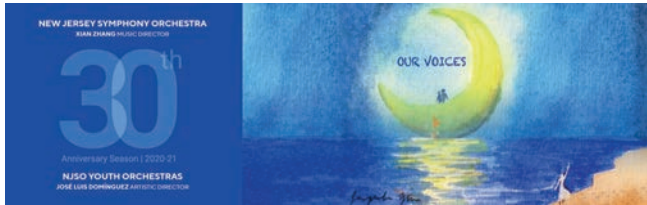
It's a day in New York City just like any other, as the Meyersons deal with the ordinary concerns and petty annoyances that preoccupy all families. As memories of their complicated past collide with a new and uncertain future, the Meyersons must navigate lingering heartbreak and shifting alliances as they are forced to reevaluate everything that they thought was true. Starring Richard Kind, Kate Mulgrew, Lauren Ridloff.

The Marlene Meyerson JCC Manhattan (MMJCCM)

Learn more at mmjccm.org

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

NJSO Youth Orchestra's 'Our Voices' Goes Digital BY MABEL PAIS



"OUR VOICES" Poster - Photo / Courtesy NJSO

ASHITA BIRLA, AMEYA SRINIVASAN, DAMINI VARGHESE, ADHITHI ARUN, SAROSH MISTRY, ARAVIND KRISHNAN, ANIRUDH KHANDRIKA, ARJUN ATHALYE, VIHAAN AGARWAL, TARA KHURANA, MILIND BANGALORE
Among **COMPOSERS**



Ameya Srinivasan
Photo / Courtesy NJSO



Arjun Athalye
Photo / Courtesy NJSO



Ashita Birla (front closeup)
Photo / Courtesy NJSO



Milind Bangalore (center)
Photo / Courtesy NJSO

"The NJSO Youth Orchestras have set an incredible and leading example within the inevitable virtual world that musicians have faced due to the pandemic. Making music together is the very essence of what we do, and thanks to our amazing team of staff, coaches and teaching artists, and their bravery in facing reinvention and adaptation, we continued to serve the students and the community with innovative approaches. This digital album is a testament to that."- José Luis Domínguez, NJSO Youth Orchestras Artistic Director

The NJSO Youth Orchestras on August 6 will release "Our Voices," an album of original student compositions composed during the program's 30th anniversary season. The album marks the culmination of a season-long NJSO Youth Orchestras creative composition project in which nearly 200 students collaborated in small groups to explore their own musical voices and compose new works drawing from all the genres that inspire them.

The album, which will be available to stream for free at jsymphony.org/ourvoices, features 25 compositions by groups of middle- and high-school student groups from all levels of the youth orchestra program. NJSO musician

coaches and teaching artists guided each group; NJSO Youth Orchestras Artistic Director José Luis Domínguez, a celebrated composer, orchestrated and arranged the works and digitally recorded each composition using Logic Pro.

The New Jersey Symphony Orchestra gave the world premiere of "The Enchanted Forest," one of the student compositions, at the Orchestra's virtual Spring into Music Gala concert on May 12. Other works on the album include "Calypso," a tone poem inspired by Greek mythology; variations on the Korean folk song "Arirang"; works that grew out of improvised jam sessions, and more.

One piece was entirely arranged, orchestrated and recorded by student composer Ben Rosales. One work for jazz band and orchestra features recorded

performances by jazz musicians Yoojin Park (violin), James Borowski (bass trombone), Cristian Monreal (bass), Bryan Pezzone (piano) and Dan Graziano (drums).

OUR VOICES

NJSO Youth Orchestras 30th Anniversary Creative Composition Project: The Album

The album is available August 6 at njsymphony.org/ourvoices.

Track #1: "Calypso"

Academy Orchestra Group 2a
Composers: Gabriel Bulacan, Stephen Cheng, Jacqueline Li, Sarah Spitzer, Michelle Wang, Paige Wang, Jacqueline Zhou
Coach: José Luis Domínguez

Track #2: "The Enchanted Forest"

Chromatic Creators (Chamber Orchestra Group 2)
Composers: Ashita Birla, Samantha Huerta, Natalie Sokolov, Ameya Srinivasan, Kevin Yang, Amy Zarebczan
Coach: Kathleen Nester

Track #3: "Journey of Hope"

High Brass Group (Academy Orchestra Group 7)
Composers: Ryan Bae, Julia Caprari, James Cottrell, Nathan Lee, Danny Santibañez
Coaches: Andrea Menousek & Anderson Romero

Track #4: "Seven Strings"

Chamber Orchestra Group 1
Composers: Paolo Figueroa, Christabella Leung, Katherine Liang, Marisa Olavarria, Andrew Rodriguez, Damini Varghese
Coach: José Luis Domínguez

Track #5: "Mystic Pioneer"

Academy Orchestra Group 4
Composers: Alex Barker, Radon Belarmino, Michael Forde, Helios Hong, Andrew Ikemoto, Liam Reilly
Coaches: Robert Wagner & Philo Lee

Track #6: "Sunrise at the Lake"

Training Ensemble - Ms. Amelia's Group
Composers: Naomi Akakpo, Gifty Ezeanuna, Caden Giles
Teaching Artist: Amelia Muccia

Track #7: "Cello Jam Circle"

Chamber Orchestra Group 6
Composers: Peter Corwin, Gracen Hill, Ethan Kim, Ryan Lu, Kevin Valencia, Norah Wang, Kevin Wei, Kenny Yang
Coach: Laura Andrade

Track #8: "Variations on 'Arirang'"

Academy Orchestra Group 6
Composers: Abigail Lee, Hannah Lee, Megan Newton, Christina Nicolau, Kayla Wang, Eric Xu, Andy Yin
Coach: Robert Ingliss

Track #9: "Quake of the Ocean"

Ostinato Orchestrators in Slippers (Chamber Orchestra Group 4)
Composers: Veronica Derugo, Lauren Nguyen, Ethan Wang, Allen Wu, Vivian Zhang
Coach: Kathleen Nester

Track #10: "Canon of Grace"

Training Ensemble - Ms. Inyong's Group
Composers: Kyrae Brock, Justin Casco, Emilia Delgado, Sarahline Fequiere, Ayla Goore, Daniel Lanao, Sophia Lanao, Johanna Motatey, Sirron Norris, Ammy Peralta, Colin Robinson, Jax Ryals, Lauren Trinity, Rio Umana
Coach: Inyong Park

Track #11: "Musical Jokers"

Musical Jokers (Academy Orchestra Group 2b)
Composers: Adhithi Arun, Nicholas Chen, Matt Hui, Sarosh Mistry, Matthew Shi, Heidi Tsai
Coach: James Musto III

Track #12: "The Saddest of All Keys"

Training Ensemble - Ms. Julia's Group
Composers: Mateo Baez-Salvador, Flor Chouloupe, Junior Chouloupe, Xitlali Garcia, Crystal Gonzalez, Patrick Molina, Bianca Milien Fequiere, Juliet Lopez, Jazmin Pearson, Jeremias Sanchez
Teaching Artist: Julia Castellanos

Track #13: "Returning Home"

Chamber Orchestra Group 3
Composers: Gael Barker, Caroleena Fernandez, Rafi Ingliss, Aravind Krishnan, Sophie Lu, Celine Shon, Aidan Song
Coach: José Luis Domínguez

Track #14: "Nostalgia, Victory, Valor"

CO5 Carbon Pentoxide (Chamber Orchestra Group 5)
Composers: Kelli Cheng, Daniel Corwin, Anirudh Khandrika, Hayden Lin, Andrew Zarebczan
Coaches: Jonathan Storck & Elzbieta Weyman

Track #15: "Caribbean Symphony"

Academy Orchestra Group 8
Composers: Arjun Athalye, Ryan Badi, Andrew Joyal, Benjamin Rosales, Luke Tan, Max Watzky
Coach: Gregory LaRosa

Track #16: "Voyage to Seven"

Training Ensemble - Ms. DoYeon's Group
Composers: Aristotle Archibald, Joanne Chouloupe, David Ibiefo, Jesse Ibiefo, Saliyah King, Deborah Louis, Trevon Norris, Rhia Randolph, Orchid Ryals
Teaching Artist: DoYeon Kim

Track #17: "Viola Trio"

Julien Soto-Raspa (Academy Orchestra violist)

Track #18: "Alegria in D"

Training Ensemble - Ms. Sasha's Group

Track #19: "Bow Poetry"

Academy Orchestra Group 3
Composers: Vihaan Agarwal, Kendra Buffaloe, Andrew Reza, Julien Soto-Raspa, Winston Wang
Coach: Martin Andersen

Track #20: "Irish Reel"

Sarah Spitzer (Academy Orchestra violinist)

Track #21: "#SquadGoals"

Track #22: "Hazy Sunrise over Snow Covered Tulips"

Track #23: "The King's Overture"

Track #24: "Essence"

Track #25: "Mythological Friends & Hazards"

To learn more about NJSO, visit Website: njsymphony.org
Facebook, Twitter and Instagram: @NJSymphony
YouTube: @NewJerseySymphony
Email: information@njsymphony.org

COVID SAFETY PRECAUTIONS

The safety of patrons, musicians and staff is of the utmost importance to the NJSO. Visit njsymphony.org for constantly updated details focused on attendees' well-being at the performances.

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



Sara injures her nose, shares a 'Knock Knock' joke

Bollywood actor Sara Ali Khan recently injured her nose and shared the same with her followers via her Instagram handle. Sara uploaded a video on the app with the caption, "Sorry Amma Abba Iggy ... Naak kaat di maine" In the video, Sara opens with a 'Knock Knock' joke and slowly reveals her bloody nose as she concludes with "Knock out!"

Sara Ali Khan will be seen next in Aanand L Rai directorial Atrangi Re. In the film, she will share screen space with Dhanush and Akshay Kumar. As she wrapped the film in March, she shared a note for the film's team on Instagram. She wrote, "Thank you so much @aanandlrai sir for giving me this role, this film and this opportunity. But more than that thank you for your unconditional love, unwavering support, the best India darshan, delicious khana, early morning sunrise drives to location, sufi ginger water evenings, and the most memorable year with the best team."

Taapsee Pannu to go back to the crease



Like any first-time producer, Taapsee Pannu is giving undivided attention to her maiden project *Blurr*, which is being shot in Nainital. But before leaving for the hill station, the actor met Srijit Mukherji to understand the way forward for *Shabaash Mithu*. In June, the noted Bengali filmmaker replaced Rahul Dholakia as the director of the biopic on Indian women's cricket team captain Mithali Raj. It is heard that in the recent meeting, Pannu discussed at length her prep and notes on the character that she has been living for the past one year. After it's a wrap on *Blurr*, she will begin shooting for the sports drama in early

September.

A source reveals, "The biopic was slated to go on floors in April, but the second wave of the pandemic made the team hit the pause button. Srijit is currently in Mumbai, setting the groundwork for the ambitious movie. Once Taapsee returns to the city, the film will start rolling, followed by an international schedule. The director is expected to meet Mithali soon."

Taapsee, who has starred in thrillers like 'Haseen Dilruba', 'Badla', among others, had earlier revealed that 'Blurr' will be an edge-of-the-seat thriller. Co-written by Pawan Sony and Ajay Bahl,

the movie is being helmed by Bahl who has directed films like 'Section 375' and 'BA Pass'. 'Blurr' will surely be an interesting watch as it has the industry's biggest names backing it. This isn't the first time that Taapsee has delved into entrepreneurship, the 33-year-old actor additionally also owns a wedding planning firm and a badminton team known as 7 Aces Pune.

On the film front, the 33-year-old-actor is set for a season chock-a-bloc with her next 'Loop Lapeta', 'Rashmi Rocket', 'DooBaaraa', 'Shabaash Mithu', and a south film, along with many others in the pipeline.

Netizens hail Lara Dutta's transformation as former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi

Actress Lara Dutta is playing the pivotal role of former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi. Her physical transformation has been hailed by her fans, who spotted her in the trailer which was launched a day back.

"It is a great responsibility when you portray someone who's an iconic figure like Mrs Gandhi. It was very important to get her body language right," Lara Dutta said at the 'BellBottom' trailer launch, reports IANS.

Bellbottom is set in 1984, the year that saw Operation Bluestar as well as Mrs Gandhi's assassination.

"The film is about a hijack that took place during Mrs Gandhi's tenure," IANS quoted the actress said, describing the outline of the plot.

Bellbottom stars Akshay Kumar in the lead role. It is slated for a big-screen release on August 19 and will regale audiences in a 2D and 3D format.



Aishwarya's doppelganger Aashita sets the Internet on fire

The internet has found a new doppelganger of actress Aishwarya Rai Bachchan and she is Aashita Singh. We are sure you will do a double take after seeing Aashita's pictures and videos owing to her sheer resemblance with Aishwarya.

Soon after social media

users spotted Aashita's profile, she went viral and achieved the status of an internet sensation within no time. On Instagram, Aashita often posts short clips of herself in traditional attire, lip-syncing to Bollywood songs and dialogues, much to the delight of her fans and followers. Aashita Singh has over 26,000 followers on Instagram. In a short clip that Aashita posted on Tuesday, she was spotted lip-syncing to the song *Sisila Yeh Chaahat Ka* from the 2002 film *Devdas*, featuring Shah Rukh Khan, Aishwarya Rai and Madhuri Dixit. Aashita managed to imitate Aishwarya's expressions from the hit track and we think she did a great job.





Natalie Portman-starrer 'The Days of Abandonment' not moving forward at HBO

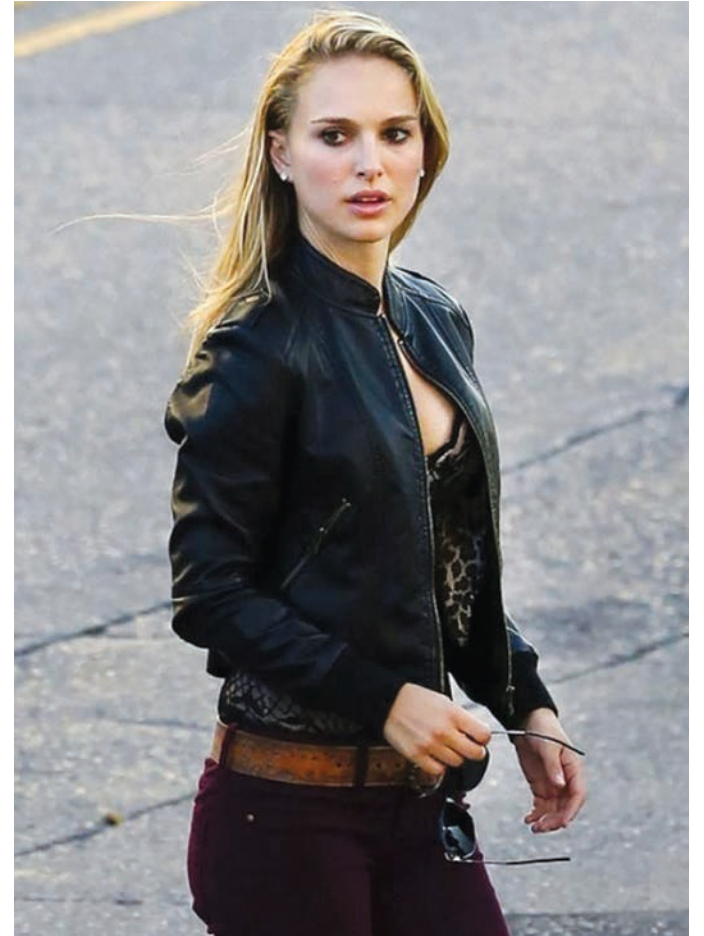
The HBO film titled, 'The Days of Abandonment', featuring Oscar-winning star Natalie Portman, is dead. As per Variety, on Monday, the network announced that Portman has stepped down from the film, and production will not be moving forward.

"Due to unforeseen personal reasons, Natalie Portman has stepped down from HBO Films' 'Days of Abandonment' prior to the start of filming. Unfortunately, the production will not move forward," HBO said in a statement.

"We are very sorry we won't be able to bring this beautiful story to the screen with our talented writer/director and cast. We send our sincere thanks to our cast, producers, and crew for all their passion and hard work," the studio added in the statement.

Portman was first attached to star in the upcoming project, an adaptation of the Elena Ferrante novel of the same name, in April. The story follows Tess (Portman), who has abandoned her own dreams for stable home life. When she is in turn abandoned by her husband, her world is thrown off its axis. Portman was also set to executive produce along with Sophie Mas under the pair's MountainA production banner.

Maggie Betts was set to write, direct and executive produce the adaptation. Celine Rattray and Trudie Styler of Maven Screen Media were also on board as executive producers, along with Len Amato of Crash and Salvage, Ferrante, Domenico Procacci of Fandango and Maria Zuckerman. 'The Days of Abandonment' was going to be produced in association with Medusa.



Camilla Cabello movie promises a magical, feminist ride

The trailer of Camilla Cabello-starrer Cinderella is out, and it promises to bring a fresh perspective to the age-old fairy tale. Camilla's Cinderella does sing, go to a grand ball and hopes to become the charming prince's bride. But she also aspires to run her own business, Dresses by Ella.

While the trailer promises magical stuff, thankfully, it doesn't answer the pertinent question of career vs love, or whether Cinderella is able to manage both in the end. For that, the audience will have to wait for the film's release.

This is Camilla Cabello's first full-length feature role. A reigning singing sensation, it remains to be seen if Camilla will also be able to charm cinegoers too. Apart from Camilla Cabello, the movie also stars Billy Porter as the genderless fairy godparent, Idina Menzel as the wicked stepmother, Pierce Brosnan as the king, Minnie Driver as the queen, Missy Elliott as the town crier, John Mulaney, James Corden and Romesh Ranganathan as the three mice-turned-footmen.

Kelly Preston was 'ultimate professional' on set of Off the Rails



Kelly Preston was the "ultimate professional" on the set of her last-ever film, according to director Jules Williamson.

The actress, who died at the age of 57 following a battle with breast cancer in July 2020, plays Cassie, one of a group of 50-something friends who go interrailing, in new comedy-drama Off the Rails.

At the film's recent London premiere, Williamson paid tribute to the late Mischief star.

"The thing that is the greatest sadness is we haven't got Kelly with us which was incredibly bittersweet," she stated to HeyUGuys. "We didn't know she was ill when she was with us. You would

never in a million years thought that. She was so alive and vivacious and passionate about the story. Obviously, that spoke volumes to her because of her own situation and she has her own daughter."

Kelly was diagnosed in 2018, but chose not to reveal that news during the film's production in early 2019.

She maintained contact with the cast of Off the Rails after filming, and was excited about its impending release.

"We were like a little gang, on and off set, after shooting," Williamson recalled. "We do adore each other, and I know the actresses miss her terribly. You can see their friendship on the screen. It shines out, and Kelly shines out."

Salma Hayek loved this Priyanka film, lists how Mexicans and Indians are similar

Salma Hayek was all praise for Priyanka Chopra's Oscar-nominated film The White Tiger, and for the ease with which non-American actors work. Salma Hayek will soon be seen in Marvel's Eternals, directed by Chloe Zhao and co-starring Indian character actor Harish Patel.

In a cover spread for a magazine, Salma spoke about how she had to keep her Marvel job a secret from her co-stars Ryan Reynolds and Samuel L Jackson, and the film that she enjoyed recently.

Admitting that streaming platforms 'take more risks' sometimes, Salma told Vogue India, "But how many original films have you seen coming from America that made you go, 'Oh, that's different?' Actually, there was an Indian film I really liked, with Priyanka Chopra, The White Tiger. Now that was different."

She also spoke about the difference in working with American and non-American actors, especially on Eternals. "The American actors are great, but they don't have the custom of going out to dinner. They like to go to bed early, to be at the gym at six in the morning. When you're Mexican or Indian, you hang out, you finish your meal, you keep talking, and you keep talking. I felt at home," she said.



KIDNAPPERS IN NIGERIA DEMAND RANSOM TO RELEASE 80 SCHOOLCHILDREN

KADUNA (NIGERIA) (TIP): Kidnappers are demanding a ransom of one million naira each to release around 80 children snatched from a boarding school in northern Nigeria last month, according to a pastor involved in the negotiations for their release.

The attack on the Bethel Baptist High School in the state of Kaduna was the 10th mass school kidnapping since December in northwest Nigeria, which authorities have attributed to criminal gangs seeking ransom payments.

"(Bandits) are asking for one million naira on each of the 80 students remaining with them," Reverend Ite Joseph Hayab told Reuters by telephone.

Kidnappers released 28 children last month after a first batch of 28 was released two days after the raid. But another 81 remain in captivity.

Hayab said three students escaped before the 28 were released last month but they were kidnapped again by an unidentified person in the forest who demanded a ransom and was paid over one million naira by parents.

Nigerian authorities have attributed the kidnappings to what they call armed bandits seeking ransom payments.

Schools have become targets for mass kidnappings for ransom in northern Nigeria by armed groups. Such kidnappings in Nigeria were first carried out by jihadist group Boko Haram, and later its offshoot Islamic State West Africa Province, but the tactic has now been adopted by other criminal gangs. Reuters

TOP ISRAELI DEFENCE PANEL TO 'SCAN' MORE SPYWARE FIRMS

JERUSALEM (TIP): Israel's top defence committee will convene a special session on the use of "offensive cyberarms" in the wake of international backlash over the alleged misuse of NSO Group's Pegasus software and further revelations that other Israeli firms may have also supplied similar spyware solutions to other countries, according to a media report.

The Foreign Affairs and Defence Committee will convene a closed session to discuss not just NSO and the string of revelations about its spyware's potential targets exposed as part of the Project Pegasus, but also other Israeli offensive firms that have made headlines in recent months, daily Haaretz reported.

An Amnesty International forensic analysis also revealed that an additional British phone belonging to a Muslim activist was also actually targeted, along with the phones of three others journalists from Hungary and Turkey and a legal official in India. (PTI)

Thousands turn out in Berlin to protest German govt's anti-coronavirus measures; 600 detained

BERLIN (TIP): Thousands turned out in Berlin to protest the German government's anti-coronavirus measures despite a ban on the gatherings, leading to clashes with police and the detention of some 600 protesters.

Local authorities had banned several different protests this weekend, including one from the Stuttgart-based Querdenker movement, but protesters in Berlin defied the ban.

Berlin's police department deployed more than 2,000 officers to try and disperse the protests on August 1, but it said officers who sought to redirect protesters or disband larger groups were "harassed and attacked".

"They tried to break through the police cordon and pull out our colleagues," Berlin police said, adding that officers had to use irritants and batons.

As the crowds made their way from Berlin's Charlottenburg neighbourhood through Tiergarten Park toward the Brandenburg Gate, police warned via loudspeaker that they would use water cannons if protesters did not disperse. By Sunday evening, police had detained about 600 people, according to German media, and protesters were still marching through the city.

Germany eased many of its coronavirus restrictions in May, including reopening restaurants and bars. Still, many activities, such as dining indoors at restaurants or staying in a hotel, require proof that an individual is either fully vaccinated, has recovered from the virus or can show proof of a recent negative coronavirus test.

Although the number of new



coronavirus cases in Germany remains low compared with neighbouring countries, the delta variant has sparked an increase in new infections in the last few weeks. On Sunday, Germany reported 2,097 new cases, an increase of more than 500 over the previous Sunday.

The Querdenker movement, the most visible anti-lockdown movement in Germany, has drawn thousands to its demonstrations in Berlin, uniting a disparate mix on both the right and the left, including those opposing vaccinations, coronavirus deniers, conspiracy theorists and right-wing extremists.

Earlier this year, Germany's domestic intelligence service warned the movement was becoming increasingly radical and put some of its adherents under surveillance.

Wolfgang Schäuble, president of Germany's parliament, sharply criticized the Querdenker movement Sunday, encouraging people not to be fooled by "cheap slogans."

"If practically all experts worldwide say the coronavirus is dangerous and vaccination helps, then who actually has the right to say, 'Actually, I'm smarter than that?'" he told the Neue Osnabrücker Zeitung. "To me, that is an almost unbearable level of arrogance." The protests follow other demonstrations against coronavirus measures around Europe.

More than 200,000 people turned out Saturday in France to protest vaccination requirements for the third straight weekend, at times clashing with police. Some 80,000 others protested in cities across Italy last weekend. — AP

Spanish engineers extract drinking water from thin air

SEVILLE (SPAIN) (TIP): A Spanish company has devised a system to extract drinking water from thin air to supply arid regions where people are in desperate need.

"The goal is to help people," said Enrique Veiga, the 82-year-old engineer who invented the machine during a harsh drought in southern Spain in the 1990s. "The goal is to get to places like refugee camps that don't have drinking water." The devices made by his company, Aquaer, are already delivering clean, safe water to communities in Namibia and a Lebanese refugee camp.

"In the villages we visited in Namibia, they were astonished, they didn't understand, asking where the water came from," he said.

The machines use electricity to cool air until it condenses into water,



harnessing the same effect that causes condensation in air-conditioning units.

While other water generators based on similar technology require high ambient humidity and low temperatures to function effectively, Veiga's machines work in temperatures of up to 40 Celsius (104F) and can handle humidity of between 10% and 15%.

A small machine can produce 50-75

litres a day, and be easily carried on a trolley, but bigger versions can produce up to 5,000 litres a day.

"Our idea is not only to make a device that is effective, but also to make it useful for people who have to walk for miles to fetch water or make wells," Veiga explained.

Switzerland-based Vietnamese refugee Nhat Vuong joined the cause after meeting Veiga and visiting a refugee camp near Tripoli in Lebanon in 2017.

He founded a non-profit organisation, Water Inception, which brought a 500-litre a day machine to the camp.

"It's working beautifully, I'm really happy," said Nhat, who is now raising funds to install solar panels to bring down electricity costs and reduce the environmental impact of the project. Reuters

New Zealand housing crisis sparks human rights inquiry

WELLINGTON (TIP): New Zealand's housing crisis is having a "punishing impact" on marginalised communities and leaving many people homeless, the human rights commission said on August 2 as it launched an inquiry into the country's red-hot property market.

A raft of cooling measures enforced by Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern earlier this year has had no impact on runaway house prices in New Zealand, as investors cashed in on historically low interest rates and cheap access to capital under the government's pandemic-inspired stimulus spending.

Property prices in New Zealand have soared by the most among OECD nations, rising about 30% in just the past 12 months.

"The housing crisis in Aotearoa is also a human rights crisis encompassing homeownership, market renting, state housing and homelessness," New Zealand's Chief Human Rights Commissioner Paul Hunt said in a statement using the country's indigenous Maori name.

"It is having a punishing impact especially on the most marginalised in our communities," he said.

New Zealand's pandemic-inspired policies have translated into cheaper mortgages, allowing affluent "kiwis" to upsize their homes and build up portfolios of rental investment properties, fuelling a



further surge in house prices.

The nearly 30% year-on-year increase, on top of a 90% rise in the preceding decade, has locked out first home buyers and low income earners.

"The right to a decent home, although binding on New Zealand in international law, is almost invisible and unknown in Aotearoa," he said.

The median house price in the biggest city Auckland has increased by 25% to NZ\$1,150,000 (\$801,320) in June this year from NZ\$920,000 last year.

UNDER PRESSURE

The United Nations Special Rapporteur on adequate housing, Leilani Farha, said in her report in June that consecutive governments have failed to ensure that

the housing market meets the needs of the people.

Soaring prices and rents have forced families into emergency housing like motels, with about 23,000 individuals and families waiting for public housing.

Under pressure Ardern launched a raft of measures this year to tax investors and discourage speculators, but these have had only a marginal impact.

The rising inequality inflamed by the housing crisis is arguably the biggest political challenge facing Ardern's centre-left Labour-led government. The 41-year-old's popularity soared with her response to the pandemic that kept nationwide cases to barely 2,500 and led to an emphatic election win last year.

But her support has been slipping with the latest Newshub-Reid Research Poll on Sunday showing Labour's support fell to 43%, down almost 10 points since the last poll in May, while the main opposition National Party's support inched up to almost 29%.

Ardern defended her government's record on housing saying it was pulling every lever to ensure everyone gets a warm, dry home.

"When I look at the record of what we've done, 8,000 houses to date, 18,000 on the cards. We are scaling up as quickly as we can," Ardern told state broadcaster TVNZ in an interview after the inquiry was announced. Reuters

Hong Kong authorities arrest pro-democracy singer for corruption

HONG KONG (TIP): Hong Kong's anti-corruption watchdog on August 2 charged a singer and prominent pro-democracy activist, Anthony Wong, with "corrupt conduct" at a 2018 election rally, the latest legal action against dissent by authorities in the Chinese-ruled city.

The Independent Commission Against Corruption (ICAC) said in a statement that Wong had provided "entertainment to induce others to vote" for pro-democracy activist Au Nok-hin in a 2018 legislative council by-election.

"AT THE RALLY, WONG PERFORMED TWO SONGS ON STAGE. AT THE END OF THE PERFORMANCE, HE APPEALED TO THE PARTICIPANTS OF THE RALLY TO VOTE FOR AU AT THE ELECTION," THE ICAC WROTE, ADDING HE HAD BREACHED THE ELECTIONS CORRUPT AND ILLEGAL CONDUCT ORDINANCE.



If convicted, he could be jailed for up to seven years and fined HK\$500,000 (\$64,000), the ordinance says.

Wong, 59, who first came into the public limelight with pop duo, Tat Ming Pair, in the 1980s, could not immediately be reached for comment.

Au, who went on to win the election, was also charged. Both are due to appear in court on Thursday to plea.

Au was not available for comment. He was jailed for 10 months in April for organising an unauthorised assembly.

Au was also arrested with 46 other prominent democrats this year for alleged conspiracy to commit subversion under a sweeping national security law

introduced in June last year to outlaw secession, subversion, terrorism and foreign collusion.

Hong Kong's Beijing-backed government says the pro-democracy protests threatened stability in the former British colony and the action taken against various people since then is necessary to uphold the law.

A popular songwriter known for his poignant lyrics, Wong was a strong supporter of Hong Kong's 2014 pro-democracy "Umbrella" movement and the 2019 anti-China protests. He is also a vocal advocate of LGBT rights.

During the performance for Au in 2018, according to a video of it posted on Au's Facebook page, Wong had told the audience before singing "A forbidden fruit per day": "This song is about choice, whether society has a choice." Over the past year, many of the city's leading democrats have been detained, jailed or forced into exile.

A major pro-democracy newspaper, Apple Daily, closed in June after several of its senior editors were arrested on national security grounds.

Last Friday, Tong Ying-kit, the first person convicted under the security law was sentenced by a panel of three judges to nine years in prison for terrorism and inciting secession. Reuters

BRAZIL'S BOLSONARO RAGES AGAINST PROBE, THREATENS TO ACT BEYOND CONSTITUTION

RIO DE JANEIRO (TIP): Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro on August 4 raged against a Supreme Court investigation into his conduct and threatened to respond outside the limits of the constitution, escalating the clash between the far-right leader and the judiciary.

Bolsonaro's comments came after Supreme Court Justice Alexandre de Moraes approved an investigation into the President's unfounded accusations that Brazil's electronic voting system is vulnerable to fraud.

"This investigation is not within the bounds of the constitution, so the antidote to this is also not within the bounds of the constitution," Bolsonaro said on social media, without specifying further the nature of the threat.

Bolsonaro, who is expected to seek a second term in 2022, has repeatedly said Brazil's electronic voting system is vulnerable to fraud without providing evidence.

Critics say Bolsonaro, like former US President Donald Trump, is sowing doubts in case he loses in 2022. He has already threatened not to accept the result if the system is not changed.

Bolsonaro is calling for adoption of printed receipts that can be counted if any election result is disputed, a paper trail that would change the current all-electronic voting system. A proposal to that effect is currently with Congress, with a committee set to vote on it on Thursday. Analysts believe it has little chance of becoming law.

The president has called for people to take to the streets, and last weekend thousands of his supporters held demonstrations in several cities backing his proposal. Reuters

A MILLION TO 1: VENEZUELA'S CURRENCY LOSING 6 ZEROS

CARACAS (VENEZUELA) (TIP): Venezuela says it will make a million-to-1 change in its currency soon, eliminating six zeros from prices in the local currency as hyperinflation continues to plague the troubled South American nation.

Venezuela's central bank on August 3 announced the change to the bolivar will go into effect October 1.

The new 100 bolivar bill will be the highest denomination. It is equivalent to 100,000,000 of the current bolivar.

This is the third adjustment since socialist leaders began governing Venezuela. The bolivar lost three zeros in 2008 under now-deceased President Hugo Chavez, while his successor, Nicolas Maduro, eliminated five zeros in 2018. Venezuela is in its sixth year of recession. Millions live in poverty amid high food prices that are commonly set in US dollars and low wages. (AP)

Delta variant accounts for 93.4% of new cases in US

The Delta variant now accounts for an estimated 93.4 per cent of all the new Covid-19 cases in the US that were reported during the last two weeks of July, according to the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention on Wednesday, August 4.

In its latest update on Wednesday, the CDC said that this number is even higher in certain parts of the country, showed the updated figures for the week ending July 31, reports Xinhua news agency.

In the Midwest including Iowa, Kansas, Missouri and Nebraska, Delta variant accounts for more than 98 per cent of all new cases.

These figures have shown a rapid increase over the past two months. In the two weeks ending May 22, Delta's prevalence was estimated around 3 per cent, said the CDC update.

The daily average of new cases over the past week rose to 66,606 per day, from 40,597 the previous week, an increase of more than 64 per cent, it added.

In an interview on Wednesday, Anthony Fauci, head of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, said that the cases driven by the Delta variant may double to 200,000 a day in the fall.

"Remember, just a couple of months ago, we were having about 10,000 cases a day. I think you're likely going to wind up somewhere between 100,000 and 200,000 cases," he said.

Global Covid-19 caseload tops 200.7 mn

WASHINGTON (TIP): The global coronavirus caseload has topped 200.7 million, while the deaths have surged to more than 4.26 million and vaccinations soared to over 4.30 billion, according to the Johns Hopkins University.

In its latest update on Friday, August 6, morning, the University's Center for Systems Science and Engineering (CSSE) revealed that the current global caseload, death toll stood and vaccination tally stood at 200,799,056, 4,266,201 and 4,305,633,910, respectively.

The US continues to be the worst-hit country with the world's highest number of cases and deaths at 35,433,677 and 615,314, respectively, according to the CSSE.

In terms of infections, India follows in the second place with 31,812,114 cases.

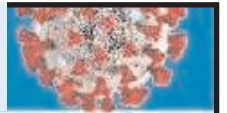
The other worst countries with over 3 million cases are Brazil (20,066,587), France (6,298,649), Russia (6,296,570), the UK (6,010,848), Turkey (5,822,487), Argentina (4,989,402), Colombia (4,821,603), Spain (4,566,571), Italy (4,377,188), Iran (4,057,758), Germany (3,789,460) and Indonesia (3,568,331), the CSSE figures showed.

In terms of deaths, Brazil comes second with 560,706 fatalities.

Nations with a death toll of over 100,000 are India (426,290), Mexico (242,547), Peru (196,673), Russia (159,803), the UK (130,389), Italy (128,163), Colombia (121,899), France (112,282), Argentina (107,023) and Indonesia (100,636).

Source: IANS

TRACKING THE VIRUS



GLOBAL

Cases | Deaths
200,799,056 | **4,266,201**

INDIA

Cases | Deaths
3,18,56,757 | **4,26,754**



Study finds 50-60% reduced risk of Covid for double-vaccinated

LONDON (TIP): Fully-vaccinated people have an around 50 to 60% reduced risk of infection from the Delta coronavirus variant, including those who are asymptomatic, a large English coronavirus prevalence study found on Wednesday, August 5.

Imperial College London researchers said people who reported receiving two vaccine doses were half as likely to test positive for Covid-19, adjusting for other factors such as age, whether or not the people tested had Covid-19 symptoms.

Focusing on those who had Covid-19 symptoms, effectiveness rose to around 59%, according to the study, which covered a period when the Delta variant completely displaced the previously dominant Alpha variant.

The estimates, which did not break down effectiveness by vaccine, are lower than those reported by Public Health England for Pfizer and AstraZeneca's shots.

The researchers said this was not surprising or worrying, given that PHE estimates were based on those who have symptoms and get tested,

while the Imperial study is designed to pick up more people.

"We're looking at effectiveness against infection amongst a random sample of the general population, which includes asymptomatic individuals," Imperial epidemiologist Paul Elliot, who leads the study, told reporters, adding that even those who had symptoms in the study might not have got a test otherwise.

"So again, it's a different bunch of people." The study found that the link between infections and hospitalisations, which had previously weakened, had started to reconverge, a move which coincides with the spread of Delta among younger people who may not be fully vaccinated.

PHE has said that Delta carries a higher risk of hospitalisation, though vaccines offer good protection against severe disease.

The researchers said that overall, prevalence in unvaccinated people was 1.21%, three times higher than the 0.40% prevalence in fully vaccinated people, and that the viral load among people with Covid was also lower in vaccinated people.

European health bodies strongly recommend full vaccination

BRUSSELS (TIP): The European Medicines Agency (EMA) and the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) have strongly recommended complete Covid-19 vaccination as a key to protect against the most serious effects of the virus, including those caused by the Delta variant.

With the increasing circulation of the Delta variant in the European Union (EU) and European Economic Area (EEA), the two agencies on Wednesday encouraged those who are eligible but have not yet been vaccinated to start the immunization program "in a timely manner", reports Xinhua news agency.

"While the available vaccines are highly effective in protecting people against severe Covid-19, until higher proportions of the population are immunized, the risk is not beyond us," ECDC's Chief Scientist, Mike Catchpole, said.

The organisations emphasized that full vaccination with any of the approved vaccines "offers a high level of protection against severe disease and death caused by SARS-CoV-2, including variants, such as Delta".

However, no vaccine is 100 per cent



effective, and breakthrough infections in vaccinated people will continue as long as the virus continues to circulate.

The agencies therefore recommended that everyone should adhere to national regulations, and continue to take measures such as wearing masks and respecting social distancing, even those who are fully vaccinated.

The EU has reached its target of ensuring that at least 70 per cent of the adult population had received at least one dose of vaccine by the end of July, but the member states hope to see this percentage increase to contain the spread of new variants.

Quit India Movement: A watershed moment in India's freedom struggle

August 08, 1942

As far as the Indian Freedom Movement is considered, the month of August has witnessed many great events. One of the greatest episodes of the freedom struggle that ultimately led to the Indian Independence is the Quit India Movement. After being in the clutches of the British for centuries, all that the people of India wanted was immediate independence. Focusing on this ultimate aim, the Quit India Movement was launched on August 08, 1942. Thousands of freedom fighters sacrificed their lives in this cause. As we now live in an independent nation, every year we commemorate the hardships and sacrifices made by our forefathers during the Quit India Movement. We honor this day as Quit India Movement Day and spread the word about it through various activities.

Quit India Movement which is also known as India August Movement or Bharat Chhodo Andolan is often considered to be a turning point in India's struggles for freedom from the British Raj. The movement saw people across India come together under the leadership of Mahatma Gandhi to uproot the Britishers.

The movement marks the moment when the idea of complete freedom from the British Raj gained momentum as opposed to several discounted power structures being discussed in the past. The idea of purna swarajya or complete freedom was introduced by Congress leader Hasrat Mohani in 1921 in an All-India Congress Forum; a resolution on the same was passed on 19 December 1929. But it was after the Quit India Movement that the masses sprung into action.

The Quit India movement was the direct result of Britain's mounting difficulties in the World War II and the failure of the Cripps's mission to convince Indian leadership at the time to agree for a partial self-rule under which India would still remain a British dominion.

How it began?

As per British Open University's archive, by the middle of 1942, Japanese troops were approaching the borders of India and world powers were mounting pressure on the British to solve the issue of India's future before the end of World War II.

Thus, in March 1942, the British dispatched a committee led by Stafford Cripps, a member of the War Cabinet, to India to discuss the British Government's Draft Declaration. The draft granted India Dominion status after the war but otherwise conceded few changes to the status quo.

Another aspect of this was that the British Governor-General of India at the time, Lord Linlithgow, wanted to send Indian soldiers to fight for the UK in the war. The Cripps's Mission was a way for the British to negotiate that much needed support from the Indian leaders.

However, the conditions of self-rule underlined in the draft declaration was unacceptable to the Congress Working



Committee as it did not give immediate and total self rule. Subsequently, Mahatma Gandhi called for Quit India Movement.

What is Quit India movement?

On 8 August, 1942 at the Bombay session of All India Congress Committee, Mahatma Gandhi introduced the resolution to start a Quit India Movement. The historic resolution was passed at the meeting.

Subsequently, Gandhi gave a fiery speech at Mumbai's Gowalia Tank Maidan also known as August Kranti Maidan, marking the beginning of the Quit India Movement. The place now houses a monument as tribute to the historical event.

Gandhi said, "There is a mantra, a short one that I give you. You imprint it in your heart and let every breath of yours give an expression to it. The mantra is do or die. We shall either be free or die in the attempt."

Following the Quit India resolution being passed on 8 August, Aruna Asaf Ali hoisted the tricolour on the Gowalia Tank ground and on the night of 9 August, and all senior leaders of the Congress including Jawaharlal Nehru, Abul Kalam Azad and Mahatma Gandhi were arrested on charges of sedition.

The British not only arrested the entire INC leadership, they remained incarcerated till the end of the Second World War in 1945 without trial. The Indian National Congress was declared an unlawful association and its offices



were raided across the country, while all its funds were frozen.

Nonetheless, activists like Jai Prakash Narayan, Aruna Asaf Ali, SM Joshi, Ram Manohar Lohia and others continued to fuel the momentum of the movement throughout the period of the war.

But with the entire leadership of Congress incarcerated, the British managed to suppress most citizen-led initiatives and demonstrations by 1944. What did not disappear was the idea of non-negotiable, complete freedom invoked in the Mahatma's speech at the August Kranti grounds.

By the end of World War II, Britain's position in the world had changed dramatically and the demand for

Independence could no longer be ignored. This is why the Quit India Movement remains an important milestone in India's freedom struggle.

A letter by Ram Manohar Lohia to Viceroy Linlithgow documents the strength of the movement at its peak and also gives a glimpse into the British actions to suppress the movement. Lohia had written that the British government had killed 50,000 people and injured several more during the movement. According to Lohia, while the Russian Revolution saw barely one per cent of the country's population participating, in India no less than 20 percent people took part. He said that the real strength of the Quit India Movement lay in the masses who had participated in it.

Skincare regime that Gen Z swears by

When it comes to skincare, every skin tends to have its own requirements. Some have a skin type that is oily, while some suffer from extremely dry skin. When it comes to glowing skin, there are a few basic steps that people with all skin types can follow to get a natural glow.

From cleansing to moisturizing, we have for you the ultimate skincare regime that you should follow daily and that the extremely well-aware Gen Z swears by for flawless-looking skin. Check out the step-by-step beauty regime below.

Step 1

Cleansing is the first step of the beauty regime. When you wake up in the morning your skin looks dull and tired, so to wake your skin up and to feel fresh the entire day, wash your face with a gentle face wash.

Step 2

The next step is toning. Use a toner according to the concerns of your skin. Simply take a few drops of the toner on a cotton pad and swipe the cotton pad on your face.

Step 3

To avoid your skin from getting dry, it is very important to moisturize it every day. Use a lightweight moisturiser if you have oily skin or a heavy one if you have extremely dry skin. Apply the



moisturizer all over your face right after you're done with the toning part.

Step 4

The last step of the skincare regime is applying sunscreen. Most of us are guilty of not applying

sunscreen religiously every day, but it is extremely important to protect our skin from the harmful rays of the sun. Apply the sunscreen all over your face and neck and don't forget your ears and the area behind them.

Source: Pinkvilla

FOOD CORNER

Coconut Rice



INGREDIENTS

2 teaspoon unsalted butter, 1 cloves minced garlic, 1 cup rinsed, drained jasmine rice, 1 teaspoon sugar, 1/4 teaspoon grated lime zest, 2 teaspoon minced ginger, 2 cinnamon stick, 3/4 cup coconut milk, 1/2 teaspoon salt, 1/8 teaspoon white pepper powder.

Method

- To prepare this delicious rice recipe, melt butter in saucepan over medium heat. Add ginger, garlic, and cinnamon stick, and saute the ingredients for 1 minute. Once done, add rice and saute until rice grains are opaque.
- Then add coconut milk, sugar, salt, lime zest, white pepper, and 3/4 cup water. Bring to a simmer. Stir once, cover, reduce heat to low, and simmer for another 15 minutes. Then fluff the rice with fork, cover, and let it rest for 5 minutes. Transfer the dish to a serving bowl. You can also garnish the rice recipe with chopped spring onions for that extra crunch.
- This Caribbean Coconut Rice goes best with Asian and Indian curries. If you're planning to host a party at home and want to pair the gravy dishes with something fragrant and exotic, then this rice recipe should be your go-to option. Serve hot and relish its flavours.

Recently, Nail Art has since re-emerged itself as a hot and popular trend. Influencers have certainly been putting their nail tech's creativity skills to the test. Bright colors and long lengths are no longer enough. Nail Art has been serving as an additional accessory to one's outfit. After all, it is an important part of one's look. This new trend has been encouraging everyone to step out of their comfort zones when it comes to even the smallest of details. A fresh set of nails can make us feel so put together, and for some reason, very pretty! These nails trends are definitely worth trying out yourself.

Abstract Swirl Art design

The "Abstract Swirl Art" design has been seen shuffled with many different sizes, nail shapes, lengths, widths, and most importantly colors. This nail design is made up of swirly swoops that range from blocky to thin and fine. It is a very attractive nail style and is sure to make a bold statement. The design focuses primarily on color which consequently creates aesthetically pleasing nail patterns. It adds an edgy look to any choice of style without necessarily doing too much. This trendy nail art design has been seen internationally and worn by mostly all influencers. It is currently in style and has been now for some time.

The 90s are back

It's true, history repeats itself. Many of



the popular nail designs of today were seen previously. It's clear many of the current influencers are looking to the past era's for inspiration when it pertains to beauty and fashion. Pairable with hand jewelry, the trendy nail art set from the 90's is making its comeback. The nail designs include different textile patterns, detailed nail-cartoon art, graffiti, bedazzlement, block word art, bright colors, transparent nail extensions and more. These nail designs

are meant to say a lot and allow one to express their true creativity. It's meant to speak and shows that one is not afraid to be bold. Dare if you will, this nail trend adds more personality to one's everyday look.

Animal print

As we know, cow print has been all the rage. Certainly we have seen some creative cow prints in nail art from cartoon-like colorful patches to realistic brown

Nail art ideas to try this season

cowhides. We aren't leaving our adored cow prints behind, but animal print as a whole are quickly emerging. That's right, not only cheetah and cow print, but zebra is back baby! It feels like the 2000s again. No worries though, the animal prints that are trending look natural, not cheesy. Go for a classic french with a twist: giraffe printed tips. A neutral colored zebra print can also be traded out for pretty pastels like lavender and plum or matcha green and forest green.

Different-color-per-nail

Stemming from the different-color-per-nail trend, we are seeing an array of colors in different designs fit onto one hand. The beauty in nail art is the ability to be creative and express yourself. With spring and summer quickly approaching and bold colors coming soon, nail art that features a whole color palette is the way to go. Trending right now is a french, but replacing the classic white tip for colored tip. We can elevate this look by adding a base color as well. Picture a cherry red base with a pale pink tip. Another eccentric nail look features colors split in half vertically down the nail. There are so many ways to add vibrance to your fingertips. Top off your colorful nails by loading up on chunky resin rings.

Reasons women should be aware of thyroid disorders



The butterfly-shaped thyroid gland located at the base of the neck plays a major role in the metabolism, growth and development of the body. It also regulates multiple functions, including energy levels, weight, heart rate and mood. Hypothyroidism occurs when the thyroid gland does not produce enough thyroid hormones to meet the needs of the body.

Despite the high prevalence, thyroid disorders, along with other non-communicable diseases, remain neglected. A study conducted across eight cities in India suggests that nearly one-third of people living with hypothyroidism experience the disorder but are unaware of it due to a lack of diagnosis.

Highlighting the need for timely diagnosis of thyroid-related conditions, Manoj Chadha, Senior Consultant Endocrinologist, HOPE & CARE Hospital, Vashi, Navi Mumbai said, "In Mumbai alone, we have seen 2.86 per cent cases of hypothyroidism go undiagnosed. Adults who are aged 35 years and above, pregnant, and middle-aged women in particular, are at high risk and may suffer additional complications if a thyroid disorder is left untreated. Undetected hypothyroidism results in increased vulnerability to comorbidities such as diabetes and hypertension."

He continued, "The pathophysiological association between Type2 diabetes mellitus (T2DM) and thyroid dysfunction is believed to be the result of an interplay between various biochemical, genetic, and hormonal malfunctions. Poorly managed T2DM can lead to insulin resistance, hyperinsulinemia and increased risk of hypoglycaemic episodes in diabetics.11 As a result, it increases the cardiovascular risk in T2DM. This can only be reduced with frequent screening to ensure timely diagnosis, which in turn will drive treatment and disease management for hypothyroidism at an early stage."

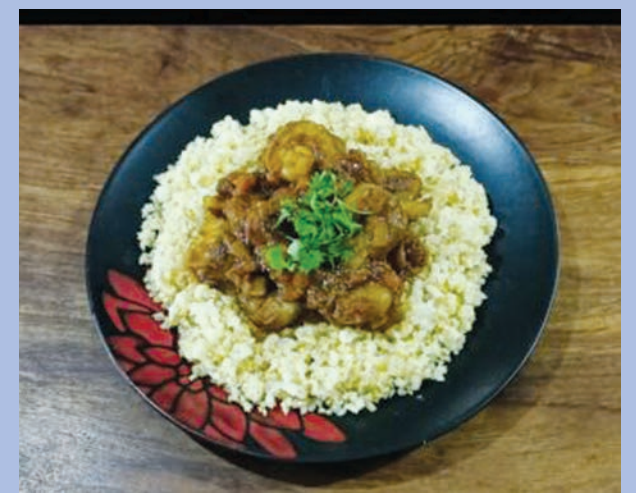
Women should be aware of thyroid disorders

- Women are three times more likely to develop hypothyroidism than men: Moreover, hypothyroidism is especially common among women especially during child-bearing age (although women of all ages are at risk). Women with high-risk factors for hypothyroidism should particularly be encouraged to undergo screening. These factors include: residing in an area with moderate-severe iodine insufficiency, obesity, history of thyroid dysfunction or presence of goitre in the individual or a first-degree relative, history of recurrent miscarriages or pre-term

delivery, infertility, or autoimmune diseases (Type 1 diabetes, Addison's disease, Coeliac disease, Rheumatoid Arthritis).

- Elusive signs & symptoms -- Don't suffer silently: Women tend to ignore their health and visit a doctor only when extremely ill or experiencing severe symptoms. Hypothyroidism symptoms, which tend to be subtle and non-specific, go under the radar. These include fatigue, excessive weight gain, constipation, dry skin, cold intolerance, lethargy, muscle cramps and puffy eyelids, which overlap with those of other disease areas or blend in with the rigours of everyday life. It is thus essential to get yourself screened, instead of waiting for multiple symptoms to persist. Take action proactively to alleviate any symptoms and avoid further complications.
- The added risk of health complications: The potential consequences of thyroid disorders include more than just hair loss and weight fluctuations. If left untreated, thyroid disorders can prompt a number of health complications, from elevated cholesterol levels and depression to irregular menstrual cycles and a higher risk of infertility or Polycystic Ovary Syndrome (PCOS). Thyroid disorders can also amplify or worsen symptoms of menopause. In more serious cases, they may even lead to cardiovascular or neurological complications, as well as diabetes.
- Timely treatment to safeguard maternal and child health: Hypothyroidism can have worrying implications for pregnant women, if not adequately managed. Hypothyroidism during pregnancy is associated with an increased risk of anaemia, miscarriage, postpartum bleeding, pre-eclampsia, and placental abruption.
- The thyroid hormone is also critical for the development of the fetal brain and nervous system, especially during the first trimester when the foetus depends on the mother's supply of the hormone. Thyroid disorders may also increase the risk of pre-term birth and low birth weight. Being aware and undergoing screening before and during pregnancy is important for both maternal and child health.
- Women with hypothyroidism detected during pregnancy can speak to their endocrinologist to understand how to best manage their condition.

Source: IANS



Millet-based diet can lower risk of type 2 diabetes

A new study has shown that eating millets reduces the risk of developing type 2 diabetes and helps manage blood glucose levels in people with diabetes.

The study indicates the potential to design appropriate meals with millets for diabetic and pre-diabetic people as well as for non-diabetic people as a preventive approach.

Drawing on research from 11 countries, the study published in *Frontiers in Nutrition* shows that diabetic people who consumed millets as part of their daily diet saw their blood glucose levels drop 12-15% (fasting and post-meal), and blood glucose levels went from diabetic to pre-diabetes levels.

The HbA1c (blood glucose bound to hemoglobin) levels lowered on average 17% for pre-diabetic individuals, and the levels went from prediabetic to normal status. These findings affirm that eating millets can lead to a better glycemic response.

The authors reviewed 80 published studies of which 65 were eligible for a meta-analysis involving about 1,000 human subjects, making this analysis the largest systematic review on the topic till date, said International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT).

"No one knew there were so many scientific studies undertaken on millets' effect on diabetes. These benefits were often contested, and this systematic review of the studies published in scientific journals has proven that millets keep blood glucose levels in check, reducing the risk of diabetes, and has shown just how well these smart foods do it," said Dr. S Anitha, the study's lead author and a senior nutrition scientist at International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT).

"Diabetes contributed to very high disease burden from 1990-2016 in India. Diabetes-related health expenditure was over \$7 million. There is no easy solution, and it requires a lifestyle change, and diet is a very important part of this. This study provides one part of the solution useful for individuals and governments. How we use this and implement it into programs needs careful planning," said Hemalatha, Director, National Institute of Nutrition (NIN).

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

Now ask Alexa to find nearest Covid vaccine centre

Amazon Alexa has been updated with the latest Covid-19 related features for Indian users.

The virtual assistant can help you find the nearest Covid-19 testing centres, vaccination centres, and answer queries about vaccination, helpline numbers in each state.

In 2020, Alexa was able to share information about Covid-19 related symptoms and cases in India.

But now, with the help of MapmyIndia, Alexa can help find the nearest Covid-19 testing centre along with the travel distance. It can also help one identify the closest Covid-19 vaccination centres where vaccines are available.

Get started by asking questions such as "Alexa, where can I get a Covid-19 test?" Alexa will identify the location from the device registration and provide a list of all the nearest vaccination centres. One can use this information to time a visit to the CoWIN portal for booking an appointment.

Further, Alexa also makes it easy to search vaccination centres and book appointments for friends and family.

To search for vaccination centres near other pin codes, use the Vaccine Info Alexa skill. The skill will ask for a pin code, as well as the age category to provide you with information.

In case of unavailability of the vaccine, Alexa can also set a reminder to check with the skill if the vaccine is available the next day. Just say, "Alexa, open vaccine info."

With the help of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare website, Alexa also provides the latest updates on the Covid vaccine completion rates in India. It will also answer all queries related to vaccination—safety or how to book a slot.

New theory: Earth's longer days kick-started oxygen growth

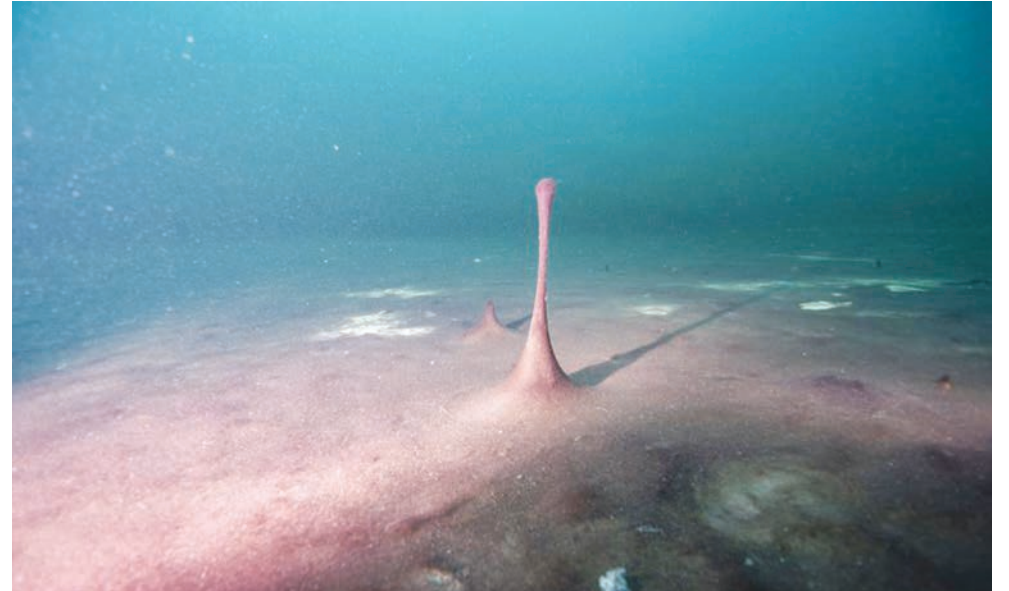
Scientists have a new idea for how Earth got its oxygen: It's because the planet slowed down and days got longer. A study published Monday proposes and puts to the test the theory that longer, continuous daylight kick-started weird bacteria into producing lots of oxygen, making most of life as we know it possible.

They dredged up gooey purple bacteria from a deep sinkhole in Lake Huron and tinkered with how much light it got in lab experiments. The more continuous light the smelly microbes got, the more oxygen they produced.

One of the great mysteries in science is just how Earth went from a planet with minimal oxygen to the breathable air we have now. Scientists long figured microbes called cyanobacteria, were involved, but couldn't tell what started the great oxygenation event. Researchers in a study in Monday's Nature Geoscience theorise that Earth's slowing rotation, which gradually lengthened days from six hours to the current 24 hours, was key for the cyanobacteria in making the planet more breathable.

About 2.4 billion years ago there was so little oxygen in Earth's atmosphere that it could barely be measured, so no animal or plant life like we know could live. Instead, lots of microbes breathed in carbon dioxide, and in the case of cyanobacteria, produced oxygen in the earliest form of photosynthesis. At first it wasn't much, but in only about 400 million years Earth's atmosphere went to one-tenth the amount of oxygen we have now – a huge jump, said the study's lead author, Judith Klatt, a biogeochemist at the Max Planck Institute in Germany. That oxygen burst allowed plants and animals to evolve, with other plants now joining in the oxygen-making party, she said.

But why did the bacteria go on the oxygen making binge? That's where University of Michigan oceanographer



This June 19, 2019, photo provided by NOAA Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary shows purple microbial mats in the Middle Island Sinkhole in Lake Huron, Mich. Small hills and "fingers" like this one in the mats are caused by gases like methane and hydrogen sulfide bubbling up beneath them. Feel like days are just getting longer? They are and it's a good thing because we wouldn't have much to breathe if they weren't, according to a new explanation for how Earth's oxygen rich atmosphere may have developed because of Earth's rotation slowing. Scientists provided evidence for this new hypothesis by lab testing gooey smelly purple bacteria from a deep sinkhole in Lake Huron. (Phil Hartmeyer/NOAA Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary via AP)

Brian Arbic comes in. He studies tidal forces on Earth and how they've slowed Earth's rotation. Arbic was listening to a colleague's lecture about cyanobacteria and he noticed that the oxygen event coincided with the timing of Earth's days getting longer. The planet's rotation slows because of the complicated physics of tidal friction and interaction with the moon. The Michigan and German researchers put their theory to the test with bacteria similar to what would have been around 2.4 billion years ago. They used purple and white mats of cyanobacteria living in an eerie world of the sinkhole nearly 79 feet (24 meters) deep in Lake Huron. "We actually imagine that the world looked kind of like the Middle Island

sinkhole for most of its history," Klatt said. Divers brought up the gelatinous carpets of bacteria, which smell like rotten eggs. Klatt and colleagues exposed them to varying amounts of light, up to 26 straight hours.

They found that more continuous light caused the microbes to produce more oxygen. The study authors and outside scientists said this is just one possible but plausible explanation for Earth's oxygen increase. What makes the idea so impressive is that it doesn't require any big biological changes in bacteria or the world's oceans, said Tim Lyons, a professor of biogeochemistry at the University of California, Riverside, who wasn't part of the research team. *Source: AP*

Google won't let users sign in on old Android devices from Sept 27

Google will no longer allow sign-in on Android devices that run Android 2.3.7 or lower starting September 27.

If you sign into your device after September 27, you may get username or password errors when you try to use Google products and services like Gmail, YouTube, and Maps.

"If your device has the ability to update to a newer Android version (3.0+), we advise you to do so in order to maintain access to Google apps and services on that device," the company said in an update.

"As part of our ongoing efforts to keep our users safe, Google will no longer allow sign-in on Android devices that run Android 2.3.7 or lower starting September 27, 2021," the company added.

Android 2.3.7 was released nearly 10 years ago.

When support ends for sign-in with a Google Account on Android 2.3.7 and



below, the users will receive a username or password error if they try to sign into their devices or to add an email or calendar account.

"You will be able to sign into your account with a newer Android version (3.0 or newer). If your device has the ability to update to a newer Android version (3.0+), we advise you to do so," Google advised.

WhatsApp to 'soon' allow transfer chat history from iOS to Android

Facebook-owned WhatsApp is developing a way for its users to transfer their chat histories from iOS to Android, the media reported.

According to 9To5Google, Google's 'Data Transfer Tool', the standard tool for copying files from one Android to another or from iOS to Android, is preparing to offer a way to copy your WhatsApp chats from your iPhone.

The report said that one of the bigger shortcomings of WhatsApp is that users can only access their messages on one smartphone at a time.

Even with the recently launched multi-device beta, which allows the WhatsApp web and desktop apps to work while your phone is offline, the one-smartphone limitation is still in place.

This, unfortunately, means there's no easy way to move your chats from one device to another if they're not both Android or both iOS, the report said.

Android has a built-in device-to-device transfer app called "Data Restore Tool,"



which is used by the Android setup wizard to copy photos, apps and files from one phone to another, including from iOS.

With its recent launch to the Play Store, the Data Restore Tool received an update to version 1.0.382048734, which includes preparation for copying your WhatsApp chats and history from an iPhone to an Android phone.

ED sends notice to Flipkart over forex violations

India's financial-crime agency has asked Walmart's Flipkart and its founders to explain why they shouldn't face a penalty of \$1.35 billion for alleged violation of foreign investment laws, three sources and an agency official told Reuters.

The Enforcement Directorate agency has been investigating e-commerce giants Flipkart and Amazon.com Inc for years for allegedly bypassing foreign investment laws that strictly regulate multi-brand retail and restrict such companies to operating a marketplace for sellers.

The ED official, who declined to be named, said the case concerned an investigation into allegations that Flipkart attracted foreign investment and a related party, WS Retail, then sold goods to consumers on its shopping website, which was prohibited under law. A so-called "show cause notice" was issued in early July by the agency's office in the southern city of Chennai to Flipkart, its founders Sachin Bansal and Binny Bansal as well as current investor Tiger Global, to explain why they should not face a fine of 100 billion rupees (\$1.35 billion) for the lapses, said the agency.

As Indian billionaire plans new airline, Boeing hopes for orders

NEW DELHI (TIP): Indian billionaire Rakesh Jhunjhunwala's plan to launch an ultra-low-cost airline could give planemaker Boeing a chance to regain lost ground in India after the fall of one of its biggest customers, Jet Airways, two years ago, industry executives say.

Jhunjhunwala, known as "India's Warren Buffett" for his successful stock investments, plans to team up with the former CEOs of IndiGo, the country's biggest carrier, and Jet Airways to tap into demand for domestic air travel.

While Jhunjhunwala's proposed Akasa Air comes at a time when India's aviation industry is reeling from the impact of the COVID pandemic, which has seen airlines losing billions of dollars, the sector's long-term prospect makes it a hot market for planemakers Boeing and Airbus.

"There will be a big fight between Airbus and Boeing," said Nitin Sarin, managing partner at law firm Sarin & Co, which advises lessors and airlines.

"For Boeing, this is a great opportunity to step in and up their game, considering they don't have any other major operator for their 737 aircraft in India apart from SpiceJet," Sarin said, referring to Boeing's narrow-body aircraft.



Rakesh Jhunjhunwala

One industry source said the new venture was already moving towards what could be one of the biggest deals of the year outside the United States to acquire purchased or leased 737s.

Boeing did not comment on Akasa's plans but said it always seeks opportunities and talks to current and potential customers about how it can best support their fleet and operational needs.

Fare wars and high costs

Jhunjhunwala, who is considering investing \$35m and would own 40 percent

of the carrier, expects to get a no-objection certificate from India's aviation ministry in the next 15 days, he said in a Bloomberg Television interview Wednesday. The ultra-low-cost airline's team, which includes a former senior executive of Delta Air Lines Inc, is looking at building a fleet of 70 180-passenger planes within four years, he said.

Jhunjhunwala, whose fortune is valued at \$4.6bn by Forbes, did not respond to an interview request.

Indian skies are dominated by low-cost carriers (LCCs) including IndiGo, SpiceJet, GoFirst and AirAsia India, the majority of them operating a fleet of Airbus narrow-body planes.

Boeing dominates India's wide-body market of 51 planes but fare wars and high costs have led to casualties among full-service carriers, including Kingfisher Airlines in 2012 and Jet Airways in 2019, making LCCs and Airbus even more dominant.

Boeing's share of India's 570 narrow-body planes fell to 18 percent after Jet's demise from 35 percent in 2018, data from consultancy CAPA India shows. Jet was recently rescued from bankruptcy and is expected to fly again.

Indian companies bag \$48 million project in Maldives

ABL - Indira Projects JV - A Joint venture between Ashoka Buildcon and Chennai based Indira Projects & Developments signed a \$48 Million (Rs 350 crore) infrastructure contract with Maldives Police Service for the design and construction of Police stations, barracks and detention center facilities.

The Indian EXIM Bank is funding 85% of the total construction cost through Buyers credit facility. The Indian government is having cordial relationship with the Maldives government and the construction of the police facilities in Maldives will be a milestone project of both Governments relationship.

Bhupesh Nagarajan, Chairman of Indira Projects is a graduate Civil Engineer having experience in the construction industry in India, Singapore, Thailand, Malaysia and Vietnam. Indira Projects recently incorporated in Maldives. Indira Projects is a Patron Member of Builders Association of India and Indian Green building Association. Indira Projects is an associate member of Federation of Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industries (FICCI) and also it is a corporate member of TCC and Tamil Chamber of Commerce.

Indira Projects is a corporate member of CII [Confederation of Indian Industry]. Bhupesh Nagarajan is the convener of FICCI TN Council (Infrastructure). This agreement was signed by Commissioner of Police of Maldives Police Mohammed Hamed and ABL Indira projects JV's Chairman Bhupesh Nagarajan in the presence of Indian High Commissioner to Maldives



Sanjay Sudhir and other dignitaries from Maldives Government.

Bhupesh Nagarajan said the Government of Maldives, aims to improve the Maldives Police infrastructures including Island Police stations, Island Police post, Atoll police stations, Male and Hulhumale Police stations, Police staff Barracks, Facility Extension and One detention center in Dhonidhoo island in total 61 Facilities in different 61 Islands of Maldives.

The improvement of Maldives police facilities will support the law enforcement system more effectively and improve the overall law and order situation of Maldives. The implementation of this project will support Maldives government's vision to make the Maldives a beautiful, bright, and safer Country for Maldivians and tourists from all over the world. This Project is awarded to ABL Indira

Projects JV - Joint venture between Indira Project & Developments

Private Limited, India and Ashoka Buildcon limited, India.

The value of the project is USD 48.1 Million dollars in which 85% is funded by EXIM Bank India as loan facility for 12 years. It's a design and built project. The contractor will design the project according to Maldives regulations and International regulations including Mandela regulation for detention centre. The project is spread out in 61 different islands from north to south of Maldives covering entire region of the country.

Maldives government aims that this project will lead to the establishment of police stations across Maldives, and facilitates the delivery of modern and democratic services required by the people in a decentralized system. It will also allow for the establishment of infrastructure that will meet

international standards for detention and meet basic requirements for police facilities.

More than 500 laborers and 100 engineers required for the project will be taken from Tamil Nadu and preference will be given to those who had lost their jobs and returned from the Gulf nations. Three Indian companies participated in the tender. The company plans to take infrastructure development projects in Africa and Mauritius and plan to go global. Talks are underway. Total area to be constructed is 750,000 square feet in all across Maldives

The raw materials required for construction will be sourced from Tamil Nadu providing indirect employment. The company has consultancy office in Singapore and Maldives and planning to scale up the operations. Plans are afoot to hire special airplanes to take workers to Maldives. Maldives will issue work visas to Indian workers and engineers who have taken two doses of vaccination and there is no quarantine.

The ground breaking will be held in October jointly by the President of Maldives and top Indian leader to be decided soon in the presence of India's High Commissioner to Maldives who is extending his full support for the project. It will be completed in less than three years. The approved Maldives salary structure will be followed in the payment of salaries to workers and engineers. The Company is now building a beach resort in Marakkanam with 150 rooms. The agreement was signed by Bhupesh Nagarajan and Mohammed Hamed, Commissioner of Police, Maldives Police Service.

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

**TIP brings you Weekly and Birthday Horoscope by
Astro Friend Chirag - Blessed Son of Astrologer Bejan Daruwalla**



Chirag Bejan Daruwalla with his father late Bejan Daruwalla

WEEKLY HOROSCOPE - 9th August to 15th August 2021

Aries

An immensely strong feeling of self-confidence will arise. You're doing quite well this week as your mental health is great, your physical health will be great as well. Use this power to take on new projects this week. You might tend to over think about how good things are in your life right now. Do not worry about the future. You will not hesitate a little bit before taking risks, even though they are calculated. Focus on the positive things that are continuously happening in your week this week so that you can calm your nerves.

Taurus

Your love life will flourish like never before. New and humongous changes in the business will definitely bring new finances hence new investments that you can make will lead to a lot of happiness in your family. Also be prepared for a lot of positive surprises. Be open to the affection being shown to you.

Gemini

You will be more independent. You will be able to clear out things that you were stuck at since a long time. It will be easy to focus on work or the new prospect this week as the energies align in your favor a lot this week. Learn what works for you in calming your energies this week. This new-found confidence will keep you happy throughout the day.

Cancer

An entirely new and different work opportunity will open up for you which will bring a lot of fortune in the near future itself. You need to think out of the box as well as go the extra mile to reap maximum benefits from this opportunity.

Leo

You might meet someone you will really grow to like this week itself. Socializing more this week will work in your favor. If you're single, you're most likely to meet an interesting person this week. Those who are already in a relationship, you will have a fun day with your partner this week. You will finally have some time off work, which will be very much appreciated by your partner. Hence make this week count.

Virgo

You will be more independent. You will be able to clear out things that you were stuck at since a long time. It will be easy to focus on work or the new prospect this week as the energies align in your favor a lot this week. Learn what works for you in calming your energies this week. This new-found confidence will keep you happy throughout the day.

Libra

You will be more independent. You will be able to clear out things that you were stuck at since a long time. It will be easy to focus on work or the new prospect this week as the energies align in your favor a lot this week. Learn what works for you in calming your energies this week. This new-found confidence will keep you happy throughout the day.

Scorpio

Your love life will flourish like never before. New and humongous changes in the business will definitely bring new finances hence new investments that you can make will lead to a lot of happiness in your family. Also be prepared for a lot of positive surprises. Be open to the affection being shown to you.

Sagittarius

Finances will work in your favor this week and so will luck. New business opportunities will arise and will prove beneficial for you in the future. You might experience some minor gains in your finances which will take you off guard since it is a very minute gain and nothing you can celebrate about it will not keep you extremely happy all day. Take time to reflect and analyze the situation and learn from it so that you can a major gain now.

Capricorn

Your love life is progressing rapidly. Taking the next step will be a good idea this week as Venus stands in the support of your sign. Your property disputes that have been stuck for a long time will be resolved. You will not need to worry about any obstacles with this dispute as everything will go smoothly.

Aquarius

Your energies will be high this week, which is rare for your sign. It is a good day for you to relax, reflect and enjoy. If you're single, you'll come across many new love interests. If you're in a relationship, you will feel blessed to have your partner this week. As they will be your biggest support system through all thick and thin.

Pisces

Your week will be amazing and adventurous. You will try new things and take risks, all of which will turn out to be in your benefit. This week is full of professional growth, career satisfaction, business development for you. Your relationships will be similarly amazing this week. Oh! what a beautiful week it is for you this week. Take full advantage this week for your personal as well as your professional growth and don't forget to enjoy thoroughly.

BIRTHDAY HOROSCOPE : 9TH AUGUST TO 15TH AUGUST 2021

By Astro Friend Chirag - Blessed Son of Astrologer Bejan Daruwalla : www.bejandaruwalla.com

CONTD FROM PAGE 30

Aug 9

You feel at ease and in a settled place with your partner today. No need to hurry or rush up things. You will not feel insecure at all regarding your love life today. Your partner will be able to help you regarding that as well. You will get some good advice from your partner listen to them carefully as their advice will be very helpful for your business growth.

Aug 10

You will be successful in a lot of high-end work which will require you to work very hard. Be cautious about them. Only take risks if they are well calculated and strategized. New opportunities will come to you but in a very unconventional and hidden manner. Be aware yet open-minded, with the new opportunities you receive today.

Aug 11

You will receive a lot of profit in your business today simply because of your outsourced work. Your relationship with your partner will improve too. You will have to block out any negative thoughts you face

today. Today is full of joy for you, you will be hopping and skipping in happiness because of a lot of love and appreciation from your partner which will set a very positive tone for today for you. Today will be only about receiving love and feeling absolutely at home with your family.

Aug 12

You are extremely lucky today especially when it comes to the amount of love you will receive today. Be open to the affection being shown to you. Today is a great day for your relationship as you and your partner grow closer today. You need to start eating more nutritious foods to feel better than you do right now. You will realize today that your stamina is as high as you anticipated. Plan on starting to do strength training.

Aug 13

You will earn a lot of respect and appreciation from a new prospect and all of your colleagues 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. A very productive day is on its way for you today. You will have a lot of work to do, which you will thoroughly enjoy.

Aug 14

You will be very motivated today as your luck will push you to do a lot of work. Being able to fulfill today's task might increase your self-confidence today which will last much longer than just a day. Your stars are in your favor when it comes to your health. Your health will not bother you today and does not need your time and attention. That doesn't mean you need not do anything and stay physically inactive.

Aug 15

You will receive a lot of compliments from all of the people at your workplace regarding the new promotion at work. You will be in the pink of your health as well. You need to focus on being healthy and leave behind your bad and irregular eating habits. You are most likely to take a huge further step with your partner today and seal your fate with them. You will learn a lot about your partner as you spend more and more time together, which will make you fall in love with them even more. Your love life is at the back of your priority today.

|| SHREE GANESHAY NAMA ||



Know/Buy your Lucky Gemstones

From the House of Astrologer Bejan Daruwalla

To buy any Gemstone, visit www.BejanDaruwalla.com

Contact us for all kind of Astrology Services

Call/ Whatsapp **+91 8141234275**

Email: info@bejandaruwalla.com



World Famous Astrologer Bejan Daruwalla



Nastur Bejan Daruwalla

Shekhar Mehta of India selected to be 2021-22 Rotary International President



Shekhar Mehta, of the Rotary Club of Calcutta-Mahanagar, West Bengal, India, is the selection of the Nominating Committee for President of Rotary International for 2021-22.

Mehta acknowledges that current membership trends are a challenge and says that membership development should be Rotary's highest priority. He believes that focusing on regional plans, successfully transitioning Rotaractors into Rotary clubs, and increasing diversity and female members could yield a 5 percent net growth in membership each year.

"A major brainstorming is needed to find effective solutions suited to different areas of the world," says Mehta. He adds that regional ethos and culture have to be taken into account to find localized solutions, as "one size does not fit all." He believes Rotary can extend to new geographical areas and countries.

As a strong proponent of Rotary's strategic plan, Mehta says he will encourage clubs to use action plans and reinforce the core values of Rotary.

Mehta says Rotary needs to become more contemporary and adaptable by focusing on partnerships with governments and corporations,

expanding partnerships with organizations that specialize in Rotary's areas of focus, and investing in technology.



Wife Rashi Mehta and Shekhar Mehta at a virtual meeting

Mehta, an accountant, is chair of the Skyline Group, a real estate development company he founded. He is also a director of Operation Eyesight Universal (India), a Canada-based organization.

Mehta has been actively involved in disaster response and is a trustee of ShelterBox, UK. After the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami, he helped build nearly 500 homes for families affected by the disaster.

Mehta pioneered a program that has performed more than 1,500 life-changing heart surgeries in South Asia. He is also the architect of the TEACH Program, which promotes literacy throughout India and has reached thousands of schools.

A Rotary member since 1984, Mehta has served Rotary as director, member or chair of several committees, zone coordinator, training leader, member of The Rotary Foundation Cadre of Technical Advisers, and district governor. He is also the chair of Rotary Foundation (India).

Mehta has received Rotary's Service Above Self Award and The Rotary Foundation's Citation for Meritorious Service and Distinguished Service Awards.

He and his wife, Rashi, are Major Donors and members of the Bequest Society.

RI President's Message - July 2021

I wish each of you and your families a great Rotary New Year! Together, let us make it the best year of our lives, by making it a year to grow more and do more. Let this be a year of changemakers, and let us begin with our membership.

That is precisely why the Each One, Bring One initiative is so important. During this year, I urge you to dream of new ways in which Rotary can expand its reach into your community and therefore the world. If each member introduces one person to Rotary, our membership can increase to 1.3 million by July 2022. So, let's just do it!

Imagine the change we, as Rotary members, can make when there are so many more of us! More people to care for others, more people to Serve to Change Lives. Think of the impact we can have through grow more, do more. More members will enable us to embark on bigger and bolder service projects. And each of us can also continue to serve in our own personal ways, responding to needs in our communities.

The beauty of Rotary is that service means different things to different people around the world. One element, however, that we can incorporate into all of our service initiatives is empowering girls. Unfortunately, even in this day and age, girls and young women face disproportionate challenges all over the world. We have the power to lead the charge for gender equality. Empowering girls and young women to have greater access to education, better health care, more employment, and equality in all walks of life should be embedded in every Rotary project we launch. Girls are

future leaders, so we must ensure that we help them shape their future.



*The biggest gift we are given
Is the power to touch a life,
To change, to make a difference
In the circle of life.
If we can reach out
With our hand, heart, and soul,
The magic will start to happen
As the wheel begins to roll.
Let's turn the wheel together
So all humanity thrives,
We have the power and the magic
To Serve to Change Lives.*

These are challenging times, and I compliment each of your efforts in grappling with COVID-19. No challenge is too big for Rotarians. The bigger the challenge, the more passionate the Rotarian. Look at what we can do when we take on a colossal challenge such as eradicating polio. Look at the millions of lives we improve by strengthening access to water, sanitation, and hygiene. Look at what we do every year to promote peace in places where it seems unimaginable. Our basic education and literacy programs have nation-building impact.

This year, let us challenge ourselves to do more such projects and programs that have national reach and impact. This year, let us Serve to Change Lives.

**Shekhar Mehta
President 2021-22**

'Global Digital Village with Indian Touch'

Ashok Vyas, Insight Features

Prasenjit Bhadra has the excitement and dynamism of a young man but he also demonstrates maturity of a senior person. The secret lies in his exposure to spiritual practices at an early age in Kolkata. Those visits to Ramkrishna Mission inculcated a sense of reverence for life and helped him realize ever expanding space to explore newness.

He is not new to the field of technology but what makes him unique is probably his will to address global issues with patented design. He has sustained openness in his approach to combine different streams of specialized knowledge to offer efficient solutions.

Prasenjit has served in over eight countries. He feels the US gives priority to Research and Development, lots of resources are deployed to focus on 'technological breakthroughs and this spirit is encouraging. When you interact with the founder and CEO of Raniel Systems, you feel like learning a few new terms.

is the edge of technology, like watching a fascinating film or reading a novel, it helps to be familiar with the



Prasenjit Bhadra, CEO & Founder, Raniel Systems

initial plot and basic terms like IoT or AI, which instantly flashes the space of 'Internet of Things' and 'Artificial Intelligence'. The story of the disruptive tech world is built on these and many such terms. So, get

ready to familiarize yourself with the introductory space of Raniel Systems from where different solutions are offered.

"Raniel Systems is established as an Industrial IOT platform engineering firm that specializes in real-time process automation by converging the cognitive AI and Edge computing runtime. The patented design of the edge native platform is branded as CognitIoT."

This convergence of Cognitive AI and Edge computing runtime is like a magical stream as far as the end user is concerned. Let us face it, your smartphone in your pocket is also full of multiple magic type applications. We enjoy using it, not knowing how it is happening.

Prasenjit is looking at engaging technology to serve mother earth. The vision of Raniel Systems is to accelerate cognitive IoT solutions that address emerging challenges with climate changes and sustainability.

Here is another important area, drawing the attention of those who want to make an impact by using digital footprints to dilute carbon footprints. The issue of mass adoption of Electrified Vehicles will play an important role in preserving our environment. Prasenjit is keen on creating

CONTD ON PAGE 43

Hartalika Teej

Hartalika Teej is a popular fast observed by Hindu women during the monsoon season. On this day, Lord Shiva and Goddess Parvati are worshipped for marital harmony. This year, the festival will be observed on August 11 (Wednesday).

While there are three important Teej festivals in India – Hartalika Teej, Hariyali Teej and Kajri Teej, Hartalika is celebrated with much fervour. On this day, women dress up, decorate their hands with henna and also observe a fast.

The word is made up of 'Harat' and 'Aalika' which means "abduction of a woman friend". According to a legend, Parvati's friend once took her into a thick forest forcefully so she could marry Lord Vishnu. However, that was not to be so.

According to Drik Panchang, on this day, devotees make statues of Lord Shiva and Goddess Parvati with sand and worship them. The word 'hartalika' is made up of two words 'harat' and 'aalika' which mean 'abduction' and 'female friend', respectively. According to Hindu mythology, a friend of Goddess Parvati had taken her to a forest so she could hide from her father who wanted her to marry Lord Vishnu, much against her wish.

If you are planning to sit down for puja, keep in mind that the morning time is ideal. Mostly, people start praying after taking an early bath, and getting dressed in fine clothes. The festival is celebrated with much enthusiasm by married women in the states of Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Bihar and Jharkhand. Besides Hartalika Teej, the two teej festivals which are celebrated in the Sawan and Bhadrapada months are: Hariyali Teej and Kajari Teej.

According to the legend associated with Hariyali Teej, Lord Shiva reminds Goddess Parvati about the number of times she took rebirths to win his heart. Mata Parvati had forgotten all that happened in the 107 previous births. Therefore Lord Shiva narrated the stories of her struggles, determination and perseverance to her. Mata Parvati took her 108th birth at the house of the King of Himalayas.

During this birth, Mata Parvati performed intense penance to win Lord Shiva's heart. She survived on dry leaves after giving up food and water. She braved harsh weather, hail and storm and continued with her penance. After seeing her undergo so much pain, her father was distraught.

A few days later, Devarshi Narada Muni visited her father's palace as Lord Vishnu's representative with a marriage proposal. After learning that Lord Vishnu has expressed his desire to marry his daughter, the father beamed with joy, but this news left Parvati devastated. Therefore, she sought one of her friend's help and hid in a thick forest. The king of Himalayas sent his soldiers to nook and corner, but all their efforts went in vain. Meanwhile, Lord Shiva appeared before Parvati and granted her the boon of having him as her husband. He also asked her to inform her father about her decision not to marry Lord Vishnu. Eventually, after learning about his daughter's desire, the father invited Lord Shiva and got Parvati married to him.

Therefore, on the day of Hariyali Teej (Tritiya Tithi, Shukla Paksha Shravan), women worship Lord Shiva and Parvati and seek their blessings for a blissful married life. It is also a special occasion for unmarried girls, who wish to marry the man of their choice.

Hariyali Teej dos

- Apply mehendi on your palms one day before the puja
- Next day, wake up early and take a bath
- Maintain celibacy
- Be prepared for the vrat. In case you have any existing medical condition, avoid keeping a vrat. You must keep yourself hydrated and well-nourished to prevent health issues.
- Dress up in your best fineries.
- Perform the puja and pray to Lord Shiva and Mata Parvati for yourself, your husband and everyone else whom you love.
- Enjoy yourself thoroughly as it is a day meant for making the most of the festivities.
- Listen to the Hariyali Teej Vrat Katha to learn essential life lessons.

Hariyali Teej don'ts



- Do not exert yourself if you are not in a position to keep a vrat. It is okay not to observe fast. Take part in the festivities and pray to the Gods wholeheartedly.
- It is a day to enjoy; therefore, do not take the stress. Make the most of the festivities and celebrate it with family.
- Do not let the akhand jyot (oil or ghee lamp) lit before the deity extinguish. Make sure it has sufficient fuel to remain ignited throughout the day.

Significance

The Tritiya Tithi (third day) in the month of Shravan, Shukla Paksha (waxing phase of the Moon) is believed to be the day when Lord Shiva had blessed Mata Parvati with the boon of choosing him as her husband. And since Mata Parvati's Tapasya bore fruits on this day, it is considered to be the day of her reunion with Lord Shiva. Goddess Parvati is also known as Shiva's Shakti, meaning strength.

Shiva and Shakti are inseparable, and therefore, unmarried girls wish for a husband of their choice, and married women pray for the well-being and long life of their husband. Thus by worshipping for their husband, women wish to remain Atal Suhagan (blissfully married forever).

And since Teej festivities are about celebrating the institution of marriage, women get dressed in their best fineries, primarily green in colour. Applying of Mehendi on the palms, wearing green-coloured bangles, swinging on Jhoolas hung from a tree or an open courtyard, singing and dancing all are an integral part of the celebrations. The colour green represents everlasting prosperity and auspiciousness, and hence the importance.

Parents of the married women send a gift pack for her and her in-laws. This gift is called Sindhara, and it contains new clothes, accessories, Ghewar (a type of sweet), mehendi etc. Therefore, Hariyali Teej is also known as Sindhara Teej or Shravan Teej since it falls in the month of Shravan. Women who hail from the states of Punjab, Rajasthan and Haryana.



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."

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

National Son's and Daughter's Day

National Son's and Daughter's Day on August 11th brings parents and their children together for quality time. On this day, be with the joys of your life.

Let your children know that you are glad they are part of your life. While listening to the events of their day, share family stories. Find out about their hopes and dreams. Learn what inspires them. Teach them something new, or maybe there's something they can teach you. Enjoy every day you have with them and spend as much quality time as you can.

Time with our children can be fleeting. Not only do they grow quickly, but their interests and needs change, too. Whether we realize it or not, sons and daughters look up to us. They emulate our behavior – the good and the bad. As much as times change, children don't. We craved our parent's approval and acceptance. Our children do, too.

Every child is different. Their personalities uniquely fitted to them. While one child devours books, another may deconstruct every electronic device in the house. The chatterbox keeps us awake on long road trips and the night owl keeps us alert to everything under the stars. No two are the same. That's exactly how it's supposed to be. Celebrate them and the parts they play in your family.

History

The origins of this day go back 1930s Missouri, according to National Today. A man in the town of St. Joseph "took up a young boy's cause" when the boy complained that his mom and dad had a day, so why shouldn't he have one too. The man spread the idea, and gradually it became popular over the years, until the 70s.

By 1945, the day reached its peak at 22 states with organizations participating in the event, says the National Day Calendar. In the following years, organizations like the Lions Club and women's auxiliaries would host Sons and Daughters Day within their local governments.

I haven't heard of Son and Daughter day, until recently – it's not even on my calendar. It's eerie that the days of appreciation for figures of authority are popular, but not the day youth is appreciated.

In 1972 Florida Congressman Claude pepper has allegedly put in a request for the U.S. Congress to officially recognize National Son and Daughter day, according to National Today. Claude Pepper had in mind to recognize George Paul, a hero of Pepper's from an old Texas rodeo, by attaching Paul's name to the holiday if it became official.

Son and Daughter day was also referenced in the Nanaimo Daily News, a Canadian Publication, in 1988 – according to National Today.

"Whatever the origins are, August 11 is a day for spending some quality time with your children. Do something that you all enjoy doing as a family and treasure those moments together," their website read.

Parents should let their children know that they are glad they are a part of their life, says the National Day Calendar.



Parents should share family stories, find out about their children's hopes and dreams and learn what inspires them. Parents could also teach their children something new, "or maybe there's something they can teach you," Enjoy as much quality time with them as you can.

It's unclear whether or not the day is official, so it's in the same boat as Opposite day.

Tell your parents, uncles, aunts, and grandparents that today is Son and Daughter day, and to mark their calendars for August 11 of each year.

TRADITIONS

National Son and Daughter Day is, of course, for spending time with your sons and daughters. It's tradition to do something as a family that you all enjoy doing. It could be going out for dinner, going to the movies, or going for a hike, it all depends on what your family likes to do.

Whatever activity you choose, it's a chance to cherish the time with your family and collect a few more memories. Family comes first, especially on National Son and Daughter Day.

ACTIVITIES

Take the day off

Depending on your particular workload, you might feel like you work more than you get to spend time with your family. To celebrate National Son and Daughter Day, try using up some of that paid time off or even take a sick day so you can do something fun with the kids. This is a day for quality time.

Make a special treat

It doesn't have to be a sugary snack or a messy project, either. You know what



your children love to eat and chances are there's even a favorite food that you can make together at home. Some fun and relatively healthy make-at-home snacks include tacos, peanut butter crackers or veggies and ranch dip. You could even go all-out with your kids and teach them to make a favorite dinner or opt for a treat with less cleanup and let the kids pick a restaurant for a special night out.

Spend time with your children

Whether your children are youngsters

at home or adults on their own, Son and Daughter Day is a great reminder to make time in your life to stay connected. Take your children out to a movie, meet up for a stroll through the park or sit down around the dinner table and really listen to what they have to say. Sometimes the best way to say "I love you" is by being available and letting the youngsters take the lead. Whatever your children like to do, you can rock this holiday by showing up with your natural excitement for their successes.

History This Week : August 6 to August 12, 2021

"IF HISTORY REPEATS ITSELF, AND THE UNEXPECTED ALWAYS HAPPENS, HOW INCAPABLE MUST MAN BE OF LEARNING FROM EXPERIENCE."- GEORGE BERNARD SHAW

August 6

AUGUST 6-10, 1787 - The Great Debate occurred during the Constitutional Convention. Outcomes included the establishment of a four-year term of office for the President, granting Congress the right to regulate foreign trade and interstate commerce, and the appointment of a committee to prepare a final draft of the Constitution.



August 6, 1945. The first Atomic Bomb was dropped over the center of Hiroshima at 8:15 a.m., by the American B-29 bomber Enola Gay

AUGUST 6, 1945 - The first Atomic Bomb was dropped over the center of Hiroshima at 8:15 a.m., by the American B-29 bomber Enola Gay. The bomb detonated about 1,800 ft. above ground, killing over 105,000 persons and destroying the city. Another estimated 100,000 persons later died as a result of radiation effects.

AUGUST 6, 1962 - Jamaica achieved independence after centuries of British and Spanish rule. During 150 years of Spanish rule, African slaves were first brought to the island. The British invaded in 1655 and the slave trade greatly expanded during the 1700s. Following the abolition of slavery in the 1830s, Jamaica remained a British colony.



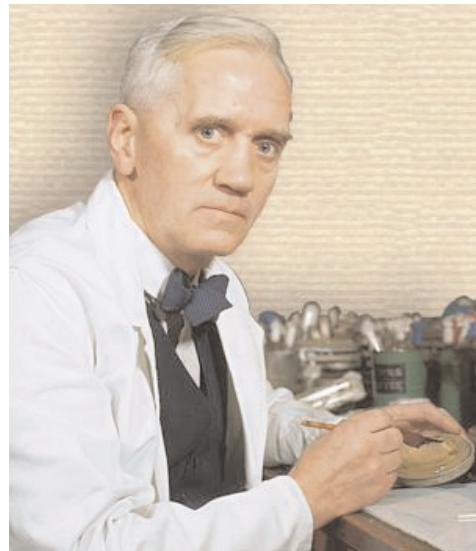
August 6, 1965. The Voting Rights Act of 1965 was signed into law by President Lyndon B. Johnson.

August 6, 1965 - The Voting Rights Act of 1965 was signed into law by President Lyndon B. Johnson. The Act suspended literacy, knowledge and character tests designed to keep African Americans from voting in the South. It also authorized the appointment of Federal voting examiners and barred discriminatory poll taxes. The Act was renewed by Congress in 1975, 1984 and 1991.



August 6, 1809. British poet Alfred Lord Tennyson (1809-1892) was born

BIRTHDAY - British poet Alfred Lord Tennyson (1809-1892) was born in Somersby, Lincolnshire, England. He was appointed Poet Laureate in succession to William Wordsworth. Memorable poems by Tennyson include Ode on the Death of the Duke of Wellington and The Charge of the Light Brigade.



August 6, 1881. Penicillin discoverer Alexander Fleming (1881-1955) was born

BIRTHDAY - Penicillin discoverer Alexander Fleming (1881-1955) was born in Lochfield, Scotland. By accident, he found that mold from soil killed deadly bacteria without injuring human tissue. He received the Nobel Prize in 1954.

August 7

AUGUST 7, 1964 - Following an attack on two U.S. destroyers in the Gulf of Tonkin off North Vietnam, the U.S. Congress approved the Gulf of Tonkin Resolution, granting President Lyndon B. Johnson authority "to take all necessary measures to repel any armed attack against the forces of the United States and to prevent further aggression."

AUGUST 7, 1990 - Just five days after the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, President

George Bush ordered Desert Shield, a massive military buildup to prevent further Iraqi advances.

BIRTHDAY - International spy Mata Hari (1876-1917) was born (as Margaret Gertrude Zelle) in Leewarden, Netherlands. Arrested by the French in 1917 as a German spy, she was tried, convicted and sentenced to death. At her execution, she refused a blindfold and instead threw a kiss to the French firing squad.



August 7, 1904. African American statesman and Nobel Prize recipient Ralph J. Bunche (1904-1971) was born

BIRTHDAY - African American statesman and Nobel Prize recipient Ralph J. Bunche (1904-1971) was born in Detroit, Michigan. In 1949, as a mediator for the United Nations, he helped bring an end to hostilities in the war between Israel and the Arab League.

August 8

AUGUST 8, 1945 - Soviet Russia declared war on Japan and sent troops into Japanese-held Manchuria.

BIRTHDAY - African American explorer Matthew Henson (1866-1955) was born in Charles County, Maryland. He accompanied Robert E. Peary on several Arctic expeditions and reached the North Pole on April 6, 1909.

August 9

AUGUST 9, 1945 - The second Atomic bombing of Japan occurred as an American B-29 bomber headed for the city of Kokura, but because of poor visibility then chose a secondary target, Nagasaki. About noon, the bomb detonated killing an estimated 70,000 persons and destroying about half the city.

AUGUST 9, 1974 - Effective at noon, Richard M. Nixon resigned the presidency as a result of the Watergate scandal. Nixon had appeared on television the night before and announced his decision to the American people. Facing possible impeachment by Congress, he became the only U.S. President ever to resign.



August 10, 1874. Herbert Hoover (1874-1964) the 31st U.S. President was born

August 10

BIRTHDAY - Herbert Hoover (1874-1964) the 31st U.S. President was born in West Branch, Iowa. He was the first President born west of the Mississippi.

August 11

AUGUST 11, 1841 - Frederick Douglass, an escaped slave, spoke before an audience in the North for the first time. During an anti-slavery convention on Nantucket Island, he gave a powerful, emotional account of his life as a slave. He was immediately asked to become a full-time lecturer for the Massachusetts Antislavery Society.

BIRTHDAY - Roots author Alex Haley (1921-1992) was born in Ithaca, New York. His Pulitzer Prize-winning novel, published in 1976, explored seven generations of his family from its origins in Africa through slavery in America and eventual hard-fought freedom. Roots was translated into 37 languages and also became an eight-part TV miniseries in 1977 which attracted a record American audience and raised awareness concerning the legacy of slavery.

August 12

AUGUST 12, 1676 - King Philip's War ended with the assassination of Metacomb, leader of the Pokanokets, a tribe within the Wampanoag Indian Federation. Nicknamed 'King Philip' by colonists, he led a Native American uprising against white settlers which resulted in a war that raged for nearly two years, now known as King Philip's War.



August 12, 1881. Film pioneer Cecil B. DeMille (1881-1959) was born

BIRTHDAY - Film pioneer Cecil B. DeMille (1881-1959) was born in Ashfield, Massachusetts. He produced over 70 major films including Cleopatra, The Ten Commandments, and The Greatest Show on Earth.

Road trips to explore the best of Western Ghats

A 1,200 km long mountain range with endemic flora and fauna interspersed with green plantations and splendid hill stations- the Western Ghats of India hide many gems of destinations.

Recognized as one of the world's eight "hottest hotspots" of biological diversity and as a UNESCO listed World Heritage Site, the place attracts various kinds of travelers every year and offers them an experience like no other.

To slowly familiarize yourself with these mountain ranges, here is a list of some destinations you can visit to explore the best of the Western Ghats.

Madikeri, Coorg (Karnataka)

If you're someone who dreams of reconnecting with nature and in turn yourself during the upcoming getaway, then Coorg is just the right destination for you. Lush green landscapes.

Aromatic tea and coffee plantations. Magnificent waterfalls. Mouth-watering cuisine. Misty hills. Exotic flora and fauna. Be it the food lover in you or the curious geographer, the wandering traveller or the nature enthusiast- Coorg is a gem that attracts thousands every year, leaving them with no other option other than to pay a visit to the place.

Alternatively known as the 'Scotland of India', Madikeri is a picturesque hill town in Southern India. Framed by the Western Ghats range, it is an extremely beautiful plantation town with rich culture and warm locals. With its haven of dense forests, misty peaks, magnificent waterfalls and soothing streams- it offers a heavenly retreat from a cluttered life.

You can spend the day walking around Chikli Hole or stay at cozy homestays and meet great hosts. You can try the amazing cuisine or go waterfall-hopping, spending a day mesmerized by all the beauties. A trip to Coorg is the relaxing long drive that will put you in a good mood.

Mahabaleshwar (Maharashtra)

Mahabaleshwar is a hill station in India's forested Western Ghats range, south of Mumbai. The beautiful hill station has something to offer to everyone.

For the adventurous spirits, you have the option of going jungle trekking in unique hamlets like Tapola. To calm your spirit and encounter a soothing ambiance, you can ride a shikhara in the Venna Lake, as you watch the sun paint a

million hues on the blue canvas. If you are a history buff or want to take a trip down the nostalgia lane, you can always visit popular heritage sites like Pratapgad Fort and the Mahabaleshwar Temple. To get some picture-perfect frames for your Instagram posts, elevated viewing points, such as Arthur's Seat or nature's beauties like Lingmala Waterfall provide the perfect muse.

The famous strawberries of Mahabaleshwar, the centuries-old forts, the soothing rivers, and culturally rich temples- be it a nature-lover, a budding photographer; an artist searching for inspiration or a frequent trekker, Mahabaleshwar, its scenic beauty and its mountains offer a home to everyone. Once you get a taste of this place, you would not want to come back.

Mollem (Goa)

Goa is the go-to destination for most people when you want to enjoy all the benefits of the modern world and have the time of your life. Very few people associate Goa with a place that can help one seek spirituality, oneness, and proximity to nature.

However, Mollem is a small village in Goa that serves the purpose of breaking all these predetermined notions. Situated in South India on National Highway 4 near the border with Karnataka in the foothills of the Sahyadri Mountain range at the beginning of Anmod Ghat- Mollem is a place that introduces you to stunning waterfalls and rich, wild forests.

It is the primary entry point for Bhagwan Mahaveer Sanctuary and Mollem National Park. If you plan to visit Goa anytime soon, you cannot miss out on the opportunity to visit this place. The sanctuary spread over an area of 240 sq. km, it is home to an impressive diversity of flora and fauna and ancient temples. It takes you to the breath-taking Dudhsagar Falls. A drive through this forest will certainly rejuvenate your senses and make you look forward to the next day, even more.



Kalpetta, Wayanad (Kerala)

Kalpetta is the main town in Wayanad and one that attracts travelers every year but hasn't been affected by excessive commercialization yet. It is all about its beautiful countryside, magnificent waterfalls, green landscapes, tea-gardens, and rich flora and fauna. Wayanad literally means 'Land of Paddy Fields' and brings out the true beauty of Kerala. It is the ideal place to be in for a serene drive amidst beauty of a kind.

Coonoor (Tamil Nadu)

Coonoor is one of those unexplored gems that will leave you spellbound. Completely surrounded by Nilgiri Hills, the region is mainly known for its tea plantations and mystical beauty. To get a taste of Coonoor, drive through the beautiful roads hugging the hills with a mesmerizing view of tea plantations around you. Drive to Kotagiri or Ooty or head up into the hills and take the toy train or the century-old mountain railway up the hills.



Tokyo 2020: Is China a new force in sports? USA fighting hard to retain its no 1 position



BY PRABHJOT SINGH

COUNTRY	GOLD	SILVER	BRONZE	TOTAL
1 CHINA	34	24	16	74
2 USA	30	35	27	92
3 JAPAN	22	10	14	46
4 AUSTRALIA	17	06	19	42
65 INDIA	00	02	03	05

As the 32nd Olympic Games enter their final phase of competitions, China is fast emerging as a new force in sports, pushing the traditional leader USA to the second spot.

On Day 13, China was at the top of the table with 32 gold medals and a total of 71 - the same aggregate it had in Rio with 26 gold. The USA that achieved a rare 1000th gold medal mark in Rio had finished at the top of the tally in 2016 with 46 gold medals and an aggregate of 121 medals.

But this time the US till day 13 won only 27 gold medals and a total of 83 medals.

Besides China, Japan, maybe as a host, has already surpassed its Rio tally and was placed at number three with 21 gold in a total of 40 medals.

Though the competitions are being held with stands empty, there is no let up in excitement that this mega sporting event carries with it. Records are being smashed or rewritten and a number of new champions have been thrown up.

China's newly acquired sports supremacy goes across almost all sports and games as it has won laurels in its traditional strongholds of gymnastics, diving, swimming, table tennis and badminton besides making rapid inroads in shooting, weightlifting and also athletics.

Another noticeable feature of the games this time has been the position of Russia. It is perhaps the only superpower that is competing in the games here under the name of its Olympic committee Russian Olympic Committee.

Canada got its fourth gold medal, and first for men,

when Andre de Gasse won the 200 m sprint. Otherwise Canada has 16 medals so far.

India were trailing at 60 plus position in the medals tally with a silver and three bronze medals. The last bronze came from men's hockey.

For India, the games have become special as Indian men's hockey team after a grueling 41 cruise finally got its foot back on the podium by winning a bronze medal. India beat four times Olympic champions Germany 5-4 in a pulsating bronze medal match. Last time India beat Germany for bronze medal was in Mexico 1968 where India had won 2-1.

Indian women, too, made it to the medal round and were to play the defending champions Great Britain for the bronze.

India is keeping its hopes on javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra, who in the qualification round cleared 86.56 m. Another gold or silver medal hopeful was wrestler Ravi Kumar Dahiya as he had made the gold medal round.

Coming to some of the exciting events of the games so far has been an incredible race run by Karsten Warholm of Norway in the 400 m hurdles final. The world record holder broke his own record in the astounding time of 45.94 sec. Second placed Rai Benjamin of the USA also broke the oldworldrecord.

Elaine Thompson of Jamaica did a rare double double. She won 100 m and 200 m sprints in 2 Olympics, Rio 2016 and Tokyo 2020.

Armand Duplantis of Sweden, the world record holder, won the men's Pole Vault event at Tokyo Olympics 2020 with a height clearance of 6.02 m. He attempted to create a new world record of 6.19 m but did not succeed.

Armand Duplantis is also the World Pole Vault record holder, both outdoors and indoors. He is only 21.

Christine Mboma of Namibia who won a silver medal in 200 m sprint for women with a time of 21.81 sec is only 18 years and 2 months old. Her time of 21.81 sec. is now a new under 20 Worldrecord.

Athing Mu of the USA who won the Gold medal in 800 m for women is only 19 years and 25 days old. Her time

1:55.26 sec, a new National record.

Extraordinary Race



American Sydney McLaughlin Breaks World Record in 400m Hurdles at Olympics

Sydney McLaughlin (21) of the USA shattered the World and Olympic records in 400 m Hurdles (women) with a time of 51.46 sec. Rio Olympics champion, D. Muhammad of USA who won the Silver medal in a career best 51.58 sec also bettered her Olympic record. F. Bol of Netherlands won the Bronze in a time of 52.03 sec.

Kenya won Gold and Silver in 800 m for men while Poland finished third.

Poland also won Gold and Bronze in Hammer throw men and Norway got the Silver Medal.

22-year-old Peruth Chemutai of Uganda was a clear winner in women's 3000 m Steeplechase (women) as the USA and Kenya finished second and third.

Andre de Grasse of Canada finally won a Gold in 200 m for men by returning an excellent time of 19.62 sec. Before this race Andre had been finishing second or third as he did in the 100 m sprint earlier in the games. Finally, he has broken the jinx.

K. Bednarek (19.68) and N. Lyles (19.74), both of the USA, finished second and third respectively.

TOKYO 2020: INDIA MEN BEAT GERMANY IN A THRILLER TO CLAIM FIRST OLYMPIC MEDAL IN 41 YEARS

Atlantic struggle spread a little over four decades and which took India across different continents has scripted success for once world leaders in hockey, India.

Eight times gold medalist, India has got its foothold back on the Olympic podium, this time for a bronze medal, its third. Last time India beat Germany for the bronze medal was in Mexico in 1968 where they won 2-1.

The victory this time, however, was exciting as India overcame 0-1 and 1-3 goal deficits to finally emerge 5-4 winner against four times Olympic champion Germany.

India scripted history in one of the most dramatic bronze medal matches in Olympic hockey.

The sensational 5-4 victory over Die Honamas was instrumental in sealing India's place on the podium. The win was masterminded by new and old faces together as Simranjeet Singh (2), Harmanpreet Singh, Rupinder Pal Singh and Hardik Singh got their names written in golden letters in the history books. Their goals denied Germany a medal at a fourth successive Olympic Games (Gold: Beijing 2008, London 2012, and Bronze: Rio 2016).

Timur Oruz put Germany into the lead just two minutes into the contest after India failed to clear its defensive lines before Simranjeet Singh levelled the scores early in the second quarter with a fierce



Indian men's hockey team defeat Germany to clinch bronze, win medal after 41 years

backhand strike.

Simranjeet's effort was the first of five goals in the second quarter, with Germany dominating to open up a fully deserved 3-1 lead thanks to goals from Niklas Wellen and Benedikt Furk before India hit a quick-fire double through Hardik Singh and the exceptional Harmanpreet Singh to take the score to 3-3 at half time.

India's momentum was not interrupted by the half time break, with Rupinder Pal Singh scoring a penalty stroke before Simranjeet Singh chipped home a fifth to put the eight-times Olympic gold medalists into a commanding 5-3 lead going into the final quarter.

Germany have proven time and time again that it never knows when it is beaten, and set about the task of attempting a comeback with typical determination. It

reduced the deficit 12 minutes from time when Lukas Windfeder slammed home a low penalty corner, setting up a dramatic climax to the contest.

Die Honamas threw everything they had at their opponents and were given one final chance to salvage the contest when they were awarded a penalty corner with just six seconds remaining. However, the drag-flick from the top of the circle was brilliantly saved by India goalkeeper PR Sreejesh, becoming the hero that sealed India's bronze medal here at the Olympic Games Tokyo 2020.

"That is something which I never felt in my life until today", said Sreejesh after the match. "That's a great feeling. I think I need to go back to my home to realize what it is actually. Just waiting for that. I just called my dad because he was the reason behind me being here and I just wanted to tell him that I achieved it."

India captain Manpreet Singh said: "I don't know what to say right now. It was fantastic, the way we played today. I think we deserved this medal as we have worked so hard, and the last 15 months has been so difficult for us, being in Bangalore away from our families. From the whole team and the coaches, we would like to dedicate this medal to our doctors and front-line warriors who have been checking us and saved so many people's lives in India."

It was a heart-breaking finish to the contest for Germany and its legendary captain Tobias Hauke, with the double Olympic gold medalist unable to add a second bronze to that which he collected at Rio 2016 during the final match of his extraordinary playing career.

CONTD FROM PAGE 38

Elaine Thompson-Herah completes a second double



Jamaica's Elaine Thompson-Herah successfully defends Olympic 200-metre title

Elaine Thompson-Herah was in a class of her own, winning the 200m Olympic gold medal in a time of 21.53 seconds, with Namibian Christine Mboma taking silver. Gabby Thomas of the U.S. rounded off the podium in third place.

Mboma became only the second Namibian to win a medal at the Olympic Games clocking a new world under-20 record of 21.81, with Thomas following shortly on her heels for the bronze medal, clocking 21.87.

Only two nights earlier, Thompson-Herah raced to a new Olympic record in the 100m final to keep her hopes of a second sprinting double alive.

Thompson-Herah highlighted her imperious form in the half-lap sprint event posting the second-fastest time in history, just 0.19 short of the world record the iconic Florence Griffith-Joyner set at the Seoul 1988 Olympic Games.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Prabhjot Paul Singh, better known as Prabhjot Singh, is a veteran all round journalist with over 40 years of experience of working with print and electronic media, including 37 years with The Tribune - the oldest and largest circulated English daily of North India. He had also worked as Executive Editor, PTC News, the world's largest Punjabi TV network, for more than 8 years.

He did his M.Sc. in Journalism from PAU, Ludhiana, MA (Eng) and BSc (Medical) from Panjab University, Chandigarh, and Bachelor of Journalism from Punjabi University, Patiala.

The man with solid ethical core, integrity, strong communication skills with knowledge of English, Urdu, Punjabi, Hindi, German, French as well as courageous attitude and analytic mind had won KK Birla Foundation Fellowship on Media and Terrorism and also KC Kulish (Rajasthan) award for Excellence in International Journalism.

In fact, he had been a pioneer in introducing the concept of sports page in Jalandhar (vernacular) newspapers in February 1975, months before he was offered a job as a Sports Reporter by The Tribune group of newspapers.

In 2012, Vienna based International Press Institute (IPI) recognized his commitment to promote free exchange of accurate, balanced news among nations and for Excellence in Journalism, for publishing an investigative series into the loot of the public transport system in Punjab-by-Punjab politicians, he was awarded IPI-India award.

The Sunday magazine section of The Tribune from Chandigarh dated 25 November 1984, carried an article titled "Profile of an assassin", which is his most recognized work.

Though he has many feathers in his cap yet efforts to make IXC(Chandigarh airport)active will be remembered always as a blessing for Punjabi diaspora. His tireless pen had made Chandigarh airport as Chandigarh International Airport. He had raised issues related to IXC at various platforms.

His love for sports can be witnessed from his travels to six summer Olympic games, one winter Olympic games, seven World Cups in Hockey, FIFA World Cup in 2006, besides three World Cups in Cricket, and two editions of Pan Am Games (Toronto and Lima). He has also covered Asian Games (New Delhi and Jakarta) and Commonwealth games in Melbourne and New Delhi. Also, he has been to many other important international events and did spectacular stories of human interest.



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
Phone: 646-247-9458 Fax: 347-632-0001 email: editor@theindianpanorama.com

www.theindianpanorama.news



Nadal loses to 50th-ranked Lloyd Harris

If Rafael Nadal was hoping to ease his painful left foot back into action after nearly two months off tour, that's hardly what happened in his Citi Open debut, which ended after just two matches.

A night after needing three sets and more than three hours to get by, Nadal was eliminated 6-4, 1-6, 6-4 by 50th-ranked Lloyd Harris of South Africa under the lights on Thursday, August 5, at the hard-court tournament.

Harris hit 16 aces and took advantage of Nadal's admittedly problematic serve.

The match ended when Nadal got broken for the second time, with Harris dropping his racket in disbelief after delivering a lob winner.

"I played this last game really bad," said Nadal, a 20-time Grand Slam champion who was seeded No. 1 in Washington. "My serve was not working the proper way."

This was less of a physical tug-of-war between a pair of heavy hitters than Nadal's victory over 192nd-ranked Jack Sock on Wednesday.

The one bit of good news for Nadal on Thursday was that he said his injured foot felt better.

About 3 1/2 hours before entering the U.S. Open tuneup's main stadium to face Harris, Nadal had made his way to tiny Court 5 for a training session.

As fans shouted "Vamos, Rafa!" and snapped photos and video with their phones from the stands at an adjacent court, Nadal didn't do much running, mostly staying in place while hitting groundstrokes and practicing volleys, serves and returns for 45 minutes with Emilio Gomez, a 29-year-old from Ecuador who is ranked 165th and lost in the Citi Open's first round.

Not at all taxing by Nadal's usual exacting and exhausting standards.

India top order falter on Day 2 as Anderson strikes

NOTTINGHAM (TIP): The wily old James Anderson once again got his "bunny" Virat Kohli in a mesmerising spell that undid India's solid opening stand to leave them tottering at 125 for four against England on a rain-curtailed day two of the opening Test.

The 39-year-old Anderson (13.4-7-15-2) swung it in England's favour with successive precision deliveries that got Cheteshwar Pujara (4) and Virat Kohli (0) as India from 97 for no loss slumped to 112 for four in a space of less than six overs.

The in-from KL Rahul (57 batting off 151 balls) is still standing tall amid ruins alongside Rishabh Pant (7 batting) but the advantage that India got in the opening session was neutralised by Anderson's spell and the pressure also led to an unfortunate run-out of Ajinkya Rahane (5).

Rahul's classy Test match batting would surely be a relief for the Indian team management after the talented Karnataka batsman lost his place in the longest formats due to a prolonged bad patch.

He could have also been Anderson's third victim but was dropped in the slips, his only batting glitch on the day.

The nine fours, mostly drives, were majestic and the control over his own mind while selecting the bad balls under overcast conditions was exemplary.

But Anderson did take the cake on the day the pacer with the highest number of Test matches under his belt (163rd game) equalled Anil Kumble's record of 619 scalps. He matched Kumble's record after fooling the Indian captain once again in the corridor of uncertainty.

It was a fuller delivery that Kohli played for the inswinger but it held its line to take a healthy edge into Jos Buttler's gloves. Both Kohli and Anderson would have a sense of déjà vu thinking about what happened in 2014.

A ball before, the artist was at work as he got Pujara forward with one that was shaping into him in the air but deviated



England's James Anderson celebrates the dismissal of Indian skipper Virat Kohli. (ANI Photo)

away when he pressed forward for Buttler to take a low catch.

The manner of dismissal is sure to increase the cobwebs in Pujara's mind as this series is certainly going to have a bearing on his international future.

The delivery could have got any batter out but Pujara's 16-ball, 17-minute brief stay did indicate that he is under tremendous pressure.

He could have been dismissed earlier by Ollie Robinson (15-5-32-1) when he shouldered arms to a straight delivery but the height factor came to his rescue.

However, Indian team had one of its best opening stands in recent tours of England before Rohit Sharma's (36 off 107 balls) now familiar propensity to pull brought about his downfall at the stroke of lunch.

The opening duo did well enough to keep the four-pronged home team attack at bay but Rohit's attempt to dispatch Robinson's short ball behind the square leg boundary didn't quite work out as he threw it away after doing all the hard work.

The partnership certainly put England

on the back-foot with a deep point being stationed at times to stop the flow of boundaries.

They patiently waited for the loose deliveries and played some delightful drives, keeping the scoreboard ticking with Rahul blending his caution and aggression in equal measure to remain undefeated.

Their gameplan was simple and that was to see off the first hour with minimum risks. Rohit, in particular, showed his technical prowess getting right behind the moving deliveries.

He was ready to play the waiting game, something that's not exactly his characteristic, showing how badly he wants to get a significant score in overseas conditions.

But when the opportunity presented itself, he did show Robinson as to why he is rated so highly amongst his peers with a superb back-drive and when required opened his bat face to glide it between point and gully or flick one off his hips.

Source: PTI

Lionel Messi to leave FC Barcelona, club says

MADRID (TIP): Six-time Ballon d'Or winner Lionel Messi will leave Barcelona despite both parties having reached an agreement over a new contract, the La Liga club said on Thursday, citing economic and structural obstacles to the renewal of the deal.

Messi, who joined Barca's youth set-up aged 13, is the club's all-time top scorer and appearance maker with 672 goals in 778 games in all competitions.

The Argentina forward was free to negotiate a transfer with other clubs after his deal ran out at the end of June, but Barcelona had always maintained he wanted to stay with the club.

Messi, who has spent his whole career at Barcelona, had been expected to sign a new five-year deal with the Catalan club, which would have included a salary

reduction of 50%.

Barcelona needed to financially restructure in order to get the deal over the line, which proved impossible in the end as they failed to reduce their wage bill in order and stay within La Liga's Financial Fair Play regulations.

La Liga chief Javier Tebas said last month that Barcelona, who have a total debt of more than 1 billion euros (\$1.18 billion), would not be shown any leniency when it comes to obeying the league's strict financial control rules.

The news of Messi's exit comes a day after La Liga agreed in principle to sell 10% of a newly formed company housing most of its business to private equity firm CVC Capital Partners for 2.7 billion euros (\$3.2 billion).

"Despite FC Barcelona and Lionel Messi having reached an agreement and

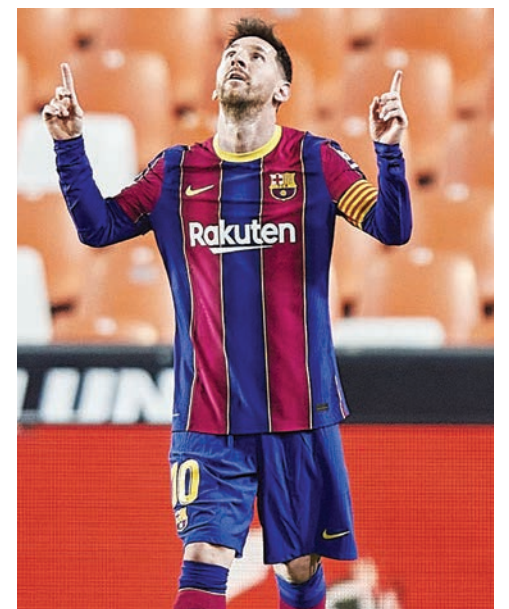
the clear intention of both parties to sign a new contract today, this cannot happen because of financial and structural obstacles (Spanish La Liga regulations)," Barca said in a statement.

"As a result of this situation, Messi shall not be staying on at FC Barcelona. Both parties deeply regret that the wishes of the player and the club will ultimately not be fulfilled.

"FC Barcelona wholeheartedly expresses its gratitude to the player for his contribution to the aggrandisement of the club and wishes him all the very best for the future in his personal and professional life." FREE AGENT MESSI

Messi's last contract, signed in 2017, was the most lucrative in world sport according to a January report in newspaper El Mundo.

Source: Reuters



contd from page 1

Calls to resign grow even as a defiant Cuomo denies allegations

That is what I'm doing today." Cuomo denied the allegations. "First, I want you to know directly from me that I never touched anyone inappropriately or made inappropriate sexual advances," the governor said in response to the report. "I am 63 years old. I have lived my entire adult life in public view. That is just not who I am." Cuomo did not say whether he would resign, but he did say he would "not be distracted" from doing his job by the allegations.

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-CA), Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-NY), and other Capitol Hill lawmakers, such as New York Democratic Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand have also called for Cuomo's resignation.

New York State Assembly Speaker Carl Heastie said New York state lawmakers were taking impeachment action.

"Once we receive all relevant documents and evidence from the Attorney General, we will move expeditiously and look to conclude our impeachment investigation as quickly as possible," Heastie said.

Meanwhile, Cuomo says it's about politics.

"Politics and bias are interwoven throughout every aspect of this situation," Cuomo said.

Black, Latino, and Asian Caucus called on Governor Cuomo to resign.

"The findings disclosed today by the State Attorney General's Office leave no doubt that Governor Cuomo committed sexual harassment, cultivated a workplace culture that was hostile to the women under his employ, and retaliated against those who spoke out against his abusive behavior.

Governor Cuomo's continued denial of wrongdoing in the face of these disclosures do a disservice to the people of New York, as it is apparent that he violated the law, betrayed the public trust, and failed to uphold the values and principles that we as a society value.

He has lost all credibility and must resign immediately.

Sadly, despite the many revelations that have come to light over the past several years about similar misconduct, women continue to be subject to various forms of physical, verbal, and psychological abuse in the workplace. Worse, those who courageously dare to challenge their abusers face the prospect of both personal and professional ruin for such bravery.

Sexual harassment in any setting simply cannot be tolerated, and we have a moral obligation to be vigilant against all acts of misogyny whenever and wherever they occur."

Senator Gaughran commented: "The Attorney General's findings of sexual harassment and violations of New York State's sexual harassment policy are credible and deeply troubling. I thank the women who bravely spoke out about the Governor's reprehensible conduct.

In the best interest of the state, the Governor should resign."

Mayor Bill de Blasio, on August 3, released the following statement on the release of Attorney General James' report:

"My first thoughts are with the women who were subject to this abhorrent behavior, and their bravery in stepping forward to share their stories. The Attorney General's detailed and thorough report substantiates many disturbing instances of severe misconduct. Andrew Cuomo committed sexual assault and sexual harassment and intimidated a whistleblower. It is disqualifying.

"It is beyond clear that Andrew Cuomo is not fit to hold office and can no longer serve as Governor. He must resign, and if he continues to resist and attack the investigators who did their jobs, he should be impeached immediately."

Cuomo Should Face Criminal Charge, De Blasio said.

"If you assault a woman, if you do something against her will sexually, that's criminal," Mayor Bill de Blasio said on "CBS This Morning."

The fallout from a bombshell sexual harassment probe against Gov. Andrew Cuomo shouldn't just end in the governor's resignation or impeachment, Mayor Bill de Blasio said.

De Blasio said Cuomo - his bitter rival who sexually harassed or assaulted 11 women, according to a 165-page report - should face a criminal charge.

"If you assault a woman, if you do something against her will sexually, that's criminal," de Blasio said Wednesday on "CBS This Morning." "And the Albany County District Attorney is looking at that and I think he should be charged."

Hours after de Blasio's comment, Manhattan prosecutors announced they'll look into accusations Cuomo committed misconduct in Manhattan.

The Manhattan D.A. is at least the third prosecutor's office to start investigating Cuomo after Attorney General Letitia James released the misconduct report Tuesday. Westchester County's D.A. said Wednesday she would investigate Cuomo over a state trooper's assertion that the governor tried to kiss her outside his home in Mount Kisco, and Albany County's prosecutor is looking into accusations there.

Cuomo denied accusations he harassed or groped women in a pre-taped video and report his office released.

But most lawmakers aren't buying Cuomo's denials - from President Joe Biden on down to New York City elected officials, they're calling for his resignation and, if he doesn't step down, removal from office by impeachment.

Perhaps the biggest sign of Cuomo's crumbling support was a statement from Jay Jacobs, the state's Democratic party chairman.

Jacobs said it appeared Cuomo, rather than resigning, "may seek to prolong the current situation."

"The facts presented make clear that there is a preponderance of evidence of both a toxic workplace and actual sexual harassment," Jacobs said. "I agree with the Attorney General. I believe the women. I believe the allegations. I cannot speak to the Governor's motivations.

What I can say is that the Governor has lost his ability to govern, both practically and morally. The Party and this State will not be well served by a long, protracted removal process designed only to delay what is now, clearly, inevitable."

De Blasio, in appearances after the sexual harassment report's release, lambasted Cuomo's alleged misconduct and character as a person.

"When you read this report, 11 women systematically wronged, 11 women confronted by a powerful guy who could crush their career, and their reputation, and he's the kind of guy that everyone assumes would if you crossed him," he said on "CBS This Morning."

Cuomo's assertions that he likes to hug people and instances of alleged groping are a generational misunderstanding didn't hold water with de Blasio.

"Putting your hand up a woman's shirt and touching their breast is not generational," he said on CBS. "I know plenty of guys who are older who would never in a million years do that. Talking to 20-something-year old women, asking them if they'd date an older guy and then leering at them - this is not acceptable behavior, it's not even close." (With inputs from agencies)

Pegasus allegations serious if true: Supreme Court of India; agrees to hear petitions seeking probe on Aug 10

The government said it does not maintain records of telephone interceptions under the existing laws. It regularly destroys records of lawful interceptions, it said in the Rajya Sabha.

There is no "prima facie" evidence to back allegations that phones were hacked by the government, says BJP

A Bench led by CJI NV Ramana said without the Union Government being present in the hearing, it can't proceed in the matter. The top court said it was surprising that the Pegasus issue came to light in 2019 and no one made any serious attempt to collect verifiable material about the snooping.

An international media consortium had reported that over 300 verified Indian mobile phone numbers were on the list of potential targets for surveillance using Pegasus spyware.

"Most PILs are based on newspaper clippings of national and international media," it noted even as it said, "No doubt that the allegations about Pegasus are serious, if the newspaper reports are correct... Truth has to come out, that's a different story. We don't know whose names are there."

The CJI said, "From what I read, this came to light in 2019. There was no serious concern then. We don't hold anybody at fault for that. The petitioners are resourceful, educated persons. We can't say what has been said by reputed journalists is merely hearsay or not believable."

The court repeatedly asked the petitioners to explain why no FIR or criminal complaint was filed under the relevant provisions of law if they

believed the allegations were true.

As it wondered why a number of petitions were being filed two years after the incident came to light, senior counsel Kapil Sibal, representing noted journalist N Ram, said the petitioners came to know about the gravity later.

Terming Pegasus as a "rogue technology which enters our lives without our knowledge," Sibal said, "Journalists, public figures, constitutional authorities, court officers and academics - all are targeted. The question the government has to answer is: Who purchased it? How much was spent? Where was the hardware placed?"

Senior advocates Arvind Datar, Rakesh Dwivedi, Meenakshi Arand, CU Singh and Shyam Divan - representing various petitioners - demanded an independent probe into the snooping scandal, terming it an invasion of privacy - a fundamental right declared by the court.

The top court was hearing nine petitions, including those filed by the Editors Guild of India and senior journalists N Ram and others, seeking an independent probe into the alleged snooping on eminent citizens, politicians and scribes by using Israeli firm NSO's spyware Pegasus.

Other petitioners are advocate ML Sharma, Rajya Sabha MP John Brittas, journalists Rupesh Kumar Singh and Paranjoy Guha Thakurta and others.

An international media consortium had reported that over 300 verified Indian mobile phone numbers were on the list of potential targets for surveillance using Pegasus spyware. It has also been reported that phones of a former judge of the Supreme Court and its registrars were allegedly intercepted using the spyware. The court pulled up advocate Sharma for filing the petition on the basis of newspaper clippings. "This is not the way of filing a PIL. We also read newspapers," it said. Meanwhile, Former Union Minister Yashwant Sinha on Thursday filed a petition in the top court seeking an SIT probe into the scandal. (With inputs from agencies)



contd from page 1

A real 'Chak De' moment for Indian hockey: Men's team wins Olympic medal after 41 years

The other two came in 1968 Mexico City and the 1972 Munich Games.

For world no.5 Germany, it was a heartbreak as they couldn't repeat their bronze medal winning feat of the 2016 Rio Games.

The Indians were slow to get off the blocks as Germany were the dominant side on display in the first quarter.

The Germans pressed hard on the Indian defense from the word go and took the lead in the second minute through Oruz.

India then secured a penalty corner in the fifth which was wasted.

Five minutes later, experienced goalkeeper PR Sreejesh came out of his line and closed down the angle to deny Mats Grambusch.

The Germans put relentless pressure on the Indian defense and seconds from first quarter, earned as many as four penalty corners which the Indians defended stoutly this time.

Manpreet's men came out with more purpose in the second quarter and upped their pace a bit and the ploy worked wonders as Simranjeet scored a brilliant goal with a reverse hit from top of the German circle after being fed by Nilakanta Sharma's pass from the midfield.

The Germans continued their attacking game and two minutes later Florian Fuchs brought Sreejesh again into the game, saving his reverse hit from a tight angle.

The Indian defense once again gave away the advantage to Germany, committing soft errors which resulted in two German goals in a span of two minutes.

Christopher Ruhr was the creator for Germany turning over from just outside the Indian circle and then slipped the ball onto Wellen who scored with a reverse hit past Sreejesh.

A minute later, another defensive lapse cost India dearly.

It was Surrender Kumar this time who was dispossessed just outside the Indian circle by the ever-pressing German forwards and Constantine Staib passed it on to Benedikt Furk, who made no mistake in finding the net.

Although stunned, India didn't lose hope and made a brilliant comeback soon by levelling the scores in a span of three minutes.

There was grit and determination writ large on the Indian faces and they succeeded in turning them into results.

In the 27th minute, India secured their second penalty corner and Hardik scored from a rebound after Harmanpreet Singh's flick was saved by German custodian Alexander Stadler.

Two minutes later, India secured their third penalty corner and this time, Harmanpreet was bang on target with a powerful flick past young Stadler to make a dramatic turnaround in the match.

Their confidence on an all-time high after the remarkable rally, the Indians came out all guns blazing after the change of ends and took the lead for the first time in the match when they were awarded a penalty stroke for a push on Mandeep Singh inside the circle.

Rupinder stepped up to gleefully grab the chance with both hands.

Three minutes later, India doubled their lead when Simranjeet scored his second goal of the day, tapping in Gurjant Singh's pass from the right to take a 5-3 lead.

India didn't stop there and secured three back-to-back penalty corners in the 41st minute but wasted all.

It was Germany's turn next as they got three penalty corners two minutes later but failed to breach the brave Indian defense, as the players put their bodies in line to deny Germany any opening.

Trailing by two goals, the Germans were expected to come hard on the Indian defense, and they did exactly that, securing another penalty corner three minutes into the final quarter and this time Windfeder put the ball into the net through the legs of Sreejesh to bring a goal back.

In the 51st minute, Mandeep Singh had a golden chance to restore their two goal lead from a one-on-one situation but he squandered the opportunity.

In search of the equalizer, the Germans put the Indian defense under immense pressure in the remaining minutes of the game, securing three more penalty corners but couldn't get past the determined back-line led by gigantic Sreejesh in front of the goal.

There was more drama in store as India conceded a penalty corner six seconds from the final hooter, but Sreejesh and the defense once again came to the side's rescue. (With inputs from PTI)

Centre unable to supply enough vaccines: Nobel laureate Abhijit Banerjee

sense is that the biggest problem is that the Centre is not capable of generating the supply of vaccines needed for the whole country. "We have not reached the promised level of supply," the economist said. He also said that West Bengal had effectively used the vaccines supplied by the Centre.

Ms. Banerjee also raised the issue of shortage of vaccines and accused the Centre of discriminating against West Bengal. "Gujarat is smaller in size but got double the vaccines. I don't have a problem [with this]. But I have a problem when we are not getting vaccines. People are suffering," she said.

She has also written a letter to Prime Minister Narendra Modi with the appeal that West Bengal should receive adequate doses of vaccines, according to its requirement.

The letter said: "I am sorry to say the Central government is providing large numbers of vaccine doses to States like Uttar Pradesh, Gujarat and Karnataka, which are BJP-ruled. I have no problem if they or any other state for that matter receives higher number of vaccine

doses, but I cannot remain a mute spectator to see Bengal deprived."

The Chief Minister in the communication said that West Bengal needs 14 crore doses of COVID-19 vaccines to cover all the people in relevant categories. "However, we have received 2.68 crore doses till day from Government of India," Ms. Banerjee said.

The Chief Minister also announced that the State government may open schools after Durga Puja, depending on the COVID-19 situation prevailing then. Ms. Banerjee said that schools could be opened on alternate days after the Pujas. (Source: PTI)

Delta variant now reported in 135 countries, global Covid-19 cases could exceed 200 million by next week: WHO

It said the cases of Alpha variant have been reported in 182 countries, territories or areas, while 135 countries have reported cases of the Delta variant, which was first identified in India.

The global number of new cases has been increasing for more than a month, with over 4 million cases reported in the past week-July 26 to August 1, the update said.

"This increasing trend is largely attributed to substantial increases in the Eastern Mediterranean and the Western Pacific Regions which reported 37 per cent and 33 per cent increases respectively as compared to the previous week, while the South-East Asia Region reported a 9 per cent increase," it said.

Overall, the number of deaths reported this week decreased by 8 per cent as compared to the previous week, with over 64,000 deaths reported.

However, the Western Pacific and Eastern Mediterranean Regions showed a sharp increase in new deaths as compared to the previous week, reporting 48 per cent and 31 per cent increases, respectively.

The cumulative number of cases reported globally is now nearly 197 million and the number of cumulative deaths is 4.2 million.

"If these trends continue, the cumulative number of cases reported globally could exceed 200 million by next week," the update said.

At the country level, the highest numbers of new cases in the past week were reported by the United States (543,420 new cases; 9 per cent increase), India (283,923 new cases; 7 per cent increase), Indonesia (273,891 new cases; 5 per cent decrease), Brazil (247,830 new cases; 24 per cent decrease), and Iran (206,722 new cases; 27 per cent increase).

The South-East Asia region reported a 9 per cent increase in new cases as compared to the previous week (over 841,000 cases), while the number of weekly deaths remained similar to the previous week (22,000 deaths).

The highest numbers of new cases in the region were reported from India (283,923 new cases; 20.6 new cases per 100,000; 7 per cent increase), Indonesia

(273,891 new cases; 100.1 new cases per 100,000; 5 per cent decrease), and Thailand (118,012 new cases; 169.1 new cases per 100,000; 26 per cent increase).

Cases from India, Indonesia and Thailand accounted for 80 per cent of new cases being reported from the region.

The highest numbers of new deaths were reported from Indonesia (12,444 new deaths; 4.5 new deaths per 100,000; 28 per cent increase), India (3,800 new deaths; less than one new death per 100,000; 45 per cent decrease), and Myanmar (2620 new deaths; 4.8 new deaths per 100,000; 24 per cent increase).

Amid the growing cases of Delta variant and vaccine inequity, WHO called for a "moratorium" on booster shots of the COVID-19 vaccine until at least the end of September, noting with concern the disparity in vaccination levels in low and high-income countries.

WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said at a news conference on Wednesday that while high-income countries have now administered almost 100 doses for every 100 people, low-income countries have only been able to administer 1.5 doses for every 100 people, due to lack of supply.

"We need an urgent reversal, from the majority of vaccines going to high-income countries, to the majority going to low-income countries," he said.

"Accordingly, WHO is calling for a moratorium on boosters until at least the end of September, to enable at least 10% of the population of every country to be vaccinated," the WHO chief said.

WHO's goal remains to support every country to vaccinate at least 10 per cent of its population by the end of September, at least 40 per cent by the end of this year, and 70% by the middle of next year.

The global health agency urged "everyone with influence" - Olympic athletes, investors, business leaders, faith leaders, and every individual in their own family and community to support its call for a moratorium on booster shots until at least the end of September.

He added that ensuring increased vaccination coverage in low-income countries requires everyone's cooperation, especially the handful of countries and companies that control the global supply of vaccines.

So far, more than four billion COVID-19 vaccine doses have been administered globally and over 80% have gone to high- and upper-middle income countries, even though they account for less than half of the world's population.

"And yet even while hundreds of millions of people are still waiting for their first dose, some rich countries are moving towards booster doses," Ghebreyesus said.

Emphasizing that while he understands the concern of all governments to protect their people from the Delta variant, Ghebreyesus said, "we cannot accept countries that have already used most of the global supply of vaccines using even more of it, the world's most vulnerable people remain unprotected." (Source: PTI)

contd from page 10

Keep distance from Taliban

The Taliban leadership has made it clear how it will rule Afghanistan. Its spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid recently announced that they would rule according to the Sharia, which will be enforced 'rigorously'. He asserted that elections did not yield positive results in Islamic countries. Women would not be permitted to sing and can work only in some areas. They would have to be accompanied by a male 'for their protection' whenever they leave the house. Men, in turn, are barred from wearing western clothes, and would have to grow a beard. They believe that war as an option is not ruled out, and that jihad will continue.

The Taliban are giving high attention to capturing Kandahar, located close to the borders with Pakistan. Kandahar is equivalent of another Mecca for the people of Afghanistan. The then ruler of Afghanistan, Ahmed Shah Abdali, received a cloak, said to have been worn by the Prophet, during his visit to Bokhara (now in Uzbekistan), from the kingdom's ruler, Amir Murad Beg. The cloak is now placed in a mosque near Abdali's tomb. The normally reclusive Taliban leader Mullah Omar shot to fame when he emerged from the mosque, with the cloak, in 1996.

There are fears that the Taliban will overrun the Afghan forces. The impression also prevails that the Afghan army lacks the sagacity to overcome the Taliban challenge, as there are areas in southern and western Afghanistan, near the country's borders with Iran and Tajikistan, which are presently under Taliban control. Pakistani involvement is evident, as large numbers of

Pakistani terrorists are now fighting alongside the Taliban. Russia has concerns about the conflict crossing into the territory of its erstwhile Central Asian republics like Tajikistan. Iran has similar concerns about Taliban attacks on its allies, the Shia Hazaras, living just across its borders in Afghanistan. Future Russian and Iranian involvement on the western borders of Afghanistan cannot, therefore, be ruled out.

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar has held wide-ranging talks with the US, Russia, and virtually all of Afghanistan's Central Asian neighbors, both bilaterally and in the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation. His unprecedented meeting with Iran's President-elect Ebrahim Raisi in Tehran was of particular significance. Iran has already warned of serious consequences if the Taliban should cause any harm to its Shia Hazara brethren. Iran was New Delhi's close regional ally, when India, Iran and Russia backed groups in the Northern Alliance, drawn from the non-Pashtun majority in Afghanistan, even before the US intervention.

While Taliban successes in an estimated 200 of the 424 districts across Afghanistan have received substantial attention, the Taliban are finding it hard to take over a provincial capital in even one of Afghanistan's 34 provinces. The US left the Afghan army ill equipped, with hardly any tanks and artillery. The Afghan air force has an estimated 200 aircraft, which include 69 light attack helicopters. Washington would have to substantially strengthen Afghanistan's armed forces. It remains to be seen if Pakistan provides the Taliban with Stinger surface-to-air missiles.

There are calls for 'talks' with the Taliban, which the Modi government has rightly ignored. The Taliban are, and will remain, tools of the ISI. While contacts can be maintained with Taliban leaders like Mullah Baradar in Qatar, there is no need to follow the Chinese example, with moves like formally inviting Taliban leaders to New Delhi. The Taliban colluded with the hijackers of IC 814 and maintained close ties with ISI-backed terrorist groups. Pakistan, in turn, needs a weak and internationally discredited Afghanistan to constitute its 'strategic depth' against India.

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

contd from page 32

'Global Digital Village with Indian Touch'

Solutions to support Renewable energy. He is credited for innovation and thought leadership in digital transformation initiatives during his work with several tech giants in global leadership positions. Prasenjit is also addressed as 'Jeet', which translates as 'victory'. Indeed, he has been victorious in breaking new grounds and addressing several problems that we face as individuals or a resident of this planet.

He leads a regulated life, getting up early has been a part of his habit since early age. He also devotes time for pranayam and meditation on a regular basis. This helps him in sustaining focus and flexibility. It was challenging to work with fortune 100 clients in their journey towards

Adoption and modernization strategies of emerging technologies.

While Jeet appreciates India for adopting new technology at a fast pace, he also feels there is scope for improving work culture in India.

Jeet was awarded as CTO of the year by Corporate America, New York, and best CEO leading Business transformation by TMT News, UK.

He is also inspired by the cognitive neuroscience models. While it is important to be innovative, there is no point in reinventing the wheel. Raniel has designed an integrated hardware and software runtime that can diffuse predictive and prescriptive intelligence at the edge of the network. Jeet has helped in taking care of cyber security threats on critical infrastructure. These days, the word "cloud" has taken on a new meaning in the world of technology. These cloud-based implementations increase the accessibility of power of innovation. Prasenjit Bhadra feels that organizations of any geographic location, size and scale can avail the power of innovation that is being extended to the global market.

Jeet takes pride in stating that Raniel's patented technology has crushed the strong partition between hardware and software centric function to extend real-time IoT runtime. He also feels, when you are ahead of the curve, others find it difficult to match their speed with you.

According to him, ". the industry is lacking standards and open architectures to embrace the future state of automation needs. "

Technology might be making us more lonely in one way but when you look at it with Prasenjit Bindra, you are bound to feel that 'digital technology is helping us in realizing the age-old concept of 'Vasudhaiv Kutumbkam', yes, the whole world seems to have become 'a global digital village'.



**BE A
CITIZEN REPORTER**
Share Your Story!



Be a Vigilant Citizen

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

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

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

Indian Visa Center

VISA / OCI PIO / PASSPORT
APPLICATION ASSISTANCE CENTER

349 S. Broadway, Hicksville, NY 11801

DEEPAK BANSAL

Email: deepakbansalny@gmail.com

Cell: 516.304.8808 Fax: 516.218.8009

WE THANK OUR CUSTOMERS FOR THEIR TRUST & LOYALTY

26 YEARS OF EXCELLENT CUSTOMER SERVICE



INDO US EXPRESS, INC

HICKSVILLE, NEW YORK

WORLDWIDE COURIER FREIGHT-FORWARDER
DOMESTIC & LOCAL DELIVERY

CALL US AT: 212-447-5720 or FAX 516-932-3750

ALTERNATE NUMBER: 347-538-7041

OR EMAIL US: INDOUSEXPRESS@GMAIL.COM

www.indousexpress.com

GREAT SERVICE, 7 DAYS A WEEK, 365 DAYS A YEAR!

CALL ABOUT OUR SPECIAL RATES

TO INDIA/WORLDWIDE

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



**The Indian Panorama
FOR FREE AT**

www.theindianpanorama.news

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
Email: anilguptaus@yahoo.com
Mon to Sat : 12.00 P.M to 7.00 P.M. Sunday with Appt.

Full Service Unisex Salon

Rita's Beauty Parlor

THREADING SPECIALIST
SPECIALIZING IN :

- Eyebrow Threading
- Ayurveda Herbal Facials • Mini Facials
- Full Body Waxing • Brazilian Waxing
- Bridal Makeup • Mehendi
- Unisex Hair Cuts and Hair Styling
- Fruit Based Color Highlights and Ladies Body Massage

Soothing Relaxing Atmosphere
Quality Services
High on Hygiene & Sanitized Parlor



Open Tuesday to Sunday
10.00 am to 7.30 pm

454 S BROADWAY, HICKSVILLE, NY 11801
516-622-9300 / 347-608-9424

Email: ritabeautyparlor@aol.com
www.ritasbeautyparlor.com

Call now
and say coupon TIP50FF
to avail discounts
BOOK ONLINE APPOINTMENT

Dr. Frederick M. Ruffen Audiologist

Restoring your ear power

CELEBRATE THE SOUNDS OF YOUR LIFE




***Hearing Aid Evaluation * Hearing Aid Repair**
***Tympanometry * Ear Wax Removal**

- Complete Audiological Evaluations
- Tympanometry and Acoustic Reflex Testing
- Hearing Aid Evaluations
- Advanced Ear Mold Selection Skills
- Swim Plugs, Musician Plugs, etc.
- Wide Selection of Hearing Aids
- Hearing Aid Accessories
- Assistive Listening Devices
- Amplified Telephones
- Complete Hearing Help Care for Hearing Aids
- Quarterly Cleanings and Hearing Aid Checks
- Hearing Aid Repair, Loss/Damage and Loaner Services
- Yearly Evaluations
- Computerized Expert Fitting of Hearing Aids

If you are missing the sounds of your life call to schedule a **FREE** hearing screening.
TOLL FREE: 1-800-924-7413

LOCATIONS

Nassau University Medical Center 2201 Hempstead Turnpike, East Meadow, NY 11554 Phone: 516-296-2704 Fax: 516-572-8885	30 Roosevelt Street, Glen Cove, NY 11542 Phone: 516-759-0008 Fax: 516-759-0013	680 Broadway, Massapequa, NY 11758 Phone: 516-541-4353
--	--	---

OFFICE HOURS BY APPOINTMENT / WALK INS WELCOME

ATLAS ROLL OFF CORP.

DISPOSAL SITE

OPEN Monday - Friday 6.30 AM to 4.00 PM
Saturday 6.30 AM to 1.00 PM

For construction Debris,
Demolition & Cleanouts



Located at 895 Essex Street, Brooklyn, NY 11208
Just 5 minutes from JFK

Roll Off Dumpster Service

10, 15, 20, 30 & 40 Yards

Serving all the five boroughs of New York Since 1983
NYC BIC LIC #711

Reasonable low rates ** All major credit cards accepted

718-345-6451



A World without Childhood Blindness

Only by doing good can one benefit
-Rig Veda



An Eye Institute in Rajahmundry, Andhra Pradesh to prevent avoidable childhood blindness

Vision of Dr. V.K. Raju, the Eye Foundation of America and Goutami Eye Institute

- * 3.5 million + served
- * 350 thousand + surgeries
- * 30 thousand + on children

Message from Peter J. McDonnell, M.D. Director Wilmer Eye Institute, Johns Hopkins University, USA on the occasion of laying the foundation stone on December 10, 2020



"On behalf of all my colleagues of the Wilmer Eye Institute in Baltimore, MO, I send my best wishes and congratulations to our friends in Goutami on this extremely important occasion. This beautiful facility will match the wonderful world class work of your doctors, nurses and staff in preserving and restoring the vision of so many patients. We in the United States are inspired by your dedication and admire your tireless efforts to serve so many who need your skills and compassion. Best wishes, Peter"

"There can be no keener revelation of a society's soul than the way in which it treats its children". - Nelson Mandela



POST SURGERY



PRE SURGERY

Triplets Prasanth, Susanth and Nisanth, who were treated by Goutami Eye Institute three years ago and gifted vision for life, as ROP babies under GEMROP (Goutami Eye tele Medicine Retinopathy Of Prematurity).

- Treating disease and vision problems
- Performing free cataract surgeries
- Screening infants and children
- Distributing glasses and visual aids
- Conducting Research
- Providing Education

Be a part of the movement. Donate now at www.eyefoundationofamerica.org
Tax Exempt # 55-0621735

The work by the Eye Foundation of America team started in 1977 and has spread from India to 21 different countries. Additionally, EFA focuses on teaching and training of health professionals who receive the Foundation's support at every level.
<https://youtube/B23VvUaloN4> <https://youtube/KiCzqLQe2VE>

To know more about the work of Eye Foundation of America or to donate, visit www.eyefoundationofamerica.org

ॐ सर्वे भवन्तु 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