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BRICS Leaders Call for Settling Afghan Situation by Peaceful Means

THE DECLARATION AT THE SUMMIT SAID THE LEADERS ALSO SOUGHT AN "INCLUSIVE INTRA-AFGHAN DIALOGUE SO AS TO ENSURE STABILITY, CIVIL PEACE, LAW AND ORDER".



At BRICS summit chaired by PM Modi, leaders called for settling Afghan situation by peaceful means

NEW DELHI (TIP): The five-nation BRICS summit chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi Thursday evening called for settling the situation in Afghanistan through peaceful means. The declaration at the summit said the leaders also sought an "inclusive intra-Afghan dialogue so as to ensure stability, civil peace, law and order".

While the theme for the summit is "cooperation for continuity, consolidation and consensus", the focus remained on Afghanistan.

The "New Delhi Declaration" adopted at the end of the summit also emphasized the need to "address the humanitarian situation and to uphold human rights, including those of women, children and minorities".

The five-nation grouping (Brazil-Russia-India-China-South Africa) also underscored their "priority of fighting terrorism, including preventing attempts by terrorist organizations to use Afghan territory as terrorist sanctuary and to carry out attacks against other countries".

The declaration said they were "committed to combating terrorism... including cross-border movement of terrorists, and terrorism financing networks and safe havens".

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U.S. President announces sweeping measures to vaccinate Americans

Appeals to vaccine shunners to "do the right thing" and get vaccinated

WASHINGTON (TIP): U.S. President Joe Biden has announced wide-ranging measures to push Americans to get vaccinated. Some 100 million people or two-thirds of the American workforce will be covered by the new executive orders and rules on vaccinations. Opposition to the rules quickly emerged, with several governors vowing to challenge the orders.

While over 170 million Americans (just over 50% of the population) have been fully vaccinated as per official data, almost 80 million are yet to have their first shot, resulting in what Mr. Biden called a "pandemic of the unvaccinated". Many of the countries intensive care units are overrun with unvaccinated COVID-19 patients - with over 101,000

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U.S. President Joe Biden speaks in the State Dining Room at the White House, Thursday, Sept. 9, 2021, in Washington.

INDIA'S MINISTER MEENAKSHI LEKHI INVITES THE INDIAN DIASPORA TO "SUPPORT AND BUILD A NEW INDIA"



Minister of State for External Affairs Meenakshi Lekhi exhorting the gathering to "support and build a new India"

NEW YORK CITY (TIP): India's Minister of State for External Affairs Meenakshi Lekhi praised the Indian diaspora at the "Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav", a program commemorating 75 years of India's Independence, at the Indian Consulate here on September 8.

"Members of the Indian diaspora are innovators, engineers and have contributed to the well-being of your adopted nation. That is the positivity of India which Indians bring together" the Minister said.

Ms Lekhi added: "We tend to assimilate ourselves in the societies we live in. We believe in working for the well-being of mankind and not cause disruption, which several other people do."

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47 PUNJAB-ORIGIN CANDIDATES IN FRAY FOR CANADA POLLS



(L-R) Harjit Sajjan, Anita Anand, Bardish Chagger and Jagmeet Singh

OTTAWA (TIP): As many as 47 Punjabis are trying their luck in the Canadian Federal General Elections for which the polling is scheduled to be held on September 20.

Prominent faces

- Defense Minister Harjit Sajjan from Vancouver South
- Minister Anita Anand from Oakville in Ontario
- Minister Bardish Chagger from Waterloo
- Jagmeet Singh, leader of New Democratic Party who provided support to the minority government of Justice Trudeau, from Burnaby South

In the final list of candidates, the maximum Punjabi candidates (17) have been fielded by the Liberal Party, followed by Conservative Party (13),

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-: GUEST COMMENT :-

Drug deaths in Punjab

AN URGENT PROBE SHOULD REVEAL THE SUPPLIER-PEDDLER NETWORK

Drug addiction remains an unresolved issue in Punjab, despite the intervention at various levels by the government and voluntary organizations. The spate of deaths attributed to drug abuse in Bathinda district in the recent past is a scary reminder of the scale of the menace, and the apparent ineffectiveness and limited scope of the measures put in place to deal with the crisis. In the Chief Minister's ancestral village Mehraj, though, the drug-related deaths of two brothers, both below 30, and reports of widespread addiction in the area point to the absence of any control mechanisms, and unhindered patronage to the peddlers and handlers. The spotlight is back on the dealer-politician-police nexus.

There will be an announcement soon of a crackdown in the district. Since it is the election year, the action taken report is bound to be more substantive and text heavy. The deaths of these young people would in all likelihood be used to train guns at those in power, indulge in disparaging verbal crossfire, let the matter hog news space for a few days and then allow a quiet burial before another tragedy strikes. Politics casts its shadow over the drug abuse crisis in the state, with little or no space for any admission of failure of policy, discussions of the ground reality, or constructive inputs on how to go forward. An issue layered with social, economic, administrative and mental health factors is reduced to and seen only through the political prism, with the result that no one is the wiser,

or held accountable.

The distraught father, who had no inkling that his now deceased boys had been taking drugs, has a message that could not be more clear in content and intent: 'I do not want any compensation. I just want that no other parent should bear such loss due to drugs. Just curb this menace.' There are no quick-fix solutions, but if the governments have let Punjab down, its people, too, do not have much to show by way of their involvement or interest in dealing with the crisis. Public pressure rides on the back of community participation. That's what drives change, and has been missing.

(Tribune India)

Return of the Mullahs: On the Taliban's Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan

TALIBAN HAVE SENT A CLEAR MESSAGE THAT THEY CARE LITTLE ABOUT WHAT THE WORLD THINKS OF THEM

The debate on whether the Taliban would form an "inclusive government" representing all sections of Afghan society was laid to rest by the Taliban themselves on September 7 when the group's spokesman, Zabihullah Mujahid, announced the formation of the new administration of the 'Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan'. Of the 33 Cabinet Ministers named, 30 are Pashtun, two ethnic Tajiks, and one is Uzbek. The Taliban are predominantly Pashtun, who make up some 40% of Afghanistan's ethnically diverse population of 40 million. Women and the Hazara Shia minority - both faced targeted harassment and discrimination when the Taliban were in power in the 1990s - were excluded completely. Seventeen Ministers are on the UN sanctions blacklist for terrorists, including the head of the government, Mullah Hassan Akhund, and Sirajuddin Haqqani, the head of the Haqqani Network. Mullah Hibatullah Akhundzada, the Taliban's reclusive emir, will be the 'Amir ul-

Momineen' (commander of the faithful), a title Mullah Omar had assumed in the 1990s. With the Cabinet portfolios allocated to the Taliban's core and the Haqqanis and introducing a system that resembles the previous Islamic Emirate known for its disregard for basic human rights, the Taliban have sent a clear message that they care little about what the world thinks about them.

Today's Taliban appear to be stronger than their last avatar. In the 1990s, only three countries recognized the Islamic Emirate; the Taliban also never controlled the whole of Afghanistan. But now, more regional powers are ready to engage with them, including China and Russia. The group has also claimed total control over the country, with Panjshir, the last holdout, overrun earlier this week. With the new government, a stronger Taliban are trying to tighten their grip, though it may not be easy. Ever since Afghanistan became a republic in 1973, no government in Kabul has managed to stabilize the country. The ethnic, religious and political

contradictions are too deep to be glossed over by the Taliban's divisive Islamist Pashtun nationalism. In Panjshir, the rebels may have withdrawn to the mountains, like the Taliban did in 2001, but they could regroup and hit back like the Taliban did after 2005. The total exclusion of Shias and marginalization of other ethnicities could blow back in the near term. Afghanistan has also seen the emergence of a vibrant civil society, especially in its cities, which may not accept the Taliban's rule of the Mullahs quietly. Already, the crackdown on women's rights has sparked large-scale protests by women in Kabul and elsewhere, which was unimaginable in the 1990s. If the Taliban were wise, they would have focused on healing the wounds of the long war and rebuilding the ruptured state and society. But the Pashtun, Islamist, sectarian Taliban seem programmatically incapable of doing that.

(The Hindu)

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India's Minister Meenakshi Lekhi invites the Indian diaspora to "support and build a new India"



Consul General Randhir Kumar Jaswal in his welcome to the minister said it is a special occasion because it is the maiden visit of Madam Lekhi to New York as a minister



Maithili Patel giving a Kathak performance



Bani Ray gave a performance of Odissi dance

CONTD FROM PAGE 1

India is for peaceful purposes, India is for the progress of mankind, India stands truly for Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam and that message is carried on by all of you. While India is innovating, India is trying to help the world and help itself and that is what Atmanirbharta' and self-sustenance is all about. We have to ensure we meet our goal of building Aatmanirbhar Bharat when we celebrate 100 years of India's Independence."

"I cannot thank you enough that when the world was battling pandemic and COVID-19, how the entire community across the globe stood together. India launched its own Atmanirbhar vaccine in January 2021 and "many skeptics talked against the vaccine and the result was that second wave (of the pandemic) took its toll. But before the second wave could take its toll, because we were stable and we had fought the first wave well due to timely lockdown and other procedures, we were helping the countries which were going through difficult times. At the same time when the second wave

hit us, because of people like you across the globe we were helped by several other countries who we stood for, and they stood for us. We stand for friendship, we stand for goodwill, we stand for cooperation."

Meenakshi Lekhi posted on social media after the event - "Addressed the vibrant Indian community in New York and witnessed how deeply they are connected to their roots. Invited the diaspora to support and build a new India."

Earlier, the Consul General Randhir Kumar Jaiswal welcomed the minister. "It's a very special occasion because it is the maiden visit of Madam Lekhi to New York as a minister. The Indian community here welcomes you in their own style, and their own colorful manner. There is a reason to celebrate - Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, with you being here. For us it is a privilege to have you here at the Indian consulate', Mr. Jaiswal said.

Representatives of various organizations and media persons were invited to the event which witnessed impressive Indian classical dance performances. Maithili Patel gave a performance of Kathak while Bani Ray impressed with the Odissi performance. Both the



Deputy Consul General Dr. Varun Jeph thanked the Minister and the guests

artists are associated with Sneh arts.

Deputy Consul General Dr. Varun Jeph thanked the Minister and the guests.

Bank of India celebrates 116th Foundation Day



At the Foundation Day celebrations on September 7, 2021. Left to Right: Tapan Patro, Olga Gold, Jerry Rodrigues, Jinen Jain, Mukesh Desai, Kamlesh Vaswani, C M Kumra (Chief Executive), Mrs Kumra, Mrs Desai, Mrs. Menon, Appen Menon, Meghav Parikh, Nitin Parikh, Ranjeet Kumar



Chief Executive CM Kumra cut the cake.

Seen in the picture, from L to R: Jinen Jain, Mukesh Desai, Kamlesh Vaswani, C M Kumra, Appen Menon, Nitin Parikh, Meghav Parikh

NEW YORK CITY (TIP): One of the top 10 banks of India, Bank of India celebrated its 116th Foundation Day on September 07, 2021 at its New York Branch located at 277 Park Avenue, New York.

Many distinguished guests, customers, staff members and their family members were present to celebrate the joyous occasion.

Chief Executive, US Center Mr. Chander Mohan Kumra welcomed all the distinguished guests and family members.

Narrating the glorious history of the Bank of India, which was founded in 1906, Mr. Kumra said that BOI is a leading commercial bank in India with a very large network of more than 5000 branches, spread all across the world, with its presence in 18 countries spread over 5 continents. These branches are situated in key banking and financial centers, such as New York, Tokyo, London, Singapore, Hong Kong, Belgium, Kenya, and Paris. Due to its large and diverse presence in different time zones, it is said: "Sun Never Sets in the

Branches of Bank of India".

Mr. Kumra expressed his sincere gratitude to all the guests, customers and the staff members for their presence at the celebration of the 116th Foundation Day of the bank, and their continued patronage to achieve proud milestones.

Guests were profusely felicitated followed by a cake cutting ceremony.

Assistant Vice President at the Bank of India US Center, Mr. Tapan Patro, who emceed the program, thanked the gathering.

INDIAN-ORIGIN BUTCHER VIKAS BACHU WINS SOUTH AFRICAN SAUSAGE CONTEST AFTER 12 YEARS OF TRYING



Bachu, a 38-year-old father of four, was only the second Indian-origin South African to win the title in its 29-year history

JOHANNESBURG (TIP): Indian-origin South African butcher Vikash Bachu is thrilled at finally being named the country's boerewors champion after persevering for 12 years. Boerewors, literally translating as 'farmer's sausage' in Afrikaans, is a thick sausage believed to have first been created by farmers about 200 years ago.

Since then, all South Africans have adopted it as a favorite outdoor barbecue item, although it can also be prepared indoors.

Bachu, a 38-year-old father of four, was only the second Indian-origin South African to win the title in its 29-year history. Jeffrey Soobramoney was named Boerewors Champion in 2007.

Besides winning the title and a brand-new Toyota Fortuner 2.4 GD-6 4X2 6AT, Bachu's recipe will also be used in the boerewors which goes on sale on Friday at over 2,300 supermarket stores in the Shoprite and Checkers group, which host the annual challenge.

Bachu has been passionate about making boerewors since he first started working as a butcher part-time and then full-time since his high school days. "I'm absolutely delighted to finally win the Championship Boerewors competition - it was about time," Bachu joked after the panel of judges announced that he had beaten nine other finalists from among the thousands of entries received and considered over a four-month period.

The judges, all members of the South African Chefs Association, prepared the 10 finalists' boerewors as they watched online, due to the Covid-19 restrictions on gatherings.

The stringent guidelines for entries disallowed a wide range of items, including the chili, ginger and garlic that are staples in Indian cuisine, so Bachu developed his own unique mix through constantly working on his recipe. Bachu said it did not matter that it took 12 attempts to get to where he was. "As a butcher, I wanted to be able to say that I am the best at something and stand out from the rest. After every competition, I always compared the winning recipe to mine to see how far off my recipe was.

"Just reaching the finals was a matter of great pride - to win is a dream come true," Bachu said, as he thanked his family who he said had motivated him to keep entering, assuring him that he would win one day.

Indian American Harry Sidhu appointed to Orange County Water Board

LOS ANGELES (TIP): Harry Sidhu, first mayor of Indian heritage of Anaheim city, home of the Disneyland Resort outside Los Angeles, has been appointed to the Orange County Water District (OCWD, the District) Board of Directors.

Sidhu, who was elected mayor of Anaheim, second largest city in Orange County, in November 2018, representing the city at large, would represent the city's Division 9, according to a press release.

"Water is the lifeblood of our city," he said. "Our partnership with OCWD is critical to meeting one of life's daily needs for residents and providing a vital resource for our city's growth and prosperity.

"I'm honored to join the OCWD Board and to work together on behalf of those we serve," said Sidhu who previously served on OCWD's Board from 2012-2015.

He previously served on Anaheim's City Council from 2004-2012, including as mayor pro term from 2009-2011 and in 2012. From 2013-2015, Sidhu also served as a Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority alternate commissioner.

A licensed Professional Engineer - a Registered Mechanical Engineer in the State of California - Sidhu received a bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering from Philadelphia's Drexel University.

He is also a licensed California Real Estate Broker, and a licensed general



Harry Sidhu, first mayor of Indian heritage of Anaheim city has been appointed to the Orange County Water District (OCWD, the District) Board of Directors.

aviation and helicopter pilot.

"It is great to welcome back Harry Sidhu to the OCWD Board of Directors," said President Stephen R. Sheldon. "His industry and leadership experience will serve him well as we work together to enhance the reliability of our local water supply, serving 2.5 million people."

Born and raised in India, Sidhu came to the United States in 1974 with his family, settling in Philadelphia, and becoming a US citizen in 1979.

He is part of a 10-member board at OCWD - seven elected from divisions that consist of cities throughout north and

central Orange County, and three appointed to represent the cities of Anaheim, Fullerton and Santa Ana.

Before first serving on the City Council, Sidhu was chairman of Anaheim's Budget Advisory Commission and served on the city's Audit Committee.

During his first tenure on Anaheim's City Council, Sidhu started the city's annual free Anaheim Health Fair as well as the yearly Anaheim/OC Job Fair and Expo, according to his official bio.

Sidhu came to Southern California in 1980 to work as an engineer for aerospace companies Rockwell International, General Dynamics and Hughes Aircraft.

He worked his way through college and, after a successful engineering career, started a small business that began with a single restaurant.

He is now recognized as a successful California businessman and owner of restaurants in Orange County.

Sidhu and his wife Gin have lived in Anaheim since 1994 with their two children.

His community involvement has included service as a board member of the Boys & Girls Clubs of Anaheim, an advisory board member of the Anaheim Family YMCA and a member of the Anaheim Chamber of Commerce and the Anaheim Small Business Chamber.

Sidhu also has coached youth soccer and is a supporter of the arts and arts education.

Indian American Janani Ramachandran loses California assembly special election

OAKLAND, CA (TIP): Indian American social justice lawyer, activist, and artist Janani Ramachandran has lost the race for California's Assembly District 18 seat in a special runoff election.

Her opponent Mia Bonta declared victory in the August 31 election for the seat her husband vacated earlier this year, as she picked up 56.83% of the 77,000 ballots counted to Ramachandran's 43.17% by mid-afternoon Friday.

Only 904 of the ballots were cast in person and the rest were mailed in, the Mercury News reported citing the registrar's office. So far, with an unknown number of mail-in ballots possibly still on the way, the overall turnout was 26.77% of all registered voters in the district.

Ramachandran, an attorney who has represented tenants facing eviction and served on the Oakland Public Ethics Commission, ran for State assembly because of the unprecedented challenges of Covid-19, and worsening income inequality, environmental catastrophes, and racial injustices.

"These problems demand a fresh perspective from a leader who has been



Janani Ramchandran lost the race for California's Assembly District 18 seat in a special runoff election to Mia Bonta

working directly with her communities for years," she declares on her campaign website.

"California doesn't need just another Democrat in Sacramento - we need a bold advocate who isn't bought by corporate interest groups and who will deliver real progressive change for Californians." Ramachandran stated.

Ramachandran laid down six key

policy principles declaring Housing, Economic opportunity, Safety in homes and communities, Healthcare, A living wage and Clean as human rights.

An East Bay native, Ramachandran is the daughter and granddaughter of immigrants from a small South Indian village.

Her passion for justice was evident at an early age, according to her official bio. At 16, while relocating to India for a few years, she founded a nonprofit that built libraries in under-resourced schools in her local community.

After graduating from Stanford University, Ramachandran worked as a home-visiting case manager at a community health clinic, serving immigrant mothers experiencing domestic violence and homelessness.

Ramachandran attended Berkeley Law and represented tenants facing eviction from some of Oakland's most notoriously corrupt landlords.

She has previously served on the Oakland Public Ethics Commission, and currently serves on the California Commission on Asian and Pacific Islander American Affairs.

(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)

Two Indian teachers shortlisted for 2021 Global Teacher Prize



Meghana Musunuri from Hyderabad and Satyam Mishra from Bhagalpur have been shortlisted for Global teacher Prize 2021 - Photos / globalteacherprize.org

LONDON (TIP): Satyam Mishra, a mathematics teacher from Bhagalpur in Bihar, and Meghana Musunuri, a social studies, English and math teacher from Hyderabad have made it to the top 50 shortlist for this year's USD 1-million Global Teacher Prize announced on Thursday, Sept 9.

The USD 1-million Global Teacher Prize, organized by the Varkey Foundation in partnership with UNESCO, attracted over 8,000 nominations and applications from 121 countries.

"It is only by prioritizing education that we can safeguard all our tomorrows. Education is the key to facing the future with confidence," said Sunny Varkey, founder of the Varkey Foundation.

Mishra made the cut for his determination to change the way children look at the world and uses cool multiplication tricks to bring his subject alive for students.

Musunuri, the second Indian teacher on the 2021 shortlist, is described as an education futurist, philanthropist and a

passionate entrepreneur as the founder and chairperson of Fountainhead Global School & Junior College and also Hyderabad Champion for Google's Women Entrepreneurs On The Web (WEOW), guiding women entrepreneurs in establishing their online presence.

"UNESCO is a proud partner of the Global Teacher Prize, which has done so much to highlight teachers' transformational role in young people's lives. Inspirational teachers and extraordinary students alike deserve recognition for their commitment to education amid the learning crisis we see today," said Stefania Giannini, Assistant Director General for Education at UNESCO.

"If we are to rebuild a better world in the wake of Covid we must prioritize giving every child their birthright of a quality education. It is the next generation, with teachers as their guide, who will safeguard the future for us all," she said.

Alongside, an inaugural sister prize -

the Chegg.Org Global Student Prize - includes four Indian students in the top 50 shortlist with Kaif Ali, a 21-year-old architecture student at Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi; Aayush Gupta, a 23-year-old MBA student at IIM Ahmedabad; and Seema Kumari, a 17-year-old student from Jharkhand; and Vipin Kumar Sharma, a 24-year-old student from the Central University of Haryana.

The prize money for the new student prize has now also been doubled to USD 100,000.

"In this age of Covid, students like Kaif, Aayush, Seema and Vipin have shown great courage to keep studying and keep fighting for a better future despite huge obstacles," said Lila Thomas, Head of Chegg.org.

"We were so inspired by the achievements of these extraordinary students throughout the world that applied for the inaugural Global Student Prize that Chegg chose to double the value of the prize to USD 100,000," she said.

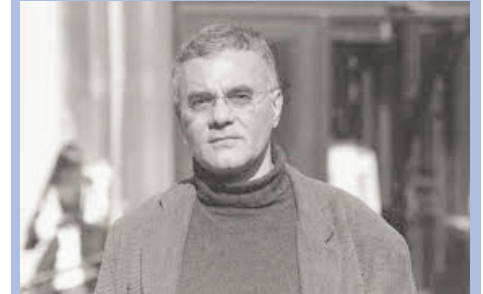
Students who applied for the Global Student Prize are being assessed on their academic achievement, impact on their peers, how they make a difference in their community and beyond, how they overcome the odds to achieve, how they demonstrate creativity and innovation, and how they operate as global citizens.

Following the shortlist announcement, the top 10 finalists of both prizes will be announced next month.

The winners will be chosen by the Global Teacher Prize Academy and the Global Student Prize Academy, respectively, and unveiled at an awards ceremony in Paris in November.

Last year's Global Teacher Prize winner was Ranjitsinh Disale from Maharashtra.

INDIAN-ORIGIN AUTHOR MAHMOOD MAMDANI SHORTLISTED FOR UK PRIZE



Mamdani has been shortlisted for the GBP 25,000 non-fiction prize for his book "Neither Settler nor Native: The Making and Unmaking of Permanent Minorities".

LONDON (TIP): Indian-origin author Mahmood Mamdani is among four writers shortlisted for the 2021 British Academy Book Prize for Global Cultural Understanding on Tuesday, September 7.

The 75-year-old Mumbai-born Ugandan academic and writer is in the running for the GBP 25,000 non-fiction prize for 'Neither Settler nor Native: The Making and Unmaking of Permanent Minorities'.

INDIAN AMERICAN WHIZ KID MILAN BHAYANA NOW ON 'TOP CHEF FAMILY STYLE' SHOW



Milan Bhayana is donning the apron on a cooking reality show with his journalist mother by his side.

MARYLAND (TIP): After making waves on the popular card game "Magic: The Gathering" Indian American whiz kid Milan Bhayana is donning the apron on a cooking reality show with his journalist mother by his side.

The 15-year-old sophomore at High Bethesda-Chevy Chase High School, Maryland, two years ago became one of the youngest players ever to make it to the professional circuit of "Magic," created by mathematician Richard Garfield.

And now he is trying his hand in the kitchen with a dozen other young chefs from across the country, he is competing on the Peacock series "Top Chef Family Style."

The show pairs each youth contestant with an adult family member. His mother Chandrani Ghosh joined him. The first episode of the series airs on Thursday, September 9.

(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)

Indian American Community leader gets Global Community Oscar Lifetime Achievement Award

Prakash M. Swamy

CHICAGO (TIP): Prominent Indian-American community leader of Houston, Texas, Sockalingam Sam Kannappan was honored with Global Community Oscar Lifetime Achievement Award at a function in Chicago recently.

Presenting the award at the tenth annual international gala celebrations of the American Multiethnic Coalition, Congressman Danny K Davis praised the services of Kannappan to his adopted land and said people like him make the US the greatest nation in the world.

In his brief video speech, Kannappan said he came to the US in 1968. He mentioned names of Houston US Congressman Al Green, Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee and University of



L to R: Mrs. Santosh Kumar, Sam Kannappan, Congressman Danny Davis and Mr. Lu

Houston Chancellor Dr. Renu Khator as mutual friends with Congressman Davis and who encouraged him to do community service.

The prestigious tenth annual award called Community Oscars was broadcast internationally and viewed by 65 million viewers.

MOS for External Affairs Meenakshi Lekhi Welcomed at the Jan Aashirwad Aabhar Meet in New York



KK Mehta and wife Chanda Mehta welcome minister Meenakshi Lekhi with a bouquet.

NEW YORK (TIP): Jaipur Foot USA and Gracious Givers foundation welcomed Ms. Meenakshi Lekhi, Minister of State for External Affairs and Culture at the Jan Aashirwad Aabhar event organized in New York City. Mr. Randhir Jaiswal, Consul General, New York, was also present at the event. Alok Kumar, former FIA president, did the introductions.

Ms. Meenakshi Lekhi, Minister of State for External Affairs and Culture spoke on occasion. She highlighted that

Indian diaspora acts as goodwill ambassadors for the country, and their achievements in the professional, business, and education fields add value to the country's goodwill. She also appreciated the contributions of the powerful Indian community in helping the country whenever in need. She also highlighted the COVID pandemic impacts in India and the capacity to deal with such grave situations and coming together to dealing with these. The contributions of the Indian community,



"Indians abroad are informal ambassadors of India", said minister Meenakshi Lekhi



Jaipur Foot USA Chairman Prem Bhandari (extreme right) speaking on the occasion.

Seen sitting, from L to R: Attorney Sanjay Chaubey, Consul General Randhir Kumar Jaiswal, minister Meenakshi Lekhi

including doctors & nurses, oxygen help during COVID was commendable. She also voiced that the whole world is one big family and each member country supported each other during the COVID crises, considering the COVID infections and waves going in circles affecting the entire world. She also highlighted India's contributions through providing vaccines and other required help to the world. She also praised honorable PM Narendra Modi ji and the timing of his leadership and the serious health crisis India and the world is going through. She mentioned that bureaucracy has been in place before and will be in the future, but the way current

leadership under Shri Modi ji is taking right decisions at the right time and drive bureaucracy relentlessly to implement these decisions so people on the ground get help and positive impacts very quickly. She also praised Shri Modi ji's quick decision-making, allocating Rs 3000 crore for vaccine research to enable medical scientists to conduct research and development rolling out vaccines in less than one year, which used to take years. This is a great achievement for our Indian scientists and is a great level playing for India on international research and development in the medical field.

Earlier, Mr. Prem Bhandari, Jaipur Foot USA Chairman and social activist, strong voice for the Indian diaspora spoke at the event. He spoke about the difficulties the Indian diaspora faced due to lockdown and travel restrictions that came into place during COVID and the help, and excellent support received from MEA and secretaries from Home, External Affairs, and Civil Aviation. He also briefed about the partnership of BMVSS, the parent organization of Jaipur Foot USA and MEA under India for Humanity banner to conduct prosthetics fitment camps to help differently abled people around the world and reinforce India's soft power. He also thanked honorable Prime Minister Narendra Modi ji, the guiding force and blessed this partnership. The host countries very well received these 13 camps and BMVSS helped over 6000

differently abled people. The Government of India provided funding for all these 13 camps and the Ministry of External Affairs offices coordinated and facilitated these prosthetics fitment camps.

Prem Bhandari also extended his heartfelt thanks to Shri Harsh Vardhan Shringla, Foreign Secretary of India for extending the partnership to organize another 12 prosthetic fitment camps on a historical day, Aug 5th, 2020. Under this partnership, BMVSS already conducted the first prosthetics fitment camp last December in Uganda. Mr. Bhandari voiced words of Padma Bhushan, D.R. Mehta, Founder & Chief Patron of BMVSS, about the bravery of our leg-warriors, who conducted this Uganda camp in the middle of the COVID pandemic. He also expressed that Jaipur Foot USA is working under the guidance and mentorship of Mr. Mehta and his vision to expand the help of the prosthetic within India and abroad.

Another important point Mr. Bhandari brought forward was related to 6 million-plus OCI cardholders who suffered tremendously since 2019 due to cumbersome renewal regulations and administrative issues when one is traveling with OCI. These regulations are eased, made simple and frequent OCI renewal is not required. Earlier, there were many difficulties and to name a few, the most difficult one was the necessity to renew OCI every 5 years; every time foreign passport is renewed, OCI needed renewal due to regulation to carry the passport which has OCI stamp along with the new passport until the age of 20 years, as well as renewal of OCI at the age 50 again. As a result of this requirement, 1000s of passengers and their families around the world were not allowed to travel without carrying old, expired passport with OCI number and it caused emotional pain and resulted in significant financial loss and logistical nightmares.

(Based on a press note issued by Nishant Garg, Secretary, Jaipur Foot USA.)

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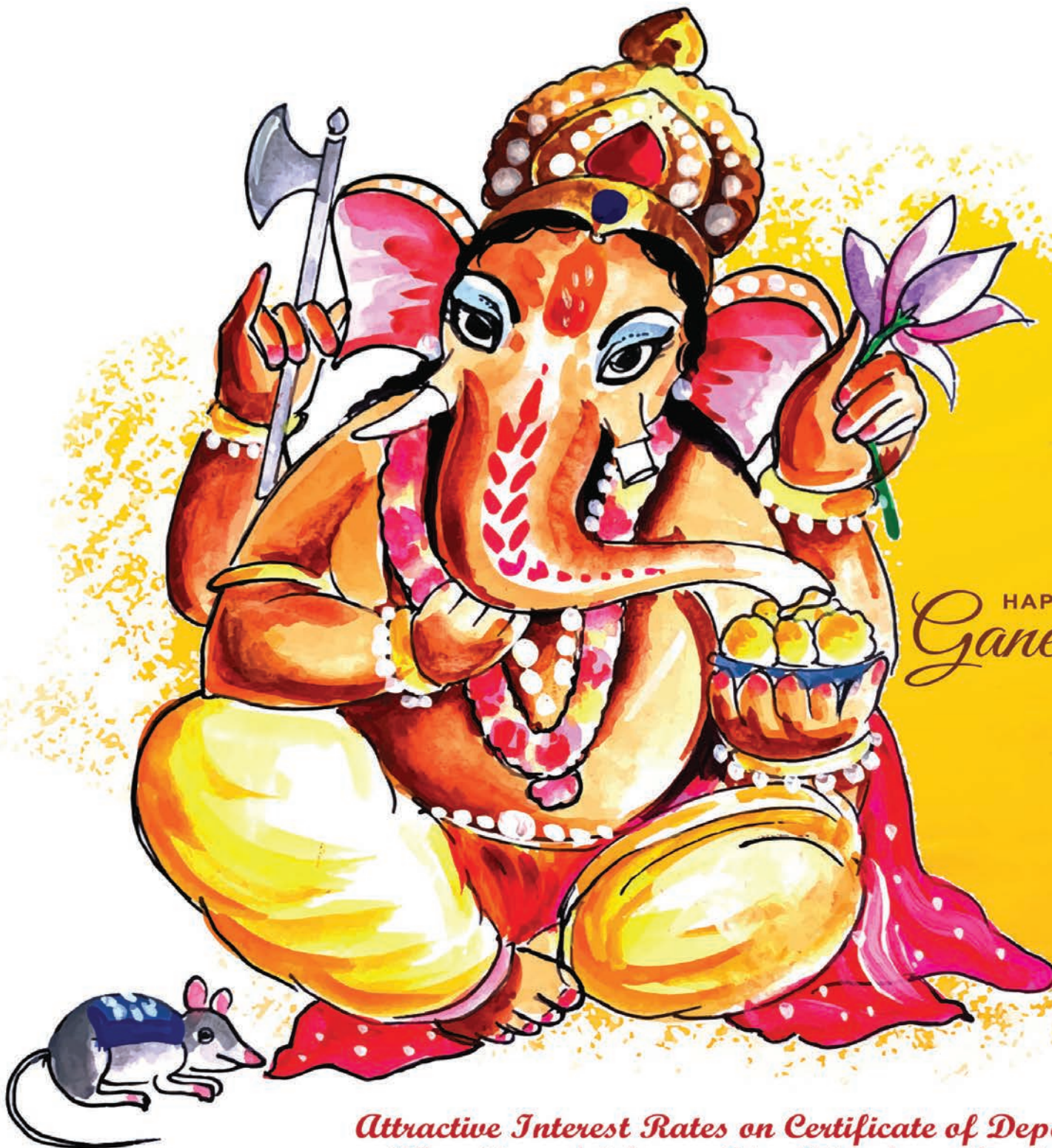
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AS I SEE IT

MEMORIES OF 9/11

ON SEPTEMBER 11, 2001, 19 MILITANTS ASSOCIATED WITH THE ISLAMIC EXTREMIST GROUP AL QAEDA HIJACKED FOUR AIRPLANES AND CARRIED OUT SUICIDE ATTACKS AGAINST TARGETS IN THE UNITED STATES. TWO OF THE PLANES WERE FLOWN INTO THE TWIN TOWERS OF THE WORLD TRADE CENTER IN NEW YORK CITY, A THIRD PLANE HIT THE PENTAGON JUST OUTSIDE WASHINGTON, D.C., AND THE FOURTH PLANE CRASHED IN A FIELD IN SHANKSVILLE, PENNSYLVANIA. ALMOST 3,000 PEOPLE WERE KILLED DURING THE 9/11 TERRORIST ATTACKS, WHICH TRIGGERED MAJOR U.S. INITIATIVES TO COMBAT TERRORISM.

"Soon after the attack, America invaded Afghanistan and ousted the Taliban that was providing a safe haven to al Qaeda terrorists who planned and executed 9/11 destruction. By 2011, U.S. forces had also located the mastermind Osama Bin Laden, who was hiding in Pakistan, and killed him. However, to the warmongers in Washington under George W. Bush, it was another opportunity to expand the power of the military-industrial complex.

At the urging of neoconservatives in Washington, Iraq was also invaded, and the poorly executed and error-ridden plans subsequently destabilized the whole region giving birth to ISIS and triggering a long-running and anti-insurgency campaign. The impact of 9/11 is still reverberating here in the U.S. after spending almost 2 trillion dollars and sacrificing thousands of American and Afghan lives; it is a sad and pitiful spectacle to see the Taliban government full of terrorists back in power on this 20th anniversary of the 9/11.

Although many of these geopolitical issues are complex, the world we live in has been indelibly shaped by 9/11 and its aftermath."

9/11/2001 may be a distant memory, but the terror that shook America is still very much in our thoughts. It was a beautiful and clear sunny day, and I was driving my younger son, Steven, to the United Nations International School in Manhattan. After dropping Steven at school and parking the car at the U.N. garage, I joined the prayer breakfast, an annual event for diplomats from around the world, before the start of the General Assembly on the third week of every September.

The message at the prayer breakfast was plain and

straightforward; there is so much injustice all around, and we must not shy away from confronting the evil but do it courageously and assiduously with the divine help. Looking back, I couldn't imagine that the evildoers were busy at work at the same time wrecking lives, wreaking havoc only couple of miles down the street and bringing a nation to a standstill.

As I was climbing the stairs to reach my office, I could feel an eerie silence all around, and there was not a soul to be found anywhere. Finally, I reached a Security Officer and inquired what was happening? He had an offbeat look on his face and said, 'Haven't you heard that the World Trade Center was hit, and the U.N. building has been already evacuated'. I couldn't still fathom the gravity of the situation until reaching a T.V. monitor that had a live feed from the burning Tower 1. The fear and uncertainty surrounding the event were so palpable, and I was not spared either.

I ran to my office and found out that the entire staff had already left the building, and the security ordered the evacuation as a precautionary measure because the U.N. Secretariat building itself could be a potential target. Soon my attention was turned to finding my son, whom I had left at school, and I tried to ring the principal's office, and there was no response. Soon after, I walked out of the Secretariat building to the First Avenue only to hear the sirens of fire trucks and ambulances racing towards downtown.

I felt as if life had come to a standstill on the East side with police blocking all traffic in and out of Manhattan and vehicles stranded in a gridlock mode. I almost ran 20 blocks to reach the school only to learn that the building had been evacuated and the students were sent home. I met few students who had gathered in front of the school, waiting eagerly for their parents or guardians to come around.

As I came out of the school gate still looking for Steven, I found a man totally covered in white ashes walking towards north on the side road of the FDR drive. I inquired and found him totally shaken and hardly audible but understood that the tower had come down, and he was one of the lucky ones either from the building or its surroundings. I couldn't believe my ears that those towers of grandiose and pride for the big apple were no longer standing. As an early immigrant to this country from India in the late 60's, I have witnessed the construction of these towers and visited them many more times with family and friends.

At that point, I was not sure whether all the occupants of the tower were evacuated. The Restaurant at the top of tower two was a familiar place to me as many of the technical conferences were held there, and I distinctly remembered the service manager and many of the crew who were originally from Bangladesh. Soon after, I got connected with my son, who went to a friend's home nearby, and together we picked up the car and waited for an hour to reopen the midtown tunnel to reach home.

Only after I reached home, I fully realize the carnage that took place with the collapse of two towers and the



BY GEORGE ABRAHAM

*Frightened people run for life after the World Trade Center was hit and the twin towers were afire*

body blow it had inflicted on the U.S. psyche. The United States that had not seen a major attack on its soil for nearly 200 years, was shocked to find its financial center and military headquarters Washington hit by a small band of terrorists from abroad. Almost 3000 innocent lives were lost on that day including Valsa John and many other Indian immigrants to this country.

The catastrophe unleashed a sequence of reactions and unintended consequences the country has been dealing with ever since. An unending war on terror, western antagonism towards Muslims, and decline of U.S. power, and Donald Trump's rise, and others like him are all outcomes directly or indirectly related to this earth-shattering event. There is little doubt that the post 9/11 period has seen civil rights being eroded across the world. Many governments have used it as a cover to justify increased surveillance and curbing dissent.

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Although many of these geopolitical issues are complex, the world we live in has been indelibly shaped by 9/11 and its aftermath.

May I join all of you in paying heartfelt gratitude to all those heroes, including the first line responders who perished in this devastating tragedy and to the families who have suffered the harrowing loss of their loved ones!

(The author is a former Chief Technology Officer, the United Nations and Vice Chair of IOC USA. He can be reached at gta777@gmail.com)

Farmers' stir, the new dimension in U.P.'s politics



BY SATENDRA KUMAR

ITS RETRIEVAL OF THE OLD SECULAR POLITICAL LANGUAGE OPENLY
COUNTERS THE BJP'S DIVISIVE AND COMMUNAL POLITICS

"The SKM has spectacularly reasserted the secular language particularly in the post-2014 socio-political environment. Its act of courage in the Muzaffarnagar Kisan Mahapanchayat is a reminder to the 'timid' political Opposition and other political parties to do their constitutional duty in maintaining India's political legacy. In their appeal for communal harmony, Mr. Tikait and other farmer leaders have categorically said no to communal violence in the region. Mr. Tikait and other farmer leaders accepted being swayed by communal divisiveness and have vowed to counter the hatred and violence. "They talk of dividing; we speak of uniting. The hallmark of the BJP is the hate politics", Mr. Tikait declared loud and clear."

On September 5, 2021, in Uttar Pradesh, lakhs of farmers gathered at Muzaffarnagar's government inter-college ground for the kisan mahapanchayat organised by the Samyukt Kisan Morcha (SKM). At the mahapanchayat, Bharatiya Kisan Union (BKU) leader Rakesh Tikait reiterated the farmers' demands to repeal the three farm laws and for the "legal guarantee of MSP [Minimum Support Price]." Mr. Tikait and other farmer leaders present declared their determination to oust the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) government in Uttar Pradesh in the upcoming 2022 State legislative elections. The farmer leaders unanimously appealed for communal harmony while chanting 'Allah Hu Akbar' and 'Har Mahadev' together with an estimated three to four lakh farmers.

Secular vs the divisive

This retrieval of the old secular political language openly counters the BJP's divisive and communal politics that has gripped the local and the national scene after the 2014 general election. Women and young farmers across religious and caste lines, from Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, Punjab, Rajasthan, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Uttarakhand and other States attended the mahapanchayat in Muzaffarnagar. It is a surprise that the ongoing farmers' movement has been openly engaging with gender and environmental issues and has provided them their rightful space.

By enabling the convergence of different farmer organizations and space for the voices of marginalized groups, the Muzaffarnagar Kisan Mahapanchayat has not only reclaimed the language of secularism and communal harmony but also shows cautious potential to challenge the BJP's politics and hegemony in the legislative assembly elections due in five States next year (Punjab, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Goa and Manipur).

Message of harmony

Muzaffarnagar had communal riots in 2013 which polarized the western Uttar Pradesh region along religious lines. The BJP local leadership converted a caste dispute into brutal communal riots which ended up benefiting the BJP in the 2014 and 2019 general elections, across Uttar Pradesh, as this was the local script used at the State and the national levels. The communal polarization not only caused fissures in the social fabric but also impeded the farmers' identity and unity that was traditionally the support base of the BKU under the leadership of the late Mahendra Singh Tikait in the 1980s.

Realizing this social and political loss, his son, Rakesh Tikait, and his supporters, over the last couple of years, began to revive the BKU's old legacy of secularism. However, these attempts have only gathered momentum since January 2021 when the BJP government forcefully attempted to remove the protesting farmers including Mr. Tikait from the Ghazipur border of Delhi. An emotional appeal by an overwhelmed Mr. Tikait mobilized both Hindu and Muslim Jat farmers, changing the epicenter of the farmers' protest from Punjab to rural western Uttar Pradesh and Haryana.

The SKM has spectacularly reasserted the secular language particularly in the post-2014 socio-political environment. Its act of courage in the Muzaffarnagar Kisan Mahapanchayat is a reminder to the 'timid' political Opposition and other political parties to do their constitutional duty in maintaining India's political legacy. In their appeal for communal harmony, Mr. Tikait and other farmer leaders have categorically said no to communal violence in the region. Mr. Tikait and other farmer leaders accepted being swayed by communal divisiveness and have vowed to counter the hatred and violence. "They talk of dividing; we speak of uniting. The hallmark of the BJP is the hate politics", Mr. Tikait declared loud and clear.

More importantly, Mr. Tikait and the BKU's activists have been visiting village after village and organizing collective meetings with Hindu and Muslim farmers. In numerous street corner meetings, BKU activists have been attempting to recreate a common platform for farmers across religious and caste divisions by reclaiming and reasserting religious and caste unity among the farmers to heal and repair the damage caused by the Muzaffarnagar riots.

Mission 2022 and hope

The Muzaffarnagar Kisan Mahapanchayat has transformed the ongoing farmers' protests into a national movement. With the BJP government's lack of acknowledgement and response to the movement, farmer leaders under the SKM have decided to connect the sufferings of farmers with electoral politics directly with the announcement of 'faslo ke dam nahi, to vote nahi (no vote, if no legal guarantee of MSP)' and pronouncing their method as 'vote ki chot (hit by vote)'. The SKM and its leadership will campaign against the BJP in the Uttar Pradesh Assembly elections due next year. In addition to spreading the message of peace and communal harmony, farmer leaders including Mr. Tikait have announced that they will go to every home in the villages to educate farmers about the three farm laws and the ways in which these laws will destroy farmers and farming. Using the idioms of kheti, kisan and bhaichara, the BKU and its leadership will also inform them about the BJP's betrayal of farmers through its pro-corporate policies.

Besides the farm laws, several other proximate factors have set the stage for broad electoral mobilisation that may convert angry farmers and laborers into politically conscious voters when they



Farmers at the Muzaffarnagar protest rally on September 5, decided to remain defiant against the government over controversial laws they say will destroy their livelihoods.

face continued agrarian distress, the doubling of electricity charges, and the rising cost of diesel and fertilizers. More importantly, the unpaid dues of sugarcane mills to farmers have severely affected farmers and laborers across generation, caste and religious lines.

Furthermore, in Uttar Pradesh, the Yogi Adityanath-led BJP government's stringent anti-cattle slaughter measures have devastated already broken farmers as stray cattle continue to plunder fields and ruin crops. The COVID-19 epidemic has not only struck another major blow against the rural economy but has also highlighted the fragility of urban jobs. The participation of young farmers in large numbers explains in one go the ongoing agrarian crises and jobless growth that has created a big class of rural-urban precariat.

While the emerging broad alliance and solidarity generate hope and a new grammar of politics, competitive party politics and existing socio-economic divisions continue to pose several challenges to Mission 2022. The ongoing farmers' movement does not show any sign of converting itself into a political party. In this case farmer voters depend on the existing political parties that have already lost steam and failed in the face of the BJP's propaganda, organizational skills and politics. In fact, some of them have started imitating the BJP's style by adopting a softer version of the Hindutva.

U.P. politics today

In Uttar Pradesh in particular, Opposition political parties such as the Congress, the Samajwadi Party, the Bahujan Samaj Party and the Rashtriya Lok Dal are competing for the same pie. Hence, it is too early to know how these competing parties will compromise their interests and put up a united opposition. Besides, the Jats are no longer a politically united group as they were in the 1970s and 1980s. The emerging political competition led by the aspiring middle class within the Jats has produced new leaders such as Sanjeev Baliyan that has opened a chasm to be exploited by the BJP's style of politics. Moreover, farmers from the most 'backward' castes such as Morya, Nishad and Gaderiyas have hardly been an ally of the BKU and a part of the 'kisan' identity popularized by Charan Singh.

By projecting these farmers as the victims of the dominant landowning farmers the BJP has weaponized them as new warriors of Hindutva. Despite these limitations, the Muzaffarnagar Kisan Mahapanchayat has shown the way to reclaim the Indian Constitution and the legacy of secularism by simultaneously linking socio-economic injustices to environmental and gender issues.

(The author teaches Sociology at the G.B. Pant Social Science Institute, University of Allahabad)

Biden Administration Whitewashes Nazi-Inspired RSS with Official Meet



BY PIETER FRIEDRICH

"Moreover, the organization's founders - whose pictures adorn every RSS gathering - were openly and unapologetically inspired by Benito Mussolini's Fascist Italy and Adolf Hitler's Nazi Germany. Citing Hitler's Germany as an ideal example of the xenophobic society they desired, they praised the "race consciousness" and "race spirit" that prompted the expansionist conquests of the European fascist movements. Naming Christians and Muslims as "internal threats," members of "foreign races," and "traitors," they applauded the "race pride" demonstrated by the Nazis in "purging the country of the Semitic races - the Jews," identifying it as a strong example of the supposed failures of diversity, inclusivity, and pluralism, and, thus, a "good lesson... to learn and profit by."

US President Joe Biden offered a glimmer of hope in April 2021 when he called out white supremacy as "the most lethal terrorist threat" to America today, but his words ring rather hollow after his acting ambassador to India, Atul Keshap, staged an 8 September photo-op with the chief of the RSS, a paramilitary that not only grew with direct inspiration from the European fascist movements of the 1930s-1940s but has inspired modern-day white supremacist terrorists.

The US Embassy's Charge d'Affaires Atul Keshap (appointed interim envoy to India in June) celebrated his "good discussion" with RSS's "Mohan Bhagwat about how India's tradition of diversity,



Acting US Ambassador to India stages photo-op with paramilitary's chief in India on Sep 8

democracy, inclusivity, and pluralism can ensure the vitality and strength of a truly great nation." The offensive irony of his remarks is that the RSS - which is quite literally Nazi-inspired - seeks to create a homogenous society in which minorities, especially Muslims and Christians, are eliminated (at worst) or relegated to second-class citizenship (at best). The meeting marked Keshap's final act as the US envoy to India; two hours after reporting on the meet, he announced that he will be returning to Washington, DC.

"We won't ignore what our intelligence agencies have determined to be the most lethal terrorist threat to our homeland today: white supremacy is terrorism," declared Biden in April. Keshap's meeting, however, suggests that the Biden administration is ignoring American intelligence agencies - as well as US State Department entities - when it comes to the RSS.

As far back as the 1950s, the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) was describing the RSS as "militant" and expressing concerns about its "strength." According to declassified CIA documents, the paramilitary's two most important principles were "being anti-Muslim and anti-West." In 1998, the CIA described the RSS as the (now ruling) Bharatiya Janata Party's (BJP) "chauvinist parent organization," explained that it was first banned in 1948 "after one of its members assassinated Mahatma Gandhi," and reported: "The RSS depends on the BJP to keep Hindu nationalism in the public eye as a political issue, and the BJP relies on the RSS for manpower and organizing grassroots electoral support." In 2018, the CIA labeled two subsidiaries of the RSS - its religious wing, the Vishva Hindu Parishad (VHP), and the VHP's youth wing, the Bajrang Dal - as "militant religious organizations."

For over two decades, human rights reports from the US State Department have regularly termed the RSS as a "hard-line" group or a "Hindu extremist organization," typically in connection with allegations of RSS involvement in violence against religious minorities.

Furthermore, the US Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF) - an independent State Department entity - has incessantly highlighted the influence of the RSS and the "Sangh Parivar" (Family of Organizations) which spring from it. Noting that the late 1990s saw a "marked increase in violent attacks against members of religious minorities, particularly Muslims and Christians, throughout India, including killings, torture, rape, and destruction of property," USCIRF explained, "The increase in such violence in India coincided with the rise in political influence of groups associated with the Sangh Parivar, a collection of organizations that view non-Hindus as foreign to India and aggressively press for governmental policies to promote a Hindu nationalist agenda."

In 2015, USCIRF reported that, following the election of BJP Prime Minister Narendra Modi (an RSS member who is himself accused of orchestrating an anti-Muslim pogrom in 2002), "religious minority communities" were subjected to "numerous violent attacks and forced conversions by Hindu nationalist groups, such as Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) and Vishva Hindu Parishad (VHP)." In 2017, the group reported that the RSS and its affiliates had "perpetrated numerous incidents of intimidation, harassment, and violence against religious minority communities and Hindu Dalits." In one exceptionally disturbing incident, "The RSS reportedly placed signs in train

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stations throughout India that said Christians had to leave India or convert to Hinduism or they will be killed by 2021." In 2019, the group attributed the deterioration of "conditions for religious minorities" to "a multifaceted campaign by Hindu nationalist groups" such as the RSS "to alienate non-Hindus or lower-caste Hindus," concluding that it was "a significant contributor to the rise of religious violence and persecution."

In light of such reports from his own government, Ambassador Keshap's decision to meet the RSS chief - and, particularly, to describe his visit as intended to "ensure the vitality and strength" of India - truly boggles the mind. However, even if American institutions had remained silent, countless other factors ought to have inspired Keshap to shun the notorious Hindu nationalist outfit.

The RSS has been banned three times, most recently in 1992 after instigating the mob demolition of an historic mosque and subsequent riots that left up to 3,000 Muslims dead. Since the 1940s, the RSS has been repeatedly implicated in assassinations, bombings, and even pogroms targeting minorities as well as its critics. The paramilitary's current Supreme Leader, Mohan Bhagwat (with whom Keshap met), has frequently asserted both that all Indians (regardless of their personal self-identification) are Hindus and that it is "non-negotiable" that India is a Hindu nation.

Moreover, the organization's founders - whose pictures adorn every RSS gathering - were openly and unapologetically inspired by Benito Mussolini's Fascist Italy and Adolf Hitler's Nazi Germany. Citing Hitler's Germany as an ideal example of the xenophobic society they desired, they praised the "race consciousness" and "race spirit" that prompted the expansionist conquests of the European fascist movements.

9/11: 20 years of the tragedy

In the worst terrorist attack ever against the United States, hijackers struck at the preeminent symbols of the nation's wealth and might, flying airliners into the World Trade Center and the Pentagon and killing or injuring thousands of people.

September 11 attacks, also called 9/11 attacks, series of airline hijackings and suicide attacks committed in 2001 by 19 militants associated with the Islamic extremist group al-Qaeda against targets in the United States, the deadliest terrorist attacks on American soil in U.S. history.

The attacks against New York City and Washington, D.C., caused extensive death and destruction and triggered an enormous U.S. effort to combat terrorism. Some 2,750 people were killed in New York, 184 at the Pentagon, and 40 in Pennsylvania (where one of the hijacked planes crashed after the passengers attempted to retake the plane); all 19 terrorists died. Police and fire departments in New York were especially hard-hit: hundreds had rushed to the scene of the attacks, and more than 400 police officers and firefighters were killed.

The plot

The September 11 attacks were precipitated in large part because Osama bin Laden, the leader of the militant Islamic organization al-Qaeda, held naive beliefs about the United States in the run-up to the attacks. Abu Walid al-Masri, an Egyptian who was a bin Laden associate in Afghanistan in the 1980s and '90s, explained that, in the years prior to the attacks, bin Laden became increasingly convinced that America was weak. "He believed that the United States was much weaker than some of those around him thought," Masri remembered, and "as evidence he referred to what happened to the United States in Beirut when the bombing of the Marines base led them to flee from Lebanon," referring to the destruction of the marine barracks there in 1983, which killed 241 American servicemen. Bin Laden believed that the United States was a "paper tiger," a belief shaped not just by America's departure from Lebanon following the marine barracks bombing but also by the withdrawal of American forces from Somalia in 1993, following the deaths of 18 U.S. servicemen in Mogadishu, and the American pullout from Vietnam in the 1970s.

The key operational planner of the September 11 attacks was Khalid Sheikh Mohammed (often referred to simply as "KSM" in the later 9/11 Commission Report and in the media), who had spent his youth in Kuwait. Khalid Sheikh Mohammed became active in the Muslim Brotherhood, which he joined at age 16, and then he went to the United States to attend college, receiving a degree from North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University in 1986. Afterward he traveled to Pakistan and then Afghanistan to wage jihad against the Soviet Union, which had launched an invasion against Afghanistan in 1979.

According to Yosri Fouda, a journalist at the Arabic-language cable television channel Al Jazeera who interviewed him in 2002, Khalid Sheikh Mohammed planned to blow up some dozen American planes in Asia during the mid-1990s, a plot (known as "Bojinka") that failed, "but the dream of Khalid Sheikh Mohammed never faded. And I think by putting his hand in the hands of bin Laden, he realized that now he stood a chance of bringing about his long awaited dream."

In 1996 Khalid Sheikh Mohammed met bin Laden in Tora Bora, Afghanistan. The 9-11 Commission (formally the National Commission on Terrorist Attacks Upon the United States), set up in 2002 by Pres. George W. Bush and the U.S. Congress to investigate the attacks of 2001, explained that it was then that Khalid Sheikh Mohammed "presented a proposal for an operation that would involve training pilots who would crash planes into buildings in the United States." Khalid Sheikh Mohammed dreamed up the tactical innovation of using hijacked planes to attack the United States, al-



An explosion rips through the south tower of the World Trade Center as smoke billows from the north tower.



Qaeda provided the personnel, money, and logistical support to execute the operation, and bin Laden wove the attacks on New York and Washington into a larger strategic framework of attacking the "far enemy"—the United States—in order to bring about regime change across the Middle East.

The September 11 plot demonstrated that al-Qaeda was an organization of global reach. The plot played out across the globe with planning meetings in Malaysia,

operatives taking flight lessons in the United States, coordination by plot leaders based in Hamburg, Germany, money transfers from Dubai, and recruitment of suicide operatives from countries around the Middle East—all activities that were ultimately overseen by al-Qaeda's leaders in Afghanistan.

Key parts of the September 11 plot took shape in Hamburg. Four of the key pilots and planners in the

From page 11

“Hamburg cell” who would take operational control of the September 11 attacks, including the lead hijacker Mohammed Atta, had a chance meeting on a train in Germany in 1999 with an Islamist militant who struck up a conversation with them about fighting jihad in the Russian republic of Chechnya. The militant put the Hamburg cell in touch with an al-Qaeda operative living in Germany who explained that it was difficult to get to Chechnya at that time because many travelers were being detained in Georgia. He recommended they go to Afghanistan instead.

Although Afghanistan was critical to the rise of al-Qaeda, it was the experience that some of the plotters acquired in the West that made them simultaneously more zealous and better equipped to carry out the attacks. Three of the four plotters who would pilot the hijacked planes on September 11 and one of the key planners, Ramzi Binalshibh, became more radical while living in Hamburg. Some combination of perceived or real discrimination, alienation, and homesickness seems to have turned them all in a more militant direction. Increasingly cutting themselves off from the outside world, they gradually radicalized each other, and eventually the friends decided to wage battle in bin Laden’s global jihad, setting off for Afghanistan in 1999 in search of al-Qaeda.

Atta and the other members of the Hamburg group arrived in Afghanistan in 1999 right at the moment that the September 11 plot was beginning to take shape. Bin Laden and his military commander Muhammad Atef realized that Atta and his fellow Western-educated jihadists were far better suited to lead the attacks on Washington and New York than the men they had already recruited, leading bin Laden to appoint Atta to head the operation.

The hijackers, most of whom were from Saudi Arabia, established themselves in the United States, many well in advance of the attacks. They traveled in small groups, and some of them received commercial flight training.

Throughout his stay in the United States, Atta kept Binalshibh updated on the plot’s progress via e-mail. To cloak his activities, Atta wrote the messages as if he were writing to his girlfriend “Jenny,” using innocuous code to inform Binalshibh that they were almost complete in their training and readiness for the attacks. Atta wrote in one message, “The first semester commences in three weeks...Nineteen certificates for private education and four exams.” The referenced 19 “certificates” were code that identified the 19 al-Qaeda hijackers, while the four “exams” identified the targets of the attacks.

In the early morning of August 29, 2001, Atta called Binalshibh and said he had a riddle that he was trying to solve: “Two sticks, a dash and a cake with a stick down—what is it?” After considering the question, Binalshibh realized that Atta was telling him that the attacks would occur in two weeks—the two sticks being the number 11 and the cake with a stick down a 9. Putting it together, it meant that the attacks would occur on 11-9, or 11 September (in most countries the day precedes the month in numeric dates, but in the United States the month precedes the day; hence, it was



9-11 in the United States). On September 5 Binalshibh left Germany for Pakistan. Once there he sent a messenger to Afghanistan to inform bin Laden about both the day of the attack and its scope.

The attacks

On September 11, 2001, groups of attackers boarded four domestic aircraft at three East Coast airports, and soon after takeoff they disabled the crews, some of whom may have been stabbed with box cutters the hijackers were secreting. The hijackers then took control of the aircraft, all large and bound for the West Coast with full loads of fuel. At 8:46 AM the first plane, American Airlines flight 11, which had originated from Boston, was piloted into the north tower of the World Trade Center in New York City. Most observers construed this initially to be an accident involving a small commuter plane. The second plane, United Airlines flight 175,

also from Boston, struck the south tower 17 minutes later. At this point there was no doubt that the United States was under attack. Each structure was badly damaged by the impact and erupted into flames. Office workers who were trapped above the points of impact in some cases leapt to their deaths rather than face the infernos now raging inside the towers. The third plane, American Airlines flight 77, taking off from Dulles Airport near Washington, D.C., struck the southwest side of the Pentagon (just outside the city) at 9:37 AM, touching off a fire in that section of the structure. Minutes later the Federal Aviation Authority ordered a nationwide ground stop, and within the next hour (at 10:03 AM) the fourth aircraft, United Airlines flight 93 from Newark, New Jersey, crashed near Shanksville in the Pennsylvania countryside after its passengers—informed of events via cellular phone—attempted to overpower

their assailants. At 9:59 AM the World Trade Center’s heavily damaged south tower collapsed, and the north tower fell 29 minutes later. Clouds of smoke and debris quickly filled the streets of Lower Manhattan. Office workers and residents ran in panic as they tried to outpace the billowing debris clouds. A number of other buildings adjacent to the twin towers suffered serious damage, and several subsequently fell. Fires at the World Trade Center site smoldered for more than three months. Rescue operations began almost immediately as the country and the world sought to come to grips with the enormity of the losses. Nearly 3,000 people had perished: some 2,750 people in New York, 184 at the Pentagon, and 40 in Pennsylvania; all 19 terrorists also died. Included in the total in New York City were more than 400 police officers and firefighters, who had lost their lives after

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rushing to the scene and into the towers.

On the morning of September 11, President Bush had been visiting a second-grade classroom in Sarasota, Florida, when he was informed that a plane had flown into the World Trade Center. A little later Andrew Card, his chief of staff, whispered in the president's right ear: "A second plane hit the second tower. America is under attack." To keep the president out of harm's way, Bush subsequently hopped across the country on Air Force One, landing in Washington, D.C., the evening of the attacks. At 8:30 PM Bush addressed the nation from the Oval Office in a speech that laid out a key doctrine of his administration's future foreign policy: "We will make no distinction between the terrorists who committed these acts and those who harbor them."

On September 14 Bush visited "Ground Zero," the smoking pile of debris of what remained of the World Trade Center and the thousands who had perished there. Standing on top of a wrecked fire truck, Bush grabbed a bullhorn to address the rescue workers working feverishly to find any survivors. When one of the workers said that he could not hear what the president was saying, Bush made one of the most memorable remarks of his presidency:

Bush's robust response to the attacks drove his poll ratings from 55 percent favourable before September 11 to 90 percent in the days after, the highest ever recorded for a president.

The aftermath

The emotional distress caused by the attacks—particularly the collapse of the twin towers, New York City's most visible landmark—was overwhelming. Unlike the relatively isolated site of the Pearl Harbor attack of 1941, to which the September 11 events were soon compared, the World Trade Center lay at the heart of one of the world's largest cities. Hundreds of thousands of people witnessed the attacks firsthand (many onlookers photographed events or recorded them with video cameras), and millions watched the tragedy unfold live on television. In the days that followed September 11, the footage of the attacks was replayed in the media countless times, as were the scenes of throngs of people, stricken with grief, gathering at "Ground Zero"—as the site where the towers once stood came to be commonly known—some with photos of missing

loved ones, seeking some hint of their fate.

Moreover, world markets were badly shaken. The towers were at the heart of New York's financial district, and damage to Lower Manhattan's infrastructure, combined with fears of stock market panic, kept New York markets closed for four trading days. Markets afterward suffered record losses. The attacks also stranded tens of thousands of people throughout the United States, as U.S. airspace remained closed for commercial aviation until September 13, and normal service, with more rigid security measures, did not resume for several days.

The September 11 attacks were an enormous tactical success for al-Qaeda. The strikes were well coordinated and hit multiple targets in the heart of the enemy, and the attacks were magnified by being broadcast around the world to an audience of untold millions. The September 11 "propaganda of the deed" took place in the media capital of the world, which ensured the widest possible coverage of the event. Not since television viewers had watched the abduction and murder of Israeli athletes during the Munich Olympics in 1972 had a massive global audience witnessed a terrorist attack unfold in real time. If al-Qaeda had been a largely unknown organization before September 11, in the days after it became a household name.

After the attacks of September 11, countries allied with the United States rallied to its support, perhaps best symbolized by the French newspaper *Le Monde's* headline, "We are all Americans now." Even in Iran thousands gathered in the capital, Tehran, for a candlelight vigil.

Evidence gathered by the United States soon convinced most governments that the Islamic militant group al-Qaeda was responsible for the attacks. The group had been implicated in previous terrorist strikes against Americans, and bin Laden had made numerous anti-American statements. Al-Qaeda was headquartered in Afghanistan and had forged a close relationship with that country's ruling Taliban militia, which subsequently refused U.S. demands to extradite bin Laden and to terminate al-Qaeda activity there.

For the first time in its history, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) invoked Article 5, allowing its members to respond collectively in self-defense, and on October 7 the U.S. and

The September 11 commission and its findings

In 2002 President Bush had appointed a commission to look into the September 11 attacks, and two years later it issued its final report. The commission found that the key pre-September 11 failure at the CIA was its not adding to the State Department's "watch list" two of the "muscle" hijackers (who were trained to restrain the passengers on the plane), the suspected al-Qaeda militants Nawaf al-Hazmi and Khalid al-Mihdhar. The CIA had been tracking Hazmi and Mihdhar since they attended a terrorist summit meeting in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, on January 5, 2000. The failure to watch-list the two al-Qaeda suspects with the Department of State meant that they entered the United States under their real names with ease. On January 15, 2000, 10 days after the Malaysian meeting, Hazmi and Mihdhar flew into Los Angeles. The CIA also did not alert the FBI about the identities of the suspected terrorists, which could have helped the bureau locate them once they were inside the United States. According to the commission, this was the failure of not just a few employees at the CIA but a large number of CIA officers and analysts. Some 50 to 60 CIA employees read cables about the two al-Qaeda suspects without taking any action. Some of those officers knew that one of the al-Qaeda suspects had a visa for the United States, and by May 2001 some knew that the other suspect had flown to Los Angeles.

The soon-to-be hijackers would not have been difficult to find in California if their names had been known to law enforcement. Under their real names they rented an apartment, obtained driver's licenses, opened bank accounts, purchased a car, and took flight lessons at a local school; Mihdhar even listed his name in the local phone directory.

It was only on August 24, 2001, as a result of questions raised by a CIA officer on assignment at the FBI, that the two al-Qaeda suspects were watch-listed and their names communicated to the FBI. Even then the FBI sent out only a "Routine" notice requesting an investigation of Mihdhar. A few weeks later Hazmi and Mihdhar were two of the hijackers on the American Airlines flight that plunged into the Pentagon.

The CIA inspector general concluded that "informing the FBI and good operational follow-through by CIA and FBI might have resulted in surveillance of both al-Mihdhar and al-Hazmi. Surveillance, in turn, would have had the potential to yield information on flight training, financing, and links to others who were complicit in the 9/11 attacks."

The key failure at the FBI was the handling of the Zacarias Moussaoui case. Moussaoui, a French citizen of Moroccan descent, was attending flight school in the summer of 2001 in Minnesota, where he attracted attention from instructors because he had little knowledge of flying and did not behave like a typical aviation student. The flight school contacted the FBI, and on August 16 Moussaoui was arrested on a visa overstay charge. Although Moussaoui was not the "20th hijacker," as was widely reported later, he had received money from one of the September 11 coordinators, Ramzi Binalshibh, and by his own account was going to take part in a second wave of al-Qaeda attacks following the assaults on New York and Washington.

The FBI agent in Minneapolis who handled Moussaoui's case believed that he might have been planning to hijack a plane, and the agent was also concerned that Moussaoui had traveled to Pakistan, which was a red flag as militants often used the country as a transit point to travel to terrorist training camps in Afghanistan. On August 23 (or 24, according to some reports) CIA director George Tenet was told about the case in a briefing titled "Islamic Extremist Learns to Fly." But FBI headquarters determined that there was not sufficient "probable cause" of a crime for the Minneapolis office to conduct a search of Moussaoui's computer hard drive and belongings. Such a search would have turned up his connection to Binalshibh, according to Republican Sen. Charles Grassley, a leading member of the Senate Judiciary Committee, which has oversight of the FBI. The 9-11 Commission also concluded that "a maximum U.S. effort to investigate Moussaoui conceivably could have unearthed his connection to Binalshibh."



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A strategic failure for al-Qaeda

allied military forces launched an attack against Afghanistan. Within months thousands of militants were killed or captured, and Taliban and al-Qaeda leaders were driven into hiding. In addition, the U.S. government exerted great effort to track down other al-Qaeda agents and sympathizers throughout the world and made combating terrorism the focus of U.S. foreign policy. Meanwhile, security measures within the United States were tightened considerably at such places as airports, government buildings, and sports venues. To help facilitate the domestic response, Congress quickly passed the USA PATRIOT Act (the Uniting and Strengthening America by Providing Appropriate Tools Required to Intercept and Obstruct Terrorism Act of 2001), which significantly but temporarily expanded the search and surveillance powers of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and other law-enforcement agencies. Additionally, a cabinet-level Department of Homeland Security was established.

Despite their success in causing widespread destruction and death, the September 11 attacks were a strategic failure for al-Qaeda. Following September 11, al-Qaeda—whose name in Arabic means “the base”—lost the best base it ever had in Afghanistan. Later some in al-Qaeda’s leadership—including those who, like Egyptian Saif al-Adel, had initially opposed the attacks—tried to spin the Western intervention in Afghanistan as a victory for al-Qaeda. Al-Adel, one of the group’s military commanders, explained in an interview four years later that the strikes on New York and Washington were part of a far-reaching and visionary plan to provoke the United States into some ill-advised actions.

But there is not a shred of evidence that in the weeks before September 11 al-Qaeda’s leaders made any plans for an American invasion of Afghanistan. Instead, they prepared only for possible U.S. cruise missile attacks or air strikes by evacuating their training camps. Also, the overthrow of the Taliban hardly constituted an American “mistake”—the first and only regime in the modern Muslim world that ruled according to al-Qaeda’s rigid precepts was toppled, and with it was lost an entire country that al-Qaeda had once enjoyed as a safe haven. And in the wake of the fall of the Taliban, al-Qaeda was unable to recover anything like the status it once had as a terrorist organization with considerable sway over Afghanistan.

Bin Laden disastrously misjudged the possible U.S. responses to the September 11 attacks, which he believed would take one of two forms: an eventual retreat from the Middle East along the lines of the U.S. pullout from Somalia in 1993 or another ineffectual round of cruise missile attacks similar to those that followed al-Qaeda’s bombings of American embassies in Kenya and Tanzania in 1998. Neither of these two scenarios happened. The U.S. campaign against the Taliban was conducted with pinpoint strikes from American airpower; tens of thousands of Northern Alliance forces (a loose coalition of



mujahideen militias that maintained control of a small section of northern Afghanistan), and more than 300 U.S. Special Forces soldiers on the ground working with 110 officers from the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA). In November, just two months after the September 11 attacks, the Taliban fell to the Northern Alliance and the United States. Still, it was just the beginning of what would become the longest war in U.S. history, as the United States tried to prevent the return of the Taliban and their al-Qaeda allies.

In December 2001, faced with the problem of where to house prisoners as the Taliban fell, the administration decided to hold them at Guantánamo Bay, which the U.S. had been leasing from Cuba since 1903. As Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld put it on December 27, 2001, “I would characterize Guantánamo Bay, Cuba, as the least worst place we could have selected.” Guantánamo was attractive to administration officials because they believed it placed the detainees outside the reach of American laws, such as the right to appeal their imprisonment, yet it was only 90 miles (145 km) off the coast of Florida, making it accessible to the various agencies that would need to travel there to extract information from what was believed to be a population of hundreds of dangerous terrorists. Eventually, some 800 prisoners would be held there, although the prison population was reduced to less than 175 by the time of the 10th anniversary of the September 11 attacks.

In his State of the Union speech on January 29, 2002, President Bush laid out a new doctrine of preemptive war, which went well beyond the long-established principle that the United States would go to war to prevent an adversary launching an attack that imminently threatened the country. Bush declared:

“I will not wait on events while



dangers gather. I will not stand by as peril draws closer and closer. The United States of America will not permit the world’s most dangerous regimes to threaten us with the world’s most destructive weapons.”

Bush identified those dangerous regimes as an “axis of evil” that included Iran, Iraq, and North Korea. At the graduation ceremony for West Point cadets on June 1, 2002, Bush elaborated on his preemptive war doctrine, saying to the assembled soon-to-be graduates and their families, “If we wait for threats to fully materialize, we will have waited too long.” Bush believed that there would be a “demonstration effect” in destroying Saddam Hussein’s regime in Iraq that would deter groups like al-Qaeda or indeed anyone else who might be inclined to attack the United States. Undersecretary of Defense Douglas J. Feith later explained,

What we did after 9/11 was look broadly at the international terrorist network from which the next attack on

the United States might come. And we did not focus narrowly only on the people who were specifically responsible for 9/11. Our main goal was preventing the next attack. Thus, though there was no evidence that Saddam Hussein’s government in Iraq had collaborated with al-Qaeda in the September 11 attacks, the United States prepared for conflict against Iraq in its global war against terror, broadly defined.

On March 19, 2003, on the eve of the invasion of Iraq, President Bush issued the order for war:

For the peace of the world and the benefit and freedom of the Iraqi people, I hereby give the order to execute Operation Iraqi Freedom. May God bless the troops.

On March 20 the American-led invasion of Iraq began. Within three weeks U.S. forces controlled Baghdad, and the famous pictures of the massive statue of Saddam Hussein being toppled from its plinth were broadcast around the world.

The hunt for Osama bin Laden

In September 2001 President Bush announced that he wanted Osama bin Laden captured—dead or alive—and a \$25 million bounty was eventually issued for information leading to the killing or capture of bin Laden. Bin Laden evaded capture, however, including in December 2001, when he was tracked by U.S. forces to the mountains of Tora Bora in eastern Afghanistan. Bin Laden's trail subsequently went cold, and he was thought to be living somewhere in the Afghanistan-Pakistan tribal regions.

U.S. intelligence eventually located him in Pakistan, living in the garrison city of Abbottabad, and in the early morning hours of May 2, 2011, on orders from U.S. Pres. Barack Obama, a small team of U.S. Navy SEALs assaulted his compound and shot and killed the al-Qaeda leader.

One World Trade Center and the National September 11 Memorial and Museum

The physical and symbolic void left by the destruction of the Twin Towers was filled on November 3, 2014, with the opening of One World Trade Center, a 1,776-foot (541.3-metre) skyscraper, which instantly became a dramatic new landmark on the Manhattan skyline. Adjacent to One World Trade Center are the National September 11 Memorial and Museum (completed in 2011 and 2014, respectively). Within the 8-acre (3.2-hectare) memorial plaza, twin 1-acre (0.4-hectare) reflecting pools occupy the footprints of the Twin Towers. The pools feature the largest man-made waterfalls in North America and are edged by bronze panels inscribed with the names of the victims of the September 11 attacks as well as the names of the six people who died as a result of the truck bombing of the World Trade Center in February 1993. Among more than 400 trees in the grove that surrounds the pools is the "Survivor Tree," a Callery pear tree that was discovered badly damaged at Ground Zero, removed and nursed back to health, and then returned to the site in 2010. The memorial and plaza were designed by architects Michael Arad and Peter Walker, winners of a design competition that featured 5,201 submissions from 63 countries.

The museum includes a glass-encased pavilion with an atrium that features two 80-foot (24-metre) trident-shaped steel columns that were part of the facade of the North Tower. The museum's Memorial Hall is adorned with 2,983 tiles (representing the victims of the September 2001 and February 1993 attacks), each one a blue watercolour with which artist Spencer Finch attempted to capture the colour of the sky on the day of the September 11 attacks. At the centre of the tiles is a quote from Virgil's Aeneid: "No day shall erase you from the memory of time."

The museum's Foundation Hall is a high-ceilinged, nearly 15,000-square-foot (1,400-square-metre) room that encompasses part of a surviving retaining wall of the World Trade Center and displays the "Last Column," a 36-foot (11-metre) steel beam to which workers and others attached messages and posters during Ground Zero cleanup operations. The international impact of the September 11 attacks is demonstrated along the ramp that descends into the museum by a multimedia exhibit featuring recorded reminiscences by people from 43 countries in 28 languages.

9/11: Lessons for America

September 11, 2021 marks the 20 years of 9/11 terror attacks in America. The image of two passenger planes flying into the twin towers of the World Trade Center is permanently etched on public memory. This was, however, not the first time that the World Trade Center was under attack from terrorists.

In 1993, a suicide bomber had driven a truck to the World Trade Center in New York but it did not bring down the towers. Six people had died back then.

In 2001, the World Trade Center was also not the only target to have been hit by the terrorists - 19 of them belonging to al Qaeda. Four passenger planes had taken off from different airports in the US with three pre-decided targets. Two planes hit the New York buildings.

Third one hit Pentagon, the headquarters of the US



Department of Defence and caused little damage to the building. The fourth had a bigger target - the Capitol Hill, the seat of US government in Washington DC.

The passengers of the United Airlines flight showed remarkable sense of courage and willingness to sacrifice their lives to protect the US. They challenged the terrorists and thwarted their attempt to take the flight to Washington DC. It crashed into an open field in neighbouring Pennsylvania.

For that one day on September 9, 2001, terror seemed to have become the master of the world. There was panic in every country. This was the first time that the US had been attacked by an outside force since 1941 when Japan targeted Pearl Harbour in the Hawaii Islands and the first ever on the mainland America since the Revolutionary War of 18th century.

The terror attack taught several lessons not only to the US but the whole world. These lessons could be summarised as ahead.

No country is invulnerable

The audacity and the meticulous planning by Al Qaeda exposed the vulnerability of the security establishment of all the countries of the world. No country could now be seen as invulnerable.

For long, terror attacks in India from Pakistan-based groups were treated by the international community as localised affair arising out of the long-held animosity between India and Pakistan and religious bigotry in the two countries.

The 9/11 attacks shattered that myth. For the first time, the world learnt this lesson that terrorism is a policy of some state and groups aspiring to acquire political powers by stoking religious fundamentalism.

Policing is key

Policing is key to stop any crime including terrorism. Policing is, by the way, not only done by the police forces but all the vigilance agencies. A few days after the 9/11 attacks emerged videos showing hijackers of the plane that crashed on to the Pentagon were being screened at Washington's Dulles airport.

The security person is seen in the video doing just a routine job of screening the hijackers, two of whom were on an anti-terrorism watch list and one person had no photo-ID. Still they all were given clearance to board the plane. This happened in the US, which was known to frisk even high and mighty from the other countries.

Had the policing been done efficiently, the plot might have been exposed or at least one target could have been saved and terrorists caught alive. Jaish-e-Mohammed chief Masood Azhar, now the UN-designated terrorist, had been arrested in Kashmir in 1994 due to simplest of policing.

Intelligence info should not be ignored

Most powerful countries or the ones aspiring to be powerful boast of their robust intelligence gathering. The Central Intelligence Agency of the US is the most powerful and resourceful of them all. The CIA had picked up definite intelligence about an "imminent" terrorist

attack on the US soil.

Reports suggest that the CIA had sent its report to Condoleezza Rice, then national security advisor to US President George Bush, apparently several months before the 9/11 attacks happened. The CIA intelligence was specific that al Qaeda was planning "multiple" and "spectacular" attacks in the US in immediate future.

Similar warnings have reached the White House of George Bush but the state agencies largely ignored them, considering "usual reports" from the ground operative with no "actionable intelligence". This proved massively fatal. The lesson learnt was that intelligence of terror plots cannot be taken lightly irrespective of the number of reports ground operatives send.

Terrorism follows money

In every single case of terror attack, money has been involved. In 9/11 attacks, money flowed through international agencies but the authorities ignored it.

Probe into the 9/11 attacks revealed that money was sent to terrorists who hijacked the planes from overseas. The hijackers, in turn, sent money to United Arab Emirates in four batches only three days before they stunned the world.

All the four payments were made through Western Union but the company or the security agencies fail to notice the transactions, which were suspicious in nature in the backdrop of intelligence inputs.

The agencies have become more alert and money laundering laws in most countries have been tightened. Still, some safe havens for money laundering are in play and they can play perfect foil to future terror plots. A country can forget this lesson from the 9/11 attacks only on its own peril.

Political instability breeds terror

Political instability or infighting could be a breeding ground for terrorism. This is a disguised yet very important lesson from the 9/11 terror attacks. It acts both ways - political instability in the source country (e.g. Pakistan, Afghanistan) and a target country (e.g. the US, India).

The US witnessed an unusual political instability in the months and years before the 9/11 attacks. Then US President Bill Clinton survived impeachment after the House of Representative voted to commence the proceedings. The motion fell in the Senate.

This had followed a sexual harassment case against Bill Clinton by a former Arkansas state employee Paula Jones. This case brought to light another massive scandal involving Bill Clinton and a White House intern Monica Lewinsky.

The political infighting at that time in the US was unseen for decades. When presidential election happened in 2000, it remained unresolved for 41 days. The US was living a political mistrust. Ten months later, coordination among the government machinery failed and terrorists succeeded in killing 2,977 people in one swoop.

Fight against terror is not over

That the fight against terrorism is far from over is a lesson that is not lost on any country except for those sponsoring terror and hobnobbing with terror masters. The US is fighting to destroy terror infrastructure and groups in the Middle East and Afghanistan.

India is fighting its own battle against Pakistan-backed terrorism. According to Global Terrorism Index, 77 countries witnessed acts of terror in 2017. This number is only half the story as only three years ago in 2014, there were 106 countries as victims of terrorism.

Clearly, the lesson from 9/11 attacks that the world cannot afford to forget is that the national and global security agencies cannot lower their guard at any point of time in their fight against terrorism. These agencies need to be foolproof every single time while terrorists need just one loophole to succeed and kill humanity.

20 years after 9/11, mastermind Khalid Sheikh Mohammed still awaits trial

It's all about how the justice system at Guantanamo was set up, says one national security expert: "The system is set up to fail."

GUANTÁNAMO BAY, CUBA (TIP): It should be the trial of the century, but most Americans long ago stopped paying attention.

Two decades after the 9/11 attacks and nine years after war crimes charges were filed, the pretrial wrangling in the case against accused 9/11 mastermind Khalid Sheikh Mohammed and four other defendants resumed Tuesday after a long Covid shutdown. It marked KSM's first court appearance in more than a year. No trial date has been set, and none is anticipated any time soon.

Alka Pradhan, a civilian employee of the Defense Department who represents one of the five, called what's happening here a "farce." While other lawyers decline to go that far, nearly everyone seems to agree that the effort to bring these defendants to justice has gone badly off the rails.

"This failure is not on the people prosecuting, defending or the judges involved," said Kevin Powers, a national security expert at Boston College who once advised the Pentagon's office of military commissions on Guantánamo issues. "It's really the way the system was set up. And that's what really people have to understand: The system is set up to fail."

It was 15 years ago Monday that President George W. Bush announced the arrival of al Qaeda detainees at the Guantánamo prison, joining hundreds of other prisoners already held in this U.S. enclave. The reasons the wheels of justice are moving so slowly are many. It's a logistical nightmare to travel here. The military commissions system set up for this trial was created from scratch in the Obama administration, so every rule can be a point of contention — and hours of litigation. There has been frequent turnover of judges and lawyers.

But the biggest factor in why it's taking so long, defense lawyers and other experts say, is the secrecy. It took years for defense lawyers to get summaries of the classified evidence against their clients, and they say they still don't have everything they need, even though they all possess top-secret security clearances.

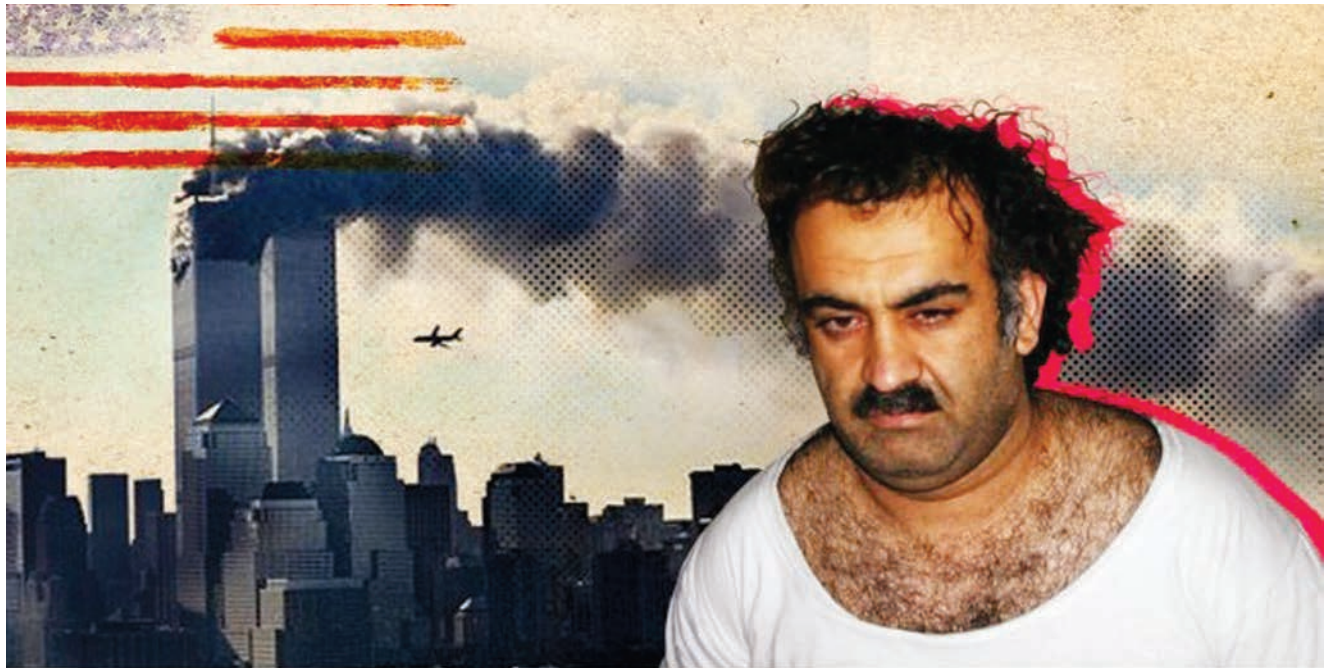
Inside the courtroom, journalists and family members must watch behind a wall of thick glass. The sound is piped in on a 40-second delay to guard against the defendants blurting out something classified, officials said. And what classified information might al Qaeda operatives possess?

Defense lawyers say there is one main reason so much here is shrouded in secrecy: The government is still trying to hide the details of what happened to the detainees who were held and tortured by the CIA in secret prisons before they were transferred to Guantánamo.

"Covering up torture is the reason that these men were brought to Guantánamo, and the continuing cover-up of torture is the reason that indefinite detention at Guantánamo still exists," said James Connell, a lawyer for Ammar al Baluchi, who, his lawyers say, was a model for the detainee who was tortured in one of the opening scenes of the film "Zero Dark Thirty."

"The cover-up of torture is also the reason that we are all gathered at Guantánamo for the 42nd hearing in the 9/11 military commission on the 15th anniversary of the transfer of these men to Guantánamo."

The prosecution has not granted interviews to the news media for years, longtime Guantánamo observers say, but said in a statement that it was committed to a fair proceeding. In court papers, prosecutors have blamed the defense for the delays,



Khalid came to be known as the 'principal architect' of the attacks, according to the 9/11 Commission which investigated them. He is said to be the one who came up with the plan and proposed it to al Qaeda.

noting that defense lawyers have filed motion after motion challenging huge swaths of evidence.

"The goal of the United States has been to afford fairness in reaching just outcomes to these cases," the prosecution said. "Beyond that, the Department of Defense cannot speculate on matters related to the Commissions' timeline."

Experts say at the rate the case is proceeding, there could be another decade of procedural hearings.

"There's the possibility of having no trial at all," said Madeline Morris, a Duke law professor, who heads the Guantánamo Defense Clinic, which assists defense counsel for military commissions.

"What we've been doing is to have, in essence, no trial at all," Morris said. "It's not necessarily a foregone conclusion that there will be a trial."

Meanwhile, the New York Times estimates that it costs taxpayers around \$13 million per prisoner per year to operate the detention facility here, on a rocky coastline in a part of Cuba that the U.S. has occupied since the end of the Spanish-American war.

There are just 39 prisoners now, down from a height of nearly 700.

And while the Biden administration has said it wants to close the facility, a \$15 million expansion is underway, officials here said, including the construction of a new courtroom and workspaces.

To get here Saturday, more than a hundred people boarded a military charter at Joint Base Andrews in Maryland at the crack of dawn — prosecutors, defense attorneys, FBI agents, military officials, relatives of victims and journalists — after taking a rapid Covid test. It was a full day of travel, underscoring the logistical difficulty of getting in and out.

After a status conference Sunday, it became clear that even less may happen this week than expected. A senior lawyer on one of the legal teams is absent for unspecified personal reasons, and it's not clear that substantive arguments can proceed.

Bush opened the detention center in 2002 as he launched what he called a War on Terror, with the idea of keeping so-called enemy combatants there indefinitely. He filled it up, mixing low-level foot

soldiers with terrorist masterminds, all held without charges being filed.

Amid worldwide condemnation, his administration ended up releasing more than 500 captives and granting the remaining prisoners access to lawyers. Many were sent back home or released to third countries without incident. About 17 percent have re-engaged in terrorism, according to the Office of the Director of National Intelligence. Two former Guantánamo detainees surfaced last month in key roles with the Taliban as they took control of Afghanistan.

As president, Barack Obama promised to close the prison, but failed, though he shrank the population further, to 41. Donald Trump pledged to "load it up" with new inmates, but never did.

Stung by revelations of torture, the CIA and the military long ago stopped holding enemy combatants for more than a few days. The U.S. instead has relied on allies to jail those captured on the battlefield. Critics say it has become easier to kill terror suspects with drone strikes than for America to capture and hold them.

Charges against many of the remaining inmates may not be possible, experts say, either because the evidence is too sensitive or the torture they experienced has tainted the case beyond repair.

Meanwhile, the 9/11 defendants await justice. A plan to try them in New York City during the Obama administration blew up amid widespread political opposition.

"I have no doubt whatsoever that KSM is guilty," said Terry McDermott, co-author of "The Hunt for KSM," the definitive account of how the U.S. tracked down Khalid Sheikh Mohammed.

"He's admitted it himself over and over again. So this should have been a very straightforward, open-and-shut case. If they had done this in the Southern District of New York, where they've done 200 terrorism trials, the guy would have been in jail or executed 10 years ago. But if you've been to Guantánamo, you've seen the situation. The whole thing is ridiculous."

Source: NBCnews

The man behind the rebuilding of 9/11's Ground Zero

Developer Larry Silverstein signed a \$3.2 billion 99-year lease on New York's World Trade Center six weeks before the Sept. 11 attacks in 2001. He recalls the smoldering ruins of the Twin Towers as "probably the worst day of my life."

Now, as the 20th anniversary of 9/11 approaches, Silverstein says that what remains are his memories of the goodness of New Yorkers in the days that followed.

"Thousands of New Yorkers decided to come down to the site. ... They simply volunteered to put themselves in terrible danger ... and endeavor to rescue people," he said.

"It was New York at its best, at its finest. And I was so proud to be a New Yorker. I was so proud to know that these people were coming down to help the best they could. It was something that I could never forget."

The Twin Towers and surrounding buildings were destroyed by al Qaeda hijackers of two U.S. airliners, killing 2,753 people.

Silverstein, 70 years old at the time, was ready to retire.

"I said to my wife, 'Now that we've got the brass ring ... whatever you want to do that we delayed all these years doing, we can do.' It didn't turn out that way," he said. "Such is life."

Silverstein's agreement covered the management and operation of the Twin Towers, Four and Five World Trade Center, and approximately 425,000 square feet (nearly 40,000 square meters) of retail space. It also gave Silverstein, as leaseholder, the right and the obligation to rebuild the structures if destroyed.

Silverstein immediately decided to rebuild after the 9/11 attacks. A protracted legal battle ensued with insurers.

In 2007, New York's then-Governor Eliot Spitzer helped to end nearly six years of legal battles that seven World Trade Center insurers had with Silverstein.

A plan was born, and a lengthy metamorphosis turned the disaster zone into a giant pit, then a walled-off construction site, and finally, some \$25 billion later, a tourist attraction and business center with three skyscrapers, a transportation hub, a museum and a memorial.

Silverstein thought the entire site would be rebuilt by 2020, but that changed after the planned anchor tenant for 2 World Trade Center pulled out.

"We're still not finished," he said. "But since I'm only 90, no rush. I have plenty of time."

9/11 attacks: 20 years on, scars remain

Americans mark the 20th anniversary of 9/11 on Saturday with troops finally gone from Afghanistan, but national discord - and for President Joe Biden, political peril - are overshadowing any sense of closure.

A whole generation has grown up since the morning of September 11, 2001. In the interim, Al-Qaeda founder Osama bin Laden has been hunted down and killed. A towering new sky scraper has risen over Manhattan, replacing the Twin Towers. And less than two weeks ago, the last US



Real estate developer Larry Silverstein, poses at 7 World Trade Center in New York, U.S., August 12, 2021. REUTERS



Rebuilding of the towers.



soldiers flew from Kabul airport, ending the so-called "forever war".

Yet, 9/11 never fully went away. The Taliban who once sheltered bin Laden are back ruling Afghanistan. The mighty US military has been humiliated. In Guantanamo Bay, accused 9/11 mastermind Khalid Sheikh Mohammed and four other men continue to await trial, nine years after charges were filed.

Even the full story of how the attack came to happen remains secret. Only last week did Biden order the release of classified documents from the FBI investigation over the next six months.

Monica Iken-Murphy, who lost her 37-year-old husband Michael Iken in the World Trade Center, says this will be a "heightened" anniversary for many Americans. But for her, as for many other survivors, the pain hasn't wavered. "I feel like it just happened," she told AFP.

Simple, heart-wrenching ceremonies lined up

Same as every year, simple, heart-wrenching ceremonies will unfold at each of the three places where Al-Qaeda hijackers crashed packed airliners, striking the cultural, financial and political hearts of the US.

Ground Zero in New York was where the majority of the about 3,000 fatalities, including people from all over the world, were killed in the initial explosions, jumped to their deaths, or simply vanished in the inferno of the collapsing towers.

At the Pentagon, an airliner tore a fiery hole in the side of the global superpower's military nerve centre.

And in Shanksville, Pennsylvania, the third wave of hijackers crashed into a field after passengers fought back, sending United 93 down before reaching its intended target - likely the US Capitol building in Washington, a short flight further on.

Biden and First Lady Jill Biden will stop at each of these places on Saturday to "honour and memorialise the lives lost", the White House said.

Shadow of Afghanistan

Biden planned for this to be a pivotal day in his nearly eight-month-old presidency. Taking over from Donald Trump in January, he promised Americans unity - exiting Afghanistan against the background of the 9/11 anniversary was going to be a big part of that. Biden changed the pull-out date to September 11. Even if he backtracked to a less politically sensitive cut-off of August 31, he clearly meant to own both the withdrawal and the anniversary.

However, instead of presiding over a moment of unity, Biden will traverse a country angry about the chaotic Kabul evacuation and stung by the broader realisation of failure and defeat.

When Biden tours the three sites on Saturday, the weight of 20 years of history - and the need somehow to turn the page - will be on his shoulders.

Source: Reuters/AFP

Hindutva movement's massive effort to silence dissent and restrict Academic freedom decried



It is time for Indian Americans who truly believe in democracy, freedom and human rights to come together and condemn the campaign of harassment and intimidation metered out to the organizers and speakers of this event," Mr. Abraham said.

NEW YORK (TIP): George Abraham, Vice-Chair of Indian Overseas Congress, USA, decried the Hindutva movement's massive effort to silence dissent and

restrict Academic freedom.

"The massive effort undertaken by the Hindutva forces in the U.S. to silence its critics and restrict Academic freedom in response to a conference titled 'Dismantling global Hindutva' reveals how deeply entrenched, resourceful and dangerous these forces are in challenging America's own value system' said George Abraham, Vice-Chairman of the Indian Overseas Congress, USA. "It is quite amazing to witness their efforts to turn American Institutions similar to what they have accomplished with JNU. It is time for Indian Americans who truly believe in democracy, freedom and human rights to come together and condemn the campaign of harassment and intimidation metered out to the organizers and speakers of this event," Mr. Abraham added.

The 'dismantling of global Hindutva' conference was co-sponsored by 70 plus departments of Universities in the U.S. to discuss the impact of the growing clout of

the Hindutva movement globally and the corresponding escalation of violence against religious minorities and marginalized communities in India. According to the organizers, global research networks have noted the overall erosion of democratic practices and freedoms in India. The meeting may also focus on the need to develop a comprehensive understanding of Hindutva and its different iterations in the large Indian Diaspora and its potential for building links with other supremacist ideologies to expand their influence well beyond India.

The Hindutva groups are making concerted efforts to paint this conference anti-Hindu, confusing the public and intimidating academia. Over the past three weeks, the Viswa Hindu Parishad of America and Hindu American Foundation claims to have collectively sent 1.3 million emails to universities to withdraw their support for the conference. Speaking to the media, Gyanendra Pandey, Professor of

History at Emory University, one of the participating schools, said a deliberate attempt is being made to create confusion over the usage of Hindutva and Hinduism. Mr. Pandey said, "Anyone with any serious knowledge of South Asia knows the difference between Hindutva and Hinduism. Hindutva is almost the polar opposite of Hinduism. It is an aggressive political movement aimed at installing an exclusionist, Hindu nationalist regime in India, in line with right-wing authoritarian movements in many parts of the world."

Stanford University anthropologist Thomas Hansen, who has been at the receiving end of Hindu right-wing attacks over the last few years, called on US-based institutions to vigorously defend academic freedom. Mr. Hansen said, "It is important not to give up and not to cave into pressure from the forces that represent themselves as representing Hindus as such but who actually represents the interests of a foreign government."

Justice Department sues Texas to block six-week abortion ban

WASHINGTON (TIP): The Biden administration sued Texas on Thursday, Sept 9 to try to block the nation's most restrictive abortion law, which bans the procedure as early as six weeks into pregnancy and allows private citizens to take legal action against anyone who helps a woman terminate her pregnancy, a Washington Post report says.

The law took effect Sept. 1, effectively ending most abortions in the nation's second-most-populous state, with no exceptions for rape or incest.

The suit filed by the Justice Department in federal court in Austin asks a judge to "protect the rights that Texas has violated" by declaring the abortion law unconstitutional and issuing an injunction blocking its enforcement. At a news conference, Attorney General Merrick Garland said the ban "is clearly unconstitutional under long-standing Supreme Court precedent."

"This kind of scheme to nullify the Constitution of the United States is one that all Americans, whatever their politics or party, should fear," said Garland, warning that what he called the "bounty hunter" element of the law may become "a model for action in other areas by other states and with respect to other constitutional rights or judicial precedents." The U.S. government, Garland added, has a responsibility "to ensure that no state can deprive individuals of their constitutional rights."

A spokeswoman for Texas Gov. Greg Abbott (R) defended the law and accused the Biden administration of acting for political reasons - to distract Americans from the U.S. withdrawal from Afghanistan and the influx of migrants at the U.S.-Mexico border.

"We are confident that the courts will uphold and protect that right to life," press secretary Renae Eze said in a statement.

The case was assigned to District Court Judge Robert L. Pitman, who is already deeply familiar with the law: he is also presiding over a separate pending legal



Attorney General Merrick Garland on Sept. 9 said the Justice Department is pursuing legal action to stop Texas' near-total ban on abortions

challenge to the abortion ban brought by a coalition of abortion providers and advocates.

In that case, Pitman had scheduled a hearing for Aug. 30 to consider whether to block enforcement of the ban before it took effect. But the conservative U.S. Court of Appeals for the 5th Circuit called off the hearing and refused to consider the legal challenge on an expedited basis. That action led to an emergency petition to the Supreme Court, which decided 5-4 to allow the Texas law to stand while the litigation continues.

Pitman, a 2014 nominee of President Obama, previously served as U.S. Attorney for the Western District of Texas and as a magistrate judge.

The Biden administration's suit argues that the Texas law violates the 14th Amendment's due process clause, saying the measure deprives women in Texas of the right to an abortion and imposes an "undue burden" - and that the Constitution generally takes precedence over state laws.

The suit also says the measure interferes with the federal government's constitutional obligation to provide access to abortion, including in cases of rape or

incest, to people in the custody or care of federal agencies or government contractors, including at prisons.

President Biden and Democrats in Congress have criticized the Texas law and the initial refusal of the high court to block the ban.

Any action Pitman takes in response to the lawsuit is likely to be appealed to the 5th Circuit and, eventually, to return to the high court.

A dozen other states have passed legislation banning abortions after about six weeks into pregnancy. But federal judges have stopped those measures from taking effect, finding the laws inconsistent with *Roe v. Wade*, the 1973 Supreme Court decision guaranteeing the right to choose abortion before viability, usually around 22 to 24 weeks.

Texas created a blueprint to restrict abortion. Other red states may follow.

The Texas law was designed to withstand a similar preemptive legal challenge. It intentionally bars enforcement by state government officials, whom abortion providers would typically target in a lawsuit. Instead, the law empowers private citizens to file civil lawsuits against anyone who helps a woman get an abortion after the six-week window. Individuals can receive a \$10,000 award if their lawsuits are successful. They can sue abortion providers, clinic workers or those who help a woman pay for the procedure or drive her to a clinic.

In its 5-to-4 decision last week, the Supreme Court's conservative majority said abortion providers and civil rights groups had "raised serious questions regarding the constitutionality of the Texas law." But the court allowed the ban to take effect while the legal battle plays out, saying the abortion providers and advocates who had challenged the law could not show they were suing the right people.

(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)

Vice President Kamala Harris meets with Partnership for Central America Leaders Ajay Banga and Jonathan Fantini Porter



Mastercard Chairman Ajay Banga in conversation with Vice President Kamala Harris

WASHINGTON (TIP): Vice President Kamala Harris, on September 5, spokewith Ajay Banga, Executive Chairman of Mastercard and Board Member of the Partnership for Central America (PCA) and Jonathan Fantini Porter, PCA's Executive Director, about their work in El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras and applauded their efforts to increase private sector investment and improve livelihoods in the region in partnership with the Department of State, USAID, and other agencies. The Vice President shared her vision for the Root Causes Strategy and the Call to Action she announced in May, updates from her trip to Guatemala and Mexico in June and discussed ways to continue working together. In addition, they also discussed her trip to Singapore and Vietnam.

The Partnership for Central America is a non-profit organization created in response to a Call to Action by Vice President Kamala Harris, in her role overseeing diplomacy towards the Northern Triangle and Mexico. The Partnership aims to coordinate practical solutions to advance economic opportunity, address urgent climate, education and health challenges, and promote long-term investments and workforce capability in support of a vision of hope for Central America. Partnership members will make significant commitments to help send hope to the people of the region and sustainably address the root causes of migration by promoting economic opportunity.

(Source: Partnership for Central America)

IRS highlights employer tax responsibilities and benefits during Small Business Week



WASHINGTON (TIP): In support of National Small Business Week, the Internal Revenue Service will issue numerous online materials that focus on getting small business owners the information they need to comply with filing and paying requirements.

The IRS also reminds employers of the tax benefits available to them.

Here are some of the covered topics:

- Employer Responsibilities
- Employee vs. Independent Contractor
- Work Opportunity Tax Credit
- Employment Tax Compliance
- Expanded Tax Benefits

During Small Business Week, the IRS also encourages employers to help get the word out about the advanced payments of the Child Tax Credit. Employers have direct access to their employees, who may receive this credit. More information on the Advanced Child Tax Credit is available on IRS.gov. The website has tools employers can use to help spread the word.

Below are some helpful resources for small businesses and the self-employed:

- "A Closer Look" at Celebrating Resilience and Renewal During National Small Business Week.
- The Small Business and Self-Employed Tax Center provides a variety of resources, forms and tools in Spanish, Chinese, Korean, Vietnamese, Russian and Haitian Creole. The Center includes a Self-Employed Individuals Tax Center, information on independent contractors vs. employees, filing and paying your business taxes and more.
- The Gig Economy Tax Center is a resource for people who earn income providing on-demand work, services or goods.
- The Online Learning and Educational Products page has tools to help business owners learn at their own pace such as the Small Business Virtual Tax Workshop.

The IRS YouTube Video Channel has videos for small businesses on the Small Business playlist.

E-News for Small Businesses is a free, electronic mail service that offers tax information for small business owners and self-employed individuals including reminders, tips and special announcements.

Bid Adieu to Esteemed ANURAG KUMAR ji
Minister Community Affairs, Embassy of India, Washington DC

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 11TH

Event initiated by the NCAIA and supported by other Indian community organizations in Greater Washington DC Area. Event Coordinator Dr. Alok Srivastava. For details and other info, please contact Dr. Yogendra Gupta at yogendragupta@gmail.com (703) 608-3206

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6:30 PM ~ 10:00 PM
Hilton Garden's Lake Terrace & Ballroom
7001 Infantry Ridge Road, Manassas, VA 20109
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Nearly 73 crore vaccine doses administered in India so far

Nearly 73 crore vaccine doses have been administered in the country so far, the Union Health Ministry said on Friday, September 9.

According to a provisional report, more than 56 lakh vaccine doses have been administered till 7 pm on Friday.

The daily vaccination tally is expected to increase with the compilation of the final reports for the day by late in the night, the ministry said.

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 health ministry said.

Punjab to send unvaccinated govt employees on compulsory leave

Punjab on Friday, Sept 9, announced that government employees without even one Covid-19 jab for any non-medical reasons will be compulsorily sent on leave after September 15, becoming the latest in a handful of states to attempt a mandatory vaccine mandate.

A government statement said chief minister Amarinder Singh took the "strong measure" to protect the people of the state and ensure that vaccinated people do not pay the price for continued vaccine hesitancy.

"Special efforts are taken to reach out to government employees, and those who continue to avoid getting vaccinated will now be asked to go on leave till they get the first dose," the chief minister said at a high-level virtual Covid review meeting.

Till Friday, Punjab had administered nearly 15.9 million doses of the Covid-19 vaccine, of which 12,039,477 were first shots and 3,826,637 were second. This translates to roughly 53% of the state's adult population having received at least one shot of the vaccine, which puts Punjab among the bottom 10 of India's states.

Active Covid cases in India decline to 3,90,646

NEW DELHI (TIP): India logged 34,973 new coronavirus infections taking the total tally of Covid cases to 3,31,74,954, while the active cases declined to 3,90,646, according to the Union Health Ministry data updated on Friday, September 10.

The death toll climbed to 4,42,009 with 260 fresh fatalities, according to the data updated at 8 am.

The active cases comprise 1.18 per cent of the total infections, while the national Covid recovery rate was recorded at 97.49 per cent, the ministry said.

A reduction of 2,968 cases has been recorded in the active Covid caseload in a span of 24 hours.

As many as 17,87,611 tests were conducted on Thursday taking the total cumulative tests conducted so far for detection of Covid in the country to 53,86,04,854.

The daily positivity rate was recorded at 1.96 per cent. It has been less than three per cent for last 11 days. The weekly positivity rate was recorded at 2.31 per cent. It has been below three per cent for the last 77 days, according to the ministry.

The number of people who have recuperated from the disease surged to 3,23,42,299, while the case fatality rate was recorded at 1.33 per cent.

The cumulative doses administered in the country so far under the nationwide vaccination drive have exceeded 72.37 crore.

The 260 new fatalities include 125 from Kerala and 55 from Maharashtra.

Maharashtra has reconciled the data leading to a decrease in total number of cases and discharges as compared to Thursday. A total of 4,42,009 deaths have been reported so far in the country, including 1,38,017 from Maharashtra, 37,462 from Karnataka, 35,094 from Tamil Nadu, 25,083 from Delhi, 22,863 from Uttar Pradesh, 22,126 from Kerala and 18,539 from West Bengal.

ICMR: 2 doses give 97.5% protection against death

Two Covid vaccine doses offer near-total protection against death and even one dose is more than 96 per cent effective in averting fatality, the first government analysis of vaccine efficacy among the inoculated population has shown.

The Indian Council of Medical Research's (ICMR) vaccine effectiveness study conducted between April 18 and August 15 this year found that vaccines were preventing serious disease and death. It also revealed a high rate of mortality among the non-vaccinated.

"We synergised the data from several sources, including CoWIN, and found vaccine effectiveness in preventing mortality with one dose to be 96.6 per cent and with two doses 97.5 per cent," ICMR chief Balram Bhargava said.

"Reinfections and breakthrough infections are under analysis. We first looked at deaths, which is what most people are interested in and vaccines are definitively averting serious disease and death," the ICMR DG said. As of today, India has administered over 72 crore doses with 58 per cent people above 18 years covered with one dose while the two-dose coverage is a little over 16 per cent.

Source: PTI



RSS leaders' books in varsity syllabus fan row

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM (TIP): The Kannur University on Friday set up an external panel to review the inclusion of books authored by prominent Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) ideologues in one of its postgraduate courses, in view of protests by several student unions against the varsity's alleged attempts to saffronise the academic syllabus.

The books, written by RSS ideologues VD Savarkar, MS Golwalkar and Deendayal Upadhyaya, are among 30 others included in the third semester of the public administration course at Government Brennen College in Thalassery.

Extracts of 'Savarkar's Hindutva: Who is a Hindu?', Golwalkar's 'We or Our Nationhood Defined', Upadhyaya's 'Integral Humanism' and Balraj Madhok's 'Indianisation, What, Why and How' are among those included in the syllabus.

According to news agency PTI, vice-chancellor Gopinath Ravindran said a two-member committee, comprising experts outside the varsity, was directed to submit its report within five days, after which decision on the syllabus will be taken.

"The saffronisation allegation is completely baseless. If you raise such allegations against Kannur University, you can raise similar charges against Jawaharlal Nehru University in New Delhi also. V D Savarkar is included in the syllabus of JNU also," he told the media.

Members of various student unions burnt copies of the books on Thursday, prompting state higher education minister R Bindhu to seek a report from the V-C. "This is a sensitive issue. I have sought details from the V-C. I feel that such content is not good," Bindhu said.

'No mafia will get party ticket': BSP drops Mukhtar Ansari, to field Bheem Rajbhar from Mau

NEW DELHI (TIP): Bahujan Samaj Party chief Mayawati Friday, Sept 9, attempted an image makeover for her party as she announced that it would not field bahubalis (strongmen) or mafia members in the 2022 Uttar Pradesh Assembly elections and dumped Mau MLA Mukhtar Ansari, the jailed gangster-turned-politician, as a poll candidate. Mayawati said the party will instead field state chief Bheem Rajbhar from the constituency. Rajbhar had lost to Ansari, then an Independent, from Mau in 2012.

Just hours after the announcement, the All India Majlis-e-Ittehad-ul-Muslimeen (AIMIM) opened a door for Ansari, currently incarcerated in Banda district jail on the charges of criminal intimidation and extortion. The AIMIM state chief Shaukat Ali said if Ansari

approaches the party, it would give him a ticket and induct him. "The cases lodged against him are under trial. BSP used him and threw," Ali said.

Mayawati, meanwhile, said the BSP has resolved to put in place the rule of law in Uttar Pradesh to change the state's image. The former chief minister said in a series of tweets that she has asked party leaders to keep that resolution in mind while short-listing candidates. "In upcoming assembly polls, the BSP's effort will be to not field 'bahubali' and mafia elements. So, the name of Bhim Rajbhar, the BSP UP president, has been finalised from the Mau assembly seat in place of Mukhtar Ansari," she said in a tweet in Hindi. Ansari has had an on-again-off-again relationship with the BSP over the years, getting expelled and reinducted multiple

times. He was elected the MLA from Mau in 1996 on a BSP ticket. In the next two assembly polls in 2002 and 2007, he won from the same seat as an Independent candidate.

Before the 2009 Lok Sabha polls, Ansari rejoined BSP but the party fielded him from Varanasi, where he lost to BJP veteran Murli Manohar Joshi. In April 2010, Mayawati expelled Ansari from the party citing his alleged involvement in criminal activities. Mukhtar's brother Afzal Ansari was also removed.

Ansari then floated his own political outfit, Quami Ekta Dal (QED), and was again elected from Mau in 2012.

Ansari's family again returned to the BSP in 2017 after Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav denied a merger of QED with his party.

Emergency landing facility for Indian Air Force inaugurated in Barmer

JAIPUR (TIP): Defense Minister Rajnath Singh and Union Minister for Surface Transport & Highways Nitin Gadkari jointly inaugurated an emergency landing facility (ELF) for the Indian Air Force (IAF) at Satta-Gandhav stretch on NH-925A near Barmer district of Rajasthan on September 9, Thursday. The two ministers travelled to Barmer on C-130J aircraft to inaugurate the facility.

This is the first time that a National Highway has been used for emergency landing of aircraft of Indian Air Force. This landing strip will be able to facilitate landing of all types of IAF aircraft. The strip is 3.5 km long and 33 meter wide on the national highway in Barmer-Jalore districts (NH-925A) that is readied to meet any emergency landing of IAF fighter jets, Sukhoi, Hercules and other aircraft.

Speaking after witnessing the aircraft operations, Rajnath Singh said EFL near the International border was a shining example of the government's commitment to protect the unity and sovereignty of the nation.

"This highway and landing field will further cement the basic infrastructure along the western border and strengthen national security. Such emergency fields will provide more edge to the operational and civil assistance of our forces. It will also play a crucial role in facing natural calamities," Defense Minister said.

Singh commended the Armed Forces for displaying the same level of courage, dedication and promptness during natural calamities as they show when they face their adversaries. He lauded the Indian Air Force for playing a central role in dealing with the situation arising out of the COVID-19 pandemic. He also lauded the Indian Air Force for playing a central role in dealing with the situation arising out of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Referring to the Cabinet's approval to

Defense Minister Rajnath Singh terms it new strength of New India



The National Highways Authority of India (NHA) has developed the 3 km section of Satta-Gandhav stretch of NH-925 as an Emergency Landing Facility for the Indian Air Force.



Defense Minister Rajnath Singh (right) and Union Minister for Surface Transport & Highways Nitin Gadkari (2nd right) during the inauguration of an emergency landing facility (ELF) for the Indian Air Force (IAF) at Satta-Gandhav stretch on NH-925A near Barmer district of Rajasthan on September 9.

procurement of 56 C-295MW transport aircraft for Indian Air Force, Singh said the decision was a big step towards

'Aatmanirbhar Bharat' as envisioned by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, as the aircraft would be manufactured under

the 'Make in India' initiative.

Singh further hailed the IAF, NHA & the private sector for joining hands and completing the construction of Emergency Landing Field in 19 months despite COVID-19 restrictions. It is a great example of coordination among multiple departments & Ministries; Government & private sector and Civil & Defence.

Union Minister for Jal Shakti Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, Chief of Defense Staff General Bipin Rawat, Chief of Air Staff Air Chief Marshal RKS Bhaduria, Secretary, Department of Defence R&D & Chairman, Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) Dr G Satheesh Reddy and other senior central & state government officials were present during the inauguration of the Emergency Landing Facility.

About ELF

The NHA has developed the three-kilometer section as an ELF for Indian Air Force. It is part of the newly-developed two-lane paved shoulder of Gagariya-Bakhasar & Satta-Gandhav Section having total length of 196.97 kilometres and costing Rs 765.52 crore under Bharatmala Pariyojana. The work commenced in July 2019 and was completed in January 2021.

This project will improve connectivity between villages of Barmer & Jalore districts located on the international border. The stretch located in the western border area will facilitate the vigilance of the Indian Army and strengthen the basic infrastructure of the country. During normal time, the ELF will be used for smooth flow of road traffic.

Apart from the Emergency Landing Strip, three helipads have been constructed in Kundanpura, Singhania & Bakhasar villages under this project as per the requirements of the Armed Forces.

Afghanistan, Indo-Pacific on table at India-Australia meet

NEW DELHI (TIP): Afghanistan and the Indo-Pacific were discussed in detail as Defence Minister Rajnath Singh met his Australian counterpart Peter Dutton on Friday, September 9.

The meet came on a day when navies of the two countries ended their five-day drill named "Ausindex" and a day ahead of the 2+2 dialogue involving the Foreign Ministers and Defence Ministers of either side.

India is keen to engage Australia on Afghanistan and shared the opinion of having an internationally mandated mechanism to implement the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) resolution, which says Afghan territory will not be used to launch terror strike on other countries.

The issue of violation of rights of women, children and minorities in the strife-torn country also came up. Australia has already come out strongly against the newly set up Taliban-led government in Afghanistan for having banned women from playing sport.

In a joint statement after the meeting, Rajnath Singh said, "The partnership is based on our shared vision of



Defence Minister Rajnath Singh with his Australian counterpart Peter Dutton in New Delhi on Friday.

free, open, inclusive and rule-based Indo-Pacific region."

"Both Australia and India have tremendous stakes

in peace, development and free flow of trade, rules-based order and economic growth in the region," said the minister.

This was clearly a take on China, which has notified its own unilateral maritime law from September 1 and is insisting on foreign vessels (military or cargo) sailing in South China sea and in the Taiwan straits to report locations and other details.

Australian Defence Minister Peter Dutton said, "Today I have agreed to enhance Australia's posture in the Indian Ocean region by ramping up our air force cooperation, maritime engagements and exercises." The sides have also agreed to reinforce each other's maritime domain awareness through increased information sharing and practical cooperation, Dutton added.

The discussion at the meeting was focused on our bilateral defence cooperation and expanding military engagements across the three forces, enhancing defence information sharing, cooperation in emerging defence technologies and mutual logistics support.

Source: TNS

India in history this Week

SEPTEMBER 10 TO SEPTEMBER 16, 2021

11 SEPTEMBER

1895 Birth of freedom fighter, social activist and famous Gandhian leader Vinoba Bhave.



1906 Mahatma Gandhi named the first non-violence movement in South Africa as 'Satyagraha'.

1961 World Wildlife Fund was established.

1965 During the Indo-Pakistan War, the Indian Army captured the city of Burki near South East Lahore.

1996 First time elected a female president in Commonwealth Parliamentary Union

2006 Eminent Bangladeshi writer Taslima Nasreen demanded Indian citizenship.

1911 Birth of cricketer Lala Amarnath, who scored India's first century in international cricket.

2009 Moninder Singh Pandher, an accused in the Nithari case, was acquitted by the High Court of Allahabad in one of the 19 cases in the Ripa Haldar case. The Supreme Court stayed the construction of the Kanshi Ram memorial site.

12 SEPTEMBER

1931 Mahatma Gandhi arrived in London to attend the Round Table Conference.

1966 Indian swimmer Mihir Sen swam across the Dardanless Strait.

2008 Sahara India Investment Corporation closed its non-banking financial business.

1912 The birth of Feroze Gandhi, a famous freedom fighter and influential member of the Lok Sabha.



1922 Renowned litterateur Chandradhar Sharma Guleri passed away.

2009 The Indian women's team defeated America 3-1 in the final round at the World Chess Championship, finishing seventh.

13 SEPTEMBER

1947 Indian Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru suggested mutual transfer of 40 lakh Hindus and Muslims.

1929 Jatin Das died after 63 days of hunger strike in Lahore jail.

1971 The World Hockey Association was formed.

1977 The first diesel automobile was introduced by General Motors.

2000 India's top chess player Vishwanathan Anand won the first FIDE Chess World Cup in Shenyang.

2008 Four bomb blasts occurred one after another at three places in Delhi, killing 30 people and injuring



more than 130.

1948 Deputy Prime Minister Vallabhbhai Patel ordered the army to enter Hyderabad and take action and integrate it with the Indian Union.

2006 The first summit of IBSA (India-Brazil-South Africa Trilateral Organization) begins in Brasilia, the capital of Brazil.

2009 ISRO-NASA's campaign to find ice on the moon failed.

2009 Charles Dias of Kochi was nominated as the representative of the Anglo Indian community in the Lok Sabha.

1845 Indian Cotton Congress President Henry Cotton was born.

1926 India's revolutionary woman Nagendra Bala was born.

1929 India's famous revolutionary Jatindranath Das died.

14 SEPTEMBER

1803 British general Lord Lake captured Delhi during the Second Anglo-Maratha War.



1949 The Constituent Assembly adopted Hindi as the official language of India. Since 1953, 14 September is celebrated every year throughout India as Hindi Day.

1947 The famous poet Chandra Kunwar Bertwal died as Kalidas of Hindi.

2009 India won the Compaq Cup of the tri-series by defeating Sri Lanka by 46 runs.

1923 Birth of eminent serialist and former Union Law Minister Ram Jethmalani.

1985 Renowned composer of Hindi cinema, Ramakrishna Shinde, passed away.

15 SEPTEMBER



1860 M Visvesvaraya, considered India's greatest engineer, was born. It is celebrated as Engineers Day in the country.

1948 The first flag of independent India INS-Delhi reached the port of Bombay (now Mumbai).

1958 The deadly disease trachoma virus was first discovered in medical science.



1959 India's national broadcasting service Doordarshan started in Delhi for the first time.

2004 'Woman of the Year' award to British citizen Gurinder Chadha.

1931 Gandhi-Irwin Pact.

1909 Famous Tamil Nadu leader and former Chief Minister C.N. Birth of Annadurai.

1939 Birth of Subramanian Swamy for Indian Economist, Educational, and Politician, Law Minister and Justice India.

1946 Jokin Arputham, a man who struggled for the slums of Mumbai, was born.

16 SEPTEMBER

1916 Classical singer and actress MS awarded Bharat Ratna, the country's largest civilian honor. Subbalakshmi was born.

2008 The employees of Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL) were awarded the Vishwakarma Award.

2009 The Incredible Bharat Vigyan Abhiyan, presenting India as an outstanding tourist destination to the world, received the British Award.

1882 Freedom fighter Balwant Singh was born.



2017 The most senior of the Indian Air Force and the only Marshal to reach the five-star rank, Arjan Singh died.

1965 Indian soldier AB Tarapore, awarded with Paramveer Chakra, died.

Pakistan terrorist gets 7 yrs of rigorous imprisonment for conspiring to carry out attacks in India

ISLAMABAD (TIP): A special NIA court here on Friday sentenced a Lashkar-e-Taiba militant from Pakistan to seven years of rigorous imprisonment for conspiring to carry out terror attacks at different locations in India on the directions of his handlers from across the border.

Mohammad Amir of Karachi was sentenced under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, the Arms Act, the Explosive Substances Act, the Foreigners Act, the Indian Wireless Telegraphy Act and relevant sections of the Indian Penal Code, an official of the premier investigating agency said.

Amir along with three others had infiltrated into India from Pakistan with



weapons, ammunition and other war-like stores with an intention to carry out terror attacks at different locations of India on the directions of their handlers based across the border, the NIA official said.

He was arrested in November 2017

from Magam in Jammu and Kashmir's Handwara, while his three associates were killed in an encounter with security forces the same month, the official said.

The NIA filed a charge sheet against Amir in May 2018.

After consideration of evidence brought on record during the probe by the National Investigation Agency, the NIA special court, Patiala House, convicted Amir on April 6.

Pronouncing the quantum of punishment on Friday, Amir was awarded sentences for seven different offences each ranging from two to seven years of rigorous imprisonment and fine, the NIA official added. — PTI

PAKISTAN REJECTS REPORTS ALLUDING TO ITS INVOLVEMENT IN PANJSHIR VALLEY OFFENSIVE

ISLAMABAD (TIP): Pakistan has rejected reports that it was aiding the Taliban offensive in Afghanistan's Panjshir Valley, terming these as a "mischievous propaganda campaign".

The Taliban said on Monday that they had seized Panjshir Valley, the last province not in their control after their blitz through Afghanistan last month.

Some reports quoted a CENTCOM source saying that the Pakistani military was assisting the Taliban offensive in Panjshir with 27 helicopters full of Pakistani Special Forces backed up by drone strikes.

Foreign Office spokesperson Asim Iftikhar in an overnight statement "categorically rejected these allegations as part of a mischievous propaganda campaign". "These malicious allegations were part of a desperate attempt to malign Pakistan and to mislead the international community," read the statement.

The spokesperson reiterated Pakistan's abiding commitment to a peaceful, stable, sovereign and prosperous Afghanistan.

The Taliban insurgents seized control of Afghanistan in mid-August, ousting the previous elected leadership which was backed by the West.

The takeover comes nearly 20 years after US forces led an invasion to topple the Taliban. Panjshir, a rugged mountain valley, is home to between 150,000 and 200,000 people. It was a centre of resistance when Afghanistan was under Soviet occupation in the 1980s and during the Taliban's previous period of rule, between 1996 and 2001. PTI

Nepal's iconic Pashupatinath temple opens after nearly 5 months



KATHMANDU (TIP): Nepal's iconic Pashupatinath temple, the 5th century holy Hindu shrine, opened for devotees on Friday after nearly five months as the number of fresh Covid-19 cases declined in the country.

PASHUPATINATH TEMPLE IS THE LARGEST TEMPLE COMPLEX IN NEPAL AND STRETCHES ON BOTH SIDES OF THE BAGMATI RIVER AND SEES THOUSANDS OF WORSHIPPERS FROM NEPAL AND INDIA DAILY.

It was closed on April 23 due to the second wave of the coronavirus pandemic. On the first day, devotees

thronged the temple to pay homage since morning, according to the temple's authorities.

They said that the temple remained open until 1 pm as the risk of Covid-19 was not fully over though the number of cases has declined of late.

Devotees were asked to wear face masks and use hand sanitizer, according to the Pashupati Area Development Trust's (PADT) administrative officer Rewati Raman Adhikari.

Only 25 devotees, maintaining physical distance, will be allowed to enter the temple premises at a time, he said.

As the temple remained closed for more than four months, its authorities organised the Chhyama puja (forgiveness worship).

The PADT has made arrangements for devotees to enter the temple through a single door and exit through the next. PTI

EX-VP'S BROTHER EXECUTED BY TALIBAN, SAYS FAMILY

KABUL (TIP): The Taliban have executed the brother of Amrullah Saleh, the former Afghan vice-president who became one of the leaders of anti-Taliban opposition forces in the Panjshir valley, his nephew said on Sept 10.

The news that Saleh's brother Rohullah Azizi was killed came days after Taliban forces took control of the provincial centre of Panjshir, the last province holding out against them. "They executed my uncle," Ebadullah Saleh said in a text message to a news agency. "They killed him yesterday and would not let us bury him. They kept saying his body should rot," he said.

The Urdu language account of the Taliban information service 'Alemaarah' said "according to reports, Rohullah Saleh was killed during fighting in Panjshir".

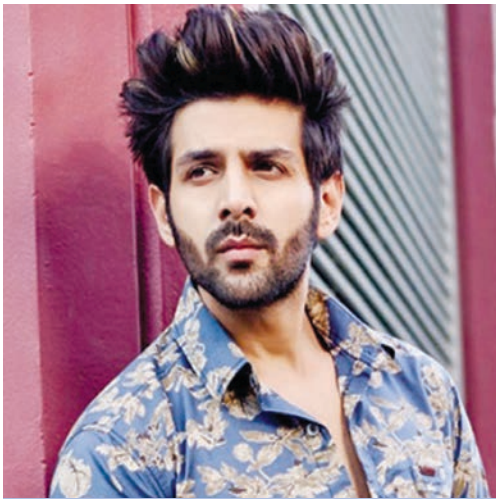
Saleh, a former head of the National Directorate of Security, the intelligence service of the Western-backed government that collapsed last month, is at large, though his exact location remains unclear.

The National Resistance Front of Afghanistan, which groups opposition forces loyal to local leader Ahmad Massoud, has pledged to continue opposing the Taliban even after the fall of Panjshir's provincial capital Bazarak. — Reuters

SRI LANKAN PM'S ITALY VISIT SPARKS CONTROVERSY

COLOMBO (TIP): Sri Lankan PM Mahinda Rajapaksa's visit to Italy has sparked a controversy after the country's Catholic church Archbishop Malcolm Cardinal Ranjith claimed the trip was an attempt to "mislead" the Vatican about the probe into 2019 Easter Sunday attacks that killed over 270 people, including 11 Indians.

Rajapaksa left for Italy on Friday to attend an international event to be held in Bologna. He is scheduled to deliver the keynote address at the opening session of the international symposium to be held at the University of Bologna. The event will also be attended by the prime minister of Italy Mario Draghi. Cardinal Ranjith at a press conference two days ago slammed the visit. He alleged Rajapaksa was due to meet Pope Francis and would try to mislead the Vatican on the ongoing investigations into the attacks. "When there is a deadly pandemic in the country, we're seeing a conspiracy being attempted to cover up the Easter Sunday attack," Cardinal Ranjith told a media briefing. — PTI



Kartik loses his voice during shoot of Bhool Bhulaiyaa 2 climax

The shooting of Anees Bazmee's comedy-horror Bhool Bhulaiyaa 2 has turned out to be far more adventurous than was expected. Firstly the pandemic put a brake on the shooting for an entire year. Now during the shooting of the climax of the film Kartik Aaryan lost his voice.

As the shocking news spread across the country, I tried to find out the veracity of the incident.

A source from the film's core crew confided, "Tabu and Kartik Aaryan were shooting the climax of Bhool Bhulaiyaa 2. It is a massive undertaking, with lots of drama and action and Kartik had an insane amount of screaming and shouting to do. At the end of it, Kartik just lost his voice. It was frightening. We all panicked."

Medical assistance was immediately summoned. Everyone breathed a sigh of relief when the doctors assured Kartik his voice needed some rest, nothing more serious.

Kangana says she will join politics if people want her to

Recently, in Thalavii, Kangana Ranaut's onscreen portrayal of former Tamil Nadu CM J Jayalalithaa has led to comparisons between their actual lives. Kangana has always been extremely vocal about various socio-political events and often taken as a process of her building her image as a future politician.

At a press event in Delhi on Thursday, September 9, Kangana said, "I am a nationalist and I talk about issues related to the country, so people think I talk about political issues. Maybe it's the same thing, but not for me, because I am not a politician. I talk as a responsible citizen and a person who has been elevated to celebrity status by the people. So I talk about the rights of the people and the country."

She added, "Whether I can become a politician or not, that's not in my hands. You cannot even have a panchayat election without the support of the people. If have to join politics, it will have to be because the people want me to, or if I have that caliber. For now, I think I am good as an actress, and I'm happy with that. But in the future, if people choose me, elect me, I would definitely love to."

Kangana also said that playing a politician on-screen has made her even more aware of the struggles of winning people's hearts. She said, "We have certain preconceived notions about politicians, we usually don't know what they have been through to reach where they have. We think they are so powerful, but we aren't aware of the work they have done at the ground level and delivered results. Similarly, I had an



image in my head about Jaya amma. When I used to look at her photos, I used to think it must be so great to be in power."

Kangana further explained, "After doing this film, I realized it's a lot of hard work and there's so much competition. Politics is like playing

chess. Your friends become your enemy, there are threats to your life. Without understanding all this, we judge politicians more harshly than we would judge a successful doctor or an actor. We forget that they have put their lives at stake to reach a certain position."

Mandira says it's a long way 'to feel normal again', months after Raj's death

Actor Mandira Bedi on Sept 9, Thursday said that there is a 'long way to go' before she feels normal again, months after the death of her husband Raj Kaushal. Taking to Instagram, she shared a picture collage of herself and her fitness band.

In the photo, Mandira Bedi posed for the camera with a no-makeup look. She wore a black sports bra paired with a pink and white leggings.

She captioned the post, "It's a long way to go to feel normal again. Emotionally, mentally and physically. But I wake up every morning with purpose and aim for as much positivity that I can muster."

"And in all of this I still practice #gratitude .. because there is always, always something to be grateful for. Have a nice day all of you #nirbhaunirvair," Mandira added.

Reacting to the post, Gaurav Gera wrote, "Love." Adil Hussain said, "You are such an inspiration... Lots of love." Aditi Govitrikar commented, "Big hug."

Mandira has been giving her fans glimpses of herself on social media after Raj's death. He died on June 30 after suffering a heart attack at the age of 49. He directed films like Pyaar Mein Kabhi Kabhi and Shaadi Ke Laddoo. Mandira had performed Raj's last rites.

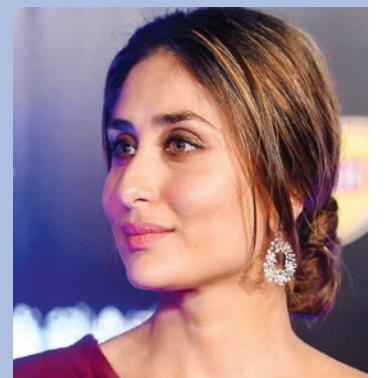


Kareena Kapoor, trolled for 'hiking' her fee

Actor Kareena Kapoor Khan, who was recently the subject of a controversy after it was reported that she had hiked her fee to star in a reimagining of the Ramayana from Sita's perspective, has said that more people are talking about pay disparity in the industry now.

In an interview, Kareena Kapoor said that she makes it clear how much she should be paid for projects, and likened it to 'respect'. While Kareena has never spoken about the unconfirmed reports that suggested she'd asked for Rs12 crore to appear in the epic film, she spoke about equal pay in the industry in light of the controversy for the first time.

"Just a few years ago, no one would talk about a man or woman actually getting equal pay in a movie. Now there are a lot of us being very vocal about it," she told the Guardian. "I make it quite clear what I want and I think that respect should be given," she added. "It's not about being demanding, it's about being respectful towards women. And I think things are kind of changing."





Olivia Munn expecting first child with John Mulaney

Actor Olivia Munn and her beau John Mulaney are all set to embrace parenthood for the first time together. According to E! News, during a visit to Late Night With Seth Meyers show on Tuesday, John confirmed that Olivia is pregnant with the couple's first child.

"In the spring, I went to Los Angeles and met and started to date a wonderful woman named Olivia-Olivia Munn. I got into this relationship that's been really beautiful," John told host Seth Meyers.

John also recalled how Olivia held his hand throughout his recovery process amid addiction issues.

"She's held my hand through that hell, and we are having a baby together. I'm going to be a dad. We're both really, really happy," he said.

The Matrix Resurrections trailer: Priyanka sends Keanu after white rabbits

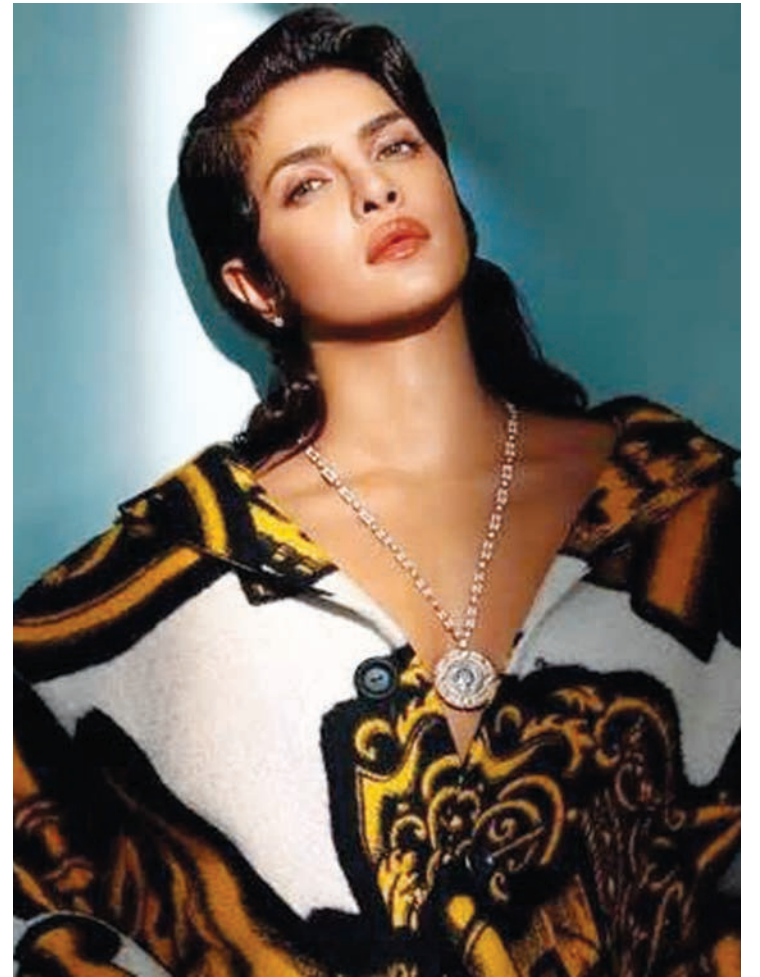
The first trailer for The Matrix Resurrections is out. The fourth film in the Matrix franchise marks the return of Keanu Reeves as Neo. The film also stars Carrie-Anne Moss as Trinity, Priyanka Chopra, Yahya Abdul-Mateen II, and Jada Pinkett Smith, among others.

The action-packed trailer, set the tune of White Rabbit, opens with Neo having no memory of his past. However, he has glimpses of the life in the Matrix. As the trailer opens, he crosses paths with some old and some new characters, one of whom is played by Priyanka Chopra. The actor, wearing a huge pair of glasses, appears to be seated in a coffee shop and is waiting for Neo to arrive.

Ahead of the trailer release, Warner Bros resurrected the old Matrix website and offered fans tidbits of information about the new film. Users were given the option to choose between the red and the blue pill. Based on their choice and the time of the day, they were shown glimpses from the movie. According to Entertainment Weekly, more than 180,000 video variations, with narrations from each cast member was featured as part of the tease.

Priyanka had filmed for her role last year in Berlin. Although the actor hasn't revealed details about her part in the film, she wrote in a social media post that she is simply a small fish in a large pond.

Directed by Lana and Lilly Wachowsky, the first Matrix film released in 1999. It was followed by The Matrix Reloaded and The Matrix Revolutions in 2003. The Matrix Resurrections, which is solely directed by Lana, is set to release on December 22.



Daniel Craig details mistakes made on Quantum of Solace, working without script

James Bond star Daniel Craig and his producers Barbara Broccoli and Michael G Wilson spoke about what went wrong behind-the-scenes on Quantum of Solace, the actor's second film as Agent 007. Daniel Craig will appear as Bond for the fifth and final time in No Time to Die, which is due out next month.

Ahead of the film's release, a documentary titled Being James Bond was released. In the film, the actor spoke about how they started shooting Quantum of Solace without a script. He said that he would try and 'bash things out' with director Marc Forster on set, but because he wasn't a writer, he threw himself into the stunts more aggressively. In hindsight, he said, it was 'a bad mistake' because he got badly hurt.

He also admitted to being 'overwhelmed' by fame in the aftermath of his first Bond film, Casino Royale's success, and having his 'world turned upside down'. "I can honestly say I was in a bit of a cloud cuckoo land," he said.

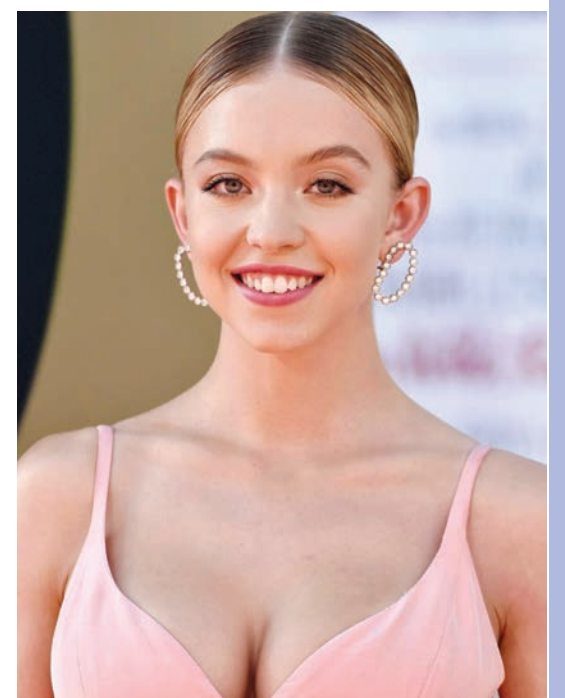
"We had a writer's strike. We had a script; it wasn't completed, but it was nearly completed. The movie kind of works. It's not Casino Royale, and that was always going to be... It was like, literally, troubling second album syndrome. In a way, we could not top Casino... It's easy to say that. Of course, we wanted to top Casino Royale, but, you know..." the actor added.



The Voyeurs review: Amazon's timid erotic thriller wastes sultry Sydney Sweeney

Amazon's The Voyeurs is a Gen Z-centric update of Alfred Hitchcock's Rear Window, a film that the millennials already had a crack at reimagining with 2007's Disturbia. While that film did an admirable job of capturing the angst that defined an entire generation, The Voyeurs' erotic stylings and vaguely trashy European vibe prevent it from ever becoming more than what it is — a sub-standard morality tale about mass-dependence on technology. After watching the opening moments of the film, in which the credits play out over shots of irises (get it?) and a sultry Sydney Sweeney walking along the street with synth music blaring in the background, you might wonder if you've mistakenly switched on an episode of Euphoria. The film certainly milks her newfound status as the sex symbol for kids who spend after-school hours twerking on Reels. But with no idea what to do with Sweeney's magnificently mysterious aura, The Voyeurs builds to a final stretch in which it basically corners her into removing her clothes.

Two 20-somethings named Pippa and Thomas, played by Sweeney and Justice Smith, move into a spectacular studio apartment in an undefined European city, and are almost immediately drawn to the fancy couple who live across the street from them. Neither Pippa and



Thomas nor their next-door neighbours, whom they give made-up names, look old enough to vote. So how they're able to afford such swanky accommodation at their age is beyond me.

FESTIVAL OF CINEMA NYC @ 5

BY MABEL PAIS

IN-PERSON SCREENINGS ARE BACK

@ Regal UA Midway in Forest Hills

SEPTEMBER 24 - OCTOBER 3, 2021

OPENING: John Carlucci's & Brandon Laganke's "DRUNK BUS"

CLOSING: Erin Granat's & Machete Bang Bang's "MOON MANOR"

VISHAL P. CHALIHA'S "SIJOU" - North American Premiere

SHAHID KAMAL'S "MATTY BOY," NEERA ZAVERI'S "MISS YOU, DAD"

and INDRANI PAL-CHAUDHURI'S "THE GREAT ARTIST" among SHORTS

"In our 5th year, and despite the pandemic, we still continue to grow by nearly every metric - submissions, films selected, screenings, and more. We could not be more excited to return to our home at the Regal and to see these amazing films on screen and meet all of the 85 filmmakers we are expecting to join us here in Forest Hills. We pride ourselves on bringing world cinema to the many film lovers here in Queens, and this year's lineup really delivers on that front."- Jayson Simba: Founder and Executive Director, Festival of Cinema NYC

The Festival of Cinema NYC proudly returns for its 5th year, as a live in-person 10-day event, September 24-October 3.

Bookending over 120 independent films from around the world with many premieres among them, will be the Opening Night selection of John Carlucci and Brandon Laganke's crowd favorite "Drunk Bus," and the Closing Night screening of Erin Granat's and Machete Bang Bang's acclaimed LGBTQ film, "Moon Manor."

Over 85 filmmakers are expected to attend Festival of Cinema NYC hosted once again by the Regal UA Midway in Forest Hills, Queens, famous for their state-of-the-art projection and sound.

John Carlucci and Brandon Laganke's raucous comedy "Drunk Bus" opens the Festival on Friday, September 24. Both Carlucci and Laganke will attend and participate in a post-screening Q&A.

Erin Granat's and Machete Bang Bang's Moon Manor will make its Queens Premiere on Saturday, October 2 as FOC NYC's Closing Night selection.

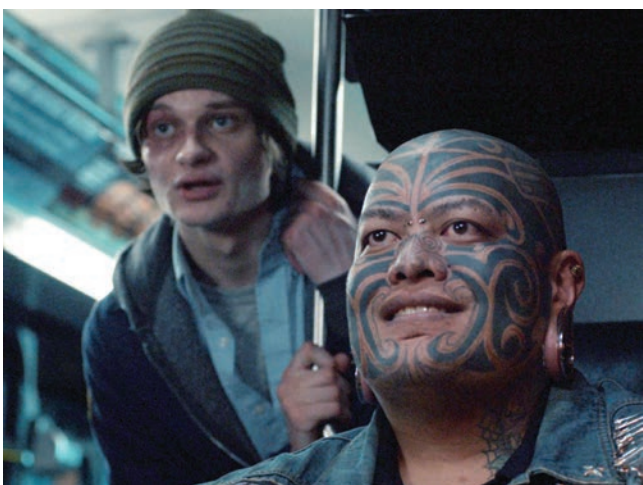
TICKETS

Individual Tickets, Discounted Tickets, Member Tickets and Tickets for Special Events are available. Visit festivalofcinemanyc.com for more information.

2021 FESTIVAL OF CINEMA NYC SELECTIONS

OPENING NIGHT: "DRUNK BUS"

DIRS: John Carlucci & Brandon Laganke | USA | 1h 40m



"Drunk Bus." - Photo /festivalofcinemanyc.com

Michael (Charlie Tahan) is a recent graduate whose post college plan is derailed when his girlfriend leaves him for a job in New York City. When the bus service hires a security guard to watch over the night shift, Michael comes face-to-tattooed-face with Pineapple, a 300-lb punk rock Samoan who challenges him with a kick in the ass to break from the loop and start living or risk driving in circles forever.

CLOSING NIGHT: "MOON MANOR"

DIRS: Erin Granat & Machete Bang Bang | USA | 1h 42m | Queens Premiere



"Moon Manor." - Photo /festivalofcinemanyc.com

With advancing Alzheimer's and a determination to do things his way, Jimmy's decided to throw himself a fabulous FUNeral before his intentional death, showing his estranged brother, salt-of-the earth caretaker, sharp-witted death doula, a novice obituary writer, a cosmic being, and the guests at his FUNeral - that sometimes the art of living just may be the art of dying.

ADDITIONAL NARRATIVE FEATURES: (20)



"Sijou" poster - Photo /festivalofcinemanyc.com

"6:45," "A Cisterna (The Well)," "Angie: Girls," "Any Given Day," "Dreamover," "Electric Jesus," "The Enemies," "Finding Ophelia," "Lair," "Leda," "Lightships," "Omar and Us," "Only Human," "The Prince," "Savage Days," "Shellfish," "Sijou," "The Silent Party," "Ten Tricks," and "Two is the Magic Number."

DOCUMENTARY FEATURES (9)

"(C) Answers," "Alexandre the Fool," "Beer Boom," "Escape from Room 18," "Loving Mona," "Never Events," "Safeguard: An Electoral College Story," "Sex, Drugs & Bicycles," and "The Singular Story of Unluck Juan." The ".....Unluck Juan."

On Tuesday September 28 at 7:00PM, the festival will be presenting the animated short film Esperanza vs. the U.S. Embargo of Cuba preceded by Ricardo Figueredo



"The Singular Story of Unluck Juan."

Photo /festivalofcinemanyc.com

Oliva's documentary "The Singular Story of Unlucky Juan." The screenings will be followed by a 60-minute moderated discussion with guest speakers and activists, Roberto Monticello and Isabel Alfonso leading the conversation. Proceeds from the evening's presentation will be donated to assist in Cuban Relief efforts.

SHORT NARRATIVE FILMS (62)

"#PrincessProblems," "A Day Off," "Ali's Realm," "Amplitude Modulation," "Angst," "Art: An Unexpected Vocation," "At Last," "Biff & Me," "Blue Lanterns," "Captain Kinesis," "Christopher Nolan is God," "Daisy - A Violent World Story," "Divertimento," "Echoes of a Winter Sunshine," "Eternal," "Fantasmas," "Fear of Open Spaces," "Frank," "Grafton," "Half-Light," "Happenstance," "Interrogation," "Kiko's Saints," "Last Days," "Lea," "Lepidopterist," "Like Mother, Like Daughter," "Limbo," "Matty Boy," "Miss You, Dad," "Moving On," "Mrs. Osbourne," "Perro de Calle," "Psycho Therapy," "Purgatory," "Remembrance," "Rooftop Intermission," "Shadowed," "Smoking Wet," "Sudden Drop," "Swipe," "Top," "Thank You for Patiently Waiting," "The Beast," "The Beautiful Logic," "The Blue Cave," "The Caretaker," "The Cord," "The Feeder of Mir," "The Fixer," "The Great Artist," "The Karening," "The Killer Across the Street," "The Owner Is In," "The Taxidermist," "Things I Can't See," "Throw Away Boy," "Trophies," "Vacation," "Valley," "Where You Are," and "With Nora."

SHORT DOCUMENTARIES (2)

"Birth of a Union" and "L'eau Est La Vie."

ANIMATION, EXPERIMENTAL AND MUSIC VIDEOS (17)

"A New Generation," "Behind The Glass," "Cloud Gazing," "Communication," "Cookie," "Elysium," "Here You Are You Here," "Highland Home," "Hostage," "In A Pickle," "In the Pines," "Kevin Verses," "Lea's Secret," "Little Guys in Space," "On The Floor," "Open Heart Surgery," and "Talking Cure."

WEB SERIES (8)

"Happily Ever Ally," "Mares & Kaps," "Modus Operandi: Pseudo Fantasies of a F*cked Up Shrink," "My Life as a Doormat (Pilot)," "NOC - Non-Official Cover," "Procedural Justice," "Tales From the Jumpseat: Sudden Drop," and "The Resentful Angel."

Festival of Cinema NYC:

Festival of Cinema NYC was founded by local independent filmmakers with a passion to get movies made and to expand the reach of artists' work. Recognizing the challenges filmmakers face in the film industry, the festival's aim is to establish a presence, and spread awareness, of cinematic creativity.

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

Camden Film Fest Marks 17 BY MABEL PAIS

PAYAL KAPADIA Among Emerging Directors

YUDHAJIT BASU'S "KALSUBAI", ALISHA TEJPAL'S "LATA", SUNEIL SANZGIRI'S "LETTER FROM YOUR FAR-OFF COUNTRY" Among SHORTS

September 16-26, 2021

"As programmers, we have been transformed by these films. And in a moment when we are all feeling the forced distance between us, we are grateful to the filmmakers who have made these works of art and shared these stories with us. Cinema is a beacon, and there is no question that the near seventy films that will be presented both in person and online at CIFF are, all in their own way, a light in the dark."- Ben Fowlie, Exec.-Artistic Director, Points North Institute & Founder, CIFF



CIFF Organizers - Photo / CIFF



CIFF Audience - Photo / CIFF

The Camden International Film Festival (CIFF), for its 17th edition of feature and short films, presents films in person from September 16-19 at venues in Camden and Rockland, Maine, and online from September 16-26 for audiences across North America.

This year's festival will present 37 features and 33 short films from over 30 countries. Recognized as a growing platform for championing the next generation of nonfiction storytellers, 52% of the films presented this year are directed or co-directed by POC directors. Since 2017, the festival has been committed to gender parity across all sections and competitions. 57% of this year's slate of films have been directed or co-directed by women.

Opening Night on September 16 is National Geographic Documentary Films' "Becoming Cousteau," from two-time Oscar nominated filmmaker Liz Garbus, about the iconic undersea explorer and filmmaker who tried decades ago to warn the world about the climate crisis. The festival will Close its in-person festival on Sunday, September 19 with NEON's Sundance Grand Jury Prize winner "Flee" recounted mostly

through animation by director Jonas Poher Rasmussen, the film tells Amin Nawani's extraordinary journey as a child refugee from Afghanistan.

2021 CIFF FILM SLATE:

There are 36 Feature Films and 33 Short Films presented.

2021 CIFF FEATURE FILMS:

A COP MOVIE

Alonso Ruizpalacios | Mexico | North American Premiere

A NIGHT OF KNOWING NOTHING

Payal Kapadia | India, France | US Premiere

AFTER ANTARCTICA

Tasha Van Zandt | United States, Canada, Antarctica

ALL THESE SONS

Bing Liu, Joshua Altman | United States

ARCHIPELAGO

Felix Dufour-Laperrière | Canada | US Premiere

ASCENSION

Jessica Kingdon | United States

BECOMING COUSTEAU

Liz Garbus | United States

CITIZEN ASHE

Sam Pollard, Rex Miller | United States, United Kingdom

CUSP

Parker Hill, Isabel Bethencourt | United States

EXPEDITION CONTENT

Ernst Karel, Veronika Kusumaryati | United States, West Papua

FATHOM

Drew Xanthopoulos | United States

FAYA DAYI

Jessica Beshir | Ethiopia, United States, Qatar

FLEE

Jonas Poher Rasmussen | Denmark

KÍMMAPIIYIPITSSINI: THE MEANING OF EMPATHY
Elle-Máijá Tailfeathers | Canada | US Premiere

LAKE FOREST PARK

Kersti Jan Werdal | United States | World Premiere

LAST DAYS AT SEA

Venice Atienza | Philippines, Taiwan | US Premiere

LISTENING TO KENNY G

Penny Lane | United States | US Premiere

MAGALUF GHOST TOWN

Miguel Ángel Blanca | Spain, France, Switzerland | US Premiere

NO KINGS (SEM DEUS SEM DEMÔNIO)
Emilia Mello | Brazil

NORTH BY CURRENT

Angelo Madsen Minax | United States

OSTROV - LOST ISLAND

Svetlana Rodina, Laurent Stoop | Switzerland | US Premiere

OUR MEMORY BELONGS TO US

Rami Farah, Signe Byrge Sørensen | Denmark, France | North American Premiere

PAPER & GLUE

JR | United States, France

PROCESSION

Robert Greene | United States

ROOTS

Tea Luka? | Serbia, Croatia | North

American Premiere

SHARED RESOURCES

Jordan Lord | United States

SILENCE OF THE TIDES

Pieter-Rim De Kroon | The Netherlands, Germany | US Premiere

SONGS THAT FLOOD THE RIVER

Germán Arango Rendón | Colombia

TERRA FEMME

Courtney Stephens | United States

THE FAITHFUL: THE KING, THE POPE, THE PRINCESS

Annie Berman | United States, Portugal, United Kingdom | World Premiere

THE MUSHROOM SPEAKS

Marion Neumann | Switzerland | North American Premiere

THE REAL CHARLIE CHAPLIN

Peter Middleton & James Spinney | United Kingdom

THE RESCUE

Jimmy Chin, E. Chai Vasarhelyi | United States, United Kingdom

THE VELVET QUEEN

Marie Amiguet, Vincent Munier | France | North American Premiere

TORN

Max Lowe | United States

UNDERDOG

Tommy Hyde | United States | World Premiere

2021 CIFF SHORTS:

.srt

Africanus Okokon | United States

0.2 Milligrams of Gold

Diego Quinderé de Carvalho | Belgium, Brazil, Portugal, Hungary | World Premiere

Ancient Sunshine

Jason Livingston | United States

Arctic Summer

Daniel Fradin, Kyle Rosenbluth | United States, Canada

BABYBANGZ

Juliana Kasumu | United States

Datura's Aubade

Jean-Jacques Martinod, Bretta C. Walker | United States | World Premiere

DEATH

Nadia Hallgren | United States

death and her compass

Annie Munger | United States

Desert Lights (Luces del Desierto)

Félix Blume | France, Mexico

Dial Home

César Martínez Barba | United States, Mexico

Eating Soil

Laura Weissenberger | Austria

Faraway [Lointain]

Aziz Zoromba | Canada

Homage to the Work of Philip Henry Gosse

Pablo Martín Weber | Argentina

KALSUBAI

Yudhajit Basu | India | North American Premiere

LATA

Alisha Tejpal | India, United States

Lemongrass Girl

Pom Bunsermvicha | Thailand

Letter From Your Far-Off Country

Suneil Sanzgiri | United States, India

Negotiating Liberation

Amirah Tajdin | United Arab Emirates

NOVA: A New Spelling of My Name

Nova Scott-James | United States | World Premiere

Silence of the Sirens (Le Silence des sirènes)

Diana Vidrascu | France | US Premiere

Son of Sodom

Theo Montoya | Colombia

South

Morgan Quaintance | United Kingdom

Spirits and Rocks: an Azorean Myth [Espíritos e Rochas: um Mito Açoriano]

Aylin Gökmen | Switzerland, Portugal

The Beauty President

Whitney Skauge | United States

The Diamond

Caitlyn Greene | United States | World Premiere

The Elvermen

Isla Badenoch | United Kingdom | International Premiere

The Rifleman

Sierra Pettengill | United States

They Won't Call It Murder

Melissa Gira Grant, Ingrid Raphaël | United States

Vida Buena

Benjamin Buxton | Cuba | World Premiere

You Can't Stop Spirit

Vashni Korin | United States

Listen to the Beat of Our Images

Audrey Jean-Baptiste, Maxime Jean-Baptiste | France, French Guiana

Melting Snow

Janah Elise | United States, Puerto Rico

Motorcyclist's Happiness Won't Fit Into His Suit (Al motociclista no le cabe la felicidad en el traje)

Gabriel Herrera | Mexico | US Premiere

CIFF

The Camden International Film Festival (CIFF) & The Points North Institute

Founded in 2005 and recognized as one of the top documentary film festivals in the world, the Camden International Film Festival (CIFF) brings the finest nonfiction cinema to the coast of Maine, showcasing documentary films and immersive works from around the globe each fall.

The Points North Institute, established in 2016, is the launching pad for the next generation of nonfiction storytellers. Building on the success of the Camden International Film Festival, Points North's mission is to bring together a unique, interdisciplinary community of filmmakers, artists, journalists, industry leaders, and audiences, forming a creative hub on the coast of Maine where new stories and talent are discovered, collaborations are born, and the future of nonfiction media is shaped. To learn more, visit

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pointsnorthinstitute.org

facebook.com/pointsnorthinstitute

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

RUSSIA SUMMONS US ENVOY OVER 'MEDDLING'

MOSCOW (TIP): Russia summoned US Ambassador John Sullivan on September 10 over alleged interference by the US in an election, Russian agencies said. Russian news agencies reported earlier that Sullivan had been summoned over an issue with accreditations for Russian journalists working in the US. — Reuters

AUSTRIA: MAN KEPT MOTHER'S BODY IN BASEMENT TO DRAW PENSION

BERLIN (TIP): Austrian police say a man hid his mother's body in his basement for over a year in order to continue receiving her pension and nursing allowance.

Police in Tyrol province said on September 9 that officers paid a visit to the man in the Innsbruck area last weekend because suspicions had arisen that his 89-year-old mother had died in June 2020.

They said in a statement that the 66-year old admitted in questioning to having kept her body in the basement after she died at home so that he could keep receiving her benefits. Investigations so far suggest that he took in a "mid-five-digit" sum of euros.

Authorities conducted an autopsy on his mother's body on Wednesday and found no evidence of foul play. —AP

JOHNSON GETS PARLIAMENT BACKING FOR HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE TAX

LONDON (TIP): British Parliament has approved Prime Minister Boris Johnson-led government's new tax plan to fund its National Health Service (NHS) and social care services.

The House of Commons voted by 319 to 248 on September 8 evening to back the proposed Health and Social Care Levy, a new 1.25 per cent tax on workers and employers across the country, to be effective from April 2022.

Comes into effect in april next year : The proposed Health and Social Care Levy, a new 1.25 per cent tax on workers and employers, will be effective from April 2022 The PM Boris Johnson-led government's plan is expected to raise an extra GBP 12 billion a year towards health and care costs

The dividend rates for companies will also go up by the same amount to cover what Johnson described as "biggest catch-up programme" for the state-funded National Health Service in the wake of the Covid-19 pandemic. It is expected to raise an extra GBP 12 billion a year towards health and care costs.

As the move breaks one of the ruling Conservative Party's central election manifesto pledges, it has angered many of Johnson's backbench Tory MPs. — PTI

Canada's Trudeau, trailing in polls, defends early election call

HAMILTON, ONTARIO (TIP): Canada's Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, facing possible defeat in a snap September 20 election, on September 10 defended his decision to call the election early and said his main rival would undermine the fight against Covid-19.

Trudeau, who heads a minority Liberal government that needs opposition support to pass legislation, had hoped Canadians would reward his handling of the coronavirus pandemic with a majority in the House of Commons.

But polls show voters are unhappy that Trudeau, 49, who has held power for six years, called the vote during a fourth wave of the pandemic. Conservative leader Erin O'Toole, 48, holds a slight lead over the Liberal leader, surveys show.

Asked whether he regretted the election call, Trudeau told reporters in Hamilton, Ontario: "Absolutely not ... What we see is a very clear contrast between all the different parties on how we need to move forward as a country." Attacked daily by rivals for taking Canadians to the polls this month, Trudeau has struggled to turn the campaign toward policy issues. He is running out of time.

On September 10, a day after an inconclusive leaders' debate, Trudeau blasted O'Toole for arguing that Covid-19 vaccinations are a personal choice and should not be mandated.

Unlike the Conservative leader, Trudeau requires his fellow Liberal candidates be inoculated against the virus and last month his center-left



government introduced vaccine mandates for domestic travel.

"He's better and quicker to stand up for the rights of those who choose not to get vaccinated than he is for your wife and your kids' rights to be safe from Covid-19," Trudeau said.

The Liberals compete for the same center-left electorate as the smaller New Democrats of Jagmeet Singh. Trudeau, adopting tactics he used in the 2019 election, said O'Toole could become prime minister if the progressive vote splits. "The choice is clear in this election. Don't let Jagmeet Singh tell you there is no difference between a Liberal government or a Conservative government," he said.

Speaking earlier, Singh told reporters

that "you do not have to choose between two parties that are arguing about who is worse ... better is possible." (See brief profiles of all candidates:)

The campaign's final stretch kicked off after Statistics Canada reported that the national unemployment rate fell to 7.1 per cent in August, its lowest during the pandemic.

"We have now recovered 95 per cent of the jobs lost during the Covid recession," Finance Minister Chrystia Freeland said, speaking alongside Trudeau.

A rolling Nanos Research poll of 1,200 voters on Thursday showed the Conservatives with 33.3 per cent support and the Liberals at 31.3 per cent. The left-leaning New Democrats had 19.2 per cent. Reuters

Chinese woman involved in 7 murders sentenced to death

BEIJING (TIP): A Chinese woman who was allegedly involved in several robberies, abductions and the murder of seven people has been sentenced to death by a local court in the southeastern Jiangxi Province.

Lao Rongzhi conspired with her then-boyfriend in several robberies, abductions and murders in various provinces during 1996-1999 that led to the death of seven people, Nanchang Intermediate People's Court said in its judgement on September 9.

Lao was arrested in November 2019 after absconding for some 20 years using pseudonyms, the state-run Xinhua news agency reported.

The court also stripped her of her political rights and ordered that all her personal property be confiscated. After hearing the court's first instance verdict, Lao cried in court and said she would appeal the ruling, the state-run Global

Times reported.

According to the People's Procuratorate of Nanchang city, between 1996 and 1999, Lao committed four kidnappings, robbery and murder in East China's Jiangxi, Zhejiang, Jiangsu and Anhui provinces together with her then-boyfriend Fa Ziyang.

The two conspired and divided the work, with Lao working as a hostess in entertainment venues to find rich people to commit crimes. Seven people were killed, and Lao was involved in killing five of them and robbing a large sum of money.

Fa was captured in Hefei in 1999 and was sentenced to death. Lao then became a fugitive and used fake identities to evade, and was finally captured in Xiamen in 2019 after nearly 20 years on the run.

During the trial which began in December, Lao repeatedly argued that

collusion did not exist and that she was also a victim, saying that she was used and coerced by Fa when she was 21 years old.

Lao tearfully apologised to the victim's family and offered to compensate.

After the trial, the court held that Lao's behaviour constituted the crime of intentional homicide, robbery and kidnapping. At the same time, because Lao's criminal methods were particularly cruel, the purpose was extremely vicious, and the circumstances of her offenses were extremely serious.

Although Lao confessed to the crimes, she couldn't be leniently punished.

Zhu Dahong, the widow of Lu Zhongming, one of the victims in the case who observed the sentencing said she felt relieved after the verdict was announced and would take her children to visit Lu's grave. —PTI

Japan vaccine minister Taro Kono seeks to be next prime minister

TOKYO (TIP): Japan's outspoken vaccinations minister, Taro Kono, announced on September 10 that he is running to become head of the governing party, who usually is chosen prime minister, and pledged to be reform-minded and gets things done.

Kono, 58, a graduate of Georgetown University in Washington, D.C., who is fluent in English, has many fans among younger people, with whom he communicates via social media. Such things are still a rarity in Japanese politics.

"I will embrace your views and worries, share information with you, convey a solid message and work with you to overcome this crisis that we face," Kono said at a packed news conference in Tokyo, referring to the pandemic.

Kono's declaration comes a week after Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga's sudden announcement that he will not seek another term as head of the governing Liberal Democratic Party in a September 29 vote. The winner is virtually certain to be elected prime minister by parliament because the party and its coalition partner hold a majority of seats.

Two other lawmakers have already declared their candidacies: centrist former Foreign Minister Fumio Kishida and former Internal Affairs Minister Sanae Takaichi, who shares former Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's right-wing ideology and revisionist views on wartime history. She is seeking to become Japan's first female leader.

Kono emphasised his achievements as vaccine minister, portraying himself as someone who gets things done, by tearing down bureaucratic barriers if necessary.

Kono, who is also regulatory reform minister, was picked by Suga to lead the country's vaccination campaign in January before its rollout in mid-



February, months behind other countries.

Within weeks, Kono was tasked with the ambitious goal of fully vaccinating all of the nation's elderly by the end of July, which he achieved by boosting the administration of doses to 1 million per day — another goal set by Suga.

Japan is now on par with the United States in terms of percentage of people who have received at least one shot, and will be in the "top class" among the Group of Seven industrialised nations by the end of September or early October, he said.

Kono, considered a liberal on social issues such as gender equality and diversity but hawkish on national security, is seen as standing somewhere in the middle between Takaichi and Kishida, though he has shifted somewhat to the conservative side, apparently to broaden his support among conservatives.

Some governing party lawmakers are

cautious about Kono's past support for a phasing out of nuclear energy.

Suga, who became prime minister a year ago, has faced nosediving popularity over his government's handling of the coronavirus, which many saw as slow and limited, and for insisting on hosting the Olympics despite widespread opposition due to health concerns.

Having a fresh leader is important for the Liberal Democrats as they seek to increase their popularity ahead of an upcoming general election that must be held by late November.

Kono was the most popular choice for prime minister in at least three recent public opinion polls, with former Defence Minister Shigeru Ishiba second and Kishida third. Takaichi, who is less well known, was lower in the rankings. Public popularity does not directly affect the selection of prime minister, who is elected by parliament from candidates presented by various parties. —AP

TIANANMEN VIGIL: 12 FROM HK PLEAD GUILTY

HONG KONG (TIP): Twelve Hong Kong pro-democracy activists pleaded guilty on Thursday to participating in an unauthorised candlelight vigil to mark Beijing's bloody crackdown in Tiananmen Square on June 4 last year.

Thousands had turned up to light candles despite police warnings. Seven of them were charged with inciting others to take part in the assembly. — AP

HUNDREDS EVACUATED AS WILDFIRE GROWS IN SOUTHWESTERN SPAIN

MADRID (TIP): At least 500 people have been evacuated from their homes and road traffic has been disrupted as firefighting teams and planes fight a wildfire in southwestern Spain, regional authorities said on Thursday.

The blaze in a mountain range of the Malaga province started late on Wednesday and grew overnight, prompting the first evacuations near the resort town of Estepona.

As the blaze expanded, a housing development with about 50 residents was also emptied by authorities on Thursday morning.

Around 250 firefighters were working to extinguish the fire on the ground, helped by 29 planes, authorities said.

Smoke from the blaze also led to the closure of some 14 kilometres (9 miles) on the AP-7, a major motorway, although traffic resumed by mid-Thursday. At least two smaller roads remained closed.

The regional fire extinguishing service said that the rugged terrain made quelling the flames "difficult".

"It has pronounced slopes and there is a strong west wind that is complicating the work," Infoca said in a statement.

Wildfires are common in southern Europe during the hot, dry summer months.

Spain's Ministry for Ecological Transition said that, as of August 29, 74,200 hectares (186,000 acres) of forest and bush areas in the country had burnt in 2021. — AP

JAPAN EXTENDS VIRUS EMERGENCY UNTIL END OF SEPTEMBER

TOKYO (TIP): Japan announced on September 10 it is extending a coronavirus state of emergency in Tokyo and 18 other areas until the end of September as health care systems remain under severe strain, although new infections have slowed slightly.

The current state of emergency, which was to end on Sunday, was issued first in Okinawa in May and gradually expanded. Despite the prolonged emergency, the largely voluntary measures have become less effective as the exhausted public increasingly ignores them. AP

Canada PM Trudeau angrily accuses main rival of favouring abortion curbs, gun owners

OTTAWA (TIP): Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, facing a possible election defeat, on Wednesday lashed out at his main rival, accusing him of favouring restrictions on abortion and wanting to loosen gun controls.

Opinion polls show the right-leaning Conservatives of Erin O'Toole could win the September 20 vote, ending six years of rule by the left-of-center Liberals.

At the end of an otherwise unremarkable two-hour leaders' debate in French, Trudeau said O'Toole had sided with the gun lobby and wanted to overturn a Liberal ban on assault weapons.

He also said dozens of Conservative Parliamentarians had voted in favour

of draft legislation to curb abortions that was defeated in the House of Commons in June.

"Mr O'Toole refused to tell Canadians what he wants to do.

He signs deals with special interest groups," Trudeau said. "He is offering weak leadership ... he can't be trusted." O'Toole, who has consistently attacked Trudeau's decision to call a snap election during the Covid-19 pandemic, retorted that the Liberal leader would "say anything to win" and said he was in favor of abortion rights.

Last Sunday O'Toole scrapped a campaign promise to eliminate a ban on some assault weapons after Trudeau accused him of cozying up to the gun lobby.

Trudeau called the election two

years ahead of schedule as a referendum on his handling of the pandemic but has struggled to overcome voter fatigue.

Wednesday's two-hour debate was the second and final one to be held in French, which is predominantly spoken in Quebec. The province accounts for 78 of the 338 seats in the House of Commons and is crucial for any party seeking office.

The leaders will hold another debate on Thursday in English, the language spoken by two-thirds of Canada's 38 million population. An Ipsos Research poll for Global News on Wednesday put the Conservatives at 35% public support, with the Liberals at 32% and the left-leaning New Democrats at 21%. Reuters

Shree Ganeshaya Namah

VEDIC ASTROLOGER NASTUR
BEJAN DARUWALLA

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**The Indian Panorama brings you Weekly and Birthday
Horoscope by NASTUR BEJAN DARUWALLA**

WEEKLY HOROSCOPE - 13th Sept to 19th Sept 2021

Aries

Ganesha says for you, dear Aries natives, this is going to be a typical seven days. This week's industrial fronts imply that you may have a hiccup. You must be diligent in your accountancy and solely protect your industry's anonymity. It might suffer a major blow, putting you and your family in danger. Strive to put in the effort and don't deceive others. You can handle your financial issues if you can keep your attitude under command.

On the romantic front, you'll be ready to talk about starting a family this week. If you want to match star signs, Wednesday and Thursday are the best days to accomplish so. This week, avoid depending on the views of others when it comes to parenting. In terms of your health, you'll be able to keep in good shape this week. You'll also stick to your schedule.

Taurus

In terms of accomplishments this week, you're going to have a great time. You must secure the welfare of your friends and family and maintain your optimism while escaping a mental breakdown. If you succeed in doing so, you will have the best and most pleasant week of the quarter. You'll have a good weekend on all fronts in terms of your work life. In the early half of the week, you'll also have fresh work chances. The twelfth house of your zodiac predicts that you will obtain decent penny stocks.

This week, your emotional fronts will be on point, and the second half of the week will be ideal for spending more time with your companion. This week, your health is looks excellent; you've acclimated to your new environments and haven't experienced any health issues. Simply keep a clean environment and avoid consuming sugary snacks, which can be harmful to your health.

Gemini

You'll need to be strong and indestructible this week since you'll be dealing with a lot of challenges. Some important ties will have to be abandoned forever. This week, you'll be hugely amazed with yourself. You may have to cope with work on other fronts, but by the end of the week, everything will be great. When it comes to economics, don't make choices without consulting with others. In the second part of the

week, you'll want to make sure you're on the correct track when it comes to professional decisions.

This week, you'll need to be gentler and more generous in your relationships. Your spouse will have to express himself more as well. If you're married, be careful not to fall into the temptation loop. In terms of your health, you'll have to pay more attention to your cholesterol levels this week.

Cancer

This week, you'll be fully prepared to go forward. You'll be able to fix the problem that went wrong a long time ago. You will be able to find ideal solutions to your work problems. You'll get along with everyone in the office as well. This month, you must avoid arguing with anybody. You will win handsomely from your previous equities in the first part of the week. This week, make the most of your time.

In terms of your romantic relationships, you'll need to make sure that your partner and you are on the same page when it comes to moving ahead. In terms of your health, you will not have any problems this week. This week, pay special attention to your youngsters.

Leo

You'll be in a terrific mood this week. This week, you'll have to keep your energy under check. You'll have to be extra cautious and aware of certain aspects of your work life. If you're a stock exchange investor, keep your avarice in check this week. If you're in the contracting sector, don't sign any major contracts this week. This week, if you work as an architect, you'll have to be more attentive with your scheduling.

In terms of your love life, things will get Better. During the week, you will have a sense of security. This week, people looking for a marriage partner will discover Aries and Capricorn to be the most suitable signs for them. You will be able to take good care of yourself in terms of wellness. You'll have to be more cautious when it comes to eyesight and hearing problems.

Virgo

You will be free to pursue Jupiter' and Lord Ganesha's favours this week. You will be rewarded with both love and fortune. On the competent front, you'll be able to overcome the

impediments this week. You'll need to be cautious when making protracted plans. You're going to muck up the second part of the week by rushing about excessively. On a positive note, your financial prospects will be better than ever this week. When it comes to individuals in jobs, the eighth house denotes a period of hardship, but things will undoubtedly improve before the start of the next week.

You will be able to draw your companion closer to you on the romance front. This week, you'll be looking for attentiveness from your companion as well. Ascertain that your health improves this week. This week is going to be the week that your troubles go away.

Libra

You'll have a hard time this week. To go through this, you'll have to restrain your bravery. This week, you'll have to take extreme measures. This week, you'll have to be extra cautious about your professional decisions. If you're starting a new job, start in the second part of the week. If you're in commerce, you'll be able to make extra money this week. You will feel better this week as your job stress decreases. On Thursdays and Sundays, avoid investing in the stock market.

In terms of your love life, you will spend a lot of time with your spouse, which may make you feel a bit overwhelmed. If you are engaged, you may have a disagreement with your partner in the second part of the week. Make sure you take care of oneself this week, since Ketu's unwanted adverse stance is likely to impact you.

Scorpio

This week will be pleasant, but owing to Rahu's location, you will be reluctant to concentrate on anything besides your studies. This will have an impact on you from all sides. Aside from that, the moonlight will be able to discover the perfect location for your economic pursuits. Venus may shower you with benefits this week, resulting in significant profits. You may be recognized for your good acts. Profits will be made, and you will get a competitive edge in the economy.

In terms of romance, you'll have to be extra cautious this week since you're likely to meet the incorrect person in the first part of the week. One point to note about your health: you could become sick this week, so try to stay as hygienic as necessary, and recall that avoidance is better than treatment, so take good care of yourself.

WEEKLY HOROSCOPE - 13th Sept to 19th Sept 2021

Sagittarius

This week will go by quickly. This week may provide you with a number of obstacles, but they will all disappear soon. Try to deal with all of the difficulties with the help of a grownup or competent person, as their viewpoint will have a big impact. As an outcome of your earlier activities, such as operating expenses, there's a probability you'll generate revenue this week. This week, you might be able to charge higher prices for more than the estimated valuation. But, rather of being anxious, be grateful for what you have. Aside from that, every day, pray to Lord Vishnu for wealth.

This week will be really beneficial to your health. The temperature will be unpleasant this week, so don't plan a trip. This week will be fantastic for your romantic life. This week, you can decide whether or not to inform your friends about your love, as well as whether or not to arrange a ceremony.

Capricorn

This week promises to be exciting. Situations will put you under a variety of trials, but you must pass each one. You will become amazingly powerful as a result of these life trials, and you

will be able to confront any circumstance. Make an attempt to concentrate on all of your responsibilities. Aside from that, spend quality time with your friends this week, which will make you joyful. Academic youngsters should visit a religious location to help them refocus on their studies. This week might be lucky for you. In need for your company to develop, you'll need to go on your economic horizons. When you go on a trip, strive to stay for as long as possible.

The intersection of individual and career ties will have adverse repercussions. On an intimate level, this is the week to have faith in your partner and treat them with respect. Many others are envious of your intimate relationship with your partner, and they will strive to destroy it. This week, your health will function normally. There's a chance you'll take additional condition, but it'll be small.

Aquarius

It will bring both delight and sorrow, as this week has proven. You have the ability to make a large discrepancy in your organisation. You might make a fortune for your firm this week. You will be able to gain a better economic presence. You will be richly rewarded for your efforts. You may

even establish a new agriculture or clothing enterprise that will make you a lot of cash. This week, your love fronts will be in full swing, but no new relationships will emerge.

Ketu says, this week illustrates how the environment may affect your health. You might become ill, which could lead to poor outcomes and a sense of hopelessness. So, take care of yourself and take precautions.

Pisces

Your firm has a lot of opportunity to grow this week. This week will offer you considerably more than you intended for, as well as a bunch of new challenges, so be prepared. Accept it and use it to get more information. Briefly put, don't allow your inner essence collapse, associate yourself with good vibes, and take care of the body because it may have an impact on both your work and your connection. This week, stay away from gloomy colours since they may make you feel awful.

Your ties will be stronger, and any ambiguities or disputes will be rectified. To be a good human within yourself and everyone, you just must keep your composure and regulate your rage. Your connections will be strengthened if you spend longer hours with your best friends.

BIRTHDAY HOROSCOPE :13TH SEPT TO 19TH SEPT 2021

CONTD FROM PAGE 30

Sept 13

You will have a very interesting day today as it is a pivotal day in your life today. You will understand the importance of being mature, responsible and taking your future seriously. You will realize today that you're lucky to put minimal efforts into anything you want and yet get the best results out of it.

Sept 14

You will feel indomitable today and hence extremely powerful. Although the ball is in your court today, you will have to make sure that you still fear karma and do not misuse the power that you have today. Make the best of today by being kind, loving and lighting the lives of those around you and those you immensely care about you.

Sept 15

You have hyperactive energies today which might make you act or rather overreact a bit too

much. Even an extremely minor inconvenience has the power to ruin your day today, but only if you let it. You will have to exercise immense control on your anger and focus on what you do today to make sure that you're well behaved and do not hurt anyone's feelings today.

Sept 16

You will have a great time working today. You are most like to spend today with new people only and you will have fun doing so. Financial security is on your way today. Probably because a lot of good luck is in your sign today. Positive energies are all for you today. Today you will realize the importance of your family as they will support you a lot in all of your decisions made recently.

Sept 17

Your immaculate skills will impress a new prospect today and will yield you very positive results with very little of your time and attention needed. A lot of applause and appreciation from your colleagues and family will set a very positive

tone of today for you today. You will experience how rewarding it is when you work hard and you are punctual.

Sept 18

Financial situations will teach you a lot of life lessons today. You will always remember today. Make sure you take time to relax and rejuvenate today as you need to feel the amount of happiness and love you're blessed with. Whatever you do regarding your love life will turn out to be beneficial for you. Take full advantage of today if you're single, socialize and try to meet new people as well as catch up with old friends.

Sept 19

You will feel at a very good place in your life today. Although it has been a tough ride today will feel like a fairytale for you. You will receive many good wishes from your supporters and they will provide you with much-needed support. Especially your partner and your parents will be standing by your side today.



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Do you also want glowing looking skin like one of your favourite Bollywood celebrities? There is a lot that they do to keep their face glowing. We have unravelled some of their secrets, and we are surprised by them.

Most of the young stars love to try out DIY facemasks and recipes for their skin. Yes, it is true. They have revealed their secret for that instant red carpet glow. Do you also want to look radiant like them? Then keep on reading!

Pro tip: Always try a small patch of these before just to check if you are allergic or not.

Radhika Madan

Once starting with television shows, Radhika Madan has now set her foot in the Bollywood Industry. She is known to be one of the most hardworking actresses. Always glowing and smiling, she also has her own beauty secrets.

The Angrezi Medium actress shared a DIY face pack recipe given by her mom.

Ingredients:

- Two-Three tablespoon Chickpea Flour (Besan)?
- One teaspoon Turmeric (Haldi)
- Five-Six Soaked Almonds
- Milk (As required)
- Few strands of Saffron (Kesar)

Procedure:

Take the chickpea flour and add turmeric to it. Now make a paste of the almonds by grinding them and mix it all. Add milk as much as required to get a paste consistency. Saffron is the magic ingredient so add it as well. Apply it all over your face and keep it on for as long as you can.

While washing, keep in mind not to wash with water. Either use milk or just wet your hands and scrub it off by massaging. Don't use a soap or a face wash later to retain the effects.

Benefits:

Makeup, dirt, pollution, etc., can damage your skin. This face pack helps with tanning by acting as a scrub and will leave you with a natural glow. It also helps with acne and breakout.

Janhvi Kapoor

The Roohi actress is loved for her style. Have you ever seen her in everyday routine? She is always bare-faced with no hints of makeup. Her love for homemade remedies is not hidden, and she has even shared some facemask that she uses, even for a red carpet look.

Ingredients:

- One tablespoon Curd/Yogurt (With Malai if possible)?
- One teaspoon Honey
- Mashed seasonal fruit (Anything



that's available)
Half-cut Orange

Procedure:

Wash your face and pat dry. Mix the yogurt, honey and the mashed fruit in a bowl and make a paste. Apply it all over your face. Now, take an orange cut in half. Squeeze a bit to loosen it, and the juice comes out easily. Take the orange and scrub it gently all over your face. Avoid getting cut. Wash your face with cold water.

Benefits:

The curd and honey make your skin moisturizing and glowy. Orange acts as a scrub and helps remove the tan and dead skin.

Priyanka Chopra

Our desi girl has proved she may be living outside India but is still desi at heart. Priyanka has been a superstar of the Bollywood industry and has also made us proud with her Hollywood performances. She is loved for her beauty. Do you also want to know her secrets? Mrs Jonas revealed her skincare secret, and it is none other than a DIY recipe learned from her mom.

Ingredients:

- One cup Gram Flour (Besan)?
- One tablespoon Curd/Yogurt
- Half Lemon
- Milk
- Two-Three Teaspoons Sandalwood Powder (Chandan Powder)
- One teaspoon Turmeric (Haldi)

Procedure:

Take the gram flour and yogurt according to your requirements and mix them well. Squeeze some lemon juice and mix it. If your paste is

thick add some milk to make it smooth. Add the sandalwood powder and turmeric. Mix all of it well into a paste.

Apply it over your face or your body. Let it dry completely. Scrub it off with your hands and remove it. Wash your face with water afterwards.

Benefits:

It is a scrub used on the face as well as the body. It is an exfoliator, hydrator, and moisturizer for the skin. It will also remove any kind of tanning. It also removes baby face hair.

Ananya Panday

Ananya has been a fashion inspiration for many young girls. We love her style but we also love her bare face looks when she steps out. Ananya shared her secret on Instagram stories for naturally glowing skin and it's just an easy DIY recipe.

Ingredients:

- One-Two tablespoon Curd/yogurt?
- One teaspoon Honey
- One teaspoon Turmeric (Haldi)

Procedure:

Mix all the ingredients in a bowl altogether. Apply it all over the face. Leave it for 10-15 minutes. Also apply it in scrubbing motion for exfoliation. It dries so wash your face in rubbing motion with normal water.

Benefits:

It helps in hydrating and moisturizing the skin. Also makes your tan and dead skin go away. It purifies your skin and also has healing properties.

Source: Pinkvilla

FOOD CORNER

Dahi Lasooni Chicken



Ingredients:

- Chicken boneless - 7 pcs, 170 gms
- Cheese - 15 gms
- Garlic chopped - 15 gms
- Ginger paste - 5 gms
- Coriander chopped - 2 gms
- Green chilli paste - 7 gms
- Fresh cream - 18 gms
- Curd - 40 gms
- Kaju paste - 10 gms
- Salt - 2 gms
- Black salt - 0.5 gms
- Chicken masala - 1 gram
- Chat masala - 0.5 gms
- Elaichi - 0.5 gms
- Jeera powder - 1 gram
- White pepper powder - 1 gram
- Salad oil - 5 gms
- Daniya powder - 1 gram

Method:

- The first step is to marinate the chicken with all the ingredients.
- Marinate the chicken pieces with curd and then add chopped garlic, ginger paste, kaju paste, green chilli paste, chopped dhaniya, salt, kitchen king masala
- Add black salt, chat masala, elaichi, dhaniya, jeera powder, white pepper powder, salad oil, cream and cheese.
- Keep aside for 30 minutes to abstract flavour.
- Apply 5 ml of butter.
- Grill it in charcoal tandoor for 8 - 10 minutes.
- Serve in a platter.

Skincare in your 30s: Here are some basic rules to follow

Women in their 30s begin to face some problems with their skin. Your skin is going to need all the care. All you have to do is follow the basics of taking care of your skin, ensuring that it is well-nourished. When you try out these beauty tips, the 30s get easy and fun.

- Most women ignore the cleansing, toning, and moisturising routine during their younger days. This routine is even more essential and should be followed in the 30s.
- Have a diet plan that includes many varieties of vegetables and fruits. Salads made from healthy and fresh vegetables and fruits will help to get rid of toxins in the body.
- Take supplements like vitamins C and E as they make you comfortable in your skin.
- Start looking for key ingredients in your cosmetics that will help to make your skin look radiant and youthful.
- Avoid using lots of ingredients on hair and skin.
- Drink plenty of water every day. Have around 8-10 glasses of water as it is needed not only for a healthy body, but also for beautiful skin. It will also help eliminate toxins from the body.
- Try giving up or at least reducing consumption of alcohol and smoking. Reduce the intake of sugar and caffeine as well.
- Night creams will help to hydrate your skin and reduce patchiness. It will also help to boost the collagen in the skin.

Who is at higher risk of contracting COVID-19?



Michael Dreis, MD

We all know that everyone is at risk for COVID-19. But there are some conditions that can put someone at a higher risk of infection than that of the general population.

The strength of your immune system plays an important role in your risk of getting COVID-19. You are at higher risk of infection if you have a weakened immune system, meaning you:

- Have a condition that affects your immune system, such as HIV, autoimmune disease, or cancer
- Are taking immune system-suppressing medications, such as steroids, organ transplant medications, or chemotherapy

Of course, the best way to prepare your immune system against possible infection is vaccination, which trains your body to fight off the virus should you have an exposure.

Other factors that may put you at higher risk for infection include:

- Where you live: If you live in close proximity to others, you are more likely to be exposed to the virus. This includes a skilled nursing facility, a crowded family home, or a homeless shelter.
- Historically underserved communities: If you don't have insurance or access to healthcare, you are also at higher risk for COVID-19. These conditions can make it harder to get vaccinated, receive reliable treatment for other medical conditions, or even prevent infection by social distancing or staying home from work.

Who is most at risk for getting seriously ill from COVID-19?

Some underlying medical conditions can increase your risk of a severe COVID-19 infection, meaning you would need to be hospitalized and could potentially develop complications. This risk increases with age for all of us, but other factors play an important role as well.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), you are at high risk of severe illness with COVID-19 if you have:

- A history of smoking
- Lung conditions, like asthma or COPD
- Heart disease
- High blood pressure
- Diabetes
- A condition that weakens your immune system
- Cancer
- Obesity
- Kidney or liver disease
- A history of stroke, dementia, or other neurological conditions
- Active substance use

Key takeaways

- You are at higher risk for contracting COVID-19 if you have a weakened immune system, live in more crowded conditions, or are part of a historically underserved community.
- You are also at higher risk for severe illness from COVID-19 when you have underlying medical conditions, such as lung disease, heart disease, and kidney disease.
- If you are in a higher-risk group, it is important to take extra precautions to avoid infection and to follow your treatment plans for any underlying medical conditions.

- Been recently pregnant (within 6 weeks), or are currently pregnant

While researchers have been able to identify these as risk factors, they are still trying to understand exactly why these conditions contribute to severe illness.

What extra precautions should you take if you're in a high-risk group?

If you're at higher risk for COVID-19, you can take some extra steps to protect yourself. Most importantly, get a vaccine as soon as you can. It is safe and effective for preventing COVID-19 infections and serious illness from COVID-19. But regardless of your vaccination status, wear a mask and socially distance, whenever possible.

Some other tips from the CDC:

- Be sure to take your daily medications for your underlying health conditions.
- If possible, talk to your provider about getting a larger supply of your medications to avoid extra trips to the pharmacy.
- Consider nonperishable or frozen food items so you can limit trips to the grocery store.
- Attend all your healthcare appointments, and seek emergency medical care when needed.

The bottom line

Some conditions put people at higher risk of getting infected with COVID 19 as well as developing severe illness if infected. If you have any of these risk factors, you can take extra steps to protect yourself. These include getting vaccinated, wearing a mask, and paying attention to your follow-up and treatment plan for any underlying medical conditions.

Source: Googrx.com

Michael Dreis, MD, is a medical writer and practicing emergency medicine physician, trained at the University of Wisconsin - Madison and Henry Ford Hospital in Detroit, Michigan.



No serious Covid vaccine side effects in breastfeeding moms, infants: Study

LOS ANGELES (TIP): Breastfeeding mothers vaccinated with Pfizer or Moderna preventive experienced similar side effects to what have previously been reported in non-breastfeeding women, while infants exhibited no adverse events after immunisation, a study has found.

The research, published in the journal Breastfeeding Medicine, involved 180 breastfeeding women who received both doses of either the Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna vaccine.

Over 85 per cent of the participants reported temporary localised symptoms, such as pain, redness, swelling or itching at the injection site, and systemic side effects, including chills, muscle or body aches, fever and vomiting, with higher frequency following the second dose.

"A mother's first concern is the safety of her child," said Christina Chambers, a professor at the University of California (UC) San Diego School of Medicine in the US.

"Our study, along with previous research, suggests the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines are not red flags for breastfeeding mothers and their infants," Chambers said. Following the second dose, women who received the Moderna vaccine were significantly more likely to report symptoms, according to the researchers.

A small proportion of women following the first dose of either vaccine brand reported a reduction in milk supply, and significantly more women reported a reduction in milk supply following the second dose of Moderna, they said.

"We want to emphasise that the reduction in milk supply was in a small subset of women and came back fully within 72 hours after vaccination. We also cannot be certain that the supply reduction was a side effect of the vaccine or another unknown factor," said Chambers. "What we do know is that the vaccine is incredibly effective in providing protection from Covid-19, which has proven to be a devastating and serious virus with possible long-term side effects," he said.

Source: PTI

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iPhone 14 Pro Max allegedly leaks ahead of iPhone 13 launch

The iPhone 13 series is all set to be launched on September 14. While hearing rumours and leaks ahead of a launch isn't something new, a leaker has taken things to a whole different level. Popular tipster Job Prosser has leaked details of the iPhone 14 Pro Max a week before even the iPhone 13 lineup is announced. The leaker has revealed several key details alongside design changes on both the front and back of the device. Here's what the tipster has revealed about next year's iPhone 14 Pro Max.

Jon Prosser has shared alleged details about next year's iPhone 14 Pro Max on his Front Page Tech website. As per the tipster, the 2022 high-end iPhone will feature a new design that will bid adieu to the infamous notch. It is tipped that the iPhone 14 Pro Max will feature a hole-punch front camera - in the past, analyst Ming Chi-Kuo has also claimed that this design change is incoming. Furthermore, the 2022 iPhone is said to have a thicker chassis allowing for no rear camera bump, with the lenses, LED flash, and LiDAR Scanner sitting flush with the rear glass. It could come with a titanium frame.

Apple is also allegedly borrowing design elements from the iPhone 4 for its 2022 iPhone lineup. As per the leak, the iPhone 14 series will feature round volume buttons that look similar to the iPhone 4 and iPhone 5 design.

Steps to enable two-factor authentication on your Google account

Staying safe online is one of the most important things in today's time. Keeping a strong password for all your digital accounts is no longer enough and so most applications and websites now give you the option of enabling a two-factor authentication system. Through this, users get the option of verifying a login, enabling an extra layer of security. Usually, two-factor authentication requires a code sent through SMS or a code generated by specific apps like Duo. This security measure lessens the chance of hacking and misuse.

If you have enabled the two-factor authentication then you will have to enter a code after correctly entering the password. Google also offers a variety of two-factor authentication methods, however, the easiest one to enable is the Google Prompt. Once this is activated, whenever you sign in to a new or an unknown device, the technology giant will send a prompt on your phone and till the time you don't confirm the prompt, you will not be able to sign in to the account on the unfamiliar device.

For enabling the two-factor authentication system on Google, follow these easy steps:

- Step 1: Open any internet browser of your choice and search for <https://myaccount.google.com>
- Step 2: On the left column of the homepage you will find an option that reads security. Click it
- Step 3: You will be directed to a new page where you will find the '2-Step Verification' option. Click it
- Step 4: A pop up will appear though which you will have to confirm the enabling by clicking the "Get Started" tab
- Step 5: A new window will open wherein you will be asked to enter your Gmail password for security purposes
- Step 6: Once done you will be taken to a new page on which you will have to choose the device on which you want to get the prompt



- Step 7: After you have confirmed the device hit the "try it" tab to confirm if the two-factor authentication is working or not
- Step 8: Make sure you have confirmed your phone number in the backup field tab
- Step 9: A code will be sent via text message to your mobile number. Enter it and hit on "Next"
- Step 10: On another page click on "Turn On" to enable the two-factor authentication. After you have done that the two-factor authentication will be activated for your google account.

NASA rover Perseverance collects first Martian rock sample

NASA's Mars science rover Perseverance has collected and stashed away the first of numerous mineral samples that the US space agency hopes to retrieve from the surface of the Red Planet for analysis on Earth.

Tools attached to Perseverance and operated by mission specialists from NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL) near Los Angeles drilled a rock core slightly thicker than a pencil from an ancient Martian lake bed, then hermetically sealed it in a titanium specimen tube inside the rover.

The feat, accomplished on September 1 and publicly confirmed by NASA late on Monday, marked the first such mineral sample obtained from the surface of another planet, according to the space agency.

NASA chief and former astronaut Bill Nelson hailed it as "a momentous achievement."

The space agency plans to collect as many as 43 mineral samples over the next few months from the floor of Jerezo Crater, a wide basin where scientists think water flowed and microbial life may have flourished billions of years ago.

The six-wheeled, SUV-sized vehicle is also expected to explore walls of sediment deposited at the foot of a remnant river delta once etched into a corner of the crater and considered a prime spot for study.

WhatsApp is not as private as you may think despite end-to-end encryption

Social media giant Facebook touts WhatsApp as a safe messaging platform where users chats are end-to-end encrypted. A recent report has now found out that WhatsApp may allow content moderators to access users' messages in certain cases. According to a report in ProPublica, there are more than 1,000 contract workers in office buildings in Austin, Texas, Dublin, and Singapore. These hourly workers, according to the report, can only view messages that the users have reported. This means that these moderators can only see users messages, images and videos only when the receiver hits the report button to report the message to WhatsApp.

The report in ProPublica says that this messages review is one element in a broader monitoring operation in which the company also reviews material that is not encrypted, including data about the sender and their account. A 49-slide internal marketing presentation from December 2020 accessed by ProPublica emphasizes the "fierce" promotion of WhatsApp's "privacy narrative." It compares the brand character to "the Immigrant Mother." This marketing material doesn't mention the company's content moderation efforts.

WhatsApp's director of communications, Carl Wong acknowledged that teams of contractors in Austin and elsewhere review WhatsApp messages to identify and remove abusers. However, he told the publication that Facebook does not consider this work to be content moderation. "The decisions we make around how we build our app are focused around the privacy of our



users, maintaining a high degree of reliability and preventing abuse," Wong was quoted in the report as saying.

A ProPublica investigation that draws on data, documents, and dozens of interviews reveals how WhatsApp's security has been compromised since Facebook's purchase of the platform in 2014.

China's factory inflation hits 13-year high as materials costs soar

China's factory gate inflation hit a 13-year high in August driven by roaring raw materials prices despite Beijing's attempts to cool them, putting more pressure on manufacturers in the world's second-largest economy. The producer price index (PPI) rose 9.5% from a year earlier in August, the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) said on Thursday, faster than the 9.0% increase tipped in a Reuters poll and the 9.0% reported in July. That was the fastest pace since August 2008. China's economy has recovered strongly from last year's coronavirus slump but has been losing steam recently due to domestic Covid-19 outbreaks, high raw material prices, tighter property curbs and a campaign to reduce carbon emissions.

Cairn accepts \$1-bn refund offer, to drop cases against India: CEO

UK-based Cairn Energy PLC on Tuesday said it will drop litigations to seize Indian properties in countries ranging from France to the US, within a couple of days of getting a \$1-billion refund resulting from the scrapping of a retrospective tax law. The firm termed "bold" the legislation passed last month to cancel a 2012 policy that gave the tax department power to go back 50 years and slap capital gains levies wherever ownership had changed hands overseas but business assets were in India. The offer to return money seized to enforce retrospective tax demand in lieu of dropping all litigations against the government "is acceptable to us," Cairn CEO Simon Thomson said in an interview from London.

RBI optimistic about 9.5% GDP growth for current financial year

RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das on Thursday said many fast indicators are showing an uptick in economic activity and the RBI is quite optimistic about its 9.5% GDP growth estimate for FY2021-22 at present. He said the impact of the second wave of Covid has waned by August, and economic growth will be better from the second quarter onwards on a sequential basis. Speaking at an event in Mumbai, Das said the RBI has decided to give more emphasis on growth because of the pandemic and operate in the 2-6% inflation band set by the government for it.

Ford to cease local production in India, shut down both plants

Ford made the decision as it was not profitable for them to continue, said one of the sources, adding that the process will take about a year to complete

Ford Motor Co will stop manufacturing in India and take a hit of about \$2 billion as it does not see a path to profitability in the country, becoming the latest automaker to leave a major growth market dominated by Asian rivals. The decision by Ford comes after it struggled for years to win over Indian consumers and turn a profit. The carmaker entered India 25 years ago but has a less than 2% share of the passenger vehicles market.

In its statement, Ford said it accumulated operating losses of more than \$2 billion in 10 years in India and demand for its new vehicles had been weak. "Despite (our) efforts, we have not been able to find a sustainable path forward to long-term profitability," Ford India head Anurag Mehrotra said in the statement. "The decision was reinforced by years of accumulated losses, persistent industry overcapacity and lack of expected growth in India's car market," he said.

Ford follows other U.S. carmakers such as General Motors and Harley Davidson which have already left India, a market that had once promised exponential growth. The country is dominated by mainly low-cost cars made by Suzuki Motor Corp and Hyundai Motor. As part of the plan, Ford India will wind down operations at its plant in Sanand in the western state of Gujarat by the fourth quarter of 2021 and vehicle and engine manufacturing in its southern Indian plant in Chennai by 2022.



Ford currently has two plants in India - one is Tamil Nadu and one is Gujarat. Ford is the latest carmaker to cease production in India, following companies such as General Motors and Harley Davidson.

The U.S. automaker will continue to sell some of its cars in India through imports and it will also provide support to dealers to service existing customers, it said. Around 4,000 employees are expected to be affected by its decision.

The decision to stop production in India comes after Ford and domestic carmaker Mahindra & Mahindra failed to finalise a joint venture partnership that would have

allowed Ford to continue producing cars at a lower cost than currently but cease its independent operations. The company said the decision to cease production was made after considering several other options including partnerships, platform sharing, contract manufacturing and the possibility of selling its manufacturing plants, which is still under review.

Source: Reuters

Inflows into MFs fall in Aug; SIPs, retail folios at peak

MUMBAI (TIP): Even as the stock markets hit record highs, the mutual fund (MF) sector reported a decline in inflows into equity and debt schemes while balanced advantage funds mobilised a higher amount through new fund offers (NFOs). While funds mobilised via SIPs hit a new high of Rs 9,923 crore and folios under retail schemes shot to a peak of 8.95 crore, investors pumped in a net Rs 8,666 crore into equity mutual fund schemes in August, lower than the Rs 22,583 crore invested in July.

However, the balanced advantage category continued to attract big inflows, as it saw net inflow worth Rs 16,570.97 crore last month, as per Association of Mutual Funds in India (AMFI). Flexi cap funds saw inflows of Rs 4,741 crore, followed by focused funds.

On the other hand, ELSS and value



funds saw outflows.

New fund offers continued to attract big money from retail investors and mobilised Rs 23,668 crore in August.

Debt MF schemes saw net inflows worth Rs 1,074 crore in August. The number was much higher at Rs 73,694.04 crore in July.

Similar to last month's trends, floater funds attracted the biggest investment.

However, overnight and low duration funds saw big withdrawals of Rs 11,807 crore and Rs 7,407 crore respectively.

AMFI Chief Executive N S Venkatesh said, "Overall positive flows into open-ended MF schemes and all-time high market indices helped Indian MF industry's net assets under management (AUMs) to breach record Rs 36 lakh crore milestone in August 2021."

According to him, retail assets were at Rs 17.15 lakh crore, almost half of total Industry AUMs. SIP AUMs hit a record high of Rs 5.26 lakh crore, which now forms a third of retail AUM. On the other hand, there has been a healthy rise in SIP accounts to a record 4.32 crores and monthly SIP contribution at an all-time high of Rs 9,923 crore, reflecting the rising retail preference towards mutual funds as a long-term wealth creation avenue, he said.

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Ganesh Chaturthi: The birth of Lord Ganesha

People celebrate Ganesh Chaturthi with a lot of enthusiasm in India. This year it will be celebrated on September 10. This 10-day festival will end on September 21.

This year, the month of September marks one of the most auspicious festivals for Hindus - Ganesh Chaturthi. The celebrations for the 10-day festival will begin from September 10 this year. It will be marked with much pomp and fervour in Maharashtra, Karnataka, Gujarat, Odisha, Goa, West Bengal, Chhattisgarh, and Uttar Pradesh. The festival will come to an end on September 21.

To celebrate Ganesh Chaturthi, also known as Vinayaka Chaturthi, devotees bring home idols of Lord Ganesh to worship the deity, eat good food, enjoy with friends and family, and in the end, immerse the idols. Additionally, temples offer prayers and distribute sweets such as modaks because it is Lord Ganesh's favourite. The festival marks the birth of Lord Ganesh, the god of wisdom and prosperity. It falls in the Bhadrapada month of the Hindu calendar, which falls in August-September.

Lord Ganesh is considered a symbol of wisdom, writing, travel, commerce and good fortune. He is also called Gajanana, Gajadanta, and Vighnaharta. These are few names among his 108 other titles.

The Indian mythology tells the legend of Goddess Parvati creating baby Lord Ganesh using sandalwood paste and asking him to guard the entrance while she took a bath. When Lord Shiva arrived at the entrance and told Ganesh that he wanted to visit Goddess Parvati, Ganesh refused to allow him to pass through. This made Lord Shiva angry and enraged he severed the child's head. When Goddess Parvati realised what had happened, she was heartbroken.

Seeing Goddess Parvati overwhelmed with grief, Lord Shiva promised to bring baby Ganesh back to life. He instructed his followers to search for the head of the first living creature they could find. However, they could only find a baby elephant's head. That is how Lord Ganesha came back to life with the head of an elephant.

Puja Timings

This year the tithi for the Chaturthi will last from 12:17 am to 10 pm on September 10. The timing for Puja vidhi will begin from 11:03 am and will last till 1:33 pm. Devotees pray to Lord Ganesh on this day, as it is believed that worshipping him removes obstacles from one's life and brings peace.

Anant Chaturdashi

Anant Chaturdashi is the day devotees bid farewell to Lord Ganesh by immersing the deity's idols in the local water bodies and asking him to return next year. These are the idols that people keep inside their homes for the 10-day Mahotsav. The celebrations marking the festival's conclusion include playing devotional songs and dancing to their beats during processions.

PUJA VIDHI

It is believed that worshipping lord Ganesh duly helps in resolving all the problems. Lord Ganesh's Idol, Water pot, 'Panchamrit', red cloth, 'roli', 'Akshat', 'Kalava janeoo', cardamom, coconut, 'Chandi ka vark', 'supari', 'laung', panchmeva', 'ghee kapur', 'chaukee' and 'gangajal' need to be collected for completing the worshipping.

As much as people love welcoming Lord Ganesh to their house every year, it also makes them sad when he leaves. But both his welcome and his farewell are done with the same amount of devotion in the heart. Lord Ganesh is very commonly referred to as 'Vighnaharta' which means the one who removes all obstacles.

During this 10-day duration of Ganesh Chaturthi,



there are 16 rituals performed. Among them we can broadly classify them as 4 key rituals:

AVAHANA AND PRAN PRATISHTHA

This is the maiden step after devotees do 'Deep-Prajwalan' and 'Sankalpa'. With mantra recitation, Lord Ganesha is reverentially invited and life is invoked in the idol placed in the pandal or temple or at home. It's a ritual to consecrate the 'murti' or statue.

SHODASHOPACHARA

Next step involves the tradition of 16-step puja wherein 'shodasha' means 16 and upachara means 'devoutly offering the lord', in Sanskrit.

Having washed Ganesha's feet, the idol is bathed in milk, ghee, honey, curd, sugar (panchamrit snan) followed by scented oil and then ganga jal. Then new vastra/clothes are offered (vastra, uttariya samarpan); along with flowers, unbroken rice (Akshata), garland, sindoor, and chandan. The idol is decked and worshipped religiously by offering modak, betel leaves, coconut (naivedya) lighting incense sticks, diyas, chanting hymns, mantras.

UTTARPUJA

This ritual is performed before visarjan. With great joy and devotion, people of all age groups participate in the festival. Be it in pandals, temples or homes, Ganesh Chaturthi is observed with immense happiness. People sing, dance, and light up fireworks. With the beautiful chant of mantras, aarti, flowers, Ganesha is worshipped to bid farewell. The sequence of steps involved are Niranjana aarti, Pushpanjali arpan, Pradakshina.

GANPATI VISARJAN

This is the final closing ritual of the grand festival. Ganesha idol is reverentially immersed in the water bodies wishing for the Lord of wisdom to return next year. People cry out loud "Ganapati Bappa Morya, Purnhya Varshi Laukariya" while they head for immersion.

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"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."

HISTORY THIS WEEK **SEPTEMBER 10 TO 16, 2021**

"WHAT IS HISTORY? AN ECHO OF THE PAST IN THE FUTURE; A REFLEX FROM THE FUTURE ON THE PAST." - VICTOR HUGO

September 10

SEPTEMBER 10, 1898 - Elizabeth, Empress of Austria-Hungary, was assassinated in Geneva by an anarchist.

SEPTEMBER 10, 1919 - Following the defeat of Germany in World War I, the victorious Allies signed the Treaty of Saint-Germain ceding parts of pre-war German-Austria to Italy and Czechoslovakia. Austria was also forbidden to unite with Germany.

SEPTEMBER 10, 1943 - Hitler's troops occupied Rome and took over the protection of Vatican City.

September 11



Terrorists attack America. The World Trade Center in New York was one of the targets

SEPTEMBER 11, 2001 - The worst terrorist attack in U.S. history occurred as four large passenger jets were hijacked then crashed, killing nearly 3,000 persons. Four separate teams of Mideast terrorists, operating from inside the U.S., boarded the morning flights posing as passengers, then forcibly commandeered the aircraft. Two fully fueled jumbo jets, American Airlines Flight 11 carrying 92 people and United Airlines Flight 175 carrying 65 people, had departed Boston for Los Angeles. Both jets were diverted by the hijackers to New York City where they were piloted into the twin towers of the World Trade Center. The impact and subsequent fire caused both 110-story towers to collapse, killing 2,752 persons including hundreds of rescue workers and people employed in the towers. In addition, United Airlines Flight 93, which had departed Newark for San Francisco, and American Airlines Flight 77, which had departed Dulles (Virginia) for Los Angeles, were hijacked. Flight 77 with 64 people on board was diverted to Washington, D.C., then piloted into the Pentagon building, killing everyone on board and 125 military personnel inside the building. Flight 93 with 44 people on board was also diverted toward Washington but crashed into a field in Pennsylvania after passengers attempted to overpower the terrorists on board.

BIRTHDAY - Ferdinand Marcos (1917-

1989) was born in Sarrat, Philippines. He ruled the Philippines from 1966, imposing an authoritarian regime until he was ousted in 1986.

September 12

SEPTEMBER 12, 1943 - Former Italian Dictator Benito Mussolini was rescued by German paratroopers on orders from Adolf Hitler. Mussolini was being held prisoner by Italian authorities following the collapse of his Fascist regime.



John F. Kennedy married Jacqueline Bouvier

SEPTEMBER 12, 1953 - John F. Kennedy, 36, married Jacqueline Bouvier, 24, in a ceremony before 750 invited guests at St. Mary's Church in Newport, Rhode Island, conducted by Archbishop Richard Cushing of Boston.

SEPTEMBER 12, 1953 - Nikita Khrushchev was elected First Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the USSR.

SEPTEMBER 12, 1974 - Haile Selassie, Emperor of Ethiopia, was deposed by an army coup after 44 years as ruler.

SEPTEMBER 12, 1977 - Steve Biko, the South African black civil rights leader, died while he was in police detention.

SEPTEMBER 12, 1990 - A treaty was signed by East and West Germany and the Allies of World War II allowing for the restoration of sovereignty to a re-unified Germany.



Olympic athlete Jesse Owens was born

BIRTHDAY - African American Olympic athlete Jesse Owens (1913-1980) was born in Oakville, Alabama (as James Cleveland Owens). He won four medals in track and field at the 1936 Olympic Games in Berlin, defeating Nazi athletes and disappointing Nazi leader Adolf Hitler.

September 13

SEPTEMBER 13, 1788 - The U.S. Congress chose New York as the Federal capital of the new American

government.

SEPTEMBER 13, 1814 - The Battle of Fort Henry in Baltimore Harbor occurred, observed by Francis Scott Key aboard a ship. He watched the British attack overnight and at dawn saw the American flag still flying over the fort, inspiring him to write the verses which were later coupled with the tune of a popular drinking song and became the U.S. National Anthem in 1931.

SEPTEMBER 13, 1971 - State police and National Guardsmen stormed Attica prison in New York State ending a five-day prisoners' revolt. Thirty-one prisoners and 11 guards were killed.

BIRTHDAY - American Army physician Walter Reed (1851-1902) was born in Gloucester County, Virginia. Best known for his Yellow Fever research, he served as an army surgeon for more than 20 years. The U.S. Army's general hospital in Washington, D.C., is named in his honor.

BIRTHDAY - Army General John J. Pershing (1860-1948) was born in Laclede, Missouri. He commanded the American Expeditionary Force (AEF) during World War I and oversaw the Meuse-Argonne operation that helped bring about the Armistice of November 11, 1918.

September 14

SEPTEMBER 14, 1901 - Eight days after being shot, President William McKinley died from wounds suffered during an assassination attempt in Buffalo, New York. He was succeeded by Theodore Roosevelt.

SEPTEMBER 14, 1927 - In Nice, France, famed ballet dancer Isadora Duncan was killed in a freak accident as the long scarf she was wearing became caught in the moving wheel of the car in which she was riding, strangling her.

SEPTEMBER 14, 1930 - The Nazi Party became the second largest party in Germany following a stunning election triumph by Adolf Hitler.

SEPTEMBER 14, 1960 - The Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) was formed by representatives of oil-producing countries meeting in Baghdad.



Princess Grace of Monaco died

SEPTEMBER 14, 1982 - Princess Grace of Monaco died following an accident in which her car plunged off a mountain road

in Monte Carlo. Her daughter Stephanie, also in the car, survived and was treated for shock and bruises. Princess Grace (Grace Kelly) was a Hollywood actress who met Prince Rainier III of Monaco during filming of the Hitchcock film To Catch a Thief. She then gave up a successful acting career and married him in 1956.

September 15

SEPTEMBER 15, 1940 - The height of the Battle of Britain occurred as massive German air raids took place against London, Southampton, Bristol, Cardiff, Liverpool and Manchester. The British claimed 185 German planes were shot down.

SEPTEMBER 15, 1944 - The first entry of American troops into Hitler's Germany occurred as elements of the U.S. 7th and 5th Corps reached the southwestern frontier of Germany.

BIRTHDAY - American novelist, historian and social critic, James Fenimore Cooper (1789-1851) was born in Burlington, New Jersey. Best known for The Last of the Mohicans.

BIRTHDAY - William Howard Taft (1857-1930) the 27th U.S. President was born in Cincinnati, Ohio. He served as President from 1909-1913, then became a law professor at Yale University until his appointment as Chief Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court in 1921.

BIRTHDAY - British mystery author Agatha Christie (1890-1976) was born in Torquay, England. She wrote nearly a hundred books including mysteries, dramas, poetry and nonfiction.

September 16

SEPTEMBER 16, 1810 - Mexico's break from Spain began in the town of Dolores Hidalgo as Father Miguel Hidalgo y Costilla rang his church's bells and exhorted local Indians to "recover from the hated Spaniards the land stolen from your forefathers..."



General Motors founded

SEPTEMBER 16, 1908 - General Motors was founded by entrepreneur William Crapo "Billy" Durant in Flint, Michigan.

SEPTEMBER 16, 1976 - The Episcopal Church in the U.S. approved the ordination of women priests and bishops.

SEPTEMBER 16, 1982 - Beginning of a two-day massacre in Palestinian refugee camps in West Beirut as Christian militiamen (the Phalangists) entered Sabra and Shatila and began shooting hundreds of Palestinians, including elderly men, women and children.

PRABHJOT'S COLUMN

Nostalgia - My early hockey days
in High school and college

WHEN SCD GOVERNMENT COLLEGE WON PANJAB UNIVERSITY TITLE FOR THE FIRST TIME



After a long break, I finally moved to High School. With high first division, I was confident of getting admission in Government Model High School, Cemetery Road in Civil Lines. It was perhaps one of the best English medium schools those days.

Most of my class fellows in Model Town Model School, too, got admission there. Our school was known for its sports teams, including hockey and basketball (both boys and girls), besides table tennis and badminton.

In 1970, when the newly set up Punjab School Education Board conducted its first ever Matriculation Examination, our school not only produced the State topper in Rajinder Singh Bhatia (753/900) but also had 27 students (with 625 or more marks) in the merit list. I was second in the school with 681 marks and 111th in the State. Incidentally, I was the only regular player in the school to figure in the merit list.

Earlier, the matriculation examination used to be conducted by Panjab University. But reorganization of Punjab in 1966 had the schools in the undivided State distributed among Punjab and Haryana Boards.

Our school hockey team that had besides me (Prabha), Gurdishpal Singh (Lalli), Ajinderpal Singh (Kallu), Sukhjot Singh Raju (Sheikhu), Bhawanjit Singh Gill (Daana), Harpal Singh Brar (Palli), Manjit Singh Sidhu (Manna), Barmi brothers, Bahal Singh Jagday, and Simmar Pal Singh Gill (Peter), was known to play neat, clean and attractive hockey.

Since the Cemetery Road School did not have any playfield of its own, we used to practice at Gymkhana Stadium which was later renovated and named after the first Sikh Guru, Sri Guru Nanak Dev ji, to coincide with his 500th birth anniversary.

It was not only our hockey training center but much more to us.

The most memorable was the Zonal final of Inter-School hockey in which we were to play Malwa Khalsa Higher Secondary School. Our opponents had an impressive line-up with tough players like Baldev Singh (Dronacharya award winner and famous coach of Shahabad Markanda Centre that produced scores of Olympians and internationals), Kuldeep Singh (he played for Western Railway for

many years), Gurwinder Singh aka as Golu (great goalkeeper), Tara (speedy forward), besides Jasbir Nagi (we later played together for Government College, Ludhiana). Master Charanjit Singh, a tough task master, was the coach-cum-manager of Malwa School team and it also happened to be the defending champion team.

Since we were from a high-profile school, we were known to play textbook neat and clean hockey while our opponents were known for their tough and robust tactics.

The match had already evoked great response. Malwa School used to get a strong crowd support from nearby villages. We were primarily an urban school, we felt handicapped as we had no supporters.

Just a day before the final game, our team meeting was addressed by Mr. Harbhajan Singh Sandhu, father of Gurdishpal. He was then District Development and Panchayat Officer. To cheer us up, he said he would get a big crowd from nearby villages to counter the supporters of Malwa School.

As expected, there was a big crowd for the game. We started well, attacking our opponents from the right flank where Sukhjot and Peter were in great nick. Evergreen Bhawanjit (Daana) did torment the opponents defense with some superb moves worked out by our dribbling master and playmaker Ajinderpal.

Ajinder would often hoodwink his opponents with his superb stick work and create openings for his forwards that would catch opponents defense on the wrong foot.

Our tactics played dividends as we took the lead in the first half. It did not deter the forward line of Malwa School. Led by brilliant Tara, it did threaten our defense.

On one occasion as Tara broke loose, Gurdishpal tackled him from the wrong side and hit him hard on his knee. Tara came down crashing, bleeding profusely from his knee. All broke loose. Crowd was on the field. Gurdishpal disappeared. We were also scared. Fortunately, some of the people brought in by the father of Gurdishpal stood cover for us.

It took a while for tempers to cool down and the game to resume. After assurance that there would be no retaliatory action against our players, we agreed to return to the field.

Though we played our hearts out, we lost the game 1-2 and not without getting Sukhjot bruised badly after he was pushed from behind on the adjoining brick-based basketball court while he was building an attack from the flank.

Barring these two incidents, the game was played on a brisk note and most of the spectators went back satisfied. We were, however, disappointed as it was our

best chance to dethrone Malwa School. None of us at that time realized that school rivalries would just evaporate as we all get into college in the following year.

Kuldeep, Gurwinder and Jasbir Nagi, for example, joined Government College, Ludhiana, and we became teammates.



PRABHJOT SINGH

determined to score a big win as SGGs College was also expected to win its last game against Jat College Rohtak. To win the title, we needed a better goal average as we and SGGs College had the same number of points with one win and one draw in our first two games each. And since Jat College with brilliant right-winger Phool Kumar, in its side, we expected it to give a tough fight to SGGs College. Our game was the first of the last day. Gurgaon College also had an outstanding and speedy center forward



Government College, Ludhiana

It was in 1970, the year the college was celebrating its Golden jubilee, I got admission in Pre-University (Medical). It is one of very few educational institutions that used to boast of the best grassy hockey ground, exclusive football and cricket grounds, an international standard athletic track, a swimming pool, basketball, tennis and volleyball courts besides a weights training hall.

Hockey ground was so famous that it played host to a Test match against the visiting national team of France. For its maintenance, no one was allowed to walk on its sprawling green lawns, and trespassers were fined heavily. As a hockey player, it was a dream comes true for me as I played hockey on this ground for six years. During this period, the college hockey team created history. In 1974, it won the Panjab University Inter-College championship for the first time in 54 years.

This historic triumph was not without some pulsating moments and a drama. Four teams that had qualified for Inter-Zonal that year were SGGs College, Chandigarh: Jat College, Rohtak, Government College, Gurgaon, and Government College, Ludhiana. Till then, all Haryana colleges were still affiliated to Panjab University. We played a goalless draw against SGGs College, Chandigarh, in our opening game of the round-robin league. A 2-0 win over Jat College, Rohtak, in the second game boosted our chances as we started tasting our first title victory. In our third and final game, when we left the Hostel for hockey ground, we were all

Shamsher Singh. Since he was the only dangerous man in our rival team, we decided to mark him tightly.

We started very well, scoring five goals in the first 23 minutes before Shamsher broke loose and dribbled past almost our entire defense. Before he could do a shot at the goal, our center-half, Kuldip Singh, who later played for Western Railway and Railway, physically checked him and hit him in the knee. Withering in pain, he sprawled on the field. Umpire Gurcharan Singh Bodhi (coach of the 1975 World Cup Champion Indian hockey team) gave Kuldip marching orders. Trailing by a big margin and losing their star player was too much for the Gurgaon team.

It walked out in protest saying that Umpiring was biased. Repeated requests by umpires to the Gurgaon team to return and resume the game met with no response. An SOS was sent to Dr. B.L. Gupta, the then Director of Sports. Within minutes he arrived on the ground and talked to the two Umpires. He asked umpires to blow a whistle and ask the teams to resume the game.

The Gurgaon team, however, refused to relent. After a couple of warnings, Dr. Gupta threatened to scratch our rivals for defying umpires. The threat did not work. After a few minutes of Gurgaon refusing to take the field, Dr. BL Gupta went inside the ground and called the Manager of Gurgaon to send his team. He refused. Furious Dr. Gupta then not only scratched the team but also ordered Gurgaon boys to vacate the university hostel within the next 30 minutes.

CONTD ON PAGE 44

contd from page 1

U.S. President announces sweeping measures to vaccinate Americans

COVID-19 patients in hospitals across the country.

"We've been patient," Mr. Biden said to unvaccinated Americans on Thursday evening, as he announced the measures at the White House.

"But our patience is wearing thin, and your refusal has cost all of us. So please do the right thing," he said.

Biden's six-pronged approach to battle COVID-19

As part of his six-pronged approach to tackling the current phase of the pandemic, the U.S. President has ordered the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) to require all companies employing 100 or more people to vaccinate their entire workforce or require negative tests from unvaccinated employees on a weekly basis. This is expected to impact 80 million adults.

Another 17 million individuals will be covered by a mandate requiring vaccinations for healthcare workers employed at health facilities that receive government funding (via the Medicaid and Medicare programs).

Another 2.5 million individuals will be covered by a vaccine mandate for federal employees and contractors who do business with the federal government.

Pandemic politics

Mr. Biden did not mince his words on Thursday, calling out "pandemic politics".

"... we have the tools to combat COVID-19 and a distinct minority of Americans, supported by a distinct minority of elected officials are keeping us from turning the corner," he said.

The federal government would fully restore the pay of local school officials and teachers whose pay had been cut by state governors in retaliation for the

officials requiring safety measures in schools, according to Mr. Biden.

Florida Governor Ron DeSantis has taken on schools that require masking, with lawyers for the governor going to court to halt mask mandates and the state threatening to withhold funding from districts that required school children to mask up.

"Talk about bullying in schools," Mr. Biden said.

Several governors opposed Mr. Biden's rules, pointing to executive overreach. Texas Governor Greg Abbott called it a "power grab" and Wyoming's governor asked his attorney general to counter the "unconstitutional overreach of executive power," the Washington Post reported.

He also directed the Transportation Safety Authority (TSA) to double fines for those not complying with mask mandates.

"If you break the rules, be prepared to pay," Mr. Biden said.

"And by the way, show some respect," he said, a reference to passengers directing their anger towards flight attendants enforcing the rules.

Mr. Biden also said he would make an announcement later in September, regarding vaccinations for other countries. The U.S. has already committed to sending more than five hundred million vaccine doses to the rest of the world by June next year.

BRICS Leaders Call for Settling Afghan Situation by Peaceful Means

Very strong comments on the subject during the summit came from Russian President Vladimir Putin, who spoke of the possible threats an unstable Afghanistan might pose to neighboring countries.

Afghanistan should not become a "threat to its neighboring countries, a source of drug trafficking and terrorism". Its citizens, he said, "deserve to exercise their rights of defining of

what their state will look like on their own".

He also made it clear whom his country held responsible for this situation.

"US and its allies' withdrawal from Afghanistan has created a new crisis," he said. "Global security has faced serious challenges and system of strategic stability has gone downhill. Outstanding regional conflicts haven't stopped".

This situation, he said, "stems from irresponsible attempts to impose alien values... To build a so-called democracy without taking into account historic features and traditions that other people have followed. It results in destabilization and chaos and after that, the authors of this left and entire international community will have to clear up this mess".

47 Punjab-origin candidates in fray for Canada polls

New Democratic Party (10), People's Party of Canada (5), Green (1) and one will contest as an Independent.

The 2019 polls also saw the same number of candidates, 19 of whom made it to the House of Commons. With 16 of the sitting MPs and a Punjabi-versus-Punjabi contest on several seats, their relatives back home are keeping fingers crossed. The prominent Punjabi NRI faces in the poll fray are: Defense Minister Harjit Sajjan from Vancouver South, minister Anita Anand from Oakville in Ontario, minister Bardish Chaggar from Waterloo and Jagmeet Singh, leader of New Democratic Party (NDP) who provided support to the minority government of Justice Trudeau, is seeking reelection from Burnaby South.

The Liberals have fielded Ruby Sahota (Brampton North), Sonia Sidhu (Brampton South), Kamal Khara (Brampton West), Anju Dhillon (Dorval-Lachine-LaSalle), Randeep S

Sarai (Surrey Centre), Maninder Sidhu (Brampton East) and Sukh Dhaliwal (Surrey Newton) for reelection. The other candidates fielded by the Liberals are Lakhwinder Jhaj, Parm Bains and Sabrina Grover. Raj Saini was fielded from Kitchender Centre, but he withdrew his candidature on Saturday after facing allegations of inappropriate behavior towards staffers.

The NDP has fielded Tejinder Singh from Brampton South, Gurprit Gill from Brampton West, Avneet Johal from Surrey Newton and Gurinder Singh Gill from Calgary Skyview. The candidates fielded by the Conservatives include sitting MPs Tim Uppal, Jag Sahota and Jasraj Singh. Other candidates are Indira Bains, Priti Lamba, Naval Bajaj, Medha Joshi, Ramandeep Brar, Jagdeep Singh, Tina Bains and Sukhbir Singh Gill.

Navdeep Bains (Mississauga-Malton), who was earlier a minister in the Trudeau cabinet, has reportedly quit politics and is not re-contesting. Along with him, Liberal MP Gagan Sikand (Mississauga-Streetsville) and Independent Ramesh Sangha (Brampton Centre) are also not seeking re-election this time.

Even Parveen Hundal is contesting as an Independent from Surrey Newton and Devyani Singh from Green party is in fray from Vancouver Quadra. The power of the Sikh community has been gauged from the fact that in last House, it had 18 Sikh MPs in Canada.

The Sikh community comprises just 1 per cent of the country's population, but they have come to wield more power than most of their immigrant counterparts. The credit goes to a robust culture of grassroots politics, organizational skills and fundraising capabilities, and a particular feature of Canada's electoral system that requires each candidate to bring in a certain number of signatures and party members in order to get nominated.



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Chhattisgarh: The land of temples and waterfalls

Chhattisgarh, one of the few landlocked states in central India, is a treasure house of natural beauty. Tourists wanting to experience the raw side of nature will find themselves at home here. It is its rusticity that makes you fall in love with it. Dense forests abound in the state, and in them, reside various tribes, each with their unique customs, traditions and way of life. The points of tourist interest in Chhattisgarh also include ancient temples and towns which have constantly attracted historians and archaeologists. There are plenty of wildlife sanctuaries which house a rich wildlife, with the gaur never ceasing to surprise onlookers. Other must visit tourist attractions include dams, museums and waterfalls.

Travelling to Chhattisgarh is like planning a trip to ultimate bliss. The state is blessed generously by nature and you come across examples of that every few miles. Its landscape, which is dominated for the most part by dense forests, is dotted with waterfalls, caves and a rich wildlife. Located in central India, it offers its fair share of adventure, sightseeing and exploration. The state is home to many temples and some towns which trace their origin to historical times, thus fascinating tourists, historians and archaeologists constantly. To escape the sweltering heat during summers, nature has gifted it with several hill stations, each as beautiful as the other.

Barnawapara Wildlife Sanctuary

One of the most famous tourist attractions in Chhattisgarh, the Barnawapara Wildlife Sanctuary is home to the Bar and Nawapura forest villages. It was established in the year of 1976 and is spread over a vast area of 245 sq. Km. The rich and lush vegetation caters to a broad spectrum of wildlife in this region. The landscape is mostly flat terrain with occasional low and high hillocks.

Raipur

The capital of Chhattisgarh, Raipur is the largest city in the state. With more than hundreds of steel mills and six steel plants, Raipur is also one of the largest industrial centres of the country. Besides steel, it is also home to the aluminium and coal industries. A primary business and industrial hub, Raipur is even fast emerging in the tourism sector, attracting tourists from across the world. The city is known for its temples, lakes, factories, educational centres as well as the development of Naya Raipur. Naya Raipur is a newly planned city and is about 17km away from the current town. The Swami Vivekananda Airport lies in between Raipur and Naya Raipur facilitating travel.

Raipur has a rich history and until 2000 was a part of Madhya Pradesh. After the formation of the new state of Chhattisgarh, Raipur was made its capital, primarily because of its centralised location. Located in the centre of the plains that are also called the 'rice bowl of India', Raipur is surrounded by the



districts of Durg and Bemetara. The city is a bustling capital city with a multicultural and multi-religious society. With many festivals, shopping outlets and city landscapes Raipur is also an excellent base for venturing into the surrounding attractions. These include the Barnawapara Wildlife Sanctuary, Dandak Caves, Bilaspur, Chitrakoot Falls, Amarkantak, Bhilai, Kanha National Park and the Sitanadi Wildlife Sanctuary.

Visit Raipur to explore its various natural, wildlife and historical tourist attractions. Chhattisgarh is mostly a forested region. Raipur understands the importance of maintaining its ecological balance, and there is a government proposal under works to construct a micro-forest in the heart of the city. Raipur is also about its various festivals, such as Hareli, Champaran Mela, Pola and Teeja that are celebrated during monsoons. And no city in India is complete without a taste of its unique flavours. Raipur is no different offering its many fascinating cuisines and

street food that are an integral part of the city's cultural and social layout.

Charre Marre Waterfalls

Charre Marre Waterfalls is a refreshing and offbeat place to visit in the state of Chhattisgarh. The tortuous waterfall is 16 meters high and the clear water falling from such a great height is quite a sight to see. The bountiful and pristine Jogidhara river is the reason behind the birth of this mesmerizing and bubbling waterfall. The water meanders through hills and verdant trees producing ear pleasing sounds. The reservoir that forms at the bottom of the waterfall is perfect to take a dip in. The cool water will rejuvenate your soul and body. You can also dangle your feet into the small pond formed at the bottom and spend some peaceful time enjoying the picturesque beauty of this place.

Sirpur

Sirpur is a small village located in the state of Chhattisgarh, situated on the

banks of river Mahanadi. It is 35 km away from the Mahasamund district and around 78 km away from the city of Raipur, which is the capital of Chhattisgarh. The village of Sirpur is an archaeological wonder. Inspiration to many architects, this village is rich in its temple culture. A quaint hidden gem, it has a deep connection to the Buddhism world and a treasure for archaeological findings from the 8th century.

There are numerous temples one can visit, and is generally a hub for passionate historians. A look at the historical artefacts and the deep carvings on the walls of the temples have inspired many architects around the world. The Buddhist monasteries of this village are said to be one of the most important and most significant in India. Apart from the rich historical importance and fascinating findings in these villages, there is more to this village. The Chhattisgarh Tourism Board organises a music and dance festival here to promote the Buddhist sites and celebrate its culture. Offering a rare mix of art and culture with different performance and a deep history and evolution of art, Sirpur is a peaceful village filled with wonders.

Mainpat

Mainpat is an underrated hill station with green pastures, deep valleys, breathtaking waterfalls, dense forests and untouched rivulets. The hill station hasn't been completely commercialised yet and receives a relatively smaller influx of tourists compared to its counterparts. Mainpat is often called as Shimla of Chhattisgarh and Mini Tibet owing to its huge Tibetan population and influence over the area. The Tibetan refugees were rehabilitated in Mainpat after the Chinese invasion of Tibet and have since found a home in Mainpat. That's another great thing about Mainpat, the confluence of cultures and diverse traditions only add to the picturesque village's charm.

Madku Dweep

Madku dweep is a beautiful island situated near the silent river, Shivnath, in the Bilaspur district of Chhattisgarh. The name Madku stems out from the fact that the island is of the shape of a frog. The beauty of this island is considered to be spell-binding. The picturesque Madku Dweep has an area of around 24 hectares and is full of greenery. The island is also famous for its ancient temples and their historical and archaeological importance.

Archaeologists have discovered prehistoric stone tools, epigraphs, and coins on this island. Stone inscriptions have also been found, which are believed to date back to the 3rd century BC. One stone inscription was in Brahmi script and another in Shankha script. Madku Dweep is also home to several ancient and unique idols of Lord Shiva, Ganesha, Shiv-Parvati, Nandi and various other Gods. There are temples, both old and new, that are frequented equally by devotees from across the globe. Madku Dweep is popularly known as Kedar Tirth and Harihar Kshetra Kedar Dweep.

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India's T20 World Cup squad: R Ashwin picked, MS Dhoni named mentor

Four years after he was discarded from India's T20I set-up, R Ashwin has forced his way back in, named in the squad of 15 for the 2021 T20 World Cup. In another surprise move, the BCCI has roped in former captain MS Dhoni as the team mentor specifically for this tournament. Dhoni, who retired from international cricket last August, was appointed to "provide support and direction" to the Indian team management led by head coach Ravi Shastri. So said BCCI secretary Jay Shah.

The main group of 15 comprises six specialist batters, three allrounders, three specialist spinners and three specialist fast bowlers. The selection panel led by former India fast bowler Chetan Sharma also named the trio of Shreyas Iyer, Deepak Chahar and Shardul Thakur as reserves, who will act as injury or Covid-19 replacements.

Among the notable absentees were Shikhar Dhawan, who captained India in their short limited-overs tour of Sri Lanka recently, and lead legspinner Yuzvendra Chahal. Instead, the selectors opted for mystery spinner Varun Chakravarthy and legspinner Rahul Chahar, who, along with Suryakumar Yadav, Ishan Kishan and Axar Patel are heading into their first World Cup.

World Cup qualifying: England lose perfect record, Spain's big win

England's perfect record in World Cup qualifying vanished after conceding a stoppage-time equalizer in Poland, while Italy, Germany, Spain and Belgium all won to build big leads in their groups on the road to Qatar. Harry Kane's 41st goal for England — a 30-meter pile driver — was canceled out when Robert Lewandowski crossed for Damian Szymanski to head home in the second minute of injury time in a 1-1 draw in Warsaw. England's five-match winning run in qualifying ended, leaving Denmark as the only nation with a 100% record so far. Still, England holds a four-point lead with four games remaining and should have no problem getting to next year's World Cup.

Italy shouldn't, either, after dispatching Lithuania in a 5-0 win to open up a six-point lead in its group. The recently crowned European champions extended their record unbeaten run to 37 games.

5th Test between India and England called off over Covid 'anxiety'

MANCHESTER (TIP): The fifth and final Test match between India and England was on September 10 called off at the last minute due to 'anxiety' among the Indian players of a possible Covid-19 outbreak in the team.

The status of the series, which India lead 2-1, remains unclear as the Indian cricket board (BCCI) has offered to play the deciding Test at a mutually acceptable time in the future. Due to the packed schedule, the only likely window to reschedule the match is next year, when the Indian team visits England for six limited-overs matches.

The status of the fifth Test and the series was mired in confusion for several hours today as chaos reigned — hosts England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) first claimed that India had forfeited the match, which meant England had won the match to draw the series 2-2. However, in a subsequent statement, ECB removed the word 'forfeit' and instead said: "Due to fears of a further increase in the number of Covid cases inside the camp, India are regrettably unable to field a team."

After further talks between representatives of the two boards, BCCI issued a statement that said: "In lieu (sic) of the strong relationship between BCCI and ECB, the BCCI has offered to ECB a rescheduling of the cancelled Test match. Both the Boards will work towards finding a window to reschedule this Test match." Under the rules of the World Test Championship — of which this series is a part — Covid-19 is acceptable as a reason for not playing "should there be a significant impact of it on the team being able to play".

On Thursday, September 8, the Indian players had got the all-clear after testing negative for Covid-19, but they were reluctant to take the field because many of them had worked closely with assistant physiotherapist Yogesh Parmar — who tested positive on



Thursday — during and after the fourth Test in London.

Further, with chief coach Ravi Shastri, bowling coach Bharat Arun and fielding coach R Sridhar recovering from Covid-19 in London, the Indian team would have had to play the high-stakes deciding Test without key members of its thinktank; and also without its physiotherapists, since senior physio Nitin Patel is isolating in London after being identified as a close contact of Shastri.

Despite their negative results, the Indian players were worried because, factoring in the 96-hour incubation period for the virus, it is possible that a player could have tested positive during the match.

The ECB was keen to go ahead with the match, or at least declare it a forfeiture by India, because it was worried that insurance companies might not compensate it for the financial loss — reported to be over GBP 30 million — in case the match was simply

mutually 'cancelled' by the two teams.

If the Test were to be cancelled altogether, the hosts would stare at a "multi-million" pound loss. The Lancashire Cricket Club has sold out tickets for the first three days and it must reimburse all the ticket buyers, apart from hospitality vendors and others suppliers, and could lose GBP 1 million.

For BCCI, too, there are financial considerations — the multi-crore IPL, halted by Covid-19 in April, is scheduled to resume in Dubai on September 19. A further spread of the virus among the Indian team would have had very severe consequences for the tournament.

Monetary concerns

If the Test were to be cancelled altogether, the hosts would stare at a "multi-million" pound loss. The Lancashire Cricket Club has sold out tickets and it must reimburse the buyers. It can lose GBP 1 million.

Rashid Khan steps down as Afghanistan skipper for T20 World Cup

KABUL (TIP): Leg-spinner Rashid Khan stepped down as Afghanistan T20 captain shortly after the Afghanistan Cricket Board (ACB) named their team for the ICC Men's T20 World Cup to be held in the UAE and Oman in October-November this year.

The all-rounder announced the news minutes after his country confirmed their World Cup squad late on Thursday (September 9)

"As the captain and responsible person for the nation I reserve the right to be part of the selection of the team. I am taking the decision of stepping down from the role as the captain of Afghanistan T20 side effective immediately."

Mohammad Nabi is expected to take



the captaincy role for the World Cup.

Rashid Khan is part of a spin-heavy roster announced for the prestigious tournament, joining fellow all-rounders Mohammad Nabi and Sharafuddin Ashraf in the squad.

Front-line spinners Qais Ahmad and Mujeeb Ur Rahman were also selected.

Afghanistan will get their tournament under way in Sharjah on October 25 against one of two of the qualifying teams in Group B. Rashid and company will also face India, New Zealand and Pakistan in the group stage.

T20 squad: Rashid Khan, Rahmanullah Gurbaz, Hazratullah Zazai, Usman Ghani, Asghar Afghan, Mohammad Nabi, Najibullah Zadran, Hashmatullah Shahidi, Mohammad Shahzad, Mujeeb ur Rahman, Karim Janat, Gulbadin Naib, Naveen ul Haq, Hamid Hassan, Sharafuddin Ashraf, Dawlat Zadran, Shapoor Zadran and Qais Ahmed.

Reserves: Afsar Zazai and Farid Ahmed Malik. Source: IANS

Four Indian-origin persons killed in US floods due to Hurricane Ida

NEW YORK (TIP): Four persons of Indian-origin have been killed in the US states of New Jersey and New York after they were swept away by flash floods caused by Hurricane Ida.

Hurricane Ida, which made landfall on August 29 in Port Fourchon, Louisiana, is the second-most destructive hurricane to hit the state on record, only after Hurricane Katrina (2005).

A report in patch.com said 31-year-old Dhanush Reddy from Edison died last week after being swept into a 36-inch storm sewer pipe in South Plainfield, New Jersey.

The report added that South Plainfield Police, Middlesex County Water Rescue Team and Piscataway Police arrived at the scene where officials were assisting motorists in the area of Hadley and Stelton Road and heard cries for help.

Authorities said two men were swept into the pipe, which goes from South Plainfield to Piscataway.

While one of the men was rescued, the other could not be located and authorities found Reddy's body in a wooded area a few miles away the day after he drowned.

"Many of the flood's victims lived in basement apartments, some of which were subterranean dwellings carved out illegally from larger homes and may have lacked the emergency egress required of legitimate apartments. Comparatively low-cost living spaces, they are a refuge of thousands of the city's poor, even as they are known to be firetraps," a report in The New York Times said.

"Overnight, the basements became traps of water," it added.



Four persons of Indian-origin have been killed in the US states of New Jersey and New York after they were swept away by flash floods caused by Hurricane Ida.

The NYT report added that the Ramskriets, a family of four, were in their Queens home when floodwater reached their ankles. As they tried to get their things, "they heard a collapse and a gush of water shoved them through the pitch-black apartment as the walls caved in."

The flood swept the elderly Dameshwar Ramskriets across the home as he clutched for the hand of his wife Tara. "I tried to hold on to my wife, and she was trying to hold on to me," he said on Thursday according to the NYT report. "But the water pushed me away and I couldn't feel her hand anymore." Tara Ramskriet and her 22-year-old son, Nick, drowned.

Another Indian-origin person, Malathi Kanche, 46, a software designer, was driving home with her 15-year-old daughter on Wednesday when her vehicle halted in

waist-deep floodwater on Route 22 of Bridgewater, New Jersey.

Kanche and her daughter held onto a tree as floodwaters pulled them, according to a family friend, Mansi Mago, but the tree fell, pulling Kanche in the torrent.

Initially, officials put Kanche on the list of "missing persons".

She was confirmed dead on Friday, the NYT reported.

A Nepali family who lived in a basement apartment in Queens also died as the storm waters inundated their apartment, leaving them trapped inside.

Mingma Sherpa had frantically called her neighbor Choi Sledge who lived upstairs for help, saying "The water is coming in right now."

"Get out! Get to the third floor!" Sledge had told Sherpa.

The NYT report said that the family did not come upstairs. Sledge called them again and in the brief call, Sherpa told her "The water coming in from the window."

Sherpa, her husband, Lobsang Lama, and their little boy named Ang all drowned in the storm.

Ida transitioned into a post-tropical cyclone on September 1, killing 65 people across the US, with the majority deaths in New Jersey, New York and Louisiana.

Apart from deaths and damage to the ecology, Hurricane Ida has battered the civic infrastructure in the northeastern states of the US.

The storm has caused at least USD 50 billion in damages, according to official estimates.

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Biden Administration Whitewashes Nazi-Inspired RSS with Official Meet

Naming Christians and Muslims as "internal threats," members of "foreign races," and "traitors," they applauded the "race pride" demonstrated by the Nazis in "purging the country of the Semitic races - the Jews," identifying it as a strong example of the supposed failures of diversity, inclusivity, and pluralism, and, thus, a "good lesson... to learn and profit by."

It should come as no surprise then that Norway's Anders Breivik - "an icon for a generation of white supremacist terrorists" - pointed to the RSS as one of his influences, urging Western right-wing extremists and the RSS to "learn from each other and cooperate as much as possible." Throughout the past seven years of the Modi regime, white supremacist publishers have followed that advice, both publishing materials by Hindu nationalists or which praise the RSS as well as pursuing collaborative meetings with RSS officials in India.

As a US diplomat of Indian origin, it's impossible that Ambassador Keshap is fully ignorant of such issues surrounding the paramilitary. As America's acting ambassador to India, it's impossible that he failed to do his due diligence by conducting the most basic research about the group with which he

was meeting. It's also impossible that he was unaware of the controversy provoked by previous meetings of ambassadors with the RSS.

In 2019, German Ambassador Walter Lindner met Bhagwat. His visit swiftly prompted shocking headlines around the world. In India, The Wire reported on "the cruel irony of the German Ambassador's visit to the RSS headquarters," comparing it to "Donald Trump's ambassador meeting neo-Nazis in Germany." In Germany, Deutsche Welle reported that "Germany's India envoy visits 'Nazi-inspired' Hindu group," explaining, "experts say the Hindu extremist group glorifies Adolf Hitler and his 'cultural nationalism'." In Israel, The Jerusalem Post reported that the "German ambassador causes outrage visiting fascist Indian group," stating, "The RSS shares the fascist ideology of the Nazi Party and supports extreme Hindu nationalism."

Similar outrage erupted in 2020 after Australian High Commissioner to India Barry O'Farrell met Bhagwat to praise the RSS's social activities.

In Australia, Crikey reported that "the RSS has had its fingerprints on some of India's most horrific moments of violence." Questioning why O'Farrell met "the leader of the Nazi-inspired RSS paramilitary," PEDESTRIAN.TV claimed that the group has a "bloody history of extremism," including "burning Australian missionary Graham Staines and his two young sons to death in 1999." From the floor of the Australian Parliament, Senator Janet Rice, calling

the commissioner's visit a "disgrace" and demanding he resign, described the RSS as "a fascist organization that openly admits admiration for Adolf Hitler and the appalling genocide that occurred under his Nazi regime."

Trump was infamously intimate friends with Modi. Upon Biden's election, many Indian-origin Americans hoped, prayed, and demanded that he would adopt a radically different approach in his foreign policy towards India - one that placed a priority on human rights issues, especially considering the seemingly irrepressible rise of the Hindu nationalist movement under the Modi regime. Yet Keshap's inexplicable whitewashing of the RSS demands a rapid and relentless interrogation of the Biden administration and its intentions towards the persecuted peoples of India.

(Pieter Friedrich is a freelance journalist specializing in analysis of South Asian affairs. He is the author of Sikh Caucus: Siege in Delhi, Surrender in Washington and Saffron Fascists: India's Hindu Nationalist Rulers as well as co-author of Captivating the Simple-Hearted: A Struggle for Human Dignity in the Indian Subcontinent. Discover more by him at www.PieterFriedrich.net)

contd from page 39

Nostalgia - My early hockey days in High school and college

We heaved a sigh of relief when we were declared winners of the game. And in the last game, contrary to expectations

Jat College beat SGGS College to confirm our number one position in the league.

Interestingly, that team had three Nagi brothers - Onkar, Harpal and Jasbir - and two Grewal brothers - Sukhvir and Jagbir. Besides Sukhvir Grewal, another member of the team, Gurdeep Singh Pannu, who happened to be a nephew of the then DPE of our college, Sohan Singh Pannu, also played for India. Gurdeep was chosen to represent India in the 1975 Rene Frank International Tournament in Madras. The tournament was held a few months after India had won the third World Cup in Kuala Lumpur. Sukhvir played for India for a number of years and had the distinction of coaching the Indian Olympic hockey team to Barcelona in 1992.

Fortunate as we were, our first year in the college saw us come face to face with many of country's eminent personalities, including Sahir Ludhianvi and Amrita Pritam, Harkishen Lal (painter), Keki Daruwala, Mohan Sehgal, and Avtar Singh Cheema, besides others. We felt proud that General TN Raina and Maj-Gen Himmat Singh Gill, bureaucrats NN Vohra, MS Gil, IC Puri, SS Puri, Jagpal Singh Sandhu, top police officers Joginder Singh, Rupinder Singh had been students of this great institution. To honor one of its outstanding alumni and scientists, the college was renamed Satish Chander Dhawan (SCD) Government College in 1976.

(Prabhjot Singh is a senior journalist and well-known Sports commentator. He can be reached at prabhjot416@gmail.com)

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