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SPACEX LAUNCHES 4 AMATEURS ON PRIVATE EARTH-CIRCLING TRIP



Inspiration4, run by tech billionaire Elon Musk's SpaceX, has launched its first all-civilian mission to orbit on Thursday, September 16. - Photo tweeted by @ians_india

NEW YORK (TIP): It was the first time a rocket streaked toward orbit with an all-amateur crew - no professional astronauts.

SpaceX's first private flight blasted off Wednesday, September 15 night with two contest winners, a health care worker and their rich sponsor, the most ambitious leap yet in space tourism.

It was the first time a rocket streaked toward orbit with an all-amateur crew - no professional astronauts.

The Dragon capsule's two men and two women are looking to spend three days circling the world from an unusually high orbit - 160 km higher than the International Space Station - before splashing down off the Florida coast this weekend.

Leading the flight is Jared Isaacman, 38, who made his fortune with a payment-processing company he started in his teens.

It's SpaceX founder Elon Musk's first entry in the competition for space tourism dollars. Isaacman is the third billionaire to launch this summer, following the brief space-skimming flights by Virgin Galactic's Richard Branson and Blue Origin's Jeff Bezos in July.

Joining Isaacman on the trip dubbed Inspiration4 is Hayley Arceneaux, 29, a childhood cancer survivor who works as a physician assistant where she was

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PM Modi to visit US to attend Quad summit, UNGA debate

IT IS MR. MODI'S FIRST VISIT TO THE US AFTER CHANGE OF GUARD IN WASHINGTON



Prime Minister Narendra Modi is one of about 109 leaders to address the General Assembly in person. - Photo / PTI

NEW YORK (TIP): Prime Minister Narendra Modi will visit the US to attend Quad Leader's Summit on September 24 and the high-level segment of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) on September 25.

Mr. Modi will visit the White House on September 24 to participate in a Quad leaders summit hosted by U.S. President Joe Biden.

The Quad meeting of Mr. Modi, Mr. Biden and the Prime Ministers of Japan and Australia Yoshihide Suga and Scott Morrison is the first in-person meeting of its kind at the White House.

The four leaders will review progress made since their first virtual summit in March, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said. Specifically,

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PM Modi, Mamata Banerjee, Adar Poonawalla on Time's '100 most influential'



Prime Minister Narendra Modi, West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee and Serum Institute of India CEO Adar Poonawalla. - File photos / PTI

NEW YORK (TIP): Prime Minister Narendra Modi, West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee and Serum Institute of India CEO Adar Poonawalla have been named among the world's 100 most influential people of

2021 by Time magazine.

The magazine on Wednesday, April 15, unveiled its annual list of 'The 100 Most Influential People of 2021', a global list that includes US President Joe Biden, Vice-President Kamala Harris, Chinese President Xi Jinping, Duke and Duchess of Sussex Prince Harry and Meghan, former US president Donald Trump and co-founder of the Taliban Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar.

Time's profile of Modi says India has had three pivotal leaders - Jawaharlal Nehru, Indira Gandhi and Modi. "Narendra Modi is the third, dominating the country's politics like no one since them." The profile by CNN journalist Fareed Zakaria accuses the 69-year-old leader of "eroding the rights" of India's Muslim minority and intimidating journalists.

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FINANCIAL BIDS RECEIVED FOR AIR INDIA DISINVESTMENT: TATA SONS AND SPICE JET AMONG BIDDERS

NEW DELHI (TIP): Government of India said, September 15, that it has received multiple financial bids for buying national carrier Air India. Meanwhile, a Tata Sons spokesperson told PTI that it has put in a bid for the airline.



Air India planes. Waiting for better days?

"Financial bids for Air India disinvestment received by Transaction Adviser. Process now moves to concluding stage," DIPAM Secretary Tuhin Kanta Pandey tweeted.

The government is seeking to sell 100% of its stake in the state-owned national airline, including Air India's 100% shareholding in AI Express Ltd and 50% in Air India SATS Airport Services Private Ltd.

The stake sale process, which began on January 2020, faced delays due to the COVID-19 pandemic. In April 2021, the government asked potential bidders to put in financial bids.

September 15 was the last day for putting in financial bids. Tata Group was among the multiple entities that had put in initial expression of interest (EoI) in December 2020 for buying the Maharaja. With previous attempts since 2017 failing to get any significant interest and after receiving

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Raj Kannappan, Amit Paley, Akila Raman and Rohan Seth are the four Indian Americans in the 2021 Fortune 40 under 40 list

Four Indian Americans Under 40 list in 2021 Fortune 40

NEW YORK (TIP): Noting "it's been a monumental year of change in everything from the way we work and travel to how we buy groceries and invest our savings," the influential business magazine says this year's list highlights those who "are paving the way for what comes next."

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Andy Singh

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:- GUEST COMMENT :-

A Patel at the helm: On change of guard in Gujarat

THE BJP IS ONCE AGAIN WILLING TO ACCOMMODATE DOMINANT CASTE GROUPS

Effecting the fourth change of guard in a State this year, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) replaced Vijay Rupani with Bhupendra Patel as Chief Minister in Gujarat on Sunday. Though the decision came out of the blue, intrigues that led to it had been gaining momentum for a while. To keep it all under the wraps, the government in Gujarat went so far as arresting and sending to jail a journalist under sedition charges for reporting that a change of guard was on the cards. Patels or Patidars have been the backbone of the BJP in Gujarat, but the elevation of Narendra Modi as Chief Minister in 2001 unsettled the cozy relations between the community and the party. Anandiben Patel succeeded Mr. Modi after he became Prime Minister, but she did not last in office for long. A partial ejection of Patels to accommodate a wider range of caste groups in its tent was the BJP approach under Mr. Modi and Amit Shah, and their national strategy mirrored this Gujarat experiment. The Patels in turn rebelled against the Modi-Shah axis several times in the last two decades. Mr. Rupani was less than impressive in administrative tasks or management of the social coalition. The COVID-19 pandemic exposed his failures starkly. With the Assembly elections looming, the Patels getting more restive, and the Aam Aadmi Party trying to emerge as a more viable opposition than the rudderless Congress, the BJP had to act. The Chief Minister-designate is a first-



time MLA who was elected from the constituency vacated by Ms. Patel. The change also underscores the high command culture that is now entrenched in the BJP.

The return of a Patel at the helm indicates a reversal of the BJP strategy of building coalitions of diverse caste groups under a leader from a marginal caste. Mr. Modi projected himself as a backward class leader in 2014, and subsequent choices in leadership at various levels largely followed this trend. There have been exceptions, such as Yogi Adityanath, a Rajput, who was elected Chief Minister in Uttar Pradesh. Within the party and outside of it, dominant castes have been resenting this and the BJP has now begun to feel the pressure. When it had to replace

veteran warhorse B.S. Yediyurappa, a member of the dominant Lingayat community as Chief Minister in Karnataka, the BJP ensured that his successor was from the same community. The ongoing stand-off between the party and the Jat farmers in U.P. and Haryana is also indicative of the tension between the BJP and a dominant social group. The party's Chief Minister in Haryana, Manohar Lal Khattar, is facing the heat. These communities are bargaining for a bigger share of power in the BJP's Hindutva tent. The BJP is partially acting under pressure, but it may also be feeling more confident of the support of the marginal communities and poorer sections to accommodate its traditional supporters. (The Hindu)

Positive climate: On India engaging the U.S.

ENGAGEMENT WITH THE U.S. SHOULD HELP INDIA EXPAND MITIGATION, ADAPTATION ACTION

India's front-line position as third highest emitter of greenhouse gases has sharpened focus on its future policy course to mitigate carbon emissions under the Paris Agreement. It has an irrefutable claim to a big part of the remaining global carbon budget, along with other smaller nations with low historical emissions, but room for maneuvering has shrunk in a world facing record temperatures and calamitous weather events. There is escalating pressure for India to commit itself to a date when it can achieve net zero - removing as much GHGs as it emits - on the lines of the goal set by the U.S. and the European Union for mid-century, and 2060 by China. Declaring a net zero plan under the Paris pact is a disquieting prospect since it would impose expensive choices, particularly in energy production. That conundrum has been addressed, at least partially, by

visiting U.S. Special Presidential Envoy for Climate John Kerry, with the promise of financing and technology to make renewable energy the core of future development. Specific areas of cooperation to bring down emissions - in the expansion of transport, buildings and industry - and facilitating funding for 450 GW of renewable energy by 2030 can advance the India-U.S. Climate and Clean Energy Agenda 2030 Partnership. More clarity on the bilateral road map towards emissions reduction may come at the COP26 conference in November. India, meanwhile, needs to get all States to mitigate emissions and help them adapt to climate-linked extreme weather and atmospheric pollution caused by fossil fuels.

At the end of 2020, a year marked by COVID-19 and many destructive storms, the Union Environment Ministry declared that the country had achieved 21% of its 33%-35% target to cut emissions intensity of GDP by 2030, and, similarly, was generating 37.9% of the 40% of power from renewables. Though

encouraging, the immediate challenge lies in coming up with an adaptation framework to help those at highest risk - the millions living in the path of annual cyclones, including residents of populous coastal cities. Raising the ability of city administrations to handle tens of millions of liters of water regularly dumped in just a few days requires planning, funding and political commitment. Making low-cost insurance available for houses against climate-related losses will raise resilience, and lead to audits, encouraging governments to reduce risks. The Paris Agreement can easily fund much-needed urban retrofitting and boost employment. There is also a health imperative. Heat stress has a severe impact, causing higher mortality among the vulnerable elderly. These are growing problems, but they also represent an opportunity to steer post-COVID-19 policies towards benign, green development. For a low-emissions future, policies must put nature at the center.

(The Hindu)

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'Jaipur Foot USA at Your Doorstep' Mobile Van for Prosthetics Fitment Flag Off Ceremony

NEW YORK (TIP): Jaipur Foot USA organized a virtual event to launch the "Mobile Van for Prosthetics Fitment". The blessing and flag-off was performed by Dr. H R Nagendra, founder Chancellor of Swami Vivekananda Yoga Anusandhana Samsthana, and Padam Bhushan Shri D R Mehta, founder and Chief patron of BMVSS. Mr. Piyush Parikh moderated the event.



Mr. Prem Bhandari, Chairman Jaipur Foot USA spoke and gave the background on how Nikhil Mehta, a 17-year-old young high school student and Jaipur Foot USA youth coordinator, came up with the Mobile-Van for prosthetics fitment idea

On the occasion, Mr. Prem Bhandari, Chairman Jaipur Foot USA spoke and gave the background on how Nikhil Mehta, a 17-year-old young high school student and Jaipur Foot USA youth coordinator, came up with the Mobile-Van for prosthetics fitment idea to deliver prosthetics at the doorstep to help the rural differently-abled people in this COVID environment where the movements are restricted, and transportation is difficult, and provided complete funding for the project.

The funding to purchase a large van, equip and install the equipment required, and power generator to power the equipment in case the village doesn't have electricity, was provided by Nikhil Mehta and Shri Kanak Goliya, his grandfather. Shri Goliya ji's family has been associated with BMVSS since 1976, and they have been a regular financial contributor to the BMVSS ever since.

The Mobile Van initiative is a unique and

innovative effort to address the prosthetics fitment problem for the people from the lowest economic ladder of our society by Jaipur Foot USA/BMVSS. This van is equipped with men and machines to fit artificial limbs to 7 to 10 people a day. Tomorrow, the mobile van leaves with eight highly qualified prosthetics professionals from BMVSS, Jaipur, to its first destination Vadnagar, honorable PM Shri Narendra Modi's native village. As part of this mission, BMVSS has committed to help a minimum 71 differently abled people, a symbolic number to celebrate Shri Modi ji's 71st birthday. The Mobile-Van camp will be inaugurated by Shri Soma Bhai Modi ji on Sept 17th, 2021, and will be held at Sarvodaya Sewa Trust, Vadnagar, the birthplace of honorable PM Shri Modi ji.

Mr. Bhandari 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 PM Narendra Modi ji, the guiding force, and blessed this partnership. Under this partnership, BMVSS helped over 6000 differently abled people through 13 foreign camps. Mr. Bhandari also shared the information about renewal of the agreement to organize another 12 prosthetic fitment camps on a historical day, Aug 5th, 2020. He extended his heartfelt thanks to Shri Harsh Vardhan Shringla, Foreign Secretary of India for extending this partnership. Under this partnership, BMVSS already conducted the first prosthetics fitment camp last December in Uganda.

Mr. D.R. Mehta spoke about the importance of this mobile van and its benefits to differently abled people. Mr. Mehta appreciated Nikhil Mehta and his family's contributions to the mobile-van project. Mr. Mehta also talked about the special relationship and support BMVSS received from honorable PM Shri Narendra Modi ji and mentioned two occasions. Mr. Mehta spoke about honorable Shri Modi ji visit to the BMVSS international center in



Delivering prosthetics at the doorstep to help the rural differently abled people in this COVID environment

Manila, Philippines and interactions with artificial limb recipients, especially with a young child who got an artificial limb. This young child got a boost of confidence after getting the artificial limb, and when honorable PM Modi ji asked him for his future plans, he responded that he wanted to be a Police Officer. Mr. Mehta and Mr. Bhandari expressed the immense honor for the PM Shri Narendra Modi ji, who inaugurated the prosthetics fitment camp (Apr 14, 2016) organized on the occasion of the 125th birth anniversary of Babasaheb Dr. B.R. Ambedkar at Mhow, MP. It is an honor and pride for BMVSS to come true to the expectations and mission of Shri Modi ji to provide help to differently abled people and make them physically and economically independent.

Mr. Mehta also highlighted the BMVSS achievement being the world's largest prosthetics fitment organization. The BMVSS fitted 31,753 prosthetics in India and 5,783 artificial limbs abroad in 2019-20 compared to the International Council of Red Cross figure, which is 4,839 for the same duration worldwide under the Special Fund for the Disabled (SFD) program. Mr. Mehta also highlighted the research and development efforts and various technology research partnerships with international Universities like Stanford, Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), Harvard, and Santa Clara University to continuously innovate and adapt the latest prosthetics technologies. Mr. Mehta acknowledged the efforts of Mr. Armand Neukermans and OP Choudhary, Silicon Valley-based advisors of Jaipur Foot USA, to develop Jaipur Foot Prosthetics Hand

development project with Silicon Valley-based Santa Clara University. This is a unique project where this hand will have the latest technology, lightweight, low cost, and myoelectric-controlled hand prosthesis, which can be controlled with the electrical signals generated naturally by muscles.

Mr. K.K. Mehta, senior advisor Jaipur Foot USA also spoke on occasion and appraised that BMVSS is operating at 2.6% administrative cost, which is the lowest for operating such a large non-profit functioning worldwide. He also highlighted that Jaipur Foot USA's operating expenses are zero percentage; all the donations collected in the USA are sent to the BMVSS, parent organization. Mr. K.K. Mehta is not only advisor of Jaipur Foot USA, but he also provides funding for various projects to Jaipur Foot USA every year, and he is the first to offer helping hand in time of need. It is exciting and pleasure to report that Mr. K.K. Mehta also announced that he would provide funding and sponsorship for another Mobile-Van for prosthetics fitment. Mr. Nikhil Mehta has opened an avenue through which many members are motivated and provide funding to expand on what he started.

Dr. Nagendra blessed this project and spoke about the need for giving and Mr. Mehta and BMVSS's contributions to society and humanity. He also requested to organize an artificial limb fitment camp in Bangalore as a first step and establish a permanent center at the University premises to provide year-round help to differently abled people in Karnataka. Mr. Mehta acknowledged and accepted a request to open a permanent center soon.

OP Choudhary requested the blessings from Dr. Nagendra ji and Shri D.R. Mehta ji and offered the vote of thanks to all the dignitaries, members who attended the event. Dr. Deependra Mehta, Secretary, BMVSS, introduced the BMVSS team going to Vadnagar and offered a vote of thanks from the BMVSS team.

(Based on a Press Note issued by Nishant Garg, Secretary, Jaipur Foot USA)

Indian Overseas Congress, USA condoled the demise of veteran Congress leader Oscar Fernandes

NEW YORK (TIP): Indian Overseas Congress, USA passed a resolution condoling the death of Oscar Fernandes, a veteran Congress leader and a mentor to scores of young aspirants in the party. "Known as much for his simplicity as well as his talent, Oscar played a critical role not only as a party functionary but also as an efficient administrator," said George Abraham, Vice-Chairman of the Indian Overseas Congress, USA. "He was a true friend of the Overseas Congress from its inception, and we owe him the debt of gratitude for the guidance over the years. We will sorely miss him," added Mr. Abraham.

Oscar Fernandes, a former Union Minister and a senior Congress leader, passed away at a private

Hospital in Mangaluru. He was eighty years old. He is survived by his wife Blossom and two children.

"He was a people's person and worked closely with personnel at the grassroots level not only advancing the cause of the Congress party but also manifesting his love for the country and its traditions," said Mohinder Singh Gilzian, President of the IOCUSA. "He was accessible to everyone and always received us with great humility and enthusiasm," Mr. Gilzian added.

In her message of condolences, Congress President Mrs. Sonia Gandhi said, "His humility, affability, simplicity, and integrity will remain an inspiration to all in public life. His demise is a huge loss for each



Oscar Fernandes receiving Nelson Mandela Award in New York in 2014. Seen in the picture, from L to R: Mohinder Singh Gilzian (rear), Blossom Fernandes, Oscar Fernandes, Charles Steele Jr., Sajan George, George Abraham, Bernard Malik

and every Congress worker and indeed for the entire country. "I salute this remarkable colleague who enriched our lives and made so many contributions," she said while sending her condolences to his family.

Indian-Origin World-renowned Neurosurgeon helps save Israeli twins conjoined at the head: Report



Dr. Noor Ul Owase Jeelani, an Indian origin pediatric neurosurgeon in the UK has helped a group of Israeli doctors to successfully operate on a pair of twins conjoined at the head

JERUSALEM (TIP): A world-renowned Indian-origin pediatric neurosurgeon in the UK has helped a group of Israeli doctors to successfully operate on a pair of twins conjoined at the head, with the babies now likely to lead normal lives, a media report said.

This is for the first time that Dr. Noor Ul Owase Jeelani, who was born in Kashmir and works at London's Great Ormond Street Hospital, agreed to carry out such a surgery outside the UK when contacted by doctors at Israel's Soroka hospital, according to a report in The Times of Israel (TOI).

He and his colleague, Professor David Dunway, are globally seen as experts on such cases. Mr Jeelani said, "from a doctor's point of view, we're all one" and that medicine transcends all divisions.

"He said that the fact that a Kashmir-born Muslim doctor scrubbed up alongside an Israeli team to help a Jewish family was a reminder of the universal nature of medicine," the report quoted him as saying.

"It was a fantastic family that we helped," Mr Jeelani said, adding, as I've said all my life, all children are the same, whatever color or religion". "The distinctions are man-made. A child is a child. From a doctor's point of view, we're all one," he emphasized. The doctor found the family's delight at the success of the operation "deeply moving".

"There was this very special moment when the parents were just over the moon. I have never in my life seen a person smile, cry, be happy, and be relieved at the same time. The mother simply couldn't believe it, we had to pull up a chair to help her to calm down," Mr Jeelani told the news portal.

Mr Jeelani is said to have also worked for months on the surgery of the Israeli twins. "We've been involved right from the start, talking to the team in Israel and planning it with them over a period of six months," he said.

"This latest surgery fulfills a key objective of our charity, namely, to empower local teams abroad to undertake this complex work, successfully utilizing our experience, knowledge, and skills gained over the past 15 years with our previous four sets of twins," the neurosurgeon stressed.

Indo-Canadian Jagmeet Singh-led NDP may again play kingmaker

OTTAWA (TIP): The New Democratic Party (NDP), led by Punjab-origin Canadian Jagmeet Singh, can again prove to be a "kingmaker" in the country's federal election scheduled for September 20.

As the latest trends indicate a neck and neck fight between Liberals and Conservatives, the party with small but crucial number of seats would be important if both main parties fail to get majority. In 2019, Justin Trudeau's Liberal Party got 157 seats, 13 short of majority in the 338 House of Commons and Conservative got 121 seats. The NDP had won 24 seats. Trudeau formed a minority government with the support of NDP.

Repeat of 2019?

- In 2019, Justin Trudeau's Liberal Party formed a minority government with the support of NDP
- Liberals had won 157 seats, 13 short of majority in the 338 House of Commons, and Conservatives won 121 seats. The NDP had won 24 seats



Punjab-origin Canadian Jagmeet Singh, can again prove to be a "kingmaker" in the country's federal election scheduled for September 20.

Eying to convert his minority government into majority and confident of getting support for his work during the Covid-19 pandemic, Trudeau called mid-term snap polls, but as opinion polls and trends are to be believed, the Opposition is catching up with Liberals over the "high cost" of housing.

Conservative party leader Erin O'Toole is getting support of young voters, whereas the NDP has good base in two thickly populated areas of British Columbia and Ontario and is getting good support from Indian and Asian communities. As per opinion polls, the NDP is expected to increase its seats this time from the previous tally of 24.

The Indian diaspora in Canada is much sought after as a support base as they tend to be high-income professionals and educated. As a group, the people of Indian origin, especially the Sikh diaspora, have become a powerful group and prominent voice in domestic political space.

As many as 47 Punjabi NRIs are in the fray this time. The main issues being raised by the Punjabi NRIs are direct flight ban from India, racism and high housing cost. A political expert claims that many Indo-Canadians stranded in India due to the ban on direct flights will not be able to cast vote and are being deprived of their rights.

Indo-Canadian nominees in poll fray face racist slogans, attacks



Photo caption: Punjab-origin candidates contesting the federal election are facing racial attacks in Canada.

CALGARY (TIP): Punjab-origin candidates contesting the federal election are facing racial attacks in Canada.

A poster of Randeep Singh Sarai, a Liberal candidate who is running for re-election in Surrey Centre, was defaced by spray-painting a swastika, a symbol of Nazis.

Sarai tweeted, "I am disappointed to see that one of my signs was defaced in Surrey Centre. This behavior is intolerable. I deplore this anti-Semitic behavior; I know my neighbors will join

me in calling it out. Let's move forward with kindness and constructive discussion." In another incident, two volunteers of Sabrina Grover, a candidate of the Liberal Party from Calgary Central, were attacked during campaigning.

Offensive remarks

- NDP leader Jagmeet Singh faced a racist remark during campaigning in Windsor

Sarai's poster defaced

- A poster of Randeep Singh Sarai, a

Liberal candidate, defaced by spray-painting a swastika, a symbol of Nazis

Volunteers attacked

- Two volunteers of Sabrina Grover, a candidate of the Liberal Party, attacked during campaigning

Memorial vandalized

Racial abuse is one of the major issues among the Punjabi diaspora in the election. The Punjabi community in Canada is also upset over the vandalism of the Komagata Maru Memorial situated at Coal Harbor in Vancouver. The incident, reported on August 22, led to resentment among the diaspora.

Sabrina Grover said, "The volunteers were campaigning in an apartment building when they were approached by a man, slapped and spat on. Both my volunteers are unharmed but shaken. This is not right; hateful interaction is unacceptable. I was born and raised in Calgary. This is my home."

NDP leader Jagmeet Singh faced a racist remark while campaigning in Windsor, Ontario. During an event in a park, a man shouted "go back home" from a passing vehicle, while Jagmeet, who was born in Scarborough, Ontario, and raised in Windsor, continued his speech undeterred.

Later, Jagmeet said he doesn't "focus on himself" when such things happen, but he is concerned about the growing level of hate in Canada.

Rachna Singh, an MLA from Surrey Timber Greens and parliamentary secretary for anti-racism initiatives, said, "during the campaign, we have seen candidates' hoardings being vandalized with messages of hate. It's unacceptable and cowardly."

Indian American Balbir Singh Sodhi, first victim of hate crime post-9/11 attacks, remembered by US lawmakers

WASHINGTON (TIP): Top American lawmakers paid rich tributes as they remembered Balbir Singh Sodhi, a Sikh American, who was the first victim of hate crime following the 9/11 terror attacks in which nearly 3,000 people from over 90 countries were killed.

Four days after 9/11, Balbir was killed outside the Arizona gas station he owned. He was the first person in the US to be killed in a supposed act of retaliation for the attacks in 2001.

"Today marks 20 Years Since Balbir Singh Sodhi, a Sikh man, was killed in a hate crime in retribution for the 9/11 attacks. We honor his memory and the memories of all those lost to hate in the two decades since," Senator Robert Menendez said in a tweet.

"Twenty years ago, Sikh American Balbir Singh Sodhi was murdered in the first post 9/11 hate crime. He was shot to death while planting flowers outside his gas station in Mesa, Arizona, by a man who said he wanted to "go out and shoot some towel-heads," said Senator Dick Durbin.

Congresswomen Lois Frankel said



Lawmakers paid rich tributes as they remembered Balbir Singh Sodhi, a Sikh American, who was the first victim of hate crime following the 9/11 terror attacks

days after 9/11, Balbir, a Sikh man, was killed in 'retribution' for the attacks.

"Today, we honor Balbir's memory and celebrate 20 years of solidarity and advocacy among the communities that continue to persevere against hate and discrimination," she said.

Senator Sherrod Brown said 20 years ago today, Balbir, a Sikh American, was murdered for his appearance.

"His death marked the first deadly post-9/11 hates crime. Today and every day, let's stand united with our Sikh community in Ohio and reject hate and

discrimination," he tweeted.

"Days after 9/11, Sikh American Balbir Singh Sodhi was killed in the apparent first 'retribution' hate crime following the attacks. Today, we honor his memory & remain united in our efforts to fend off all forms of hate & discrimination," tweeted Senator Richard Blumenthal.

"Balbir Singh Sodhi, a turbaned Sikh man, was killed in a hate crime in retribution for the 9/11 attacks 20 years ago today. I stand in solidarity with New Jersey's Sikh community as we honor his memory & the memories of all those lost to hate in the two decades since," said Congressman Donald Norcross.

Balbir's killer Frank Roque is serving life in prison.

As the world marked the 20th anniversary of the September 11 terror attacks recently, Balbir's brother Rana Singh Sodhi said: "We all humans are equal - color, creed and gender. To honor my brother, if you love your neighbors, if you respect people with different color, creed and gender, it will be a big honor to my brother".



INDIAN AMERICAN COMMENDS US FOR AFGHAN REFUGEES' RESETTLEMENT IN CALIFORNIA

Parminder Aujla

SACRAMENTO (TIP): An Indian American from California leading in resettlement of Afghan refugees in Fremont city on Friday, September 10, commended President Joe Biden and Secretary of State Antony Blinken for the evacuation of thousands of Afghans who had helped the United States in its war against terrorism for 20 years.

"President Biden, Secretary Blinken, and our troops led an airlift that evacuated tens of thousands more people than any imagined possible. We look forward to welcoming our Afghan allies to their new homes in Fremont, California, and in other parts of the United States and continue to work with Afghan Community Organizations to assist refugees, people in Afghanistan to bring peace to all," community leader Ajay Jain Bhutoria said during a webinar organized by the State Department along with him.

(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)

INDIAN-ORIGIN VIBHAV MITTAL BECOMES FIRST SOUTH ASIAN JUDGE OF CALIFORNIA COURT

WASHINGTON (TIP) Indian American attorney Vibhav Mittal of Yorba Linda, California, has become the first Judge of South Asian descent on the Superior Court of California, County of Orange,

Assistant Presiding Judge Maria Hernandez swore in Mittal, 39, on Sept. 10 after his appointment by California Governor Gavin Newsom a week earlier.

National Asian Pacific American Bar Association last week named Mittal among 2021 Honorees for its Best Under 40 Award along with Puneet V. Kakkar, another Indian American attorney with the US Department of Justice.

The award honors members in the Asian American Pacific Islander legal community under the age of 40 who have achieved prominence in their fields and have demonstrated a strong commitment to the Asian American Pacific Islander community.

Mittal, a Democrat has served as a Deputy Chief at the US Attorney's Office for the Central District of California since 2019, where he has also served as an Assistant US Attorney since 2011.

He was a Field Organizer and Campaign Fellow for the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee in 2010. Mittal served as a Law Clerk for Amul R. Thapar, the first US federal judge of South Asian descent, at the US District Court for the Eastern District of Kentucky from 2009 to 2010.

(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)



Vibhav Mittal of Yorba Linda, California, has become the first Judge of South Asian descent on the Superior Court of California, County of Orange.

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF ASIAN INDIAN ASSOCIATIONS PRESENTS ANURAG KUMAR DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD

MANASSAS, VA (TIP): The Washington area-based National Council of Asian Indian Associations (NCAIA HQ-VA) presented its Distinguished Service Award to Anurag Kumar, outgoing Minister for Community Affairs at the Embassy of India.

Kumar, who was posted to Washington in 2018, was presented the award at a farewell reception hosted by NCAIA in Manassas, VA, on Sunday, September 12.

A number of top embassy officials and community leaders from the area attended the event, held at Hilton Garden's Lake Terrace and Ballroom.

"Directly or indirectly, you have always brought laurels to India," Kumar said thanking his hosts. "You basically have a sense of achievement and honor to the people of India and you represent the very best of India."

"Your continued association with the motherland, that is something which is of great value," he said noting, "All of you have done well in your respective professions and careers."

"India is a country of diversity, we have different religions, languages, different cultures and everything. And those things are equally and well represented in the United States of America," Kumar noted.

Previously Kumar has served as Joint Director IB in New Delhi.

Speakers included NCAIA president Nayna Desai, its chairman Sunil Singh, the organization's senior adviser Sambhu Banik, and community leaders Sant Gupta and Satish Korpe.

Dr. Jaydeep Nair, Minister (Consular), Dr. Dhananjay Tiwari Counselor (Science & Technology), Vinayak Chauhan, Naresh Kumar, First Secretary (Visa) were among the other embassy officials who attended the event.

Meenal Singh served as the MC of the event and Sashi Agarwal delivered the vote of thanks.

Coordinated by Dr. Alok Shrivastava, the event was supported by other Indian community organizations in the Greater Washington, DC, area.



"Directly or indirectly, you have always brought laurels to India," Anurag Kumar said thanking his hosts.

Four Indian Americans Under 40 list in 2021 Fortune 40

CONTD FROM PAGE 1

Of the four Indian Americans, Young America's Foundation's Raj Kannappan, 30, is responsible for promoting conservative free-market principles among college students around the US, according to Fortune.

The Trevor Project led by Amit Paley, 39, has since 1998 worked to prevent suicide among young queer people via a hotline dedicated just to LGBTQ youth, Fortune notes.

As COO of Investment Banking Division, Goldman Sachs, Akila Raman, 39, is at the heart of the action in a record year of dealmaking and mergers and acquisitions (M&A).

Clubhouse Cofounder Rohan Seth, 37, has been going nonstop since early 2020 with his social media startup that's a cross between talk radio and a group chat, says Fortune.

As director of the Center for Entrepreneurship & Free Enterprise at Young America's Foundation, Raj Kannappan is responsible for promoting conservative free-market principles among college students around the US, according to Fortune.

With a presence on more than 2,000

college and high school campuses, and nearly \$100 million in assets, the group has been quietly funding and supporting campus Republican groups, it says.

They are bringing speakers to colleges and promoting messages of fiscal and social conservatism historically tied to President Ronald Reagan and William F. Buckley.

Kannappan and YAF are also exerting their influence on the legal system. The group has been filing lawsuits against colleges that bar right-wing speakers from campus.

A recent lawsuit against the University of Florida, which repeatedly refused to use school funds to pay speaker fees for controversial Republicans, resulted in the university settling with conservative students for \$66,000 and changing its free-speech rules.

Amit Paley, 39, CEO and Executive Director, The Trevor Project

Lesbian, gay, and bisexual youth are more than four times as likely to consider suicide as their straight peers. Since 1998, the Trevor Project has worked to prevent suicide among young

queer people via a hotline dedicated just to LGBTQ youth, Fortune notes.

And since 2017, when Amit Paley took the reins as CEO of the nonprofit, the organization has dramatically increased the number of young people receiving support.

Through a focus on innovation, technology, and research in the understudied field of LGBTQ youth mental health, Paley has expanded the number of staff working to help this vulnerable group and quadrupled the number of youth in crisis the organization serves each month.

Paley also serves on the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline steering committee and the executive committee of the National Action Alliance for Suicide Prevention.

He told Fortune that being involved in the mental health space at large helps him advocate for LGBTQ youth and their specific needs.

The Trevor Project also takes that advocacy seriously at the government level, working to end conversion therapy, oppose anti-transgender legislation, and establish "988" as the number Americans can call (starting next summer) to reach their Suicide Prevention Lifeline.

Since Covid took hold of the world, Paley took the Trevor Project entirely remote for the first time, while dealing with nearly double the volume of calls pre-pandemic.

Many LGBTQ youth, who make up a disproportionate 40% of homeless youth, are stuck in situations that worsen their mental health, like living in homeless shelters or spending more time at home with unsupportive or abusive parents.

During the pandemic, Paley also led the organization in continuing its long-held commitment to intersectional activism, supporting queer Black, Asian American, and Pacific Islander youth during the outrage over George Floyd's death and racist attacks on those in the AAPI community.

Akila Raman, 39, COO of Investment Banking Division, Goldman Sachs

Dealmaking and M&A have had a record year-and Akila Raman is at the heart of the action, notes Fortune. Promoted in early February, Raman runs operational strategy for the global investment bank.

She's currently focused on international expansion and growth in new products like ESG. Having started as an intern in 2003, Raman spent most of her time with natural resources companies in sectors such as energy, power, and metals.

She has also prioritized using technology and automation to streamline the workflow and relieve stress among the Goldman investment bankers she oversees.

As the daughter of Indian and Korean

immigrants, Raman hasn't seen many people who look like her on Wall Street, and she's spent years mentoring women and people of color-not just at Goldman but across the industry. "Whenever I leave this place and career, that will be a really cool legacy," she says.

Rohan Seth, 37, Cofounder, Clubhouse

Rohan Seth's combination of product and tech chops coupled with an entrepreneurial drive helped get him on Fortune's annual 40 Under 40 list, according to the business magazine.

Since early 2020 when he cofounded Clubhouse, a social media startup that's a cross between talk radio and a group chat, he's helping steer one of the most talked-about consumer apps in recent years at a crucial time in its history.

When the coronavirus pandemic forced people to stay home, the service exploded in popularity. Millions downloaded the app to listen to luminaries like rapper MC Hammer and Tesla CEO Elon Musk.

As an engineering lead at Clubhouse, Seth is responsible for ensuring the app can handle the huge influx of users, the magazine says.

In 2019, Seth created the Lydian Accelerator, a health care nonprofit named after his daughter Lydia that is focused on discovering treatments for rare genetic disorders.

Lydian Accelerator's goal is to uncover the medical treatments that traditional pharmaceutical giants may ignore because of their rarity.

Taking cues from the tech industry, the accelerator aims to open-source and make free the genetic data, processes, and protocols necessary to develop potentially game-changing personalized treatments.

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Indian American Kabir Partap is all set with a docu-series on the legacy of Partap Brothers

NEW YORK (TIP):The Partap Brothers have been nothing short of an institution when it comes to the Indian classical music, especially Gurmat Sangeet. Over the years, the siblings - Davinder, Mohinder and Ravinder - have been credited with preserving and reviving the Puratan Gurmat Sangeet. They have amassed legions of fans across the globe and created a legacy that needs to be celebrated and cherished.

It was this thought that prompted New York-based Kabir Partap, son of Mohinder Partap Singh, to conceptualize a documentary series chronicling the four-decade journey of his father and uncles. With the unfortunate demise of his father in February this year due to Covid, Kabir realized the scale of their music and how impactful it has been over the years.

The documentary series is in the pre-production stage and Kabir Partap is leaving no stone unturned to make it a one-of-its-kind series that blends the best elements of documentary filmmaking - raw footage, intense reality moments and unique stories. The film will be in English and translated into Punjabi, Hindi and Urdu.

For Kabir, the documentary is a love story. "This is a tale that will resonate with all of us, as it focuses on trials and tribulations of our daily lives - family struggles, political and social events that impact us personally, expectations from our closed ones that we struggle to meet and the fight between the old and the new," he quips.

Ravinder Partap hopes that the documentary will inspire the audience to carry forward and preserve the rich treasures of the classical Gurmat Sangeet. "We hope that after having seen the film, the new generation with keen interest in classical kirtan will reach out to us with questions. The youth must know that we are a resource



The younger Partap is all set with a docu-series on the legacy of Partap Brothers

for them," he says.

For Davinder Partap, the documentary is a medium to relive the moments spent with Mohinder Partap, who, in his words, "brought a very unique element of artistry in tabla".

"Mohinder had his own presence on stage, his own energy and flair. We will never be complete without him, but we will try our best to make him proud every time we perform on stage," says Davinder Partap with his voice cracking.

What kept the three brothers going for more than four decades? "The passion for Gurmat Sangeet," Ravinder says and adds "when we are performing together a spiritual, transcendental bond is created. This bond transcends worldly relationships".

Probe the brothers about the difficulties in keeping the

classical/traditional music alive today, Davinder Partap admits that there are a myriad of barriers to enter the arena, but he remains hopeful.

"My greatest hope is that parents in our community will encourage their children to pursue Gurmat Sangeet. We, as a community, must encourage and support creativeness and artists," he says. Davinder's hope stems from the resurgence of interest in classical music globally, especially the Puratan Gurmat Sangeet. Ravinder, the youngest of the Partap Brothers, nods in unison and adds, "A lot has changed in the past few years. For example, social media and streaming platforms have brought together fans of classical music from around the globe. The younger generation has especially taken a keen interest in reviving the Indian classical music."

Triumphant celebration on the Return of Lion King to Broadway

THE HIT SHOW'S EMOTIONAL FIRST PERFORMANCE IN 18 MONTHS FOLLOWING BROADWAY'S SHUTDOWN

NEW YORK CITY (TIP): The Lion King returned to Broadway on September 14 night following the unprecedented 18-month shutdown of the theater industry.



Corey J. alternate as Young Simba, and Alayna Martus and Sydney Elise Russell alternate as Young Nala.

The Lion King also features Lawrence Keith Alexander, Cameron Amandus, Leanne

In a Broadway first, September 14 performance of "Circle Of Life" was live streamed on TikTok, opening up the historic evening to fans all over the world.

The starry evening included The Today Show's Jenna Bush Hager and Carson Daly, Gloria Steinem (whose life is the focus of the 2020 Taymor film, The Glorias), Kristin Chenoweth, Salman Rushdie, Jelani Alladin, Heidi Blickenstaff, Ashley Brown, Greg Hildreth, John Riddle and three stars of Aladdin, which will celebrate its Broadway reopening on Tuesday, September 28: Michael Maliakel (Aladdin), Michael James Scott (Genie) and Shoba Narayan (Jasmine).

The Broadway cast of the Lion King stars Stephen Carlile as Scar, L. Steven Taylor as Mufasa, Tshidi Manye as Rafiki, Cameron Pow as Zazu, Ben Jeffrey as Pumbaa, Fred Berman as Timon, Brandon A. McCall as Simba, Adrienne Walker as Nala, James Brown-Orleans as Banzai, Bonita J. Hamilton as Shenzi and Robb Sapp as Ed. Vince Ermita and

Antonio, Andrew Arrington, India Bolds Browne, Lindiwe Dlamini, Zinhle Dube, Bongile Duma, Angelica Edwards, Jim Ferris, Rosie Lani Feldman, Daniel Gaymon, Pia Hamilton, Daniel Harder, Michael Alexander Henry, Michael Hollick, Pearl Khwezi, Lindsey Jackson, Lisa Lewis, Mduduzi Madela, Jaysin McCollum, Ray Mercer, S'bu Ngema, Nhlanhla Ngobeni, Nteliseng Nkhela, Jacqueline René, Kaylin Seckel, Kellen Stencil, Housso Semon, Derrick Spear, Michael Stiggers Jr., Jamie J. Thompson, Bravita Threatt, Natalie Turner, Donna Michelle Vaughan, Nicholas Ward and Stephen Scott Wormley.

ABOUT THE LION KING

Approaching 24 landmark years on Broadway, The Lion King continues ascendant as one of the most popular stage musicals in the world. Since its premiere on November 13, 1997, 25 global productions have been seen by nearly 110 million people. (Read full story at

WWW.THEINDIANPANORAMA.NEWS)

WORLD VEGAN VISION ORGANIZES A PICNIC WITH A VIEW TO PROMOTING AWARENESS ABOUT ENVIRONMENT



NEW YORK (TIP): On Sept 6, 2021 a vegan picnic was organized by the NJ and NY chapters. This was the very first 100% vegan picnic organized by World Vegan Vision. Almost 100 people including many key members attended the picnic, according to information provided by Vinod Shah, who added: "Our picnic was filled with educational and informative activities along with entertainment".

Dr. Shrenik Shah president of the NJ chapter, addressed the attendees on the importance of going vegan for human health, prevention of animal abuse and for saving the environment. This was followed by a vegan quiz conducted by Ms. Neetu Jindal, assisted by her son Nirvaan who is a seasoned animal rights activist at the age of 10. Right after these 2 events and as a result of the information gained a few people decided to go vegan. Let us hear about their progress in the near future. Not only was all the food vegan, free of any animal products including dairy, but it was served in biodegradable plates and cutlery. This was done to minimize the impact on the environment.

Picnic attendees enjoyed the Karaoke music for entertainment for the rest of the afternoon. The picnic was a very successful event thanks to the efforts of Kalindi Bakshi, Neetu Jindal, Vinod, Shah, Nitin Vyas and many others. Thanks to Mr. and Mrs. K.K. Mehta for sponsoring the picnic meals.

Polarization at work in UP

WITH ELECTIONS ROUND THE CORNER, YOGI ADITYANATH IS BACK WITH HATE CAMPAIGN



BY JULIO RIBEIRO

"YOGI ADITYANATH HAS STRETCHED CREDIBILITY BY ALLEGING THAT THOSE WHO ADDRESS THEIR FATHERS AS 'ABBA JAAN', THE MUSLIMS, WERE THE ONLY COMMUNITY THAT WAS PROVIDED WITH RATIONS BEFORE 2017, THE YEAR HE BECAME THE CM! RATIONS FROM FAIR-PRICE SHOPS ARE AVAILABLE TO THE POOR AT REDUCED RATES. SINCE MUSLIMS, SCS AND ADIVASIS ARE THE POOREST, COMMUNITY-WISE, IT MAY BE THAT YOGI SAW MORE MUSLIMS AND DALITS IN RATION QUEUES BEFORE 2017 WHEN HE WAS OUT ON THE STREETS FIGHTING FOR POWER. THAT POSITION WOULD HOLD FIRM TODAY ALSO, BUT YOGI IS CONFINED MOST OF THE TIME TO HIS CHAIR IN THE 'MANTRALAYA' AND MAY NOT HAVE NOTICED THIS. BUT THE DAMAGE HAS BEEN DONE. PEOPLE ARE GULLIBLE. THEY BELIEVE WHAT THE 'GREAT LEADERS' TELL THEM!"



Divide to rule: Yogi Adityanath is presently in his element, needling voters who address their fathers as 'abba jaan'!

Photo / PTI

Yogi Adityanath is presently in his element. He is busy needling the voters who address their fathers as 'abba jaan'. Often in the past, he has gone beyond mere needling, for the Muslims are his 'bete noire'.

Tackling Covid, and now dengue, is not what interests him. These are unnecessary interferences in his 'divine' task of ridding his state of what he considers to be pests, criminals, beef eaters, cow killers and, above all, jihadi terrorists.

In my city Mumbai, I know many Muslims, some at the top end of society and many more at the low end residing in slums. The latter I got acquainted with more intimately when I returned home from Romania where the only Muslims I met were either diplomats or locals who waited at diplomatic dinner tables, including my own. They were in great demand, despite their penchant for sampling the wines, fortunately after the guests had departed.

My friends, largely from the Race Course, do not seem to be too concerned with religion. I am not sure if they prayed, even when their horses were in the race! My humbler friends, who formed the nucleus of the mohalla committees, formed after the 1993-94 riots to foster communal harmony and peace, were busy during most days eking out a living! They could spare no time on hate, like the Yogi seems to have, particularly at election time.

Speaking of elections, due in UP in the next six months, I thought he had spread enough vitriol that appealed to listeners who had no difficulty in blindly accepting the words that emerged from his mouth. Unfortunately, the farmers and Covid-19 have combined to deny him the walk-over he had banked upon.

The resulting uncertainty surrounding the outcome of the 2022 Assembly elections had forced him to fall back on hate and communal division to recover lost ground. Will the ploy succeed? No one can tell at the present moment. But, God forbid if it does, it will not be good for the country. A divided country is a sure recipe for disaster. If the minorities, who constitute 20 per cent of the population, are reduced to second-class status the country will have a sizeable chunk of permanently alienated citizens. And to these the ones in power will have to add a constantly floating number of the temporarily alienated, like farmers of Punjab, Haryana and western UP and castes aspiring to be

downgraded in official rankings in order to corner jobs, besides the political power that comes with sheer numbers.

A communal divide has existed in UP, as it did in Mumbai, for centuries. It was dormant till elections were held and political parties vying for power appeared on the horizon. The accusation against the Congress of appeasement of minorities has found traction with the voting public.

I have often tried to analyze this accusation. The Muslims are one of the three groupings (the two others being the SCs and STs) in our society that are economically and educationally backward. If the Congress or any government of the day had pampered them in the sphere of education or health, I would support that 'appeasement' with my eyes shut. But the Congress party only gave in to demands of concessions to religious beliefs that no secular democratic government should concern itself with.

Religion is a personal belief. It concerns only the believer and his or her understanding of creation and the afterlife. Why should the State get involved? Rajiv Gandhi made his biggest political blunder when he conceded the maulvis' demand to undo the mischief of the Shah Bano judgment. The State should govern justly and fairly without getting involved in religious matters. It should make it a pillar of State policy to keep 'miri' and 'piri' separate.

Yogi Adityanath has stretched credibility by alleging that those who address their fathers as 'abba jaan', the Muslims, were the only community that was provided with rations before 2017, the year he became the CM! Rations from fair-price shops are available to the poor at reduced rates. Since Muslims, SCs and Adivasis are the poorest, community-wise, it may be that Yogi saw more Muslims and Dalits in ration queues before 2017 when he was out on the streets fighting for power. That position would hold firm today also, but Yogi is confined most of the time to his chair in the 'mantralaya' and may not have noticed this. But the damage has been done. People are gullible. They believe what the 'great leaders' tell them!

My friends in UP and my associates in Mumbai who hail from UP tell me that Yogi has a large following in the state. As CM, he has performed creditably in curbing ministerial corruption and keeping senior bureaucrats on their toes. Of course, he has not been able to control low-level corruption in the revenue, police and other departments, but that has not been achieved in any state of India. Yogi created a flutter at the start of his reign by ordering the police to shoot criminals on sight. He has mellowed somewhat as wiser men have counselled him of its dangers.

He has floundered in the fight against Covid. He has been inattentive to the inroads made by dengue. He has obviously not given health infrastructure the attention it needs. This may not affect his fortunes at the hustings because the BJP's counter-propaganda machinery has been tested and proved more than worthy. It can make black into white and vice versa!

What could mar his prospects, though, is the farmers' agitation. The farmers were with him in 2017. They will not oblige this time round unless he mollifies them to an extent, he may find impossible to do. And then, there are also the bodies that floated down the Ganga and landed on the banks of Bihar!

(The author is a highly decorated retired Indian Police Service Officer)

Two democracies and their vigilante problem



BY PETER RONALD
DESOUZA

"ONE FORM OF THE VIGILANTE, IN THE UNITED STATES, IS THE 'CITIZEN ARRESTER' WHO ENJOYS LEGAL STATUS AND WHOSE ACTIONS ARE PROTECTED BY A LAW THAT PERMITS HIM OR HER TO PURSUE AND ARREST A PERSON ACCUSED OF BREAKING THE LAW. DRAWING ON A LEGAL CONVENTION THAT COMES FROM THE COMMON LAW TRADITION IN ENGLAND, DATING FROM THE 12TH CENTURY, A CITIZEN ARRESTER CAN PHYSICALLY ARREST A PERSON, ON BEHALF OF THE MONARCH (NOW STATE) WHO IS REGARDED BY THEM AS BREAKING OR EVADING THE LAW. THERE ARE PROCEDURES TO BE FOLLOWED, AND RISKS INVOLVED FOR WRONGFUL ARREST, BUT ASSUMING THAT THESE ARE ADHERED TO THE CITIZEN ARRESTER IS REGARDED AS AIDING THE CONSOLIDATION OF A POLITICAL SYSTEM BASED ON THE RULE OF LAW. BECAUSE OF ITS POTENTIAL FOR ABUSE, IN LEGAL CIRCLES IN THE U.S., THERE IS A DEBATE ON THE NEED TO CIRCUMSCRIBE THE SCOPE, AND ELIGIBILITY, OF WHO CAN BE A CITIZEN ARRESTER."

WHILE IN INDIA, THE WORD SPELLS BAD NEWS, IN THE U.S., AS SEEN IN TEXAS, THE CITIZEN ARRESTER SEEMS HARDLY DIMINISHED

In the world's largest democracy, the word 'vigilante' evokes unsavory images of goons stopping cattle trucks and lynching drivers, or video filming themselves assaulting men accused of love jihad or beating up couples celebrating Valentine's Day. A vigilante in India is both bad news and a bad word. Vigilantes are anti-democratic. They lack the values of a constitutional democracy. A consensus has emerged in India to demand that the law-and-order machinery comes down heavily on such vigilante behavior.

A respectable garb in the U.S.

So, imagine my shock when I discovered that in the world's oldest democracy, the word 'vigilante' receives only half the opprobrium that we heap on it in India. The other half is suppressed by a law that makes vigilantism respectable. One form of the vigilante, in the United States, is the 'citizen arrester' who enjoys legal status and whose actions are protected by a law that permits him or her to pursue and arrest a person accused of breaking the law. Drawing on a legal convention that comes from the Common Law tradition in England, dating from the 12th Century, a citizen arrester can physically arrest a person, on behalf of the Monarch (now State) who is regarded by them as breaking or evading the law. There are procedures to be followed, and risks involved for wrongful arrest, but assuming that these are adhered to the citizen arrester is regarded as aiding the consolidation of a political system based on the rule of law. Because of its potential for abuse, in legal circles in the U.S., there is a debate on the need to circumscribe the scope, and eligibility, of who can be a citizen arrester.

The 'Heartbeat Bill'

But rather than diminish the place of the citizen arrester, the recent decisions of the Texas legislature are in fact encouraging the practice. Two cases are particularly noteworthy. The first is the latest innovation introduced in Senate Bill 8 (SB8) in Texas, known as the 'Heartbeat Bill', signed into law by the Texas Governor Greg Abbott in May 2021, that seeks to ban abortions after six weeks when the fetus registers a heartbeat. The passage of this law has produced an active debate in the U.S., between pro-abortion and pro-life groups, drawing on medical science, law, bioethics, and women's rights, to refine the different elements of the Roe vs Wade judgment of 1973.

There are five aspects worthy of attention. The first is it deprives women of the right over their own bodies by making abortion illegal after six weeks when many women do not even know that they are pregnant. This in effect means that abortions, when needed, are

unavailable. The second is to include, in the applicability of the law, even women who are victims of rape and incest. Victims are thereby subjected to a second victimization since now they will be compelled to carry the pregnancy to full term or seek termination in the dark alleys beyond the law. The third is to make culpable anyone associated with an abortion after six weeks and this could include the Uber driver who takes the pregnant woman to the clinic, the receptionist, the nurse and the doctor. The fourth is the declining, by the Supreme Court of the USA, in a five versus four vote, to hear the injunction challenging the Texas Anti-Abortion Law.

In her dissenting note, Justice Sonia Sotomayor wrote: 'Presented with an application to enjoin a flagrantly unconstitutional law engineered to prohibit women exercising their constitutional rights and evade judicial scrutiny, a majority of justices have opted to bury their heads in the sand... The Court should not be so content to ignore its constitutional obligations to protect not only the rights of women, but also the sanctity of its precedents and of the rule of law.'

This sandy terrain to which the court retired is, unfortunately, very familiar to us in India. And the fifth, on which I wish to comment here, is the legal device that blocks State officials from enforcing the law but outsources the enforcement to private citizens who can sue abortion providers from performing abortions and are entitled to collect \$10,000 as a civil payout in addition to their legal fees. Such a person can even be someone from outside the state who can show any connection to the abortion. Enter the 'bounty hunter' or 'citizen arrester'.

While each of the five aspects raises important ethical and legal issues I wish to highlight only the fifth since Republicans in Texas have used the legal device - call it a cunning innovation - of empowering and encouraging citizen arresters to perform the job of state officials who are thereby protected from being sued. The effect of this innovation is to deny women the rights given by Roe vs Wade. The case shows the length to which partisan groups in a democracy, even in one as mature as the U.S., will go to overturn settled law and redesign both the public discourse and the institutional order to make it consistent with their religious ideology. Linda Greenhouse commenting on the legislation in her article in The New York Times (September 9, 2021) asked in exasperation: 'Who let God into the legislative chamber?' This is the same question we often ask in India.

Voting Reforms

The second case in Texas concerns the Reforms to the Voting Law in Texas which seek to reverse the gains of



Vigilante violence is an American tradition as much as it is in India

earlier years. SB1, the Bill recently signed by the governor, bans drive through voting, 24-hour voting, and distribution of mail-in applications. It requires new ID requirements for voting by mail, creates new rules for voter assistance, establishes monthly checks, etc. To block the passage of the Bill, the minority Democrats who felt the changes amounted to voter suppression and would disadvantage minority voters, flew out of the State to Washington DC so that the house could not convene for want of a quorum. The Republicans responded by relying on the law to compel voting and thus Speaker Dade Phelan signed warrants authorizing the Sergeant-at-Arms to arrest and produce the missing representatives. The length to which the Speaker went is shocking to our democratic sensibilities. Some representatives stated that they were less worried of being arrested by officials and more by citizen arresters.

In an overview article titled 'Vilifying the Vigilante: A Narrowed Scope of Citizen's Arrest', Professor Ira P. Robbins discusses its historical origins, pitfalls, good application and reform. He argues for the scope of citizen arresters to be restricted to only a small category of people, such as shopkeepers, out-of-jurisdiction police, and private police forces, and being abolished in all other cases. The trend, unfortunately, as shown by Texan laws, SB1 and SB8, is moving in the other way. Because of the opprobrium we have heaped on vigilantes in India, I hesitated to equate them with the citizen arrester till I read the phrase in a letter on SB8, by the Chairman of the U.S. House Judiciary Committee, Jerrold Nadler, to the Attorney General, Merrick B. Garland, to prosecute 'would be vigilantes attempting to use the private right of action established by that blatantly unconstitutional law'. The oldest and the largest democracies, it seems, both have a vigilante problem today.

(The author is the DD Kosambi Visiting Professor at Goa University. He is the co-editor of the book he co-edited with Rukmini Bhaya Nair, 'Keywords for India')

Authentic Family Engagement in the 'New Normal' Education System



BY BIDISHA ROY

THE ARTICLE IS A RESEARCH PAPER THE AUTHOR SUBMITTED AS PART OF HER FELLOWSHIP GRANTED BY NEWMARK JOURNALISM SCHOOL (NEW YORK).

"IF WE LOOK AT THE EDUCATION SYSTEM IN INDIA IN COMPARISON TO THE ONE HERE IN AMERICA, THERE IS A FUNDAMENTAL DIFFERENCE. IN INDIAN FAMILIES, THERE IS A GREAT DEAL OF PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT IN ALMOST EVERY ASPECT OF LIFE AND EDUCATION IS NO EXCEPTION. ACTUALLY, SCHOOLS PLAY MINOR ROLES IN INDIAN SOCIETY AND IT IS PARENTS WHO INFLUENCE THEIR KIDS' FUTURE MORE. IN AMERICA, IT'S PERHAPS OPPOSITE. AND HENCE MANY INDIAN FAMILIES, AFTER MIGRATION FIND IT DIFFICULT TO ADJUST TO THE 'HANDS-OFF' EDUCATION SYSTEM HERE, ESPECIALLY IF THEIR CHILD HAS BEEN IN THE EDUCATION SYSTEM IN INDIA BEFORE MIGRATION."

In the post pandemic 'New Normal' era, undoubtedly, lots of things in our every-day lives are going to change forever. Amongst them, surely, we can expect to see significant changes in the education system and what would those changes be? Virtual Classrooms, Online Coursework and long periods of physical absence from school campus are some of the things that we are already witnessing. But these are not all. During a conversation with journalists at the Education Writers Association (EWA) National seminar, Education Secretary Miguel Cardona provided a glimpse of other fundamental changes when he said that as the education department hits the reset button on things, amongst other changes, they want to see more of 'natural authentic engagement of families' than they do now.

Expanding on that theme and looking deeper, there is no doubt that the role of families in education has shifted as the pandemic has hit the core of parents' relationship to their children's learning and has changed it forever. In America at least, parents have now been forced to engage with children's classwork and homework much more intensely than before. But is this change similar across all ethnic families? In America, which is a country of immigrants, it's very crucial to know the cultural background of the family. The upbringing style of kids in neo-Indian American family, for example, is totally different from a legacy American family.

If we look at the education system in India in comparison to the one here in America, there is a fundamental difference. In Indian families, there is a great deal of parental involvement in almost every aspect of life and education is no exception. Actually, schools play minor roles in Indian society and it is



I feel Indian parents are more anxious when it comes to their child's education', said Jaskiran Beri

parents who influence their kids' future more. In America, it's perhaps opposite. And hence many Indian families, after migration find it difficult to adjust to the 'hands-off' education system here, especially if their child has been in the education system in India before migration.

Jaskiran Beri, who recently moved to New York from India with her six-year-old son Kabir, feels that for 'authentic family engagement' factors such as the environment, the background of parents, lifestyle, financial stability, responsibilities, cultural awareness, language skills and more need to be appropriately assessed by the education system, or schools as the case may be.

"I feel Indian parents are more anxious when it comes to their child's education. Even if they don't find time, they depend upon other community members to help their kids. Indian parents usually are a byproduct of the Indian education system, thus, leading them to be much serious, stricter when it comes to academics", says Jaskiran.

But as a new age mother, Jaskiran did not find it hard to get accustomed to the American education system here. "I feel the teachers in US are doing a great job! Ever since my son started his schooling, all the teachers, have always been kind enough to involve me in classroom support activities, craft projects, making those phone calls to talk to me personally in case of if they do not understand something that me or my son would say or do. As a parent, I am always involved with the teacher on emails, so I can communicate freely if need be and vice versa. I believe Covid-19 has taught us all how to take care of anything and everything almost remotely. We have been able to pull it off very well without the engagement on a physical level yet being able to keep in touch via other means. We try to work along on overall skills of my child."

But every recently migrated Indian parent is not like Jaskiran. An educator of Indian origin who works with the Edison (New Jersey) school board (she did not want to be named), says that living and working in the same school district gave her an opportunity to observe certain things that may otherwise go unnoticed. "Edison is typically a township where over 50% of students are from immigrant families of India, and other Asian countries. These last two school years under COVID times, gave me a unique perspective into the family dynamics of the students who are virtual learners. There is a lot of parental involvement here. These are hands-on, very invested in their children's education, type of grown-ups. While students thrive

EDUCATION IS INDEED A CHALLENGING SPACE NOW. THERE ARE EXCITING POSSIBILITIES, HOWEVER BOTH FAMILIES AND EDUCATORS DEFINITELY HAVE TO WORK TOGETHER AS CO-LEARNERS AND CO-DEVELOPERS OF THEIR WARDS TO SHAPE FUTURE GENERATIONS. THEY HAVE TO COLLECTIVELY FIGURE OUT WHAT 'AUTHENTIC ENGAGEMENT' SHOULD LOOK LIKE.

with such tutelage, sometimes it seems that there is more involvement than necessary. It often ends up being the case where the parents help a bit too much. Sure, that improves grades of the students, but how much they are really learning, remains to be seen."

"Too much parental involvement might lead to other problems like mental health issues too," Dr Mousumi Bose, associate professor at Fairfield University and mother of two girls, points out. "Mental health is more mainstream than any of us would want to recognize. Not just in Indian families but in many others, mental health comes in many forms and strengths. And yes, mental and emotional health discussions should be a part of our daily lives just like we discuss food, studies etc."

Thus, as we see, depending upon cultural and ethnic background of the families, there are enablers and barriers in the way of effective family-school partnerships that are needed to build uniform family engagement practices throughout the American education system.

A Carnegie Corporation of New York report by Karen L. Mapp and Eyal Bergman of the Harvard Graduate School of Education outlines how to reach a more liberatory, solidarity-driven, and equity-focused family engagement practice. "Educators should certainly learn about the research and best practices in family engagement, but they also need to engage in dynamic and interactive experiences with families directly". Interactive forums that promote family voices offer opportunities for unlearning problematic family engagement practices and propagating meaningful dialogue that builds trust and understanding would help, says the report. "By investing in authentic relationships with families and honoring them as children's first teachers, educators invariably learn about children's learning styles, strengths, interests, and values. Educators can then use these "funds of knowledge" to enhance curricular and pedagogical strategies", it adds.

Education is indeed a challenging space now. There are exciting possibilities, however both families and educators definitely have to work together as co-learners and co-developers of their wards to shape future generations. They have to collectively figure out what 'Authentic Engagement' should look like.

(The author is a journalist. She can be reached at tupuroy@gmail.com)



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What to expect from this year's UN General Assembly (UNGA)

NEW YORK (TIP): This year's United Nations General Assembly could make or break the future of in-person meetings at the gathering in New York City.

After a year of carefully negotiating, adapting and crafting health guidelines, UNGA organizers are hoping to avoid a repeat of last year's first, almost entirely virtual, gathering.

But the threat of the Delta variant in the United States still looms large, and many countries will likely wait until the last minute to confirm their plans as to whether to travel to the UN this month.

Yet a provisional schedule, first obtained by PassBlue and Geneva Solutions, provides insights into which countries may come to New York City and which are not likely to make the trip. The high-level week - the annual general debate - starts on Sept. 21 and lasts until the 27th.

The organization of this year's opening session of the 76th General Assembly has already met some roadblocks. Mark D. Levine, a member of the New York City Council, denounced that the UN (like its host country) isn't requiring that people attending the UNGA be vaccinated to visit New York City, tweeting on Aug. 13: "The UN is not requiring vaccination for participants. This will expose them, and NYC, to serious risk. The UN needs to announce now that vax will be mandatory."

Sept 14th witnessed 1000s of diplomats from nearly 200 countries arriving to Manhattan for the UN general Assembly.

The UN is not requiring vaccination for participants.

This will expose them, and NYC, to serious risk. The UN needs to announce now that vax will be mandatory.

- Mark D. Levine (@MarkLevineNYC) August 12, 2021

"There is improvement [from last year], but there is also worry," Tijjani Muhammad-Bande, Nigeria's ambassador to the UN and president of the 74th General Assembly, said in an exclusive interview. "The urge is to be cautious, to limit the number that are coming in, they have to come and to still have substantive discussions."

You're welcome, but please don't come

The US mission to the UN sent a letter to its fellow 192 UN missions on Aug. 16 urging them to send a pre-recorded message to avoid the risk of the week becoming a "superspreader event."

"The United States needs to make clear our call, as the host country, for all UN-hosted meetings and side events, beyond the General Debate, to be fully virtual," the letter says. It also says that "heads of delegation should consider delivering their statements to the UN General Assembly's General Debate by video."

While some countries inferred that the letter was a request to stay home, many of them saw it coming and had planned only small delegations to make the trip, as the General Assembly had already decided that only four delegates, including the head of state or government, could attend the debate in the Assembly Hall during the high-level week.

"The desire is to have an improvement over what we had last year, a hybrid meeting, which allowed one delegate, one person per delegation," Bande said. "The improvement in terms of vaccinations has been clear in the position now, so this desire is not to be fully hybrid, from my standpoint as a member of the assembly, not as President."

"I think many are coming," Vassily Nebenzia, Russia's ambassador to the UN, told journalists in mid-August. "We hear that many delegations will be represented in-person, I believe, including ours."

Estonia Foreign Minister Eva-Maria Liimets didn't see the US letter as an invitation not to come to New York City, but her country is still taking a wait and see approach: "We follow the rules," she said, "but we suggest to have a debate to have the conversation as much as

possible during this week." Estonia is planning to send a team of 10-15 people to Manhattan.

The initial list of speakers, subject to change, for the high-level week of the opening session of the UN General Assembly. "HS" means "head of state"; "HG" is "head of government"; "M" is generally the foreign minister.

While many heads of state and government want to come, many countries are facing several factors affecting their decisions. World leaders tend to travel with an entourage: security, communication, chief of staff, photographers - so it's hard to cut down the team. With only a maximum of four people allowed to sit in the General Assembly Hall during the high-level week for each country, some delegations are trying to figure out how to manage that restriction. One country even said it was trying to "borrow" seats in the Hall of other countries who may not be sending a delegation. Neither the Secretariat nor the office of the President of the General Assembly was able to say if swapping was a possibility.

The UN is supposed to have "bilateral booths" for meetings between delegates inside the headquarters. A June 23 letter sent by the current President of the General Assembly, Volkan Bozkir, says: "Presence of leaders and Ministers in New York for high-level week will result in significant opportunities for bilateral meetings, which will be logistically challenging to accommodate in Midtown, especially for smaller delegations, and difficult to justify from a health perspective when UNHQ itself would have more room than hotels or Missions."

Liimets thinks meetings can be productive while at the UN: "We can use hotels, we can use our offices, and of course we need to brainstorm where to organise the side events," she said. "But I would say that here in New York, there are many appropriate facilities like Bohemia house of the Czech Republic."

To vax or not to vax?

After City Councilmember Levine complained about delegations' vaccinations status, the UN spokesperson was asked repeatedly how the UN would ensure that UNGA would be held safely in the pandemic without requiring every diplomat attending to be vaccinated.

After much deliberation between the UN and health authorities, the UN is making vaccination mandatory for its own staff members but not for foreign diplomats. While diplomats coming to New York City "should voluntarily disclose" their vaccination status, the UN has decided to go with an "honor system," as disclosing one's vaccination status is only voluntary for foreign dignitaries.

"We're dealing with a very responsible group of people from around the world," Bande said. "Nonetheless, the advice is to continue to state what the circumstance is, for the rules of the UN, as well as the city itself, for the delegations coming into the city have been fully cleared and tested. As to whether we'll need vaccine certificates, I think this is a hugely difficult call to make and discussions should continue."

Everybody inside the UN headquarters must wear a mask and, according to the secretary-general's spokesperson, Stéphane Dujarric, "To align with what's going on here in New York City, people who use . . . the dining facilities on campus will also need to show proof of vaccination."

Is America back?

While everything remains in flux, the UNGA speakers' list is indicative, for now, as to who is scheduled to come to New York City in person. One is the host country's president. The US is the second country due to speak at the General Assembly but it's unclear whether Joe Biden will attend in person. If he wants to be true to his



Abdulla Shahid of the Maldives is president-elect of the 76th session of the United Nations General Assembly

"America is back" promise, then he can make the short hop to Manhattan, some diplomats say.

If he does, Biden is likely to come during a difficult time for US foreign policy, amid the 20th commemoration of 9/11 and the controversial withdrawal and evacuation of Afghanistan. When asked about the country's plan, a spokesperson for the US mission said: "We continue to monitor the conditions and health risks in New York and around the world. At this time, we do not have information to announce on travel or the U.S. delegation. As plans come together we will provide you with more information."

Last year, President Donald Trump snubbed the event, sending his video only a few hours before.

Who's coming so far

Among some of the countries to attend - if the Covid situation doesn't change - are the leaders of the United Kingdom, India, Ireland, Turkey, Switzerland and Moldova. On Sept. 7, France's ambassador to the UN said that President Emmanuel Macron was not coming to UNGA. China's Xi Jinping and Russia's Vladimir Putin are also not expected to attend - and Russia will instead send its foreign minister, Sergey Lavrov, to speak on behalf of Moscow. China's deputy prime minister is also scheduled to show up. Nigeria's President Muhammadu Buhari also plans to come, according to Bande.

The headliners

O TURKEY: One of the most likely leaders to come is Turkey's Recep Tayyip Erdogan, who will be there mainly to inaugurate Turkey's newly renovated mission to the UN - a mission that should be ready by then for a ribbon-cutting ceremony.

O BRITAIN: Delegates will also probably hear Prime Minister Boris Johnson's most-likely colorful speech in person. A British diplomat said that for now, Johnson wants to come with Foreign Secretary Dominic Raab to make progress ahead of COP26, which will be held in Glasgow, Scotland, in early November. Johnson's speech is due to be delivered late in the week, on Friday afternoon, Sept. 24, because he is a head of government, not state.

O INDIA VS. PAKISTAN: So far, only India's Narendra Modi is supposed to fly to New York City - according to the schedule - and will speak on Saturday, Sept. 25; Pakistan's Imran Khan is not likely to make the trip but will send a pre-recorded video for his speaking slot on Sept. 24.

O LATIN AMERICA: Another speaker who could make waves is Peru's recently elected left-wing President José Pedro Castillo, who is scheduled to speak on Sept. 21. Castillo could set the tone on what is to come for the country as he has portrayed himself as aligning with the likes of Venezuela's Hugo Chávez and Bolivia's Evo Morales. Mexico's President Andrés Manuel López Obrador is also scheduled to speak in person, as is Nicolás Maduro of Venezuela, though Obrador is notorious for not traveling much outside the country. President Luis Lacalle Pou of Uruguay is scheduled to attend. For Cuba, Foreign Affairs Minister Bruno Rodríguez Parrilla is expected to attend.

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New bill could help Indians get US Green Card by paying supplemental fee

EMPLOYMENT-BASED IMMIGRANT APPLICANT WITH A 'PRIORITY DATE THAT IS MORE THAN 2 YEARS BEFORE' CAN ADJUST TO PERMANENT RESIDENCE BY PAYING A SUPPLEMENTAL FEE OF USD 5,000

WASHINGTON (TIP): Millions of people stuck for years in the employment-based Green Card backlog in the US, including a sizable number of Indians, can hope for a lawful permanent residency in America by paying a supplemental fee if a new House bill is passed into law. The move, if included in the reconciliation package and passed into law, is expected to help thousands of Indian IT professionals who are currently stuck in an agonizing Green Card backlog.

A Green Card, known officially as a Permanent Resident Card, is a document issued to immigrants as evidence that the bearer has been granted the privilege of residing permanently in the US.

According to the committee print released by the US House of Representatives Judiciary Committee, which has jurisdiction over immigration, an employment-based immigrant applicant with a "priority date that is more than 2 years before" can adjust to permanent residence without

numerical limits by paying a "supplemental fee of USD 5,000."

The fee is USD 50,000 for the EB-5 category (immigrant investors). The provisions expire in 2031, the Forbes magazine reported.

For a family-based immigrant who is sponsored by a US citizen and with a "priority date that is more than 2 years before", the fee for getting a Green Card would be USD 2,500.

The supplement fee would be USD 1,500 if an applicant's priority date is not within two years but they are required to be present in the country, according to the committee print. This fee would be in addition to any administrative processing fee paid by the applicant.

However, the bill does not contain permanent structural changes to the legal immigration system, including eliminating country caps for green cards or increasing the annual quotas of H-1B visas. Before becoming law, the provisions would have to pass the Judiciary Committee, the House of

Representatives and the Senate and be signed by the president, the report said.

According to a report in CBS News, if successful, the legalization plan would allow undocumented immigrants who came to the US as children, Temporary Protected Status (TPS) beneficiaries, farmworkers and other pandemic-era essential workers to apply for permanent US residency, or green cards.

Reacting to the bill, David J Bier, Immigration policy analyst at Cato Institute, said, "employment-based applicants can adjust if they have waited 2 years from their priority date... this is almost like abolishing the EB caps for adjustment applicants who can pay \$5K. Awesome!"

"For EB5, it's \$50K fee. Even those who can't afford the fees or who are abroad would benefit from freeing up this cap space for others. It's unfair that the bill maintains the country caps as is, so Indians and Chinese will be the only EB applicants required to pay the \$5K/50K," he said in a series of tweets.



New bill could help Indians get US Green Card by paying supplemental fee

For representation only

He said that the base caps for diversity, family, and #H1B all remain the same.

"Since H1B is the feeder for most EB, that's basically like keeping the EB cap the same. No reforms to #H2A, #H2B, or other work programs, so nothing to help unskilled workers/address the border," he said. "Basically, this bill will help a few legal immigrants abroad indirectly, but the main purpose is integration of existing immigrants. That's a noble cause, but the immigration/migration part of immigration reform is just left out. No new pathways for workers, same system," he tweeted.

'MAKING TALIBAN GREAT AGAIN': BANNERS WITH PHOTOS OF BIDEN AS MILITANT SHOWS UP IN US

REPUBLICAN SCOTT WAGNER SAID HE WAS BEHIND THE BANNERS.



Banners featuring US President Joe Biden as a Taliban militant along with the phrase 'Making the Taliban Great Again' showed up in Pennsylvania.

WASHINGTON (TIP): Republican Scott Wagner, 65, who ran for governor of the Keystone State in 2018 and lost, proudly took credit for the bizarre billboards.

For the slew of billboards across the state of Pennsylvania, depicting Joe Biden as a Taliban militant next to the slogan 'Making the Taliban Great Again', Scott Wagner is said to have paid a whopping \$15,000.

'I'm not hiding from anybody, and that's how I feel,' the politician declared, after confirming he was responsible. 'The pull out rushed through by President Biden had made us the laughing stock of the world,' he explained in an email to Fox News on Wednesday, September 15.

'The Taliban are openly stating that they ran the United States out of Afghanistan - they are now very emboldened.' And the 'bigger mess,' Wagner says, is the US left behind aircraft, vehicles and a host of weapons and explosives when withdrawing from the war-torn country.

North American Punjabi Association's Executive Director says that Sikhs are victims of hate crimes post 9/11

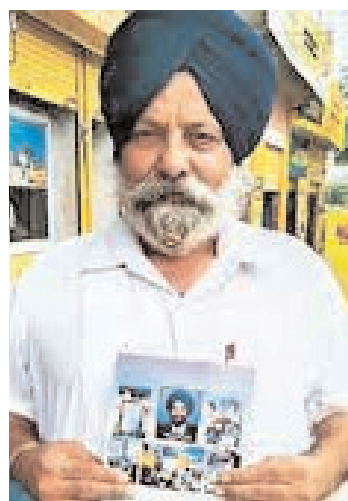
MILPITAS, CA (TIP): Sikhs are still victims of hate crimes post 9/11 in the US. Satnam Singh Chahal, executive director, North American Punjabi Association (NAPA), said, "Some hate crimes are in the record of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), but others go unnoticed as victims choose not to register their case in order to avoid harassment."

Chahal said this has been happening due to the identity crisis. He said community leaders were so busy with infighting that they had no time to think about it.

He said, "In my day-to-day life, I have also become a victim of hate crime, but I always prefer not to register with the law enforcement agencies hoping that change will happen. Parents of school going kids are also sailing in the same boat." He said members of the Sikh community were living under fear and feeling insecure.

Chahal said Simratpal Singh, who belonged to Tarn Taran, died in custody of the US Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) at La Paz County Jail on May 3, 2019, but no Sikh organization other than the NAPA followed up this case.

He urged the Sikh organizations in the US and managing committees of all Gurdwaras to start result oriented campaign to spread the ideology of Sikh Gurus.



Satnam Singh Chahal, executive director, North American Punjabi Association (NAPA) said Sikhs are still victims of hate crimes post 9/11 in the US.

Indian-origin, Sole earner shot in US, kin in dire straits in Punjab

HOUSTON (TIP): Six years ago, Simarjit Singh sold off his 7 kanals to send elder son, Gurjit Pal Singh, to the US. On Monday, September 6, Gurjit (22) was shot by a man here over a game in a casino where he worked.

Resident of Bassi Jaid village near Begowal in Kapurthala, the family is in dire straits as they have lost their only earning member, on whom they had pinned their hopes of a happy future.

Jasraj Singh, Gurjit's 16-year-old brother, who studies in Class XI, says: "The store owner called us to tell my brother had been shot. My aunt's daughter who is also in the US also reached there. We are devastated."

Jasraj's mother hasn't stopped crying since. It was Gurjit's sixth year in the US. He was working at a multi-utility store in Houston, Texas, which had a gas station and a casino within.

Gurjit's father Simarjit works as a milkman to make both ends meet. The family relied heavily on Gurjit's earnings.

"We had sent him after selling off land. He was repaying the debt. Our only earning member is gone. Father sells milk for a living but it merely keeps us afloat," says Jasraj. Their sister is married in Canada.

Speaking about the incident, Jasraj adds: "A man came to the casino around 7.30 pm and returned again at 10.30 pm. He shot my brother in a fit of rage after being told the casino timings were over. He was apparently under the influence of drugs." "We don't believe it's a hate crime," he adds.



Gurjitpal Singh who worked at a Casino in Houston was allegedly shot by a customer when told the Casino was closed

Govt reinstates National Company Law Appellate Tribunal acting chief

The Centre on Thursday, Sept 16, told the Supreme Court that former acting chairperson of the National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT) Justice AIS Cheema will be reinstated and allowed to continue in office till September 20. The newly appointed NCLAT chairperson Justice M Venugopal will be asked to go on leave until then, Attorney General KK Venugopal told a Bench led by CJI NV Ramana.

As the controversy over Justice Cheema's premature retirement as acting chairman of the NCLAT got blown over, the CJI thanked the Attorney General for solving the problem. The Bench, however, made it clear that "the instant order has been passed taking into consideration the peculiar facts and circumstances of the present facts and this shall not be treated as a precedent." Justice Cheema had moved the top court against the government's decision to curtail his tenure. He had demanded that at least he should be allowed to work up to September 20 as the officiating chairperson of the NCLAT to enable him to pronounce the judgments prepared by him.

214% rise in cases relating to fake news, rumours

INCIDENTS OF circulation of "false/fake news" and rumours, a crime under the Indian Penal Code, saw nearly a three-fold rise in 2020 over 2019, according to the latest National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) data.

A total of 1,527 cases of fake news were recorded in the pandemic year — a 214 per cent increase — against 486 cases in 2019 and 280 cases in 2018, when the category was first included.

Telangana with 273 cases tops the list of states followed by Tamil Nadu (188) and Uttar Pradesh (166). Hyderabad tops the list of cities with 208 cases, followed by Chennai (42) and Delhi (30).

While addressing fake news has been crucial in containing the spread of the virus, several states labelled those raising an alarm over shortage of beds and oxygen as spreading fake news.

In April, UP Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath said that the stringent National Security Act will be invoked against social media posts on shortage of oxygen. In April 2020, a local BJP leader was booked under sedition after he allegedly posted on Facebook urging people to make donations as there were "no ventilators" in Ludhiana to treat Covid patients.

'Sandy desert' is shifting from Western Rajasthan to Eastern region up to NCR: Scientists warn

An integrated plan and approach are the need of the hour by the respective Development Authority from Central government to the state government to protect the Aravalli range's green wall by monitoring extensive plantation, curbing mining, developing human resources, irrigation and conventional source of energy for humankind. - Dr. Laxmi Kant Sharma

Dr. Yash Goyal, TIP

Correspondent in Jaipur

JAIPUR (TIP): Environmental Scientists at Central University of Rajasthan (CUR) have warned that 'Sandy Complex' (sand dunes in desert) formation is changing its pattern and shifting from Western Rajasthan to Eastern Region in due course of decades due to the climate change, urbanization, and depletion of green wall along Aravalli range.

The most threat of shifting of sand dunes is from Palanpur (Gujarat) to NCR (National Capital Region) via western Rajasthan due to degradation of Aravalli hills and illegal mining activities, and that is the most threat to human habitat in eastern region including Jaipur, a research paper of CUR scientists appeared in the 'Journal of Arid Environments' (Elsevier) recently cautioned.

In a project under the United Nations Convention to Combating Desertification, the last decade (2008-2018) has caused more harm and destruction to desert ecology and natural green wall over Aravalli spread from Gujarat to Rajasthan, Dr Laxmi Kant Sharma, senior scientist of Environmental Science at CUR who led the research, told TIP while discussing his research paper.

"It was researched out through scientific parameters that sandy complex has changed its formation pattern from Jodhpur divisions covering



Degradation of Aravalli at Kishangarh.



Khuri Sand dunes. Google picture

Jaisalmer, Barmer and parts of Bikaner district and heading towards Jaipur, and NCR. However, if green wall on Aravalli hills is not protected in near future, the pattern would move further towards other regions", Dr Sharma said.

"Air pollution in NCR (Delhi) is mostly due to suspended particles (sand) and it is occurring due to rise in sand and windstorms in the arid regions of Rajasthan in the last 10 years. The eco-

sensitive location of the Thar desert needs attention to prevent its vulnerability, otherwise, sandstorms like 'gubar' will be seen in NCR", Dr Sharma maintained in his claim.

An integrated plan and approach are the need of the hour by the respective Development Authority from Central government to the state government to protect the Aravalli range's green wall by monitoring extensive plantation, curbing mining, developing



Dr Laxmi Kant Sharma.

human resources, irrigation and conventional source of energy for humankind, he suggested in his joint paper.

The Thar Desert is one of the most populous deserts on the globe. It's spread over a 31.7-million-hectare area in which 75% (Covered: Jodhpur, Barmer, Bikaner, and Jaisalmer) of the area is in India and the rest in Pakistan, according to the research paper.

Dr Sharma and his two young scientists Alok Raj and Kritika Somawat have explained and warned about the Thar desert's and its eco-sensitive regions' recent 50-year status under the UNCCD framework using the MEDALUS approach based on geospatial techniques.

It used LANDSAT data for vegetation & LULC; socio-economic (literacy rate, population growth rate), climatic (rainfall, temperature, windspeed and aridity index), and analyzed to evaluate eco-sensitivity of the region. Most of the area was under the susceptible category, which covers 38.14 percent of the total area, followed by critical sensitive, moderately sensitive and less critical and least critical areas.

Jaishankar meets Chinese counterpart in Dushanbe, discuss LAC

DUSHANBE, TAJIKISTAN (TIP): External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar has met with his Chinese counterpart Wang Yi on the sidelines of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Summit in Dushanbe. The two leaders discussed the disengagement in the border areas.

"Discussed disengagement in our border areas. Underlined that progress in this regard is essential for restoration of peace and tranquillity, which is the basis for the development of bilateral ties," Jaishankar

tweeted. The two leaders discussed the border tensions and disengagement along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in border areas. They also exchanged views on global developments.

Jaishankar emphasised that India doesn't subscribe to any clash of civilisations theory. It's also essential that China doesn't view its relations with India through the lens of a 3rd country."

"During his meeting with Chinese FM, EAM S Jaishankar underlined that it was

necessary to ensure progress in the resolution of remaining issues so as to restore peace and tranquillity along the LAC in Eastern Ladakh," the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said in a statement. During their meeting, EAM S Jaishankar and his Chinese counterpart Wang Yi agreed that "military and diplomatic officials of both sides should meet again and continue their discussions to resolve the remaining issues (along the LAC in Eastern Ladakh) at the earliest, it added.

Gujarat's cabinet has 24 new faces as CM Patel drops all Rupani ministers

Three days after he became the chief minister of Gujarat, Bhupendra Patel inducted 24 ministers in his cabinet on Thursday, Sept 16. Patel did not retain any of his predecessor Vijay Rupani's ministers. The only old guard is assembly Speaker Rajendra Trivedi who resigned from that post earlier in the day. Trivedi is likely to get a key portfolio. Governor Acharya Devvrat administered the oath to 10 cabinet ministers and 14 ministers of state, including five ministers of state with independent charge. CM Patel was present at the Raj Bhavan ceremony, along with Rupani, whose sudden resignation from the post past Saturday led to the formation of the new ministry.

Uttarakhand HC lifts stay on Char Dham yatra

The Uttarakhand high court on Thursday lifted its June 28 stay on the Char Dham yatra and directed the state government to conduct the annual pilgrimage with strict adherence to Covid-19 guidelines. The yatra will be open to all. Allowing the resumption of the yatra, a division bench of the court comprising chief justice RS Chauhan and justice Alok Kumar Verma limited the daily number of devotees to the temples, and said they would have to carry negative Covid test reports and vaccination certificates. Putting a cap on the number of devotees visiting the Himalayan shrines, the high court said that only 800 pilgrims for Kedarnath, 1,000 for Badrinath, 600 for Gangotri and 400 for Yamunotri will be allowed per day.

Three in 5 Indian adults covered with first Covid dose, 20% with both

NEW DELHI (TIP): Three in five Indian adults have been covered with at least one Covid vaccine dose and 20 per cent have received both the doses.

New government data show Chandigarh entering the coveted league of states and UTs to have protected their adult population with the first Covid dose.

Health Secretary Rajesh Bhushan today said 62 per cent people aged 18 and above had received the Covid shots, and 20 per cent have received both the doses as the pace of vaccination increases.

As of September 16, 57.86 crore first doses of Covid 19 vaccine have been administered while 18.70 crore people have received both doses.

"Chandigarh is the new addition to the states and UTs where all adults have received at least one dose," Bhushan said.

Commenting on the scale of inoculation the government said that in the first 11 days of September over 11 crore doses have been administered which is double of the doses given through the entire month of May.

The government also said of the 3,651 Pressure Swing Absorption Plants for medical oxygen generation which have been sanctioned, 1,595 have been commissioned so far.

This comes to 43.6 pc — less than half the sanctioned plants.

The government said of the total 3,651 PSA plants sanctioned with 4,751 MT capacity generation when commissioned, 1,491 plants with 2,281 MT have been commissioned with central support and 2,140 with 2,289 MT capacity with the states and other sources (states, urban local bodies,



MPLAD, CSR etc) support.

"Of the 1,595 PSA plants commissioned so far with 2,088 MT medical oxygen generation, 731 (with 1024 MT) PSA plants commissioned are with central resources and 862 plants (1,065 MT capacity) with state and other resources.

The government today asked states to prepare ahead for any potential COVID surge noting that right now the situation is stable with cases reducing even in Kerala but the months of October and November would be critical given the festive season.

"The next quarter will be critical. We advise states and municipal corporations to prepare ahead to ensure

best models of home care and also to prepare infrastructure," Member Health NITI Aayog VK Paul said.

ICMR chief Balram Bhargava suggested four measures to control Covid — rapid vaccination, Covid appropriate behaviour, responsible travel if necessary and responsible festivities.

India saw 30,570 new cases in the last 24 hours, 68 pc of them from Kerala.

As of today 34 districts have over 10 pc positivity and 32 have a positivity rate between 5 to 10 pc.

Overall national positivity rate has been below 3 pc for eleven weeks but 64 districts of concern remain an issue.

Source: TNS

'Govt May Rob the Media of Its Independence': Madras HC Stays Sub-Clauses of IT Rules

CHENNAI (TIP): The Centre's new Information Technology (IT) Rules could rob the media of its independence and the fourth pillar of the democracy may cease to exist, judges of the Madras high court said as they ordered on Thursday, Sept 16, a stay on parts of the government's new regulations, and restrained it from taking action against social media companies for now.

The IT Rules, notified in February, contain a host of new directions and liabilities for social media companies (also known as intermediaries), news websites and streaming content providers (also known as OTT services) such as Netflix and Amazon Prime.

The Madras high court became the third appellate court in the country to stall operations of rules pertaining to the last two — particularly two clauses contained under Rule 9 — subclauses 1 and 3. It also said action under Rule 3 and Rule 7, which deals with social media companies and their safe harbour status, cannot be taken until it decides on the petitions.

The court was hearing two petitions — one filed by Carnatic music vocalist TM Krishna and another by a set of 13 news websites as part of the Digital News Publishers Association (DNPA).

"Prima facie, there is substance to the petitioner's grievance that the oversight mechanism to control the media by (the) government may rob the media of its independence, and the fourth pillar; so to say, of democracy may not at all be there," the court of first bench of chief justice Sanjib Banerjee and justice PD Audikesavalu said, while staying the sub rules.

Sub rule 1 requires digital publishers to adhere to a code of ethics while sub rule 3 provides for a three-tier regulatory mechanism that is ultimately headed by the government.

On July 9, the Kerala high court said the new rules appear to give "excessive powers" to "unreasonably and impermissibly" restrict the freedom of speech and expression of the media, and on August 15, a Bombay

high court bench said these particular provisions were an intrusion into the rights to free speech and beyond the scope of the main law under which the rules have been framed, the Information Technology Act, 2000.

While the operation of these sections virtually amounted to have been put into suspension with the second order — the one by the Bombay high court on August 15 — the new order now covers more ground as it restrains the Centre from taking action by invoking either Rule 3 or Rule 7.

Rule 3 relates to the due diligence that social media intermediaries will need to carry out by ensuring certain types of content, such as those that are defamatory or false, do not stay on their platforms, while Rule 7 lays down the government's power to remove what is known as safe harbour provisions. Safe harbour provisions essentially mean social media companies will not be liable for what users post on their platform.

India in history this Week

SEPTEMBER 17 TO SEPTEMBER 23, 2021

17 SEPTEMBER

1915 Popular painter of India Maqbool Fida Husain was born.



1867 Birth of Indian artist Gaganendranath Tagore.
1876 Birth of great Bengali novelist Sharat Chandra Chattopadhyay.
1948 The princely state of Hyderabad merged with India.
1950 Birth of Indian politician and current Prime Minister Narendra Modi.
1956 Constitution of Indian Oil and Natural Gas Commission.
1982 The first cricket Test match was played between India and Ceylon (present-day Sri Lanka).
1778 The first treaty (Fort Pitt) was signed between the US and Indian tribes.

18 SEPTEMBER

1906 Kaka Hathrasi, the great poet of comic compositions, was born on this day.



1947 National Security Act passed.
1803 The British captured Puri in Odisha.
1931 The birth of Shrikant Verma, the famous Hindi writer, lyricist, critic and politician.
1967 Nagaland adopted English as the official language.
2003 Dhaka-Agartala bus service started.
2008 Shobhana Bhartia was appointed the chairman of HT Media.
2009 Information technology sector company HCL Shiva Nair, the founding president of the UK, was awarded the UK's Trade and Investment Business Person of the Year Award.
2009 India opened another airstrip in Ladakh region.

19 SEPTEMBER

1965 Sunita Williams, woman of Indian origin who went into space was born.
1581 Sikh Guru Ram Das died. Guru Ram Das was the fourth Guru of the Sikhs.
2007 Yuvraj Singh of India set the record for the fastest half-century off 12 balls by hitting six sixes in an over off Broad in a T20 match against England in Durban.
2014 Apple iPhone 6 started selling.



2000 Karnam Malleswari won a bronze medal in the weightlifting event at the Olympics.
1936 Hindustani classical musician Vishnu Narayan Bhatkhande died.

20 SEPTEMBER

1338 Sultan of Delhi Feroz Tughlaq Shah III passed away.
1933 Social activist and British woman Annie Besant, who fought for the independence of Hindustan, died.
1819 Death of Goa scientist-revolutionary Jose Custodio Faria.
1856 Birth of Shri Narayana Guru, the great saint and reformer of India.
1857 British troops liberated Delhi from the rebels and captured it.
1878 The famous Madras newspaper The Hindu was first published as a weekly in the editing of GSS Iyer.



2009 Marathi film Harishchandrachi Factory selected in Oscar Awards foreign film category

21 SEPTEMBER

2000 The Liberal Democratic Friends India Society was established for better relations between India and Britain.
1857 Bahadur Shah II surrendered to the British.
1966 Mihir Sen floated and crossed the Bosphorus Channel.
2008 Oil products started in Reliance's Krishna Godavari basin.
1926 Birth of famous actress and singer Nur Jahan.
1743 The death of King Sawai Jai Singh of Amer.



22 SEPTEMBER

1965 In the battle between India and Pakistan, there was a ceasefire on the initiative of the United Nations on this day.



1539 Guru Nanak Dev, the first Guru of the Sikh sect, died in Kartapur. It was he who started the practice of 'langar'.
1914 The German warship Imden bombed the port of Madras.
1869 Social reformer of India VS Srinivasa Shastri was born in 1869.
2008 Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh left for a ten-day visit to America and France.
2011 The Planning Commission of India, in an affidavit filed in the Supreme Court, refused to consider a person spending Rs 965 in cities and Rs 781 per month in villages as poor.
1988 Publication of the National Geographic magazine started today.

23 SEPTEMBER

1908 Rashtrakavi Ramdhari Singh Dinkar was born on this day.
1803 The British East India Company defeated the Maratha army in the Battle of Asa.
1862 Birth of great patriot and politician Srinivas Shastri.
1863 The death of 1857 freedom fighter Rao Rao Ram.
1908 The famous Hindi poet Ramdhari Singh Dinkar was born.
1929 Child marriage abolition bill (Saradha Law) passed.
1965 Order of ceasefire between India and Pakistan.
2009 The Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) placed seven satellites in orbit, including the Indian satellite Ocean Sat-2.







ਦੇਗ ਤੇਗ ਫ਼ਤਿਹ
ੴ ਸਤਿਗੁਰ ਪ੍ਰਸਾਦਿ
ਪੰਥ ਕੀ ਜੀਤ॥
ਰਾਜ ਕਰੇਗਾ ਖਾਲਸਾ

ਪੰਨੁ ਪੰਨੁ ਰਾਮਦਾਸ ਗੁਰੂ ਜਿਨਿ ਸਿਰਿਆ ਤਿਨੈ ਸਵਾਰਿਆ।।

ਗੁਰਦੁਆਰਾ ਸ਼ਹੀਦਾਂ ਇਕ .
GURUDWARA SHAHEEDAN INC.
ਅਸਥਾਨ ਪੰਨ - ਪੰਨ ਬਾਬਾ ਦੀਪ ਸਿੰਘ ਜੀ ਸ਼ਹੀਦ
18W, Nicholai Street, Hicksville, NY 11801
ਵੱਲੋਂ ਨਿਊਯਾਰਕ ਟਰਾਈ ਸਟੇਟ ਦੀਆਂ ਸਮੂਹ ਗੁਰਦੁਆਰਾ ਪ੍ਰਬੰਧਕ ਕਮੇਟੀਆਂ, ਸੁਸਾਇਟੀਆਂ, ਸਭਾਵਾਂ ਅਤੇ ਟਰਾਈਸਟੇਟ ਦੀਆਂ ਸਮੂਹ ਸੰਗਤਾਂ ਦੇ ਸਹਿਯੋਗ ਨਾਲ

ਪੰਨ ਪੰਨ ਸ੍ਰੀ ਗੁਰੂ ਰਾਮ ਦਾਸ ਜੀ ਦੇ ਪ੍ਰਕਾਸ਼ ਪੁਰਬ ਨੂੰ ਸਮਰਪਿਤ

ਪਹਿਲਾ ਵਿਸ਼ਾਲ ਨਗਰ ਕੀਰਤਨ

ਮਿਤੀ 02 ਅਕਤੂਬਰ ਦਿਨ ਸ਼ਨੀਵਾਰ
ਹਿੱਕਸਵਿੱਲ ਲਾਂਗ ਆਈਲੈਂਡ ਨਿਊਯਾਰਕ

ਵਿਖੇ ਸਜਾਇਆ ਜਾ ਰਿਹਾ ਹੈ।

ਰੂਟ ਨਗਰ ਕੀਰਤਨ ਨਗਰ ਕੀਰਤਨ ਦੁਪਹਿਰ 12.30 ਵਜੇ ਸ੍ਰੀ ਗੁਰੂ ਗ੍ਰੰਥ ਸਾਹਿਬ ਜੀ ਦੀ ਵੱਡੀ ਫਾਇਆ ਅਤੇ ਪੰਜ ਪਿਆਰਿਆਂ ਦੀ ਅਗਵਾਈ ਵਿੱਚ ਗੁਰਦੁਆਰਾ ਸ਼ਹੀਦ ਬਾਬਾ ਦੀਪ ਸਿੰਘ ਜੀ ਦੇ ਅਸਥਾਨ ਤੋਂ ਅਰੰਭ ਹੋ ਕੇ ਨਿਕੋਲਈ ਸਟਰੀਟ ਤੋਂ ਜੈਰੋਬਿਲਮ ਐਵਨਿਊ ਤੇ ਲੈਫਟ ਚਾਰ ਸਟਰੀਟ ਤੇ ਲੈਫਟ ਤੇ ਬਰੋਡਵੇਅ 107 ਤੇ ਲੈਫਟ ਤੇ ਹੰਦਾ ਹੋਇਆ ਈਸਟ ਬਾਰਸਲੇ ਸਟ੍ਰੀਟ ਤੇ ਆਸਾ ਮਾਈ ਮੰਦਰ ਦੇ ਸਾਹਮਣੇ ਬੇਅ ਐਵਨਿਊ ਤੇ ਲੈਫਟ ਤੇ ਯੋਨ ਸਟ੍ਰੀਟ ਤੇ ਲੈਫਟ ਤੇ ਗੁਰਦੁਆਰਾ ਗੁਰੂ ਨਾਨਕ ਦਰਬਾਰ ਦੇ ਸਾਹਮਣੇ ਬਰੋਡਵੇਅ 107 ਤੇ ਲੈਫਟ ਤੇ ਨਿਕੋਲਈ ਸਟ੍ਰੀਟ ਤੇ ਲੈਫਟ ਹੋ ਕੇ ਗੁਰਦੁਆਰਾ ਸ਼ਹੀਦਾਂ ਵਿਖੇ ਸਮਾਪਤੀ ਹੋਵੇਗੀ।

ਨਗਰ ਕੀਰਤਨ ਗੁਰਦੁਆਰਾ ਗੁਰੂ ਨਾਨਕ ਦਰਬਾਰ ਵਿਖੇ ਬੋੜੀ ਦੇਰ ਲਈ ਰੁਕੇਗਾ ਜਿਥੇ ਸਟੇਜ਼ ਲਗਾਈ ਜਾਵੇਗੀ ਇਸ ਦੇ ਨਾਲ ਹੀ ਆਸਾ ਮਾਈ ਮੰਦਰ ਵਿਖੇ ਵੀ ਠਹਿਰਾਵ ਹੋਵੇਗਾ, ਇਹ ਸਾਡੇ ਵੱਲੋਂ ਆਪਸੀ ਭਾਈਚਾਰਕ ਸਾਂਝ ਵਧਾਉਣ ਵੱਲ ਇੱਕ ਕਦਮ ਹੋਵੇਗਾ।

ਬੇਨਤੀ ਸਮੂਹ ਸੰਗਤਾਂ ਨੂੰ ਬੇਨਤੀ ਕੀਤੀ ਜਾਂਦੀ ਹੈ ਕਿ ਇਹ ਵਿਸ਼ਾਲ ਨਗਰ ਕੀਰਤਨ ਗੁ: ਸ਼ਹੀਦਾਂ ਇਕ, ਹਿੱਕਸਵਿੱਲ, ਗ: ਗੁਰੂ ਗੋਬਿੰਦ ਸਿੰਘ ਸਿੱਖ ਸੈਂਟਰ ਪਲੇਨਵਿਊ, ਗੁ: ਗੁਰੂ ਨਾਨਕ ਦਰਬਾਰ, ਹਿੱਕਸਵਿੱਲ, ਗੁ: ਮਾਤਾ ਸਾਹਿਬ ਕੌਰ ਜੀ ਗਲੇਨ ਕੋਵ, ਨਿਊਯਾਰਕ ਵੱਲੋਂ ਸਾਂਝੇ ਤੌਰ ਤੇ ਸਮੂਹ ਸੰਗਤਾਂ ਦੇ ਸਹਿਯੋਗ ਨਾਲ ਸਜਾਇਆ ਜਾ ਰਿਹਾ ਹੈ।

ਗੁਰਦੁਆਰਾ ਗੁਰੂ ਗੋਬਿੰਦ ਸਿੰਘ ਸਿੱਖ ਸੈਂਟਰ
1065 Old Country Rd, Plainview, NY 11803
ਅਸੀਂ ਟਰਾਈ ਸਟੇਟ ਅਤੇ ਸੰਸਾਰ ਭਰ ਦੀਆਂ ਸਮੂਹ ਸੰਗਤਾਂ ਨੂੰ ਪੰਨ ਪੰਨ ਸ੍ਰੀ ਗੁਰੂ ਰਾਮ ਦਾਸ ਜੀ ਦੇ ਪ੍ਰਕਾਸ਼ ਪੁਰਬ ਅਤੇ ਇਸ ਨਗਰ ਕੀਰਤਨ ਦੀ ਲੱਖ ਲੱਖ ਵਧਾਈ ਦਿੰਦੇ ਹਾਂ ਅਤੇ ਨਾਲ ਹੀ ਸਮੂਹ ਸੰਗਤਾਂ ਨੂੰ ਇਸ ਨਗਰ ਕੀਰਤਨ ਵਿੱਚ ਸ਼ਾਮਲ ਹੋਕੇ ਇਸ ਦੀ ਸ਼ੁਭਾ ਵਧਾਉਣ ਲਈ ਅਪੀਲ ਕਰਦੇ ਹਾਂ।

ਨਗਰ ਕੀਰਤਨ ਦੇ ਪੂਰੇ ਰਸਤੇ ਥਾਂ-ਥਾਂ 'ਤੇ ਖਾਣ ਪੀਣ ਦੇ ਪਦਾਰਥਾਂ ਦੇ ਲੰਗਰ ਸੰਗਤਾਂ ਵੱਲੋਂ ਲਗਾਏ ਜਾਣਗੇ।



ਇੰਦਰਜੀਤ ਸਿੰਘ ਪ੍ਰਧਾਨ



ਇੰਦਰਪਾਲ ਸਿੰਘ ਢਾਲ
ਚੇਅਰਮੈਨ



ਵਰਿੰਦਰ ਸਿੰਘ ਸਿੱਕਾ
ਜਨਰਲ ਸਕੱਤਰ



ਗਿਆਨੀ ਭੁਪਿੰਦਰ ਸਿੰਘ
ਫੋਨ : +1-917-353-7265
+1-516-680-2620

ਵੱਲੋਂ : ਸਮੂਹ ਪ੍ਰਬੰਧਕ ਕਮੇਟੀ, ਗੁਰਦੁਆਰਾ ਗੁਰੂ ਗੋਬਿੰਦ ਸਿੰਘ ਸਿੱਖ ਸੈਂਟਰ, ਪਲੇਨਵਿਊ, ਨਿਊਯਾਰਕ

PAKISTAN TERRORIST GETS 7 YRS OF RIGOROUS IMPRISONMENT FOR CONSPIRING TO CARRY OUT ATTACKS IN INDIA

ISLAMABAD (TIP): A special NIA court here on September 17 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 COURT ISSUES ARREST WARRANTS OF 'HINDI MEDIUM' STAR SABA QAMAR

LAHORE (TIP): A local court in Pakistan on Wednesday issued arrest warrants of 'Hindi Medium' star Saba Qamar in a case registered against her and others for shooting a 'dance video' at a historical mosque in Lahore.

Lahore's magisterial court issued the bailable warrants for Qamar and singer Bilal Saeed for constantly avoiding the court hearings. The court adjourned the hearing till October 6.

Lahore police last year registered a case against Qamar and Saeed under section 295 of the Pakistan Penal Code for alleged 'desecration' of Masjid Wazir Khan in the old city of Lahore.

According to the FIR, both actors had trampled upon the sanctity of the mosque by shooting a dance video and this act also sparked an outrage among the people of Pakistan. The Punjab government had also sacked two senior officers in connection with violation of the mosque's sanctity. PTI

Afghan Deputy PM Mullah Baradar releases video after death rumours

KABUL (TIP): Under intense pressure and questions over his whereabouts, the Taliban's Deputy Prime Minister of Afghanistan Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar has now released a video message.

"There had been news in the media about my health and death. Over the past few nights, I have been away on trips. Wherever I am at the moment, we are all fine, all my brothers and friends," Baradar said in the clip, ARY News reported.

"The media always publish fake propaganda. Therefore, bravely reject all those lies, and I'm 100 per cent confirm to you there is no issue in the ranks of the Taliban and we have no problem." On the recent visit of Qatari Foreign Minister where he was absent, Baradar said he was unable to meet the visiting Qatari visiting dignitary as he was on a trip.

"Got information of the Qatari Foreign Minister visit to Afghanistan suddenly," he added, the report said.

Speculation intensified about the fate of Baradar when Taliban leaders met with senior delegates from Qatar in Kabul on Sunday, with him conspicuously absent from the meeting, Daily Mail reported earlier.

On September 13, Taliban was forced to deny that Baradar was dead after rumours emerged that he was killed during a gunfight with his political rivals.

The Taliban insisted that Baradar is in Kandahar province meeting with the



group's supreme leader Mawlawi Hibatullah Akhundzada to discuss the country's future now the US has withdrawn.

But the social media rumour mill believes he was actually killed in a gun battle in Kabul's presidential palace that broke out during a meeting with the powerful and ruthless Haqqani family, the report said.

Three members of the Haqqani family were at the summit with Qatar delegates along with other members of the new Afghan government—led by Prime Minister Mohammad Hasan Akhund, the report said.

A major row broke out between leaders of the Taliban over the make-up of the group's new government in Afghanistan

last week, the BBC reported.

The argument between Baradar and a cabinet member happened at the presidential palace, the report said.

There have been unconfirmed reports of disagreements within the Taliban's leadership since Baradar disappeared from public view in recent days.

One Taliban source told BBC Pashto that Baradar and Khalil ur-Rahman Haqqani, the minister for refugees and a prominent figure within the militant Haqqani network, had exchanged strong words, as their followers brawled with each other nearby.

The Taliban sources told the BBC that Baradar had left Kabul and travelled to the city of Kandahar following the row.

— IANS

Sri Lankan prisons minister resigns after threatening to kill Tamil prisoners

COLOMBO (TIP): Sri Lankan prisons minister Lohan Ratwatte resigned on September 15 after an uproar over his alleged remarks to kill Tamil prisoners during his recent visit to a jail in the island nation's north-central region.

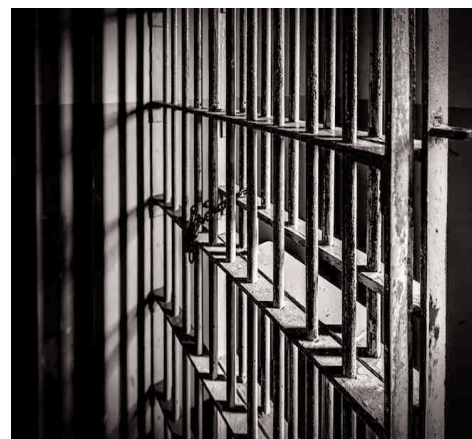
Ratwatte, the Minister of State for Prisons Management, tendered his resignation after outrage from the Tamil political parties, which sought his exit from the Cabinet and arrest over the remarks.

President Gotabaya Rajapaksa has accepted Ratwatte's resignation, presidential spokesman Kingsley Ratnayake said.

Ratwatte went to the Anuradhapura prison in the country's northern central region on September 12 and allegedly forced two prisoners to kneel and threatened to kill them, according to reports.

His act prompted the Tamil parties to condemn his behaviour and call for his resignation.

"We call on the government to immediately remove the state minister for prison management and have him



arrested and charged after an immediate inquiry for allegedly threatening to kill prisoners in Anuradhapura on Sunday, September 12," the Tamil National Alliance (TNA) tweeted.

Galen Ponnambalam, the leader of the Tamil National People's Front, also tweeted and confirmed the incident.

"The TNPF can confirm that on the evening of September, 12 the state minister for prisons had gone to the Anuradhapura prisons, summoned the Tamil political prisoners and had got two of them to kneel in front of him," he said

in a tweet.

Ponnambalam said the minister had threatened to kill Tamil prisoners.

The local media reports alleged that the minister had visited the main prison in Colombo to show the gallows to a group of his friends late at night before heading to the north-central town of Anuradhapura.

He was carrying his personal weapon into the prison, which the prison officials said was an illegal act.

The minister's office has denied any such incident involving him.

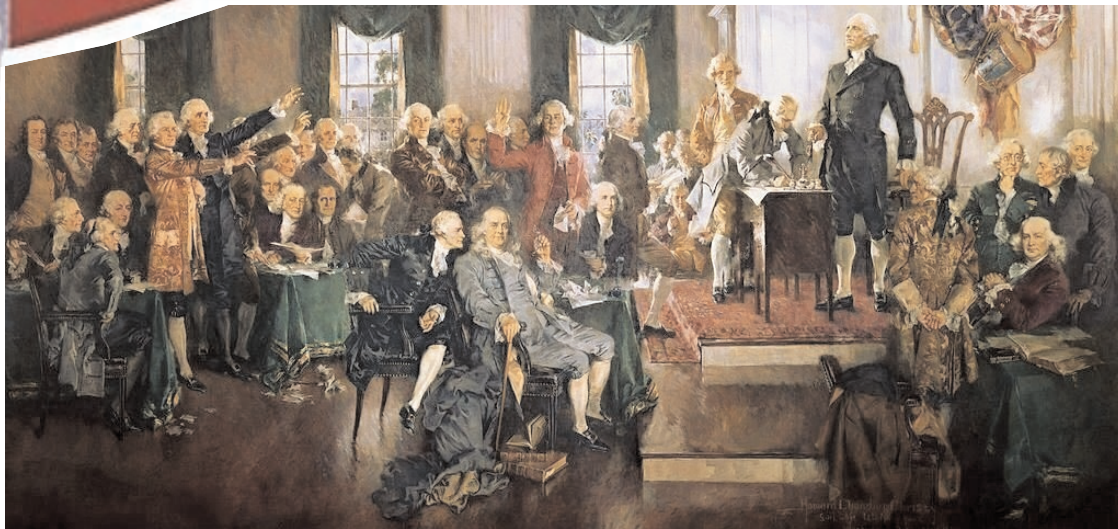
The incident and act of the minister has also been condemned by the United Nations.

The UN Resident Coordinator in Sri Lanka, Hanaa Singer-Hamdy, said that it is the duty of the State to protect the rights of prisoners, the Colombo Gazette reported.

"In our work on prison reform and drug rehabilitation, UN Sri Lanka works to strengthen capacities to uphold the rights of all those in custody and condemns any ill treatment of prisoners," Hanaa Singer-Hamdy tweeted on Wednesday. — PTI

Celebrating Constitution Day

CONSTITUTION DAY AND CITIZENSHIP DAY IS OBSERVED EACH YEAR ON SEPTEMBER 17 TO COMMEMORATE THE SIGNING OF THE CONSTITUTION ON SEPTEMBER 17, 1787, AND "RECOGNIZE ALL WHO, BY COMING OF AGE OR BY NATURALIZATION, HAVE BECOME CITIZENS."



On September 17, 1787, the Founding Fathers signed the most influential document in American history, the U.S. Constitution. A scene at the signing of the Constitution Day.

Citizens of the United States have celebrated Independence Day and Presidents' Day since the 1870s, and in 2005, the nation began to celebrate Constitution Day. Also known as Citizenship Day, Constitution Day is an American holiday honoring the day 39 delegates to the Constitutional Convention signed the United States Constitution. This historic date was September 17, 1787.

"I Am an American Day"

In 1939, the New York City news tycoon William Randolph Hearst suggested the creation of a holiday to celebrate American citizenship. Not only did Hearst have a wide readership of his many daily

newspapers, but he had significant political connections, and in 1940, Congress designated the third Sunday in May as "I am an American Day." President Harry Truman presented the resolution, setting aside this date in honor of the American people, especially those who had recently become citizens of the United States.



A group of new citizens takes oath of allegiance

The holiday quickly gained support and popularity through the efforts of the United States Immigration and Naturalization Service. Additionally, in 1944, Hearst sponsored a 16-minute film titled 'I Am an American', which was featured in American theaters, and subsequently became a top news story. It was an immediate hit. Within 5 years, the governors of the existing forty-eight states had issued state proclamations in agreement with the national holiday.

One of the most significant individuals in the development of the holiday was a Louisville, Ohio resident named Olga T. Weber. In 1952, she petitioned the leaders of the municipality to change the date of the holiday to correspond with the anniversary of the signing of the United States Constitution. Once they agreed to it, she didn't stop there, and took her requests to the State, who also approved. In 1953, Olga went to United States Congress, and both the Senate and the House of Representatives approved her requests. The original resolution was overturned and a new law took its place. After Dwight D. Eisenhower signed it, the "I am an American Day" observation became "Citizenship Day" and moved to September 17.

Louisville, Ohio was the first city in the United States to celebrate Citizenship Day on September 17, 1952.

Louise Leigh and Constitution Day

Another important figure in the creation of Constitution Day is Louise Leigh. Leigh, after taking a course in Constitutional History with the National Center for Constitutional Studies, was inspired to spread her newfound love of the Constitution throughout the country. In 1997, she founded a nonprofit organization called Constitution Day, Inc. to help encourage recognition of the importance of this national holiday.

Through her efforts, Constitution Day became an official holiday alongside Citizenship Day in 2004 when, with the help of support from Senator Robert Byrd, the "Constitution Day" amendment to the Omnibus Spending Bill passed. In May 2005, the United States Department of Education backed the law when it announced that it would apply to any school receiving federal funds of any kind.

The two allowances of the law were that the head of every federal agency provide each employee with educational materials concerning the Constitution on 17th of September and that each educational institution which receives Federal funds should hold a program for students every Constitution Day.

Constitution Day, along with Independence Day and Presidents' Day, is an important part of the cultural heritage of the United States of America, because it recognizes the value of the American experiment, and the success of a nation of free people whose rights and liberties are protected by a written Constitution.

The Indian Panorama wishes its readers a Happy Constitution Day.

DANCE CAN ERASE BORDERS BY MABEL PAIS

IAAC'S ERASING BORDERS 2021 DANCE FESTIVAL CELEBRATES INDIA'S MULTIPLE DANCE FORMS SEPTEMBER 22-26, 2021 ALL PERFORMANCES STREAM FREE TO THE PUBLIC

The Indo-American Arts Council (IAAC) presents its annual Erasing Borders Dance Festival, September 22-26, 2021 for the 14th year. Each day's event begins at 8:30 P.M. The artists will present their dances virtually.

Ten artists trained in Indian dance forms from across the world will be brought together in a virtual borderless festival. The dance festival is one among the IAAC's other flagship events featuring music, film, and literature, all dedicated to furthering the knowledge and living practices of the arts of the Indian sub-continent. For more, visit iaac.us/erasing-borders-dance-festival-2021.

Dr. Nirmal Mattoo, IAAC Chairman stated, "This year's Festival, celebrating the start of the 75th anniversary of India's independence, will include four performance evenings and two morning workshops. For this year, the curators selected dance works that speak to these reflections on 75 years. Pondering on the issues of old struggles, new ideas, hard won achievements, renewed actions, and future facing resolutions, the Festival curators selected works where artists think of dance as their personal journey. They reflect on how dance stimulates awareness and how dance may direct a sustainable future. The artists proudly present their dance as heritage and as part of the global world."

Participating artists include Rukmini Vijayakumar, Preethi Athreya, Sonali Skandan, Kalamandalam Adithyan, Kaustavi Sarkar, Jyotsna Vaidee, Vaishali Trivedi, Bindu Rajendren, and Meera Sreenarayanan. Performances highlight Bharatanatyam, contemporary, Rajasthani folk, Kathakali, Odissi, and Mohiniyattam forms of dance.

New to the festival this year will be a documentary presentation on September 23 by Kalbeliya World, an international solidarity program that safeguards the art forms of women from traditional families of the Kalbeliya community in Rajasthan. Two morning workshops will round up the festival on September 25 and 26 at 10:00 A.M. ET. The first is led by Dr. Krishnakali Dasgupta and covers the Indian classical dance style of Manipuri and the second is a Rajasthani folk workshop conducted by Aakansha Maheshwari.

Said Deepsikha Chatterjee, Erasing Borders Dance Director for IAAC, "It has always been and will continue to be a transcontinental festival given the focus on Indian dance, whose practitioners live all over the world. Offering the festival virtually allows Indian dance to be seen across the world and in many of its original settings."

"Immigrant artists have always been essential to the creative landscape of New York City. Across multiple disciplines, immigrants are key to the city's global reputation for artistic excellence. The lineup includes artists who are local New York City residents and are from the Indian-American community," said Suman Gollamudi, Executive Director of the Indo-American Arts Council.

Each evening will include a panel discussion with the performers led by moderators who are among the doyen of the Indian dance community, explained Senior Curator Uttara Coorlawala. Kumudini Lakhia, Arshiya Sethi, Sonal Mansingh, and UK's Chitra Sundaram will lead these vibrant panels.

SCHEDULE:

A full schedule of the 2021 Erasing Borders Dance Festival: Wednesday, September 22, 2021, 8:30 P.M. ET,

performance moderated by Kumudini Lakhia Rukmini Vijayakumar Bharatanatyam Preethi Athreya Contemporary Sonali Skandan Bharatanatyam Thursday, September 23, 2021, 8:30 P.M. ET, performance moderated by Chitra Sundaram



Kalbeliya World poster Photo / iaac.us

Kalbeliya World Rajasthani folk Kalamandalam Adithyan Kathakali Friday, September 24, 2021, 8:30 P.M. ET, performance moderated by Sonal Mansingh Kaustavi Sarkar Odissi Jyotsna Vaidee Bharatanatyam group Saturday, September 25, 2021, 8:30 P.M. ET,

performance moderated by Arshiya Sethi Vaishali Trivedi Kathak group Bindu Rajendren Mohiniyattam Meera Sreenarayanan Bharatanatyam Saturday, September 25, 2021, 10:00 A.M. ET Morning workshop:



Krishnakali Dasgupta Photo / iaac.us

Dr. Krishnakali Dasgupta Manipuri Sunday, September 26, 2021, 10:00 A.M. ET

Morning workshop: Aakansha Maheshwari Rajasthani folk workshop To learn more about the artists and the performances, visit iaac.us/erasing-borders-dance-festival-2021

The Erasing Borders Dance Festival The Erasing Borders Dance Festival of the Indo-American Arts

Council (IAAC) invites dancers, dance companies and choreographers across the world to present works of artistic excellence sharing movement, heritage, and inspiration from India. The festival is curated for the New York City public and can now be viewed globally in its virtual edition.

The Indo-American Arts Council For more information, visit IAAC.us

NJPAC STANDS IN SOLIDARITY

By Mabel Pais



Healing Circle

Photo / Courtesy NJ PAC

The "Standing in Solidarity Racial Healing Circle" will be held virtually on Monday, September 20, @7PM. It's FREE on ZOOM

Last summer, in response to the death of George Floyd, protesters around the globe took to the streets to demand an end to systemic racism in the criminal justice system - a movement that grew to inspire a lasting reckoning with race, equity and injustice in all aspects of our lives.

In support of this movement, NJPAC launched "Standing in Solidarity," a series of events that offered greater understanding of current racial disparities. Throughout the past year, NJPACs "Standing in Solidarity" virtual conversations examined tough topics, from the need to reform the justice system to the impact of systemic racism on education, the business community and more.

The NJPAC events' participants have spent the past year reflecting on these issues. And the people who joined them for these conversations were what made these events moving, useful, insightful and effective.

Now, NJPAC invites the public to join the Arts Center, and The Truth, Racial Healing, and Transformation (TRHT) Center at Rutgers University, Newark to be part of the first 'Racial Healing Circle.'

A Racial Healing Circle is an opportunity for people of all backgrounds to share their stories and experiences in a safe space, to heal together the trauma that all of us have experienced due to structural racism. You'll share your stories with a partner, and then with a larger group - both to acknowledge the truth of all our experiences, and to build authentic relationships capable of transforming communities and shifting the national discourse.

PROGRAM

The "Standing in Solidarity Racial Healing Circle" will be held virtually on Monday, September 20, @7PM.

Racial Healing Facilitators: Sharon Stroye, MBA, MPA, Director, Truth, Racial Healing, and Transformation Center (TRHT) at Rutgers University - Newark

Tyreek Rolon, Academic Counselor, New Jersey Scholarship and Transformation Education in Prisons (NJ-STEP) Program.

The New Jersey Performing Arts Center (NJPAC) Follow NJPAC's Standing in Solidarity Series Online: Website: njpac.org/takeastand Hashtag: #NJPACTakeAStand Youtube: Standing in Solidarity playlist

JCC OPENS HOUSE

By Mabel Pais

FALL FITNESS + WELLNESS OPEN HOUSE, Sunday, September 19, 2021

Join The Marlene Meyerson JCC, Manhattan, in-person and virtually to sample its amazing fitness and wellness classes and workshops for FREE. Find out why exercise is not only good for your heart but also for your mood and memory, how meditation can change your brain, as well as why what you eat influences what you feel, think, and remember.

Pre-registration is strongly recommended. Walk-ins welcome. Proof of vaccination required for in-person programs. For the Open House schedule, visit mmjccm.org/open-house and for the Special Open House Membership Offer, visit mmjccm.org/join/current-promotions.

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

LAAPFF MARKS 37 BY MABEL PAIS

SHORT FILMS FROM DIRECTORS
SHARMILA RAY: "DEVOTEE," "URVASHI
 PATHANIA: "UNMOTHERED,"
NIRAV BHAKTA: "THANK YOU, COME AGAIN,"
ALISHA TEJPAL: LATA,"
"APOORVA GAVARRAJU: "THE DAYS AFTER
 YOU," **SUSHMA KHADEPAUN:** "ANITA," "SHRUTI
PAREKH: "BLOOD MOON," **RAGINI BHASIN:**
 "HIDE AND SEEK," **AMRITA SINGH:** "WINNING
 IN AMERICA"

Among Others

"WE ARE ALL LIVING IN A TIME WHERE ANTI-ASIAN HATE CRIMES HAVE RISEN. IT IS OUR HOPE THAT THIS YEAR'S FESTIVAL WILL BRING TOGETHER NOT ONLY OUR ASIAN & PACIFIC ISLANDER COMMUNITIES, BUT ALL OF OUR COMMUNITIES. WE INVITE EVERYONE TO COME EXPERIENCE ART AS ENTERTAINMENT, HEALING, AND BRIDGE BUILDING," SAYS FRANCIS CULLADO, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF VISUAL COMMUNICATIONS.

The Los Angeles Asian Pacific Film Festival (LAAPFF), presented annually by Visual Communications (VC), features its 37th edition, September 23 to October 2, 2021. The Festival screens 139 films during the 10-day Festival. This year's productions celebrate the creative and nuanced storytelling of Asians & Pacific Islanders in America and around the globe.

The largest festival of its kind in Southern California, LAAPFF is also a proud Academy Award®-qualifying film festival for the Short Film Awards. LAAPFF's programming hopes to mobilize and engage audiences towards social activism and civic engagement, a cornerstone that is part of the Festival's foundation. This year's productions by Asian & Pacific Islander artists from around the world amplify themes that include race, immigration, gentrification, economic security, and more.

FEATURE FILMS

Feature film highlights include "SILENT RIVER," "WHO IS LUN*NA MENOH," "LIST OF A LIFETIME," "THE BADGER," "TIONG BAHRU SOCIAL CLUB," "LUMPIA WITH A VENGEANCE," "THE RESCUE," "ASCENSION," and "SNAKEHEAD."

FILIPINX AMERICAN HISTORY MONTH

On October 1, LAAPFF kicks off Filipinx American History Month with a curated selection of films by Filipinx filmmakers, including "THE GIRL WHO LEFT HOME," "NO DOGS," "FABULOUS FILIPINO BROTHERS" and "ISLANDS."

SHORT FILMS

From the short film lineup, select highlights include "F1-100," "HAWAIIAN SOUL," "DEVOTEE," "BLUSH," "THE GIRL WHO LEFT HOME," "NO DOGS," "THE FABULOUS FILIPINO BROTHERS," and "ISLANDS." Many more short films and episodics are featured.

NARRATIVE FEATURES



Americanish (Narrative Feature)
 Photo / festival.vcmmedia.org/2021

Narrative Features include "A SHOT THROUGH THE WALL," "AMERICANISH," "DEFINITION PLEASE," "I

WAS A SIMPLE MAN," "ISLANDS," "LISA MANIA," "LIST OF A LIFETIME," "LUMPIA WITH A VENGEANCE," "MARVELOUS AND THE BLACK HOLE," "SILENT RIVER," "SNAKEHEAD," "THE BADGER," "THE DISAPPEARANCE OF MRS. WU" "THE FABULOUS FILIPINO BROTHERS," "THE GIRL WHO LEFT HOME," "THE MONSTERS WITHOUT," "TIONG BAHRU SOCIAL CLUB," "WATER LIKE FIRE,"

DOCUMENTARY FEATURES

Documentary features include "ACCEPTED," "ASCENSION," "CANE FIRE," "FACELESS," "FANNY: THE RIGHT TO ROCK," "LIKE A ROLLING STONE: THE LIFE & TIMES OF BEN FONG-TORRES," "MANZANAR, DIVERTED: WHEN WATER BECOMES DUST," "OPHIR," "THE CELINE ARCHIVE," "THE RESCUE," "TRY HARDER!," "WE ARE FROM THERE," "WHO IS LUN*NA MENOH?," and "WUHAN WUHAN."

LAAPFF debuts the works from Visual Communications' Digital Histories program, designed for Asian & Pacific Islander older adults to use their unique voices and perspectives to share stories with the generations to come.

Visual Communications founded the Armed With a Camera (AWC) Fellowship for Emerging Media Artists to develop the next generation of Asian & Pacific Islander artists and connect communities through the power of storytelling. This year, LAAPFF will host encore presentations of the 2020 Armed With a Camera films.

SCREENING VENUES

The Festival will screen films at

- Aratani Theatre @ Japanese American Cultural & Community Center - Little Tokyo (DTLA): 244 S San Pedro Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012
- Tateuchi Democracy Forum @ Japanese American National Museum: 111 N Central Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90012
- Regal L.A. LIVE: A Barco Innovation Center: 1000 W Olympic Boulevard, Los Angeles, CA 90015

VISUAL COMMUNICATIONS (VC) & THE LOS ANGELES ASIAN PACIFIC FILM FESTIVAL (LAAPFF)

To learn more, visit festival.vcmmedia.org

ATLANTA'S OUT ON FILM

By Mabel Pais

'OUT ON FILM,' in Atlanta presented by Warner Media has the lineup of films and events for the 34th edition of the Atlanta-based LGBTQIA+ film festival. The Oscar® qualifying film festival returns to theaters this year as part of its hybrid presentation. It takes place September 23-October 3, 2021.

Out on Film once again offers a rich selection of LGBTQIA+ films curated from around the world. 43 features (25 narrative films, 18 documentaries), 17 shorts programs with 98 films and 2 web series, representing 24 countries will be available this year, as well as a world premiere art installation.

'Out on Film' Festival Director, Jim Farmer, said, "As one of the few film festivals that are still growing despite all of the challenges present, we are thrilled with this international lineup, including our world premieres and more films we can't wait to introduce our audiences to."

OPENING NIGHT, Sept 23 at Landmark's Midtown Art Cinema (931 Monroe DR NE)

DIR: Peeter Rebane | UK | 1h 47m | Southeastern Premiere

"FIREBIRD," set during the Cold War is a British drama that follows a forbidden love triangle between a soldier, a fighter pilot and his female comrade amid the dangerous surroundings of a Soviet Air Force Base.

CLOSING NIGHT, Oct 3 at Out Front Theatre Company (999 Brady Ave NW)

DIR: William T. Horner & Stacey Woelfel | USA | 1h 38m | World Premiere

"KEEP THE CAMERAS ROLLING: THE PEDRO ZAMORA WAY" -

William T. Horner and Stacey Woelfel's documentary film looks at the life of Pedro Zamora, who gained fame on MTV's "The Real World," and utilized that platform to open up his life, his joy, and his influence to the world until his death at the age of 22.

CENTERPIECE FILMS

"INVISIBLE: GAY WOMEN IN SOUTHERN MUSIC"

DIR: T.J. Parsell | USA | 1h 47m

The film explores a group of gay women songwriters who overcame more than we could imagine to write some of the most familiar and beloved "number one" hits for some of country music's greatest stars.

"JUMP DARLING"

DIR: Phil Connell | Canada | 1h 30m

Phil Connell's Canadian drama, features Academy Award-winning legend Chloë Leachman in her final starring role in the story of an actor turned drag queen at a crossroads in his life, who moves in with his grandmother to keep her from having to move into a nursing home.

"NO STRAIGHT LINES: THE RISE OF QUEER COMICS"

DIR: Vivian Kleiman | USA | 1h 18m

Vivian Kleiman's documentary looks at the life and career journeys of five scrappy queer comic book artists journey from DIY work and isolation to the cover of Time Magazine and the international stage, offering a fascinating window into everything from the AIDS crisis and workplace discrimination to the search for love and a good haircut.

For the complete film slate of Narrative & Documentary Features and Shorts, and Special Events, visit 2021off.eventive.org/films

TICKETS

For information on purchasing passes, tickets, and additional details on 'Out on Film,' visit 2021off.eventive.org/films

OUT ON FILM



Jump, Darling. - Photo / outonfilm.org

Since its official inception in 1987, 'Out On Film' has grown to become one of the major LGBTQIA+ film festivals in the country. Now an Oscar® qualifying film festival and one of USA Today's 2020 Readers' Choice picks as one of the top 20 film festivals in North America, 'Out On Film' hosts an eleven-day film festival in September as well as programming throughout the year.

WARNER MEDIA

To learn more, visit warnermedia.com/us

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



Kangana Ranaut's Thalaivii performance floors Ekta Kapoor

Kangana Ranaut has been garnering praises for her portrayal of former actor-politician J Jayalithaa in her biopic, Thalaivii. Directed by AL Vijay, the film has also impressed film and television producer Ekta Kapoor who watched it on Tuesday. Ekta has now penned a long appreciation note for the team of Thalaivii on social media. In her note, she called Kangana's performance 'perfect' and praised director Vijay for bringing out the 'best in every character'.

An 'overwhelmed' Ekta wrote on Instagram, "This is a post that's coming out of an overwhelmed me. Saw Thalaivii last night and am stunned by the magnitude of scale, perfection, the detailing and the nuanced performances. Director Vijay has brought out the best in every character. Arvind Swamy, Raj Arjun, Madhoo have excelled in their performances. The wizard of words Rajat Arora delivers a clap trap. The perfect ode to Jaya Lalitha."

Anushka Sharma calls Madhuri Dixit queen as she shows off her 'model face'

Madhuri Dixit left Anushka Sharma in splits with her latest 'model face' challenge video. On Wednesday, Sept 15, evening, Madhuri shared an Instagram Reel with celebrity make-up artist Florian Hurel in which the duo participated in the viral TikTok challenge.

As part of the challenge, the participant(s) follow the prompt: 'Smile without your eyes, raise your eyebrows, stop smiling'. At the end of this, users get to know their model face. Madhuri and Florian follow the steps, revealing their model faces. Impressed by her 'model face', Madhuri pushed Florian away and walked like a diva. Madhuri shared the video with the caption, "Just for fun #ModelFace."

Anushka shared the video on her Instagram Stories and wrote "Queen" along with a laughing emoji and a crown emoji.

Madhuri has been busy with her ongoing reality show, Dance Deewane 3. She is one of the judges this season. The dance show recently hosted Yami Gautam and Jacqueline Fernandez, who appeared on the show to promote their recently released film Bhoot Police. Madhuri had shared a video in which she joined both the actors to dance on the Marathi song Reshmachya Reghani. She also shared a video of the Ganesh puja on the sets of Dance Deewane.

Meanwhile, Anushka is currently in Dubai where her husband, cricketer



Virat Kohli, who will be playing the second leg of the IPL 2021. On Sunday, Anushka shared pictures from Dubai, announcing her arrival. She shared the picture of the view from her window along with a thank you note to the UK, where she and her daughter, Vamika, along with the members of the Indian cricket team were stationed since June.

"Adios UK, you've been great, as always," she said.

She then shared a picture of a banner featuring Royal Challengers Bangalore's name and logo. "We are here! Dubai," she captioned the post. She also gave a glimpse of the treats waiting for her in her room.

Source: HT

Salman Khan's niece Alizeh Agnihotri stuns in ad, fans shower love

Alizeh Agnihotri, the niece of actor Salman Khan, featured in an ad for a jewellery brand. She is the daughter of his sister Alvira Khan and producer Atul Agnihotri. She is expected to make her Bollywood debut soon.

In the video, shared on Instagram by the jewellery brand, Alizeh flaunted her bracelet, hand thong, necklace and rings, as she struck numerous poses. She wore a green bralette with white pants.

Fans flocked to the comments section to shower Alizeh with compliments. "Stunning!!! @alizehagnihotri," one wrote, while another called her 'the most innocent beauty' ever. Many also dropped heart-eyes emojis on the post.

The caption of the Instagram post was a statement from Alizeh about her relationship with jewellery. She revealed that she never got her ears pierced. "A lot of people find it strange, because wearing earrings comes so naturally to most people, but somehow I haven't had the desire," she said.

Alizeh talked about how there was a time when she wore no jewellery at all but now, she picks out her accessories before even choosing her outfit. "Jewellery to me is about finding new ways to express myself, and I've always leaned towards doing that with rings, necklaces, anklets and even body chains," she said.



Ajay Devgn recreates his Phool Aur Kaante split

Bollywood star Ajay Devgn is returning with the stunt that he performed 30 years ago in Phool Aur Kaante and looks like the actor has some surprises up his sleeve as he returns with his formidable 'split' that launched him into stardom. In a video shared on Instagram, Ajay shared a short promo with a caption that read, "This reminded me of the split that I did 30 years back! Bringing to you, double the guarantee of entertainment and value. Stay tuned to know more." Ajay Devgn has a lot of projects in the pipeline at the moment. He is looking forward to the release of Maidaan, directed by Amit Sharma of Badhaai Ho fame. He will also be seen in SS Rajamouli's RRR and Sanjay Leela Bhansali's Gangubai Kathiawadi. He also has a cameo appearance in Rohit Shetty's Sooryavanshi.





James Bond could be a man or woman of any race or age, says Lashana Lynch

Actor Lashana Lynch, who will next be seen in the upcoming James Bond film *No Time To Die*, has denied speculation that she could take over the franchise as the lead in future installments.

"Nooo! You don't want me!" she told *The Guardian* in an interview. The 33-year-old actor said the next Bond can be anyone: a man or woman, a young or old person, from any race. "We are in a place in time where the industry is not just giving audiences what it thinks the audience wants. They're actually giving the audience what they want to give the audience."

"With Bond, it could be a man or woman. They could be white, black, Asian, mixed race. They could be young or old. At the end of the day, even if a two-year-old was playing Bond, everyone would flock to the cinema to see what this two-year-old's gonna do, no?" the *Captain Marvel* star said.

Jennifer Aniston addresses dating rumours with David Schwimmer as 'bizarre'

Friends alum Jennifer Aniston has finally opened up about the speculations going rounds about her speculative romantic relationship with former co-star David Schwimmer.

The actress in a recent interview with an outlet reacted to the month-long rumours that she and her former 'Friends' co-star David were dating.

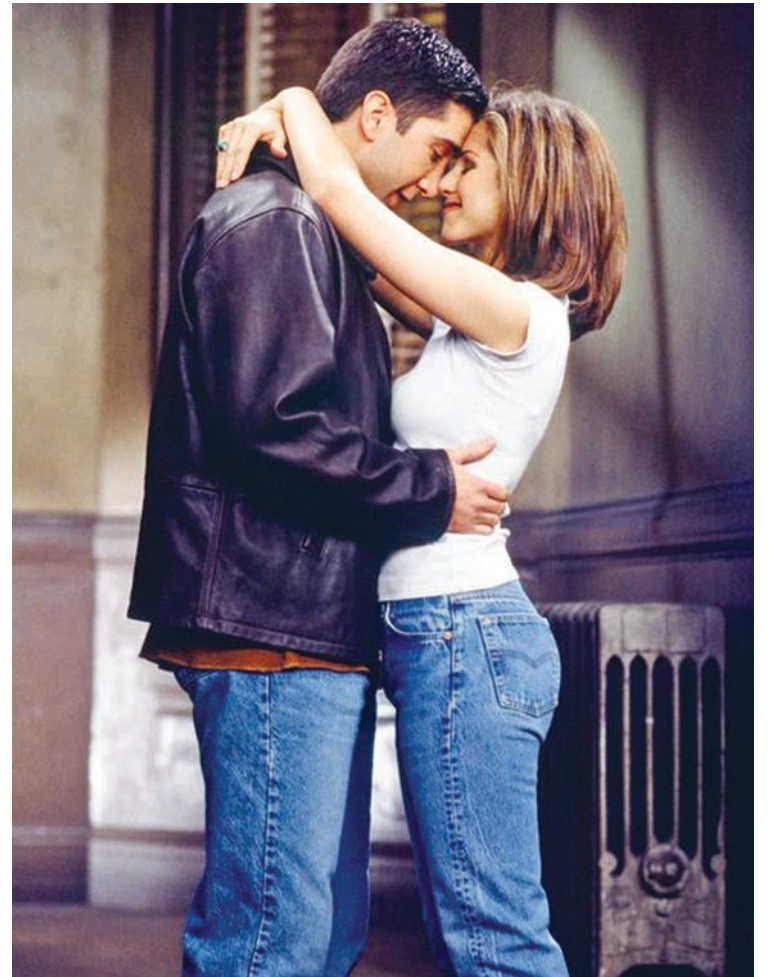
"That was bizarre. I could not believe that, actually. Like, really? That's my brother! But I understand it, though. It just shows you how hopeful people are for fantasies for dreams to come true," Jennifer shared.

For a quick recap, David revealed during the 'Friends' reunion special in May that he and Jennifer "were crushing hard on each other" at one point while shooting for the comedy series.

During the special, the host asked the duo who played Ross Geller (David) and Rachel Green (Jennifer) if sparks ever flew in real life.

To this David revealed "At some point, we were crushing hard on each other, but it was like two ships passing because one of us was always in a relationship and we never crossed that boundary. We respected that."

Jennifer added, "Honestly, I remember saying one time to David, 'It's going to be such a bummer if the first time you and I actually kiss is going to be on national television.' Sure enough, the first time we kissed was in that coffee shop." The 52-year old added that instead of acting on their feelings, they "channelled" everything into their famous characters.



Britney Spears announces engagement to boyfriend Sam Asghari

Pop superstar Britney Spears, who has been fighting a conservatorship that governs her personal life and finances, announced on Sunday that she is engaged to longtime boyfriend Sam Asghari.

The 'Stronger' singer posted a video of herself standing next to Asghari and showing off a shiny ring on her hand. "I can't f***ing believe it," she said in the caption, next to ring emojis.

Asghari separately posted a photo of the pair kissing and Spears extending the finger with the ring. Asghari's manager Brandon Cohen confirmed that the pair were engaged.

"The couple made their long-standing relationship official today and are deeply touched by the support, dedication and love expressed to them," Cohen said via email.

Spears, 39, has been married twice before. She wed childhood friend Jason Alexander in Las Vegas in 2004, but that marriage was annulled a few days later. Later that year, she married dancer Kevin Federline, with whom she had two children, before the marriage ended in divorce in 2007.



Met Gala 2021: Jennifer Lopez and Ben Affleck kiss with masks on

Jennifer Lopez and Ben Affleck, who recently rekindled their relationship after several years, made their debut at the Met Gala this year in outfits by Ralph Lauren. They did not walk down the red carpet together but met inside. They also shared a kiss through their masks.

They wore outfits from the same designer. Both stars adhered to the event's 'American Independence' dress code, with Ben keeping it simple in a Ralph Lauren tuxedo and Jennifer bringing her signature glam to the carpet in a custom dark brown Ralph Lauren gown with a plunging neckline and thigh-high slit.

The appearance comes closely on the heels of Ben and Jennifer's joint entry at the Venice Film Festival on Friday, which marked their red carpet debut as a reunited couple. They left a day later and had an eventful departure as well. Ben pushed an enthusiastic fan away as he tried to get a picture with Jennifer.

Videos shot at the Venice airport showed a man rushing past security to click a picture with Jennifer. She was taken aback by the suddenness of it and moved aside. Ben jumped to her rescue and pushed the man away. Afterwards, he took her hand in his and they walked away to catch their flight.



OZONE HOLE OVER ANTARCTICA LARGER THAN USUAL, SCIENTISTS SAY

BERLIN (TIP): Scientists say the hole in the Earth's protective ozone layer over the Southern Hemisphere is larger than usual this year and already surpasses the size of Antarctica.

The European Union's Copernicus Atmosphere Monitoring Service said Thursday that the so-called ozone hole, which appears every year during the Southern Hemisphere spring, has grown considerably in the past week following an average start.

"Forecasts show that this year's hole has evolved into a rather larger than usual one," said Vincent-Henri Peuch, who heads the EU's satellite monitoring service.

"We are looking at a quite big and potentially also deep ozone hole," he said. Atmospheric ozone absorbs ultraviolet light coming from the sun. Its absence means more of this high-energy radiation reaches the Earth, where it can harm living cells.

Peuch noted that last year's ozone hole also started out unremarkably but then turned into one of the longest-lasting ones on record.

The Montreal Protocol, signed in 1987, led to a ban on a group of chemicals called halocarbons that were blamed for exacerbating the annual ozone hole. AP

Prince Philip's Will to be secret for 90 years: Court

LONDON (TIP): The will of Prince Philip, the late husband of Britain's Queen Elizabeth, will be sealed and remain private for at least 90 years to preserve the monarch's dignity, a judge at London's High Court has ruled.

Philip, the Duke of Edinburgh, who had been married to the 95-year-old British monarch for more than seven decades, died at the age of 99 at his wife's Windsor Castle home to the west of London on April 9.

In keeping with a convention dating back to 1910, Andrew McFarlane, the president of the court's Family Division, said he had agreed Philip's will should be sealed up "and that no copy of the will should be made for the record or kept on the court file".

He also ruled in favour of the request "to exclude the value of the estate from the grant of probate".

"The degree of publicity that publication would be likely to attract would be very extensive and wholly contrary to the aim of maintaining the dignity of the Sovereign," McFarlane said in a ruling published on Thursday.

He said the convention was that



following the death of a senior royal, an application to seal the will was made to the Family Division president, with such hearings and judgments kept private.

However, he said "as is plain from this judgment" he considered it was a "necessary and proportionate intrusion into the private affairs of Her Majesty and the Royal Family to make public the fact that an application to seal the will of HRH The Prince Philip ... has been made and granted in private, and to explain the underlying reasons".

The judge said 90 years should pass from the granting of probate before the

will should be unsealed in private before possible publication, a period he said was "proportionate and sufficient".

He said the first royal whose will was sealed was Prince Francis of Teck, who was the younger brother of George V's wife Queen Mary. He said he was the custodian of a safe containing more than 30 envelopes with the wills of dead royals.

The most recent additions were made in 2002 following the deaths of Queen Elizabeth's mother, Elizabeth, and her sister Princess Margaret, he said. Reuters

Indian-Origin CEO's Green Submarine Project Wins UK's Clean Maritime Demonstration Competition

LONDON (TIP): A green hydrogen-powered under-water transportation submarine system being developed by a company led by an Indian-origin CEO was on Wednesday, September 15, named among the winners of the UK government's Clean Maritime Demonstration Competition.

Dhruv Boruah's Oceanways won backing from the GBP 23-million government-funded research and development (R&D) drive with its concept of a fully automated net positive submarine fleet, powered entirely on green hydrogen, could help cleanse the oceans of toxic pollution by collecting micro plastics on its pilot route between Glasgow in Scotland and Belfast in Northern Ireland.

While transporting cargo shipments, the fleet could secure significant emission savings of 27 tons of carbon dioxide or CO₂ emissions in the first year of operation, with an overall mission to reduce 300 million tons of CO₂ as the fleet grows.

"We would like to thank our Transport Secretary Grant Shapps MP for selecting Oceanways to support the Department for Transport's mission to decarbonize shipping and aid our Prime Minister's commitment to build back better," said Mr Boruah, Founder and CEO of Oceanways.

"Time is running out and it is imperative we don't settle for 1 per cent more efficiency in an existing system,



Dhruv Boruah's Oceanways won UK government's Clean Maritime Demonstration Competition.

but instead, radically rethink to create innovative solutions," he said.

The entrepreneur is confident that the autonomous, or driverless, system may well be in a position to transport humans in the future, following its successful use to transport products.

"It's not just JetZero. Oceanways has assembled a world-class team to pioneer SubZero by creating the new market of net positive underwater transport systems with zero-emission cargo submarines as an innovative tool to decarbonize shipping and clean up our ocean," he said. The green submarines are expected to be in use across British waters by 2026 and help address freight traffic challenges, including shortage of drivers. Oceanways says it will be servicing short point to point routes with fast, zero emission delivery. It claims the submarines are superior to a cargo ship in almost every way: "not

only they are weather independent, can reach hard to reach areas and a lot cheaper to build and operate, but it's also quieter, secure, more stable, and cleaner, with zero fumes or pollutants".

"As a proud island nation built on our maritime prowess, it is only right that we lead by example when it comes to decarbonizing the sector and building back greener," said Grant Shapps, the minister who unveiled the prize-winners during the ongoing London Shipping Week in Greenwich.

"The projects announced today showcase the best of British innovation, revolutionizing existing technology and infrastructure to slash emissions, create jobs and get us another step closer to our decarbonization targets," he said.

The government's Clean Maritime Demonstration Competition is supporting the development of innovative technology to propel Prime

Minister Boris Johnson's commitment to have zero emission ships operating commercially by 2025.

Also among the winners is an all-electric charge-point connected to an offshore wind turbine. The charge-points will be able to powerboats using 100 per cent renewable energy generated from the turbine.

This offers potential savings of up to 131,100 tons of carbon dioxide equivalent (CO₂e) emissions a year - the equivalent of removing over 62,000 cars from our roads. Similar to roadside electric vehicle charge points, these will be operated by semi-automated control, meaning that sailors can moor up by the wind turbine charge point, plug in, charge up, then sail on.

"Through increased investment and closer collaboration with government our industry can rise to the challenge of steering the UK's vessels in a green direction," said Maritime UK chair Sarah Kenny.

"We still have a very long way to go, but today marks an important step towards our journey to net zero," she said. It comes as UK Maritime Minister Robert Courts backed the opening of the UK's so-called greenest cruise terminal. The Horizon Cruise Terminal at the Port of Southampton, southern England, is the first of its kind, using an innovative mix of solar panel roofing and clean energy shore power plug-in charging for ships.

Another Australian state legalises voluntary euthanasia

BRISBANE (TIP): Voluntary euthanasia became legal in a fifth Australian state on September 16, more than 20 years after the country repealed the world's first mercy killing law for the terminally ill.

Queensland's Parliament passed the law with 61 of the state's 93 lawmakers voting in favor.

New South Wales, the nation's most populous state, is now the only state that doesn't allow assisted suicide.

The Northern Territory and Australian Capital Territory do not have the same rights as states and the Federal Parliament has barred them from making such laws.

Queensland's law, which takes effect in January 2023, allows people suffering from a disease or medical condition that is advanced, progressive and terminal to have access to so-called voluntary assisted dying.

Their condition must be expected to cause death within a year, they must have decision-making capacity, and proceed without coercion.

Deputy Premier Steven Miles said the law would ease pain and suffering.

"It has been a very considered debate and ... it's been a very difficult debate," Miles told Parliament.

Opponents argued that due to a funding shortfall for palliative care, the law would put pressure on some patients to end their lives.



"Will this government provide a guarantee that people will get access to quality integrated palliative care services wherever they live in Queensland, when they have a terminal diagnosis, and not just in the last few months of life?" opposition lawmaker Fiona Simpson said.

But Miles said palliative care and voluntary assisted dying are complementary policies which give more options to terminally ill people.

The sparsely populated Northern Territory in 1995 became the first

jurisdiction in the world to legalize doctor-assisted suicide for terminally ill patients. But the Australian Parliament overturned that law in 1997 after four people had been helped to die.

The Federal Parliament does not have the same power over the six states, and Victoria became the first to legalise assisted suicide in June 2019.

New South Wales' Parliament rejected a doctor-assisted suicide bill by a single vote two weeks before the Victorian law was passed. AP



NEW ZEALAND SAYS AUSTRALIA'S NEW NUCLEAR SUBMARINES MUST STAY OUT OF ITS WATERS

WELLINGTON (TIP): New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern said on September 16 that Australia's new nuclear-powered submarines would not be allowed in its territorial waters under a long-standing nuclear-free policy.

A new Indo-Pacific security partnership announced by US President Joe Biden, British Prime Minister Boris Johnson and Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison, will see the United States and Britain provide Australia with the technology and capability to deploy nuclear-powered submarines.

The Indo-Pacific deal is widely seen as a counter to China's growing influence in the region.

"I discussed the arrangement with Prime Minister Morrison last night," Ardern said at a news conference.

"I am pleased to see that the eye has been turned to our region from partners we work closely with. It's a contested region and there is a role that others can play in taking an interest in our region. But the lens we will look at this from will include stability," she said.

However, Ardern said the nuclear-powered submarines would not be allowed in New Zealand waters under a 1984 nuclear-free zone policy.

"Certainly they couldn't come into our internal waters.

"No vessels that are partially or fully powered by nuclear energy are able to enter our internal borders," she said.

Ardern said the new Indo-Pacific grouping does not change the security and intelligence ties of New Zealand, which is a member of the Five Eyes, a post-war intelligence grouping that also includes the United States, Britain, Australia and Canada.

"This is not a treaty level arrangement. It does not change our existing relationship including Five Eyes or our close partnership with Australia on defence matters," she said.

Ardern, who is in her second term in office, has looked to focus on a more independent foreign policy that is not loyal to any major bloc.

Foreign Minister Nanaia Mahuta has said she was uncomfortable with expanding the role of the Five Eyes, drawing criticism from Western allies

British woman files appeal against Cyprus 'fake rape' conviction

NICOSIA (TIP): A British woman convicted for falsely claiming gang rape in Cyprus has filed an appeal to the island's Supreme Court, seeking to clear her name.

The woman received a suspended four-month prison sentence in January 2020 in a case which sparked concern from Britain and activists about her treatment by Cyprus authorities.

Lawyers for the defendant, who cannot be named for legal reasons, and prosecutors presented their arguments before a three-bench Supreme Court in the capital Nicosia on September 17.

The court is expected to issue a ruling within six months.

The woman, then aged 19, filed a complaint in July 2019 that she had been raped by a group of Israeli youths in the holiday resort of Ayia Napa. Days later the complaint was withdrawn, leading to her arrest and subsequent conviction for public mischief.

She maintains she withdrew her complaint under duress after hours of police questioning and without a lawyer present.

"The case is a seminal one for the



protection of human rights in Cyprus, as well as the treatment of those who report sexual offences," said Michael Polack, director of the UK-based Justice Abroad advocacy group assisting a local defence team.

Twelve Israeli youths were detained for questioning but swiftly released after the woman withdrew her accusation.

They were not required to give any

evidence at the woman's trial because the case focussed on whether the woman had misled authorities and given a false statement, rather than the alleged rape itself.

The British government later said it had "numerous concerns" about the judicial process and the woman's right to a fair trial. The woman was not present at Thursday's process. — Reuters

Detox your skin and hair with your favourite beverage

While a shot of coffee instantly uplifts your mood and a cup of tea can relax you after a hard day at work, have you ever imagined the wonders it can do if you applied these on your skin and hair? Read on to know more about these beauty secrets.

Coffee

FOR YOUR SKIN: "Caffeine helps in treating dark circles and is often found in most cosmetics, which are imported. It also helps reduce the build-up of blood under your eyes, which contribute to eye shadows," says beauty professional Nishi Karamchandani. Apart from this, it contains anti-ageing properties, which delay the signs of ageing. Phytosterols (friendly plant sterols and stanols that blocks cholesterol absorption in our system) promote moisture and provides chemical-free sun protection. It also reduces the appearance of cellulite and tightens the skin. One can also use coffee beans as scrubs for the face and body.

FOR YOUR HAIR: It has rich antioxidant properties, which aid in repairing damaged hair and prevent breakage. Coffee also stimulates hair growth and thickens the mane. One can use coffee in hair packs as well. Several beauty parlours use coffee along with other ingredients when applying henna on a client's hair. This adds shine and lustre to the hair. It is also an antioxidant that counteracts the effects of pollutants in the air.

Tea

GREEN: Apart from aiding in weight loss, tea also protects the skin from damage and reactivates dying skin cells.

FOR YOUR SKIN: EGCG (epigallocatechin gallate) in the green tea reactivates your dying skin cells. It also protects your skin from the harmful UV rays of the sun. Moreover, it gives a glow to your skin. It contains antioxidants, which help rejuvenate your skin and protects it against free radicals. Karamchandani says, "Green tea is also used as a skin toner, especially for those with oily skin. Soak green tea leaves in hot water for half an hour. Cool, strain and use the liquid to tone your skin." Green tea bags can be dipped in water and applied over your eyelids like eye pads for instant cooling and relaxation. They help reduce the puffiness around your eyes and add brightness. Neha Matang, skin professional, says, "Green tea also serves as an exfoliator. If you use it in the form of a face mask, it will naturally help in getting rid of unwanted toxins and make you look healthy and add



shine."

FOR YOUR HAIR: This tea may also be used as a hair rinse, as the tannin in the tea helps to add lustre to your hair. Boil used tea leaves again in enough water. After boiling, cool and strain the water. Then add lemon juice to it and use this as a last rinse after shampoo. Matang says, "Green tea helps in reducing dandruff. It also stimulates hair growth and softens your hair. It contains vitamin C, vitamin E and panthenol, which are used as common ingredients in hair conditioners.

CHAMOMILE: Chamomile tea helps you achieve those golden streaks. Steep two chamomile tea bags in two cups of hot water for 5-10 minutes. Then add two tsps of lemon juice to the mixture. Use this as a final rinse on your hair after using a normal shampoo and conditioner. But do not rinse it out. This will help you bring the natural blonde or red tones in

your hair and slightly lighten your hair without looking drastic or fake.

BLACK: It helps fight free radicals that fasten the process of ageing of your skin. If you need a quick-fix for your under-eye bags, instantly dip two bags of black tea, cool and strain and put these on your eyes. It also serves as a natural astringent. All you need to do is make some tea, cool it and then splash it on your face for instant refreshment.

GINGER: The anti-inflammatory properties of ginger help your skin against acne. Highly antiseptic in nature, it keeps your skin clean and blemish-free. Ginger is invigorating and stimulating to your skin, it is also used topically to treat cellulite. Ginger tea is excellent for your hair as well. It increases scalp circulation and encourages hair growth. It also helps get rid of dandruff. Rinse your hair with ginger tea at least once a week.

FOOD CORNER

Doodhi Ka Halwa



Ingredients

Lauki (bottle gourd) 300 gms
Milk 500 ml
Sugar 20 gms
Khoya 5 gms
Kishmish 2 gms
Cashewnuts 2 gms
Saffron 5 strands
Desi ghee 5 gms
Cardamom powder 1 gm

Method

- Remove the outer skin of bottle gourd (lauki) and grate it.
- Squeeze to remove excess water.
- Heat 3 grams of desi ghee in a handi.
- 4. Add the grated lauki and saute for few minutes till it starts to get translucent.
- Now add milk and stir, till the milk boils and starts reducing.
- Keep stirring as the lauki has to be mashed in the milk and the milk gets completely reduced, this might take 20-30 minutes.
- Now add sugar and stir till the sugar dissolves completely.
- Soak the saffron in luke warm water for 10 minutes and add to the halwa.
- Heat the remaining desi ghee in a small pan and once it is heated, pour over the halwa, mix moderately so that the desi ghee flavor gets infused.
- You can either fry the raisins and cashew nuts or soak them in luke warm water, once done add to the halwa.
- Finish with cardamom powder.
- Serve hot.

Is it okay to flirt when you are in a relationship?

There is no one easy way to answer this, since there aren't any rights and wrongs. No two relationships are the same. So there cannot be a one-word answer to whether it is okay or not to flirt with someone else when you are in a relationship. Expert coaches say that in order to answer this question, one has to first understand what flirting really is.

It is to act in a way that is playful with or without the intent to engage someone romantically. Many times, it's overt behavior that is playful, coy, alluring, and can be in-person, by body language, or in a written form. It can be the gateway to an intimate relationship and be the play that keeps a committed relationship fun and exciting. The coaches add that one may think their flirting is done in innocence, but it may be due to something they are either consciously aware of or not aware of, but it "meets some kind of emotional need for the person engaging in the behaviour".

Meaning, if you flirt with others and they respond, it could feel fantastic. You could say flirting is a built-in mechanism to support humans in finding their intimate partners. When engaging in flirting, both the brain and the body react to these cues, which ignites the dopamine. The brain responds to the stimuli as does the body and the reward producing neurotransmitter dopamine motivates our pleasure centre, they explain.

All you need to know about vitamin supplements

Good nutrition is incomplete without components like vitamins and minerals, that are needed in smaller quantities than carbs, protein and fats, but they're what keep the human body functioning optimally. Think of them as the small nuts and bolts of a machine that have a crucial role to play. For most, these essential nutrients usually come from a daily balanced diet, but in some cases — such as pregnancy or a diagnosed vitamin deficiency — vitamin supplements may be required to reach adequate levels and can help in overall health and wellness.

Experts suggest that supplementing with vitamins and minerals can help support your fitness goals as well. For instance, vitamins C, B6, and B12 can help reduce tiredness, aiding longer workouts. The essential minerals calcium and magnesium contribute to normal muscle function, which therefore helps to support your body through training sessions.

Having said that, vitamin supplements can be called safe-to-consume only if they are taken as supplementary in addition to a healthy diet consisting of fruits, vegetables, whole grains, beans, legumes, animal sources of food and fortified foods. They should never substitute proper meals.

Commonly-taken vitamins and minerals include Vitamin B12, which can help keep nerve and blood cells healthy, make DNA and prevent anaemia; folic acid, which can reduce fetal birth defects when taken by pregnant women; Vitamin D, which can strengthen bones; Calcium, which can promote bone health; Vitamins C and E, which can prevent cell damage; Zinc, which can promote skin health and slow down vision loss from age-related macular degeneration; Fish oil, which can support heart health; Vitamin A, which can slow down vision loss from age-related



macular degeneration and contributes to the normal function of the immune system.

B vitamins contribute to the reduction of tiredness and fatigue, Vitamin D helps to maintain normal bones, Calcium contributes to the maintenance of normal teeth, Potassium for normal muscle function, and Magnesium is involved with normal protein synthesis.

Supplements are a quick and easy way to boost your nutrient intake in seconds. Here are some supplements in the market that help your daily vitamin intake: Grapeseed and Vitamin C Capsules: Grapeseed and Vitamin C capsules are an easy way to make sure you hit your daily recommended amount of Vitamin C. These capsules are the perfect partner to your recovery regime. They are suitable for those who follow plant-based diets.

Essential Omega-3: Omega-3 is an essential fatty acid that you can't make yourself, you have to get it from your diet, as it comes from fish oil, you might not have the time or money to get enough of it from what

you eat alone —making soft gels a convenient and inexpensive alternative.

Turmeric and Bioperine capsules: Widely used in Ayurvedic medicine for centuries, and as a key ingredient in Indian cuisine, its superfood status in the West has been rising ever since. These capsules are packed with 1000 mg of turmeric per serving. It's only recently that turmeric has gained popularity as a food supplement, and these capsules have 10 mg of Bioperine per serving —a black pepper extract —with great benefits of this powerful Indian spice.

Alpha Men tablet: Alpha Men Multivitamin is an advanced formula, which contains essential vitamins and minerals to support you with your goals. Each tablet includes calcium, vitamin D, selenium, pantothenic acid (vitamin B5), biotin, as well as energising natural extracts —boosting your everyday well-being, while you train hard, and keep up with a busy lifestyle. This multivitamin is the perfect everyday supplement for the active individual. *Source: IANS*



What causes frequent dizziness?

Many of us are familiar with the feeling of feeling dizzy while lying down on bed and then standing up suddenly. There are also times when one experiences dizziness that disrupts their balance. Why does it happen? Dr Pawan Ojha, a senior neurologist at Hiranandani Hospital, Vashi-A Fortis network Hospital, says this could be a sign of 'vertigo'. "Dizziness might imply vertigo, fainting, poor body balance, or even fits. Vertigo is a type of dizziness where you feel like you are spinning. These feelings may last from a few seconds to days and often worsen with movement," he says. According to the doctor, vertigo is commonly caused by "disease of the vestibular system". "The vestibular system inside the inner ear helps in sensing our head position in space relative to the body, and works in an integrated manner with the brain to maintain body position. Vertigo can result from diseases of the vestibular nerve or parts of the brain that deal with body balance."

How big of a problem is it?

The diseases related to the inner ear and its nerve supply are generally considered less worrisome. 'Benign positional vertigo' often causes the most severe vertigo but can be treated easily, the doctor says. "Another important cause of vertigo is 'vestibular neuritis' which occurs due to viral infection or autoimmune disease of the vestibular nerve, where vertigo, nausea, or vomiting can last up to several days. Meniere's Disease is caused by a build-up of fluid in the inner ear tubes, causing episodic vertigo with ringing in the ears and hearing loss. The exact cause is unclear; a viral infection, an autoimmune reaction or a genetic component could be the trigger," explains Dr Ojha. He adds that vertigo that is caused by a brain disease should be considered worrisome and treated on an urgent basis. "Stroke is an important and serious condition causing dizziness. Apart from this, brain infection, multiple sclerosis, hypothyroidism and other biochemical disturbances can cause vertigo even in the absence of fever."

Warning signs

If it is a serious cause of vertigo, signs will include severe headache, persistent vomiting and imbalance, double vision, vision problems, sudden hearing loss, or early signs of brain stroke (weakness or numbness in arm or leg, face drooping to one side, trouble while speaking or swallowing). People who are 60+, with diabetes, hypertension, smoking and history of heart disease or brain stroke, should be extra careful, the doctor warns.

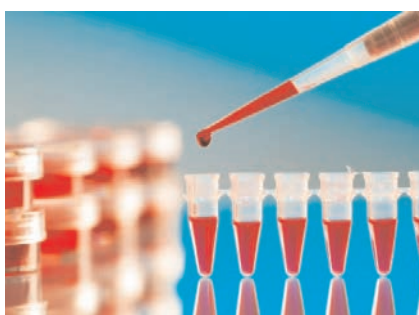
Source: The Indian Express

UK health service trials new 'quick, simple' blood test to detect cancers early

Britain's National Health Service (NHS) launched the world's largest trial of a revolutionary new "quick and simple" blood test that can detect more than 50 types of cancer before symptoms appear.

The Galleri™ test, pioneered by healthcare company GRAIL, checks for the earliest signs of cancer in the blood. The NHS-Galleri trial, the first of its kind, aims to recruit 140,000 volunteers in eight areas of England to see how well the test works in the NHS.

"The Galleri test can not only detect a wide range of cancer types but can also predict where the



cancer is in the body with a high degree of accuracy," said Sir Harpal Kumar, the Indian-origin President of GRAIL Europe and one of the UK's leading cancer researchers.

"The test is particularly strong at

detecting deadly cancers and has a very low rate of false positives. We're delighted to partner with the NHS to support the NHS Long Term Plan for earlier cancer diagnosis, and we are eager to bring our technology to people in the UK as quickly as we can," he said.

The first people to take part will have blood samples taken at mobile testing clinics in retail parks and other convenient community locations. "This quick and simple blood test could mark the beginning of a revolution in cancer detection and treatment here and around the world," said Amanda Pritchard, NHS chief executive.

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Researchers create chameleon-like artificial 'skin'

South Korean researchers have claimed that they have developed an artificial skin-like material that can quickly adjust its colours like a chameleon to match its surroundings. The team created the "skin" with a special ink that changes colour based on temperature and is controlled by tiny, flexible heaters. "Combined with the active control system and sensing units, the complete device chameleon model successfully retrieves the local background colour and matches its surface colour instantaneously with natural transition characteristics to be a competent option for a next-generation artificial camouflage," the researcher said in the journal *Nature Communications*.

"If you wear woodland camouflage uniforms in the desert, you can be easily exposed. Changing colours and patterns actively in accordance with surroundings is key to the camouflage technology that we created," Ko Seung-hwan, a mechanical engineering professor at Seoul National University who led the team, told Reuters.

Ko and the team demonstrated the technology - thermochromic liquid crystal (TLC) ink and vertically stacked multilayer silver nanowire heaters - using a chameleon robot with colour-detecting sensors. The skin tried to mimic whatever colours the sensors "saw" around it.

Apple introduces iPhone 13 and iPhone 13 mini

CUPERTINO, CALIFORNIA (TIP): Apple on September 14 introduced iPhone 13 and iPhone 13 mini, the next generation of the world's best smartphone, featuring a beautiful design with sleek flat edges in five gorgeous new colors.

Both models feature major innovations, including the most advanced dual-camera system ever on iPhone — with a new Wide camera with bigger pixels and sensor-shift optical image stabilization (OIS) offering improvements in low-light photos and videos, a new way to personalize the camera with Photographic Styles, and Cinematic mode, which brings a new dimension to video storytelling. iPhone 13 and iPhone 13 mini also boast super-fast performance and power efficiency with A15 Bionic, longer battery life, a brighter Super Retina XDR display that brings content to life, incredible durability with the Ceramic Shield front cover, double the entry-level storage at 128GB, an industry-leading IP68 rating for water resistance, and an advanced 5G experience.

iPhone 13 and iPhone 13 mini will be available in pink, blue, midnight, starlight, and (PRODUCT)RED,¹ with pre-orders beginning Friday, September 17, and availability beginning Friday, September 24.

"Our customers rely on iPhone every day, which is why we've made iPhone



13 and iPhone 13 mini more powerful, more capable, and more fun to use," said Greg Joswiak, Apple's senior vice

president of Worldwide Marketing. "Both phones have beautiful designs, industry-leading performance, and advanced camera systems with impressive computational photography features, all with incredible durability, water resistance, and a big jump in battery life to ensure customers can depend on their iPhone when they need it. All of this, tightly integrated with iOS 15 and with privacy built in, make iPhone 13 and iPhone 13 mini an unbeatable choice."

Beautiful and Durable Design with Amazing Battery Life

iPhone 13 and iPhone 13 mini have been redesigned on the inside and out, and come in five gorgeous colors featuring a durable flat-edge design and an elegant aluminum frame. The 6.1-inch and 5.4-inch displays² feature Ceramic Shield on the front, exclusive to iPhone and tougher than any smartphone glass. Both models have an industry-leading IP68 rating for water resistance,³ and are designed to protect against spills from common liquids. A redesigned rear camera layout with diagonally arranged lenses enables the advanced dual-camera system, and a redesigned TrueDepth camera system is smaller while still packing in the same breakthrough technologies, including Face ID, the most secure facial authentication in a smartphone, but offering more display area.

How to update Apple devices to correct security flaw

Apple has released a critical software patch to fix a security vulnerability that researchers say could allow hackers to directly infect iPhones and other Apple devices without any involvement of the owner.

Here's how to update your Apple devices: iPhone, iPad, or iPod Touch

- Plug in your device and make sure you're connected to the Internet.
- Go to Settings General, then tap Software Update.
- Tap "Install Now." If you see "Download and Install" instead, tap it to download the update, enter your passcode, then tap "Install Now."

Apple Watch

- First, make sure that your Apple Watch is compatible with the latest software: watchOS 7 is compatible with Apple Watch Series 3 and later and Apple Watch SE. Upgrading to watchOS 7 requires an iPhone 6s or later running iOS 14 or later.

Next steps:

- Update your iPhone to the latest version of iOS.
- Make sure that your Apple Watch is at least 50 percent charged.
- Connect your iPhone to Wi-Fi.
- Keep your iPhone next to your Apple Watch, so that they're in range.

It could take from several minutes to an hour for the update to complete. You might want to update overnight or wait until you have time.

Ozone hole over Antarctica larger than usual, scientists say

BERLIN (TIP): Scientists say the hole in the Earth's protective ozone layer over the Southern Hemisphere is larger than usual this year and already surpasses the size of Antarctica.

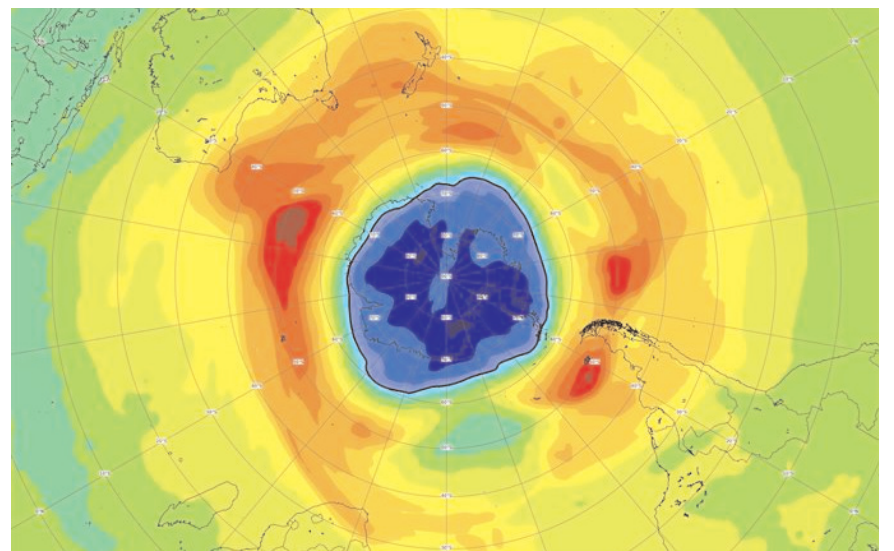
The European Union's Copernicus Atmosphere Monitoring Service said Thursday that the so-called ozone hole, which appears every year during the Southern Hemisphere spring, has grown considerably in the past week following an average start.

"Forecasts show that this year's hole has evolved into a rather larger than usual one," said Vincent-Henri Peuch, who heads the EU's satellite monitoring service.

"We are looking at a quite big and potentially also deep ozone hole," he said.

Atmospheric ozone absorbs ultraviolet light coming from the sun. Its absence means more of this high-energy radiation reaches the Earth, where it can harm living cells.

Peuch noted that last year's ozone hole also started out unremarkably but then turned into one of the



This image, provided on Thursday by the European Space Agency (ESA) shows a map of the ozone hole over the South Pole on September 16, 2021. Scientists say the Southern Hemisphere ozone hole is larger than usual and already surpasses the size of Antarctica. AP/PTI photo

longest-lasting ones on record.

The Montreal Protocol, signed in 1987, led to a ban on a group of chemicals called halocarbons that were blamed for exacerbating the annual ozone hole. Experts say that

while the ozone layer is beginning to recover, it's likely to take until the 2060s for the ozone-depleting substances used in refrigerants and spray cans to completely disappear from the atmosphere. Source: AP

Big-bang reforms in telecom sector: 4-year loan moratorium, 100% FDI

The Centre on September 15 approved the much-awaited relief package for the stressed telecom sector that includes a four-year moratorium on payment of dues by telecom companies and allowing 100 per cent foreign direct investment (FDI) under the automatic route.

Announcing the decisions cleared at a Union Cabinet meeting chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Information Technology and Communication Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said, "The reforms are deep and broad... structural... will bring in change today, tomorrow and in the future. I do not like to put a number on the package as it is revenue-neutral for the government." He went on to add that the moratorium would not impact the government's revenue. Incidentally, the government announced the package six weeks after Kumar Mangalam Birla resigned from the post of chairman of Vodafone Idea Limited, which was created following the merger of British telecom giant Vodafone's India unit and Birla's Idea Cellular Ltd.

UN pegs 7.2% growth for India in current year

India is expected to grow at 7.2% in 2021 but economic growth could decelerate next year, according to a United Nations report which said the recovery in the country is constrained by the ongoing human and economic cost of the Covid pandemic and the negative impact of food price inflation on private consumption. The UNCTAD Trade and Development Report 2021, released here on Wednesday, sounded a cautiously optimistic note to say that the global economy is set for a strong recovery in 2021, albeit with a good deal of uncertainty clouding the details at the regional and country levels over the second half of the year.

Sensex breaches 59,000-mark for first time

Market benchmark Sensex scaled the 59,000-mark for the first time on Thursday, Sept 16, as investors remained in risk-on mode following the government's policy support measures for various sectors.

Advancing for the third consecutive session, the BSE index climbed 417.96 points to its new closing peak of 59,141.16. It touched an intra-day record of 59,204.29. Similarly, the broader NSE Nifty surged 110.05 points to finish at its fresh lifetime high of 17,629.50. During the session, it scaled an all-time high of 17,644.60.

Bad bank to resolve Rs 2 lakh cr stressed loans, says finance minister

NEW DELHI (TIP): Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Thursday, Sept 16, announced a Rs 30,600 crore government guarantee for National Asset Reconstruction Company Limited (NARCL) for acquiring stressed loan assets, paving the way for operationalisation of the bad bank.

The decision to provide sovereign guarantee for security receipts (SRs) issued by the NARCL was taken at a meeting of the Union Cabinet headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday.

The Finance Minister in Budget 2021-22 had announced setting up of a bad bank as part of resolution of bad loans worth about Rs 2 lakh crore.

The bad bank or the NARCL will pay up to 15 per cent of the agreed value for the loans in cash and the remaining 85 per cent would be government-guaranteed security receipts. The government guarantee will be invoked if there is loss against the threshold value.

"For the SRs to hold on and to have their value intact, there is a need for government to give the backstop arrangement and that's why Rs 30,600 crore has been cleared by the Cabinet yesterday," she said. This sovereign guarantee would be for a period of 5 years and the NARCL would have to pay a fee for this. "The SRs are getting the backstop through government funding only in as much as to pay the gap between the realised value (resolution/liquidation) and face value of the SRs and this will hold good for five years," Sitharaman said.

The fee for the guarantee will be initially 0.25 per cent, which will progressively increase to 0.5 per cent in case of delay in resolution of bad loans, Financial Services Secretary Debasish Panda said.

NARCL will pay up to 15% of the agreed value for the loans in cash and the remaining 85% will be government-guaranteed security receipts



This will enable speedy disposal of stressed assets and clean up balancesheets of banks for further lending, he explained.

The Finance Minister further said public sector banks (PSBs) would hold 51 per cent stake in the NARCL and 49 per cent in the proposed debt management company — India Debt Resolution Company Ltd.

There would be 16 shareholders for NARCL, including PSBs, private sector banks and NBFCs.

The structure will assist in consolidation of debt, currently fragmented across various lenders, thus leading to faster, single point decision-

making, she said.

"It will incentivise quicker action on resolving stressed assets thereby helping in better value realisation. India Debt Resolution Company Limited (IDRCL) will engage market expertise for value enhancement. This approach will also permit freeing up of personnel in banks to focus on increasing business and credit growth," she said.

In the first phase, Panda said, banks have identified stress loans of about Rs 90,000 crore to be resolved.

The NARCL is intended to resolve stressed loan assets above Rs 500 crore each amounting to about Rs 2 lakh crore.

Source: PTI

Microsoft to buy back up to \$60 bln in shares

Microsoft Corp said it will conduct an up to \$60 billion share buyback program, raise its quarterly dividend by 11%, and appoint company President Brad Smith as vice chair.

Microsoft said the buyback program has no expiration date and may be terminated at any time, and that it would pay a dividend of \$0.62 per share - 6 cents over the previous quarter.

The U.S. technology giant also called the vice chair position an updated executive role for Smith, who currently leads a team of over 1,500 staff in 54 countries, according to his biography on Microsoft's website.

Smith joined Microsoft in 1993 from law firm Covington & Burling to run corporate and legal affairs operations in Europe. He became general counsel in 2002 and, over the next decade, handled



the resolution of antitrust cases, the biography showed.

Smith will continue to report to Chief Executive Officer Satya Nadella, Microsoft said.

Microsoft Office 2021 will launch on October 5th

Microsoft is launching its next

perpetual version of Microsoft Office for commercial customers today, and promising an Office 2021 consumer release on October 5th. Microsoft Office Long Term Servicing Channel (LTSC) for Windows and Mac will be available for commercial and government users today, providing a locked-in time release of Office that doesn't require a subscription.

Office LTSC is designed for businesses in regulated industries where processes and apps can't change on a monthly basis, or for manufacturing plants that rely on Office and want a locked-in time release. It won't ship with the AI- and cloud-powered features that are found in Microsoft 365, and it won't receive new features, either. Microsoft will support Office LTSC for five years, and the company has also committed to another perpetual version of Office for the future.

Shree Ganeshaya Namah



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

WEEKLY HOROSCOPE - 20th Sept to 26th Sept 2021

Aries

This week you will be loaded with tedious and redundant work. You'll find a very good mentor who will give you valuable advice that'll forge ahead in life with a purpose. Do a lot of relaxing activities this week like going for a spa or reading a novel you like. You'll feel much loved this week as your partner will be very supportive of you. You are able to communicate your feelings and emotions with your partner hence both of you are on the same page as of this week.

Taurus

You're likely to go on an introspective journey this week, to find your purpose and life and get to know yourself better. This week will be quite intense for you but in a positive way. Your loved ones will not bother you and let you do your thing which is exactly what you need this week. You won't spend much time with your loved one this week but things will be great between you and your loved one. You will receive an unexpected amount of empathy from them which will make you feel very confident about your relationship.

Gemini

This week is just a relatively easy week for you as you work with your team with ease and also have a lot of fun at work this week. Your work life will be the most positive part of your week. A very productive week is on its way for you this week. You will have a lot of work to do, which you will thoroughly enjoy.

Cancer

This week you will realize the importance of your family as you will have to go through something very challenging and difficult in your life this week itself. Make sure to express your gratitude to them and apologies for your past mistakes genuinely. Embarking on an unknown journey alone will be nerve wrecking even for someone who is as confident as you. You need to work on being disciplined and being punctual if you want to succeed as a lot of work and a lot less time lays ahead of you.

Leo

You will have to focus on becoming a better version of yourself this week because fate has left you with no other option than that, if you still chose to be resistant to change you will have difficulty just going through the week successfully. This week does not seem favorable for your business to make progress. You will find it tough to meet deadlines and focus on your work because you will be overwhelmed with a lot of deadlines and a lot of work, on top of that you will be distracted by the relationship problems that you are facing. You are likely to be working throughout this week.

Virgo

This week may have some new responsibilities, which you will carry out successfully. Donating to the needy will be very helpful to you as you build great karma. You will come across an opportunity to expand your business to new horizons. You know exactly what you want in your business. Go ahead and make important decisions this week as this will keep your passion alive. Expect a lot of obstacles at the beginning of the week. Know that things will ease down as the week goes by. You need to focus on your happiness the most this week.

Libra

You will learn this week that you are very compatible with your partner; it is because you both believe in love, kindness, and acceptance more than anything else. You might have fights with your partner this week too but you will try to accept your partner for what they are, which will save you a lot for efforts in the future. This week might be full of fight drama and trouble for you, do not make it worse by making any significant decisions this week. Lay low and focus on how to get through the week without any trouble.

Scorpio

Your business associates will be very content and happy with your work this week. The possibility of your business

expanding internationally is quite high this week. Hence your business will do just amazing this week. The consequences of the immense amount of happiness that you're feeling this week will be seen in your health as well as your personal life.

Sagittarius

Your love life will keep you very happy this week, as your partner will make you happy, satisfied and will talk about taking the next step upfront and working on this relationship. Be open and honest about how you feel as what you say this week, will be the basis of how your relationship will move on to the next step.

Capricorn

Your health will regress this week. The sooner you start taking precautions, the better your health will get with time. Be realistic with yourself, and make sure that you are concretely working towards the fitness goals you have set. You are advised to stay in touch with your doctors regularly in order to avoid any major hassle in their healthy being.

Aquarius

You will find a lot of security and safety in your partner this week. You will feel what it is like to have a safe haven, someone whom you can trust so deeply yet be yourself around them so easily without the fear of any judgment. Business activities will be great as well. Your business will grow most of the time and you will acquire new clients. Be it big or small business, you will experience growth most of the time.

Pisces

Your business associates will be very content and happy with your work this week. The possibility of your business expanding internationally is quite high this week. Hence your business will do just amazing this week. The consequences of the immense amount of happiness that you're feeling this week will be seen in your health as well as your personal life.

BIRTHDAY HOROSCOPE :20TH SEPT TO 26TH SEPT 2021

CONTD FROM PAGE 30

Sept 20

Today you will be overwhelmed with praises and appreciation coming your way which will boost your confidence to another level, and you will be more outspoken and take the lead more often from this point onwards. There will be an improvement in your work pattern. Follow your passion and do not let anyone's unsolicited opinion and advice stop you from going after your dream.

Sept 21

A happy and jolly day for you today. Be prepared for a lot of positive surprises. You are extremely close to finding that person that will support you in everything. Be open to the affection being shown to you. Today is a great day for your relationship to flourish into the next big thing. Today is all about kindness and empathy for you. Today will be a beneficial day for you.

Sept 22

You will move on to the next level with your partner today and that will be celebrated by all of

your family members, you will experience a positive shift in your feelings, the world has never seemed this beautiful to you before and you will simply be high on life today. You will have a great time with your loved ones and your partner today.

Sept 23

Things will turn out in your favor as you have a lot of luck. Be careful not to get so caught up in the momentum of the events so much so that you overlook your own basic needs and spend your daydreaming. Instead, if you spend your day being aware and at the moment you will enjoy a lot today. Your happiness is due to a successful accomplishment of yourself made work. Now that you have achieved what you wanted today is the time for you to relax. Try to take a small break from the daily routine and go out for yoga or a spiritual session.

Sept 24

You will be encouraged to formulate your plans and goals alone today. Your leadership skills will help you move past any hurdles without much effort.

You will feel as if you're being tested in strength and character as well as patience by your partner as well as your employees as they leave all the work and responsibilities on you.

Sept 25

You will spend the day feeling content and grateful. Things, where you were stuck before, will start clearing up. Your mental health is doing well, and you will be in a good mood throughout the day today. A lot of the positive energies are protecting your health today. Your health will not bother you, at the same time you should try to maintain this state for a long time by enrolling in any physical activity of your choice like dancing or any sport you like.

Sept 26

A very productive day is on your way today. You will accomplish a lot of work by yourself today. You will enjoy the new work that has come in thoroughly. You will have a great time with your loved ones and your partner today. You will make great progress by learning in your business as well hence all in all a good day today for your health as well.

|| SHREE GANESHAY NAMA ||



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Anant Chaturdashi

The Anant Chaturdashi fast holds a great deal of importance in the Hindu religion. The festival is also known by the name of Anant Chaudas. The day commemorates the Lord of numerous avatars, Lord Vishnu.

Coming on the 14th day of the Shukla paksha of the Bhadrapad month in the Hindu Calendar, the festival celebrates the spirit of oneness and a common brotherhood. This year, Anant Chaturdashi falls on September 19.

On Anant Chaturdashi, after paying homage to Lord Vishnu, a thread is being tied onto his arm. This thread could either be a silk thread or cotton one and must have 14 knots in it. The Ganesh Visarjan is also celebrated on the same days as Anant Chaudas. The entire nation celebrates this festival with great zeal and enthusiasm. A lot many processions of the lord are also taken out in the masses to get everyone ringing in the festivity together.

Anant Chaturdashi as per the Scriptures

- The fast on this festival is observed on the 14th day of the Shukla Paksha, of the Bhadrapad month in the Hindu Calendar. For this condition to be satisfied, the 14th day must start after 2 muhurats from the time of the sunrise.
- If the Chaturdashi date falls after the sunrises two muhurats and ceases before it, then the festival of Anant Chaturdashi is to be celebrated a day prior to this. The whole procession of the festival, the worshipping, the paying homage, the fast, everything must take place in the first half of the day to maintain the auspiciousness of the rituals. If by any chance, you couldnt find time to do it at that phase, itll be better if you do it in the first time frame of the middle phase of the day. The first time frame of the middle phase of the day is from the 7th and the 9th muhurat.

Anant Chaturdashi Puja Vidhi and Vrat

In the Agni Puran, the importance of observing a fast is being stressed upon. This day commemorates the infinite forms of the Lord Vishnu. This worshipping is done in the noon time, the Pujan Vidhi is mentioned below:

- On this day, after proper bath, take a bow and place a kalash on the Pujan altar.
- Establishment of a kalash which has an Ashtadal lotus made of kush on a vase can be installed, or if you wish you can also use a picture of Lord Vishnu.
- After this prepare a thread by dipping it in vermilion, saffron, and turmeric. It must have 14 knots. Keep this thread in front of the idol of Lord Vishnu.
- Now, worship the thread and the idol of the lord with Shadoshopchar method and chant the mantra thats being mentioned below. After thats being done, you are to tie the sacred thread around your arm.
- The men are supposed to tie it on their left arm and the women are supposed to wear it round their right arm. After this offer food to the Brahmans and accept the prasad with your entire family.

The Significance of Anant Chaturdashi

As per the mythology, the festival of Anant Chaturdashi has its roots in the epic Mahabharata. The day is being celebrated as the day of Lord Vishnu. The lord created 14 loks, Tal, Atal, Vital, Sutal, Talatal, Rasatal, Paatal, Bhi, Bhuva, Jan, Tap, Satya, mah. In order to follow and protect these, he came down to this mortal world in the form of 14 different avatars, which gave him the name of being infinite. He knew he had save his people and his creations, for which these avatars played a major role. Therefore, the day of Anant Chaturdashi has great importance, since you can please the lord of creation himself and be blessed with his choicest blessings. The fast thats being observed on this day also holds a major significance. All this is said to please him and provide you with an eternal life full of bliss and contentment. It is also believed that along with fasting on this day, if any person recites the



Vishnu Sahasranama stotra, all his wishes are fulfilled and he gets what he desires for from the Lord. This fast is done to attain wealth, abundance, and prosperity in ones life. The desire of having ample money, happiness and children etc lures the man to seek the lords blessings on his mortal existence. This fast is prevalent in many states of India. On this day folk tales of Lord Vishnu are heard by the members of the family.

Legendary tales surrounding Anant Chaturdashi

According to the take in the epic Mahabharata, the Kauravas defeated the Pandavas in gambling with the help of turning against them and going behind their back in the act of deceiving. After this, the Pandavas had to lose their kingdom, their wealth, and all the luxuries and go for a period of exile in the wilderness. In this duration, they had to endure much pains and hardships to get through it. One fine day, Lord Krishna went to greet the Pandavas in the forest. After greeting him with proper respect, the eldest of the Pandavas, Yudhishtira asked him for a way, through which they can come back to the track and get their lost kingdom and wealth back with respect. The Lord upon hearing this, gave him an antidote that could solve all his problems in life and fulfill his hearts desire. This remedy was the fast of Anant Chaturdashi, that commemorates Lord Vishnu who is the sole provider of solace. He advised him to observe this fast and pay homage to Lord Vishnu with his wife and brothers.

After hearing this, Yudhishtira asked Krishna to explain who is Anant. Lord Krishna went in great details to let him know that Lord Anant is another avatar of Lord Vishnu. Lord Vishnu rests in the Chaturmas on the sheshnaag for an infinite time.

Anant lord in the avatar of Vaaman went through the three loks in just 2 pags. No one knows about his start, his end and thats one of the major reason hes called and known by the name, infinite. By worshipping him all the woes and issues that you gave on your life will cease to exist and youll be able to live a life that youve always wanted.

After the tale got ended, Yudhishtira pledged to observe this fast with his family, and after its successful completion he was able to regain his lost kingdom and wealth.

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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 SEP 17 TO SEP 23, 2021

"THOSE WHO FAIL TO LEARN FROM HISTORY ARE DOOMED TO REPEAT IT." - SIR WINSTON CHURCHILL

September 17



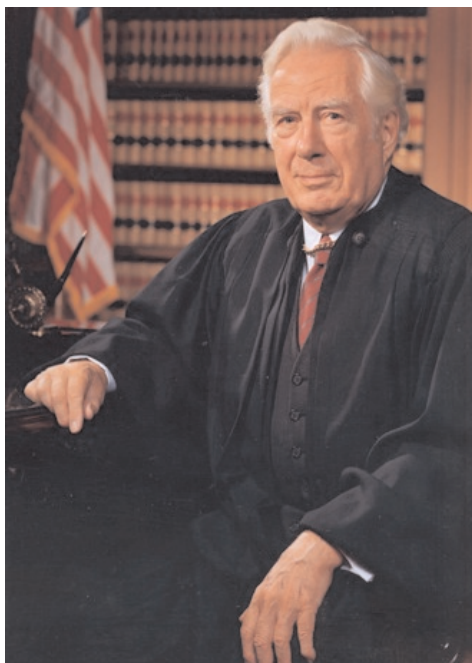
Constitution Day

SEPTEMBER 17, 1787 - At the Constitutional Convention in Philadelphia, delegates from twelve states voted unanimously to approve the proposed U.S. Constitution.

SEPTEMBER 17, 1862 - The bloodiest day in U.S. military history occurred as General Robert E. Lee and the Confederate armies were stopped at Antietam in Maryland by General George B. McClellan and numerically superior Union forces. By nightfall 26,000 men were dead, wounded, or missing.

SEPTEMBER 17, 1908 - The first fatality involving powered flight occurred as a biplane piloted by Orville Wright fell from a height of 75 feet, killing Lt. Thomas E. Selfridge, his 26-year-old passenger. A crowd of nearly 2,000 spectators at Fort Myer, Virginia, observed the crash of the plane which was being tested for possible military use. Wright himself was seriously injured.

SEPTEMBER 17, 1939 - Soviet Russians invaded Eastern Poland, meeting little resistance and taking over 200,000 Poles prisoner. This was done in accordance with the Nazi-Soviet Pact in which the Nazis and Soviets had predetermined how they would divide up Poland.



Warren E. Burger

BIRTHDAY - Supreme Court Justice Warren E. Burger (1907-1995) was born in St. Paul, Minnesota. Appointed by President Nixon, he had the longest tenure (1969-86) of any Chief Justice in the 20th Century. In 1973, he voted in the majority on Roe vs. Wade which upheld a woman's right to an abortion. In 1974, he voted to force Nixon to surrender White House audio tapes to the Watergate special prosecutor.

September 18

SEPTEMBER 18, 1810 - Chile declared its independence from Spain after 269 years as a colony.

SEPTEMBER 18, 1947 - The U.S. Air Force was established as a separate military service.



Greta Garbo

BIRTHDAY - Movie actress Greta Garbo (1905-1990) was born in Stockholm, Sweden (as Greta Lovisa Gustafsson). She retired and became a recluse after making 27 films, spanning the silent era through the beginning of sound movies.

September 19

SEPTEMBER 19, 1676 - Jamestown, Virginia, was attacked and burned during a rebellion led by Nathaniel Bacon against the Royal Governor, Sir William Berkeley.

SEPTEMBER 19, 1893 - New Zealand became the first country to grant women the right to vote.

SEPTEMBER 19-20, 1985 - Earthquakes in Mexico City killed an estimated 5,000 to 20,000 persons and left more than 100,000 homeless, causing \$4 billion in damage. The quakes registered 8.1 and 7.5 on the Richter scale.

SEPTEMBER 19, 1994 - U.S. troops invaded Haiti, with the stated goal of restoring democracy.



William Golding

BIRTHDAY - British author William Golding (1911-1993) was born in Cornwall, England. Best known for Lord of the Flies, he received a Nobel Prize in

1983.

September 20

SEPTEMBER 20, 1873 - The New York Stock Exchange was forced to close for the first time in its history as a result of a banking crisis during the financial Panic of 1873.

SEPTEMBER 20, 1973 - The much-hyped "Battle of the Sexes" took place in the Houston Astrodome as tennis player and women's rights activist, Billie Jean King, defeated self-styled male chauvinist Bobby Riggs in three straight sets. Riggs, a retired tennis champion, had been critical of the quality of women's tennis.



FW De Klerk

SEPTEMBER 20, 1989 - F.W. De Klerk was sworn in as president of South Africa. He began an era of reform aimed at ending apartheid and was succeeded by Nelson Mandela.

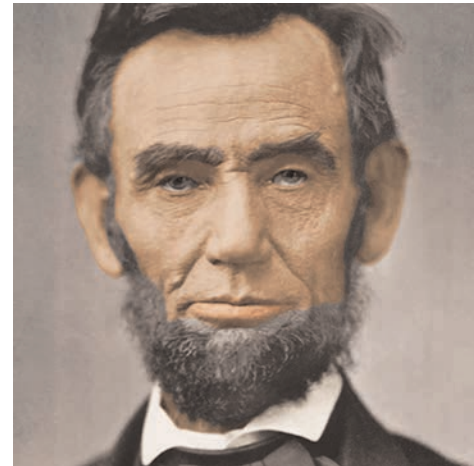
September 21

SEPTEMBER 21, 1949 - The People's Republic of China was proclaimed by its Communist leaders.

September 22

SEPTEMBER 22, 1776 - During the American Revolution, Nathan Hale was executed without a trial after he was caught spying on British troops on Long Island, his last words, "I only regret that I have but one life to lose for my country."

SEPTEMBER 22, 1828 - Shaka, chief of the Zulus and founder of the Zulu empire, was killed by his two half-brothers.



Abraham Lincoln

SEPTEMBER 22, 1862 - President Abraham Lincoln issued a preliminary

Emancipation Proclamation freeing the slaves in territories held by Confederates as of January 1, 1863.

SEPTEMBER 22, 1862 - Otto von Bismarck became premier of Prussia. He forged a loose confederation of German states into a powerful nation, with Wilhelm I becoming Kaiser of the new German Empire.

SEPTEMBER 22, 1996 - Australian Bob Dent, a cancer victim, became the first person to commit legally assisted suicide, via a lethal injection, under a voluntary euthanasia law.

BIRTHDAY - British scientist Michael Faraday (1791-1867) was born in Surrey, England. His discovery of electromagnetic induction proved that moving a magnet through a coil of wire produces a current, resulting in the development of electric generators.

September 23

SEPTEMBER 23RD - Autumn (Sept. 23-Dec. 21) begins in the Northern Hemisphere with the autumnal equinox, at 1:37 a.m. EDT. In the Southern Hemisphere today is the beginning of spring.

SEPTEMBER 23, 1952 - Vice-presidential candidate Richard Nixon delivered his Checkers Speech on television and radio to address accusations of financial misdeeds.

SEPTEMBER 23, 1991 - Armenia declared its independence from the Soviet Union.

BIRTHDAY - American journalist and influential commentator, Walter Lippmann (1889-1974) was born in New York. "Without criticism and reliable and intelligent reporting, the government cannot govern," he once stated.



Frierich Von Paulus

BIRTHDAY - Friedrich von Paulus (1890-1957) was born in Breitenau, Germany. In 1942, Adolf Hitler chose Paulus, a desk officer, to lead the German 6th Army in an all-out attack against Stalingrad, deep inside Russia. Although his troops captured most of Stalingrad, they became trapped within the city. On January 31, 1943, the day Hitler made him a field marshal, Paulus surrendered to the Russians, marking the first big defeat of Hitler's armies. After the war, Paulus appeared as a witness for the Russian prosecution at the Nuremberg war crime trials.

Virgin beaches of India you still need to explore

India has a long coast line, yet we fail to think of amazing beach destinations that we can go anytime. There are so many hidden, unexplored beaches in India that we never talk about. Every time someone thinks of a beach holiday, the most popular beach destination that comes to the mind is Goa, right? But how about trying a few unknown beaches for a change when you plan your next holiday trip to a beach?

India is a vast country surrounded by water on two of its sides, it has a vast potential when it comes to beach holidays. The island states of Lakshadweep and Andaman and Nicobar provide breathtaking holiday options for you and your family or even when you decide to travel solo! Here's a list of some virgin beaches which can be found in India:

Bekal Beach, Kerala

God's Own Country, Kerala is truly a heavenly place for nature lovers. When one does visit the Bekal Beach, it is evident why Kerala has been given that title. This beach is beautifully placed adjacent to a giant keyhole shaped Bekal Fort, which also serves as an observation tower for visitors. Located in the Kasargod region in Kerala, Bekal beach is the perfect place for a quick holiday over the weekend, solely dedicated to the sea, sand and sun!

Serenity Beach, Pondicherry

Doesn't the name of this beach do half of the trick? A walk along the coast on the Serenity beach will help you relax amidst the white sands and the turquoise water. A lazy day spent at the beach, just sun-bathing and reading a novel at your own pace is what makes this beach the most leisurely among the rest. Located at just a 10 minutes' drive from the city, Serenity beach is lined by a row of palm trees and offers an amazing view of the charming Bay of Bengal.

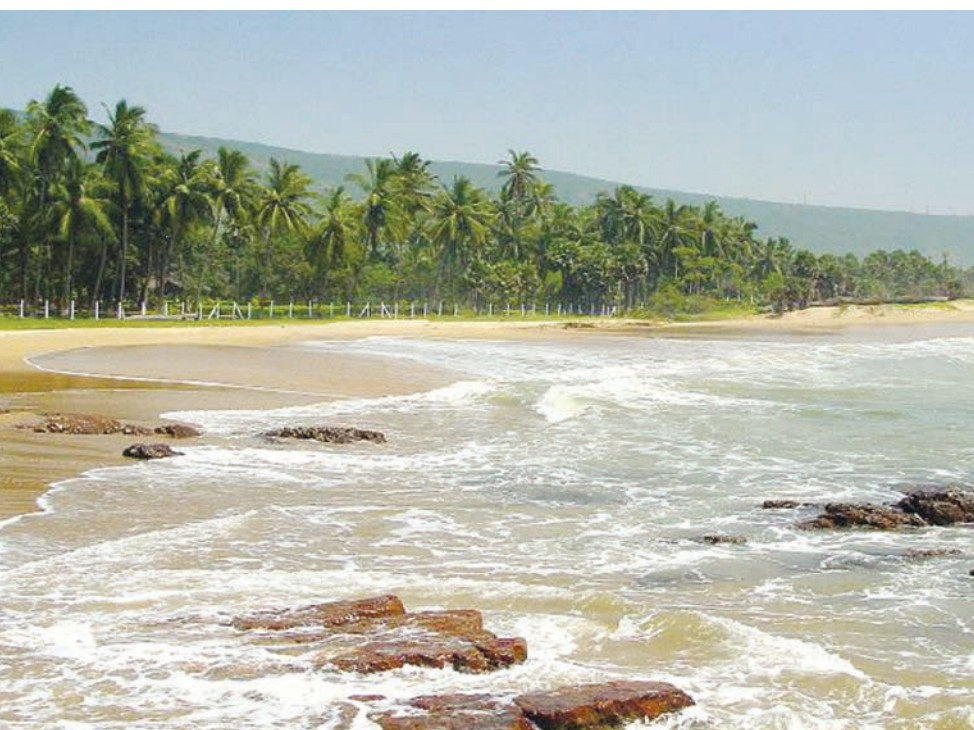
Radhanagar Beach, Andaman and Nicobar Islands

Famed as "Asia's Best Beach" by Time Magazine, Radhanagar beach is definitely a sight to remember. Known for its untouched beauty, this beach will captivate you with its alluring charm. The lazy, blue waves and the white sands will definitely make you fall for them. Situated just 12 kms from the Havelock ferry pier, this beach is undoubtedly one of God's meticulous creations!

Lighthouse Beach, Kerala

Even though Kovalam remains one of the most popular tourist spots in Kerala, the Lighthouse beach has remained untouched (thankfully) by most of the crowd. Extremely picturesque in its setting, the Lighthouse beach is the ideal retreat for wanderers as it overlooks the other two beaches in Kovalam- Hawah and Samudra. Bordered by coconut groves and an ancient lighthouse, from which the beach gets its name, this beach in Kerala is truly a gift of nature.

Nirvana Beach, Karnataka



Located 30 kms away from the temple town of Gokarna, Karnataka in a place called Kumta, Nirvana beach is unlike all the other beaches to be found on the stretch of Gokarna. A virgin beach in its purest sense, chances are that you could be the only person on Nirvana if and when you visit it! A sunset along this beach is something to die for and the peaceful surroundings make it a much needed break from the humdrum of the cities. The name Nirvana is very apt when it comes to what this beach stands for.

Elephant Beach, Andaman and Nicobar Islands

A playground for marine life and water lovers, Elephant beach is one of the virgin beaches in the Andaman that we're grateful for. Going to this beach is no less than a dream sequence as the turquoise blue water rolls in front of you in ever changing shades, the white sands feel ticklish beneath your feet and the air around you is just so refreshing! With astounding coral reefs, it is a treat for swimmers and for underwater diving. Make sure to have Elephant beach on your "to-visit" list for sure!

Mandvi, Kutch

This is a truly unique beach as there are windmills lining its stretch which makes it a beautiful sight. A host to white, breathtaking beaches and relaxing water, perfect for swimming, Mandvi beach still remains a virgin beach. It used to be a ship-building hub in the earlier times but has now been transformed into a haven for the tourists who do eventually turn in.

Yarada Beach, Andhra Pradesh

It is a definite escape from the crowded cities and the noise. A true artwork of nature, Yarada beach in Vishakhapatnam offers an uninterrupted view of the coastline. Surrounded by hills on three sides and the Bay of Bengal on one side, Yarada beach is like none of the rest. Just 15 kms away from Vishakhapatnam, Yarada has dodged commercialization till now continues to remain in its pristine form.

Agatti Beach, Lakshadweep

The land of innumerable beaches, Lakshadweep, is the perfect place to find nature's hidden gems. The Agatti beach is a stunning virgin beach known for its scenic beauty among the other 36 coral islands. A Perfect holiday escape is in stores for the ones who choose this beach over the rest for their time out from the hustling city life.

St. Mary's Beach, Karnataka

6 kms boat ride away from the pilgrimage town on Udupi, Karnataka, lies the virgin beach of St. Mary's. Known for its amazing basalt rock formations with vertical blocks lining up on the beachfront, it remains unexplored for most of its parts. Besides, the charm of the Arabian Sea is always present to surround the beach with it. Red crabs, coconut trees and rare shells lying along the coast provide a unique experience, very different from any other beach. St. Mary's virgin beauty can behold its visitors with a peculiar ease.

contd from page 1

PM MODI TO VISIT US TO ATTEND QUAD SUMMIT, UNGA DEBATE

they will review the Quad Vaccine Initiative, a plan to manufacture (in India) at least 1 billion COVID-19 vaccines, for distribution in Asia by the end of 2022.

"Hosting the leaders of the Quad demonstrates the Biden-Harris Administration's priority of engaging in the Indo-Pacific, including through new multilateral configurations to meet the challenges of the 21st century," the White House said on Tuesday.

The leaders "will also exchange views on contemporary global issues such as critical and emerging technologies, connectivity and infrastructure, cyber security, maritime security, humanitarian assistance/ disaster relief, climate change and education", the MEA said.

Free and open Indo-Pacific

"The summit would provide a valuable opportunity for dialogue and interactions among the leaders, anchored in their shared vision of ensuring a free, open and inclusive Indo-Pacific region," the MEA said. The White House statement also referred to discussions around "promoting a free and open Indo-Pacific".

At the March summit, the leaders discussed China's assertiveness in the Indo-Pacific region and that topic will most likely come up again next week. Afghanistan will also likely be discussed, weeks after the chaotic withdrawal of U.S. troops from Kabul and a Taliban take-over of the country.

There has been speculation on whether Mr. Modi and Mr. Biden will hold bilateral discussions. The Hindu has reached out to the White House for clarification on this. Mr. Modi will travel to New York, where he will address the 76th session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) on Saturday, September 25 morning. Mr. Modi is scheduled to be the first speaker at the U.N. The theme for the general debate is: "Building resilience through hope to recover from COVID-19, rebuild sustainably, respond to the needs of the planet, respect the rights of people and revitalize the United Nations."

The general debate is being held partly virtually this year owing to the COVID-19 situation. Mr. Modi is one of about 109 leaders to address the General Assembly in person, while 60 will deliver virtual addresses, PTI reported.

SPACEX LAUNCHES 4 AMATEURS ON PRIVATE EARTH-CIRCLING TRIP

treated - St. Jude Children's Research Hospital in Memphis, Tennessee. Isaacman has pledged \$100 million out of his own pocket to the hospital and is seeking another \$100 million in donations.

Also, along for the ride: sweepstakes winners Chris Sembroski, 42, a data engineer in Everett, Washington, and Sian Proctor, 51, a community college educator in Tempe, Arizona.

Arceneaux is set to become the youngest American in space and the first person in space with a prosthesis, a titanium rod in her left leg.

The recycled Falcon rocket soared from the same Kennedy Space Center pad used by the company's three previous astronaut flights for NASA. But this time, the Dragon capsule aimed for an altitude of 575 km, just beyond the Hubble Space Telescope.

Their fully automated capsule has already been to orbit: It was used for SpaceX's second astronaut flight for NASA to the space station. The only significant change is the large domed window at the top in place of the usual space station docking mechanisms.

Isaacman, an accomplished pilot, persuaded SpaceX to take the Dragon capsule higher than it's ever been. Initially reluctant because of the increased radiation exposure and other risks, SpaceX agreed after a safety review.

"Now I just wish we pushed them to go higher,"

Isaacman told reporters on the eve of the flight. "If we're going to go to the moon again and we're going to go to Mars and beyond, then we've got to get a little outside of our comfort zone and take the next step in that direction." Isaacman, whose Shift4 Payments company is based in Allentown, Pennsylvania, is picking up the entire tab for the flight but won't say how many millions he paid. He and others contend those big price tags that will eventually lower the cost.

"Yes, today you must have and be willing to part with a large amount of cash to buy yourself a trip to space," said Explorers Club President Richard Garriott, a NASA astronaut's son who paid the Russians for a space station trip more than a decade ago. "But this is the only way we can get the price down and expand access, just as it has been with other industries before it.

Though the capsule is automated, the four Dragon riders spent six months training for the flight to cope with any emergency. That training included centrifuge and fighter jet flights, launch and reentry practice in SpaceX's capsule simulator and a grueling trek up Washington's Mount Rainier in the snow.

Four hours before liftoff, the four emerged from SpaceX's huge rocket hangar four hours before liftoff, waving and blowing kisses to their families and company employees, before they were driven off to get into their sleek white flight suits. Once at the launch pad, they posed for pictures and bumped gloved fists, before taking the elevator up. Proctor danced as she made her way to the hatch.

Unlike NASA missions, the public won't be able to listen in, let alone watch events unfold in real time. Arceneaux hopes to link up with St. Jude patients, but the conversation won't be broadcast live.

SpaceX's next private trip, early next year, will see a retired NASA astronaut escorting three wealthy businessmen to the space station for a weeklong visit. The Russians are launching an actress, film director and a Japanese tycoon to the space station in the next few months. Once opposed to space tourism, NASA is now a supporter. The shift from government astronauts to non-professionals "is just flabbergasting," said former NASA Administrator Charles Bolden, a former space shuttle commander.

"Someday NASA astronauts will be the exception, not the rule," said Cornell University's Mason Peck, an engineering professor who served as NASA's chief technologist nearly a decade ago. "But they'll likely continue to be the trailblazers the rest of us will follow." (Agencies)

PM MODI, MAMATA BANERJEE, ADAR POONAWALLA ON TIME'S '100 MOST INFLUENTIAL'

It describes Mamata Banerjee as the face of fierceness in Indian politics. "The street-fighter spirit and self-made life in a patriarchal culture sets her apart," the profile says. Poonawalla's Time profile says that from the beginning of the Covid-19 pandemic, the 40-year-old head of the world's largest vaccine maker "sought to meet the moment."

About Taliban co-founder Baradar, it says: "Baradar represents a more moderate current within the Taliban."

FINANCIAL BIDS RECEIVED FOR AIR INDIA DISINVESTMENT: TATA SONS AND SPICE JET AMONG BIDDERS

feedback from potential investors, the government had in October last year sweetened the EoI clause relating to transfer of Air India's debt to the new investor, giving bidders flexibility to decide on the quantum of humongous debt they want to absorb.

As per the Air India EoI floated by the Department of Investment and Public Asset Management (DIPAM) in January 2020, of the airline's total debt of ₹60,074 crore as of March 31, 2019, the buyer would be required to absorb ₹23,286.5 crore. The rest would be transferred to Air India Assets Holding Ltd (AIAHL), a special

purpose vehicle.

Air India has been in losses ever since its merger with domestic operator Indian Airlines in 2007. The airline, which was formed by the Tatas as a mail carrier in 1932, will give the successful bidder control of 4,400 domestic and 1,800 international landing and parking slots at domestic airports, as well as 900 slots at airports overseas.

Besides, the bidder would get 100% of the low-cost arm Air India Express and 50% of AISATS, which provides cargo and ground-handling services at major Indian airports.

contd from page 12

WHAT TO EXPECT FROM THIS YEAR'S UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY (UNGA)

O EUROPE: Smaller countries that are planning to send high-level delegations include Switzerland's President Guy Parmelin, Belgium's Prime Minister Alexander de Croo and Ireland's Taoiseach Micheal Martin. (Ireland is presiding over the Security Council in September.)

o Niger's Mohamed Bazoum, who took office in April and will make his first trip to the city in September with his foreign minister. Nigeria's President Muhammadu Buhari also plans to come, according to Bande.

O DIGITAL AFRICA: South African President Cyril Ramaphosa, Rwanda's Paul Kagame and Egypt's Abdel Fatah El-Sisi are planning to each send a pre-recorded video.

O CANADA: While Canada's speaker is listed as "head of government" on the provisional schedule, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau has called a snap election for Sept. 21 - the day the high-level week UNGA begins. That means that there could technically be a new government by then (although it's unlikely). Asked who is going to represent Canada, the UN mission said: "Canada's delegation to the 76th session of the UN General Assembly will be confirmed in the days leading up to the high-level week."

O#WHATSHAPPENINGINMYANMAR: Competition for who is the authorized permanent representative for Myanmar, whose government was ousted by a military coup in February, will likely seize the spotlight at this year's UNGA. The provisional speaking list indicates that the country is going to be represented by its ambassador, which means, for now, Kyaw Moe Tun. The UN's credential committee has to discuss the matter but may not do so too soon.

o As to who will represent Afghanistan at UNGA is also unclear, as the current ambassador was part of the former Ashraf Ghani regime.

Women: From 52nd to 6th

o The low number of women speakers at last year's UNGA has not been forgotten, given that the first woman to speak was 52nd in the lineup. While it looks like the number of women speakers has not risen this year, President Zuzana Caputova of Slovakia is going to be the first woman leader to stand at the General Assembly Hall rostrum, No. 6 on the list, on the morning of Sept. 21.

o Moldova's Maia Sandu, the country's first woman president, is 100 percent coming, according to the country's UN mission, making her first appearance in front of the UNGA as president. (She was previously prime minister.)

o As she is up for re-election on Sept. 25, it is unlikely that Iceland's Prime Minister Katrin Jakobsdottir will come to UNGA, which is probably why the Icelandic speaker on the official list is a minister and has been delegated to Sept. 27.

o While the schedule indicates that New Zealand will be represented in person by the country's head of government, Jacinda Ardern, diplomats say that New Zealand has no appetite to send a high-level delegation this year. In an email, New Zealand's mission to the UN said that "consideration is being given to New Zealand's representation at this year's UNGA. Any announcement will be made in due course."

(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)

PRABHJOT'S COLUMN

Buenos Aires gave Indian sports a new look



PRABHJOT SINGH

TOKYO 2020



Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games
India's highest medal tally ever: **One gold, four Silver and two bronze medals**

Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Games



TOKYO 2020
PARALYMPIC GAMES



India's highest medal tally ever: Five gold, eight Silver and six bronze medals.

Tokyo 2020 - Olympic and Paralympic Games - will go down in the annals of Indian sports as a year of consolidation of gains this liberal democracy has made over decades of its participation in these global mega sporting events.

Not many would remember, 2018 was the watershed year. It was at Buenos Aires in the Youth Olympic Games that India started sending out signals of its emergence as a new power in sports.



YOUTH OLYMPIC GAMES

India ended 14th on the medals tally with three gold, nine Silver and one



bronze medal. It was perhaps the first global event conducted under the banner of the International Olympic Committee that India finished a select band of nations with 10 or more medals.

Since then, India has not looked back.

It was "lucky" 13 of Buenos Aires that has provided a new dynamic direction to Indian sports. The Youth Olympic Games not only provide a record number of medals but also projected on the global horizon many new faces.

It was at Buenos Aires that projected young shooters Manu Bhaker and Saurabh Chaudhary. Both were gold medal winners. Indian hockey teams, both men and women, ended with silver medals. Vivek Sagar Prasad and Lalremsiami were members of silver medalist Indian men and women Hockey5 teams that were subsequently inducted into Olympic teams.

The medals trail set in motion at

Buenos Aires climaxed at Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games where India got its first ever medal, a Gold, in track and field besides returning to the victory podium in men's hockey after a gap of 41 years.

The gains were further consolidated at Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Games where India finished 24th with 19 medals, including five gold. Beginning with Buenos Aires, all the IOC events - Youth Olympic Games, Olympic Games and Paralympic Games - have shown India's firm climb up the medals ladder.

The medal winning performances, mostly in individual events, have been acting as a catalyst for aspiring players to take to sports as a career.

Neeraj Chopra (Javelin throw, Tokyo 2020 Olympics), Sumit (Javelin throw in F64 category of Paralympics), Krishna Nagar (Badminton, SH category), Pramod Bhagat (Badminton, SL 3 category), Manish Narwal (Shooting,

Mixed 50 m, SH1 category), and Avani Lekhara (Shooting, SH 1, 10 m Air Pistol) have emerged as the new icons of Indian sports for winning gold medals in Olympics or Paralympic Games.

Shooters Singhraj Adrana and Avani Lekhara won two medals each in Paralympics. Besides a Badminton coach, Pramod Bhagat, a District Magistrate of NOIDA, Suhas Yathiraj, too gave India medals in Badminton. While Bhagat won a gold, Yathiraj lost the gold medal to his French

rival to end with a Silver.

For Avani Lekhara, it was a gold and a bronze. She became the first women shooter to win a medal in the Olympics or Paralympics. Likewise, Harvinder Singh of Kaithal had the distinction of winning the country's first medal in archery in the Paralympics or Olympics.

It may sound as an exaggeration that finally Indian sports have come of an age and the country has been successful to an extent of creating sports temperament. Sports is now being accepted as a respectable profession.

India's progress in some sports and games, especially Badminton, Boxing, Golf, Shooting, Track and Field, Table Tennis, Tennis and Wrestling has been noticeable.

In team sports, hockey remains the top choice,

(The author is a senior journalist and a commentator on sports. He can be reached at prabhjot416@gmail.com)

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England could boycott Ashes Down Under in view of strict bubble life

Top English players could boycott the high-profile Ashes series against Australia starting end of this year as they don't want to be confined to their hotel rooms close to four months due to strict quarantine rules in the country.

According to ESPN Cricinfo, the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) are still adamant and have not thought about postponement which has irked the senior players and support staff.

"The prospect of England fielding a significantly under-strength squad in the Ashes would appear to have grown following talks between the team and officials at the ECB," the website reported.

The players have been left disappointed because of ECB's refusal to even countenance a partial or even complete postponement of the tour.

"As a result, they are considering their options. One of those options is understood to be the entire team — including coaching and support staff — taking a collective decision to boycott the tour.

Manika Batra axed for Asian meet amid feud with TT body

The feud between India women's No. 1 Manika Batra and the Table Tennis Federation of India (TTFI) took a turn for the worse with her omission on Wednesday from the team for the Asian championships to be held in Doha, Qatar from September 28-Oct 5.

Batra, world No. 56 and ranked way ahead of her teammates—fellow Tokyo Olympics participant Sutirtha Mukherjee, the next best Indian player, is No. 97—did not attend the ongoing national camp, which the federation had said was mandatory for selection.

The Delhi player has been training in Pune with her personal coach Sanmay Paranjape, having informed TTFI she will not join the national camp. The other women players chosen are Sreeja Akula, Ayhika Mukherjee and Archana Kamath.

The 2018 Commonwealth Games champion's run-in with TTFI began after she refused to have national coach Soumyadeep Roy in her corner at the Olympics, after her personal coach's accreditation did not allow him to enter "the field of play". Batra reached the third round in Tokyo with no coach courtside.

Virat Kohli to quit national T20 captaincy after World Cup

DUBAI (TIP): Virat Kohli on Thursday, Sept 16, announced he will step down as India's T20 skipper after the T20 World Cup in UAE but will continue to lead the side in ODIs and Test cricket, a decision that paves the way for Rohit Sharma to captain in the shortest format.

"I've decided to step down as the T20 captain after this T20 World Cup in Dubai in October," the 32-year-old Kohli, who is here to compete in the IPL that resumes on Sunday, said in a statement posted on his Twitter page.

"Understanding workload is a very important thing and considering my immense workload over the last 8-9 years playing all three formats and captaining regularly for last five to six years, I feel I need to give myself space to be fully ready to lead Indian team in Test and ODI cricket," Kohli explained.

For some time, there has been speculation surrounding Kohli's future as white-ball captain especially in the backdrop of Rohit's brilliant track record of winning five IPL titles for Mumbai Indians.

The 34-year-old Rohit is Kohli's deputy in the white-ball formats and is most likely to take up the leadership role when India clashes with New Zealand in a home series in November that will feature three T20 Internationals along with two Test matches.

BCCI Secretary Jay Shah, in a statement issued by the Board after Kohli's announcement, said the body has been in discussion with Kohli for a while now.

"We have a clear roadmap for Team India. Considering the workloads and ensuring that we have smooth transition, Mr Virat Kohli has decided to step down as T20I Captain after the upcoming World Cup," Shah said.

"I have been in discussions with Virat and the leadership team for the last six months and the decision has been thought through.

"Virat will continue to contribute as a player and as a senior member of the



side in shaping the future course of Indian cricket," he added.

Kohli took over India's limited-overs captaincy in 2017, succeeding Mahendra Singh Dhoni.

"I have given my everything to the Team during my time as T20 captain and I will continue to do so for the T20 captain and will continue to do so for the T20 team as a batsman moving forward," he further added.

The decision, Kohli said, was taken after consulting head coach Ravi Shastri, his heir apparent Rohit, BCCI president Sourav Ganguly and secretary Jay Shah.

The T20 World Cup starts on October 17 and Kohli will be under intense pressure to deliver the trophy.

"Of course, arriving at this decision took a lot of time. After a lot of contemplation and discussions with my close people, Ravi bhai and also Rohit, who have been an essential part of the leadership group..." Kohli stated.

"I have also spoken to the secretary Mr Jay Shah and president of BCCI Mr Sourav Ganguly along with the selectors about the same. I will continue to serve Indian cricket and Indian cricket team to the best of my ability," Kohli said.

Kohli has played 90 T20 Internationals scoring 3,159 runs with 28 fifties and captained India in 45 of those games winning 27 and losing 14.

He has a winning percentage of 65.11. "I have been fortunate enough to not only represent India but also lead the Indian cricket team to my utmost capability," the flamboyant star batsman said.

"I thank everyone who has supported me in my journey as the captain of the Indian cricket team.

"I could not have done it without them—the boys, the support staff, the selection committee, my coaches and each and every Indian who prayed for us to win," Kohli said. Source: PTI

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

English giants make it count; City, Liverpool wrap up thrilling wins; PSG held by Brugge, Real win

GENEVA (TIP): Lionel Messi, Kylian Mbappe and Neymar lined up together in the near-perfect attack for Paris Saint-Germain and still could not score or deliver a win in the Champions League.

Instead, it was low-key midfielder Ander Herrera who got PSG's goal in a 1-1 draw at underrated Belgian champion Club Brugge.

Though Messi saw a first-half shot strike the crossbar, he was later shown a yellow card for a foul and Mbappe went off because of an injured left ankle.

French forwards flourished elsewhere with Sebastien Haller



Liverpool's Jordan Henderson celebrates scoring the winner against AC Milan. Reuters

scoring four for Ajax in a 5-1 rout at Sporting Lisbon and Christopher Nkunku netting all of RB Leipzig's goals in a 6-3 loss to Manchester City.

The English clubs in action combined for two wins in matches involving 14 goals as Liverpool beat AC Milan 3-2 in the Italians' return to the competition after a seven-season gap. There was just one goal in the games involving the Madrid clubs, and Rodrygo's 89th-minute strike won it for Real Madrid at Inter Milan. Atletico Madrid was held 0-0 at home to Porto. Debutant Sheriff Tiraspol won 2-0 against Shakhtar Donetsk.

Source: AP

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Message from Peter J. McDonnell, M.D. Director Wilmer Eye Institute, Johns Hopkins University, USA on the occasion of laying the foundation stone on December 10, 2020



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The work by the Eye Foundation of America team started in 1977 and has spread from India to 21 different countries. Additionally, EFA Focuses on teaching and training of health professionals who receive the Foundation's support at every level.
<https://youtube/B23VvUaloN4> <https://youtube/KiCzqLQe2VE>

"There can be no keener revelation of a society's soul than the way in which it treats its children". - Nelson Mandela

To know more about the work of Eye Foundation of America or to donate, visit www.eyefoundationofamerica.org

ॐ सर्वे भवन्तु सुखिनः Sarve Bhavantu Sukhinah,
सर्वे सन्तु नरिमायाः । Sarve Santu Niramayah
May all be prosperous and happy!
May all be healthy!

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