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will bring out a special edition in celebration of Diwali on October 29, 2021. Advertisements and articles may please be emailed to salujaindra@gmail.com by October 20th. For questions on advertising, please call 646-431-4064. For all other questions, please call 646-247-9458 or email to salujaindra@gmail.com

GLOBAL HUNGER INDEX RANKS INDIA AT 101 OUT OF 116 COUNTRIES, INDICATES HUNGER IS A SERIOUS PROBLEM IN INDIA

Behind most neighbors - Pakistan at 92, Nepal at 76 and Bangladesh also at 76.



The Global Hunger Index launched on Thursday, October 14 ranked India at the 101st position out of a total of 116 countries, only to belie the claims of government of India that all is well with the nation - Representational image.

NEW YORK (TIP): The Global Hunger Index launched on Thursday, October 14 ranked India at the 101st position out of a total of 116 countries. India is also among the 31 countries where hunger has been identified as serious. India ranked 94 among 107 countries in the Global Hunger Index (GHI) released last year. Only 15 countries fare worse than India. These include Papua New Guinea (102),

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MOS MEA FELICITATES THE YOUNG NIKHIL MEHTA AND AJAY TADINADA FOR THEIR SOCIAL SERVICE



MOS MEA V. Muraleedharan presenting the award to Nikhil Mehta. To minister's right is Mr. Kanak Golia, Nikhil's maternal grandfather. To Nikhil's left is seen his father Dr. Nilesh Mehta - Photo / Jay Mandal- on assignment

Nirmala Sitharaman condemns Lakhimpur Kheri violence



Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in conversation with Larry Summers on the theme of "Structural Reforms and Inclusive Development: India's Experience" at Harvard Kennedy School in Boston, USA, - Photo / Twitter@FinMinIndia

BOSTON (TIP): Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman was asked why there is no word on this from the Prime Minister, senior Ministers and why there is a "defensive reaction" when somebody asks questions about such things

The Lakhimpur Kheri violence, in which four farmers were killed, is "absolutely condemnable," Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has said, emphasizing that there are issues of such nature happening in other parts of India equally which should be raised "when they happen and not when it suits others" because there is a BJP government in Uttar Pradesh.

Ms. Sitharaman, who is on an official visit to the U.S., was responding to a question during a conversation at

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RANJU AND RAVI BATRA HOST A LUNCH IN HONOR OF THE CONSUL GENERAL MR. JAISWAL

Who's Who of the Indian American Community attend



Consul General of India at New York Randhir Kumar Jaiswal lauded the contribution of the Indian American community even as he highlighted the various initiatives of the Modi government at a lunch reception hosted by Ranju and Ravi Batra at their home in New Rochelle.

NEW YORK (TIP): Ranju and Ravi Batra hosted a lunch reception to honor and celebrate the Consul General of India Randhir Kumar Jaiswal for his commendable work to fulfill Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's 2016 Washington Declaration of Indivisibility with the United States of America. The distinguished gathering numbering around 60 listened with rapt attention to the consul general appreciating

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JACKSON HEIGHTS MERCHANTS' ASSOCIATION DIWALI MELA DRAWS BIG CROWDS



Mayor Bill de Blasio listens intently to Shiv Dass, President of Jackson Heights Merchants' Association who in his welcome address described the Mayor as savior of New York City during the pandemic. Photo / Shahzad

NEW YORK (TIP): Weather forecast predicted doom with heavy rain around the same time as the Diwali Mela was to be held on the 74th Street, aka Kalpana Chawla Way, in busy Jackson Heights. But it was sheer magic that turned the clouds dry and allowed the celebration to go on full speed and unhampered. The organizers led by the President of Jackson Heights Merchants' Association Shiv Dass could not have been more thankful to the weather god.

For two years, the pandemic prevented any public gathering and festive celebration. And here was an opportunity to come together to have an afternoon of freedom, entertainment and abandon. To the delight of the organizers, not only did the weather show grace, people, too, turned up in large numbers.

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NEW YORK CITY (TIP): Jaipur Foot USA and Gracious Givers Foundation USA organized an event in New York on Monday, October 11 to felicitate the young Nikhil Mehta and Ajay Tadinada for their charitable work which has made remarkable impact in the lives of a large number of differently abled people.

Leading the youth chapter at Jaipur Foot USA as the chief youth coordinator, 17-year-old Nikhil Mehta is

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--: GUEST COMMENT :-

Listen to Farooq Abdullah

Strengthen hands of real representatives of people of J&K

The Centre should listen carefully to Farooq Abdullah, the statesman, who was kept under detention for seven months after the abrogation of Article 370 on August 5, 2019. At the Shaheed Bunga Sahib gurdwara on Wednesday while attending the 'antim ardas' ceremony of Supinder Kaur, the slain principal of the government school in Srinagar's Eidgah area, Farooq made a statement that should wake up our rulers in Delhi. Unequivocally, he told the gathering that Kashmir will never become Pakistan because 'we are a part of India and will remain a part of India, come what may. They cannot change it even if they shoot me'. This three-time Chief Minister, who

will soon turn 84, termed the cowardly, Pakistan-handled killers, who have been targeting Hindus and Sikhs, 'beasts' who serve the devil.

Whatever might have been Farooq's failings as an administrator, this one gesture exemplifies his stature as the tallest politician of Jammu and Kashmir and his role in building bridges and calming frayed nerves. And J&K needs its trusted, old politicians to play their mandated parts to restart the political process and re-engage the masses at the earliest. Farooq has always held the Indian flag aloft - be it in Geneva as part of the 1994 Indian delegation led by AB Vajpayee, or in 1996 when he revived and legitimized the electoral process in the troubled state.

Now, when a repeat of the exodus of

Hindus and Sikhs is being feared and old memories of killings of Pandits in 1990 and Sikhs in 2000 are haunting the vulnerable minorities, the Centre should strengthen the hands of the real representatives of the people of J&K, for whom a threat to their lives is an occupational hazard. Pakistan is merely using the Afghan context to create greater terror and polarization in J&K, which can be effectively countered by the Indian forces under the political leadership of the sons of the soil. The J&K leaders who insist that they are Indians are our national treasure, but to appreciate their commitment to the Indian cause, our rulers need to remove their Hindutva goggles.

(Tribune, India)

--: GUEST COMMENT :-

A probe after prodding: On Lakhimpur Kheri violence

U.P. POLICE MUST DO A CREDIBLE PROBE TO INSPIRE PUBLIC CONFIDENCE IN FARMERS' KILLING CASE

The arrest of Ashish Mishra, son of Union Minister of State for Home, Ajay Mishra, appears to be a course of action impelled mainly by the intervention of the Supreme Court, which voiced its dissatisfaction with the way the Uttar Pradesh police were handling the killing of four farmers and four others during a protest. By taking cognizance of the incidents that took place during a farmers' protest at Tikonia in Lakhimpur-Kheri district, the Court may have helped infuse some much-needed impetus to the investigation. The Bench gave enough time until its next hearing on October 20 to the police to pursue the probe diligently, but not without thinking aloud on whether any other agency ought to take it over and asking the State police chief to preserve the evidence. The arrest of the Minister's son, coming after he had skipped an earlier summons and was questioned for long hours once he appeared, is largely in response to the

Court's criticism. The Bench, headed by the Chief Justice of India, N.V. Ramana, wondered how investigators in a murder case could merely issue summons to the prime suspect instead of taking steps to apprehend him. Skepticism about the intentions of the State police is not misplaced. It is not the first time that the initial response is one of hesitancy and obfuscation, but once an incident blows up enough to occasion judicial intervention, there is some action.

What is known so far is that vehicles in the Minister's convoy ploughed through a group of farmers, causing four deaths. Three others may have died in retaliatory violence by the infuriated mob, while Raman Kashyap, a television reporter, may also have been run over. Initial reports that the driver lost control after being hit by a hail of stones have been superseded by footage that seems to show the vehicle being driven into a group of unsuspecting people. The FIR says Ashish Mishra was in one of the

cars, even though he claims to have been elsewhere. The role of the Union Minister should also be subjected to scrutiny, as some reports suggest he may have made a provocative speech earlier to the effect that the protesting farmers should either mend their ways or he would set them straight. The mention of a 'conspiracy' in the FIR gives scope to the police to examine this angle. It is regrettable that the Union government is noticeably silent, and there appears to be no effort to advise Mr. Ajay Mishra to step down until his and his son's names are cleared. It is difficult to see how an impartial probe can go on as long as he is in office, and his party's government in the State is seen to be soft on the accused. The onus is on the Uttar Pradesh police now to conduct a credible investigation, if the Court does not replace the present set of investigators.

(The Hindu)

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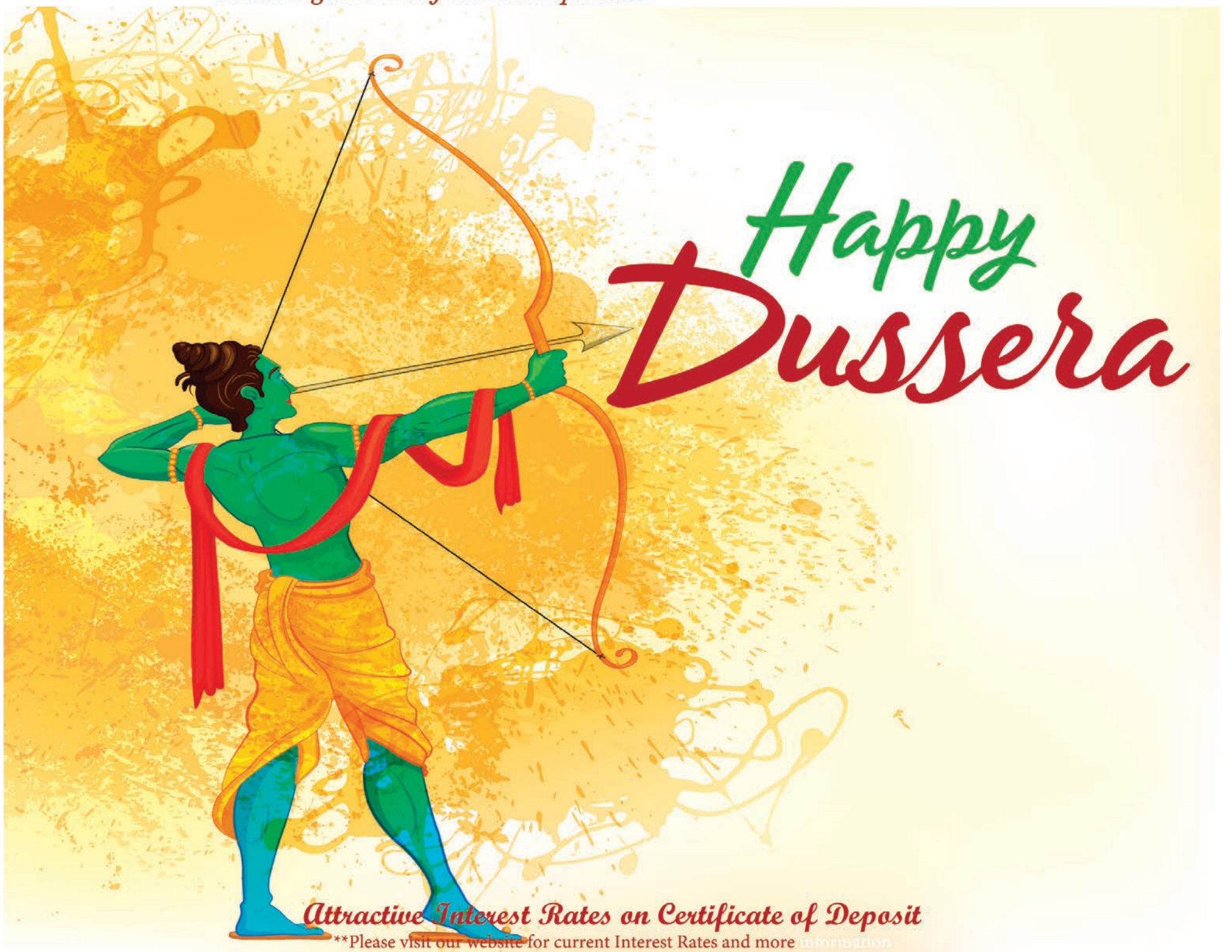
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Indian American President of USIBC says Free Trade Agreement is the next Frontier in India-US Ties



Biswal, speaking at a dinner September 30th, hosted by Indiaspora, said that a Free Trade Agreement is the next frontier in the India-U.S. relationship.

WASHINGTON, DC (TIP): - A Free

Trade Agreement is the next frontier in the India-U.S. relationship, Nisha Desai Biswal, Indian American president of the U.S.-India Business Council and a former U.S. diplomat, said.

Biswal, speaking at a dinner September 30th, hosted by Indiaspora, stressed that it is not tenable for the two largest economies of the world to not have a trade architecture in place between them, though its path is riddled with "all kinds of obstacles."

"The time has come for us to get serious about where the next frontier is in U.S.- India ties. And neither for the United States nor for India, is it tenable for two of the largest economies in the world to be outside of the TPP (Trans-Pacific Partnership) and to not have a trade architecture in place between the two of them," Biswal.

"We are starting to see real signals of interest from India to be able to explore that. So, I think the time has come to get serious. It's not easy. It's a path riddled with all kinds of obstacles, she said.

It's time for us to put down the knives, turn on the light, get down to business, she said in a lighter vein as she urged the powerful group of Indian Americans to engage the two governments on the issue, the report adds.

Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal, while addressing the 4th Annual Leadership Summit of the US-India Strategic Partnership Forum Sept. 30, said that India and the U.S. should engage in a much bigger way and New Delhi is ready and willing to expand the economic partnership with America.

He also called for setting an ambitious bilateral trade target of \$1 trillion in the

next 10 years, according to the report.

In her brief remarks on the occasion, Neera Tanden, senior adviser to President Joe Biden, said it is critical to have Indian Americans at the table, contributing, involved and engaged in helping make decisions, the report said.

Former U.S. Ambassador to India, Richard Verma said the recent successful visit of Prime Minister Narendra Modi shows the new chapter in this important bilateral relationship.

U.S. Reps. Raja Krishnamoorthi, D-Illinois, and Dr. Ami Bera, D-California, also spoke on the occasion.

"The sky's the limit," Bera said of the potential to grow elected leaders in government. Krishnamoorthi thanked the diaspora for their outpouring of support for pandemic relief, the report added. (Source: PTI)

INDIAN AMERICAN SATYA NADELLA, CEO OF MICROSOFT, WINS C.K. PRAHALAD AWARD



Satya Nadella along with Microsoft President and Vice Chair Brad Smith, Chief Financial Officer Amy Hood, and Chief Environmental Officer Lucas Joppa won the award for Global Business Sustainability Leadership.

AUSTIN, TX (TIP): Four of Microsoft's top leaders have received the 2021 C.K. Prahalad Award for their collaborative leadership to transform it into a carbon negative company by 2030 and remove all its historical emissions by 2050.

Besides the software giant's Indian American CEO Satya Nadella, its President and Vice Chair Brad Smith, Chief Financial Officer Amy Hood, and Chief Environmental Officer Lucas Joppa have shared the award for Global Business Sustainability Leadership.

The award for leadership by an individual executive went to Ecolab Chairman and former CEO, Douglas M. Baker, Jr. for his efforts to educate the business community about corporate responsibility and the business risks of global water scarcity and the need to account for the true value of water in financial decision making.

The awards in the two categories were announced October 12 at the 2021 CEF Annual Leadership Retreat in Austin, Texas, attended by senior executives representing CEF members from Fortune and Global 500 companies with combined revenues of \$4 trillion driving sustainability strategy and innovation worldwide.

The Award created in 2010 to honor

founding CEF Advisory Board member C.K. Prahalad recognizes winners for exemplifying the fundamental connection between sustainability, innovation and long-term business success in a globalizing world.

CEF Founder MR Rangaswami explained what set the Microsoft team's approach apart.

"Nadella, Hood, Smith and Joppa have exhibited a remarkable level of joint ownership of this moonshot initiative," he said. "This is the first time we've seen a CEO/President/CFO/Environmental Sustainability coalition like this."

"They've defined a new model for what corporate-wide climate leadership looks like while sending a clear message that sustainability is core to Microsoft's business strategy for the decades ahead."

With this team at the helm, Microsoft is moving aggressively to advance its vision to make a positive impact globally on the climate, while proving that such steps can also be good for business, the citation noted.

By 2025, the company will shift to 100% renewable energy for its data centers, buildings, and campuses, and it will protect more land than its operations use.

By 2030, it will match 100% of its electricity consumption, 100% of the time, with zero-carbon energy purchases - and will push beyond that to actually become carbon negative: to remove more carbon from the environment than the company emits.

"Their approach is holistic, connecting the dots to other aspects of planetary health - including a commitment to replenish more water than the company uses - a goal known as 'water positive' - and a pledge to achieve zero waste for its direct operations, products and packaging," CEF noted. (Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)

Indian American Prof. Receives Naratil Pioneer Award for Improved Heart Disease Diagnosis in Women

NEW HAVEN, CT(TIP): Yale School of Medicine assistant professor of clinical medicine Dr. Samit Shah who is at the front lines in improving the diagnosis of heart disease among women, has received the Wendy U. and Thomas C. Naratil Pioneer Award.

Shah has seen it too often, where women come to a hospital emergency department or doctor's office complaining of chest pain, shortness of breath, nausea, lightheadedness, jaw pain or other symptoms considered concerning for a heart problem.

The women might undergo standard testing to see if they have a critical cholesterol blockage in their arteries, the hallmark of obstructive coronary artery disease, the Yale news release said.

But only 50 percent of women presenting with these symptoms show a blockage after cardiac catheterization - a procedure in which a long, thin tube is inserted through the blood vessels to the heart - and an angiogram - an x-ray of the blood vessels taken to show the blood supply to the heart muscle.

If a blockage is not detected, they are often sent home without additional testing or a clear diagnosis, the release said.

"Women are suffering because of this," said Shah, an Indian American interventional cardiologist at Yale School of Medicine. "If we tell patients they have no blockages, but don't do



Dr. Samit Shah has received the Wendy U. and Thomas C. Naratil Pioneer Award for his pioneering work in improving the diagnosis of heart disease among women

further testing, they will have ongoing symptoms and probably end up in the ER again. If we take the extra steps that we are now learning to take, we can make accurate diagnoses and help patients better manage their disease."

With this year's award, Shah is leading a team to demonstrate the effectiveness of validated, but not widely administered, procedures for the many women who have reduced blood flow to the heart without blocked arteries or cholesterol

build-up often associated with heart disease, according to the university.

The tests are designed to detect conditions that elude the standard angiogram. One condition, known as microvascular disease, involves the smaller blood vessels that branch off the larger blood vessels to supply blood and the oxygen it carries to the heart.

These smaller vessels control the amount of blood flow to the heart and can increase flow by up to four times when needed to meet increased demand while exercising, it said.

Shah's team is studying 100 women over two years who get referred for coronary angiography to Yale New Haven Hospital and comparing outcomes for patients who receive the standard care with those undergoing the cutting-edge tests to detect coronary microvascular disease or vasospasm, the release said.

(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)

Indian American Felicia Singh in historic battle in Queens Council District 32

QUEENS, NY (TIP): Felicia Singh, the first Guyanese and Punjabi person to win the Democratic Party primary in Queens Council District 32, is joining the battle for the prestigious seat to center equity and justice in the community.

She will square off with Queens Republican Party Chairwoman Joann Ariola on Nov. 2 in the district which includes parts of the Rockaway peninsula, Howard Beach, Belle Harbor, Woodhaven, and South Ozone Park. Kenichi Wilson, chair of Queens Community Board 9, is also running on the Community First line.

The growing South Asian and Indo-Caribbean population in the district has been largely excluded from local politics, Singh, a teacher told the local City Limits, and has not benefited from the status quo.

"A lot of our community members have felt erased in the way that they've received services from the city," she was quoted as saying.

"The thing that I envision the most about winning this election and what I hope we're able to give back to our community is centering equity and justice in District 32."

The election for District 32, one of the most contentious races on the November general election ballot, is set to be "historic."

"No matter what the outcome is in the 32nd, a woman will be going from the 32nd to City Hall," Ariola, who is from Howard Beach, told City Limits.

"I'm running in one of the most competitive general elections in the city," Singh, who has netted endorsements from both the New York Working Families Party, the Sunrise Movement, and many labor unions, was quoted as saying in a recent interview.

"In fact, it's probably more competitive than the



Felicia Singh joining the battle for the prestigious seat to center equity and justice in the community

mayoral election."

Democrats still heavily outnumber Republicans in Queens, with 807,187 active members across the borough.

And Singh, a lifelong resident of Ozone Park who would be the first South Asian representative in the Council, has pulled in more in contributions, campaign finance records show, with \$74,965. Ariola has raised \$43,231.

Several weeks ahead of the start of early voting, both candidates said they are focused on what is at stake: An ethnically and culturally diverse district, one uniquely vulnerable to the accelerating impacts of climate change. Affordable housing, education, infrastructure and resiliency are critical voter concerns, both agreed, according to City Limits.

The two lifelong residents of the district differ on their priorities, however.

Singh has backed reallocating at least \$1 billion from the NYPD, money to be redistributed to "social services,

youth development, and ensuring every person has a safe and dignified place to live."

Ariola, on the other hand, said that public safety is one of the most important issues facing the district.

"One of the other differences between my opponent and myself, is that I'm more community-based and motivated when choosing a position on a particular issue, where my opponent really kind of follows the leader on the movement," she said.

Ariola has also criticized Singh's support of extending municipal voting privileges to lawful permanent residents who live in the city, calling Singh, who testified in support of the measure, a "radical."

"Voting is a sacred right that must remain tied to citizenship," Ariola said in a Sept. 21 press release. "This bill would chip away at the value of citizenship and the incentive for new Americans to make the commitment to become citizens. Not surprisingly, my radical opponent wants this and testified in favor of it in the Council hearing."

Singh called Ariola's "radical" comments "ironic."

"What's heartbreaking about what my opponent said about non-citizens, and calling me a 'radical,' is that she goes to spaces where non-citizens celebrate, and pray, and live and have small businesses," Singh said.

"And she asks them for their vote. And that is heartbreaking to me, and actually disrespectful, because now she's calling me a radical for wanting those same people to support her, to be able to participate in municipal elections. So, it's ironic and hypocritical."

"I'm the first Guyanese and Punjabi person to win the Democratic primary for City Council," Singh added. "Our communities have run before but we've never won a primary. This is a really huge race in so many ways."

(Source: City Limits)

INDIAN AMERICAN ATTORNEY LEADS NEW YORK CITY BAR'S INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITTEE

NEW YORK (TIP): Bengaluru, India, born Ramya Jawahar Kudekallu is all set to lead New York City Bar's International Human Rights Committee making it a diverse, multicultural and inclusive body, prioritizing HR issues and advocacy approaches.

One of the youngest and first woman of color to be appointed chairperson of one of the largest associations of lawyers in the US, Kudekallu, 32, considers her appointment as a "huge honor."

But it's "equally, an indication that the New York City Bar, stands to benefit from a membership that is diverse, multicultural and inclusive," she told the Times of India.

Kudekallu said she's excited to work with lawyers dedicated to the promotion and protection of human rights globally apart from ensuring there is a call to action on these issues in the US.

After schooling in Bengaluru, Ooty and Dubai, Kudekallu studied law in Bishop Cotton Women's Christian Law



Ramya Jawahar Kudekallu is all set to lead New York City Bar's International Human Rights Committee - Photo/ Courtesy Cardozo Law

College, Bengaluru. She did her masters in International Law and Human Rights at Fordham University, New York and currently teaches at Cardozo Law School, New York.

"There are several committees within the Bar that focus on various aspects of the law. It's particularly meaningful to be in this because I've had a long association with this field," Kudekallu said.

"My role as chair allows me to guide and prioritize different human rights matters, advocacy approaches and questions of law within my committee," she said.

Engaging in community service was ingrained by my family, said Kudekallu. "I was taught not to ignore problems of society and, more importantly, I must reflect on my own role and privilege."

"Studying at a law college for women helped me better understand applying a gender lens to the law," she added.

(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)

Indian American Deven Parekh of Insight Partners wins 2021 Ripple of Hope Award

NEW YORK (TIP): Deven Parekh, Insight Partners' Indian American managing director, is among the five winners of Robert F. Kennedy Human Rights' 2021 Ripple of Hope Award.

Parekh joins poet Amanda Gorman, entrepreneur, and author, Stacey Abrams; co-founder and managing partner of Clearlake Capital, José E. Feliciano; and chairman and CEO of Verizon, Hans Vestberg, the New York based not-for-profit organization announced Thursday, October 7.

"Since joining Insight Partners in 2000, Parekh has been a vocal advocate for opportunity and inclusion, initiating efforts to promote women and minority leaders across Insight's internal team, portfolio, and the wider software and investment ecosystems as a whole," it noted.

Parekh is a member of the board of



Photo caption: Deven Parekh and four others - poet Amanda Gorman, entrepreneur, and author, Stacey Abrams; co-founder and managing partner of Clearlake Capital, José E. Feliciano; and chairman and CEO of Verizon, Hans Vestberg - have won the Robert F. Kennedy Human Rights' 2021 Ripple of Hope Award.

directors for several institutions, including the US Development Finance Corporation, the Council on Foreign Relations, the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, and NYU Langone.

He is also chairman emeritus of the board of Publicolor, a nonprofit organization focused on New York City public schools. In 2006, Parekh was named a Henry Crown Fellow of the Aspen Institute, which seeks to develop the next generation of community-spirited leaders.

"This year's Ripple of Hope Award winners, united by their uncompromising integrity and resilience in striving

for an inclusive America, have each championed the causes and concerns of the underrepresented and marginalized," the announcement said.

(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)

Jackson Heights Merchants' Association Diwali Mela draws big crowds



Shiv Dass honored Senator Chuck Schummer, Senate Majority leader. Also seen in the picture are Ranju Batra and Ravi Batra
Photo / Shahzad



A scintillating dance performance the gathering enjoyed
Photo / Shahzad



A view of the gathering - Photo / Shahzad

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On top of it, the dignitaries obliged the organizers in a big way. Mayor of New York Bill de Blasio, Senate Majority leader Chuck Schummer, the Deputy Consul General of India, Varun Jeph, Council Member Danny, Shekhar, Democratic candidate for City Council, Dileep Chauhan representing the Brooklyn Borough President, and AK Vijayshankar, Consul,

Community Affairs, Consulate General of India graced the occasion as also some prominent New Yorkers who included Ranju Batra who five years ago got the Indian American community the Forever Diwali Stamp, Attorney Ravi Batra, Dr. Hari Shukla, Dr. Sudhir Parikh, Neeta Bhasin who is the founder of Diwali at Times Square, Andy Bhatia, Subhash (Sam) Kapadia, Nitin Vora, and Prof. Indrajit S Saluja, among others.

Ranju Batra was among the honorees who were presented citations and robe of honor.

Speaking on the occasion, Mayor Bill de Blasio described Shiv Dass as a great leader of Indian American community who has for decades highlighted the community's concerns. Appreciating the Indian American community's contribution to the growth of the greatest city in the world, de Blasio assured the Indian American community of all help in whatever they want to do.

Senator Chuck Schummer who described Shiv Dass as his personal friend who has done more for the Indian American merchants community than any other person, he spoke about the challenges the pandemic posed and praised the merchants community for their courage to keep running the wheels of economy. He spoke of Biden administration's plans to help out the small businesses and assured the business community that they will always be given the desired help in furthering their interests.

Deputy Consul General of India Varun Jeff on the

occasion offered the greetings of the consul General and his own on the occasion of Diwali and thanked the organizers for inviting him.

Classic Production USA, Inc - (Chaku) from India and Nrityanjali Dance Academy gave thrilling and entertaining performances of songs and dances.

The entire executive committee, under the guidance of Board of Directors Deepak Verma (chairman), Mahipal Singh Esq., Sunil Patel, of Jackson Heights Merchants' Association worked hard to make the event the grand success that it came out to be. They included Chairman Kanu Bhai Chauhan, Celebration Chairman Mohinder Verma, President Shiv Dass, Vice President Harshit Chugh, Secretary Chander Shekhar, Co-chairman Manu Khaitani, Treasurer Virender Kanwar, Organizer Rahul Arora, Sr. Advisors Surinder Chugh, Ram Labhaya, Karan Verma, Pulkash Roy, Daniel Thomas, Financial advisor Braj Aggarwal, PRO Santa, Executive members Mohan Singh, Hari Ram, Vinod Kumar, Abid Mukhtar, Makhan Singh and Virender Bhalla.

Mos MEA felicitates the young Nikhil Mehta and Ajay Tadinada for their Social Service

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inspiring many with his social service. Jaipur Foot USA is a subsidiary of Bhagwan Mahaveer Viklang Sahayata (BMVSS), founded by Padma Bhushan D. R. Mehta. It is one of the largest organizations serving the global differently abled population. They provide artificial limbs, calipers, and other aids free of charge to help amputees and differently abled individualsto lead independent life.

The award to Nikhil Mehta was given by the MOS MEA Mr. Muraleedharan at a well-attended event. Deputy Consul General of New York Dr. Varun Jeph, former RANA (Rajasthan Association of North America) presidents, Haridas Kotahwala and K.K. Mehta, President of Rajasthan Foundation, USA, Kanak Golia, Ashok Sancheti, Dr. Raj Modi, Rahul Sur, IPS, his wife Meera Sur - both working at the United



Mr. Prem Bhandari, Chairman Jaipur Foot USA spoke about Jaipur Foot, its Youth Chapter and the contribution of Nikhil Mehta and Ajay Tadinada - Photo / Jay Mandal- on assignment

Nations at senior levels, and Andy Chinoy, among others, attended. Senior US govt official Deep and Sapna Chopra, Vilas Savargaonkar, and The Indian



Mr. Muraleedharan spoke about his long association with Jaipur Foot and praised the founder DR Mehta and Jaipur Foot USA Chairman Prem Bhandari for the good work being done by them across the world. He congratulated Nikhil Mehta for his charitable disposition
Photo / Jay Mandal- on assignment

A view of the gathering.
Photo / Jay Mandal- on assignment



Organizers led by Mr. Prem Bhandari extending a floral welcome to Mr. Muraleedharan - hoto / Jay Mandal- on assignment

Panorama Chief Editor Prof. Indrajit S Saluja also attended the event.

At the event, Prem Bhandari, the Chairman of Jaipur Foot USA, highlighted the NGO's rich contribution to thedifferently abled community and shared the contributions of two of its youth members, Nikhil Mehta and Ajay Tadinada.

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Ranju and Ravi Batra host a lunch in honor of the Consul General Mr. Jaiswal



Ranju Batra welcomed the Jaiswal family and guests and reminisced how she had to make strenuous efforts to get the Diwali Stamp issued by the USPS five years ago.



Ravi Batra described Mr. Jaiswal as a distinguished diplomat working to fulfill Narendra Modi's 2016 Washington Declaration of Indivisibility with the United States of America



The Batras and the Jaiswals

CONTD FROM PAGE 1

the contribution of the Indian American community in strengthening India in a number of ways, and also promoting friendlier and stronger ties between the two great democracies of the world. He also highlighted the remarkable initiatives of Modi government for taking India to ever greater heights.

Mr. Batra who had confided in me that

there would be more fun than lecturing at the lunch ensured that except for the customary welcome by the hosts and a reply by the guest, there will be no more speeches. As such, Ranju Batra extended a word of welcome to the Jaiswals and guests, and briefly spoke about her struggle to get a Diwali Stamp issued by the USPS. The Indian American community, surely, recognizes her great contribution. It is not a question of a Stamp. It is a recognition of the festival



A view of the distinguished gathering

of Diwali.

Ravi Batra who believes strongly in the friendship and strong relationship between the US and India complimented the Consul General for his work to fulfill Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's

2016 Washington Declaration of Indivisibility with the United States of America. He thanked the guests for their presence.

Surely, the afternoon Lunch was more fun than speeches.

Youth of Glen Rock Indian Community and 'The Act of Humanity' distribute free masks and sanitizers

GLEN ROCK, NJ (TIP): A group of local residents from Glen Rock, NJ along with Act of Humanity, a charitable organization, handed out free KN95 Masks, Hand Sanitizers, and Face Shields this Saturday, October 9, 2021, just outside the Rock Ridge Pharmacy on Rock Rd in Glen Rock, NJ.

The group was motivated by seeing many people who work at various establishments on Rock Road and around Glen Rock wearing surgical masks. They wanted to offer residents higher quality masks that provide better protection against the highly contagious Delta variant. With younger children still not eligible for Covid-19 vaccines, the CDC recommends that all vaccinated and unvaccinated people use KN95 masks indoors and in crowded places.

The team handed out over 5000 KN95 masks, 2000 bottles (8 oz) of hand sanitizer, and 400 facial shields. Recipients included Glen Rock families, town visitors, local store employees, and others - many expressed gratitude for getting high-quality masks and hand sanitizers for free. Jack M. Ciattarelli, New Jersey nominee for Governor in the 2021 gubernatorial election,



(L to R): Priyanka Poddar, Amit Poddar, Santosh Joshi, Vishnu Patel, Ish Kennedy and Rajeev Sinha

stopped by at the event to show his support for the cause. Special thanks to Act of Humanity for donating all handouts and Vishnu Patel, manager of Rock Ridge Pharmacy, who sponsored the event by providing



Jack Ciattarelli - NJ nominee of Governor with the volunteers

logistical support. The team would like to call out Kimone James, CEO of The Amazing Help CEO (a social services organization in Paterson, NJ), for her participation and support. Thanks to Sanjiv Ohri, Amit Poddar, Priyanka Poddar (Youth of Glen Rock Indian Community), Sonal Thohan and Santosh Joshi for volunteering their time handing out the supplies. Thanks to Keller Williams real-estate professionals Rajeev Sinha & Ish Kennedy for extending a helping hand to the team.

AS I SEE IT

Uttar Pradesh all stirred up

SMALLER PLAYERS MAY HOLD THE KEY THIS TIME IN POLL-BOUND STATE

BY RADHIKA
RAMASESHAN

"THE MOWING DOWN OF FOUR PROTESTORS, WHOSE ONLY 'CRIME' WAS TO WAVE BLACK FLAGS BEFORE A UP MINISTER SIGNIFIED A LOW IN THE ONGOING AGITATION. NOT ONLY HAS THE UNREST SPILLED FROM THE WEST TO AVADH IN CENTRAL UP, THE ISSUES HAVE GONE BEYOND THE REFUSAL TO RATIFY THE CENTRE'S FARM 'REFORMS' AND THE STATE GOVERNMENT'S SMALL ONE-TIME PAYMENT HIKE FOR SUGARCANE GROWERS TO THE RISE IN AGRICULTURAL INPUTS, POWER TARIFFS, UNEVEN IRRIGATION FACILITIES AND THE CONTINUOUS PREYING ON FIELDS AND STANDING CROPS BY ROGUE CATTLE. THE RANGE OF ISSUES AFFECTS EVERY FARMER, BIG, MARGINAL AND SMALL. NO LONGER IS THE AGITATION ABOUT THE 'PROSPEROUS' SUGAR-CANE JAT FARMERS OF THE WEST. IT SPANS THE PEASANTS IN THE OTHER DISTRICTS, CUTTING ACROSS CASTE AND CLASS DIVISIONS. AGAINST SUCH A FLUID BACKDROP, TIKAIT'S ROLE WILL BE CLOSELY MONITORED BY THE SKM AS WELL AS THE OPPOSITION TO SEE IF HE GETS CLOSER TO THE BJP OR WHETHER HIS ENGAGEMENT WITH ADITYANATH AND HIS APPARATCHIKS WAS A LIMITED ONE."



Tikait's role will be closely monitored by the Samyukt Kisan Morcha as well as the Opposition to see if he gets closer to the BJP. - Photo / PTI

The brutality and horror of Lakhimpur Kheri, marked by a callous Central regime, a slippery UP Government which survives on chicanery and repression, and an Opposition that arose belatedly from sleepwalking, brought other twists and turns to the state's politics as well before the elections. An interesting aspect that emerged was the unpredictability of the smaller players, who have not yet launched their parties, as well as the minor political entities who punch above their weight, giving the impression that they are more sought after by the mainline parties this time. One of them is Rakesh Tikait, the BKU spokesperson, who was thrust into the spotlight once the farmers' protest picked up steam in west UP, his home ground.

Where does Lakhimpur Kheri fit into this jumbled picture? It does, if only farmers form a cohesive federation based on their economic interests and not caste allegiances.

Tikait wore his celebrity-hood with assumed reluctance, as though his head felt heavy wearing the crown, although he savored every moment of the attention he drew from politicians and the media. If he had political ambitions that were blown away in the past because he lacked conviction in the cause he supposedly espoused, this time he did not reveal a thing. Sanjeev Balyan, the MP from Muzaffarnagar, tempted Tikait to float a party when the BJP, Balyan's party, was in hot water. Tikait didn't bite the bait but he possibly did a bigger favor to the BJP and the Yogi Adityanath government when he accepted the brief to mediate and quell tensions in Lakhimpur Kheri after the farmers' killings and the reprisals. Tikait partially delivered

on the mandate set by the CM but probably lost face among his colleagues in the Samyukt Kisan Morcha (SKM), who span the ideological circumference from the left to the center and right of center.

The mowing down of four protestors, whose only 'crime' was to wave black flags before a UP minister signified a low in the ongoing agitation. Not only has the unrest spilled from the west to Avadh in central UP, the issues have gone beyond the refusal to ratify the Centre's farm 'reforms' and the state government's small one-time payment hike for sugarcane growers to the rise in agricultural inputs, power tariffs, uneven irrigation facilities and the continuous preying on fields and standing crops by rogue cattle. The range of issues affects every farmer, big, marginal and small. No longer is the agitation about the 'prosperous' sugar-cane Jat farmers of the west. It spans the peasants in the other districts, cutting across caste and class divisions. Against such a fluid backdrop, Tikait's role will be closely monitored by the SKM as well as the Opposition to see if he gets closer to the BJP or whether his engagement with Adityanath and his apparatchiks was a limited one.

What accounts for the salience of once peripheral individuals like Tikait? The state Opposition lay dormant for the better part of Adityanath's tenure, although issues came thick and fast. No Opposition leader raised his or her voice, fueling a perception that they were nonchalant, scared of a counterstroke if they spoke aloud, or risked alienating the Hindus of UP. The last factor was premised on a belief that Hindus had voted almost en bloc for

the BJP since the 2014 Lok Sabha elections and the leader in saffron robes who presides over North India's richest monastic order in Gorakhpur consolidated his position as the new 'monarch of the Hindu heart'.

On the ground, people, Hindus and Muslims, Jat, Yadav, Saini and Dalit, rich, middle-class and poor, urban and rural, had reasons to not just worry but despair. The Opposition was not around to tap the sentiments and funnel them into a movement against the establishment. When the winds of an agrarian uprising blew from Punjab and Haryana to UP, the farmers of the west divined the potential to vent their problems and organized themselves, almost spontaneously. The BKU, and later the RLD, headed by Jayant Chaudhary, were default beneficiaries of the signals beamed from Punjab and Haryana and not the catalysts. It's a reflection of popular desperation and disillusionment that people were ready to resurrect a has-been like Tikait.

If indeed the impending contest is bilateral and not multi-polar as in the recent past, why is a politician like Om Prakash Rajbhar - courted, co-opted, dumped and wooed again by the BJP - hot property? Om Prakash, who represents the backward caste Rajbhars, tried to band together the most backward and extremely backward castes as well as Muslims into an umbrella outfit called the Bhagyadari Sankalp Morcha (BSM). The BJP was partially successful in attracting some of these castes into its fold since 2014. However, Adityanath, who allegedly carried his patronage of the Rajputs, the caste to which he belongs, to inordinate lengths, might have antagonized not just the Brahmins but the backward castes too. Om Prakash was approached not by Adityanath but state BJP leaders whose only pre-condition to him was excluding Asaduddin Owaisi's All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen from his front. Om Prakash indicated that he would reveal his roadmap at a mahapanchayat in east UP on October 27.

Simultaneously, the Samajwadi Party that has positioned itself as the BJP's direct rival is soliciting the support of parties which addressed specific castes to widen its backward caste base.

Where does Lakhimpur Kheri fit into this jumbled picture? It does, if only UP's farmers form a cohesive federation, underpinned by their economic interests and not caste allegiances. It nearly happened in Madhya Pradesh in the 2018 elections. Will MP repeat itself in UP?

(The author is a senior journalist)

The global war on terror grinds along

Notwithstanding some temporary setbacks, the broad contours of terrorism remain much the same



BY M.K. NARAYANAN

"TWO DECADES OF THE GLOBAL WAR ON TERROR DID NOT, HOWEVER, ERADICATE TERRORISM. NOTWITHSTANDING LEADERSHIP LOSSES, INCLUDING THAT OF LEADERS LIKE BIN LADEN AND AL BAGHDADI, AND DESPITE ORGANIZATIONAL FRACTURING AND TERRITORIAL DEGRADATION, TERROR GROUPS SUCH AS AL-QAEDA AND THE IS TODAY POSE A PERSISTENT CHALLENGE. HARD INTELLIGENCE ON THE MYRIAD TERROR MODULES HAS BEEN HARD TO COME BY AND THE ABSENCE OF A SINGLE CORE FOR EITHER AL-QAEDA OR THE IS, IS MAKING IT EVEN MORE DIFFICULT TO ASSESS THE TRUE NATURE OF THE THREAT THAT LOOMS. IT WOULD BE TEMPTING FOR INTELLIGENCE AGENCIES TO THINK THAT THE CURRENT LOW-TECH ATTACKS, INVOLVING SMALL ARMS, THE OCCASIONAL USE OF IMPROVISED EXPLOSIVE DEVICES, AND RANDOM 'LONE WOLF' ATTACKS REFLECT THE WEAKENING OF TERROR MODULES, INCLUDING THAT OF AL-QAEDA AND THE IS. NOTHING COULD BE MORE MISLEADING. NOT ONLY THE MAJOR TERROR GROUPS BUT EVEN SMALLER TERROR MODULES CURRENTLY RETAIN THE POTENTIAL FOR BOTH SOPHISTICATED AND MASS CASUALTY ATTACKS."

Two decades after September 11, 2001, when al-Qaeda carried out its most audacious attacks ever on American soil, leading to the Global war on terror and triggering the invasion of Afghanistan by the United States, it might be worthwhile to do a fact check on the outcome. More so given the latest turn of events, which has seen the return of the Taliban in Afghanistan, leading to the question as to whether the Global war on terror was a failure. Also, are there lessons to be learnt from it?

A PERSPECTIVE : In retrospect, it is possible to surmise that the 9/11 attacks were the sum total of a series of systemic and structural shortcomings of the U.S. security establishment. Seldom mentioned, it was also, perhaps, the failure of human imagination. No one in the U.S. establishment imagined that an attack on this scale could take place. It is unclear whether even today security agencies in the U.S. and elsewhere are better positioned in this respect.

Historians surmise that Osama bin

Laden's actions were inspired as much by geopolitical as they were by religious objectives, and that he was obsessed by the 'sufferings of Muslims' in many far-flung regions. He believed - mistakenly - that delivering a decisive blow against the U.S. by an action such as 9/11 would force the U.S. to alter its policies in many areas of conflict.

Osama bin Laden failed to succeed in his attempt, and over time it was al-Qaeda that faced the wrath of not only the U.S., but the rest of the world as well. Osama bin Laden's aims to destroy the 'myth of American invincibility' failed, but since then, the world has witnessed prolonged periods of uncertainty as also the spawning of many more terror groups worldwide. The Global war on terror did, however, neutralize fears that terrorism was poised to create large-scale mayhem across the globe.

Several reasons could be attributed to bin Laden's failure. It would seem, in hindsight, that bin Laden and other leaders associated with al-Qaeda such as Ayman al-Zawahiri, other jihadi leaders such as Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi of the Islamic State (IS) or Mukhtar Abu Zubair of Al-Shabab, all lacked the centrality of vision or power so essential to sustain the momentum of an initiative of this kind. Moreover, while in the initial stages, Afghanistan - and to an extent, Pakistan - provided safe havens (which together with the presence of several disparate terror groups in a common milieu provided powerful unifying forces for disparate groups), the situation changed once the safe havens were no longer available. In addition, the lack of visibility of the leaders of the movement over time and diminished authority also contributed to dissipation of the terror momentum and the capacity for militancy and violence.

PERSISTENT CHALLENGE : Two decades of the Global war on terror did not, however, eradicate terrorism. Notwithstanding leadership losses, including that of leaders like bin Laden and al Baghdadi, and despite organizational fracturing and territorial degradation, terror groups such as al-Qaeda and the IS today pose a persistent challenge. Hard intelligence on the myriad terror modules has been hard to come by and the absence of a single core for either al-Qaeda or the IS, is making it even more difficult to assess the true nature of the threat that looms. It would be tempting for intelligence agencies to think that the current low-tech attacks, involving small arms, the occasional use of Improvised Explosive Devices, and random 'lone wolf' attacks reflect the weakening of terror modules, including that of al-Qaeda and the IS. Nothing could be more misleading. Not only the major terror groups but even smaller terror modules currently retain the potential for both sophisticated and mass casualty attacks.

History is, therefore, more relevant and important when assessing future threats

such as terrorism. The broad sweep acquired by radical Islam in recent decades has, by no means, been eliminated. Terrorism, stemming from a mixture of religious fervor and fundamentalist aims, remains vibrant. The newer breed of terrorists may be less familiar with the teachings of the Egyptian, Sayyid Qutb or the Palestinian, Abdullah Azzam, but they are well-versed in the practical methodologies practiced by the Jalaluddin and Sirajuddin Haqqanis (the latter is a Minister in the Interim Afghan Government), Hafiz Saeed of the Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) and Maulana Masood Azhar of the Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM), etc. Hence, it is possible to surmise that notwithstanding some temporary setbacks caused by the Global war on terror, the broad contours of terrorism, especially Islamist terrorism, remain much the same.

A grim warning

The return of the Taliban in Afghanistan, after humiliating the combined forces of the U.S., the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) and the Afghan Armed Forces is a grim warning of what lies in store for the neighborhood. Apart from giving radical Islam a fresh lease of life and a new thrust, it has come at a time when the democratic world is demonstrating a diminishing appetite to fight terror away from their own 'locales', thus leaving the field wide open to the forces of Terror Inc., of which the Taliban is an indispensable entity. Several terror groups which possess varying capabilities such as al-Qaeda, the IS, the Daesh across Asia, the LeT, JeM and the TRF (The Resistance Front, which is backed by the LeT) in India, the Al-Shabab in Africa, etc., are certain to feel energized and gain a fresh lease of life.

IN INDIA : One can already see emerging signs of what can be expected in Afghanistan given that its capital, Kabul, has been wracked by a series of bomb blasts, reflecting a more intensified intra-denominational strife which has the potential to become a 'prairie fire'. Nearer home, Kashmir is beginning to see a new wave of terror attacks reviving grim memories of the 1990s. Targeted killings of minorities have begun to send shockwaves across not only Jammu & Kashmir (J&K), but many other pockets of the country. Given the prevailing scenario, the dice is heavily loaded against India, with J&K being in the cross-hairs of several terror factions, further complicated by Pakistan's efforts to aid and abet them through the use of its 'regulars'. That Sirajuddin Haqqani, a Pakistani acolyte, holds a key position in the new interim Government of Afghanistan, makes it easier for forces inimical to India in the region, essentially Pakistan, to wage an 'undeclared war' against India.

While the past is often a good guide to



This memorial in the US is dedicated to those who lost their lives during the Global War on Terrorism.

the future in comprehending what shape terror could manifest itself going forward, it is even more important to recognize the paradigmatic changes beginning to take shape in the practice of violence in different parts of the world. The emerging shape of terror and terror attacks during coming periods is likely to be very different from what many of today's experts possibly anticipate. While 'Zero-day' attacks like New York (9/11) and Mumbai (26/11) are still very much on the drawing board of terror groups, it is also known that a new breed of terrorists is experimenting with newer forms of terror, especially the possibility of 'enabled or remote-controlled terror'. This is a frightening prospect.

THE FORMS OF 'NEW ERA' TERROR : Intelligence and terror specialists must begin to anticipate how to deal with 'new era terrorists', recruited over the Internet, who would thereafter be guided through different steps, over a sustained period, by anonymous handlers located elsewhere. This is not science fiction. There is already evidence of the existence of remote controllers who choose the targets, the actual operatives, the nature of the attack itself, and even the weaponry to be used, operating behind a wall of anonymity. Internet-enabled terrorism - a completely new genre of terrorism - would be very different from what we have seen so far.

Linked to this is the threat posed by cyber-terrorism. Digital sabotage has already entered the armory of certain terror groups. Cyber sabotage is a distinct possibility in certain situations today. It is well-known that terror groups that have state backing, have the capacity today to employ cyber techniques to carry out hostile attacks on the ICT-enabled infrastructure of another country. While little is talked about these aspects, the reality is that the limits of human imagination have become the virtual parameters of terror threats today.

(The author is a former National Security Adviser and a former Governor of West Bengal)

A strategy for India in a world that is adrift



BY SHIVSHANKAR
MENON

"SECULAR STAGNATION IN THE GLOBAL AND INDIAN ECONOMIES AND A RETREAT FROM GLOBALIZATION, THE REGIONALIZATION OF TRADE, A SHIFTING BALANCE OF POWER, THE RISE OF CHINA AND OTHERS, AND STRUCTURAL CHINA-UNITED STATES STRATEGIC RIVALRY HAVE SHIFTED THE GEOPOLITICAL AND ECONOMIC CENTERS OF GRAVITY FROM THE ATLANTIC TO ASIA. INEQUALITY BETWEEN AND WITHIN STATES HAS BRED A NARROW NATIONALISM AND PAROCHIALISM. WE ARE ENTERING A NEW POLARIZED INFORMATION AGE, AND FACE ECOLOGICAL CRISES OF THE ANTHROPOCENE, MAKING CLIMATE CHANGE AN EXISTENTIAL THREAT. THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC HAS ACCELERATED SOME OF THESE CHANGES AND TRANSFORMED OTHERS. ALL IN ALL, WE CAN NO LONGER TAKE THE SUCCESS OF OUR DEVELOPMENT MODEL FOR GRANTED."

New situations require fresh thinking. A few of us - Yamini Aiyar, Sunil Khilnani, Prakash Menon, Nitin Pai, Ajit Ranade, Srinath Raghavan, and Shyam Saran - some of whom were authors a decade ago of non-Alignment 2.0, were prompted by the tectonic shifts in India's internal and external environment to take another look at India's path to power in a world between orders. The outcome of our conversations is a discussion paper hosted on the Centre for Policy Research and Takshashila Institute websites called India's Path to Power, Strategy in a

THE COUNTRY'S PATH TO POWER WILL BE AFFECTED BY THE GEOPOLITICAL AND ECONOMIC CENTERS OF GRAVITY NOW SHIFTING TO ASIA

World Adrift. It is our hope that we will receive comments, suggestions and criticism of the paper and that it will contribute to the national debate on our country's course.

Many power centers

The world today is adrift. We are neither in a bipolar Cold War nor in a multipolar world, though perhaps tending towards a world of several power centers. We are in a world between orders. The lack of a coherent international response to the COVID-19 pandemic is proof of an absence of international order and of the ineffectiveness of multilateral institutions. So is the ineffective international response to climate change and other transnational threats.

Secular stagnation in the global and Indian economies and a retreat from globalization, the regionalization of trade, a shifting balance of power, the rise of China and others, and structural China-United States strategic rivalry have shifted the geopolitical and economic centers of gravity from the Atlantic to Asia. Inequality between and within states has bred a narrow nationalism and parochialism. We are entering a new polarized information age, and face ecological crises of the Anthropocene, making climate change an existential threat. The COVID-19 pandemic has accelerated some of these changes and transformed others. All in all, we can no longer take the success of our development model for granted.

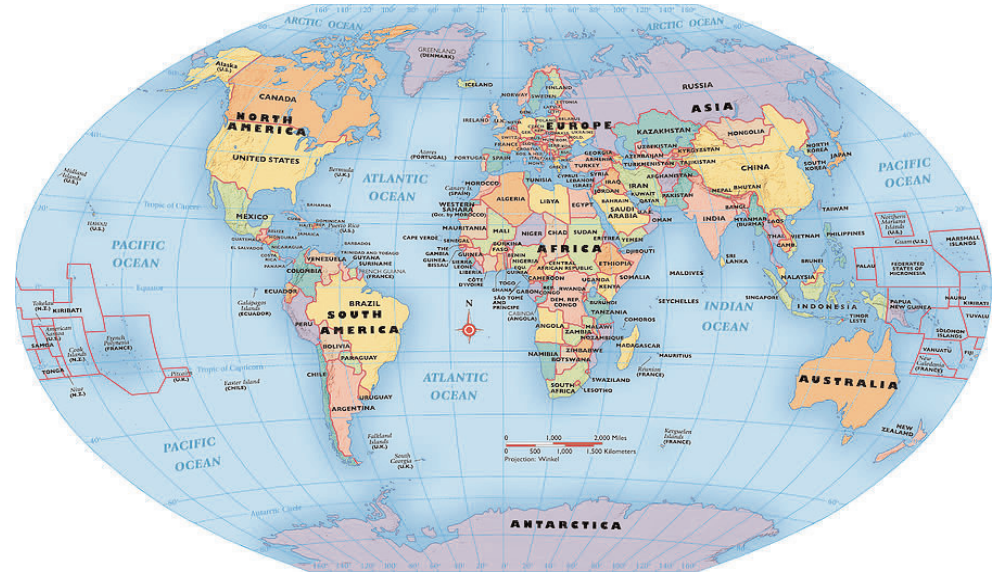
Asia as the nucleus

Over the next decade we expect Asia to remain the cockpit of geopolitical rivalries, and that the U.S. remains the most formidable power, though its relative power is declining. China sees a window of opportunity but acts in a hurry, suggesting that she believes that window may close or is already closing due to pushback from the West and others. China's crowded geography constrains her both on land and at sea. We see a slim prospect of Chinese hegemony in Asia, but expect her profile and power to continue expanding, particularly in our periphery. The result is likely continued friction, some cooperation, and quasi-adversarial relations between India and China, which others will take advantage of. As neighbors and in the present situation, a mix of confrontation and cooperation is likely to continue to mark India's relations with China.

Overall, we do not expect conventional conflict between the great powers in Asia, though other forms and levels of violence and contention in the international system will rise, with Taiwan a special case.

Challenges, opportunities

The uncertainty and changing



geopolitical environment clearly pose considerable challenges to Indian policy but also throw up certain opportunities, enhancing our strategic options and diplomatic space, if we adjust policies internally and externally, particularly in the subcontinent. Increasing security congruence with the U.S. could enable growing cooperation in fields significant for India's transformation: energy, trade, investment, education and health. Other areas in which India and the U.S. could increase cooperation are: climate change and energy, on tech solutions for renewable energy, and on digital cooperation. Several middle powers are now India's natural partners. There is also an increasing possibility of working with partners in the developing world building broader coalitions on issues of common interest. This time of transition between orders is also when new standards and norms are being developed, particularly in the digital space. India can and must be present at the creation. There are opportunities in other domains as well. At sea, the balance is today more favorable to us than before, possibly more so than on the continent. We suggest the creation of a Maritime Commission, a Bay of Bengal Initiative with partner countries, and increasing what we do with South East Asia in maritime security, cybersecurity and counterterrorism. We should aim for multipolarity in Asia.

The way forward that we suggest is based on the core strategic principles in non-Alignment 2.0 which are still relevant: independent judgement, developing our capacities, and creating an equitable and enabling international order for India's transformation. Today's situation makes India's strategic autonomy all the more essential.

At the same time, we must adjust to changing circumstances. We have no choice but to engage with this uncertain and more volatile world. One productive way to do so would be through issue-based coalitions including different actors, depending on who has an interest and capability.

Revive SAARC

We also suggest initiatives to craft and reinvigorate regional institutions and processes in the neighborhood, reviving the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) for instance. India could be the primary source of both prosperity and security in the neighborhood - the subcontinent and the Indian Ocean Region. The over securitization of policy towards our neighbors has driven trade underground, criminalized our borders, and enabled large-scale entry of Chinese goods destroying local industry in the northeast. While lessening dependence on China, and seeking external balancing, our primary effort has to concentrate on self-strengthening. If there is one country which in terms of its size, population, economic potential, scientific and technological capabilities can match or even surpass China, it is India.

Self-strength is key

Our paper also suggests several steps that we can take in India to ensure that India's role and influence abroad continue to serve the task of transforming India. Economic policy must match political and strategic engagement. Globalization has been central to India's growth. A more active regional and international role for India is incompatible with a position on the margins of the global economy. Self-reliance in today's world and technologies can only be realized as part of the global economy. We should not imitate China's claims to being a civilizational state and its adoption of victimhood. Instead, we should affirm our own strength and historic national identity.

In sum, we see self-strengthening as an absolutely essential precondition as also safeguarding the foundational sources of India's international influence. We cannot separate our domestic trajectory from the external course we need to pursue to transform India into a strong, secure and prosperous country.

(The author, a former National Security Adviser and Foreign Secretary, is Visiting Professor at Ashoka University)



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**JOE BIDEN UNDERCUTS
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COURTS HAVE RULED THAT
FORMER PRESIDENTS ARE
AFFORDED EXECUTIVE
PRIVILEGE IN SOME CASES**



U.S. President Joe Biden - File Photo

WASHINGTON, DC (TIP) It is a risky move by President Joe Biden that could come back to haunt him - and future Presidents - in the hyperpartisan world of Washington politics, a CNN report says.

Democrat Biden has agreed to a request from the Congress seeking sensitive information on the actions of his predecessor Donald Trump and his aides during the January 6 insurrection, though the former President claims the information is guarded by executive privilege.

The move by Mr. Biden isn't the final word; Republican Trump says he will challenge the requests and a lengthy legal battle is likely to ensue over the information. Courts have ruled that former Presidents are afforded executive privilege in some cases.

But the playbook for the legal world is different from the political world. And in the political world, "every time a President does something controversial, it becomes a building block for future Presidents," said Saikrishna Prakash, a law professor at the University of Virginia who studies presidential powers.

Mr. Biden's decision not to block the information sought by the Congress challenges a tested norm - one in which Presidents enjoy the secrecy of records of their own terms in office, both mundane and highly sensitive, for a period of at least five years, and often far longer. That means Mr. Biden and future Presidents, as well as Mr. Trump.

While not spelled out in the Constitution, executive privilege has developed to protect a President's ability to obtain candid counsel from his advisers without fear of immediate public disclosure and to protect his confidential communications relating to official responsibilities.

But that privilege has its limitations in extraordinary situations, as exemplified during the Watergate scandal, when the Supreme Court ruled that it could not be used to shield the release of secret Oval Office tapes sought in a criminal inquiry, and following the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks.

**(Read full story at
www.theindianpanorama.news)**

Biden and First Lady Jill to have audience with Pope Francis during trip to Rome

WASHINGTON (TIP): President Joe Biden and first lady Jill Biden will meet with Pope Francis during their trip to Rome later this month for the G20 conference, White House press secretary Jen Psaki said in a statement.

"The President and Dr. Biden will also visit Vatican City and have an audience with His Holiness Pope Francis on October 29. They will discuss working together on efforts grounded in respect for fundamental human dignity, including ending the COVID-19 pandemic, tackling the climate crisis, and caring for the poor," Psaki said in a statement.

CNN said that the meeting will come as there is a simmering debate within the US Catholic Church over granting communion to Catholic politicians who support abortion rights, including the



Pope Francis - File Photo

nation's second Catholic President. Biden had been denied the sacrament once in 2019 in the run-up to the election and the issue drew new attention in June when the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops proceeded with a plan that could deny communion to such public figures, setting up a potential public rebuke of the President.

The Pope said last month that bishops debating whether to deny communion to public figures who support abortion rights should make their decisions from a "pastoral" viewpoint and not a political one.

"The problem is not theological, it's pastoral," Francis told reporters. "How we bishops deal with this principle. We must be pastors, also with those who are excommunicated. Like God with passion and tenderness. The Bible says so."

U.S. to lift Canada, Mexico land border restrictions in November for vaccinated visitors

WASHINGTON (TIP): The United States will lift restrictions at its land borders with Canada and Mexico for fully vaccinated foreign nationals in early November, ending historic curbs on non-essential travelers in place since March 2020 to address the COVID-19 pandemic, two U.S. officials said on October 12.

Foreign visitors crossing into the United States by land or ferry will need to be vaccinated but will not necessarily need to show proof of vaccination unless they are referred by U.S. Customs and Border Patrol

The rules, which will be formally announced by Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas on October 13, will cover land borders and ferry crossings. They are similar but not identical to planned requirements announced last month for international air travelers, the officials said in a call with reporters.

Lawmakers from New York State praised the move.

"Since the beginning of the pandemic, members of our shared cross-border community have felt the pain and economic hardship of the land border closures. That pain is about to end," Senate Democratic leader Chuck Schumer said in a statement.

The officials from President Joe Biden's administration emphasized that the White House would not lift the "Title 42" order put in place by former President Donald Trump's administration that has essentially cut off access to asylum for hundreds of thousands of migrants seeking to enter from Mexico.

The precise date in early November when the restrictions will be lifted will be announced "very soon," one of



the officials said.

Canada on August 9 began allowing fully vaccinated U.S. visitors for non-essential travel.

Once the U.S. curbs are lifted, non-essential foreign visitors crossing U.S. land borders, such as tourists, will be able to visit if they are vaccinated. In early January, the United States will require essential visitors, like truck drivers, to be vaccinated to cross land borders, the officials said.

U.S. lawmakers have been pushing the White House to lift restrictions that have barred non-essential travel by Canadians across the northern U.S. border since March 2020, and many border communities have been hit hard by the closure. Mexico has also pressed the Biden administration to ease restrictions.

The White House announced on September 20 that the United States in early November would lift travel restrictions on air travelers from 33 countries including China, India,

Brazil and most of Europe who are fully vaccinated against COVID-19.

Foreign visitors crossing into the United States by land or ferry will need to be vaccinated but will not necessarily need to show proof of vaccination unless they are referred by U.S. Customs and Border Patrol for secondary inspections.

By contrast, all non-U.S. air travelers will need to show proof of vaccination before boarding a flight - and will need to show proof of a recent negative COVID-19 test.

On October 8, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said the United States would accept the use by international visitors of COVID-19 vaccines authorized by U.S. regulators or the World Health Organization.

The U.S. land border restrictions have not barred U.S. citizens from returning home. (Agencies)

Indian Americans in 2021 Forbes 400



The seven Indian - Americans who made it to 2021 Forbes 400

JERSEY CITY, NJ (TIP): As former president Donald Trump fell off the Forbes 400 list of wealthiest Americans for first time in 25 years in what it called "a terrible year for many," seven Indian-Americans made it.

The 2021 Forbes 400 saw their collective fortune increase 40% over the last year, to \$4.5 trillion. Nearly all are richer than they were a year ago.

There are 44 new names on the list, which now requires a minimum net worth of \$2.9 billion, up \$800 million from a year ago. the biggest jump in cutoff.

Topping the list of seven Indian American billionaires was Zscaler CEO Jay Chaudhry, 62, placed at 45 with a net worth of \$16.3 billion.

He was followed by Vinod Khosla (92), Rakesh Gangwal (253), Romesh T. Wadhvani (333), Niraj Shah (340), Aneel Bhusri (363) and Baiju Bhatt (389).

The cybersecurity firm Chaudhry founded in 2008, went public in March 2018. He and his family own 42% of the Nasdaq-listed firm.

Before Zscaler, Chaudhry founded four other tech companies that were all acquired: SecureIT, CoreHarbor, CipherTrust and AirDefense.

In 1996, Chaudhry and his wife, Jyoti, both quit their jobs and used their life savings to start cybersecurity firm SecureIT, his first startup.

His hometown, a village in the Himalayas in India, did not have electricity or running water until he was in the 8th and 10th grade, respectively.

Chaudhry moved to the US in 1980 to attend graduate school and now lives in Nevada, after relocating from the Bay Area.

Vinod Khosla, 66, Partner, Khosla Ventures, a Silicon Valley venture capital firm. follows at 92 with a net

worth of \$8.6 billion.

The firm, which invests in experimental technologies such as biomedicine and robotics scored exits in 2020 and early 2021 with IPOs of Affirm and DoorDash and SPAC listings of QuantumScape and Opendoor.

Khosla cofounded computer hardware firm Sun Microsystems in 1982 with Andy Bechtolsheim, Bill Joy and Scott McNealy.

Khosla spent 18 years at venture capital firm Kleiner Perkins Caufield & Byers (now called Kleiner Perkins) before launching his own fund.

Khosla earned a Master of Science at Carnegie Mellon University; Bachelor of Arts/Science, Indian Institute of Technology; Master of Business Administration, Stanford Graduate School of Business.

Third richest among Indian Americans was Airline veteran Rakesh Gangwal, 68, placed at 253 with a net worth of \$4.4 billion.

Gangwal made his fortune from InterGlobe Aviation, the parent outfit of budget airline IndiGo, India's largest by market share.

Gangwal started his airline career with United Airlines in 1984 and went on to run US Airways Group as its chief executive and chairman.

Gangwal cofounded IndiGo, headquartered outside Delhi, with pal Rahul Bhatia (also a billionaire) in 2006 with one aircraft. The Miami resident owns close to 37% of the company and serves as a board member.

Gangwal and Bhatia had a bitter falling out in 2019 over corporate governance issues. Their dispute reached courts in London, Florida and Maryland, Forbes said.

(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)

JAN. 6 COMMITTEE TO HOLD FORMER TRUMP AIDE BANNON IN CRIMINAL CONTEMPT FOR NOT COMPLYING WITH SUBPOENA



Stephen Bannon - File Photo

WASHINGTON, DC (TIP): The House select committee investigating the Jan. 6 attack on the Capitol announced on Thursday, October 15 that it will move to hold Stephen K. Bannon in criminal contempt for not complying with its subpoena as it seeks to force former Trump administration officials to cooperate with its inquiry, a CNN report says.

Chairman Bennie G. Thompson (D-Miss.) said the panel will meet Tuesday, October 19 when the House returns to Washington to vote to adopt a contempt report.

"The Select Committee will use every tool at its disposal to get the information it seeks, and witnesses who try to stonewall the Select Committee will not succeed," Thompson said in a statement.

The panel has opted to give other former Trump officials more time to comply with its subpoenas.

Mark Meadows and Kash Patel were both scheduled to appear before the committee by the end of this week for closed door interviews and are now expected to be provided an extension or continuance, according to three people familiar with the matter who spoke on the condition of anonymity because the decision has not been announced.

Meadows served as Trump's chief of staff at the end of his administration and Patel served as chief of staff to then-acting Defense secretary Christopher Miller on Jan. 6.

Because the delivery of former Trump deputy chief of staff Dan Scavino's subpoena was delayed, the committee has postponed his scheduled deposition this week, according to a select committee aide.

The committee - seven Democrats, two Republicans, all appointed by House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.) - was created earlier this year after Republicans in both chambers voted against creating an independent commission modeled on the one that investigated the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks.

(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)

A Big Indian Link to a Blood Pressure Pill Identified as Dangerous

THE NEW CHEMICALS ARE CALLED AZIDO IMPURITIES AND REGULATORY AUTHORITIES SAY THEY'RE MUTAGENIC, MEANING THEY CAN CHANGE SOMEONE'S DNA AND POTENTIALLY INCREASE CANCER RISK.

WASHINGTON (TIP): Over the past three years, millions of blood pressure pills that contain a probable carcinogen have been recalled around the world. As pharmaceutical companies have worked on finding a fix, they've discovered an entirely new problem: another potentially dangerous chemical is showing up in the same drugs.

The new chemicals are called azido impurities and regulatory authorities say they're mutagenic, meaning they can change someone's DNA and potentially increase cancer risk.

The impurities were found in blood pressure drugs which have been recalled in

Canada as well as Europe earlier this year. U.S. officials helped lead the way in the 2018 recalls of the same type of drugs tainted with the probable carcinogen N-Nitrosodimethylamine, or NDMA, though they have yet to pull any for containing the azido impurities.

Meanwhile, a U.S. Food and Drug Administration inspector has found at least one large manufacturer in India, Hetero Labs Ltd., has a flawed process for controlling the impurities, according to documents reviewed by Bloomberg. Hetero also hasn't adequately ensured a residue of impurities aren't building up on production equipment, which can cross-contaminate subsequent batches, according to the documents.

The FDA inspector visited Hetero Labs Ltd.'s production plant in the Sangareddy district in south central India over 10 days in August. The plant makes the active ingredient for the blood pressure drug called valsartan, which it sells to other



The new chemicals are called azido impurities - Photo for Representation only

pharmaceutical companies to make a finished pill. Valsartan production can form azido impurities. The company did not respond to requests for comment.

Drug regulator Health Canada announced recalls of valsartan, a type of drug called an angiotensin II receptor blocker or ARB, in May for elevated levels of azido impurities. Over the next few months, other drugs in the same class, losartan and irbesartan, were recalled for the same impurities. Companies implicated include Sanofi, Novartis AG's generic-drug unit Sandoz and generic-drug giant Teva Pharmaceutical Industries Ltd.

(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)

JCO among 2 Army personnel killed in encounter with terrorists in J-K

Two Army personnel, including a junior commissioned officer (JCO), were killed in an encounter with terrorists in Jammu and Kashmir's Poonch district, officials said on Friday, October 14.

According to a defence spokesperson, the JCO and a jawan were critically injured during a counter-terrorist operation in the Nar Khas forest area in Mendhar subdivision on Thursday evening. Both of them succumbed to their injuries subsequently.

The operation is going on, he added.

While the body of the jawan has been retrieved, that of the JCO is yet to be retrieved from the area, the spokesperson said.

Efforts are on to retrieve the body, he said, adding that the area is mountainous and the forest is dense, which makes the operation difficult and dangerous.

Jammu and Kashmir Police said terrorists involved in a recent attack on security forces in Poonch, in which five Army personnel, including a JCO, were killed, were present in the area for the last two to three months.

Deputy Inspector General of Police (DIG) Rajouri-Poonch range Vivek Gupta told reporters that the terrorists had been confined to a particular area.

"The group has been present in the area for two to three months," he said.

Several counter-terrorist operations and encounters have taken place in the twin border districts of Rajouri and Poonch this year. *Source: PTI*

Lakhimpur violence

SIT takes Union Minister's son, 3 others to recreate sequence of events



SIT recreates the sequence of events leading to the incident in Uttar Pradesh's Tikonia village as part of their ongoing investigation, in Lakhimpur Kheri. Photo: PTI

LAKHIMPUR KHERI (TIP): The SIT probing the Lakhimpur Kheri violence on Thursday, Oct 14, took Union Minister Ajay Mishra's son and three others arrested in the case to recreate the sequence of events leading to the incident in Uttar Pradesh's Tikonia village.

Amid tight security, the accused were taken to the site of the incident on the Tikonia-Banbirpur road, around 60 km from district headquarters Lakhimpur city, police said.

Eight people died in the October 3 violence and of them, four were farmers, allegedly knocked down by a vehicle carrying BJP workers.

Infuriated farmers then allegedly lynched some people in the vehicles. The other dead included two BJP workers and their driver. In the incident, a journalist was also killed.

Farmers claimed that Union Minister Ajay Mishra's son Ashish Mishra was in one of the vehicles, an allegation denied by him and his

father who say they can produce evidence to prove he was at an event at that time.

Ashish Mishra 'Monu' was arrested in the case on October 9 after 12 hours of questioning, and a court has accepted his police custody from October 12 to October 15.

The other three -- Shekhar Bharti was arrested on October 12, and Ankit Das and Latif alias Kale were arrested on October 13.

Das, Latif and Bharti are in police custody from October 14 to October 17.

On Thursday, investigators reached the district jail premises in the morning to take Das, Latif and Bharti into police custody.

The trio were taken to the crime branch's office at the Reserve Police Lines, which is near the district jail where main accused Ashish Mishra is lodged.

They were taken to Tikonia village by the special investigation team (SIT) amid heavy security for further investigations, police said. *Source: PTI*

MHA: BSF's jurisdictional power extended to secure border areas

The Centre's decision to give additional jurisdictional powers to the Border Security Force (BSF) within the 50-km belt along the international borders with Pakistan and Bangladesh has created a political storm, with several political parties in Punjab and West Bengal terming it an "attack on federalism".

A notification by the Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) issued on October 11 conferred on BSF officers the power to arrest, search, and seize 50 km inside Punjab, West Bengal, Assam, and Tripura.

A senior MHA official said, "The order is aimed at establishing uniformity in defining the area within which the BSF can operate as per its charter of duties and execute its task of guarding borders. This will also enable improved operational effectiveness in securing the International Border (IB)."

Noting that the MHA has issued the notification amending the BSF Act, 1968, the official said that earlier, these limits were different in different states. In Gujarat, it was 80 km, while it was 50 km in case of Rajasthan, and 15 km in Punjab, Bengal, Assam and Tripura. Under Section 139 of the Act, the Centre has the authority to notify the area and extent of operation of the BSF, he added.

BJP Candidate with five members in family gets only one vote in Tamil Nadu local body polls



D Karthik

The local body polls in the state were held on October 6 and 9. In all, 79,433 candidates had contested the polls for 27,003 posts

CHENNAI (TIP): In the recently held local body poll in Tamil Nadu, BJP candidate D Karthik secured only one vote, despite having five members in the family. He had contested for the post of a ward member in Periyanaickenpalayam union in Coimbatore district. His candidature became a mockery with the incident and the news spread through the media and went viral with #Single_Vote_BJP which went trending on Twitter.

Writer and activist Meena Kandasamy tweeted saying, "BJP candidate gets only one vote in local body elections. Proud of the four other voters in his household who decided to vote for others."

One Ashok Kumar of INC noted, "Five members are his family and this BJP candidate who contested for ward member post got one single vote in Coimbatore!" This is how Tamil Nadu handles BJP. "Out Of Five members Of

his Family, The BJP Candidate Could Secure Only Single Vote," tweeted one Imman.

The local body polls in the state were held on October 6 and 9. In all, 79,433 candidates had contested the polls for 27,003 posts. Karthik heavily campaigned for the polls with his posters consisting of primary faces of the Central leadership like PM Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah, yet he could only secure one vote. *Source: India TV*

India backs fresh WHO probe into Covid origin

India on Thursday, Oct 14, backed the World Health Organization's (WHO) decision to create an expert group to examine the origins of new pathogens, including the coronavirus that causes Covid-19, and said all countries should cooperate with the probe.

WHO chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus announced the launch of the Scientific Advisory Group for the Origins of Novel Pathogens (Sago) at a news briefing on Wednesday, and Michael Ryan, executive director of WHO's health emergencies programme, said this represented the "last chance" to determine the origins of Sars-CoV-2.

Responding to WHO's announcement, China warned against any "political manipulation" of the renewed probe into the origins of Covid-19.

India has consistently backed all moves by WHO to establish the origins of the Covid-19 pandemic, which first emerged in Wuhan, China, and called on all stakeholders, including China, to cooperate with such efforts. External affairs ministry spokesperson Arindam Bagchi reiterated this position when he was asked about the new expert group at a regular news briefing on Thursday.

"Let me just reiterate what we have stated till now – we have our interest in further studies and data on this issue of the origin [of the coronavirus] and the need for understanding and cooperation by all concerned," he said, without naming China.

Not just UK, over 30 nations now recognise India's Covid vaccine certificate

NEW DELHI (TIP): Apart from Britain, more than 30 countries across the world have now agreed to mutually recognise India's Covid-19 vaccine certificate, according to officials familiar with the matter cited by the PTI news agency on Thursday. The countries that have agreed on this mutual recognition with India include France, Germany, Nepal, Belarus, Lebanon, Armenia, Ukraine, Belgium, Hungary, and Serbia, in addition to the United Kingdom.

However, there are a few countries—including South Africa, Brazil, Bangladesh, Botswana, China, and some others in Europe—from where travellers will have to follow additional measures, in addition to the mandatory Covid-19 protocols when they arrive in India. These measures include a post-arrival Covid-19 test in the country and screening, according to the officials cited by the agency.

Hungary and Serbia are the latest additions to the list of countries who agreed to mutually recognise India's Covid-19 vaccination certificate, informed ministry of external affairs (MEA) spokesperson Arindam Bagchi last week. Bagchi said that the recognition of the vaccination certificates will cater to help people move across countries for education, business, tourism, and other things in the post-pandemic world.

The development comes days after the UK government decided to remove the requirement of mandatory quarantine for vaccinated Indian passengers after India voiced its displeasure regarding the decision and imposed travel requirements on passengers from Britain in a tit-for-tat move. Soon after, Alex Ellis, British high commissioner to India, said in a tweet, "No quarantine for Indian travellers to the UK fully vaccinated with Covishield or another UK-approved vaccine from 11 October."

Meanwhile, India on Thursday, Oct 14, administered more than 27 lakh doses of Covid-19 vaccines; with this, the number of vaccine doses given so far across the country has crossed 97 crore. The Union ministry of health and family welfare also



said that the daily vaccination numbers are expected to increase as the day-long final report is collected late at night.

On Wednesday, as many as 27,62,523 doses of Covid-19 vaccines were administered across the country. The ministry underlined that the vaccination drive is a tool to protect the most vulnerable population groups in the country from Covid-19 and that the campaign is being regularly reviewed and monitored at the highest level.

Source: HT

Rajasthan woman spends day as British envoy in Delhi

JAIPUR (TIP): Twenty-year-old Aditi Maheshwari from Rajasthan has spent a full day leading the British High Commission in New Delhi after winning a competition.

Aditi, who aspires to join the Indian Administrative Service, is the fifth winner of the India edition of the 'High Commissioner for a Day' competition, organised annually since 2017 to celebrate the International Day of the Girl Child on October 11, according to a British High Commission release.

Hailing from Chittorgarh, Aditi is currently studying a Bachelor's programme from Miranda House College of Delhi University and experienced the working of the British High Commission.

As the UK's top diplomat in India, Aditi experienced a broad variety of diplomatic activity. She observed the India-UK Energy for Growth Dialogue alongside Ministers Raj Kumar Singh and Kwasi Kwarteng. She met with beneficiaries of a leadership programme for aspiring female politicians funded by the Chevening Alumni Programme Fund; climate experts from the Council on Energy, Environment and Water (CEEW), who signed the UK in India Pledge for Progress, to show their leadership in gender equality; and young



Alex Ellis, British High Commissioner to India with Aditi Maheshwari, winner of the British High Commissioner for a Day competition.

leaders from the not-for-profit Global Youth. Aditi's packed day also included a hands-on demonstration of the I-PACE - Jaguar's zero emissions, all-electric performance SUV to be used by world leaders at the COP26 climate conference in

Glasgow next month.

Aditi Maheshwari, High Commissioner for the Day, tells :

I had applied for the competition last year as well and I'm really pleased that I got the opportunity. The interaction with

senior diplomats and with women from 'She Leads' leadership programme were the two personal highlights of the day for me. I also enjoyed being driven around in an electric vehicle by the High Commissioner. The amount of work that both the UK and India are doing to tackle issues like climate change and gender inequality made me really hopeful as a young woman. I will cherish this day for a long time to come.

Alex Ellis, Deputy High Commissioner for the Day (on other days, High Commissioner to India), said, " It was a pleasure for me to work with Aditi throughout the day. Her confidence and thoughtfulness on important issues like climate change and women's rights shone through. The UK is working with India to provide a platform for young women like Aditi to help them reach their potential. I am pleased that so many young girls sent in their entries for this year's competition which focussed on climate change. Women are disproportionately affected by climate change and are often left out of decision making on it. The UK is committed to hosting an inclusive COP26 that advances gender equality by calling on all countries to implement the Gender Action Plan agreed at COP25.

India in history this Week

OCTOBER 15 TO OCTOBER 21, 2021

15 OCTOBER

1931 11th President of India A.K. P.J. Abdul Kalam was born.



1932 The Tata Company airplane took its first flight. After the acquisition by the Government of India, this company was called Air India.

1997 Arundhati Roy was selected for Britain's most prestigious Booker Prize for her novel 'The God of Small Things'.

1949 The state of Tripura was included in India.

1988 Ujwala Patil became the first Asian woman to travel the world through the sea.

1998 India's Fatima B was awarded the United Nations Award for the Eradication of Poverty.

1686 The Mughal ruler Aurangzeb signed a peace deal with Bijapur.

16 OCTOBER

1861 The sale of federal postage stamps began.

1948 India's famous actress and Bharatanatyam dancer Hema Malini was born.



1968 Bharatvanshi Hargovind Khurana was awarded the Nobel Prize in medicine for medicine and physiology.

1959 National Women's Education Council established.

1978 Indian cricketer Kapil Dev made his Test debut against Faisalabad against Pakistan.



2002 A gold and a bronze medalist at the 14th Asian Games took Sunita Rani of India to a medal after failing in the dopint test.

2005 G-20 countries agree to reform the World Bank and IMF.

17 OCTOBER

1979 Mother Teresa was given the Nobel Peace Prize.



1605 Mughal ruler Akbar died.

1817 Syed Ahmed Khan, founder of Aligarh Muslim University, was born in Delhi.

1870 The Port of Calcutta was brought under the management of a constitutional body.

1940 Mahatma Gandhi declared private Satyagraha.

2009 The Maldives in the Indian Ocean held the world's first cabinet meeting underwater and tried to warn all countries of the danger of global warming.

1877 Sister Euprasia, the Indian Christian female saint, was born.

18 OCTOBER

1980 The first Himalaya Car Rally was flagged off from Brabourne Stadium in Bombay (now Mumbai).

2004 The notorious Chandan smuggler Veerappan was killed.



1998 India and Pakistan agree to stop nuclear risk.

2008 Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Mayawati returned 189.25 crore acres of land to the Railway Ministry for the railway coach factory in Rae Bareli.

1950 Famous actor of Hindi films Om Puri was born.

1972 Trial of the first multipurpose chopper SA315 in Bangalore.

19 OCTOBER

1950 Mother Teresa founded the Missionary of Charities in Kolkata. Mother Teresa was a Roman Catholic nun who held Indian citizenship.

1970 The first MiG-21 aircraft manufactured in India was inducted into the Indian Air Force. It is a super sonic fighter jet which was built by the Soviet Union.



1910 Astronomer and Nobel Prize winner Subramanian Chandrasekhar was born.

1920 Pandurang Shastri Athalve, the founder of the Swadhyay family, was born in Maharashtra.

20 OCTOBER

1568 The Mughal emperor Akbar attacked Chittorgarh.

1774 Calcutta (now Kolkata) was made the capital of India.

1961 Birja Sankar Guha, physical anthropologist and first director of the Anthropological Survey of India, died in Ghatshila Bihar.

1978 India's aggressive batsman Virender Sehwag was born. He scored 8,586 runs in 104 Tests and 8,273 runs in 251 ODIs in his career.

1947 The first war took place between India and Pakistan.

1962 China attacked India and attempted to sneak into the Indian border via Arunachal Pradesh.

1964 One of the revolutionaries of India, HC Dasappa died.

1991 A 6.8 magnitude earthquake in Uttarkashi, India killed more than 1000 people.



21 OCTOBER

1296 Alauddin Khilji took the throne of Delhi.

1934 Jayaprakash Narayan formed the Congress Socialist Party.

1951 Bharatiya Jana Sangh was established.

2012 Yash Chopra, who is called the romance king of Bollywood, passed away.

1931 Famous Hindi film actor Shammi Kapoor was born.



1934 Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose founded Azad Hind Fauj in Singapore.

1939 Famous Hindi films actress Helen was born.

1954 India and France signed an agreement to include Pondicherry, Karaikal, and Mahe in the Indian Republic. The agreement entered into force from 1 November.

2007 Indian-American Bobby Jindal won the post of Governor of the Louisiana Province of America.

2008 Karwan-e-Tijas started after 61 years between India and Pakistan.

1830 Nain Singh Rawat was the first Indian to discover the Himalayan region.

1887 Krishna Singh the first Chief Minister of Bihar.

Lakhimpur Kheri: How violence broke and why

A violent-clash between farmers and BJP workers in Lakhimpur Kheri of Uttar Pradesh claimed eight lives of which four were claimed to be farmers and the rest, BJP workers.

The incident took place ahead of UP Deputy Chief Minister Keshav Prasad Maurya's visit. Protests were held all over Uttar Pradesh. Images of cars and other vehicles being set ablaze by an angry mob dotted the internet. While many opposition party members tried to reach the spot, they were blocked and detained. How did the events roll out at Lakhimpur Kheri on October 3? Why did clashes break out between farmers and BJP workers in the first place?

Call For Protest

Farmer unions such as the Samyukta Kisan Yojana had reportedly given a call for protest against the visit of UP Deputy Chief Minister Keshav Prasad Maurya and MoS (Home) Ajay Mishra Teni. They were on a visit to inaugurate a few government schemes in Banbirpur village.

Car Hits Protesters

When the convoy of SUVs carrying the Deputy CM and the union minister was crossing Tikonia, one of the vehicles mowed down protestors – as was alleged by farmers. As per reports of local bystanders and farmers, the SUVs arrived at high speed and hit the farmers, resulting in death and injury. The cars later turned turtle.

SUVs Set Ablaze

Following the incident, farmers allegedly set fire to two SUVs. Eight lives were lost in the incident. As per reports, four of the deceased were farmers while the other four were persons in the car. According to reports, farmers have alleged that the union minister's son Ashish Mishra was driving the car that mowed down the protesting farmers. Ajay Mishra, however, has since denied the charges and said that his son was not present in the convoy but was instead at the inauguration event. As news of the incident broke on social media and videos of injured farmers went viral, Opposition leaders took up the issue.

WHO DIED?

The farmers' bodies claimed that four farmers identified as Nakshatra Singh



A vehicle set ablaze after violence erupted in Lakhimpur Kheri district of Uttar Pradesh on October 3. | Photo: PTI

(55), Daljeet Singh (35), Lavepreet Singh (20) and Gurvendra Singh (18) died as vehicles mowed the protestors down on the Tikunia-Banbirpur road.

Four other deaths were reported from the Bharatiya Janata Party's (BJP) camp. They were travelling in a car and were allegedly dragged out of the car and lynched by the protesters.

NINTH DEATH

While the local administration, the farmers' body and the BJP leaders have confirmed eight deaths in the Lakhimpur Kheri violence, reports have said a journalist identified as Ratan Kashyap died in the incident.

Kashyap, working with a TV news channel, was covering the incident of violence. He was reportedly hit by a



speeding vehicle.

Heavy Security Deployment

Monday, October 4, saw a heavy deployment of security in Lakhimpur Kheri where internet services were snapped following Sunday's incident. Normal life appeared affected, not only in Tikonia, but the entire Lakhimpur Kheri district. Prohibitory orders under Section 144 of CRPC has been imposed. Personnel from the Sahastra Seema Bal (SSB) and UP State Police were deployed in large numbers in Tinsukia to maintain normalcy.

Politicians Detained

Several political leaders were stopped from visiting Lakhimpur Kheri to meet the families of the deceased farmers.

Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra headed toward Lakhimpur Kheri early on Monday but was detained by UP police en route. She was later detained at a guest house in Sitapur. Videos of her asking the police for a warrant or documentation went viral. In Lucknow, former UP CM and Samajwadi Party leader Akhilesh Yadav was put under house arrest and detained by UP police when he tried to stage a sit-in outside his house. Chhattisgarh CM Bhupesh Baghel was detained at Lucknow airport.



An FIR under the charges of murder and rioting has been filed against Union Minister Ajay Mishra's son Ashish Mishra.

From page 17

State-wide Protests

Protests and demonstrations were reported from various districts, including Banda, Chitrakoot, Mahoba, Hamirpur, Fatehpur, Jalaun and Lalitpur in the Bundelkhand region, besides Shahjahanpur, Pilibhit and Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath's home turf Gorakhpur.

Ex gratia

The UP government has announced Rs 45 lakh compensation for families of farmers killed in Sunday's violence.

What triggered Oct 3 clashes?

According to reports, the incident on Sunday was not isolated but the culmination of a series of incidents. Tension brewed last week after a video of Ajay Mishra Teni (who had visited Lakhimpur Kheri district earlier) warning protesters opposing the centre's three farm laws to mend their ways went viral. He also allegedly threatened the protesters that he will make them mend their ways if they didn't stop. The UP government on Monday grappled with the aftermath of violence. A case has been lodged against Union minister Ajay Mishra's son.

Ashish Mishra denied bail, two more arrested

A local court in Lakhimpur Kheri on Wednesday, Oct 13, denied bail to Ashish Mishra, the main accused in the murder of four farmers and a journalist who were allegedly run over by a convoy of SUVs, including a Thar jeep owned by his father and Union minister Ajay Mishra.

The Special Investigation Team (SIT) of UP Police, meanwhile, arrested two more persons — 38-year-old Ankit Das and 37-year-old Lateef alias Kala — in connection with the incident, taking the total number of arrests in the case to six.

Ankit Das, a resident of Lucknow, is a close aide of Ashish Mishra and nephew of former Rajya Sabha MP Akhilesh Das.

Lateef alias Kala, a resident of Lakhimpur Kheri, is an accountant of Ankit Das, said police, adding that he and Ankit Das were in one of the three vehicles in the convoy that ran over the protesting farmers.

Both were later produced before a local court which sent them to three-day police custody, beginning Thursday, 14.

In a video that went viral in the aftermath of the incident, a man with head injuries was heard telling a policeman that he was in the vehicle with four other people, including Ankit Das. The man in the video provided the registration number of the vehicle — described as a Toyota Fortuner — and claimed that it belonged to Ankit Das. "Since police have arrested Ankit Das and Lateef we would request the court to expunge surrender application," said advocate Awadesh Kumar Singh.

What are the charges against Ashish Misra?

In its FIR on the Lakhimpur Kheri incident, Uttar Pradesh Police has stated that Ashish Misra alias Monu was sitting in the car that mowed down protesting farmers on Sunday. However, Ashish Misra denied being present inside the car that mowed down protesting farmers in Lakhimpur Kheri last week.



Security personnel inspect the site where violence broke out in Lakhimpur Kheri and 8 people were killed. (Photo: PTI)

As per the FIR, four of the victims were mowed down by a vehicle allegedly being driven by Ashish Mishra.

The FIR has been filed under Indian Penal Code (IPC) Sections 302 for murder, 304-A for causing death due to reckless driving, 120-B for criminal conspiracy, 147 for rioting, 279 for rash driving, 338 for causing grievous injuries to any person by doing any act so rashly or negligently as to endanger human life, along with other sections at the Tikunia police station.

The FIR states that the whole incident was 'premeditated' and that the entire 'conspiracy was hatched by the BJP minister and his son', who committed the act in a display of 'hooliganism'. The FIR also mentions 15-20 unnamed persons as accused.

The FIR further read, "The incident took place at around 3 pm when Mishra, along with 15-20 others, who were armed with weapons, came to the protest site in Banbirpur in 3 speeding four-wheelers. Monu Mishra, who was sitting on the left side of his Mahindra Thar vehicle, opened gunfire, mowed down the crowd and went ahead. The firing led to the death of farmer Gurvinder Singh, son of Sukhwinder, a resident of Matronia in Nanpara."

The FIR also alleges that the vehicle of the BJP MP's son overturned on the side of the road and this caused injuries to several other people present on the side of the road and thereafter Mishra opened fire, escaped from his car, and hid in the nearby sugarcane field.

The FIR also states that a video has already gone viral on social media, in which the BJP minister could be allegedly seen warning protesters who were opposing the Centre's three farm laws. In the video, he allegedly asked the protesters to mend their ways.

On October 3, several farmers were holding protests against the visit of Uttar Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister Keshav Prasad Maurya to Lakhimpur Kheri, when four protesting farmers were killed after they were mowed down by an SUV.

Allegedly, the SUV was part of the convoy of Union minister Ajay Mishra Teni.

According to legal experts, the FIR has been lodged under the stringent sections of the Indian Penal Code, demanding immediate arrest of the accused. The sections levelled against Ashish Mishra are non-bailable.

What led to Ashish Mishra's arrest

Ashish Mishra's arrest finally came on Oct 9 night, a day after the Supreme Court expressed dissatisfaction over the state government's action in the case. The police reportedly questioned him for 11 hours to try and cornered him on the following four points:

- His claim that he was at the Banbirpur village wrestling event at the time of the incident
- Another contrasting claim by some of his supporters that he was at a sugar mill in the vicinity
- Why was his vehicle at the crime scene when police had diverted the movement of BJP leaders to another route
- Whether he or anyone in his team/security detail own a point .315 bore gun since empty cartridges were recovered from his vehicle

Ashish was arrested after his replies on the above four counts failed to hold up to basic scrutiny or provide him a watertight alibi in the case.

DIG Upendra Agarwal, who is heading the special investigation team (SIT) of Uttar Pradesh Police probing the case, told reporters that Ashish Mishra was not cooperating during the interrogation.

"We are taking him in custody on grounds of non-cooperation and evasive replies. He will be produced in court and sustained custodial interrogation will follow," he said.

With reference to the first point, while Ashish had been maintaining that he was at a wrestling event around four to five kilometres from the scene of the violence, multiple witnesses and some video evidence placed him at the scene of the crime while statements of police personnel posted at the said wrestling event showed that the minister's son was missing between 2 and 4 pm.

Both Ashish and his father had claimed otherwise. "In the programme, there were thousands of people including police and administration. My son was there since 11 am and continued to stay there till the conclusion of the programme. So there is no chance of my son being present at the spot," MoS Ajay Mishra was quoted as saying by ANI.

On the second point, an NDTV report cited sources to claim that when Ashish was shown evidence that his phone's mobile tower location at the time of crime indicated that he was in the vicinity of the crime scene, he changed his claims about his whereabouts. He told the police that he was in his rice mill at the time which is closer to the crime scene under the same tower, but contrasting claims regarding his alibi did little to help his case.

Mishra also could not provide a satisfactory answer to justify why his vehicle was at the crime scene when the police had clearly re-routed the BJP leaders' convoy.

A farmer, who was undergoing treatment after the injuries he sustained after coming under the BJP leader's vehicle, told News18, "We were told at 3 pm that their route has changed. We started going back peacefully. Suddenly, speeding cars hit us from behind. The car was at over 100 km/hour speed. They ran us over on purpose. Ajay Mishra's son and his men were in the car. Then I lost consciousness."

Though the Union Minister's son admitted that the SUV that ran over farmers belongs to him, he maintained that he was not in it. Aged around 35, Ashish Mishra looks after the political activities of his father in his Kheri Parliamentary constituency.

While his son was facing questioning by the SIT, Ajay Mishra was in his MP's office in Lakhimpur city with lawyers and later came out to calm his supporters, who had assembled in large number outside the house and were shouting slogans in favour of him and his son. The minister told them that Ashish was innocent and would come out clean. After two men were arrested in the case, police had put up a notice outside Ashish's house asking him to appear before it.

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Dussehra: The victory of good over evil

Dussehra festival is round the corner. Also known as Vijayadashami, it is one of the major Hindu festivals celebrated across the country. Dussehra 2021 is falling on October 15, Friday. Dussehra marks the end of Navratri and signifies the victory of good over evil as Lord Ram had defeated Lanka king Ravana. People also celebrate this day to mark the victory of Goddess Durga over demon Mahishasur.

SIGNIFICANCE OF DUSSEHRA

The name Dussehra is derived from Sanskrit words dasa (ten) and hara (defeat). It signifies the victory of Ram over Ravan (the 10-headed demon king). Dussehra or Vijayadashmi is celebrated on the 10th day of Ashvin month (September-October) of the Hindu calendar. Dussehra also marks the culmination of the nine-day Navratri festival. Dussehra, for many, marks the beginning of preparation for the Diwali festival - when Lord Ram returned to Ayodhya - which falls 20 days after Dussehra.

CELEBRATIONS AND RITUALS

A precursor to Diwali, people celebrate Dussehra with all fanfare and full religious zeal. Hindu devotees in North India organise Ramleela - a theatrical enactment of Lord Ram's life story - in the days leading to, and on Dussehra. On Dussehra, massive effigies of Ravan, sometimes along with his son Meghand and brother Kumbhkaran, are set ablaze in open grounds.

In West Bengal, people celebrate the occasion as Durga Puja festival to mark the Goddess's victory over demon Mahishasur. Devotees worship Durga at various theme-based pandals.

In Gujarat, people celebrate the festival through garba - the famous folk dance of the state. Both during Navratri and on Dussehra, people wear colorful clothes and celebrate the festival to the max.

In South India, people bring home idols of Goddesses Durga, Lakshmi and Saraswati. Married women also visit each other's houses and exchange gifts like coconut, betel nuts and even money.

MUHURAT TIME

According to, the Vijay Muhurat time is from 2:02 pm to 2:47 pm, while the Aparahna Puja time will start at 1:16 pm and end at 3:33 pm.

The Dashami Tithi begins at 6:52 pm on October 14 and ends at 6:02 pm on October 15.

Mythological Significance

Victory of Lord Rama over Ravana

As per our Hindu mythology, the day Lord Ram killed Ravan who abducted Ram's wife Sita is celebrated as "Vijaya Dashami".

The term Vijaya Dashmi is made from two words Vijay and Dashmi. As per our



Hindu Calendar the day when Ram defeated and killed Ravana was Ashwin (Hindi Month) Shukla Dashami (Tenth day of month). Hence the name originated. Many people perform "Aditya Homa" as a "Shanti Yagna" on the day of Dussehra.

These Yagna performances are thought to create powerful agents in the atmosphere surrounding the house that will keep the household environment clean and healthy. These rituals are intended to rid the household of the ten bad qualities, which are represented by 10 heads of Ravana as follows:

1. Kama vasana (Lust)
2. Krodha (Anger)
3. Moha (Attraction)
4. Lobha (Greed)
5. Mada (Over Pride)
6. Matsara (Jealousy)
7. Swartha (Selfishness)
8. Anyaaya (Injustice)
9. Amanavata (Cruelty)
10. Ahankara (Ego).

Victory of Durga Maa over Mahishasura

This is again a well known reason for celebrating Dussehra. One Asura, Mahishasur, in the form of a buffalo, grew very powerful and created havoc on the earth.

Under his leadership, the Asuras defeated the Devas. To fight against Mahishasura's tyranny, the Devas joined their energies into Shakti, a single mass

of incandescent energy.

A very powerful band of lightning emerged from the mouths of Brahma, Vishnu and Shiva and a young, beautiful female with ten hands appeared.

All the Gods gave their special weapons to her. This Shakti coalesced to form the goddess Durga. Riding on a lion, who assisted her, Durga fought Mahishasur.

The battle raged for nine days and nights. Finally on the tenth day of Ashvin shukla paksha, Mahishasur was defeated and killed by Durga. Hence we celebrate this day as victory over evil.

Homecoming of Parvati

Do you know about this? I came to know about it recently when I was reading about Dussehra. Okay so Parvati was Sati in her previous birth. Sati was a great devotee of Shiva and prayed for getting Shiva as her husband. Being pleased with her worship, Shiva married her. Sati's father was against this marriage but couldn't prevent it.

Dasksh arranged a Yagna in which he invited everyone except Shiva. Being ashamed of by his father's act and seeing the insult of her husband by father Dasksh, she jumped in the fire of Yagna and killed herself. Lord Shiva was anguished when he came to know this. He lifted Sati's body on his shoulders and started dancing. As the supreme power was dancing with wrath, the world was

on the verge of destruction. Then Lord Vishnu came forward as a savior and used his Chakra to cut Sati's body into pieces.

Those pieces fell from the shoulders of the dancing Shiva and scattered throughout the Indian subcontinent. Shiva was pacified when the last piece fell from his shoulder. In her next birth, Sati was born as Parvati, the daughter of Himavat, ruler of the Himalayas. Lord Vishnu asked Shiva to forgive Daksha. Ever since, peace was restored and Parvati visits her parents of previous birth each year during the season of Sharatkal or autumn, when Durga-Puja is celebrated.

End of Agyatawas of Pandavas

In the age of Dvapara Yuga, Pandavas lost to Kauravas in a game of dice, and spent twelve years of Vanawas, or exile to the forest, followed by one year of Agnyatawas(exile incognito).

The brothers hid their weapons in a hole in a Shami tree before entering the Kingdom of Virat to complete the final year of Agnyatawas. After that year, on "Vijaya Dashami", they recovered the weapons, declared their true identities and defeated Kauravas, who had attacked King Virat to steal his cattle.

Since that day, Shami trees and weapons have been worshiped and the exchange of Shami leaves on Dussehra has been a symbol of good will and victory.

Mysore Dussehra or Dasara

Mysore Dasara or Dussehra is the Nadahabba (state festival) of the state of Karnataka in India. It is a 10-day festival, starting with nine nights called Navaratri and the last day being Vijaydashami. The festival is observed on the tenth day in the Hindu calendar month of Ashvin, which typically falls in the Gregorian months of September and October.

The Hindu festival of Dasara, Navratri and Vijaydashami celebrates the victory of good over evil. It was the day in the Hindu legends when Goddess Chamundeshwari (Durga) killed the demon Mahishasura. Mahishasura is the demon whose slaying by the Goddess gave the city the name Mysuru. The Mysuru tradition celebrates the warriors and the state fighting for the good during this festival, ritually worshipping and displaying the state sword, weapons, elephants, horses along with Hindu Devi goddess in her warrior form (predominantly) as well as the Vishnu avatar Rama. The ceremonies and a major procession is traditionally presided by the king of Mysuru.

The city of Mysuru has a long tradition of celebrating the Dasara festival with grandeur and pomp to mark the festival. The Dasara festival in Mysuru completed 409th anniversary in the year 2019, while evidence suggests the festivities were observed in Karnataka state by the Vijayanagara Empire kings in the 15th century.

History

The Dasara festivities began with the Vijayanagar kings as early as the 15th Century. The festival played a historical role in the 14th-century Vijayanagara Empire, where it was called Mahanavami and the festivities are shown in the relief artwork of the outer wall of the Hazara Rama temple of Hampi.

The Italian traveller Niccolò de' Conti described the festival's intensity and importance as a grandeur religious and martial event with royal support. The event revered Durga as the warrior goddess (some texts refer to her as Chamundeshwari). The celebrations hosted athletic competitions, singing and dancing, fireworks, a pageantry military parade and charitable giving to the public.

After the fall of the Vijayanagar to Deccan Sultanates, these Hindu celebrations came to an end under Muslim rulers. The Wodeyars of Mysore formed a kingdom in Southern parts of the Vijayanagara Empire and continued the Mahanavami (Dasara) festival celebration, a tradition started initially by Raja Wodeyar I (1578-1617 CE) in mid September 1610 at Srirangapatna.

Festivities

The festivities included a special durbar (royal assembly). It was during the reign of Krishnaraja Wodeyar III in the year 1805, when the king started the tradition of having a special durbar in the Mysore Palace during Dasara; which was attended by members of the royal family, special invitees, officials and the masses. After the death of Srikanta Wadiyar in December 2013, this tradition



Mysore



Kullu

has been continued by placing the "Pattada Katti" (royal sword) on the golden throne. The ninth day of Dasara called as Mahanavami is also an auspicious day on which the royal sword is worshipped and is taken on a procession involving elephants, camels and horses.

Lightings in Mysore Palace

The main attraction of the ten-day Mysore Dasara festival is the Mysore Palace which is lighted daily with nearly 100,000 light bulbs from 7 pm to 10 pm on all days of the festival. Various cultural and religious programs highlighting the dance, music and culture of the State of Karnataka are performed in front of the illuminated Palace.

Procession

On Vijaydashami, the traditional Dasara procession (locally known as Jumbo Savari) is held on the streets of Mysore city. The main attraction of this procession is the idol of the Goddess Chamundeshwari which is placed on a golden mantapa (which is around 750 kilograms of gold) on the top of a decorated elephant. This idol is worshipped by the royal couple and other invitees before it is taken around in the procession.

Colorful tableaux, dance groups, music bands, decorated elephants, horses and camels form a part of the procession which starts from the Mysore Palace and culminates at a place called Bannimantap where the banni tree (*Prosopis spicigera*) is worshipped. According to a legend of the Mahabharata, banni tree was used by the Pandavas to hide their weapons during their one-year period of Agnatavasa (living life incognito). Before undertaking any warfare, the kings traditionally worshipped this tree to help them emerge victorious in the war. The Dasara festivities would culminate on the night of Vijaydashami with an event held in the grounds at Bannimantap called as Panjina Kavayattu (torch-light parade).

In Mysore, India, the Vijaydashami Elephant procession during Mysore Dasara is called Jumbo Savari (from the British during their control of Mysore State). The original name to this procession is Jumbi Savari ("going to the Shami (Banni) tree"). Now Goddess Chamundeshwari is taken in procession on an Elephant. But the "Jumbo" name is still intact.

After the Jumbo Savari, a torchlight parade takes place in the evening at the Bannimantap Parade Grounds.

Kullu Dussehra

Kullu, the "Valley of Gods", is one of the most breathtakingly beautiful parts of Himachal Pradesh. This serene hill town of Northern India is famous for attracting visitors from far and wide. Also known as "Kulanthapitha", the valley has always been a favourite destination for travellers to experience the mystical land and rustic way of life.

The valley is also renowned for its grand Dussehra celebrations; the festival of a triumph of good over evil. Kullu Dussehra was declared an international event in 1972 and is witnessed by around 4-5 Lac people from across the globe.

Kullu Dussehra 2020 Dates

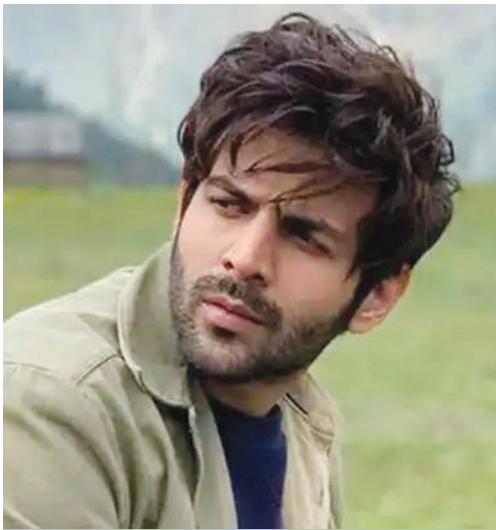
Dussehra is celebrated on the tenth day of Navratri i.e. on Vijay Dashmi day, around the month of October according to the Gregorian calendar. Kullu Dussehra is slightly different because its celebrations begin when the rest of the country closes the nine-day long festival. This year, Kullu Dussehra would be organised from 15th October to 21st October, 2021. Dussehra in Kullu is a week-long festival, which is famous for its large number of visitors and grand celebrations.

Processions and Celebrations

Dussehra in Kullu valley is a much-awaited and celebrated festival. This week-long festival starts with a procession of Lord Raghunath, along with other deities, carried on a Ratha across the town. The village gods and minor deities are also a part of this celebration. The centre of the festivities is the Dhalpur maidan. The pleasant weather and breathtaking beauty of the valley along with the celebrations fill the visitors with eternal happiness and satisfaction. The festival gets merrier with dancing, drinking and feasting for a week. The Kala Kendra festival is held at night where several activities and cultural events take place. Thousands of people from all over the country and world visit this place during Dussehra. The festival is very well organized which only makes the experience worth remembering.

Last Day of Celebrations of Kullu Dussehra Festival

On the 6th day of the festival, an assembly of village Devtas takes place which is definitely a sight which one must watch. The last day of the celebrations is marked by sacrifices; a fish, a crab, a rooster, a buffalo and a lamb are sacrificed and a huge bonfire is lit. These mega-festival witnesses the worshipping of around 250-300 idols from the adjoining villages of Kullu. The idol of Raghunath Ji is brought back to its original place through a grand procession. Various cultural processions from different countries are invited, almost like the processions during our national festivals. Thus one can see the difference between the Kullu Dussehra and the Dussehra being celebrated in different parts of the country. The grandeur and celebration at Kullu Dussehra is something which every visitor here will always treasure.



Shehzada: Kartik Aaryan plays the world's poorest prince

Kartik Aaryan and Kriti Sanon are all set to work together in Shehzada, and the tagline goes 'Duniya ka Sabse Gareeb Prince (world's poorest prince)'. The film was announced on Wednesday. Kriti and Kartik earlier worked together in Luka Chuppi.

Shehzada is said to be a remake of Allu Arjun hit Ala Vaikunthapurramuloo. One of the biggest hits of 2020, the film featured the viral hit Butta Bomma. Coincidentally, Kartik had earlier performed on the song in a video, winning praise from Arjun. This is Kartik Aaryan's third film to be announced this year.

Directed by Trivikram Srinivas and starring Pooja Hegde and Tabu, the Telugu film sees a young man who seeks validation from his father who is critical of almost everything he does.

His world turns upside down when he realises that he was switched at birth with a millionaire's son.

Hum Do Hamare Do: Rajkummar Rao adopts parents to woo Kriti Sanon in this laugh riot

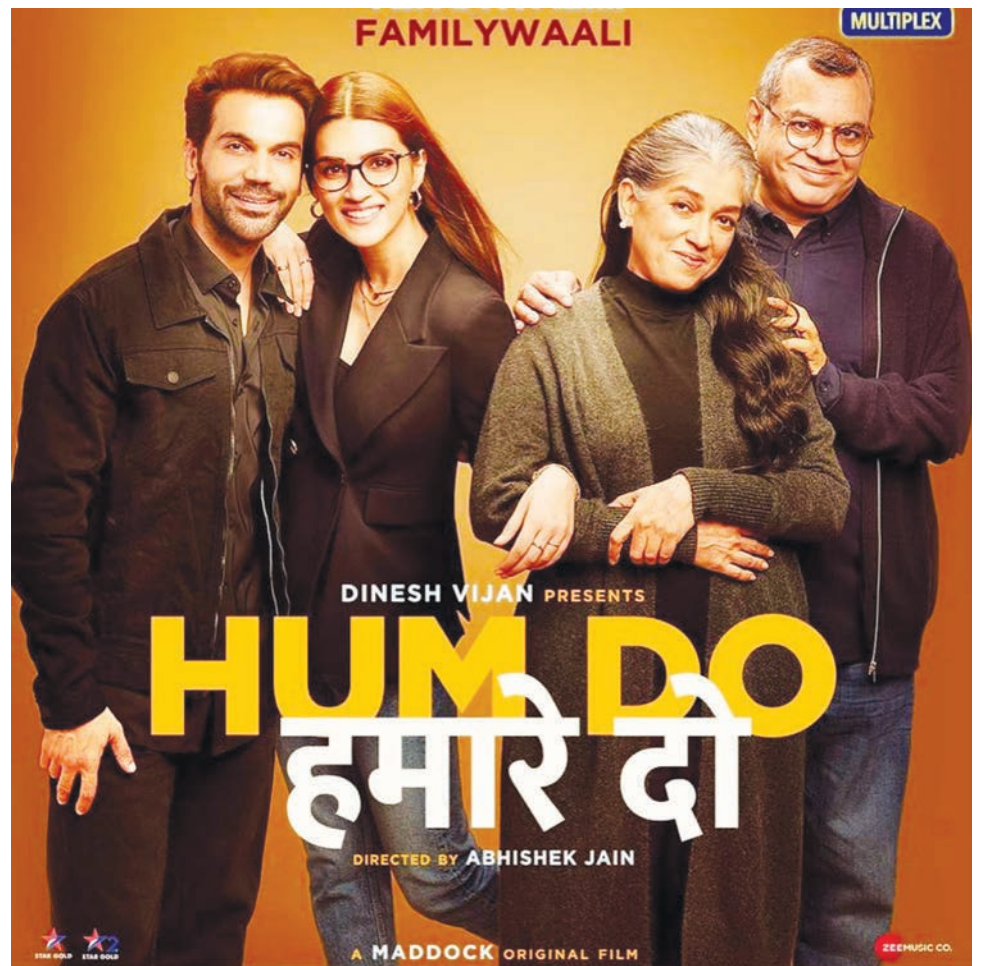
Marriages are made in heaven. But sometimes, families are made on contacts. Giving a new and funny take to the entire concept of Indian weddings is Rajkummar Rao and Kriti Sanon's upcoming film - Hum Do Hamare Do. And if you thought "Hamare Do" is all about their family planning, there's a twist to the tale.

Rajkummar and Kriti are in love and want to get married. So what's the problem? Rajkummar has no family and Kriti's only condition is to go to a household that's complete with elders and a pet dog. In the quest, Rajkummar, along with his friend Aparshakti Khurana, go out to 'hire' parents. Turns out, the adopted mother-father (Paresh Rawal and Ratna Pathak Shah) have a personal history.

Paresh is already smitten by Ratna and his performance is only real love for her. In fact, to get rid of Paresh's lover-boy shenanigans, Ratna even plans his fake 'death' atop a mountain. But Paresh Rawal is undeterred. He is out proposing to Ratna to be his actual wife.

Hilarious chaos and crackling chemistry of the twosome is the trailer's highlight. From confusions about how the parents first met to why they have different surnames, the trailer of Hum Do Hamare Do hints at a laugh riot.

Speaking about the movie, Dinesh Vijan said, "With Hum Do Humare Do, we take the essence of family further, because in the end, a family is a set of



people we love and cherish. Our film is a wholesome comedy that can be enjoyed by all three generations."

Produced by Dinesh Vijan's Maddock Films, the movie is directed by

Abhishek Jain. Hum Do Hamare Do also stars Manu Rishi Chadha and Prachee Shah Paandya, and will have its premiere on Disney Plus Hotstar on October 29.

Salman Khan, Aayush Sharma-starrer 'Antim' to release theatrically on November 26

Bollywood superstar Salman Khan on Tuesday announced that his upcoming action thriller film "Antim: The Final Truth" will be released in theatres worldwide on November 26.

Directed by Mahesh Manjrekar, the movie also features Aayush Sharma, Salman's brother-in-law.

Salman shared the date announcement and a motion poster of his new film on Twitter.

"#Antim releases in theatres worldwide on 26.11.2021," the actor wrote on the microblogging site.

The film is described as a "gripping tale of two powerful men" with polar opposite ideologies; one a cop and the other a gangster, played by Salman and Aayush, respectively.

"Antim" will be distributed globally by Zee Studios.

"It has been a gr8 & cherished association with ZEE and @punitgoenka over the years having done many films Race3, Loveyatri, Bharat, D3, Radhe & now Antim. I am confident he will take Zee to much greater heights in the coming years," Salman further said in the tweet.

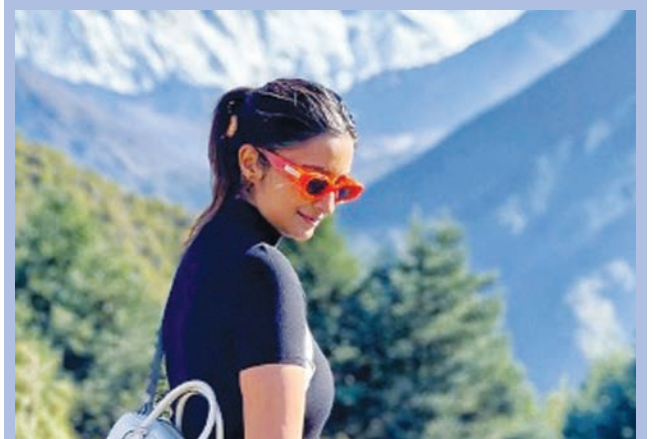
"Antim" will face off with "Satyameva Jayate 2", starring John Abraham, at the box office. Source: PTI



Parineeti Chopra mesmerised by the Everest

Parineeti Chopra is dazed by the brilliance of the Himalayas. We aren't making guesses. The actress herself wrote about her amazement. Parineeti posted a set of photos on Instagram, where she stands and stares at the majestic Mt Everest in the distance. We see the mountain ranges and the highest peak in the world shining bright behind the other hills.

Parineeti turns about and shows us her smiling face. The pics would have been enough to show how amazed she is by the view. But Parineeti added more charm to this post with her caption that went like this, "Good morning, Mr Everest. You gave me a lesson in humility today." Parineeti Chopra is currently shooting for the film Uunchai directed by Sooraj Barjatya.





Megan Fox, Machine Gun Kelly describe their relationship as 'ecstasy and agony'

Actor Megan Fox and her rapper boyfriend Machine Gun Kelly raised the temperature in the latest photoshoot for the Autumn/Winter 2021 issue of British GQ Style. In the magazine, the Hollywood pair were seen locking lips, kissing each other's necks. She also shared the racy snaps on Instagram. "The tale of two outcasts and star crossed lovers caught in the throes of a torrid, solar flare of a romance featuring: feverish obsession, guns, addiction, shamans, lots of blood, general mayhem, therapy, tantric night terrors, binding rituals, chakra sound baths, psychedelic hallucinations, organic smoothies and the kind of sex that would make Lucifer clutch his rosary," she wrote. Machine Gun Kelly whose real name is Colson Baker, added in a post of his own, writing in part that: "A life without you is worse than death."

Jennifer Lawrence to headline R-rated comedy No Hard Feelings

Hollywood star Jennifer Lawrence is teaming up with Gene Stupnitsky for an R-rated comedy movie. The film, titled No Hard Feelings, is described as a coming-of-age dramedy. It has been picked up by Sony Pictures, reported Variety.

Stupnitsky, best known for his stint as a writer and co-executive producer on NBC's The Office as well as his directorial debut film Good Boys, will helm the movie from a script that he will write with Joan Phillips.

No Hard Feelings is set in Montauk, NY, a hamlet on the east end of Long Island.

The project is touted as an R-rated comedy in the vein of Tom Cruise's 1983 film Risky Business and Cameron Diaz-starrer Bad Teacher, which Stupnitsky served as an executive producer and writer on.

Sony Pictures reportedly faced some competition from other major studios and streaming services in its pursuit of the project.

Universal Pictures, the studio that backed Stupnitsky's Good Boys, was also in the fray but Sony eventually came out on top.



The studio now plans to provide the film with an exclusive theatrical release. No Hard Feelings will be produced by Alex Saks, Marc Provissero, Naomi Odenkirk, Lawrence and Justine Polsky.

Lawrence has a packed slate going ahead as she is set to star in Netflix's Don't Look Up, directed by Adam McKay. She will also team up with filmmaker Paolo Sorrentino for Mob Girl. *Source: PTI*

Star Trek actor William Shatner becomes oldest person to reach space

Hollywood's Captain Kirk, 90-year-old William Shatner, blasted into space on Wednesday in a convergence of science fiction and science reality, reaching the final frontier aboard a ship built by Jeff Bezos' Blue Origin company.

The Star Trek actor and three fellow passengers hurtled to an altitude of 66.5 miles (107 kilometers) over the West Texas desert in the fully automated capsule, then safely parachuted back to Earth in a flight that lasted just over 10 minutes.

"What you have given me is the most profound experience," an exhilarated Shatner told Bezos after emerging from the capsule, the words spilling from him in a soliloquy almost as long as the flight. "I hope I never recover from this. I hope that I can maintain what I feel now. I don't want to lose it."

He said that going from the blue sky to the utter blackness of space was a moving experience: "In an instant you go, whoa, that's death. That's what I saw."

Sci-fi fans reveled in the opportunity to see the man best known as the stalwart Capt. James T. Kirk of the starship Enterprise boldly go where no star of American TV has gone before.

"This is a pinch-me moment for all of us to see Capt. James Tiberius Kirk go to space," Blue Origin launch commentator Jacki Cortese said before liftoff. She said she, like so many others, was drawn to the space business by shows like Star Trek.



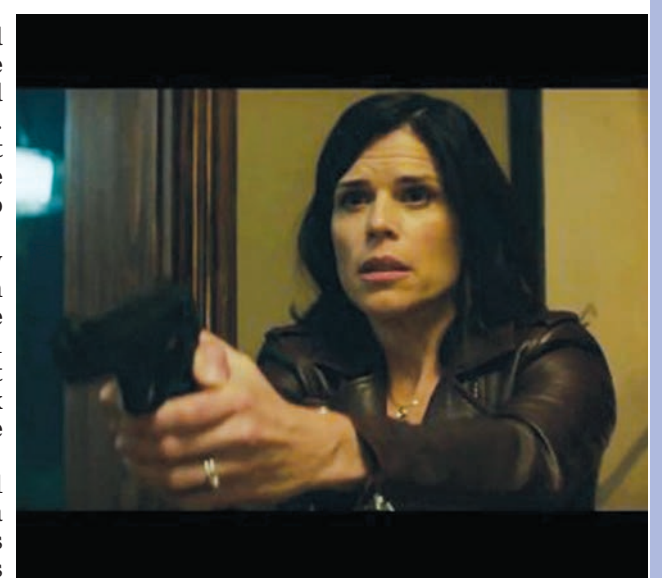
Scream trailer: Sidney Prescott returns to take on a new ghostface killer

The makers on Tuesday released the first full trailer of Neve Campbell, David Arquette and Courteney Cox slasher flick Scream. The video is the perfect Halloween gift for fans of the original movie, as there are many references and callbacks to the 1996 feature.

The clip doesn't make a great show about the fact that some of the main characters from the original movie are reuniting for this 2021 reboot/spin-off. In fact, for the most part, it is the trio of Campbell, Cox and Arquette who dominate the screen.

The opening of the video will especially give you a quick nostalgia trip if you are familiar with 1996's Scream. So far, the latest Scream looks like one of those popcorn entertainers, which will basically lean heavily on the nostalgia factor for its box office success.

The official synopsis of the film reads, "Twenty-five years after a streak of brutal murders shocked the quiet town of Woodsboro, a new killer has donned the Ghostface mask and begins targeting a group of teenagers to resurrect secrets from the town's deadly past. Neve Campbell (Sidney Prescott), Courteney Cox (Gale Weathers) and David Arquette (Dewey Riley) return to their iconic roles in Scream alongside Melissa Barrera, Kyle Gallner, Mason Gooding, Mikey Madison, Dylan Minnette, Jenna Ortega, Jack Quaid, Marley Shelton, Jasmin Savoy Brown, and Sonia Ammar."



Indian Missions in South Africa see a huge spike in emigration enquiries in wake of recent violence and looting

JOHANNESBURG (TIP): Emigration consultants in South Africa have reported a huge surge in enquiries from South African Indians following the recent violence and looting that wrecked KwaZulu-Natal province in July.

The province is home to about a third of South Africa's 1.4 million citizens of Indian origin, largely descended from the first settlers who arrived as indentured laborers and merchants in 1860.

Nicholas Avramis of Beaver Canadian Immigration Consultants, an emigration company that specializes in Canadian applications from South Africa, told the website businessinsider.co.za that it expects its client base, which was about 10 per cent Indian until July, to quadruple to 40 per cent before the end of this year.

Avramis said there was particular interest from female-headed and extended families with cash or businesses that can be relocated.

Other consultants said there was also increased interest in emigration to Australia and the UK.

"We believe there is still a huge, huge level of interest in getting out of the country," Robbie Ragless, managing



A Scene of the recent violence and looting that wrecked KwaZulu-Natal province

director of New World Immigration, told the website.

There also appears to be unprecedented enquiries about emigration to mainland Europe, something previously of little interest in the Indian community, agents said.

The Indian missions in South Africa could not provide details, but a reliably

informed source said there had been a doubling of enquiries about the OCI (Overseas Citizenship of India) card after the July unrest.

Highly popular among overseas Indians, the OCI card provides long term visa free travel and stay in India and gives the cardholders a host of privileges normally not given to a foreign national.

So far, India has issued close to 4 million OCI Cards.

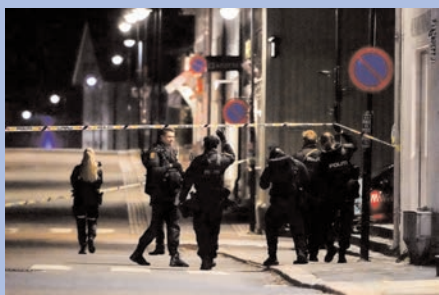
The agents emphasized that the enquiries did not necessarily translate into actual migration, as not everyone who seeks information goes through with it. "In terms of the official immigration stats, only time will tell as immigration - especially business immigration - takes about six to 12 months to process," said Avramis.

The increase in emigration enquiries started following the massive looting and arson in July when protests about former president Jacob Zuma starting a 15-month sentence for contempt of court degenerated into widespread violence. He has since been released on medical parole. Many of the businesses that were either stripped bare, with even ceilings and counters carried away, or burnt to the ground, belonged to Indians. Some had stakes in national or multinational corporations that were affected.

President Cyril Ramaphosa had called the incident "a failed insurrection", as police failed to take action for several days until he called in the army to quell the unrest.

Tensions also continue in the greater Durban area between the Indian and Black community after vigilantes in the mainly Indian suburb of Phoenix killed more than 33 Black people who entered their township during the unrest. Some were reportedly trying to get to their workplaces in Phoenix.

The trial of about three men charged for the alleged murders is continuing, with protests on both sides occurring daily outside the court.



NORWAY KILLINGS BEING TREATED AS ACT OF TERROR

KONGSBERG (TIP): A Danish man suspected of killing five people with a bow and arrow and possibly other weapons while randomly shooting at strangers in a small Norwegian town appears to have committed an act of terrorism, authorities in Norway said on October 14. The Wednesday night attack at a supermarket and other locations in downtown Kongsberg, a town of about 26,000 residents not far from Norway's capital, left the country stunned as police released some details, including that officers made contact with the 37-year-old suspect but he initially escaped.

"From what we know now, it is reasonably clear that some, probably everyone, was killed after the police were in contact with the perpetrator," regional police chief Ole B Saeverud said. The victims were four women and one man between the ages of 50 and 70. Three other people were injured, the police said. — AP

From spy satellites to mobile networks, S Korea hopes new rocket gets space programme off ground

SEOUL (TIP): South Korea plans to test its first domestically produced space launch vehicle next week, a major step toward jumpstarting the country's space programme and achieving ambitious goals in 6G networks, spy satellites, and even lunar probes.

If all goes well, the three-stage NURI rocket, designed by the Korea Aerospace Research Institute (KARI) to eventually put 1.5-ton payloads into orbit 600 to 800km above the Earth, will carry a dummy satellite into space on October 14.

South Korea's last such booster, launched in 2013 after multiple delays and several failed tests, was jointly developed with Russia. The new KSLV-II NURI has solely Korean rocket technologies, and is the country's first domestically built space launch vehicle, said Han Sang-yeop, director of KARI's Launcher Reliability Safety Quality Assurance Division.

"Having its own launch vehicle gives a country the flexibility of payload types and launch schedule," he told Reuters in an email.

Military and civilian benefits

It also gives the country more control



over "confidential payloads" it may want to send into orbit, Han said.

That will be important for South Korea's plans to launch surveillance satellites into orbit, in what national security officials have called a constellation of "unblinking eyes" to monitor North Korea. So far, South Korea has remained almost totally reliant on the United States for satellite intelligence on its northern neighbour.

In 2020 a Falcon 9 rocket from the US firm Space X carried South Korea's first dedicated military communications satellite into orbit from the Kennedy Space Center in Florida. NURI is also key to South Korean plans to eventually build a Korean satellite-based navigation system and a 6G communications network.

"The program is designed not only to support government projects, but also

commercial activity," Oh Seung-hyub, director of the Launcher Propulsion System Development Division, told a briefing on Tuesday. South Korea is working with the United States on a lunar orbiter, and hopes to land a probe on the moon by 2030.

Trial launch

Given problems with previous launches, Han and other planners said they have prepared for the worst.

The launch day may be changed at the last minute if weather or technical problems arise; the craft will carry a self-destruct mechanism to destroy it if it appears it won't reach orbit; and media won't be allowed to observe the test directly. At least four test launches are planned before the rocket will be considered reliable enough to carry a real payload. According to pre-launch briefing slides, the rocket's planned path will take it southeast from its launch site on the south coast of the Korean peninsula, threading its way over the ocean on a trajectory aimed at avoiding flying over Japan, Indonesia, the Philippines, and other major land masses. (Reuters)

Japan dissolves Parliament, setting stage for October 31 General Election

TOKYO (TIP): Japan dissolved its Parliament on Thursday, setting the stage for an election at the end of the month that will pit new Prime Minister Fumio Kishida against unpopular opposition in a battle over who can better fix the pandemic-battered economy.

Kishida enjoys reasonable public support 11 days into the job, polls show, boding well for his goal of maintaining a Lower House majority for his Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) and its Komeito party coalition partner.

"I want to use the election to tell the people what we're trying to do and what we're aiming for," Kishida told reporters gathered at his office.

Reflecting on the last 11 days, Kishida said: "I've had a very busy schedule but strangely, I'm not feeling tired—I'm feeling fulfilled."

Voters will want to see a government with plans for decisive action to end the pandemic and rebuild the economy. A recent Sankei newspaper poll showed that about 48% say they want the Kishida administration to work on coronavirus most, followed by economic recovery and employment.

Kishida's party is promoting his push for coronavirus measures including supplying oral antiviral medication this



year, as well as his vision of realising a "new capitalism" that focuses on economic growth and redistribution of wealth.

The ruling party has also called for a sharp increase in defence spending to acquire the capability to destroy ballistic missiles, amid China's increasingly assertive posture over Taiwan.

The largest opposition party, the Constitutional Democrats (CDPJ), led by Yukio Edano, has highlighted issues such as its support for same-sex marriage and different surnames for couples.

The LDP remains socially

conservative and, while progress has been made on LGBTQ rights in society, Kishida has said he was not in favour of same-sex marriage.

The biggest challenge for Constitutional Democrats is their low support ratings. A recent poll by the Asahi Shimbun daily found only 13% were planning to vote for them, far behind the LDP's 47%; most other polls record support in the single digits.

Also, Kishida's focus on redistribution and economic growth has blurred policy differences between the LDP and CDPJ.

Edano said his party, if it were to take power, would go straight to wealth distribution to kickstart growth.

"Wage hikes and distribution once growth is achieved.' This is what (former prime minister Shinzo) Abe was saying. But there was no growth over the past eight, nine years and no wage hikes," Edano told reporters. "If we don't distribute wealth first, no growth is achieved. This is a rather clear difference (between the two parties)."

Canvassing in many districts is already under way but formally the campaign will kick off on October 19, followed by the vote on October 31. Kishida is expected to hold a news conference on Thursday night. Reuters

At 7 feet 7 inches, 24-year-old Rumeysa Gelgim from Turkey named world's tallest living woman

TURKEY (TIP): 24-year-old Turkey's Rumeysa Gelgim has been named as the tallest living woman by Guinness World Records with a height of 7 feet and 0.7 inches.

Rumeysa was re-measured this year, after she was first awarded the title for the tallest teenager living (female) back in 2014, when she was aged 18, as per guinnessworldrecords.com.

Rumeysa tall stature is a condition called Weaver syndrome. This is an extremely rare condition that causes accelerated growth amongst other abnormalities, including skeletal maturation, as per Guinness World Records. The condition means that Rumeysa uses a wheelchair most of the time, but can move for short periods using a walker.

Ever since her first record in 2014, Rumeysa has felt it was important to use her platform to educate others about rare medical conditions such as her own.



She says that her height makes people intrigued when they pass her on the street, but most people are kind and

supportive when they meet her for the first time.

In her free time Rumeysa likes to go out for nice meals with her family and finds swimming really helps her to relax. Her family are very happy and proud of her for having the Guinness World Records title.

It's particularly fascinating that Rumeysa is from Turkey, as alongside Sultan Kösen (251 cm; 8 ft 2.8 in), both the tallest living male and female record holders are now from the same country - a rare occurrence in Guinness World Records history.

The last time the two holders shared the same nationality was in 2009, when China's Bao Xi Shun (236.1 cm; 7 ft 8.95 in) and Yao Defen (233.3 cm; 7 ft 7 in) held the tallest male and female records respectively.

The previous record holder was Yao Defen (China) who recorded an average height of 233.3 cm (7 ft 7 in) when last documented back in 2010. (TNS)

UK'S PRINCE WILLIAM SAYS GREAT MINDS SHOULD FOCUS ON SAVING EARTH NOT SPACE TRAVEL

LONDON (TIP): Britain's Prince William has taken a thinly veiled swipe at the billionaires embroiled in a space tourism race, saying the world's greatest brains should instead be focused on solving the environmental problems facing the Earth.

During a BBC interview aired on Thursday, William appeared to criticise Jeff Bezos, the world's richest person, Elon Musk and Briton Richard Branson, whose rival ventures are all vying to usher in a new era of private commercial space travel.

"We need some of the world's greatest brains and minds fixed on trying to repair this planet, not trying to find the next place to go and live," William said of the space race.

His comments come after Musk has spoken about missions to Mars, and Bezos described his inaugural space flight in July as part of building a road to space "so that our kids and their kids can build a future".

"We need to do that to solve the problems here on Earth," said Bezos, who on Wednesday celebrated sending Star Trek actor William Shatner into space in his New Shepard spacecraft.

Speaking out on green issues has become a major feature of the British royal family, and William, 39, is following in the footsteps of his late grandfather Prince Philip, Queen Elizabeth's husband, and his father, Prince Charles.

Charles, the 72-year-old heir to the throne, has for decades called for action to stop climate change and environmental damage, long before the issue became mainstream, often facing ridicule along the way.

"It's been a hard road for him. He's had a really rough ride on that, and I think he's been proven to being well ahead of the curve," William said.

"But it shouldn't be that there's a third generation now coming along having to ramp it up even more. For me, it would be an absolute disaster if George (his eldest child) is sat here ... in like 30 years' time whatever, still saying the same thing, because by then we will be too late." In an echo of his father's message earlier this week, William also said the upcoming U.N. Climate Change Conference COP26 summit in Scotland had to deliver.

"We can't have more clever speak, clever words but not enough action," William said.

The prince's personal response to the issue has been to create the Earthshot Prize, which aims to find solutions through new technologies or policies to the planet's biggest environmental problems.

The first five winners, who will each collect 1 million pounds (\$1.4 million), will be announced at a ceremony on Sunday. Reuters

TALIBAN DELEGATION IN TURKEY FOR TALKS

ANKARA (TIP): A high-level delegation from Afghanistan's new Taliban rulers has arrived in Turkey for talks with Turkish officials, the Foreign Ministry announced on Thursday.

The meetings in the capital of Ankara would be the first between the Taliban and senior Turkish government officials after the group seized control of Afghanistan. The visiting delegation is led by Amir Khan Mutaqi, the acting foreign minister, according to a Taliban spokesman. — AP

MYANMAR MILITARY WON'T ALLOW ASEAN ENVOY TO MEET SUU KYI

MYANMAR (TIP): Myanmar's ruling military has not blocked a special Southeast Asian envoy from visiting the country but will not allow him to meet detained former leader Aung San Suu Kyi, because she is charged with crimes, the junta's spokesman said.

A delay in the United Nations approving the military government's UN ambassador nomination was politically motivated, spokesman Zaw Min Tun added, saying the UN and other countries and organisations "should avoid double standards when they are engaging in international affairs".

The spokesman's remarks, issued by the military in a summary dated Wednesday, come as international pressure builds on the junta to implement a five-point peace plan its top general Min Aung Hlaing agreed to in April with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)

Myanmar has been in political and economic paralysis since the military's February 1 coup, which triggered an outpouring of anger and protest that has not abated, with some civilians forming militias to take on the powerful army.

The junta's inaction on the ASEAN plan was "tantamount to backtracking" and some member countries were "deep in discussions" about excluding Min Aung Hlaing from a summit this month, Erywan Yusof, the bloc's special envoy, said last week.

Erywan earlier this week said he was in consultations with parties in Myanmar, does not take sides or political positions and looks forward to a visit.

The junta spokesman also insisted Myanmar's judicial system was fair and independent would handle Aung San Suu Kyi's case accordingly, adding the chief justice was appointed by the previous government. Reuters

Goons attack Hindu temples in Bangladesh during Durga Puja, 4 killed

DHAKA (TIP): Some Hindu temples in Bangladesh have been vandalised by unidentified Muslim bigots during Durga Puja celebrations, prompting the government to deploy paramilitary force in 22 districts after four people were killed and many others injured in riots, media reports said on Thursday.

A home ministry spokesperson said the Border Guards Bangladesh (BGB) troops have been deployed in 22 districts across the country to stop the spread of violence.

The elite anti-crime Rapid Action Battalion (RAB) and the armed police were also ordered to be on guard with the BGB in 22 of the 64 administrative districts and elsewhere to contain any violence, he said.

According to media reports, three people were killed during clashes between Muslim bigots and the police at Hajiganj sub-district in Chandpur, bordering Cumilla on Wednesday while the fourth one succumbed to his wounds later.

Authorities enforced a ban on rallies in Haziganj where officials confirmed the deaths of four people in gunshots, adding that two others were critically injured in the clashes.

The police said that a couple of their officials were injured as the mob attacked them and vandalised their and local administrators' cars.

They, however, did not explain if the casualties were caused due to the police actions but media reports said that the



police opened fire on a mob of over 500 people.

According to the officials, the police were alerted about an alleged blasphemy incident at a Durga Puja pavilion in Cumilla, about 100 km from here, after which a probe was launched.

However, violence erupted as bigots attacked temples in parts of Cumilla, neighbouring Haziganj, northwestern coastal sub districts of Hatia and Banskhal while social media was used largely to instigate the communal tensions.

Hindu religious leaders called the violence as part of a plot to upset the Durga Puja celebrations and demanded action against the bigots and protection of Hindu temples and establishments.

A particular group committed the blasphemy at the pavilion to stop the Durga Puja by staging protests, secretary of Cumilla district puja celebration committee Nirmol Pal said.

The police said they have so far

detained 43 people in connection with the violence. People who posted the first video on the Cumilla puja venue on social media were also under custody.

"Investigations are underway and we are identifying the culprits also using security camera footage," police's deputy inspector general Anwar Hossain told the media in Cumilla.

Ruling Awami League general secretary and road transport minister Obaidul Qader said that "fanatic elements" staged attacks on Hindu temples at 10 to 12 places with a political motive.

"But our government led by (Prime Minister) Sheikh Hasina will not let them proceed with their evil design," he told reporters visiting a Puja pavilion at the Ramkrishna Mission here.

He cautioned people against spreading rumours to sever the interfaith harmony in the country, adding that Hasina has ordered stringent actions against the communal elements.

"We will remain alert," the minister said.

The religious affairs ministry issued an emergency notice, urging members of the public not to take the law into their hands as it reiterated calls to maintain communal harmony and peace, it said.

Hindus make up some 10 per cent of the Muslim-majority Bangladesh's 169 million population. In the past several years, there have been reports of sporadic violence, mostly sparked by rumours spread on social media. PTI

Pakistan airline suspends Afghan operations citing Taliban interference

ISLAMABAD (TIP): Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) suspended flights to the Afghan capital, Kabul, on Thursday after what it called "heavy handed" interference by Taliban authorities, including arbitrary rule changes and intimidation of staff.

The suspension came as the Taliban government ordered the airline, the only international company operating regularly out of Kabul, to cut ticket prices to levels seen before the fall of the Western-backed Afghan government in August.

"We are suspending our flight operations to Kabul from today because of the heavy handedness of the authorities," a spokesman said.

Earlier, the Taliban warned PIA and Afghan carrier Kam Air that their Afghan operations risked being blocked unless they agreed to cut ticket prices, which have reached levels increasingly out of reach for most Afghans.

With most international airlines no longer flying to Afghanistan, tickets for flights to the Pakistani capital,



Islamabad, have been selling for as much as \$2,500 on PIA, according to travel agents in Kabul, compared with \$120-\$150 before.

The Afghan transport ministry said in a statement prices on the route should "be adjusted to correspond with the conditions of a ticket before the victory of the Islamic Emirate" or the flights would be stopped.

It urged passengers and others to report any violations.

Flights between Afghanistan and Pakistan have been severely limited since Kabul airport was reopened last month in the wake of the chaotic evacuation of more than 100,000 Westerners and vulnerable Afghans following the Taliban victory.

PIA said that ever since the new

Taliban government was formed, its staff in Kabul had faced last-minute changes in regulations and flight permissions and "highly intimidating behaviour" from Taliban commanders.

It said its country representative had been held at gunpoint for hours at one point and was only freed after the Pakistan embassy in Kabul intervened.

With a mounting economic crisis adding to worries about Afghanistan's future under the Taliban, there has been heavy demand for flights out and the main passport office in Kabul has been besieged by people trying to get travel documents since it reopened this month.

Demand for flights has been further pushed by repeated difficulties at land border crossings into Pakistan. Reuters

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Banana peels help getting rid of acne and wrinkles

Natural ingredients are for DIYs are ruling the beauty world right now. These are inexpensive, chemical-free and light on the skin. What those store-bought products can't do, these natural ingredients can do, without damaging the skin cells. One such ingredient is the banana peel.

It is the most neglected item in your house and is often regarded as worthless. With the use of banana peel, you can say goodbye to acne and wrinkles without spending oodles.

How does it work?

Banana peel is high in lutein, an antioxidant and carotenoid vitamin related to Vitamin A. Lutein helps in protecting the skin against the damage done by the sun. Banana peel is high in esterified fatty acids, which are hard to find otherwise and constitute as one of the basic ingredients in many patent lotions.

With the use of banana peel, you can achieve an acne and wrinkle free skin. It has vitamins A, B, C, E, potassium, zinc, iron, and manganese that can reduce even the old acne marks. It hydrates your skin from the inside out and gives it a softer look. If you too want a naturally clear and younger looking skin, this is how you can get it.

How to use?

Incorporating banana peel in your daily beauty regime is very easy. Just follow the given steps for a beautiful looking skin:

- First, prepare your skin. Use a mild cleanser to get rid of oil and dirt on the skin. Don't scrub or be harsh on your skin, especially if you have acne.
- Take a ripe banana and cut its peel into chunks and rub the inner part directly on the skin for 10 to 15 minutes in a



- circular motion.
- Keep a check if the peel in turning black from the inside.
- If that is the case, it means that the peel needs to be replaced now.
- Don't wash your face instantly.
- Let your skin absorb all the moisture for at least 4-5 hours. (You can do this before going to sleep so that it stays on your face overnight)
- Then rinse off with cold water.
- You can use banana peel daily for better results.

Other benefits

Banana peel is rich in various minerals and vitamins which make it a perfect ingredient for

resolving other skin related troubles as well. Here are some other benefits that you can reap from banana peel:

- It can be used to get rid of warts. Just tape the banana peel on the skin and leave it overnight. With continuous use, your warts will vanish.
- Because of high sugar content, it can help you with hemorrhoids.
- As it is high in natural moisture, it can treat eczema and psoriasis as well.
- You can use banana peel to correct cracked heels as well.
- Banana peel is rich in potassium and is anti-inflammatory in nature. It can be used to treat the skin irritated by the sun.

FOOD CORNER

Coconut Chicken Curry

Ingredients

8 Pepper corns (Kalimirchi), 6 Coriander Roots (Dhania), 3 cms thinly sliced Ginger (Adrak), 625 ml Coconut milk, 2 thinly sliced Green chilli (Hari mirch), 1 Lime Peel, 4 shredded Lime Leaves



(Nimbu Ke Patte), 1 kg cut into 8 pieces Chicken, 1 tblsp Fish Sauce, 3 tblsp Lime Juice (Nimbu Ka Raas), 3 tblsp chopped Coriander (Dhania), Salt

Method

Beat peppercorns, coriander roots and ginger together. Heat peppercorn mixture in a wok.

Stir in chillies, coconut milk, lime peel and leaves. Heat to simmering point. Mix the chicken pieces. Cook over medium heat till the chicken is tender and liquid is reduced, it will take about 40 to 45 minutes. Mix fish sauce, salt and lime juice. Garnished with coriander leaves. Serve hot.

Mild chicken curry

Ingredients

1½ tsp coconut oil or sunflower oil, 1 large onion, finely chopped, 2 fat garlic cloves, crushed, 1cm fresh ginger, grated or finely chopped, 1 tsp ground coriander, 1 tsp yellow mustard seed, 1 tsp garam masala, ½ tsp ground cumin, 1 x 500g pack chicken pieces (thighs and drumsticks), or thighs, 1 chicken stock cube, 1 cinnamon stick, 250g Greek yogurt, at room temperature, 2 tsp sultana handful chopped coriander, to serve (optional)

Method

- Heat the oil in a heavy-based pan. Fry the onions gently for 5 - 10 mins until soft. Add the garlic, ginger, coriander, mustard seeds, garam masala and cumin and cook for 1 - 2 min allowing the aromas to release.
- Add the chicken and cook for 10 mins over a gentle heat, flipping occasionally and making sure the spices don't catch. Pour in around 300 ml boiling water until almost covering. Stir in the stock cube and cinnamon stick. Simmer for around 45 mins - 1 hour with the lid off so there is a small amount of thickened sauce at the bottom of the pan. Remove the cinnamon stick.
- Stir in the yogurt and sultanas, heat through gently and serve. Scatter with coriander, if using.

Steps to prevent hair damage

Keep Your Scalp Clean

"Dry shampoos are great for a second or third day, but they don't take the place of a shampoo," Blaisure says. "There's a whole microbiome of bacteria on the scalp that needs to be cleansed on a regular basis; otherwise you'll get build-up that could affect growth." When you do cleanse, which should be at least twice a week, depending on your hair texture, go for a mild yet strand-fortifying shampoo.

Be Gentle with Strands

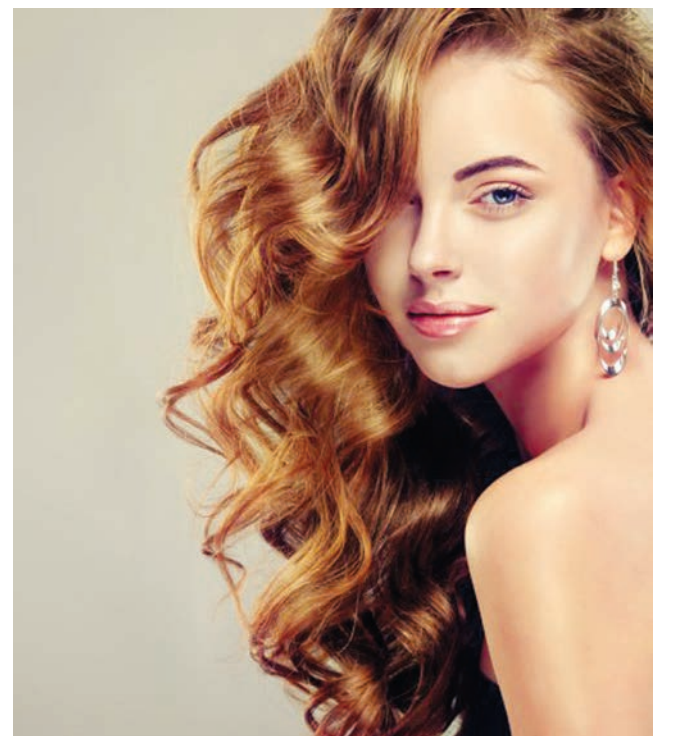
"The more gentle you can be with your hair, the stronger it's going to be," Dr. Bank says. "Because you're not fully able to repair breakage once the hair has left the scalp, it's really about not adding insult to injury." In other words, be especially careful when your hair is wet and in a fragile state; for example, gently squeeze freshly washed hair rather than rub with your towel. And when blow-drying, be mindful not to pull or tug your strands too taut with your brush.

Switch Up Your Style

We all have a go-to do, but wearing your hair in the same style every day can actually harm the strands. "Parting the hair a certain way or wearing it in a ponytail with a rubber band repeatedly for too long can cause breakage," Blaisure says. Extensions and weaves are no exception. Stressing the same strands over and over weakens the hair follicle itself, which can even lead to hair loss over time. If that does happen, go au naturel for six months to give your hair a rest.

Use Conditioner Religiously

"Using conditioners will help strengthen and coat the hairs, reinforcing them from the outside against damage," Dr. Bank says. Invest in a deep-conditioning treatment that contains rice extract and protein, like Nexxus Keraphix Damage Healing Hair Reconstructing Treatment, which helps strengthen and repair the hair shaft. Aim to use it at least once a week, Blaisure says. On days when you don't use a regular conditioner, make sure to protect your ends with a lightweight oil-based serum or spray.



New antiviral compound blocks Covid virus from entering cells

WASHINGTON (TIP): Scientists have developed a chemical compound that they say could prevent infection from SARS-CoV-2 virus or reduce the severity of COVID-19 if given early in the course of an infection.

The compound, called MM3122, interferes with a key feature of many viruses that allows them to invade human cells, according to the researchers at Washington University School of Medicine in the US.

The compound, described in the journal Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, targets a key human protein called transmembrane serine protease 2 (TMPRSS2) that coronaviruses harness to enter and infect human cells.

"Great vaccines are now available for SARS-CoV-2, but we still need effective antiviral medications to help curb the severity of this pandemic," said study senior author James W Janetka, a professor at Washington University.

"The compound we are developing prevents the virus from entering cells," Janetka said.

Janet said the ultimate goal of the study is to advance the molecules into an inhibitor that can be taken by mouth, and that could become an effective part of drug inhibitors against COVID-19.

The new drug compound potently blocks TMPRSS2 and another related protein called matriptase, which are found on the surface of the lung and other cells, according to the researchers.

Many viruses—including SARS-CoV-2, which causes COVID-19, as well as other coronaviruses and influenza—depend on these proteins to infect cells and spread



throughout the lung, they said.

After the virus latches onto a cell in the airway epithelia, the human protein TMPRSS2 cuts the virus's spike protein, activating the spike protein to mediate fusion of the viral and cellular membranes, initiating the process of infection.

MM3122 blocks the enzymatic activity of human protein TMPRSS2 which perturbs the activation of the spike protein and suppresses membrane fusion.

"The SARS-CoV-2 virus hijacks our own lung cells' machinery to activate its spike protein, which enables it to bind to and invade lung cells," Janetka said.

"In blocking TMPRSS2, the drug prevents the virus from entering other cells within the body or from invading the lung cells in the first place if, in theory, it could be taken as a preventive," he added.

The researchers are testing the compound in mice in combination with other treatments that target

other key parts of the virus.

This may help develop an effective broad-spectrum antiviral therapy that would be useful in COVID-19 and other viral infections, they added.

Studying cells growing in the lab that were infected with SARS-CoV-2, MM3122 protected the cells from viral damage much better than remdesivir, a treatment already approved by the US Food and Drug Administration for patients with COVID-19, the researchers said.

An acute safety test in mice showed that large doses of the compound given for seven days did not cause any noticeable problems, they said.

The researchers also showed that the compound was as effective against the original Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome coronavirus (SARS-CoV) and Middle Eastern Respiratory Syndrome coronavirus (MERS-CoV).

Source: PTI



Don't bottle up pandemic-induced stress, start socialising: Experts

It's nearly two years since the Covid-19 pandemic struck the world. Yet the fear and anxiety it brought, especially in those who suffered from the infectious disease, forced to remain in isolation at home, lost their near and dear ones and were left jobless for months, is hard to let go.

However, with Covid easing and India reopening, it is time to open up and start mingling with people with proper precaution, bring happiness back in your life and shun depression and anxiety, health experts said on Saturday ahead of the World Mental Health Day on October 10.

While we are not yet out of the pandemic and must adhere to Covid-appropriate behaviour, one also needs to "be cognisant of physical and mental health, do exercise/ yoga and spend good time with family", said Dr. Vipul Rastogi, Consultant neuropsychiatrist Medanta hospital, Gurugram, told IANS.

"Do not bottle-up your concerns and emotions. Share your feelings with family and friends and if it doesn't help seek professional help at the earliest," Rastogi added.

Mental health in India has been a concern, much before the pandemic. Due to societal pressures and social stigma revolving around it, the condition has not received much attention.

In 2017, President Ram Nath Kovind asserted that India was "facing a possible mental health epidemic".

A study, published in the science journal Lancet in the same year, revealed that 14 per cent of India's population suffered from mental health ailments, including 45.7 million suffering from depressive disorders and 49 million from anxiety disorders.

The Covid-19 pandemic has further accentuated this mental health crisis.

A recent LinkedIn report showed that more than one in two Indian professionals are currently feeling stressed at work as well-being measures have become a luxury for many in the last 18 months, adversely affecting mental health of working professionals in the country.

Source: IANS

Is salt good for you after all? Evidence says no

Salt is the most common form of sodium and is added to food during manufacturing, home cooking or at the table to enhance the taste or to extend the shelf life.

Most people have heard the advice to cut down on salt. That's because high sodium intakes are associated with high blood pressure, a major risk factor for cardiovascular disease, heart attacks and strokes.

So the recent headline "Food myths busted: dairy, salt and steak may be good for you after all" was bound to grab attention.

In the research article this headline is based on, the authors examined whether advice to substantially lower sodium intakes was supported by robust evidence.

The article's premise is that current advice to limit sodium consumption to 2.3 grams a day is unachievable for most people in the long term. And it claims there isn't good quality evidence to show lower salt intakes reduce the risk of heart attacks and strokes.

The authors suggest that current global sodium intakes, which range from 3-5 grams per day, are associated with the lowest risks for a heart attack, stroke or dying prematurely. And that heart attacks and strokes increase only when sodium intakes are higher or lower than this.



But there are a number of controversies about these claims, and the existing advice to limit salt consumption remains. Lets take a closer look at some of the issues associated with these claims, as well as important research the authors missed.

Most of us could afford to cut down on salt. One teaspoon of salt weighs around 5 grams and contains 2 grams of sodium.

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Mars scientists now know where to look for life

The researchers are sure now they've sent the robot to a location that provides the best possible opportunity to find signs of ancient life

There's an air of relief in the science team running the American space agency's (NASA) Perseverance rover on Mars.

The researchers are sure now they've sent the robot to a location that provides the best possible opportunity to find signs of ancient life.

"Percy" touched down in Jezero Crater in February and ever since has been snapping thousands of images of its surroundings.

The interpretation of these pictures forms the basis of the first scholarly paper to make it into print, in this week's edition of Science Magazine.

The analysis confirms the rover is sitting on the floor of a once great lake that was fed by a meandering river entering the deep bowl from the west. We're talking of events over 3.5 billion years ago when the Red Planet's climate was far more benign.

From Perseverance's observations, it's now certain that where the river system met the lake water, the flows suddenly slowed and the sediment in suspension fell out to form a delta - the kind of wedge-shaped "landform" you'll see all over the Earth.

It's in such an environment that microorganisms could have thrived and their chemical traces been preserved.

"People have said to me, 'So, what's new here? Didn't we know there was a delta in Jezero Crater?'. Well, actually, we didn't. We'd inferred from orbital imagery that Jezero contained a delta but until you get down on the ground, you can't be absolutely sure. We could have been looking at an alluvial fan," said Prof Sanjeev Gupta from Imperial College London, UK, who is co-lead author on the new Science paper.

An alluvial fan is a related landform in which, generally speaking, the fan of deposits is laid down in a much higher energy environment, such as in a flash flood. This is not a setting as conducive to biology. Martian microbes, assuming they existed, would have preferred the calmer, persistent waters associated with a delta.

Perseverance landed a couple of kilometers from the main delta formation but the rover's telescopic views are enticing, particularly so when it comes to one isolated mound, or butte, dubbed Kodiak.

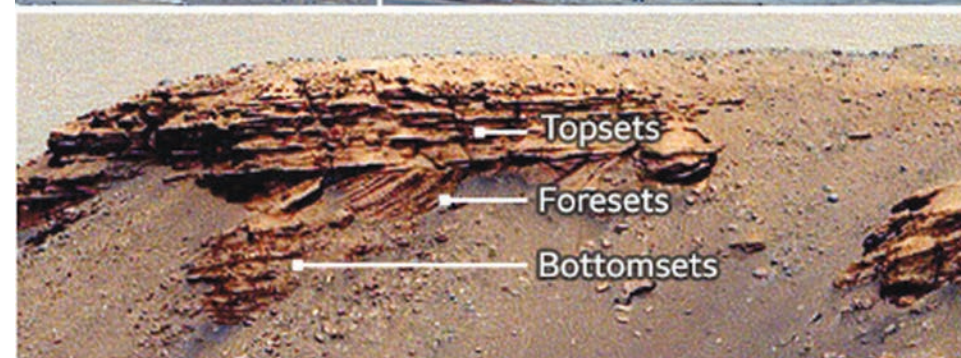
It's possible to see in this remnant some of the classic layering produced by a developing delta.

There are horizontal "bottomsets" that are



The Perseverance rover landed a couple of km to the southeast of the main delta formation.
Image source / NASA / JPL / Caltech / Mass

Kodiak Butte: Delta remnant in Jezero Crater



The Perseverance rover's job is to collect rock samples for return to Earth.
Image source / NASA / JPL / Caltech / Mass

made up of fine-grained sediments dumped by the river furthest from its entrance into the crater lake. Above these, are inclined "foresets" that were the sediments that

tumbled down the slopes of the advancing lobes of the delta. And higher still, are the "topsets", which were the sediments laid down by the river after the delta edges had

expanded off into the distance. Again, these are horizontal.

On top of Kodiak and the main delta formation in Jezero are a lot of large boulders. These do speak to flood events late in the history of water in the crater.

"Something changed in the hydrology. Whether it was climate-related, we don't know," said Prof Gupta. "But to move these big boulders needs something like a flood. Maybe there were glacial lakes in the local catchment that sent these flood waters into Jezero.

"We see lake outbursts on Earth in places like the Himalayas. In the Ganges basin, you get these large boulders mixed in with normal river sands and this is where there's been a sudden flood episode from a glacial lake," he told BBC News.

The Perseverance science team will send the rover to the base of the main delta formation to drill into what are expected to be fine-grained mudstones. They'll also target a ring of carbonate rocks around the edge of Jezero that likely represent the shores of the crater lake when it was at its deepest.

The robot is tasked with gathering and packaging more than two dozen rock samples from various locations. These samples will be brought back to Earth in the early 2030s to be examined in the laboratories that have the expertise to determine whether or not microscopic lifeforms ever touched the surface of Mars.

Plans for this retrieval exercise are well advanced. It will involve Nasa and its partners in the European Space Agency sending another rover to "fetch" the samples from wherever Perseverance stores them in the crater.

It will be a British-built vehicle. It will pick up the samples and transfer them to a rocket which will then blast them into Mars orbit where a satellite freighter will be waiting to ferry them home. "We are about to enter the most exciting time in the exploration of Mars," said Sue Horne, the head of space exploration at the UK Space Agency.

"Soon the dream of examining specimens from the Red Planet will become a reality as the locomotion system of the Sample Fetch Rover is tested next month."

(Excerpts from BBC / Jonathan Amos, Science correspondent @BBCAmoson Twitter)

Inspect sender's e-mail address

While it's not unusual to receive an email from someone outside your organisation for the first time, it can be a sign of phishing. Inspect the sender's email address closely. Look for small changes signalling a fake identity

Double-check urgent call-to-action mails

Be wary of emails that utilise a generic greeting, asking you to act urgently. Often, they'll claim you must act now to claim a reward or avoid a

penalty. Creating a false sense of urgency is a common trick of phishing attacks and scams.

Verify sender information

Look for verifiable sender contact information. If in doubt, do not reply. Start a new email to respond.

Safeguard private information

Use the phone to convey private information. Never send sensitive information via email.

Don't click suspicious links

Avoid clicking on unexpected links. Go to the official website and log in instead.

Be wary of attachments

Avoid opening email attachments from unknown senders or even friends who do not normally send you attachments.

Use phishing and spam filters

Install a phishing filter for your email. This is the fastest way to report a cybercriminal and remove the message from your inbox.

Safeguard yourself from phishing attacks



Reliance tops India Inc in World's Best Employers list

Reliance Industries has topped Indian corporates in the World's Best Employers rankings 2021 published by Forbes. Reliance was placed at 52 in the overall ranking of 750 global corporates such as Phillips, Sanofi, Pfizer and Intel. Other Indian names in the top 100 rankings were ICICI Bank at 65, HDFC Bank at 77 and HCL Technologies at 90, according to the Forbes ranking. SBI was placed at 119 and L&T at 127.

Infosys was ranked at 588 and Tata Group at 746. LIC was placed at 504. The rankings are based on a large-scale survey where employees rated their employers on numerous points.

The global ranking was topped by Samsung, followed by US giants IBM, Microsoft, Amazon, Apple, Alphabet and Dell Technologies. China's Huawei was placed as the 8th best employer in the world.

Source: PTI

Sensex crosses 61,000 mark for the first time

Extending its winning run to the sixth straight session, equity benchmark Sensex rallied 569 points to close at a new peak on Thursday, driven by gains in index majors HDFC twins, ICICI Bank and ITC amid positive macro cues and upbeat global markets.

Closing above the 61,000-mark for the first time, the 30-share Sensex settled 568.90 points or 0.94 per cent higher at 61,305.95. Similarly, the Nifty surged 176.80 points or 0.97 per cent to a new lifetime closing high of 18,338.55.

ITC was the top gainer in the Sensex pack, rising around 3 per cent, followed by HDFC Bank, PowerGrid, ICICI Bank, IndusInd Bank and NTPC.

On the other hand, TCS, HCL Tech, Bajaj Finance and Asian Paints were among the laggards.

"The Indian market sustained its upbeat mood supported by positive global market, favourable inflation data and upmove in IT stocks following strong earning scorecards by sector majors," Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial Services, said.

The wholesale price-based inflation eased to 10.66 per cent in September, helped by moderating food prices even as crude petroleum witnessed a spike.

Retail inflation in September too slowed to a five-month low of 4.4 per cent on moderating food prices.

US becomes largest bitcoin mining centre after China crackdown

HONG KONG (TIP): The United States has overtaken China to account for the largest share of the world's bitcoin mining, data published on Wednesday by Britain's Cambridge Centre for Alternative Finance showed.

The figures demonstrate the impact of a crackdown on bitcoin trading and mining launched by China's State Council, or cabinet, in late May, which devastated the industry and caused miners to shut up shop or move overseas.

China's share of the power of computers connected to the global bitcoin network, known as the "hash rate", had fallen to zero by July from 44% in May, and as much as 75% in 2019, the data showed.

Miners elsewhere have taken up the slack, with mining rig manufacturers shifting their attention to North America and Central Asia and larger Chinese miners moving as well, though this process is fraught with logistical difficulties.

As a result, the United States now accounts for the largest share of mining, some 35.4% of the global hash rate as of the end of August, followed by Kazakhstan and Russia, the data showed. Bitcoin is created or "mined" by high-powered computers, usually at data centres in different parts of the world, which compete to solve complex mathematical puzzles in a process that makes intensive use of electricity.

Russia's low energy costs and cool climate enabled some companies using surplus electricity to benefit from



bitcoin's surging prices earlier this year, but concerns are growing about illegal mining. In a letter to the government in Moscow in late September, Igor Kobzev, governor of Russia's Irkutsk region, pointed to "avalanche-like growth" of energy tariffs, blaming underground cryptocurrency mining.

"(The situation) is further worsened by the ban on mining imposed by the Chinese authorities and the relocation of a significant amount of equipment to the Irkutsk region," Kobzev said in the letter,

according to a report by the Vedomosti daily on Wednesday.

Authorities elsewhere are more tolerant or even welcoming of bitcoin mining, while Chinese authorities announced even tougher rules for bitcoin mining and trading last month.

"Our current focus is accelerating the construction of compliant mining farms in North America and Europe," a representative for mining rig maker Ebang International Holdings told Reuters after the latest crackdown.

G20 FMs back tax deal, vow to keep up recovery

WASHINGTON (TIP): Finance leaders from the G20 major economies endorsed a global deal to revamp corporate taxation and pledged to sustain fiscal support for their economies while keeping a close eye on rising inflation.

The G20 finance ministers and central bank governors also said in a communique issued after a meeting in Washington that the International Monetary Fund (IMF) should establish a new trust fund to channel a \$650-billion issuance of its monetary reserves to a broader range of vulnerable countries. The finance leaders noted in their statement that economic recovery "remains highly divergent across and within countries" and is vulnerable to new variants of Covid and an uneven pace of vaccinations. "We will continue to sustain the recovery, avoiding any premature withdrawal of



support measures, while preserving financial stability and long-term fiscal sustainability, and safeguarding against downside risks and negative spillovers," the G20 finance leaders said in the statement.

Given rising inflation pressures driven by supply chain bottlenecks and shortages as economies struggle to normalise, the leaders said that central banks are "monitoring current price dynamics closely".

'India offers spectrum of opportunities'

India offers a spectrum of opportunities to investors and business firms, finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman told executives of top American companies as she met and apprised them of various flagship programmes of the Indian government under Atma Nirbhar Bharat. Sitharaman, 62, is currently in the US capital and has been meeting a host of top American CEOs with footprints in India and who have shown interest in seizing the investment opportunities in the country.

Microsoft to shut down LinkedIn in China

Microsoft on Thursday, Oct 14, said it will shut down career-oriented social network LinkedIn in China, citing a "challenging operating environment" as Beijing tightens control over tech firms.

The US-based company will replace LinkedIn in China with an application dedicated to applying for jobs but without the networking features, according to senior vice president of engineering Mohak Shroff.

"We're... facing a significantly more challenging operating environment and greater compliance requirements in China," Shroff said in a blog post.

According to the Wall Street Journal, LinkedIn was given a deadline by Chinese internet regulators to better oversee content on the site.

Shree Ganeshaya Namah



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

WEEKLY HOROSCOPE - 18TH OCT TO 24TH OCT 2021

Aries

Ganesha says you will have to focus a lot on your work and business this week which will have you feeling really tired and exhausted. Not having any help will seem difficult and sad for you this week, especially in the beginning but as the week comes to an end you will realize that you have immense potential to do what you want to do without anyone's help this week.

Taurus

You will be a lot smarter and disciplined than you have been in the past few days this week. This is a tough week in a very positive way for you because learning and growth occur the most through uncomfortable times. You will experience self-doubt and the feeling that something bad will happen this week. The stars are aligned in your favor this week and nothing significant bad will happen this week. Your loved ones will be safe and sound which is the major thing you will be concerned about this week.

Gemini

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

Cancer

You have always been dominative but this week that trait only comes to your rescue because you might come across some people who will try to manipulate you into making decisions that benefit them and only waste your time hence make sure you make you are affirmative this week. You need to work on calming your negative thoughts this week especially regarding your relationship. A lot of unexpected obstacles will also arise at work this week hence your temper will be tested as well.

Leo

You will spread cheer and happiness everywhere you go and everyone that you meet this week, will become happy and feel at peace in your energy. This week will go far better than your past few

weeks. You are feeling mentally at your level best this week. The stars are really making you be the best you can be this week.

Virgo

Your love life will find its way this week through all the struggles that you've been having recently. You need to work on being firm with your decisions when it comes to your future, which you will also be able to do this week. If you take out some time to relax and calm down this week, it will be better for you. Use this time to improve your health both mentally and physically. Take some classes you have been wanting to for a while now. If you do not think about your issues, your life will be great this week.

Libra

This is an ideal week for you to work on yourself. You have been through lot of challenges and become the strongest person you have ever been. Allow yourself time and space to relax and rest. A mini vacation will do you well this week, as you have been ignoring your health by staying busy. Your business and finances will work out on its own this week, without you having to pay much time and attention. Although you need to do something to show your appreciation and gratitude towards your friends and family by giving them your time. They have been trustworthy and have got your back throughout all the difficulties that you have faced. You will receive a lot of love from your spouse this entire week.

Scorpio

You will gain a lot of profit in your business this week which will set a positive tone for the entire week. You won't need to do things that you hate in terms of work anymore. You will have the time, space and affordability to follow your passion. Financial abundance is in your cards this week, which will keep you satisfied and happy throughout the week. You need to be more analytical about making investments now as managing the funds that you receive this week and, in the future, as it will make a significant difference in your life. This is the perfect week for you to make investments as your luck will favor you into making the correct and logical decisions.

Sagittarius

You are blessed with the moon this week which will give you inner strength and confidence. Self-respect will stop you from taking some negative decision, specifically in regard to your relationships. You will make new plans to start some new project; your patience will help you throughout this week be it your relationships or your work. Singles will be blessed by the moon. If you're single you might find your soul mate this week if they focus on socializing and meeting new people every week. To those who are already in a relationship, you are likely to take the next step this week. Your health will bother you on and off throughout the week, as it is nothing major relying on home remedies will help you recover.

Capricorn

You will be provided with good luck in abundance this week. The planetary motions have moved which will benefit you immensely this week. You will be on an all-time high throughout the week because you will notice how things that have been stuck for the longest time for you are now working out immensely in your favor and causing you to be the happiest you have been in a while. Hence make sure you take the most advantage of all the opportunities that come your way this week and be open-minded about them.

Aquarius

Your health is as good as you would like it to be this week. Taking time out to be physically active will make it even better. Do not rely on unnatural ways to look better this week as they might because you more harm than good. It is easy for your significant other to fall in love with you this week. Expect some surprises this week as well. You might make some tough decisions this week and you will be more susceptible to moodiness.

Pisces

You have always been relaxed and dealt with matters in a calm and composed way but this week is the week for you to go out full force after what you want, be it at work or making things happen for your family. This week you will have to work on being more resilient and self-sufficient. You have a huge responsibility hanging over your shoulders this week. Make it count.

BIRTHDAY HOROSCOPE : 18TH OCT TO 24TH OCT 2021

CONTD FROM PAGE 32

October 18

You would receive good news in all the areas of your life which would easily make you extremely happy today. You have been struggling with your mental health for quite some time and today is the day you relax and have loads of fun. You will have a good day today. There are a lot of positive things that'll happen today. Those sweet little gestures made by your loved ones will keep you happy and satisfied throughout the day. Your business is on its way to improve as well today.

October 19

You might be wondering why today isn't as special as it should be for you. You need to understand that special moments are more often small and less evident, you simply need to have a positive attitude towards life and make sure you thrive to the best of your ability. A great day for you at your workplace today. You're likely to make a lot of profit today that will keep you happy throughout the day. You're also very likely to meet a new love interest today, that will

spark feelings inside you, that you never knew you had.

October 20

You will do your best when it comes to your professional life and show your patient approach to maintain a great and serene work environment today. You will feel kind and calm and will not easily lose your patience when something goes wrong in your day today and any argument arises.

October 21

You need to look out for your health today and be very careful about what you eat. You will also need to be very cautious before you trust someone and share your past relationship details with them. Positive energies are strong for you in all aspects of life other than health today. The positive part of your day is that you'll receive an unexpectedly huge amount of money from a prospect.

October 22

Your love life is progressing rapidly. Taking the

next step will be a good idea today as Venus stands in the support of your sign. Your family disputes that have been stuck for a long time will be resolved today as well hence another positive thing for you. You need not worry about any obstacles with this dispute as everything will go smoothly.

October 23

Your love life is taking a highly positive turn and you are about to discover new ways to enjoy your life. Make sure you take the necessary steps with the person you love. Today is a great day for your relationship to flourish into the next big thing.

October 24

Wake up and meditate the first thing in the morning, it will be beneficial for your personal as well as professional life. You will make great profits in your business hence you will have a good day today. Today is all about giving for you. You may have some new responsibilities, which you will carry out successfully and easily today.

|| SHREE GANESHAY NAMA ||



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History This Week

OCT. 15 TO 21, 2021

"A SMALL BODY OF DETERMINED SPIRITS FIRED BY AN UNQUENCHABLE FAITH IN THEIR MISSION CAN ALTER THE COURSE OF HISTORY." - MAHATMA GANDHI

October 15

OCTOBER 15, 1815 - Napoleon Bonaparte arrived on the Island of St. Helena beginning a British-imposed exile following his defeat at the Battle of Waterloo.



Mata Hari

OCTOBER 15, 1917 - World War I spy Mata Hari was executed by a French firing squad at Vincennes Barracks, outside Paris.

OCTOBER 15, 1946 - Nazi leader Hermann Goering committed suicide by swallowing poison in his Nuremberg prison cell just hours before his scheduled hanging for war crimes.

OCTOBER 15, 1964 - Soviet Russia's leader Nikita Khrushchev was deposed as First Secretary of the Soviet Communist Party and replaced by Leonid Brezhnev.

OCTOBER 15, 1991 - The U.S. Senate confirmed Clarence Thomas to the Supreme Court by a 52-48 vote following several days of tumultuous hearings before the Senate Judiciary Committee concerning sexual harassment charges made by a former aide. Thomas became the second African American to sit on the Court, replacing retired Justice Thurgood Marshall, an African American.

BIRTHDAY - German philosopher Friedrich Nietzsche (1844-1900) was born in the Province of Saxony. Best known for stating, "God is dead," and for his prediction in the late 1800s, "There will be wars such as there have never been on Earth before." He eventually succumbed to mental illness.

BIRTHDAY - Lee Iacocca was born to Italian immigrant parents in Allentown, Pennsylvania, October 15, 1924 (as Lido Anthony Iacocca). Dubbed "America's first corporate folk hero," he was a mechanical engineer who became an automobile executive at Ford and later

helped save Chrysler from bankruptcy. He also served as foundation chairman for the rehabilitation of the Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island.

October 16

OCTOBER 16, 1701 - Yale University was founded in Killingworth, Connecticut (as the Collegiate School of Connecticut). The school moved to New Haven in 1716. Two years later, the name was changed to Yale College to honor Elihu Yale, a philanthropist. In 1886, it became Yale University.

OCTOBER 16, 1859 - Fanatical abolitionist John Brown seized the Federal Arsenal at Harpers Ferry with about 20 followers. Three days later, Brown was captured and the insurrection was put down by U.S. Marines under the command of Col. Robert E. Lee. Brown was convicted by the Commonwealth of Virginia of treason, murder, and inciting slaves to rebellion, and was hanged on December 2, 1859.

OCTOBER 16, 1916 - The first birth control clinic in America was opened in Brooklyn, New York, by Margaret Sanger, a nurse who worked among the poor on the Lower East Side of New York City.

OCTOBER 16, 1946 - Ten former Nazi leaders were hanged by the Allies following their conviction for war crimes at Nuremberg, Germany.

OCTOBER 16, 1964 - China detonated its first nuclear bomb at the Lop Nor test site in Sinkiang.

OCTOBER 16, 1978 - Cardinal Karol Wojtyla of Poland was elected Pope. He was the first non-Italian Pope chosen in 456 years and took the name John Paul II.

OCTOBER 16, 1995 - The Million Man March took place in Washington, D.C., under the direction of Nation of Islam leader Louis Farrakhan, who delivered the main address to the gathering of African American males.



Noah Webster

BIRTHDAY - Irish poet and playwright Oscar Wilde (1854-1900) was born in Dublin, Ireland. Best known for his comedies including *The Importance of Being Earnest*. And his novel *The Picture of Dorian Gray* in which he wrote, "There is only one thing in the world worse than being talked about and that is not being talked about."

BIRTHDAY - David Ben-Gurion (1886-1973) was born in Plonsk, Poland. He was largely responsible for founding the modern state of Israel in 1948 and is revered as "Father of the Nation."

BIRTHDAY - American playwright Eugene O'Neill (1888-1953) was born in New York City. He wrote more than 35 plays and was the first American dramatist awarded a Nobel Prize for literature. He also received four Pulitzers. His dramas, which dealt realistically with psychological and social problems, included *Beyond the Horizon*, *The Iceman Cometh*, *The Emperor Jones* and *Long Day's Journey into Night*.

BIRTHDAY - American jurist William O. Douglas (1898-1980) was born in Maine, Minnesota. He served as an associate justice on the Supreme Court for 36 years and was also a world traveler, conservationist, outdoorsman and author.

October 17

OCTOBER 17-25, 1944 - The Battle of Leyte Gulf, the largest naval battle in history, took place off the Philippine Islands, during World War II in the Pacific. The battle involved 216 U.S. warships and 64 Japanese ships and resulted in the destruction of the Japanese Navy including the Japanese Battleship *Musashi*, one of the largest ever built.



Pope John Paul I

BIRTHDAY - Pope John Paul I (1912-1978) was born in Forno di Canale, Italy (as Albino Luciani). He was elected the 263rd Pope of the Roman Catholic Church on September 28, 1978 but died in Rome just 34 days later.

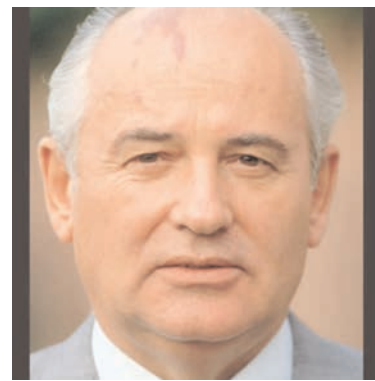
October 18

OCTOBER 18, 1685 - The Edict of Nantes was revoked by King Louis XIV of France thus depriving Protestant Huguenots of all religious and civil liberties previously granted to them by Henry IV in 1598.

OCTOBER 18, 1945 - The Nuremberg War Crimes Trial began with indictments against 24 former Nazi leaders including Hermann Göring and Albert Speer. The trial lasted 10 months, with delivery of the judgment completed on October 1, 1946. Twelve Nazis were sentenced to death by hanging, three to life imprisonment, four to lesser prison terms, and three were acquitted.

October 19

OCTOBER 19, 1987 - "Black Monday" occurred on Wall Street as stocks plunged a record 508 points or 22.6 per cent, the largest one-day drop in stock market history.



Mikhail Gorbachev

OCTOBER 19, 1990 - Beset by a seriously eroding economy, Soviet Russia's President Mikhail Gorbachev won parliamentary approval to switch to a market economy.

October 20



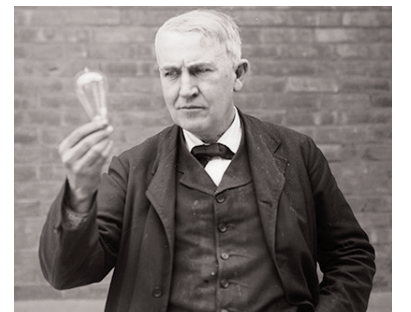
Jacqueline Kennedy

OCTOBER 20, 1968 - Jacqueline Kennedy married

multi-millionaire Greek businessman Aristotle Onassis, ending nearly five years of widowhood following the assassination of her first husband, President John F. Kennedy.

BIRTHDAY - British architect Christopher Wren (1632-1723) was born in Wiltshire, in southwestern England. Considered one of the greatest minds of his time, he designed St. Paul's Cathedral and 52 churches for the City of London. His secular buildings included the "new" wing of Hampton Court near London and Greenwich Hospital, now the Royal Naval College.

October 21



Thomas Edison

OCTOBER 21, 1879 - Thomas Edison successfully tested an electric incandescent lamp with a carbonized filament at his laboratory in Menlo Park, New Jersey, keeping it lit for over 13 hours.

OCTOBER 21, 1915 - The first transatlantic radio voice message was made by the American Telephone and Telegraph Company from Virginia to Paris.

OCTOBER 21, 1944 - During World War II in Europe, American troops captured Aachen in western Germany after a week of hard fighting. It was the first large German city taken by the Allies.

OCTOBER 21, 1967 - Thousands of anti-war protesters stormed the Pentagon during a rally against the Vietnam War in Washington, D.C. About 250 were arrested. No shots were fired, but demonstrators were struck with nightsticks and rifle butts.

BIRTHDAY - Jazz great Dizzy Gillespie (1917-1993) was born in Cheraw, South Carolina (as John Birks Gillespie). He was a trumpet player, composer, band leader and one of the founding fathers of modern jazz, known for his trademark puffed cheeks and bent trumpet.

Symbolic significance of Ramayana

Ramayana is one of the most popular epics in the world. It is deeply interwoven into the sociocultural history of India. With 24000 verses, which are divided into six sections (kandas), it is also one of the oldest and largest epics in the history of the world. Originally composed in Sanskrit, its original authorship is ascribed to Valmiki. However, there are many versions and adaptations of the epic. Since the earliest times until now, it has been rendered into multiple languages by numerous scholars from Hindu, Buddhist, Jain and Sikh traditions both in India and outside in countries such as Cambodia, Indonesia Thailand, China, Burma, and Malaysia.

Place in Hinduism

In Hinduism, the epic along with Mahabharata belongs to the genre of ancient history (Itihasa). Hindus believe that the events described in both the epics are historic and happened at some point in the history of the planet. The two epics also exerted great influence upon Hindu art, architecture, literature, dance and drama, apart from serving as major conduits for the dissemination of popular religious themes and moral precepts to the public.

Ramayana is not just a long and convoluted epic story. It contains many sub plots, and stories and stories within stories, which makes the narrative very complex. Its main story is explicit and does not require much effort to understand. It brings to the fore the major precepts of Hindu Dharma and appeals to the readers the importance of character and righteous conduct for the order and regularity of the world. At the same, one may discern in it hidden symbolism and implicit teaching.

Ramayana means

Etymologically, Ramayana is derived from the root word ram or rama, or simply ram (with the short vowel a). Ram is the reference to the hero of the epic, Rama, who is revered by Hindus as the incarnation of Vishnu and as God himself in a human form. Ram (with short vowel a) means to enjoy or to take delight. Ram or Rama means the enjoyer or the one who delights in the play of creation. It is a reference to the Self (Isvara) or God himself. Ayanam means going, moving, walking, etc.

Thus, Ramayan or Ramayanam means the journey of Rama or the wandering of Rama. Symbolically we may interpret it as the wandering (transmigration) of the soul in the field of Prakriti or in the mortal world. Rama also means a beautiful woman, a beloved or a wife. Thus, hidden within the original meaning of the epic is a reference to Sita, the wife of Rama. From this perspective, Ramayana is not just about Rama or his wandering in the wilderness. It also refers to the journey of Sita, the Mother Goddess, and her difficulties in the mortal world as a partner in Dharma to Rama.

Symbolism of the main story

The symbolic significance of Ramayana has been interpreted variously by various scholars. At the most basic level, the epic represents the vulnerabilities to which human beings are susceptible due to their weaknesses and impurities, and the conflict between good and evil forces which may arise from them. It portrays the deep connection between God and his devotees and the power of devotion. It also suggests how with virtue and righteousness and with the help of God mortal beings can surpass even gods in their ability to destroy evil. The epic Ramayana teaches many valuable lessons. It brings to the fore the vulnerability of human life and the message that even God is not free from suffering when he incarnates upon earth. We learn from it that in the midst of difficulties, human beings should not lose their moral imperative. They should follow the example of Rama and remain on the path of righteousness, without succumbing to evil temptations and without surrendering to evil powers. They should



also learn from the example of Ravana that knowledge and power can become destructive if it is tainted by the impurities of ignorance, desires, egoism, and delusion.

The epic symbolizes the power of devotion in human life and the deep connection between God and his devotees. God incarnated upon earth as Rama to provide the humans with an ideal role model which they can follow to achieve liberation. The following is the symbolism of the main story of Ramayana. It is presumed that the readers are familiar with the main story of the epic. Hence, no attempt is being made to narrate the story or describe the characters.

- Rama symbolizes the auspicious qualities and the Supreme Self. He descends into the mortal world (the body) in search of the individual Self (Sita), his devotee, from which he is separated in the beginning of creation.
- Ravana symbolizes the ego with ten evil qualities, who defies God and asserts his individuality due to his tamasic and demonic nature.
- The body represents Lanka, which is ruled by the ego (Ravana) who holds the embodied Self (Sita) in captivity because of delusion and demonic pride.
- God (Rama) assembles the army of monkeys, represented by senses and other bodily parts which are by nature restless and fickle.
- With the help of intelligence (Lakshmana), breath (Hanuman) and the restrained senses (army of devout monkeys), he builds a bridge (channel) across the ocean of consciousness (mind) to descend into the being and find the Self.
- He destroys the ego (Ravana) and its army of evils and reconnects with the individual Self (Sita). Upon finding the individual Self, he subjects it to purification in the fire of austerities (tapah) just

as Rama did to Sita, and removes all the impurities which accumulated around the Self during its captivity and bondage in the body.

- Rama and Sita depart from Lanka (body) and ascend to the immortal heaven (Ayodha) through the ethereal plane or the mid-region (Puspak Vimanam), along with the whole army of monkeys and devotees (the divinities or the tattvas in the body).

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Kerala: God's own country

Popularly known as "God's Own Country", Kerala is one of the most sought after tourist destinations in the world. This exotic land is renowned for its rich cultural heritage, tropical climate, palm fringed beaches, misty hill stations, health resorts, wild life sanctuaries, enchanting art forms, grand festivals and, the serenity of the backwaters and the emerald blue Arabian Sea which promise an unforgettable holidaying experience to travellers. According to "National Geographic Travel", the leading travel Magazine, Kerala is one of the 50 must see destinations of a lifetime and one of the 10 paradises of the World.

Kovalam

Kovalam is a lovely little beach town in Kerala. Translating to mean 'a grove of coconut trees', Kovalam's name is truly deserved as many coconut trees surround the city. Kovalam's three sandy beaches, separated by rocks, draw several tourists to this picturesque little town. These beaches are the Samudra Beach, Hawa Beach and the Lighthouse Beach. Apart from these beautiful beaches, Kovalam is also famous for being a wellness hotspot. Most of the resorts in Kovalam offer Ayurvedic massages, as well as yoga, herbal body toning, and meditation sessions. The Kovalam Surf Club on Lighthouse Beach provides basic lessons on how to surfboard, as well as rents out surfboards for those interested. Several interesting cultural programmes are hosted in Kovalam. These include the Swati Thirunal Music Festival, the Nishagandhi Dance Festival, Fandango (food festival), the Elephant Festival, and the Village Fair of Kovalam. Catamaran cruises are also quite popular among tourists visiting Kovalam.

Thekkady

Thekkady is a small area within the Idukki district of Kerala and is known for the multiple places of tourist interest within the region. Periyar National Park and Periyar Tiger Reserve are one of the major tourist attractions in Thekkady. With a total area of over 770 square km, of which around 360 square kilometers are evergreen forest, Periyar National Park provides a lot of opportunities for exploration, nature rambling, and wildlife viewing. Some of the species that inhabit the area are elephants, sambar, tigers, gaur or Indian bison, langurs, and macaques. Apart from the reserve, there are other attractions close by such as the Mangala Devi Kannagi Temple, the Cardamom Hills, Chellar Kovil waterfalls and many others. Thekkady is close to the Western Ghats, and thus there are many picturesque areas around it which can be visited directly for basking in the beauty of the hills. It also provides great opportunities for treks and hikes through its many misty hills. The Periyar river flows through the park, and the Mullaperiyar Dam creates a reservoir on one end of it. This area, thus also provides excellent panoramic views of the river as well as of the tank.

Kumarakom

Kumarakom is a lovely little village in the Kuttanad region of Kerala. Often



referred to as the rice bowl of India, Kumarakom has evolved from a fertile land of farmers to a beautiful village that draws several tourists from all over the world. Most tourists come to Kumarakom to enjoy the serenity and

splendour of the famous backwater cruises available here. There are several other interesting places to visit in and around the village. The Kumarakom Bird Sanctuary is truly a birdwatcher's paradise. It is home to kingfishers,

woodpeckers, and owls among others. Several migratory birds such as the Siberian crane can be spotted here as well. The Kumarakom Beach is another tourist hotspot that offers many sporting activities. In addition to swimming, you can also indulge in a lot of adventure activities like boating, parasailing and windsurfing. The resorts around the beach are famous for their Ayurvedic massages and spa treatments. The Bay Island Driftwood Museum holds many unique collections of articles made from driftwood. Also, worth visiting is the beautiful 1000-year old mosque, Juma Masjid.

Munnar

With the seemingly unending expanse of tea estates that cover the rolling hills and valleys wreathed in a cool mist, Munnar is a favored vacation spot in South India. Located at an altitude of almost 6000 ft. in Idukki district of Kerala, this enchanting town offers visitors a relief from the summer heat and provides breathtaking sceneries and a slice of adventure. Home to exotic flora and fauna, and nestled among the mountains of the Western Ghats, this hill station offers a sanctuary to many endangered species of animals, at Eravikulam National Park and Kurinjimala Sanctuary. Witness the majesty of Anamudi Peak, the highest peak in South India, which can be seen from Munnar. The rare and beautiful 'Neelakurinji' flower blossoms on the slopes of the hills in Munnar, once in every twelve years. Munnar also has several pristine lakes and reservoirs surrounded by tall mountains that exude a serene aura, that calms your spirit and kindles the fires of romance in your heart.

Thiruvananthapuram

The capital of Kerala, Thiruvananthapuram, which was formerly known as Trivandrum is a major tourist destination for both domestic and foreign tourists. A business and a commercial hub, Thiruvananthapuram has a rich cultural history which is primarily evident in its architecture, both from pre-colonial as well as post-colonial times. Settlements in and around this area date as far back as 1000 BCE. Even, before colonial times, Thiruvananthapuram was an important center on the Arabian Sea trade route. Tourist attractions in Thiruvananthapuram include its numerous beaches which are close to the city such as the Kovalam beach and the Shankumugham beach. Being a major transit point within Kerala, there are many places of attraction close by which either have a natural appeal, is a manmade marvel or have religious importance. Thiruvananthapuram itself has many such attractions such as museums and zoos, and religious sites such as temples and churches which may interest visitors. Ayurveda therapy centers and Spas within Thiruvananthapuram is a big attraction as well. Thiruvananthapuram attracts many visitors throughout the year and ranks as one of the top destinations for foreign tourists in India.

contd from page 1

NIRMALA SITHARAMAN CONDEMNS...

Harvard Kennedy School on October 12 about the killing of four farmers in Lakhimpur Kheri and the arrest of Ashish Mishra, son of Union Minister of State for Home Ajay Mishra.

She was asked why there is no word on this from the Prime Minister, senior Ministers and why there is a "defensive reaction" when somebody asks questions about such things.

"No, absolutely not... It's nice of you to have picked up that one incident which is absolutely condemnable, every one of us say that. Equally there are instances happening elsewhere, is my concern.

"India has issues of such nature happening in very many different parts of the country equally. I would like you, and many others, including Dr. Amartya Sen, who all know India, to raise it at every time when it happens, not just raise it when it suits us because it's a State where BJP is in power, one of my Cabinet colleague's son is in probably trouble, and also assume that it's actually them who did it and not anybody else. Due course of justice will also have a complete inquiry process to establish it," she said.

"And it's not being defensive about my party or my Prime Minister. It's being defensive about India. I will talk for India; I will talk for justice for the poor. I will not be mocked at. And if it is mocking, I will be defensive to stand up and say 'Sorry, let's talk on facts'. That's my answer for you," she said.

Mr. Ashish Mishra was named in an FIR following allegations that he was in one of the vehicles that mowed down four farmers protesting over U.P. Deputy Chief Minister Keshav Prasad Maurya's visit on October 3.

FARM LAWS : To a question on the farmers' protests, Ms. Sitharaman said that the three acts which the government brought in were discussed by the various parliamentary committees over a decade.

She said all the three acts have been discussed variously by the State governments, by the Centre after the BJP came into power in 2014.

"This has been in the making for a decade now. Every stakeholder has been consulted," she said.

"When the farm laws were brought in the Lok Sabha, there was an elaborate discussion and the agriculture minister gave his reply as well. It was only when it came to the Rajya Sabha, there was a lot of noise and disturbance," she said.

Thousands of farmers from Punjab, Haryana and several other States have been protesting on various borders of Delhi since November 26 last year, seeking repeal of three farm laws enacted in September.

Dubbing these laws as "anti-farmer", these farmers claim that the newly enacted legislations would pave the way for the dismantling of the minimum support price system, leaving them at the "mercy" of big corporations.

Ms. Sitharaman said the protesters belong to one State and some parts of other States - "Punjab, Haryana and some parts of western Uttar Pradesh". She said the government has been saying that it is willing to talk with the protesters and has been engaging with them.

The government has asked pointedly what is that one aspect in any one of the three laws which have been passed to which the protesters object, she said.

"We are willing to talk about it, tell us that one particular aspect in any one of the three laws. Till date, we have not had even one particular aspect which is being questioned. And therefore, the protesters are not sure on what score they are protesting, what is it that they are objecting.

"Then there's this issue about the minimum support price to be given to farmers," she said, adding that the MSP are announced well in time and the farmers can decide whether they want to grow a crop or not and they can otherwise choose to grow something else.

She said once the farmers choose to grow any of these, for which a minimum support price is announced and procurements are done, through direct benefit transfer using technology, money is deposited as a lump sum into their accounts.

"The highest amount of procurement, the largest ever payment per farmer under the minimum support price which is declared has happened in the last seven years after Prime Minister [Narendra] Modi has come. Highest ever.

"The number of farmers, the total quantum of money, total quantum of grain procured in each one of them - the highest as has happened season after season in the last seven years," she said.

Highlighting that there are recorded conversations "which you can see of farmers even from Punjab, even from Haryana", she said farmers have got the entire amount into their account.

"This is verifiable, not a claim which I'm making. You can go and check it out. Highest amount and the entire amount is given into the account directly the day after procurement is done. No staggering, no delaying," she said.

"So we have not been told what it is that they're protesting against as yet and the Minister is willing to talk even today." (Source: PTI)

GLOBAL HUNGER INDEX RANKS...

Afghanistan (103), Nigeria (103), Congo (105), Mozambique (106), Sierra Leone (106), Timor-Leste (108), Haiti (109), Liberia (110), Madagascar (111), Democratic Republic of Congo (112), Chad (113), Central African Republic (114), Yemen (115) and Somalia (116).

India was also behind most of the neighboring countries. Pakistan was ranked 92, Nepal at 76 and Bangladesh also at 76.

Current projections based on the Global Hunger Index (GHI) show that the world as a whole - and 47 countries in particular - will fail to achieve even low hunger by 2030.

The Index tracks key indicators used to measure progress toward Zero Hunger by 2030 at national, regional, and global levels. Based on the values of the four indicators - undernourishment, child wasting, child stunting and child mortality -- the GHI determines hunger on a 100-point scale, where 0 is the best possible score (no hunger) and 100 is the worst. Each country's GHI score is classified by severity, from low to extremely alarming.

Somalia has the highest level of hunger according to the 2021 GHI ranking - its GHI score of 50.8 is considered extremely alarming. It is preceded by five countries with levels of hunger that are alarming - Central African Republic, Chad, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Madagascar, and Yemen - and 31 countries that have serious levels of hunger.

"Although GHI scores show that global hunger has been on the decline since 2000, progress is slowing. While the GHI score for the world fell 4.7 points, from 25.1 to 20.4, between 2006 and 2012, it has fallen just 2.5 points since 2012. After decades of decline, the global prevalence of undernourishment - one of the four indicators used to calculate GHI scores - is increasing. This shift may be a harbinger of reversals in other measures of hunger," says the report.

contd from page 6

MOS MEA FELICITATES THE YOUNG...

Bhandari listed the contributions made by the two youths that benefitted a lot of people during the pandemic. In addition to the contributions already made to better the lives of many, Nikhil has also announced that he has raised funds through his school friends to provide 5,000 hearing aids to the needy. Kanak Golia of Jaipur Foot USA, Nikhil's grandfather, also announced to match the funding for another 5000 hearing aids free of cost, bringing the total to 10,000 hearing aids. These devices were sent to BMVSS to be distributed in India under the leadership of Padma Bhushan, D.R. Mehta, Founder & Chief Patron BMVSS.

During the pandemic, Nikhil launched the "Oxygen on Wheels" program - a free service for needy patients in the rural villages that surround Jodhpur. The service provided free oxygen support from a mobile bus for COVID patients while they are waiting for admission into the then overpopulated hospitals. For this, Nikhil had approached Prem Bhandari who then arranged a bus through Vader Charitable Trust in Jodhpur, Rajasthan

UNION MINISTER V MURALEEDHARAN MEETS INDIAN COMMUNITY IN CONNECTICUT; SAYS HE HAD AN "ENGAGING INTERACTION WITH THE DYNAMIC INDIAN COMMUNITY"

The union minister said he had an engaging interaction with the dynamic Indian community in Connecticut. Seen in the picture, from L to R: Varun Jeph, Deputy Consul General, Minister Muraleedharan, Dr. Thomas Abraham

Photo tweeted by @MOS_MEA

HARTFORD, CT (TIP): Union Minister of State for External Affairs (MoS) V Muraleedharan interacted with the Indian community in Connecticut, October 13. The Minister also celebrated the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav with the Indian community.

"Had an engaging interaction with the dynamic Indian community in #Connecticut Happy to see their zeal to participate in #AzadiKaAmritMahotsav & partner in New India's growth story," the Minister said in a tweet.

India is celebrating Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav, marking the country's 75th year of independence amid patriotic fervor. A series of events are also being organized under the program.

and fitted it with oxygen concentrator to help COVID-infected people suffering with breathing difficulties during transit.

Nikhil also came up with the mobile service for differently abled in a bid to help the rural people in this COVID environment where the movements are restricted, and transportation is difficult. Nikhil's family foundation came forward to fund the idea, which involved purchasing a large van, equipping and installing the equipment required, and a power generator to power the equipment in case the village doesn't have electricity. The poster for the mobile van was launched by Mr. Muraleedharan in New York.

BMVSS was able to successfully complete 71 artificial limb fittings in Vadnagar, Gujarat - the birthplace of Prime Minister Narendra Modi through the mobile van, in just one week. In addition, the mobile van distributed calipers to 51 polio patients and 30 crutches.

Bhandari also highlighted the contributions of Ajay, who was inspired by the work of D.R. Mehta when he was in the 9th grade and joined Jaipur Foot USA. As part of the Jaipur Foot USA youth initiative, he has launched an internship program for youth to work with Jaipur Foot USA's initiatives to help differently abled people in India.

Mr. Muraleedharan congratulated Ajay and Nikhil Mehta for the Oxygen on Wheels initiative, reaching out to the differently abled persons in remote places and for simplifying the foundation's website by providing for automated contributions.

Bhandari lauded how India extended help to neighboring countries, Africa and South America by providing millions of vaccines and other COVID-related medicines. PM Modi launched the Vaccine Maitri (Vaccine Friendship) initiative to supply vaccines to low-income and developing countries globally.

Bhandari extended his special gratitude for resolving the long-standing OCI renewal process/procedure issue, which benefitted 6 million-plus OCI cardholders.

(Based on a report published in IBT)



Argentina's Lionel Messi in action with Peru's Pedro Aquino. (REUTERS)

Peru miss penalty in 1-0 loss to Argentina

Peru missed a second-half penalty in a 1-0 loss to Argentina in Buenos Aires on Thursday, Oct 14, delivering another blow to their hopes of qualifying for the 2022 World Cup.

Trailing to a first-half goal from Lautaro Martinez, Peru had a golden opportunity to level the score when substitute Jefferson Farfan was brought down in the box 19 minutes into the second half as he attempted to round keeper Emiliano Martinez.

However, Yoshimar Yotun's penalty clipped the bar as the visitors fell to a seventh defeat in 12 qualifiers.

"Those that take penalties are the great players and the rest is luck," said Argentine goalkeeper Martinez.

The win saw Lionel Scaloni's side move on to 25 points, six behind leaders Brazil, who beat Uruguay 4-1. The top four qualify automatically for Qatar 2022 and the fifth-placed side goes into an inter-regional playoff.

Argentina's Christian Romero had a headed goal disallowed for offside after 10 minutes and Angel Di Maria missed two good chances while Peru's Gianluca Lapadula squandered an excellent opportunity after skilfully chesting down a cross just metres from goal.

Thomas & Uber cup: Asian giants make India suffer

Already through to the quarterfinals, the Indian men's badminton team tasted defeat at the hands of the formidable China in its last group match of the Thomas Cup, while the women's team crashed out of the Uber Cup after losing to Japan in the quarterfinals here today.

Only the doubles pair of Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty could manage a win in the men's team championship tie as they beat He Ji Ting and Zhou Hao Dong 21-14 21-14 in a 41-minute contest.

Kidambi Srikanth began the day for India with a 12-21 16-21 loss to Shi Yu Qi. Sameer Verma gave a tough fight before losing his singles match 21-14 9-21 22-24 to Lu Guang Ju as India trailed 1-2. The second doubles pair of MR Arjun and Dhruv Kapila went down fighting 24-26 19-21 to Liu Cheng and Wang Yi Lyu in 52 minutes. In the last singles match, Kiran George lost to Li Shi Feng 15-21 17-21.

IPL Final: KKR spinners hold aces as world awaits Dhoni 'Magic' one last time

DUBAI (TIP): Mahendra Singh Dhoni's astute captaincy in canary yellow will be Chennai Super Kings' biggest weapon against a clinical Kolkata Knight Riders, whose troika of top-notch spinners promise to hold the aces in the high-octane Indian Premier League final here on Friday, October 15.

If numbers are anything to go by, then CSK, in their astonishing ninth final appearance in 12 editions (they were suspended in two), are certain to start favourites against Kolkata Knight Riders on 'Dussera' day but in terms of trophies, there isn't much of a difference.

CSK have three titles with five final defeats while KKR have won both their finals under the mercurial Gautam Gambhir. No team has mastered the art of reaching finals like Dhoni's CSK.

But KKR will definitely be in the hunt since they won one of the most exciting high-scoring summit clash back in 2012 where they chased a target of 190 with two balls to spare.

On Friday, CSK's chances of winning a fourth title will depend on how well they handle the 12 overs from KKR's spin trio of Varun Chakravarthy (economy rate 6.40), Shakib Al Hasan (ER:6.64) and Sunil Narine (ER:6.44), who have been outstanding in this tournament.

In fact, Shakib's all-round abilities have provided more balance to KKR during the business end once Andre Russell sustained a hamstring injury.

However, the final match comes with its own set of pressures and how these three perform when put under the pump will be the key against a team of battle-hardened "been there done that" professionals.

Dhoni's captaincy mantra is simple -- rely on experience as IPL is not a finishing school or place to groom



youngsters however talented they may be.

He groomed Ruturaj Gaikwad when the pressure of qualification was off his back in 2020 and the Pune lad has played freely.

He has scored three half centuries and with his rise, Dhoni laid the groundwork for not just next year but many more to come for his franchise.

It shouldn't surprise anyone if Gaikwad becomes the next CSK captain once Dhoni calls time on IPL, which could be next year or the year after that.

No one knows the drifts and patterns of IPL more than India's most revered white-ball captain.

He understands that for IPL consistency, one needs experienced players primarily along with one or two talented youngsters.

Therefore, the job that Suresh Raina

used to do during his initial years, is now being done by the young Gaikwad, who has scored an astounding 600 plus runs in the tournament with a match to go.

Hell or high water, CSK's batting will revolve around Gaikwad, who if all goes well, will surely be one of the biggest all-format batting stars in the post Virat Kohli-Rohit Sharma era.

There is abundant experience in the CSK ranks. The skipper himself is on the other side of 40 with Dwayne Bravo at 38, Faf du Plessis at 37, Ambati Rayudu (36) Robin Uthappa a few weeks short of his 36th birthday along with Moeen Ali (34) and Ravindra Jadeja (32).

Add to it, three mid-level experienced internationals like Josh Hazlewood, Deepak Chahar and Shardul Thakur, who understand the pressure situations well and CSK seem immune to big match pressure.

Raducanu withdraws from Kremlin Cup: Reports

U.S. Open champion Emma Raducanu has pulled out of next week's Kremlin Cup in Moscow following her second-round loss at the Indian Wells tournament, British media reported on Thursday, Oct 14.

No immediate reason was given for the withdrawal.

"Unfortunately, I've had to make a tournament schedule change and won't be able to play Moscow this year but I hope to compete there and in front of the Russian fans next year," Raducanu said.

"I look forward to returning to the tour in the next couple of weeks."

Briton Raducanu, 18, lost to Belarus' Aliaksandra Sasnovich in straight sets at Indian Wells last week in her first match since winning the U.S. Open title at Flushing Meadows.

The world number 22 said she was disappointed with the defeat by Sasnovich but needed to "cut herself some slack".

"The experiences that I'm going through right now, even though I might not feel 100% amazing right now, I know they're for the greater good... in the bigger picture, I'll be thanking this moment," Raducanu said.

She is scheduled to play in events in Romania and Austria before the end of the season. *Source: Reuters*





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Padma Shri Dr. Sudhir Parikh *Presents*

A Film by

Emmy Nominated Tirlok Malik

**TO
NEW INDIA
WITH LOVE**

**Sun, Oct 17, 2021
@ 11:00AM**

**ZOOM Meeting ID:
891 6976 9728
Passcode: 2021**

Screenplay & Dialogue:
Murtaza Ali Khan
Asst. Director & Editor:
Rakesh Zharotia

PANELISTS

**Dr. Sudhir Parikh
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Bobby K. Kalotee
Dr. Bhupi Patel
Dr. Urmilesh Arya
Shashi Malik
Animesh Goenka**

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- * 3.5 million + served
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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



"On behalf of all my colleagues of the Wilmer Eye Institute in Baltimore, MO, I send my best wishes and congratulations to our friends in Goutami on this extremely important occasion. This beautiful facility will match the wonderful world class work of your doctors, nurses and staff in preserving and restoring the vision of so many patients. We in the United States are

inspired by your dedication and admire your tireless efforts to serve so many who need your skills and compassion. Best wishes, Peter"

"There can be no keener revelation of a society's soul than the way in which it treats its children". - Nelson Mandela



POST SURGERY



PRE SURGERY

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<https://youtube/B23VvUaloN4> <https://youtube/KiCzqLQe2VE>

To know more about the work of Eye Foundation of America or to donate, visit www.eyefoundationofamerica.org

ॐ सर्वे भवन्तु सुखिनः Sarve Bhavantu Sukhinah,
सर्वे सन्तु नरामयाः । Sarve Santu Niramayah
May all be prosperous and happy!
May all be healthy!

The Eye Foundation of America
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www.eyefoundationofamerica.org