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INDIAN



PANORAMA

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1 Indian American Weekly : Since 2006

VOL 15 ISSUE 43 • NEW YORK / DALLAS • OCT 22 - OCT 28, 2021 • ENQUIRIES: 646-247-9458 • info@theindianpanorama.com

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15 YEARS

The INDIAN PANORAMA

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TRUMP ANNOUNCES LAUNCH OF MEDIA COMPANY, SOCIAL MEDIA SITE



Trump says his goal in launching the Trump Media & Technology Group and its 'TRUTH Social' app is to create a rival to the Big Tech companies that have shut him out - File Photo

NEW YORK (TIP): Nine months after being expelled from social media for his role in inciting the January 6 Capitol insurrection, former President Donald Trump said on Wednesday, October 20, he's launching a new media company with its own social media platform. Trump says his goal in launching the Trump Media & Technology Group and its 'TRUTH Social' app is to create a rival to the Big Tech companies that have shut him out and denied him the megaphone that was paramount to his national rise.

"We live in a world where the Taliban has a huge presence on Twitter, yet your favorite American President has been silenced," he said in a statement. "This is unacceptable."

In a release, the new venture announced it had been created through a merger with Digital World Acquisition Corp and said it seeks to become a publicly listed company.

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PM MODI TO VISIT ITALY FOR G20: FOCUS ON BILATERAL TIES

NEW DELHI (TIP): Prime Minister Narendra Modi will visit Italy on October 30-31 for the G20 summit and, immediately later, he will visit the UK for the COP26 climate summit.

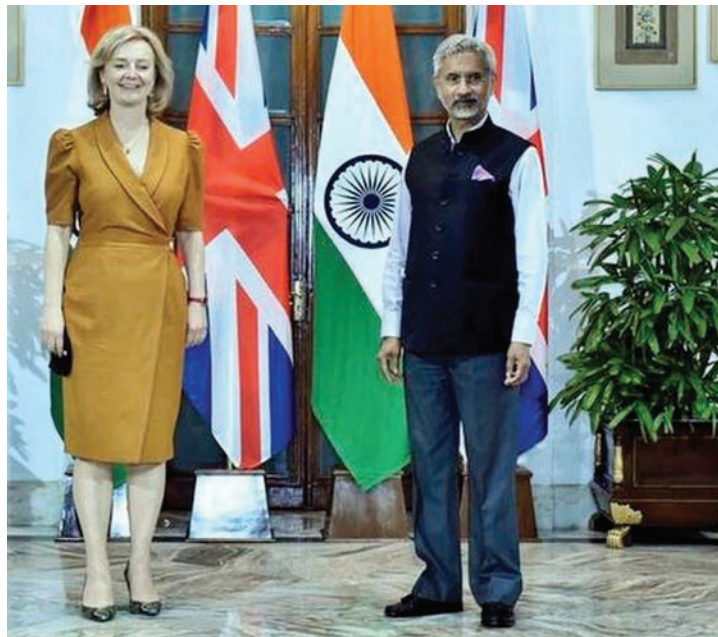
The G20 summit to be held in Rome will be the first in-person meeting of this economic group ever since the pandemic broke out. The summit is important for India because it will join the new troika - the past, present and future chairs of the G20 summit. After Italy, Indonesia will organize the G20 summit and after that India will host the summit meeting of this group.

Modi will attend several bilaterals but one meeting that is yet undecided is an audience with Pope Francis.



Prime Minister Narendra Modi will visit Italy on October 30-31 for the G20 summit and, immediately later, he will visit the UK for the COP26 climate summit. - File photo / PTI

'U.K.-India ties vital in coming decades': U.K. Foreign Secretary Elizabeth Truss



NEW DELHI (TIP): Relation between the United Kingdom and India is vital over the coming decades, U.K. Foreign Secretary Elizabeth Truss said here on Friday, October 23. Ms. Truss who is on a three-day visit to India met External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar and is scheduled to be a special guest at a

ceremony to mark the visit of the U.K. Carrier Strike Group in Mumbai.

"India is our great friend, an economic powerhouse and the world's largest democracy. Our relationship will be vital over the coming decades," said Ms. Truss after meeting Mr. Jaishankar where the

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INDO-US RELATIONSHIP BASED ON TRUST WHICH IS INCREASING: AMBASSADOR SANDHU



"Today, there is a very strong base between our bilateral relationship and that base is of trust. And that trust is increasing." File picture Twitter @SandhuTaranjitS

WASHINGTON (TIP): India's Ambassador to the US Taranjit Singh Sandhu has said that there is a very strong base between the Indo-US relationship which is of trust and that is increasing.

Sandhu, during a reception he hosted at the India House for senior Congressional staffers, said that India and America not only have strong strategic and defense relations, but also a deep relationship in healthcare and pharma. "And that is going to deepen," he said on Thursday, October 21.

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FEDERAL REGULATORS SAY BENEFITS OUTWEIGH KEY RISKS IN VACCINE FOR 5- TO 11-YEAR-OLDS

WASHINGTON (TIP): Federal regulators weighed in for the first time Friday on the safety and efficacy of a coronavirus vaccine for children 5 to 11, saying that the benefits of staying off

CONTD ON PAGE 36



The findings could add momentum for F.D.A. authorization of the pediatric dose, perhaps as soon as next week. The long-awaited development would affect 28 million children. Picture for representation only



Andy Singh

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--: GUEST COMMENT :--

Aryan's case does not fit the bill for denial of bail

INORDINATELY PROLONGING HIS CUSTODY IS UNCALLED FOR

A special NDPS court had on Wednesday, October 20, denied bail to Aryan, noting that his WhatsApp chats prima facie revealed that he was 'dealing in illicit drug activities on a regular basis' and therefore 'it cannot be said that he is not likely to commit a similar offence if released on bail'. File photo

Arrested by the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) in a drugs case on October 3, movie star Shah Rukh Khan's son Aryan Khan will have to wait till early next week for the hearing of his bail application in the Bombay High Court. A special NDPS court had on Wednesday denied bail to Aryan, noting that his WhatsApp chats prima facie revealed that he was 'dealing in illicit drug activities on a regular basis' and therefore 'it cannot be said that he is not likely to commit a similar offence if

released on bail'. Section 37 of the NDPS Act has the provision for bail, provided there are reasonable grounds to believe that the accused is not guilty of the offence in question and that he is not likely to commit any crime while on bail. The all-important term, 'reasonable grounds', seems to have been interpreted in a disproportionately harsh manner in Aryan's case. As of now, the NCB appears to be banking solely on the WhatsApp chats as evidence against him.

It had taken film actor Rhea Chakraborty a month to get bail in a drugs case allegedly linked to Sushant Singh Rajput's death last year. The High Court had imposed stringent conditions while ordering her release: she was told to surrender her passport to the investigating officer; she could leave the jurisdiction of the special NDPS court in

Mumbai only after submitting her itinerary; and she had to report to the NCB office on the first Monday of every month for six months. It's reasonable to argue that Aryan can be set free with similar riders. If he thumbs his nose at the rule book, his bail can obviously be cancelled.

Bail, not jail - this basic rule of legal proceedings was set forth in the Supreme Court's landmark judgment in State of Rajasthan vs Balchand (1977). The order had also cited exceptions to the rule: cases 'where there are circumstances suggestive of fleeing from justice or thwarting the course of justice or creating other troubles in the shape of repeating offences...' Aryan's case does not fit the bill for denial of bail.

(Tribune, India)

The fading patriarch: On Congress and Amarinder Singh

THE CONGRESS HAS SET IN MOTION A SERIES OF EVENTS IN PUNJAB THAT IT CAN NO LONGER CONTROL

Former Punjab Chief Minister Amarinder Singh has announced plans to launch a new political outfit and explore an arrangement with the BJP, ahead of next year's Assembly election in the State. The BJP is warming up to the idea. The proposed new party and its partnership with the BJP is an act of expediency and opportunism of high order by both sides. The Congress had forced Mr. Singh to quit as the Chief Minister in September, bringing an abrupt end to his role at the helm of party affairs in the State. The reasons for his removal were not just, but his decision to quit the party that he has been associated with for four decades says something unflattering about Mr. Singh. That he could think of joining hands with the BJP without batting an eyelid also shows that there is little more than a sense of entitlement in his politics. The Captain has been a central character in Congress politics, particularly in the years following the rise of the BJP in 2014. He led the party

to victory in Punjab in 2017, and in 2019, the Congress's performance in the Lok Sabha polls in the State was outstanding. After all that, Mr. Singh has chosen to cap his long political career by sleeping with the enemy.

The BJP is a marginal player in Punjab, and the ongoing controversy over three farm laws has further alienated it from the entrenched farming communities in the State. The debate on the merits of the farm laws apart, the BJP also questioned the patriotism of the protestors. The party is now hoping for an outreach to the Sikh farmers through a partnership with the Captain. Whether it can offer any compromise that the farmers might find palatable remains to be seen. The Congress high command cannot absolve itself of the mess in the State. It decided to unsettle its own government for no apparent reason, and elevated a turncoat to lead its State unit. The party appointed a Dalit Sikh as Chief Minister in place of Mr. Singh, which is a bold experiment

that is fraught with fresh problems. If it can mobilize public opinion in favor of its social justice politics, the Congress can remain in the reckoning. The Akali Dal, having parted with its long-term ally, the BJP, is now hoping to gain from the confusion arising out of the crisis in the Congress. The Congress has set in motion a series of events that it is no longer in control of. It also appears incapable of recalibrating its strategy for the State. With an untested Chief Minister and a conceited party chief in command, the party finds itself in an unenviable position in Punjab. The desertion by Mr. Singh makes its prospects considerably worse. While it might be too late to keep the former Chief Minister in the fold, the least the Congress high command can do is to strengthen the hands of Chief Minister Charanjit Singh Channi and not give the impression that he is keeping the seat warm for the maverick Punjab unit chief of the party, Navjot Singh Sidhu.

(The Hindu)

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MEET THE FORBES SEVEN RICHEST INDIAN AMERICANS

NEW YORK (TIP): Forbes recently released its list of 400 wealthiest Americans for the year 2021. Seven Indian Americans, with a combined net worth of \$42.4 billion, have made it to the list - the same number as 2020. While six of the seven billionaires retained their positions on the list, Google investor Kavitark Ram Shriram fell off it. However, he was replaced by Baiju Bhatt, Co-founder of Robinhood. Here is the complete list:

Jay Chaudhury
CEO, Zscaler
Rank: 45
Net worth: \$16.3 billion
Age: 62

The richest Indian American on the list the wealthiest 400 Americans, Chaudhury saw his net worth increase by nearly a whopping \$10 billion in the past year. His ranking also increased from 85th in 2020 to 45th this year. Chaudhry founded Zscaler, a cyber security firm, in 2008. He, along with his family, owns 42 percent of the company's shares. The firm went public in March 2018. Chaudhry moved to the United States to study in Nevada back in the 1980s. Zscaler is not Chaudhry's first venture. Along with his wife, he founded a number of companies which were subsequently acquired.

Vinod Khosla
Founder, Khosla Ventures
Rank: 92
Net worth: \$8.6 billion
Age: 66

The net worth of Khosla, the co-



founder of Sun Microsystems and the founder of Khosla Ventures, increased from \$2.8 billion in 2020 to \$8.6 billion. His ranking went up from 353 to 92.

A graduate of IIT Delhi, Khosla grew up in the Indian capital before moving to the United States to do an MBA from Stanford, in 1980. He founded Sun Microsystems with his classmates from Stanford. He later left the company to become a venture capitalist. He founded Khosla Ventures, based in Menlo Park, California, in 2004.

Rakesh Gangwal
Co-founder, Interglobe Aviation
Rank: 253
Net worth: \$4.5 billion
Age: 68

Co-founder and co-owner of India's Indigo Airlines, Gangwal previously served as the CEO of US Airways group. His network increased from \$2.3 billion

to \$4.5 billion in the past year. An IIT, Kanpur graduate, he earned an MBA from Wharton School of Pennsylvania.

He has also served as the executive vice-president for Air France. He lives in Miami, Florida with his wife and a daughter.

Romesh Wadhvani
Founder, Symphony Technology Group
Rank: 333
Net worth: \$3.5 billion
Age: 74

Founder and CEO of Symphony Technology Group, Wadhvani was born in Karachi before Indian independence. His net worth last year was \$3.4 billion.

A graduate from IIT Bombay, he earned his masters and doctorate from Carnegie Mellon University.

He lives in Palo Alto, California with his wife and has a married daughter.

Niraj Shah
CEO, Wayfair
Rank: 340
Net Worth: \$3.4 billion
Age: 47

At number 340 on the list, online retailer Wayfair CEO Niraj Shah grew up in Massachusetts. His net worth increased from \$2.8 billion to \$3.4 billion in the past year. He graduated from Cornell University and co-founded Wayfair in 2002 with his classmate. In 2017 he also became the director of Federal Reserve Bank of Boston and lives in Boston with his wife Jill Shah.

Anand Bhasin
CEO, Workday
Rank: 363
Net Worth: \$3.2 billion
Age: 55

Born in Pittsford, New York, Bhasin co-founded Workday with David Duffield.

He became the vice chairman of the company in 1999, until the takeover by Oracle in 2004. He is also a partner at Greylock Partners which is a software investment fund. He is placed number 363 on the list.

Baiju Bhatt
Co-founder, Robinhood
Rank: 389
Net Worth \$2.9 billion
Age: 36

At just 36, Bhatt is the youngest Indian American on the list. He is placed at number 389. He founded Robinhood, a financial services company, along with Vladimir Tenev. Son of Indian immigrants, Bhatt grew up in Virginia. He studied mathematics at Stanford University. He co-founded the trading platform in 2013. After a funding run in 2018, he became a billionaire along with his co-founder. He lives in Palo Alto, California.

Giuliani associate Lev Parnas convicted in campaign finance fraud case

NEW YORK (TIP): Lev Parnas, a Florida businessman who is an associate of Rudolph W. Giuliani, was found guilty on Friday, October 22, of using funds from a foreign investor to try to influence political candidates through campaign donations.

It took the federal jury in U.S. District Court in Manhattan less than a day to find that Parnas committed fraud through donations to several state and federal candidates that were bankrolled by a Russian financier. Parnas was also found guilty on counts related to a \$325,000 donation in 2018 to a joint fundraising committee that supported then-president Donald Trump.

Prosecutors told the jury that the illegal fundraising efforts documented in text messages and other trial evidence gave Parnas access to elected officials and candidates. They showed photos of Parnas with Trump and Giuliani, who was the president's personal lawyer, schmoozing at high-end political fundraisers.

Prosecutors also said Parnas lied to the Federal Elections Committee about the source of the hefty 2018 donation, which he said in filings was from his start-up company Global Energy Producers. The company was in fact not profitable and not functioning as a real business, prosecutors argued. The donation was actually sourced through a mortgage refinance loan obtained by Parnas's business partner, Igor Fruman,



Lev Parnas and an unidentified woman leave the federal courthouse following closing arguments in his trial on Thursday, October 21 in New York.

the jury found.

Fruman - whose alleged role in the events was regularly discussed in testimony at the trial - pleaded guilty last month to one count of soliciting foreign campaign contributions. He's due to be sentenced early next year.

Parnas is also slated to face a second trial in U.S. District Court in Manhattan for charges related to defrauding investors in what prosecutors say was another sham company - Fraud Guarantee.

The venture purported to offer a service to other

companies that protected them from fraud. But prosecutors allege that Parnas and another man, David Correia, were actually stealing from their investors. Correia has pleaded guilty to charges related to his role in that case.

Parnas's ties to Giuliani when Giuliani was Trump's personal attorney played prominently in the ex-president's first impeachment trial. The Ukrainian native was recruited to help Giuliani seek damaging information on President Biden - and his son Hunter - before the 2020 election.

Trump was accused of threatening to withhold badly needed aid to Ukraine if officials there did not announce a criminal investigation into the Bidens.

In the campaign-finance trial, prosecutors argued Parnas knew that donations to candidates from outside the U.S. were illegal and took steps to conceal that a Russian investor was behind the funds that went to candidates in several states where cannabis had recently been legalized. Giuliani was not charged in the case.

Prosecutors alleged that Parnas used money from Russian financier Andrey Muraviev to try to curry favor with candidates he believed could help him and Fruman win licenses to operate cannabis businesses.

Read full story at
www.theindianpanorama.news

INDO-CANADIAN JYOTI GONDEK CALGARY'S 1ST WOMAN MAYOR; EDMONTON ELECTS AMARJEET SOHI



Jyoti Gondek becomes Calgary's first female mayor in Canada

CALGARY (TIP): Former Federal Minister Amarjeet Sohi, 57, has been elected as the mayor of Edmonton while Jyoti Gondek will become Calgary's first female mayor in Canada. Both have their origins in Punjab.

Before entering politics, Sohi was a bus driver. He was elected to the Edmonton City Council in 2007. In 2015, he entered federal politics, got elected as a Liberal MP from Edmonton Mill Woods and defeated Tim Uppal to become the federal minister for infrastructure in the Trudeau Cabinet.

"I am honored and humbled that you have chosen me to serve as Edmonton's first South-Asian mayor. I would like to take a moment to thank those who made this historic win possible," Sohi said after his victory. Sohi, who hails from Banbhaura village in Sangrur, was arrested in Bihar's Gaya Jail under TADA for about 21 months but was released later in the absence of any evidence against him.

Gondek was born in the UK to a family of Indian origin. Her family had moved to Canada when she was young, settling in Manitoba. She later moved to Calgary with her husband, where she worked in marketing and served as the director of the University of Calgary's Westman Centre for Real Estate Studies. She has a PhD in sociology and sat on the Calgary Planning Commission before running for office.

INDIAN AMERICAN VINAI THUMMALAPALLY NAMED TO TOP USTDA POST



Vinai Thummalapally will serve as USTDA's Acting Director until a Director is confirmed by the Senate.

WASHINGTON (TIP): President Joe Biden on Monday appointed Indian American Vinai Thummalapally to serve as the Deputy Director and Chief Operating Officer of the U.S. Trade and Development Agency.

Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news

6-year-old Indian-origin sets Singapore record by memorizing 1,560 Pi digits

SINGAPORE (TIP): Six-year-old Indian-origin Ishani Shanmugam broke Singapore's national record for most digits of Pi memorized by reciting 1,560 decimal places.

Sitting in her living room on October 13, Ishani calmly recited the digits in about 10 minutes, with personnel from the Singapore Book of Records verifying the numbers.

Her mother, Vennila Munusamy, 36, told The Straits Times on Saturday that her heart was pounding during the event.

The housewife said, "But Ishani was so calm and collected. (The people from Singapore Book of Records) were asking her if she was nervous, but she said, I'm so excited, we can start now."

In September last year, Ishani, who attends PCF Sparkletots (Kindergarten), could recite 409 digits of Pi. But she told her parents she wanted to learn more digits.

Her father, Shanmugam V S, 42, a tech manager in an investment bank, said he and his wife started her training in April by introducing a few new digits each day.

"We're really proud of her. We didn't expect her to get it on the first try as she had to get every single digit correct. After she broke the record, we shed some happy tears," he said.

Vennila said she and her husband realized Ishani had an exceptional memory and a hunger for learning when she was two. She said, "Ishani was able to read



Ishani (Seen in the picture with parents) who attends PCF Sparkletots (Kindergarten), could recite 409 digits of Pi.

story books by herself - it was always one after another without stopping. We would show her flash cards of country flags and she would memorize all 195 of them.

"Then we realized she had an interest in science and geography. She would grasp the details of geographical TV programs and explain them to us," Shanmugam said, "We never pushed her to do anything, we just want to hone her interests and we'll help her out in whatever she wants to pursue."

Ishani's latest hobby is playing the piano but this does not mean she has moved on from her Pi endeavors.

Vennila added, "She wants to learn even more Pi digits now, to add more digits to her record." She beat memory trainers Sancy Suraj, who held the previous record with 1,505 digits in 2018.

The current Guinness World Record is held by Rajveer Meena, who as a 21-year-old in 2015, recited 70,000 digits at the VIT University in India.

Indian-origin Pooja Sund in Microsoft aims to empower women

NEW YORK (TIP): Having risen to the post of Director, Engineering and Finance at Microsoft's Core Finance Engineering group in the US, from a small town called Kaithal, this Haryanvi girl is empowering people, especially women, around the globe. Pooja Sund, an alumnus of Tilak Raj Chadha Institute of Management and Technology (TIMT), Yamuna Nagar, working with Microsoft (US) is currently responsible for providing organizational leadership across the broad technical and non-technical areas, including databases, data pipelines, telemetry, governance, security, and warehouses at Microsoft.

Family, societal norms become barriers

Sometimes family and societal norms become the barrier for us. Gender biases, lack of networking opportunities, mentorship and sponsorship hit us hard when we want to grow in our career and that is why I am strongly proposing to have a circle of strong mentors and sponsors and learn the art of negotiation. Pooja Sund

Coming from a humble background, she feels that there is a majority of women population who do not get a chance to study. Also, those who have this privilege are told to be a doctor or an



Pooja Sund is co-leading the learning and development pillar of women at Microsoft employee resource group comprising 24,000 women globally

engineer and not to be the person of their dreams or to be the CEO of their own career.

"Sometimes family and societal norms become the barrier for us. Gender biases, lack of networking opportunities, mentorship, and sponsorship hit us hard when we want to grow in our career and that is why I am strongly proposing to have a circle of strong mentors and sponsors and learn the art of negotiation, precise questioning, strategic thinking and above all learn the art of when to say 'No'," said Pooja Sund.

Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news

INDIAN-ORIGIN STUDENT'S ESSAY ON INDIAN FARMERS' STRUGGLES WINS FIRST PRIZE IN INDIA PHILANTHROPY ALLIANCE CONTEST



Rithani Saravanakumar, of Redmond, Washington, who wrote on the topic "A Farmers' Predicament: Revolutionizing the Agriculture Industry in India," is the winner in the high school category.

WASHINGTON (TIP): In 2020, when the world was dealing with an unexpected, raging pandemic and school children were learning to deal with the new normal of online classes and curriculum, India Philanthropy Alliance, came up with the idea of a Youth Essay Competition. It turned out to be a huge success and after a great reception in the inaugural year. This year, the Alliance was back with the 2021 Youth Essay Competition. India Philanthropy Alliance, a coalition of charitable organizations, launched the initiative as a medium to channelize and encourage philanthropic ideas among the younger generation of Indian Americans.

Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news

3 Indian Americans appointed White House fellows

WASHINGTON (TIP): The White House on Monday, October 18, named 19 young emerging leaders as its fellows for 2021-22, three of whom are Indian-Americans.

The prestigious White House Fellowship programme embeds professionals from diverse backgrounds for a year of working as a full-time, paid fellow for White House staff, cabinet secretaries and other senior government officials.

The Indian-Americans who made it to the list are Joy Basu and Sunny Patel from California; and Aakash Shah from New Jersey. Joy Basu from San Francisco has been placed at the White House Gender Policy Council.

Placed at the Department of Homeland Security, Patel is a child and adolescent psychiatrist and public health physician



Joy Basu and Sunny Patel from California, and Aakash Shah from New Jersey are among the 19 Young Emerging Leaders named by the White House.

with interests in building equitable health systems that serve children and families. Shah has been placed at the

Department of Health and Human Services.

(Source: PTI)

INDIAN AMERICAN NOMINATED AS A VICE CHAIR OF NASSAU REPUBLICAN COMMITTEE



Sharanjit Singh Thind (left) with Joseph Cairo

NEW YORK (TIP): Joseph Cairo, Chairman of Nassau Republican Committee on Oct. 18, 2021 has nominated Sharanjit Singh Thind, as a Vice Chairman of the party.

Sharanjit Singh Thind, becomes the first, and the only Sikh American to hold this position in Nassau County Republican Committee. After the nomination, an elated Sharanjit expressed, "I am thankful to Chairman Joe Cairo for bestowing such honor, approving his conviction and confidence in me. I ensure every assistance to help him in strengthening the Republican Party in Nassau County, serve my community and Nassau residents. I am also obliged to my political mentor, Zahid Syed, political & community activist, for introducing me to Chairman Cairo."

Of late, Sharanjit has served as a Commissioner, Nassau County Human Rights Commission. Born in a Sikh family from Kapurthala, Punjab, India, Sharanjit possesses an MBA degree and a Masters' Program in Journalism.

Settled in New York since 2000, Sharanjit is an established businessman, nature and fitness enthusiast.

Read full story at
www.theindianpanorama.news

INDIAN AMERICAN RAVI CHAUDHARY NOMINATED TO A KEY POSITION IN PENTAGON



Ravi Chaudhary has been nominated for the position of the assistant secretary of the Air Force for Installations, Energy and the Environment.

WASHINGTON(TIP): US President Joe Biden on Thursday, October 14, announced his intent to nominate Indian American Ravi Chaudhary to a key position in the Pentagon.

A former Air Force officer, Chaudhary has been nominated for the position of the assistant secretary of the Air Force for Installations, Energy and the Environment.

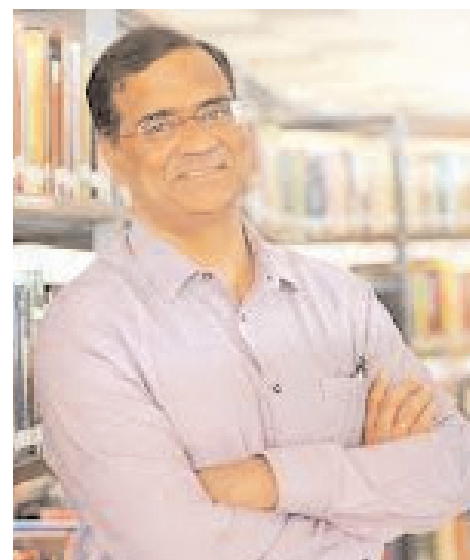
He needs to be confirmed by the United States Senate before he can be sworn in for this key Pentagon position.

Chaudhary previously served as a senior executive at the US Department of Transportation where he was Director of Advanced Programs and Innovation, Office of Commercial Space, at the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), according to his bio released by the White House.

In this role, Chaudhary was responsible for the execution of advanced development and research programs in support of the FAA's Commercial Space Transportation mission.

Read full story at
www.theindianpanorama.news

INDIAN-ORIGIN HISTORIAN MAHESH RANGARAJAN HONORED IN THE US



The American Historical Association has made Mahesh Rangarajan an honorary foreign member in recognition of exhaustive work in his academic field

WASHINGTON (TIP): The American Historical Association has announced winners of its various awards for 2021. Krea University's Vice Chancellor and professor of history and environmental studies Mahesh Rangarajan has been made the honorary foreign member in recognition of exhaustive work in his academic field.

Previous honorary overseas members from India include eminent historians Sir Jadunath Sarkar, Prof Romila Thapar and Prof Ramachandra Guha.

An author of several books and papers, Rangarajan calls the honor a recognition for his teachers at universities of Delhi and Oxford, colleagues, students and fellow researchers. "The scholarship of history in India is not new but environmental themes have picked up pace in the last few decades," he said.

INDIAN AMERICAN ECONOMIST GITA GOPINATH TO RETURN TO HARVARD UNIVERSITY IN JANUARY



Gita Gopinath, Chief Economist and Director of the Research Department at the International Monetary Fund (IMF), will resign in January 2022 and return to Harvard University

BOSTON (TIP): Indian American Gita Gopinath, Chief Economist and Director of the Research Department at the International Monetary Fund (IMF), will resign in January 2022 and return to Harvard University, the Fund's Managing Director Kristalina Georgieva announced on October 19.

The IMF appointed the 49-year-old economist as Chief Economist in January 2019. When she joined the global lender, she was the John Zwaanstra Professor of International Studies and Economics at Harvard.

The university granted her a one-year leave of absence on an exceptional basis, allowing her to work for the IMF for three years.

Gopinath, who was born in Mysuru, is the IMF's first female Chief Economist.

She is the head of the IMF's research department, which publishes the World Economic Outlook report every quarter, which contains the closely followed GDP growth estimates.

"Gita's contribution to the Fund and our membership has been truly remarkable -quite simply, her impact on the IMF's work has been tremendous," Georgieva said. "She made history as the first female Chief Economist of the Fund and we benefitted immensely from her sharp intellect and deep knowledge of international finance and macroeconomics as we navigate through the worst economic crisis since the Great Depression."

According to the IMF, Gopinath co-authored the Pandemic Paper on how to end the Covid-19 pandemic, which established universally recognized objectives for vaccination the world, as one of her major achievements.

She is the third woman to hold a tenured post in Harvard's prestigious economics department, and the first Indian to do so since Nobel Laureate Amartya Sen.

Gopinath has been widely published in top economics journals and has received numerous honors, including election as a fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.

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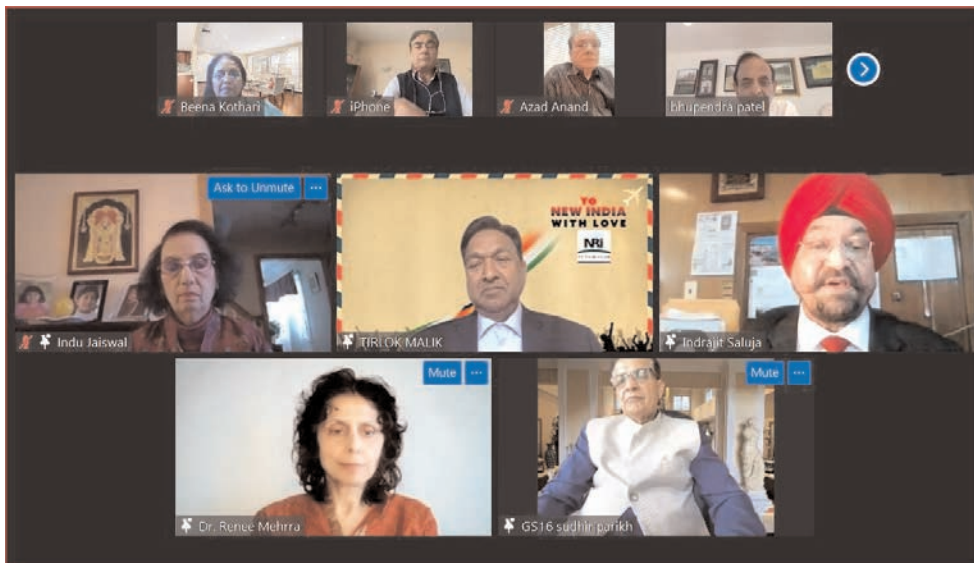
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Emmy - nominated Tirlok Malik's motivational short film 'To New India with Love' Screened

THE INDIAN PANORAMA AND INDIAN AMERICAN FORUM HOST A PANEL DISCUSSION ON THE FILM



NEW YORK (TIP): The Indian Panorama and the Indian American Forum, on October 17, hosted a panel discussion, virtually on Zoom, on the Emmy-nominated Indian-American filmmaker Tirlok Malik's new short film 'To New India with Love,' which was also screened on the occasion.

The short film examines the subject of youth aspirations. 'To New India with Love' is a non-commercial venture, produced with a public-service spirit, appealing broadly to Indians worldwide. It is presented by Padma Shri Dr Sudhir Parikh. The screenplay and dialogues are written by Murtaza Ali Khan and Rakesh Zharotia is the film's editor and assistant director.

While beginning the proceedings for the day, Indu Jaiswal, Chairperson, Indian American Forum introduced the moderators and the panelists while welcoming the guests and underlining

the agenda of the event. She congratulated Tirlok Malik on the success of 'To New India with Love' which has been praised worldwide by audience and critics alike for his inspiring and empowering message to the youth of India.

The panel discussion was moderated by Prof. Indrajit S. Saluja, Chief Editor, The Indian Panorama and Dr. Renee Mehrra, a celebrated TV anchor. While congratulating Tirlok Malik on his latest film, Prof. Saluja reflected upon the overwhelming love for India that each and every film of Malik oozes with. Dr. Mehrra praised the film's message and its relevance.

The panelists included Padma Shri Dr. Sudhir Parikh, Tirlok Malik, Dr. Azad Anand, Dr. Bhupi Patel, Dr. Urmilash Arya, Shashi Malik, and Animesh Goenka. Each of them praised the film's subject and its timely message. Sudhir Vaishnav, Neeta Bhasin, Anju Sharma,

Lal Motwani, and Andy Bhatia who were also present on the occasion appreciated the film while sharing their views about Malik's remarkable contribution as a filmmaker over the last three decades. Pam Kwatra, Jyoti Gupta, Chitrnanjan Sahay Belwariar, and Anurag Sharma were also present.

Murtaza Ali Khan who wrote the film's screenplay and dialogues also joined the discussion and gave his comment.

Talking about his association with the film, Dr. Sudhir Parikh praised the film's inspiring message. While highlighting the positive changes that have taken place in India over the last five decades, he reminded that the India of today is very different from when he first came to the US. He asserted that the Indian youth today has so many opportunities while touching upon the new initiatives of the present Indian government which have been instrumental in empowering the youth.

Sharing the vision behind the film, Tirlok Malik said that the film aims to inspire the youth of India to not give up on their dreams. Even if someone doesn't have the means to realize his/her dreams, he/she can achieve success through their hard work and determination. My film 'To New India with Love' is an inspiring and motivational film that gives a message of hope to the youth to pursue their dreams.

Tirlok Malik is best known for making films about Indian immigrants in the US, starting with his pioneering work, 'Lonely in America,' which was shown in 74 countries and as well as on HBO and participated in 37 film festivals, winning several awards. He subsequently made films such as 'Love Lust and Marriage,' 'Khushiyaan,' and 'On Golden Years'. He has also acted in films like 'Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar,' 'Lajja,' 'Vettaiyaadu Vilaiyaadu,' 'Ta Ra Rum Pum,' 'Sivaji: The Boss,' and 'Mehbooba,' among others.

CRY AMERICA LENDING A HELPING HAND TO VULNERABLE CHILDREN DURING THE PANDEMIC

NEW YORK (TIP): CRY, Child Rights & You America [CRY America] is a 501c3 non-profit working towards ensuring children their rights to education, healthcare, nutrition and protection from child labor, marriage and discrimination. The COVID pandemic has taken a devastating toll on underprivileged children and their families. There has been a sharp increase in child labor, child marriage and trafficking of children due to school closures and loss of parental work. CRY America needs the support of donors now more than ever to ensure that children are protected, enrolled back in school and receive lifesaving services.

CRY America is grateful to our child rights champions Patrick Bocco, Edward Remias and Shelley Das for undertaking a tremendous show of support for children through a 100k/50k Bike4Kids on Sunday, October 24, 2021 at 10.30am EST. The Bike4Kids aims to raise awareness and critical funds for children's rights. Patrick will be biking 100K at the Columbia Trail, New Jersey, while Edward & Shelley will be biking 50K at Pacific Highway 101, San Diego.

Patrick Bocco asks people to help him reach his \$20K



Patrick and Edward

goal. He says, "If you are like me and feel children should have a childhood and be in school and protected from child labor, abuse and exploitation, then please help me make lasting change in the lives of these kids!" Edward Remias believes that "There is no better joy than seeing a child have a childhood! I am committed and motivated to do what I can for that! This time it is burning my quads as I conquer 50K on my bike! Because I can!"

We wish Patrick, Edward & Shelley great success for

their Bike4Kids and thank them for their ongoing commitment to the cause of children! If you'd like to support their efforts through a donation, pls visit:

Patrick's fundraising page:
<https://events.cryamerica.org/events/patrickboccas100kike4kids2021/>

Edward's fundraising page:
<https://events.cryamerica.org/campaigns/sandiegocryvirtualwalkforchildrights20212021-edward-remias/>

About CRY America:

CRY - Child Rights and You America Inc. (CRY America) is a 501c3 registered non-profit that is driven by its vision of a just world in which all children have equal opportunities to develop to their full potential and realize their dreams. With the support of over 25,000 donors and 2,000 volunteers, CRY America has impacted the lives of 752,172 children living across 4,027 villages and slums through support to 90 Projects in India and USA. All donations to CRY America are tax deductible. For more information, please contact CRY America Director of Fundraising, Patrick Bocco, at (617) 959-1273 or patrick.bocco@cryamerica.org (Press Release)

AS I SEE IT

Farmers need assured price for sustenance



BY DEVINDER SHARMA

"THERE IS ENOUGH EVIDENCE TO SHOW HOW FREE MARKETS HAVE DEVASTATED FARMING ACROSS THE GLOBE. THIS HAS TO CHANGE. IT CAN ONLY HAPPEN WHEN WE BEGIN TO TREAT FARMERS NOT SIMPLY AS THE PRIMARY PRODUCER BUT ALSO AS WEALTH CREATORS AND ENSURE THEIR CONTRIBUTION IN WEALTH GENERATION IS ADEQUATELY COMPENSATED. TO SUSTAIN BILLIONS OF FARM LIVELIHOODS ACROSS THE GLOBE, AND TO CELEBRATE THE ROLE FARMERS PLAY IN WEALTH CREATION, A BEGINNING HAS TO BE MADE BY GUARANTEEING AN ASSURED AND PROFITABLE PRICE FOR FARMERS."

We all know it by now. Agriculture was the savior during the gloomy days of the pandemic. Not only that, an individual household got its regular supply of food during the lockdown, and those who could not afford were supplied with free rations, but agriculture also kept the wheels of economy moving. At a time when the economy had slipped by 23.9 per cent in the first quarter of the 2020 financial year, agriculture was the only bright spot, registering a gross value added (GVA) growth of 3.4 per cent.

All through the year, agriculture provided a solid foundation. Despite the Covid-19 disruptions, and at a time when all other sectors of the economy were struggling, desperately counting the emerging green shoots, the country achieved a record foodgrain production of 308.65 million tons. The bumper harvest reaped in 2020-21 was higher by 11.15 million tons over what was achieved in the previous year. In addition, the country also produced 329.9 million tons of fruits, vegetables and aromatic and plantation crops, including spices: around 204 million tons of milk, and 36.10 million tons of oilseeds.



Inequality: Agriculture has been the mainstay of economy, but the lot of farmers has not improved accordingly. - File photo

Simply put, farmers produced economic wealth for the country. Not only during the pandemic, but what needs to be appreciated is that year after year, farmers have toiled hard to bring food to our table. From a stage when India was living in a 'ship-to-mouth' existence, and that was not too far distant in the mid-1960s, the role Indian farmers have played in turning the country self-sufficient in food is widely recognized. Agriculture has taken a quantum jump, increasing food production six times in seven decades, between 1950-51 and 2020-21.

A vibrant agriculture is what sustains a growing economy. But to believe that economic growth alone can address issues of hunger and malnutrition is nothing short of delusion. As the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) itself acknowledges that 'economic growth is necessary but not sufficient to accelerate reduction in hunger and malnutrition', a study published in the scientific journal The Lancet shows a reduction in malnutrition by a maximum of 6 per cent even if the economic growth soars by 10 per cent. On the contrary, a well-fed nation builds up an efficient and productive manpower which is required to attain a higher economic growth.

Since 1950-51, if measured in terms of population growth, four times more Indians have been added. From 359 million in 1950-51, the country's population has multiplied roughly four times to 1.4 billion. Agriculture not only kept pace, defying the predictions of the Malthusian catastrophe, but has also produced an unmanageable surplus. Not only producing enough to feed the nation, the rise in the per capita availability of foodgrains, fruits, vegetables and milk also helped in meeting the challenges of malnutrition and hidden hunger. That hunger still

persists in some parts of the country is not because of any shortfall in food production but is the outcome of the twin problems of access and distribution.

If growth and prosperity are the central theme of Adam Smith's seminal work, an inquiry into the nature and cause of the Wealth of Nations, it has to be accepted that the remarkable transition in Indian agriculture is what has essentially not only added but led to the wealth of the nation. Though India is the world's second largest producer of essential foods like wheat, rice, fruits, vegetables and crops like cotton and groundnut and the largest producer of milk, jute and pulses, the long strides taken by the farmers to shatter all records, however, have not translated into higher incomes. Growth, in this case, has not led to prosperity on the farm.

The invisible hand that Adam Smith talked about has actually failed to provide living incomes for farmers, not only in India, but across the globe. One doesn't need to apply sophisticated economic models to find out how farm incomes have actually been squeezed over the years, and how free markets have sucked income from farmers. Instead, as the citation for this year's Nobel Prize in Economics admits: "Conclusions about cause and effect can be drawn from natural experiments." Agreeing, I feel there is no need for economists to hold econometrics studies when conclusions can be drawn easily from the available evidences.

The FAO has estimated India's gross value of crop production in 2018 (report released in March 2021) at \$289,802,032 million, and that of gross food production at \$400,722,025 million. When it comes to the gross value of agricultural production at current prices, India stands second in the world,

THOUGH INDIA IS THE SECOND LARGEST PRODUCER IN THE WORLD OF ESSENTIAL FOODS LIKE WHEAT, RICE, FRUITS, VEGETABLES AND CROPS LIKE COTTON AND GROUNDNUT AND THE LARGEST PRODUCER OF MILK, JUTE AND PULSES, THE LONG STRIDES TAKEN BY THE FARMERS, HOWEVER, HAVE NOT TRANSLATED INTO HIGHER INCOMES. GROWTH, IN THIS CASE, HAS NOT LED TO PROSPERITY ON THE FARM. THE INVISIBLE HAND THAT ADAM SMITH TALKED ABOUT HAS ACTUALLY FAILED TO PROVIDE LIVING INCOMES FOR FARMERS, NOT ONLY IN INDIA, BUT ACROSS THE GLOBE.

next to China, with a gross value of \$418,541,343 million. Now before you get lost in the maze of production statistics, what is important to ascertain here is the enormous economic wealth that farmers produce and eventually what the agriculture sector generates. In other words, farmers too are wealth creators.

It, therefore, requires a change in economic thinking, which has traditionally banked on the assumption that only businesses - small and big - are wealth creators. The obscene wealth inequality that prevails is the result of this outdated economic thinking. Otherwise, I see no reason why at a time when the gross value of agricultural production since 1999 has grown at an average annual rate of 8.25 per cent, farmers should be at the bottom of the ladder. In America, the share of a farmer in every food dollar in 2018 has plummeted to just eight per cent. In India, the latest Situation Assessment Survey for agricultural households computes income from crop cultivation at only Rs 27 per day.

There is enough evidence to show how free markets have devastated farming across the globe. This has to change. It can only happen when we begin to treat farmers not simply as the primary producer but also as wealth creators and ensure their contribution in wealth generation is adequately compensated. To sustain billions of farm livelihoods across the globe, and to celebrate the role farmers play in wealth creation, a beginning has to be made by guaranteeing an assured and profitable price for farmers.

(The author is a food & agriculture specialist)

In the cross hairs, civilians and Kashmiri harmony



BY RADHA KUMAR

"THE KASHMIRI PANDIT TRAGEDY HAS CONTINUED FOR 30 YEARS NOW, AND LIKE ALL COMPOUNDED TRAGEDIES REQUIRES A RANGE OF ACTIONS, FROM SECURITY TO JUSTICE TO RECONCILIATION. BEGINNING WITH SECURITY, WHICH IS THE FIRST REQUIREMENT TO ENABLE JUSTICE AND RECONCILIATION TO FOLLOW, IT IS A MISTAKE TO IMAGINE THAT GATED ENCLAVES ALONE WILL PROVIDE IT, OR EVEN THAT STEPPED-UP COUNTER-INSURGENCY OPERATIONS WILL MINIMIZE THE RISK. EACH MEASURE IS USEFUL IF ACCOMPANIED BY COMMUNITY SUPPORT, BUT NEITHER IS A SOLUTION TO THE SECURITY DILEMMA BY ITSELF."

Over the past two weeks, more than 11 civilians and nine Army troops have been killed by militants in the Kashmir Valley. Most of the targeted civilians have been Hindus, though there have also been Muslims, and a Sikh. The Hindus killed include Kashmiri Pandits and migrant labor.

Wave of fear, insecurity

The immediate reaction to these killings has been a flight of Pandits who had returned to the Valley under the 2006 Prime Minister's programme for the return and rehabilitation of migrants, which offered jobs in the Valley to Pandit teachers. Pandit organizations say that as many as a third of the returnees have left; even those of the 800 families that stayed through the insurgency years have begun to leave. Though Kashmiri political parties and civil society, as well as Lieutenant-Governor Manoj Sinha's administration, have pleaded with them to stay, their pleas are unconvincing given the very real insecurity created by the killings.

The plight of migrant labor is equally grave. Most are attempting to leave the Valley and return to their home States. The administration has ordered that those who are not able to immediately return be sheltered in police stations and guarded camps. In other words, like refugees. Whether they will then be aided to return to their homes remains to be seen; likely they will.

These two groups are not alone in wishing to flee. A fresh wave of fear has gripped the Valley, with most residents fearing they may be caught between the militants and the administration. Allegedly, over 700 people have been taken into detention by the police, under suspicion of supporting militancy. Meantime, according to intelligence agencies, potential militant targets include religious leaders, punches and the media.

It was widely anticipated that Pakistani armed groups would be emboldened to revive cross-border

infiltration following the Taliban's takeover in Afghanistan. Now it seems that their strategy repeats elements of the insurgency of the 1990s. As happened then, the insurgency was prefigured by attacks on Pandits who were seen by Islamist militants as an arm of India because they were Hindus, and Muslims who worked in the State administration or central Indian agencies such as Door darshan.

Attacks and the aim

The attacks were intended to both communalize the Valley and paralyze its administration, and over time succeeded in doing so, albeit only partially. The Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee's ceasefire negotiations with cross-border armed groups in 2000 were shattered by the killing of over 100 Bihari laborers, but the years of peace building that followed, from 2002-2014, restored a large degree of administration and created conditions for the return of Pandits - sadly at far too gradual a pace - and of migrant labor.

Whether cross-border and local militant groups succeed in once again communalizing the Valley is debatable. Much depends on the policy the Union administration adopts in response.

There are two quite separate issues involved: one, reassuring the minorities in Kashmir as well as the wider public of the Valley; two, a rethink on counter-insurgency strategy, including its cross-border tentacles.

Some reassurance

Hearteningly, every single opinion group in Kashmir has condemned the killings. Mosques have broadcast their criticism. Kashmiri political parties have voiced their opposition to such militancy, as have political leaders, including the Hurriyat and Mirwaiz Umar Farooq. Civil society groups have issued statements of protest. Local community leaders and neighbors have visited Pandit homes to offer aid and support. This wave at the ground level can provide a strong base for reassurance, if encouraged.

Encouragement can begin with the Lieutenant-Governor. Thus far, Mr. Sinha's administration does not appear to have consulted either the Kashmiri Pandit organizations, or the various groups that have condemned the killings, on which steps can be taken to restore a degree of confidence. This is surprising, given that these groups, added together, comprise a formidable cross-section of public opinion, and with their support, militancy can once again be socially marginalized, as it was during the peace-building years.

From available information, it appears that the bulk of the recent civilian killings have been carried out by what the Army calls 'hybrid militants', because they are locally recruited and trained, have regular jobs and are part-time militants using basic weapons such as country pistols. The implications are that the field of militancy has grown more dispersed, with wider public support, despite counter-insurgency successes in degrading large armed groups such as the Lashkar-e-Taiba and the Jaish-e-Mohamed. In this context, any opportunity to marginalize militancy is vital.

Setback for Kashmiri Pandits

Many have begun asking whether Kashmiri Pandits will ever be able to return to the Valley, as the Narendra Modi administration had promised in August 2019. There is no doubt that the recent civilian killings have been a major setback to prospects of return. It is also the case that Kashmiri Pandit organizations have increasingly complained of administrative neglect on returns over the past year. A recurring point that is made by some of them is that the administration, while



As a compounded tragedy, there needs to be a range of actions as solutions - from security to justice to reconciliation

focusing on returns, needs to simultaneously pay attention to securing Pandit families that never left. Their condition has worsened as their numbers have shrunk; though less covered by the media, the same problem has begun to affect the Sikh minority too, whose numbers have shrunk over the past decade-plus.

The Kashmiri Pandit tragedy has continued for 30 years now, and like all compounded tragedies requires a range of actions, from security to justice to reconciliation. Beginning with security, which is the first requirement to enable justice and reconciliation to follow, it is a mistake to imagine that gated enclaves alone will provide it, or even that stepped-up counter-insurgency operations will minimize the risk. Each measure is useful if accompanied by community support, but neither is a solution to the security dilemma by itself. True, targeted killings will only cease when insurgency does. But peace-making combined with counter-insurgency has proved more efficient in ending insurgency in democratic countries than counter-insurgency alone, in our own experience as well as across the world. Thus far, the Union administration has not held out any olive branches; on the contrary, its implementation of the August 2019 decisions has added one cause for resentment after another, the latest being the multiple use of Article 311(2) to dismiss government employees without an enquiry or hearing. A policy for Pandit property recovery that had not been thought through did not help either; apparently it has now been corrected.

Political science and sociology both tell us that an insecure majority is unlikely to protect vulnerable minorities; it is focused on its own survival. The arrest of over 700 people in the aftermath of the recent civilian killings has added to the majority's sense of insecurity, because it raises questions about why police intelligence has not narrowed the field of suspects as should, surely, be professionally required.

Approach to Pakistan

The Narendra Modi administration appears to have adopted a multi-pronged approach to Pakistan recently, beginning with a ceasefire and extending to an invitation to the Pakistani National Security Adviser for a regional meeting on Afghanistan, while giving the Army a free hand on cross-border infiltration. Why then is it not adopting a similarly multi-pronged approach in the Valley, where civil and human rights remain severely restricted and the administration lacks the transparency that oversight and grievance-redress commissions provided? Without overall civil and human rights, how can minority rights be protected or minority returns be encouraged?

(The author is a writer and policy analyst)

Chinks in Yogi's armor ahead of UP polls



BY ARATI R JERATH

"FOR THREE CONSECUTIVE ELECTIONS SINCE 2014, THE BJP HAS MANAGED TO PROVE THAT MUSLIMS CAN BE MADE IRRELEVANT TO UP'S ELECTORAL PARADIGM IF HINDUS RISE ABOVE CASTE DIFFERENCES AND VOTE AS A BLOC. IT STITCHED TOGETHER A FORMIDABLE COALITION OF HINDU SOCIAL GROUPS CONSISTING OF UPPER CASTES, NON-YADAV BACKWARD CASTES AND NON-JATAV DALITS TO WIN SWEEPING VICTORIES IN THE LOK SABHA POLLS OF 2014 AND 2019 AND THE ASSEMBLY POLLS OF 2017."

If there were any doubts about the BJP strategy for next year's UP Assembly polls, RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat cleared the air in his annual Dasehra address. He set the stage for a polarized campaign by stoking Hindu insecurities about the minorities and flagging communally sensitive issues.

He highlighted two measures which are likely to form prominent themes of the ground-level campaign. One is the compilation of a national register of citizens. The other is a population control law, which is already in circulation in UP in the form of a draft Bill. Bhagwat said that both are necessary to check the "vast differences in growth rates of different religious groups, infiltration and conversion resulting in religious imbalance of the population ratio, especially in border areas."

These are dog whistles to unite Hindus by invoking fears of being outnumbered by "others". In the context of UP, the "others" are Muslims who constitute an estimated 19.3 per cent of the state



Battleground: The Lakhimpur Kheri tragedy has heightened tensions between the farming community and the BJP. - Photo / PTI

population and can influence the electoral outcomes in roughly 130 of the 403 Assembly constituencies.

It is hardly surprising that Bhagwat used his Dasehra address for a political speech, laying out a majoritarian agenda for the UP polls. A tough battle lies ahead, with the BJP fighting to win a second term amid widespread public disaffection which has given rise to fears that its carefully crafted rainbow caste coalition is unravelling.

Yet, it's an election the BJP must win at all costs, not just because of UP's clout in terms of the Lok Sabha numbers but also because the Sangh Parivar hopes to replicate its successful Hindutva experiment in Gujarat in this populous heartland state which is home to important Islamic centers of theology and has large, concentrated pockets of Muslims.

For three consecutive elections since 2014, the BJP has managed to prove that Muslims can be made irrelevant to UP's electoral paradigm if Hindus rise above caste differences and vote as a bloc. It stitched together a formidable coalition of Hindu social groups consisting of upper castes, non-Yadav backward castes and non-Jatav Dalits to win sweeping victories in the Lok Sabha polls of 2014 and 2019 and the Assembly polls of 2017.

Much water has flowed under the bridge since 2019, giving rise to deepening concern that this winning Hindu alliance may be coming apart as the 2022 polls approach. Four groups are a major source of worry for the BJP-RSS. One is the lower backward castes. They were a new catch in 2014 and have been a pillar of the BJP's support base in UP since.

Today, they seem to be drifting away for a variety of reasons. For instance,

this section has been the worst affected by the increasing joblessness in a Covid-afflicted listless economy. It has also been hit the hardest by the pandemic which raged through UP villages that were ill equipped to handle medical emergencies.

Pictures of bodies being washed up on the banks of the Ganga during the second wave continue to haunt as do photographs of mass cremations in open fields and on city pavements because overflowing crematoriums were hard pressed to offer a dignified farewell to the dead.

A second worry is the Jats whose unstinted support since the 2013 communal violence in Muzaffarnagar has ensured the BJP's domination of western UP. This support appears to be wavering because of the controversial farm laws. Rakesh Tikait, who hails from Muzaffarnagar and is the son of the late founder of the Bharatiya Kisan Union, Mahendra Singh Tikait, is at the forefront of the farmers' agitation. He has managed to mend fences between his community and the Muslims of western UP and in panchayat after mahapanchayat, farmers have vowed to defeat the BJP in 2022.

The recent tragedy at Lakhimpur Kheri, where four Jat Sikh farmers were mowed down by a vehicle belonging to union minister Ajay Mishra's son has only heightened tensions between the farming community and the BJP.

The alienation of non-Jatav Dalit groups is a third factor to contend with. Communities like the Passis and Koris have been committed voters, but there are signs that they too are doing a rethink because of a spurt in clashes and tensions between Scheduled Caste groups and UP Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath's Thakur clan.

RAKESH TIKAIT, WHO HAILS FROM MUZAFFARNAGAR AND IS THE SON OF THE LATE FOUNDER OF THE BKU, MAHENDRA SINGH TIKAIT, IS AT THE FOREFRONT OF THE FARMERS' AGITATION. HE HAS MANAGED TO MEND FENCES BETWEEN HIS COMMUNITY AND THE MUSLIMS OF WESTERN UP AND IN PANCHAYAT AFTER MAHAPANCHAYAT, FARMERS HAVE VOWED TO DEFEAT THE BJP IN 2022.

In fact, the Yogi administration is seen as a return to Thakurvad. A Thakur-packed police force running riot in the state amid frequent reports of fake encounters and harassment of ordinary businessmen has served to reaffirm this perception. And, Yogi has done little to dispel it by continuing to protect Thakur police officers accused of various misdeeds.

From this flows the fourth reason for anxiety: a perceptible disenchantment among Brahmins who have been core supporters of the BJP ever since the Ram Janmabhoomi movement was launched in the late 1980s. Although community members still dominate the administration, the free run given to a police force dominated by Thakurs has upset Brahmins used to controlling all the levers of power.

The clouds darkening the electoral landscape leave the BJP with little choice but to follow Bhagwat's prescription for a polarized campaign. The writing was on the wall when Yogi Adityanath won the tussle with the Modi-Shah duo some months ago and stayed on as UP CM. It is no secret that the top brass in Delhi wanted him out, or at least have his wings clipped by the induction of a former bureaucrat loyal to Modi.

Yogi triumphed thanks to the backing of the RSS which had decided as early as then that Hindutva would form the main campaign plank in UP. And who better to do the job than a saffron-clad monk whose claim to being a Hindu icon almost rivals that of Modi?

It is significant that after Bhagwat's prod, Modi wove Hindu imagery into his speech at Kushinagar while inaugurating the first international airport in the region. The Opposition will have to think out of the box to counter what promises to be a high-pitched divisive campaign.

(The author is a Political Commentator)



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Biden may address filibuster reform soon

WASHINGTON (TIP): The White House on October 22 offered a strong signal that it is preparing to seek changes soon to a long-standing Senate tradition that has allowed Republicans to block voting rights legislation and other major Democratic initiatives, according to Reuters.

Democratic President Joe Biden, who spent 36 years in the Senate, has previously opposed any significant overhaul of a Senate rule known as the filibuster, which requires 60 of the 100 senators to agree on most legislation.

His opposition has angered Democrats and activists who say an arcane rule should not stand in the way of important issues such as voting rights and immigration.

"I expect you'll hear more from the president about it in the coming weeks," White House spokesperson Jen Psaki told reporters on Friday, October 22, about the filibuster. Asked what more he would want to address with filibuster reform beyond voting rights, Psaki said to "stay tuned."

During a televised town hall event on Thursday, October 21, Biden said the Senate should



During a televised town hall event on Thursday, October 21, Biden said the Senate should "fundamentally alter" the filibuster process but did not offer specifics on how.

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The White House's potential shift on the issue comes

after the latest successful effort by Republicans to block Democratic legislation aimed at thwarting restrictive new voting laws enacted in Republican-led states. On Wednesday, Republicans used the filibuster to block beginning a debate on the measure.

When Republicans control the White House and the Senate, Democrats have used the filibuster as well.

Psaki suggested Biden had lost patience with Republican resistance to Democrats' ideas on voting rights, saying the president is "frustrated" and "disappointed."

"When a hand has been extended by Democrats to work together to protect the fundamental right, Republicans have not only recoiled, but they have also blocked the ... ability to make any semblance of progress," Psaki said.

While Democrats are united on voting rights, they are not unified in whether to overhaul the filibuster. U.S. Senator Joe Manchin, a moderate Democrat from West Virginia, has publicly opposed eliminating the filibuster, even for specific issues.

With a 50-50 split in the Senate, Democrats would need all of its members to support changes.

IRS, SECURITY SUMMIT PARTNERS REMIND FAMILIES TO MAKE ONLINE SAFETY A PRIORITY DURING NATIONAL CYBER SECURITY MONTH



Department of the Treasury
Internal Revenue Service

WASHINGTON(TIP): The Internal Revenue Service, on October 22, reminded families, teens and senior citizens about the continued importance of protecting personal and financial information (.pdf) online. Although the IRS and its Security Summit partners continue making strides in fighting identity theft and fraudulent tax returns, help is needed.

The Security Summit works to protect taxpayers from criminals that file fraudulent returns for refunds. The Summit coalition includes representatives of the software industry, tax preparation firms, payroll and tax financial product processors as well as state tax administrators and the IRS, which work together year-round to protect taxpayers.

During National Cybersecurity Month, the IRS is asking parents, families and others to be mindful of the pitfalls that can be found by sharing devices at home, shopping online and through navigating various social media platforms. Often, those who are less experienced can put themselves and others at risk by leaving an unnecessary trail of personal information for fraudsters.

Staying safe online

Here are a few common-sense suggestions that can make a difference for children, teens and other vulnerable groups to potential dangers to protect their personal data:

Teach them to recognize and avoid scams. Phishing emails, threatening phone calls and texts from thieves posing as the IRS or legitimate organizations pose ongoing risks. Do not click on links or download attachments from unknown or suspicious emails.

Remind them why security is important. Be careful not to reveal too much personal information. Keeping data secure and only providing what is necessary minimizes online exposure to scammers and criminals. Birthdates, addresses, age, financial information such as bank account and Social Security numbers are among things that should not be shared freely.

Teach them about public Wi-Fi networks. Connection to Wi-Fi in a mall or coffee shop is convenient but it may not be safe. Hackers and cybercriminals can easily intercept personal information. Always use a virtual private network when connecting to public Wi-Fi.

Always use security software with firewall and anti-virus protections. Make sure the security software is always turned on and can automatically update. Remember, to encrypt sensitive files such as tax records stored on computers. Be sure all family members have comprehensive protection especially if devices are being shared. Use strong, unique passwords for each account.

Remember, the IRS does not use text messages or social media to discuss personal tax issues, such as those involving tax refunds, stimulus payments or tax bills. For more information, visit the Tax Scams and Consumer Alerts page on IRS.gov. Additional information about tax scams is also available on IRS social media sites, including YouTube videos. Also see Publication 4524, Security Awareness for Taxpayers (.pdf). (Press Release)

A Revolt against Vaccine: Police in crime-hit Chicago oppose Vaccine mandate

CHICAGO (TIP): A standoff in Chicago, where the head of the city's largest police union is urging officers to defy a vaccine mandate, is the latest battle line being drawn in a nationwide fight over Covid-19 jabs, a BBC report said.

Chicago, a city of nearly three million people, has seen more than 1,600 sexual assaults, nearly 3,000 shootings and 649 murders this year - a 14% increase over last.

Just as violent crimes have risen, though, thousands of the city's police force may not show up to work.

Officers are weighing whether to resist a mayoral mandate requiring all public employees to report their vaccine status. City employees must now show proof of vaccination or submit to bi-weekly testing, unless approved for a religious or medical exemption. By the end of this year, all employees must be vaccinated.

Nearly one-third of Chicago's almost 13,000-member police department have so far refused to register their vaccination status, putting them on track for dismissal.

Twenty-one have been officially removed from active duty so far, but some officials have warned that the mandate could leave Chicago's police force dangerously depleted.

During a CNN town hall on Thursday, October 21 night, President Joe Biden said US emergency responders who defy vaccine mandates should be fired.

Chicago is not alone in facing this problem. Police departments across the US have been stymied in their efforts to coax officers into getting vaccinated against Covid-19 - now the leading cause of death for police in the US, according to the Officer Down Memorial Page, a non-profit that tracks police officer deaths.

In the decade before the Covid-19 pandemic, an average of 166 US police officers died in the line of duty each year, according to the non-profit. Last year, 374 officers died - 245 of them due to Covid-19, more than any other cause combined.

"This virus is no different than the gunfire



Nearly one-third of Chicago's almost 13,000-member police department have so far refused to register their vaccination status, putting them on track for dismissal.

we take as cops," Chicago police superintendent David Brown said on Tuesday. "I will do everything I can and I will say anything I need to in order to convince officers to do everything they can to save their lives."

Yet vaccination rates among officers have mostly lagged behind the general public.

"It's hard to understand," said Art Acevedo, who has served as chief of police in Miami, Houston and Austin, of vaccine hesitancy among police. "You'd think we'd be closer to 100% vaccination."

Mr Acevedo said he has urged reluctant officers to use their training and "look at the data".

"Every living president on both sides of the aisle has been vaccinated," he said. "In my business, we call that a clue."

Mr Acevedo attributed the resistance to a mistrust in government. Others have expressed irritation with what they see as government overreach, as well as skepticism of the vaccines' safety.

In Chicago, the head of the city's largest police union John Catanzara has called on its some 11,000 members to defy the city's requirement to report their vaccination status. "It is the city's clear attempt to force officers to 'Chicken Little, the sky is falling' into compliance," he said last week. "Do not fall for it. Hold the line."

Read full story at
www.theindianpanorama.news

Indian American scientist gets Lifetime Achievement Award

NEW YORK (TIP): Indian American scientist Dr Vivek Lall was presented with the Lifetime Achievement Award at Ritossa Family Summits in Dubai recently.

"Your Lifetime Achievement Award is well-deserved and I congratulate you on your many accomplishments, which are making our world a much better place. I look forward to hearing more as you continue to make waves around the world through your incredible work," said Sir Anthony Ritossa during the award presentation ceremony.

Dr Lall, who is known for playing a key role in enhancing India-US defense

trade and instrumental in some of the top deals between the two countries was presented with the award in recognition of his "outstanding vision, dedication and success," a media release said.

The award was given to Dr Lall in the presence of UAE Minister of State for Foreign Trade Dr Thani bin Ahmed Al Zeyoudi.

Also present on the occasion were the emerging young business tycoon Sheikh Mohamed Bin Ahmed Bin Hamdan Al Nahyan, a member of the ruling family of the United Arab Emirates and princess Märtha Louise, daughter of King Harald and Queen Sonja of

Norway.

Ritossa Family Summits is the world's leading family office investment conference, where world leaders and elite family office investors unite together to invest and create a brighter future.

The event was attended by influential world leaders.

Over 400 elite family offices, prominent conglomerate business owners, Sheikhs, royal families, private investment companies, sovereign wealth funds and industry professionals representing over USD4.5 trillion in investor wealth attended the event.



Dr. Vivek Lall was presented with the Lifetime Achievement Award at Ritossa Family Summits in Dubai - File photo

Indian-American Congressman honors Jain poet and philosopher Shrimad Rajchandraji

WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP): Indian-American Congressman Raja Krishnamoorthi has honored the life of the remarkable Jain poet, scholar, religious leader and philosopher Shrimad Rajchandraji in the House of Representatives.

Krishnamoorthi, in his remarks to the House of Representatives on Wednesday, acknowledged the many writings, in particular his poetic spiritual masterpiece, Atmasiddhi Shastra.

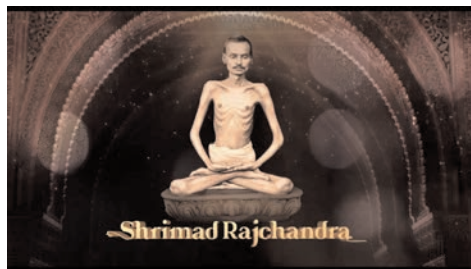
"Born in 1867 in the Indian port city of Vavania (in Gujarat), Rajchandraji was drawn to a religious life from an early age. His spiritual odyssey led him to Jainism and its core belief of ahimsa or non-violence (the ethical principal of not causing harm to other living beings)," he said.

Rajchandraji scaled great spiritual heights and demystified the path to self-discovery in an effortless manner relevant to the contemporary social environment, he said.

"Even in a short life of 34 years, Rajchandraji gave the world a rich heritage that continues to guide generations of seekers. His life and works have been compiled and published in a volume titled Shrimad Rajchandra, the contents of which are an inspiration to turn within and discover life's eternal truths," the Congressman said.

In his early spiritual and philosophical writings, Rajchandraji wrote about the importance of women's education and the practices that cultivate the essential mindset of non-attachment and authored many commentaries on spirituality and Jain religious beliefs.

"Rajchandraji was a visionary who laid the foundations of Jain spirituality for a new era. He composed Atmasiddhi Shastra in the late 19th century to present the six spiritual truths and the path to self-realization. The poem is revered by many seekers as a masterpiece of spiritual



Jain poet, scholar, religious leader and philosopher Shrimad Rajchandraji

enlightenment and guidance," Krishnamoorthi said.

In 1891, Rajchandraji was introduced to a young Indian lawyer named Mohandas Gandhi, he said, adding that this encounter led to a long friendship and mentorship between Rajchandraji and the future father of modern India.

In his autobiography, Gandhi paid homage to his spiritual mentor by noting that 'in my moments of spiritual crisis, Shrimad Ji was my refuge'.

"Madam Speaker, I also take this opportunity to commend Pujya Gurudevshri Rakeshji, spiritual visionary and global humanitarian leader, who has devoted his life to sharing the wisdom of Shrimad Rajchandraji through the work of the Shrimad Rajchandra Mission Dharampur," he said.

Krishnamoorthi said that Rakeshji's impact in fostering peace and serving society, aligned with Rajchandraji's philosophy, has been recognized by various prestigious forums and contemporary spiritual leaders globally.

"Madam Speaker, I want to recognize Shrimad Rajchandra Ji's teachings on the importance of non-violence, truth and peace, which are as relevant today as they were to Mahatma Gandhi over a century ago, and the guidance and comfort provided to his devotees by the epic masterpiece, Atmasiddhi Shastra," Krishnamoorthi added.

American Association of Physicians of Indian-origin's women's panel hosts conference on domestic violence

NEW YORK (TIP): Domestic violence is "a serious public health concern," said Dr. Anupama Gotimukula, president of the Association of Physicians of Indian Origin (AAPI). Delivering welcome speech at a virtual conference on "Ways to Prevent Domestic Violence," hosted by AAPI's Women's Committee on October 17, she pointed out that nearly "one in four women and one in seven men in the U.S. have experienced physical violence at the hands of their domestic partners."

The AAPI president said the conference, which was addressed by a number of prominent speakers from the United States and India addressed the conference, was "aimed at helping" her organization's members "and the larger society to learn on ways to help promote healthy, respectful and nonviolent relationships."

"October is 'Domestic Violence Awareness' month," said Dr. Seema Arora, chair of the Women's Committee. "AAPI women's physicians committee is trying to increase awareness towards this very prevalent but subdued age-old problem that can affect any gender, race, region & socio-economic strata in a panel discussion with renowned panelists from around the world," she said.

Lata Rao, a domestic violence survivor and activist shared her experience referring briefly to her past life and its impact on her physical, emotional and mental wellbeing.

"I encourage women not to be what I went through" but to be more independent, Rao said. She told the audience how meeting with mentors and having a support system gradually changed her life, while forgiving and staying positive helped me start a new phase in her life. "Today, I use my experiences as a tool to support and educate other women," she said.

Dr. Pretti Saran, another domestic



Dr. Anupama Gotimukula

violence survivor and currently practicing Family Medicine & Obesity Specialist at RNJ Barnabas Hospital, in New Jersey, also shared her experience and pointed out that domestic violence is prevalent in all parts of the world. "Coming from a very traditional society back in India, initially I thought it was happening to me because of my background," she said.

Dr. Saran said she had suffered immensely from insecurity and complications of married life with intimidation and worry for her own life since she was married to a dominating person who was demanding yet suspicious and had trust issues. She was able to turn her life around, though, and has left a positive impact on society.

Another speaker, Deanne Mazzochi, spoke about her work as a state legislator and an attorney who works with women and families in Illinois to ensure that people who are victims of domestic violence are protected. She went over the many statutes and legal systems that victims in Illinois have access to. She said that one should "ensure that you have a safe place to live," if and when you want to leave an unhealthy relationship.

(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)

India reports 16,326 fresh Covid-19 cases, daily fatalities rise to 666

India witnessed a marginal rise in its fresh cases of the coronavirus disease (Covid-19), as 16,326 people tested positive for the viral illness, taking the cumulative Covid-19 infection tally to 34,159,562, the Union ministry of health and family welfare (MoHFW) data showed on Saturday, Oct 23. Daily fatalities, however, witnessed a massive jump, rising to 666 from 231 a day ago, taking the total death count to 453,708, or 1.33 per cent of the total cases, the data showed. This huge jump in deaths is due to Kerala adding 563 fatalities to its overall toll: 99 from Friday along with 464 from the backlog, a bulletin from the state health department showed.

39 women officers get permanent commission

The Supreme Court (SC) on Friday ordered the Centre to grant permanent commission (PC) to 39 Women Short Service Commission Officers (WSSCO) in the Army within a week. A Bench led by Justice DY Chandrachud also directed the government to submit details of 25 other such officers, explaining why they were not considered and listed the matter for further hearing after Diwali vacation. The order, which came on contempt petitions filed by aggrieved WSSCOs, followed Additional Solicitor General Sanjay Jain's submission that the authorities had re-examined the case of 72 WSSCOs in compliance with court's direction and found 38 of them eligible for the grant of PC. The case of one officer was pending consideration and in all probability she will be considered too, he said.

SIT chief probing Lakhimpur Kheri violence transferred, will continue to head probe



Farmers block railway tracks as part of the Samyukt Kisan Morcha Rail Roko protest demanding the dismissal and arrest of Union Minister Ajay Mishra in connection with the October 3 violence in Lakhimpur Kheri, in Bahadurgarh on October 18, 2021. PTI file photo

LUCKNOW (TIP): The Uttar Pradesh government on Friday transferred DIG Upendra Kumar Agarwal, heading the SIT probing into the Lakhimpur Kheri violence, to Gonda but will continue to supervise the investigation.

While transferring Agarwal to Gonda from the UP PHQ, the state police headquarters made it clear that it was a routine exercise and he will continue to head the Special Investigation Team set up to probe into the October 3 Lakhimpur Kheri violence in which eight people, including four farmers, were killed.

Agarwal is a 2005-batch IPS officer of the Uttar Pradesh cadre.

As per the UP PHQ's transfer notification, five other IPS officers have been given new postings as well.

When asked about Agarwal's transfer, UP Additional Director General of Police (Law and Order) Prashant Kumar told PTI that he will continue to lead the SIT team investigating the Lakhimpur Kheri case.

Union Minister of State for Home Ajay Mishra's son Ashish Mishra was arrested by the SIT after 12 hours of grilling on October 9. Besides the minister's son, 10 others too have been arrested in this case so far.

After an intensive and extensive, nine hours of questioning, DIG Agarwal had on October 9 said Ashish Mishra has been arrested for not cooperating in the investigation and making evasive replies to police queries.

An FIR was lodged at the Tikonika police station on October 3 over the Lakhimpur Kheri violence.

Besides, Agarwal five other officers who have been transferred include Ayodhya IG Sanjeev Gupta who has been posted as IG (Law and Order) with Allahabad IG K P Singh taking over his place in the temple town.

Singh's place as Allahabad IG was taken over by Rakesh Singh.

Basti IG Anil Kumar Rai has been transferred to Central Zone's PAC with IG (Law and Order) Modak Rozas taking his place in Basti. *Source: PTI*

1 billion jabs identity of a new India: Modi

NEW DELHI (TIP): India gave a befitting reply to those questioning the country's ability to vaccinate its population against Covid-19 and surmounted the challenge posed by the pandemic by administering one billion shots in a short time, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Friday, Oct 22.

Modi also took a swipe at his opponents and said economic growth was getting a boost from rising vaccinations, a day after India administered the billionth Covid-19 shot to much fanfare.

"100 crore vaccinations are not just a figure, but a reflection of the strength of the country, it is the creation of a new chapter of history. This is a picture of a new India that sets difficult goals and knows how to achieve them," the PM said in a televised address to the nation.

He said that while other countries had the expertise, India achieved the target by basing the vaccination programme on scientific methods. "Questions were asked if Indians can cope with this pandemic, where will it get the money to purchase vaccines, will Indians get the vaccines or not, will it be able to inoculate so many to stop the (Covid-19) spread... This one billion is an answer to these questions," he added.

The billionth shot was administered on Thursday, nine months and five days after the country's Covid-19 immunisation programme kicked off on January 16. Only China has been able to administer more doses.

Shut tribunals if you cannot staff them: SC

NEW DELHI (TIP): The Union government should abolish all tribunals if the judiciary is compelled to make appointments in these bodies to keep them alive, the Supreme Court said on Friday as it reproached the Union government for creating an "imbroglio" over functioning of the tribunals and making "citizens suffer in the bargain".

A bench of justices Sanjay Kishan Kaul and MM Sundresh called it "very unfortunate" that the Supreme Court is being called on to fill vacancies in tribunals, which is the primary job of the government that has framed legislations and rules for these forums.

"The very purpose of setting up these fora is defeated by not having people to man them. Abolish the act if the government doesn't want them. We are stretching our jurisdiction to ensure they are filled. They are supposed to be filled in routine course but here is a situation where this court has to step in," the bench told additional solicitor general Aman Lekhi.

Lekhi was representing the Centre in a suo motu case registered by the top court on account of "inaction of the government" in appointing members of the consumer courts and providing adequate infrastructure.



The bench further said: "It is unfortunate that the judiciary has been called upon to do this. When you have the law, forum and rules, they should be naturally filled up. It is not a very happy situation... The very intent of the law is defeated in this process."

During the hearing, senior counsel Gopal Sankaranarayanan, assisting the bench as amicus curiae, drew the attention of the bench on the

government's enactment of Tribunal Reforms Act, 2021, in violation of the Supreme Court judgment in the Madras Bar Association case in July.

The court took note that the challenge to the 2021 law is pending before a different bench in the top court, but not before expressing its displeasure with regard to how the government brought back the very same provisions for administration of tribunals in the new law that were struck down by the Supreme Court a few months ago. "The judiciary says something; you bring back the same rule. The judiciary says it again, but you do the same thing again. You have created an imbroglio. And in the bargain, citizens are suffering. These are fora for remedies for a common man. Take consumer courts for example... the disputes there are not of very high magnitude but you have rendered them remedy-less," it said.

Lekhi replied that the government, in the consumer court matters, is not looking at taking up cudgels by making it an issue of ego or delay the appointments.

But the bench retorted: "...There is a judgement rendered but again the act brings back the same provisions." *Source: HT*



Minister for Civil Aviation Jyotiraditya Scindia.

Air bubbles to continue for some time

NEW DELHI (TIP): International air travel to and from the country will continue only under the "air-bubble" arrangement for the foreseeable future, according to Minister for Civil Aviation Jyotiraditya Scindia.

If certain routes see a spurt in demand, the government could look at increasing frequency of flights within the "air-bubble".

"Within our current air-bubble arrangement, we are scaling up. Earlier, U.K. was only 15 flights, which we have now increased to 35 flights. We are going to do this across the board. As the demand goes up, we are going to increase that [the number of flights] in the air-bubble," Mr. Scindia said at an event organized by Public Affairs Forum of India. He was responding to a question on resumption of international flights. "International travel is not governed by the Ministry of Civil Aviation alone, but also by the Ministry of Health and Family Affairs and [also depends on] other countries," Mr. Scindia said, implying that concerns over the spread of COVID-19 as well as travel restrictions by various countries were hindering India from fully opening up international travel.

Scheduled international flights were banned by the government on March 23 last year. Later that year, the government started gradually opening up the skies by entering into "air bubble" agreements with various countries, with a limited number of direct flights permitted to and from India. India now has "air bubble" tie-ups with 28 countries.

Defence ministry clears Rs 423-cr deal for US torpedoes

The Navy will strengthen its anti-submarine capability with the Defence Ministry signing a contract with the US Government for the procurement of MK 54 Torpedo and expendable (chaff and flares) at a cost of Rs 423 crore.

In April, the US Department of State had approved this Foreign Military Sale to India at an estimated cost of \$63 million. The principal contractor for the first deal is Raytheon Integrated Defense System.

Uttarakhand rain fury: 88 rescued as death toll rises to 75

DEHRADUN (TIP): The death count in Uttarakhand rose to 75 on Friday, Oct 22, as rescue workers found more bodies and also brought to safety score of stranded people after the rains that recently lashed the state.

State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) men rescued 65 trekkers, including six foreigners, stranded near Bageshwar's Pindari and Kafni glaciers. Twenty-three people were rescued from Darma Valley of Pithoragarh.

The official death toll in the state now is 68, including the five bodies of members of a team of 11 people who were trekking from Uttarakhand's Uttarkashi to Chitkul in neighbouring Himachal Pradesh.

The figure, however, does not include two others member of the Chitkul trek reported dead.

Five people feared dead in Bageshwar are also not included in the official count.

Rains battered Uttarakhand for nearly three days, beginning Sunday night, with the Kumaon division bearing the brunt of it.

An official said Kumaon suffered a loss of Rs 2,000 crore, out of Rs 7,000 crore damage statewide estimated by the Uttarakhand government.

"SDRF teams have rescued 42 tourists, including six foreigners, from Dwali near the Pindari glacier and 23 from the Kafni glacier," Bageshwar DM Vineet Kumar told PTI.

Meanwhile, two Cheetah helicopters, which were to make sorties in search of 10 members of a trekking team stranded in Sundardhunga, could not take off due to cloudy weather, he said.



Army jawan rescues a child in Tanakpur, Uttarakhand. @suryacommand via PTI

"But four members of the team have returned safe. We suspect that there may have been some casualties too. The helicopters will make another attempt early on Saturday morning in search of the missing members of the trekking team," Kumar said.

Besides, 15 people who had gone missing in Sarmool, the point of origin of the Saryu river, have also been found safe, he said.

Twenty-one tourists and two ailing locals were rescued from Darma Valley of Pithoragarh district, DM Ashish Chauhan said.

Two surviving members of a trekking team have already been rescued while the

search for two missing is on, officials in Uttarkashi said.

Kumaon Divisional Commissioner Sushil Kumar said, "Kumaon division bore the brunt of the unseasonal spell of record rains which damaged crops and property worth Rs 2,000 crore besides accounting for the highest number of deaths and large scale destruction of houses," the official said.

Fifty-nine deaths were reported from Kumaon alone with Nainital reporting the maximum 35 deaths followed by 11 in Champawat, six in Almora, one in Bageshwar and three each in Pithoragarh and Udham Singh Nagar districts.

India among 11 'countries of concern': US intel report on climate change

NEW DELHI (TIP): India is among the 11 countries which have been identified by United States intelligence agencies as 'countries of concern' with regard to climate change.

According to a US intelligence report, these 11 countries, including Afghanistan and Pakistan, are highly vulnerable in terms of their ability to prepare for and respond to environmental and societal crises caused by climate change.

A senior intelligence official told news agency Reuters that in a fresh National Intelligence Estimate report of the National Intelligence Council, the office of the director of national intelligence (ODNI) predicted that global warming will increase geopolitical tensions and risks to the United States' national security up to 2040.

The report has been released ahead of the 26th United Nations Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP26) in Glasgow.

Among the countries of concern, heat, drought and the ineffective government in Afghanistan make the situation in the war-torn country worrying, the above official said. Meanwhile, in India and the rest of South Asia, water disputes has been predicted as important geopolitical flashpoint.

The report threw light on India and China playing a critical role in determining the trajectory of temperature rise. India and China are the fourth and first largest emitters respectively, it said.

Both the countries are growing their total and per capita emissions. On the other hand, the United States and the European Union (EU), as the second-and third-largest



emitters, are reducing their emissions.

"Both China and India are incorporating more renewable and low-carbon energy sources, but several factors will limit their displacement of coal," the report said.

"They need to modernise their grids, have sunk costs that make it relatively cheaper to use coal compared with other energy sources, want to minimise reliance on fuel imports for national security reasons and are trying to appease domestic constituencies who rely on the coal industry for jobs," it added.

Source: HT

India in history this Week

OCTOBER 22 TO OCTOBER 28, 2021

22 OCTOBER

- 1680 Rana Raj Singh of Mewar passed away.
1796 Death of Rana Raj Singh of Mewar.



- 1962 India's largest multipurpose river valley project 'Bhakra Nangal' dedicated to the nation
2008 Chandrayaan-1 was successfully launched from Satish Dhawan Space Center in Sriharikota.
1879 The first sedition case under British rule was against the great revolutionary Basudev Balwani Phadke.
2016 India won the Kabaddi World Cup.
1933 The elder brother of Sardar Patel and the famous freedom fighter Vitthalbhai Patel died.
1893 Dalip Singh, the youngest son of Maharaj Ranjit Singh of Punjab, died.

23 OCTOBER

- 1623 The famous poet Tulsidas died.



- 1764 Mir Qasim was defeated in the battle of Buxar.
1934 Mahatma Gandhi resigned as the leader of the Indian National Congress.
1943 Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose founded the 'Rani Brigade of Jhansi' of Azad Hind Fauj in Singapore.
2003 India and Bulgaria signed the Extradition Treaty.
1883 Mirza Ismail, Assistant Secretary to the Maharaja of Mysore was born.
1957 Sunil Mittal, an Indian industrialist, social worker and chairman of India's largest telecom company Airtel was born.

24 OCTOBER

- 1605 The Mughal ruler Jahangir ascended the throne in Agra.
1914 Freedom fighter and philanthropist Laxmi Sehgal was born.
1991 Famous Hindi writer Ismat Chugatai passed away.
1851 First telegraph line started between Calcutta and Diamond Harbor.
1579 Jesuit pastor SJ Thomas was the first Englishman to visit India. He arrived in Goa by Portuguese boat.
1975 An ordinance was brought to end the bonded labor system and came into effect from the next day.
1982 Sudha Madhavan became the first Indian

female athlete to run in a marathon.

- 1984 First underground metro train started between Esplanad and Bhawanipur in Kolkata.



- 2013 Renowned playback singer Manna Dey of Hindi and Bengali films in Indian cinema world passed away. In 2005, the Government of India honored him with the Padma Bhushan in the field of art.

25 OCTOBER



- 1924 The British arrested Subhash Chandra Bose and sent him to jail for two years.
2005 Hindi writer Nirmal Verma passed away.
1951 The first general election began in India.
1964 The first indigenous tank 'Vijayanta' was built at the Avadi factory.
1995 The then Prime Minister of India, Narasimha Rao addressed the 50th anniversary session of the United Nations.
1955 For the first time, a company called Microwave Oven was started by Tappan Oven for domestic use.

26 OCTOBER

- 1947 After the partition of India and Pakistan, after the attack from Pakistan, the Hindu king of the Muslim-majority state of Jammu and Kashmir decided to go with India on this day.
1934 All India Rural Industries Association was established under the patronage of Mahatma Gandhi.



- 1947 Raja Hari Singh agreed to merge Jammu and

Kashmir with India.

- 1969 The first astronauts to step on the moon, Neil Armstrong and Edwin Aldrin, came to Mumbai.
1775 Bahadur Shah Zafar, the last emperor of the Mughals was born in India.
1890 Ganesh Shankar Vidyarthi, who participated in the freedom struggle, was born.
1943 The cholera epidemic in Calcutta (erstwhile Kolkata) killed 2155 people in the third week of October.
1962 After the Chinese attack on India, the then President declared Emergency for the first time.



- 1999 The Supreme Court of India fixed life imprisonment for 14 years.

27 OCTOBER



- 1920 The 10th and first Dalit President of the country, K. R. Narayanan was born in 1920.
1952 Anuradha Paudwal, who created a special identity with the hymns along with the film world, was born in 1952.
2008 The Central Government issued a notification of interim relief to journalists and non-journalists of the newspaper industry.
1947 Raja Hari Singh of Jammu and Kashmir accepted the accession of Jammu and Kashmir into India.

28 OCTOBER



- 1867 Birth of Swami Vivekananda's disciple Bhagini Nivedita in Ireland
1913 Jain Shwetambar Terapanthi Sabha was established
1851 The British Indian Association was established in Bengal.

**Eye Foundation of America**

World without Childhood Blindness

The Eye Foundation of America (www.eyefoundationofamerica.org) is leading a crusade against blindness among children in India and other developing countries whose mission for the last 40 years has been to eradicate avoidable blindness in children. The organization which is based in West Virginia, USA is headed by a renowned ophthalmologist, Dr. V K Raju who's towering mission is to prevent avoidable blindness among children.

- * 2 million + outpatients
- * 300 thousand + eye surgeries
- * 25 thousand + on children

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'I have always done Dhaakad things in life,' says Kangana Ranaut

Kangana Ranaut, who took to social media to share a four-looks-in-one poster of her upcoming film, Dhaakad, launched it in person here at an event, saying that all her life she has done Dhaakad things.

When a journalist compared her with Arnold Schwarzenegger, however, Kangana countered testily if it was a compliment. Asked about the Dhaakad moments in her life, Kangana said, "I think everything I have done is Dhaakad. From running away from my home till now, I continue to do all the Dhaakad stuff. Now, I am doing this Dhaakad film and I hope the audience will love it."

Source: IANS

Not going to play meek characters to satisfy critics' ego: Taapsee Pannu

Actor Taapsee Pannu says she is fine with critics feeling that she is getting typecast as an artiste playing only strong female characters as she prefers these roles over "vulnerable" women who have no agency.

Over the years, Pannu has headlined several critically-lauded projects, playing strong-headed characters in films like "Manmarziyaan", "Saand Ki Aankh", "Thappad", "Haseen Dillruba" and her latest "Rashmi Rocket".

While a section had voiced their concern that Pannu is getting into a box, the 34-year-old actor said she won't play a "weak" character just to please the critics.

"If this is a stereotyping, that every film of mine is going to have a strong woman character who is going to stand up for herself, I am perfectly fine with that stereotyping. That's one stereotype I don't mind.

"I will not portray a meek, weak, just pure vulnerable character who has no strength of her own only to satisfy the critical opinion of a few. I don't care," Pannu said.

The actor was in conversation with writer-producer Nikhil Taneja at the ongoing India Film Project.

Pannu said she doesn't appreciate when film critics offer her advice on her career and also call her out for taking up "strong women" parts.

"I get appalled when critics try to give me career choices in the movie reviews. They say, 'Oh she should do these kinds



of films, she is doing too many strong women characters.'

"Sorry but there is nothing like 'too much of strong women characters'. You wait and see, in every film I will come

back with strong women characters. You don't like it, don't watch it. But I am not going to play a meek character just to satisfy your critical ego," she added.

Source: PTI

Sonu Sood on hosting NatGeo series 'It Happens Only in India'

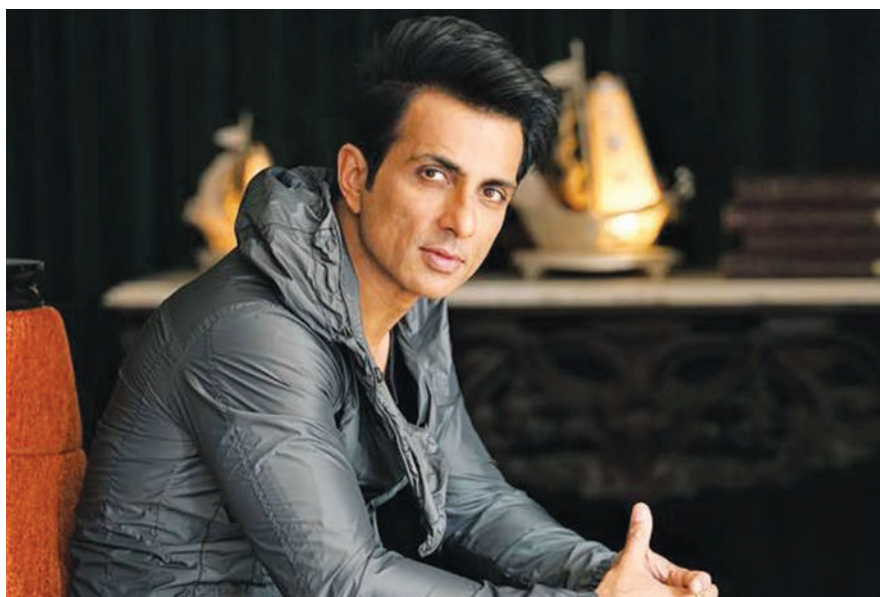
Sonu Sood is all set for a new series titled It Happens Only in India. Hosted by him, this 10-part series will take viewers into the lesser-known and well-researched narratives from across the length and breadth of India.

Sonu Sood will be seen presenting some fascinating stories from different corners of the country from modern to mystic, people to places, myths to natural wonders, talented innovators, astounding mega structures to the latest in-space technology that are all distinctly Indian. It will help the viewers to understand India in a better way.

Sonu said, "No matter how much you learn about India, you can't know enough. The country's diversity has tons of incredible stories that are yet to be revealed and this show will take viewers on a fascinating journey; bringing them closer to the incredible culture, nature, heritage and marvels of our nation and make them proud to be a citizen of this country."

It Happens Only in India will start from October 26 at 8 p.m. on National Geographic.

Source: IANS



Bhumi Pednekar teams up with Norwegian diplomat for Climate Warrior initiative

Bhumi Pednekar has joined hands with Erik Solheim, president of the Green Belt and Road Institute and former executive president of UNEP, Norway, for an initiative that will see the two do a beach clean-up at Carter Road in Mumbai's western suburbs. This initiative has been made possible by Bhamla Foundation that has been doing exemplary work towards climate protection across the country.

Bhumi says, "There are incredible Climate Warriors doing brilliant work not just in our country, but also globally. My journey to advocate for climate justice has helped me meet and interact with some of these amazing people who are helping to put climate change at the forefront of our conversation."





Salma Hayek says she and Chloe Zhao had 'serious fight' at her home

Salma Hayek will debut as a superhero in Marvel's upcoming film *Eternals*. Directed by Oscar-winning Chloe Zhao, Salma will be seen playing Ajak in the Marvel Cinematic Universe film. While Salma was excited about playing the part, she confessed she had issues with the script and had gotten into a 'serious fight with Chloe'.

In a recent interview, Salma revealed that the argument took place at the actor's house and the people overhearing the 'fight' were worried Salma might get fired from the film.

"I had some problems with the script and we got into a serious fight at my house. We were both passionate. And she was like, 'No, but that's not how I designed it.' The people outside my house were calling it a fight, because we were kind of screaming. We continued to talk and talk, and it went on for a long time. The people outside were so nervous that I was going to get fired," she told *Elle*.

Sarah Jessica Parker poses in a lehenga

Sex and the City actor Sarah Jessica Parker wore an Indian attire on the sets of her upcoming series *And Just Like That*. In several pictures that surfaced online, Sarah was seen wearing a fuchsia pink and blue chequered pattern blouse with matching lehenga.

Sarah Jessica Parker wore a floral maang tikka and tied her hair into a braid adding a bunch of fresh flowers to her hairdo. She wore minimal makeup and accessorised her look with a pendant neckpiece, earrings and bangles. In the photos, she smiled and posed for the camera.

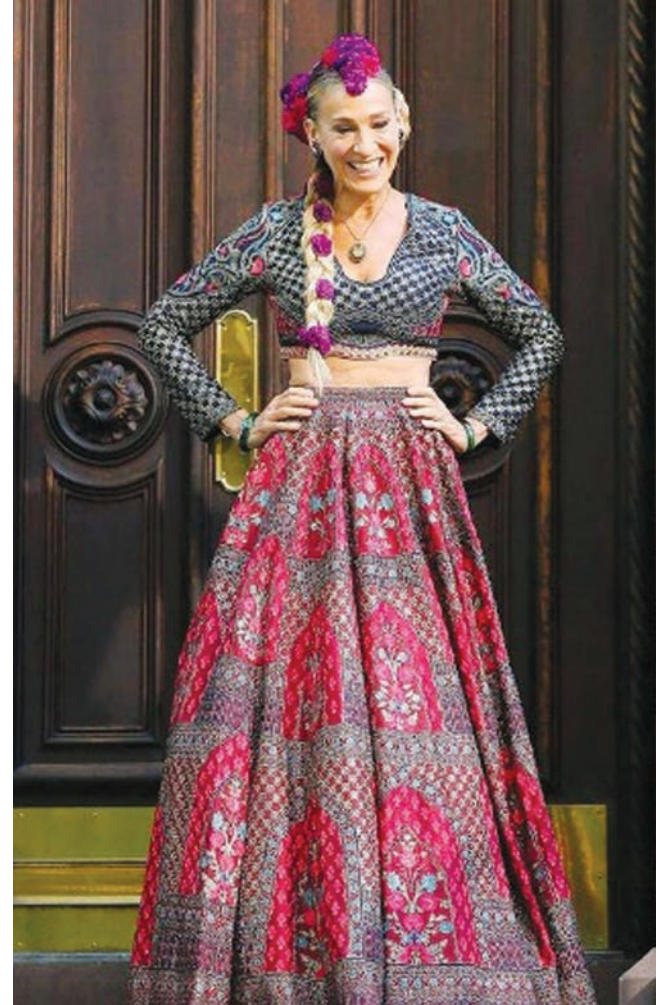
The lehenga has been designed by Indian designer Falguni Shane Peacock. Taking to her Instagram Stories, Falguni re-shared posts on Sarah wearing the lehenga.

And Just Like That, a *Sex and the City* reboot, will air in December. It will follow the life of Carrie Bradshaw (Sarah), Miranda (Cynthia Nixon) and Charlotte (Kristin Davis) as they navigate friendship in their 50s. Original series star Kim Cattrall will not return for the sequel, following a much-publicized feud with Sarah.

Since the last feature film, the cast has been open about spats between Kim and the other stars, notably Sarah. Kim had lashed out at Sarah on social media following her brother's death in 2018 and the cast and crew opened up about behind-the-scenes drama in a podcast later that year.

The original series of *Sex and the City* was based on author Candace Bushnell's book of the same name. It had been adapted from her dating column, based on her own life, for the *New York Observer*. Candace told *The Hollywood Reporter*, "Of course, I'm going to watch it. ... I hope it runs for six seasons."

Darren Starr got the TV rights and turned it into the successful show that aired from 1998-2004 on HBO and spawned two feature films.



Alec Baldwin fired prop gun that killed cinematographer: Police

US actor Alec Baldwin fired a prop gun that killed a cinematographer and wounded the director on a film set in New Mexico, US law enforcement officers said Thursday, October 21.

The incident happened on the set of *Rust* in the southwestern US state, where Baldwin is playing the lead in a 19th-century western. No charges have been filed over the incident, which is being investigated.

Halyna Hutchins and Joel Souza "were shot when a prop firearm was discharged by Alec Baldwin," the sheriff in Santa Fe said in a statement, with Hutchins succumbing to her wounds.

According to AP, the Santa Fe County Sheriff's Office said a 42-year-old woman was airlifted to a hospital, where she died, while a 42-year-old man was getting emergency care at another hospital.

Production has been halted on the movie, which is being directed by Joel Souza with Alec Baldwin producing and starring in it. A spokesperson for Baldwin said there was an accident on the set involving the misfire of a prop gun with blanks.

The Santa Fe New Mexican reported Baldwin was seen Thursday outside the sheriff's office in tears, but attempts to get comment from him were unsuccessful.



Freida Pinto says she secretly married fiancé Cory Tran

Actor Freida Pinto has revealed she tied the knot with her fiancé and photographer Cory Tran when they were in lockdown amid the Covid-19 pandemic.

The "Slumdog Millionaire" star said when they got engaged in November 2019, they thought they will have "this most magical wedding" but the pandemic played a spoilsport.

"I should clear the air: I wasn't planning a big fat Indian wedding. It was just going to be something pretty and simple... But then Covid happened and it's still happening and we just realised we were going to be planning this for the rest of our lives and probably never doing it," Pinto said during an appearance on "The Kelly Clarkson Show" on Wednesday, Oct 20.

The 37-year-old actor, who is expecting her first child with Tran, said the couple eventually went to the Honda Center in Anaheim, California and got married.

"Honestly, I have to say if any of you have planned a wedding, you probably know this, I do not want stomach ulcers from planning my own wedding. This was perfect! We got married and then we got to go home and take an afternoon nap," she added.

Pinto also shared she met Tran, 34, through actor Aaron Paul, her co-star in the drama series "The Path". She told Clarkson that she was happily single while shooting their television show in New York when Paul said, "I want you in my life forever, Freida, so I'm going to introduce you to my friend."

Source: PTI



SWEDISH RAPPER SHOT DEAD, STOKING OUTRAGE OVER GANG VIOLENCE

STOCKHOLM (TIP): Einar, one of Sweden's most popular rappers, was shot dead in Stockholm late on October 21, heightening outrage over gang-related violence that has afflicted the Nordic country in recent years.

Einar, 19, whose real name was Nils Gronberg, was killed in the upmarket Stockholm suburb of Hammarby Sjostad, and no arrests had been made so far. In a previous incident last year, Einar was abducted and assaulted by rival rappers. "A young life has been extinguished, and I understand that he meant a lot to many young people. It is tragic," Prime Minister Stefan Lofven told T.T. Gronberg, who made his debut at 16, issued four albums, had tens of millions of streams on music platforms and won several Swedish Grammys and other awards.

Last year, he was kidnapped and beaten up by rival rappers with ties to a Stockholm crime gang. Several people, including Yasin Byn, another of Sweden's most successful rappers, were given prison terms for their role in the kidnapping. Johan Forsell, law and order spokesperson for the main Moderates opposition party, said it was time to put an end to gang violence in Sweden. "The limits of what can be accepted in a civilized country have been passed a very long time ago," he wrote on Twitter. "We need action not words to turn the tide and get Sweden in order." Sweden has suffered gang-violence for years and gone from having one of the lowest rates of gun crime in Europe to having one of the highest over the past two decades. (Reuters)

CHINA ARRESTS STAR PIANIST WITH SEX WORKER, WARNS CELEBRITIES

BEIJING (TIP): Police in China's capital Beijing say famed international pianist Li Yundi is a suspect in a prostitution case.

A message on the force's microblog said a suspect had been placed in administrative detention and an investigation opened on Thursday involving a woman identified by her surname Chen and a man named as "Li di", with the first part of his personal name deleted as is standard in police cases.

The post was followed by another message depicting a piano keyboard and the words "one must definitely see clearly the difference between black and white". The official China Musicians Association also said it was expelling Li from the organisation based on the Beijing Chaoyang District police notice that he had been arrested. Li, 39, began playing piano as a small child and studied in China and Germany before becoming the youngest winner of the International Chopin Piano Competition in 2000 at age 18. He has since toured the world and recorded frequently, making him one of China's best known international artists. AP

UK police charge 25-year-old man with lawmaker's murder

LONDON (TIP): British authorities said October 21 a man has been charged in the stabbing of a Conservative lawmaker who was killed as he met constituents at a church hall last week.

Authorities say a 25-year-old British man with Somali heritage, Ali Harbi Ali, has been charged in the death of David Amess.

The Crown Prosecution Service says it will "submit to the court that this murder has a terrorist connection, namely that it had both religious and ideological motivations".

The death of Amess, who had served in Parliament for almost 40 years and was knighted by Queen Elizabeth II in 2015, has shocked Britain, especially its politicians, who pride themselves on being accessible to their constituents. It has prompted conversations at the highest levels about how the country protects its leaders and grapples with extremism at home.

The slaying came five years after



Labour Party lawmaker Jo Cox was shot and stabbed to death by a far-right extremist. Cox was the first British

lawmaker to be killed since a peace accord ended large-scale Northern Ireland violence almost 30 years earlier. AP

Britain, New Zealand strike free trade deal after 16 months of talks

LONDON/WELLINGTON (TIP): Britain and New Zealand have reached agreement in principle on a free trade deal designed to reduce tariffs, improve services trade, and take London one step closer to membership in a broader trans-Pacific trade agreement.

Prime Ministers Boris Johnson and Jacinda Ardern sealed the deal in a Zoom call on October 20 after 16 months of negotiation.

"This is a great trade deal for the United Kingdom, cementing our long friendship with New Zealand and furthering our ties with the Indo-Pacific," Johnson said in a statement.

It comes only months after a similar British agreement with Australia as ministers in London look to flesh out a post-Brexit pivot away from relying on commerce with the European Union.

"This deal serves New Zealand's economy and exporters well as we reconnect, rebuild and recover from COVID-19, and look forward into the future," Ardern said at a news conference in Wellington, adding the deal was the country's best ever.

Tariffs on 97% of the products will be eliminated for both countries the day the deal comes into force, Ardern said.

The immediate economic impact of any deal on Britain's 3 trillion dollar economy is expected to be negligible according to British analyses published in 2019 and 2020. An updated economic analysis will be published when the deal is signed, for which a date has not been set.

New Zealand said the deal would provide a boost of almost NZ\$1 billion to



its GDP. It's the South Pacific nation's second deal this year after sealing an upgraded trade pact with its biggest trading partner China in January.

PACIFIC TILT : UK-New Zealand trade was worth £2.3 billion pounds (\$3.18 billion) last year. The agreement signals a return of close trade ties between the nations that were curtailed when Britain joined the then European Economic Community in the 1970s.

It also aligns with Britain foreign policy push for more influence in the Indo-Pacific to try to moderate China's global dominance.

The deal took longer than expected to reach, coming nearly two months after a target date. Britain's opposition Labour Party criticized it, saying it harmed farmers and failed to deliver on jobs, exports or economic growth.

However, ministers see it as another stepping stone toward joining the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP) - an 11-country bloc including Australia, Singapore and Mexico. CPTPP membership has emerged as Britain's top post-Brexit trade aim after the prospects of a quick and comprehensive deal with the United States faded. (Reuters)

SOUTH KOREA TEST-LAUNCHES 1ST DOMESTICALLY MADE SPACE ROCKET

SEOUL (TIP): South Korea test launched its first domestically produced space rocket on October 21 in what officials describe as an important step in the country's pursuit of a satellite launch programme.

It wasn't immediately clear whether the three-stage Nuri rocket succeeded in delivering a dummy payload - a 1.5-ton block of stainless steel and aluminum - into orbit 600 to 800 km (372 to 497 miles) above Earth.

Live footage showed the 47-meter (154 foot) rocket soaring into the air with bright yellow flames shooting out of its engines following blastoff at Naro Space Centre, the country's lone spaceport, on a small island off its southern coast.

The launch, which was observed by South Korean President Moon Jae-in, was delayed by an hour because engineers needed more time to examine the rocket's valves. There had also been concerns that strong winds and other conditions would pose challenges for a successful launch.

Officials at the Korea Aerospace Research Institute, the country's space agency, said it would take about 30 minutes to determine whether the rocket successfully delivered the payload into orbit.

Nuri's largest first stage, the core booster stage, was expected to land in waters southwest of Japan after separation, and its second stage was expected to fall in remote Pacific waters east of the Philippines, about 2,800 km (1,740 miles) away from the launch site. (AP)

Conservative Friends of India hold an impressive Conference - Manchester 21

Nirpal Singh Shergill

LONDON (TIP): The Conservative Friends of India - the most prominent affiliate group of the Conservative Party - was back with a bang at Conservative Party Conference in Manchester.

Co-Chairs of CF India Cllr Reena Ranger OBE and Cllr Ameet Jogia have been working hard to strengthen the Party's engagement with the 1.7 million British Indian diasporas. The Conservative Friends of India jointly hosted the spectacular Conference Reception with the Indian High Commission after two years. Several hundred guests and Parliamentarians attended the reception.

Special guest speakers included the High Commissioner of India H.E Gaitri Issar Kumar, Chairman of the Conservative Party, the Rt Hon Oliver Dowden MP, Chancellor of the Exchequer, the Rt Hon Rishi Sunak MP, International Trade Secretary, the Rt Hon Anne Marie Trevelyan MP, Health Secretary the Rt Hon Sajid Javid MP, Education Secretary, the Rt Hon Nadhim Zawahi MP, Transport Secretary the Rt Hon Grant Shapps MP, Northern Ireland Secretary the Rt Hon Brandon Lewis MP and The Rt Hon Sir Iain Duncan Smith MP.

The speakers also included the long-standing supporters, CF India Patron Lord Rami Ranger CBE and Parliamentary Vice Chairs Padma Shri award winner Bob Blackman MP, Minister for London Paul Scully MP and the Rt Hon Theresa Villiers MP, the High Commissioner of Bangladesh H.E Saida Muna Tasneem, Gagan Mohindra MP, London's popular former Mayoral candidate Shaun Bailey, along with the newly elected Member of Scottish Parliament Pam Gosal - Scotland's first female Asian MP and Cllr Gotz Mohindra.

Speaking at the Reception, The High Commissioner of India, Her Excellency Gaitri Issar Kumar, paid tribute to the "Living Bridge" that is the British Indian diaspora and the work they do in fostering excellent relations between the UK and India. The High Commissioner thanked the Secretaries of State, Ministers and Members of Parliament for supporting India and the Reception. As well as further highlighting the significant partnership and unique relationship between India and the UK and how she looks forward to delivering upon the opportunities which lay ahead for India and the UK. The High Commissioner lauded the work of CF



Guests at the Conference

India and paid tribute to CF India Patron Lord Rami Ranger, Co-Chairman Cllr Reena Ranger OBE, Co-Chairman Cllr Ameet Jogia and Director Nayaz Qazi, for their dedication and commitment to strengthening ties between the Indian High Commission and British Parliamentarians.

Chancellor of the Exchequer, The Rt Hon Rishi Sunak, said, "I love Conservative Friends of India, this is my home, and I wouldn't be here without your support." Chancellor paid tribute to the Indian High Commissioner and the commitment to strengthen trade relations with India. Chancellor ended by applauding Lord Ranger for his decades of work in enriching and making the Conservative Party the most diverse political Party today.

The Chairman of the Conservative Party, The Rt Hon Oliver Dowden MP, thanked the Indian community for their significant support and contribution to Britain and the Conservative Party and to CF India for all the continuous work it does to build stronger relations between the British Indian community and the Conservative Party. The Chairman looked forward to further developing closer ties in all areas between Britain and India and the British Indian community.

International Trade Secretary, The Rt Hon Anne Marie Trevelyan MP, spoke of the significant opportunities that lay ahead in the special UK and India partnership and looked forward to achieving the immense bilateral

opportunities.

Education Secretary, The Rt Hon Nadhim Zawahi MP, spoke of the synergy between the UK and India to obtain the best in education and the opportunities in R&D collaboration, highlighting the success of the AstraZeneca vaccination development, as well how he was looking forward to welcoming students from India to British universities and to developing closer ties between educational institutions.

Health Secretary, The Rt Hon Sajid Javid MP, spoke of the integral and most important work of the Indian diaspora in supporting the NHS and of the partnership between the UK and India, which helped deliver the record vaccination roll-out programme to help beat the Covid pandemic.

Transport Secretary The Rt Hon Grant Shapps MP spoke of how when he was Party Chairman, The Conservative Friends of India had just been born, and today it is one of the Party's leading affiliate groups.

Northern Ireland Secretary The Rt Hon Brandon Lewis MP, a regular supporter of CF India and the Joint Reception with the India High Commission, spoke of his delight as to how each year CF India is growing as an organization and how important the work of CF India is and the interaction of the diaspora with the Party and their contribution to Britain.

Sir Iain Duncan Smith MP congratulated CF India and thanked the Indian High Commissioner for joining the

Reception to celebrate the special ties between the British Indian community and the Conservative Party. Sir Iain spoke about the strong and special bond between UK and India and how it is set to become even stronger.

Lord Rami Ranger, CBE, Patron of CF India, spoke of the importance of the special relationship between the UK and India, the oldest and largest democracies in the world. Lord Ranger thanked the High Commissioner H.E Gaitri Issar Kumar for all the support of the High Commission and paid tribute to both leaders Prime Minister Rt Hon Boris Johnson MP and Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi.

Gagan Mohindra MP, Pam Gosal MSP and Cllr Gotz Mohindra congratulated CF India for the work it is doing and how it has become a powerhouse within the Party as a leading affiliate organization engaging with the community.

Co-Chairs Ameet Jogia and Reena Ranger said it was fantastic to be back with an in-person, "we look forward to restarting our events and engaging with more Conservative Parliamentarians and our members".

The vote of thanks was delivered by CF India Director Nayaz Qazi, who paid tribute to the CF India members, The High Commissioner H.E Gaitri Issar Kumar, Deputy High Commissioner Mr. Charanjeet Singh, The Rt Hon Secretaries of State and all the Parliamentary support. And gave a special thanks to CF India Co-Chairs Cllr Reena Ranger and Cllr Ameet Jogia for all their work in engaging with a new generation of Party supporters.

CF India exhibited at its Conference Stand and signed up record members and was visited by many Parliamentarians, including The late Sir David Amess MP, the Home Secretary The Rt Hon Priti Patel MP, the Foreign Secretary The Rt Hon Liz Truss MP, the Defense Secretary The Rt Hon Ben Wallace MP, COP 26 President The Rt Hon Alok Sharma MP, Business Secretary The Rt Hon Kwasi Kwarteng MP, Minister of State at FCDO The Rt Hon James Cleverly MP, Chairman of the 1922 Committee Sir Graham Brady MP and many other Parliamentarians and dignitaries

CF India also hosted a roundtable dinner with Minister for International Trade Ranil Jayawardena MP, who has been at the forefront of developing the road map of a Free Trade Agreement between Britain and the UK.

CHINESE, RUSSIAN NAVAL VESSELS JOINTLY SAIL THROUGH JAPAN STRAIT

TOKYO (TIP): A group of 10 naval vessels from China and Russia sailed through a strait separating Japan's main island and its northern island of Hokkaido on October 22, the Japanese Government said, adding it was closely

watching such activities.

It was the first time Japan has confirmed the passage of Chinese and Russian naval vessels sailing together through the Tsugaru Strait, which separates the Sea of Japan from the Pacific.

While the strait is regarded as international waters, Japan's ties with China have long been plagued by conflicting claims over a group of tiny

East China Sea islets. Tokyo has a territorial dispute with Moscow as well.

"The government is closely watching Chinese and Russian naval vessels' activities around Japan like this one with high interest," Deputy Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihiko Isozaki told a regular news conference on Tuesday.

A Japanese Defence Ministry spokesperson said there had been no violation of Japanese territorial waters



and no international rules were violated by the passage of the vessels. — Reuters

PAKISTAN JOINED ON FATF GREY LIST BY CLOSE ALLY TURKEY



LAHORE (TIP): The Financial Action Task Force (FATF) on October 21 kept Pakistan on the grey list as it “needs to further demonstrate that investigation and prosecution of proscribed terrorists and terror groups is being seriously pursued,” said FATF chief Marcus Pleyer at the end the global finance watchdog’s deliberations that began on Sunday.

“On the action plan from 2019, we require Pakistan to demon that terrorist financing investigators are targeting UN proscribed senior leaders and commanders,” said Pleyer but discounted any possibility of moving it to the Black List.

“Pakistan has already completed 30 out of 34 action points. So this shows the clear commitment of Pakistan Government. So there was no discussion on blacklisting. The Government is cooperating with FATF and we urged it to very quickly address the remaining four items of as soon as possible,” he said.

Pleyer denied that it was pressure by India that led to Pakistan’s retention on the grey list. “FATF is a technical body and we take our decisions by consensus. It is not one country but 39 jurisdictions and the decision is taken by consensus on a jurisdiction to be put under increased monitoring,” answered Pleyer when asked whether it was India which is instrumental in keeping Pakistan on the grey list in June 2018.

In a further blow to Pakistan, Turkey, its closest ally in FATF, was also put on the Grey List along with Jordan and Mali.

Pakistan is estimated to have lost over \$ 30 billion in foreign investments since it was it was grey listed. Till the meeting, FATF has 22 countries under “grey listing”, including Albania, Morocco, Syria, South Sudan and Yemen. It has removed two – Botswana and Mauritius – and added three – Mali, Jordan and Turkey – making it a total of 23 countries on the Grey List.

Since June, the FATF has been focusing on Pakistan’s money laundering deficiencies after the Asia Pacific Group found a number of serious issues. On terror financing, Pakistan had addressed all but one of the 27 action points.

The revelation of Pandora Papers has also led the FATF to recommend a sweeping number of changes in which anonymous shell companies are used by criminals and the corrupt. “The same money is often used to facilitate further crime. (TNS)

Bangladesh Prime Minister orders strict action against arsonists

DHAKA (TIP): Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on October 21 instructed her home minister to initiate immediate action against those who incited violence using religion, as she asked people not to trust anything on social media without fact-checking.

Attacks on Hindu temples have intensified in Bangladesh since last Wednesday after an alleged blasphemous post surfaced on social media during the Durga Puja celebrations. Late Sunday night, a mob damaged 66 houses and set on fire at least 20 homes of Hindus in Bangladesh. During the weekly Cabinet meeting on Tuesday, Hasina instructed Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan to initiate immediate action against those who incited violence using religion, Cabinet Secretary Khandker Anwarul Islam was quoted as saying by a daily.

PM Hasina, who joined the meeting through video-conferencing from her official residence, also urged the people of the country not to trust anything on social media without checking facts, he said.

She has instructed the Home Ministry to remain vigilant and take steps to prevent such incidents from recurring, Islam said. Local media reported that six



Hindus were killed in separate attacks, but the figures could not confirmed independently.

Hasina has promised to bring to justice the perpetrators of recent violence. She has announced to provide all possible assistance to the affected families. The foreign ministry statement underlined that the Government of

Bangladesh “unequivocally condemned those incidents and took serious note of the reactions from within and outside the Hindu community”. Regrettably, it said, the domestic elements that opposed Bangladesh’s independence from Pakistan were still propagating their “toxic narratives to instigate violence, hatred and bigotry”. — PTI

Death toll reaches 104 as rains lash Nepal, trigger floods and landslides

KATHMANDU (TIP): The death toll from flooding and landslides triggered by heavy rains in Nepal climbed to 104 on October 21 after 16 more fatalities were reported from various parts of the country, officials said.

Forty-one people have gone missing and the same have been injured in the incidents so far, according to the latest data published by the ministry’s Disaster Management Division.

According to a Home Ministry statement, the highest number of fatalities, 62 were reported from Province No. 1, followed by Sudur Paschim Province with 31 fatalities and Karnali Province with seven fatalities.

At least 104 people lost their lives in the recent incidents of flood, landslides and inundation that hit different parts of the country, following incessant rains over the past three days, health ministry officials said.

Three persons were killed in Lumbini province and one in Bagmati province.

In Province 1, where the death toll has reached 62, 20 have been injured and 13 have gone missing. Of the total 62 fatalities, 14 were reported in Ilam, 26 in Panchthar, seven in Dhankuta, eight in Sunsari, two in Udayapur, and one each in Morang, Solukhumbu and Bhojpur.

In Sudur Paschim where a total of 31 deaths were reported, 16 cases were reported in Doti, eight in Bajhang, four in Baitadi, two in Dadeldhura and one in

Kailali.

In Karnali Province, where seven deaths were reported, six from Humla and one from Kalikot. In Lumbini where three deaths were reported, two from Pyuthan and one from Kapilvastu.

Similarly, the Sindhuli district of Bagmati Province reported a single fatality in the disaster.

The natural disaster hit 20 districts of Nepal. However, weather conditions have started improving from Thursday, the officials said.

Meanwhile, Home Minister Balkrishna Khand has directed the Nepal Police, Armed Police Force, National Investigation Department and Nepal Army to promptly rescue the foreign tourists stranded at Humla district.

Twelve people, including four Slovenian tourists and three guides, are stranded at Nakhla in Humla district, 700 km west of Kathmandu after heavy snowfall blocked the road at Limi area. They were on their way back to Simikot after completing their trekking expedition at Limi, Humla Chief District Officer Ganesh Acharya said.

Snowfall started in the area on Sunday and the rescue works could not be carried out on Wednesday due to bad weather. The local administration has sought a helicopter from the home ministry to carry out the rescue operation, officials said. —PTI

PAKISTAN PM IMRAN KHAN ACCUSED OF SELLING GIFTS RECEIVED FROM OTHER COUNTRIES’ HEADS

LAHORE (TIP): Pakistan’s Opposition parties on October 20 accused Prime Minister Imran Khan of selling gifts he received from other countries’ heads, including an expensive watch worth USD 1 million.

Gifts are routinely exchanged between heads of states or officers holding constitutional positions during a state visit. According to the gift depository (Toshakhana) rules, these gifts remain the property of the state unless sold at an open auction. Rules allow officials to retain gifts with a market value of less than Rs 10,000 without paying anything, The Express Tribune newspaper reported.

“Imran Khan has sold the gifts he received from other countries,” PML-N vice president Maryam Nawaz tweeted in Urdu. “Caliph Hazrat Omar (companion of Prophet Muhammad) was accountable for his shirt and robe and you (Imran Khan), on the other hand, looted foreign gifts from Toshakhana and you are talking of setting up a state of Madina? How can a person (Khan) be this insensitive, deaf, dumb and blind?” asked the daughter of deposed Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif.

Opposition alliance—Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM) — president Maulana Fazlur Rehman said there are reports that Prime Minister Khan has sold a precious watch he received from a prince. “This is shameful,” he said. (PTI)

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Get prettier feet without a pedicure

If you have no time for a professional pedicure, there are some easy and effective at-home treatments you can try. Besides saving time, these treatments have the added benefit of being easy and cost-effective because they can be done with inexpensive products you may already have at home.

Soothe and refresh your feet. These simple steps will have your feet looking and feeling better fast.

Start With a Soak

Add a few tablespoons of bath salts or Epsom salts to a basin of warm water and soak your feet for 5-15 minutes. This will cleanse and soften skin and nails, making toenail trimming and callus removal much easier.

File Calluses

Once your feet are dry use a foot file tool or large nail file to gently file any corns or calluses. Using light hand pressure, file corns and calluses until the skin appears and feels smoother.

Sometimes larger corns and calluses will need to be professionally trimmed by a podiatrist, especially if they are painful. Avoid callus shavers, as they may cut healthy skin and cause bleeding.

Exfoliate

To remove dead skin cells and diminish rough skin, gently massage your feet with an exfoliating foot scrub product. Be sure to avoid any wounds. Rinse thoroughly after application.

If you prefer, you can make your own scrub: Dilute two tablespoons of sea salt with equal amounts of baby oil and lemon juice. Other types of oils that can be used are olive oil, coconut oil or canola oil.

Toenail Treatment

Here is a quick and simple routine for improving the look and health of toenails:

- Remove any nail polish.
- Trim toenails straight across so that some of the white remains.



- Lightly brush the surface of toenails with a nail buffer or fine grit nail file.
- Apply some lemon juice with a cotton swab on and around the nail to further remove dead skin and give nails a healthy shine.
- If your toenails are discolored yellow from frequent nail polish use, scrub them with a paste made of baking soda diluted with water.

Moisturize

Once feet are dry, finish by applying your favorite lotion or cream. For areas that tend to get cracks or calluses, try applying a heavier moisturizing product, such as a heel cream or balm.

More Foot Care Tips

- Use these tips to treat your feet right:
- Do not cut toenail cuticles because they protect the nail and surrounding skin from infection.
- Toenails can absorb some of the pigment in nail polish causing a

yellow discoloration. So, don't always paint your toenails; take a few weeks off occasionally so they can return to normal, and you'll see less discoloration.

- Nail polish removers with acetone can dry-out nails causing a chalky appearance. Try an acetone-free nail polish remover or apply a moisturizing product to the nail after removing the polish.
- Apply moisturizing products at least once a day to callused or cracked skin.
- Use an over-the-counter foot powder or sneaker spray if your feet tend to sweat.
- Rinse your feet with cool water after a long day in shoes. This will minimize the ravages of sweat, which can irritate skin and increase the risk of athlete's foot.
- Seek medical treatment for any slow or non-healing wound, rash, or toenail infection.

FOOD CORNER

Handi Chicken



Ingredients

750 gms Chicken on Bone, 3 big Tomatoes, 2 medium sliced Onions, 1 1/2 tblsp ginger garlic paste
1/2 cup Curd, 1/2 cup Full Cream, 2 tbsp Coriander Powder, 1 tsp Turmeric Powder, 1 tsp Red Chilly Powder, 1 tsp Fenugreek Leaves (Kasthuri Methi), Salt To Taste, 3 -4 tblsp Ghee / Oil, 2 tsp Garam Masala (Ingredients given below)

For Garam Masala:

3 tsp Cumin Seeds (Jeera), 3 tsp Coriander Seeds (Sookha Dhan), 1 1/2 tsp Black peppercorns, 4 Cloves (Laung), 1 " Cinnamon Stick piece, 3 Brown Cardamom, 2 tsp Fennel Seeds (Saunf), 1 Star Anise, 2 Dry Red Chillies

For Garnish

Finely chopped green coriander

How to make Handi Chicken

- Heat ghee or oil in a heavy bottom pan, add chicken pieces and fry till they are done. Take them out on a paper towel.
- In the remaining ghee add the onions sliced and saute them till light brown. Make sure not burn them.
- Add the ginger garlic paste and cook till all the raw smell disappears. Now add all the dry spices - Red Chilly Powder, Coriander Powder, Turmeric Powder. Add a tablespoon of water so that the spices do not burn.
- Once the masala is nicely cooked add the tomato puree and cook it till the oil separates. Now add beaten curd and cook till the curd gets fully incorporated in the gravy.
- When the oil starts to separate add the chicken pieces and mix well so that all the pieces are fully smeared with the masala. Let the chicken simmer for few minutes in this masala. Once the chicken is fully done add the cream and kasuri methi and garam masala. Cook for just 2 minutes on low flame and then take it out in a serving dish.
- Garnish with the finely chopped coriander leaves.



Seasonal perfumes

Scents are known to evoke seasonal fragrances and moods. Winter perfumes should have rich scents along with sweet

notes like amber, vanilla and cinnamon. There are various perfumes, which combine sweet fragrances like oranges, caramel, lemon, honey and fruits.

The right fragrance for you

Woody: An ideal choice for cooler months and evenings, earthy tones are the feature of woody fragrances. These perfumes usually feature such scents as sandalwood, patchouli and cedar to give a rich and natural fragrance. Woody perfumes are easy to wear and versatile.

Oriental

These perfumes are the strongest of all. With sensual overtones and rich undertones, this scent makes for quite heavy blends, but they are complemented by the fine scents of sweet vanilla, musk, sumptuous flowers and Oriental resins. Most Oriental perfumes have a wonderful crossing-over of qualities from all the other categories from the spicy fruit tones to warm woody tones and this makes them a superb choice for corporate environments, evening events and special occasions.

Floral

These have strong overtones of flowery fragrances. Overtones like rose, jasmine and lavender work perfectly for the winter season. These scents are feminine without being overpowering and are suitable as a day wear.

Fruity

Fruity fragrances are spicy and fresh. They are quite youthful in their scent and apt for cool weather. In the winters, they invoke a sense of warm desserts and cider. They are an excellent choice for women who like classic fragrances but also want to add a little flair.

Guide to buying the right scent

Orange juice helps fight inflammation and oxidative stress in adults, says study

A new study has suggested 100 per cent orange juice has the potential to help fight inflammation and oxidative stress in adults.

The findings of the study were published in the journal 'Advances in Nutrition'.

Though limited in scope, the study indicates drinking 100 per cent orange juice significantly reduces interleukin 6, a well-established marker of inflammation, in both healthy and high-risk adults. Two additional inflammatory and oxidative stress markers were also reduced; however, the results did not quite reach statistical significance.

The findings of this study, which was funded through an unrestricted grant by the Florida Department of Citrus, harmonise with a previously published FDOC-funded review that reported beneficial effects of hesperidin, the primary bioactive compound found in oranges and 100 per cent orange juice, on reducing some markers of inflammation and oxidative stress. Chronic inflammation may play a key role in causing or advancing some chronic diseases, including heart disease and diabetes.

"We know that 100 per cent orange juice contains a number of nutrients, like vitamin C, as well as beneficial bioactive compounds that have the potential to reduce inflammation and oxidative stress," said Gail Rampersaud, Florida Department of Citrus registered dietitian.

"This review tells us that some



studies find benefits with 100 per cent orange juice, but we need more data and large well-designed studies to make more definitive conclusions. This analysis is especially helpful as we and others plan future research related to orange juice," added Rampersaud.

The review examined published studies relating to 100 per cent orange juice and markers of inflammation and oxidative stress. The review was conducted by the Think Healthy Group and researchers at Tufts University and George Mason University.

The analysis consisted of three parts: a qualitative scoping review of 21 studies with a total of 307 healthy adults and 327 adults at risk for disease; a systematic review of a subset of 16 studies that measured

the six most reported biomarkers related to inflammation and oxidative stress in the body; and 10 studies that had sufficient data to conduct a meta-analysis. The researchers also examined the overall quality and potential bias in the studies.

The broad scoping and systematic reviews revealed that, in general, 100 per cent orange juice either had beneficial or null (no adverse) effects on oxidative stress or inflammation. The researchers cautioned that studies included a relatively small number of subjects, had a low strength of evidence, and had a moderate risk of bias; therefore, overall findings should be interpreted with caution.

Source: ANI

Mix-and-match vaccines highly effective against Covid: Lancet study

LONDON (TIP): People who received a first dose of the Oxford-AstraZeneca Covid vaccine followed by an mRNA vaccine shot had a lower risk of infection compared to those immunised with both doses of the AstraZeneca preventive, according to a nationwide study in Sweden.

Since the use of AstraZeneca's vector-based vaccine against Covid was halted for people younger than 65 years of age due to safety concerns, all individuals in Sweden who had already received their first dose of this vaccine were recommended an mRNA vaccine as their second dose.

"Having received any of the approved vaccines is better compared to no vaccine, and two doses are better than one," said Peter Nordstrom, a professor at Umea University, Sweden.

"However, our study shows a greater risk reduction for people who received an mRNA vaccine after having received a first dose of a vector-based, as compared to people having received the vector-based vaccine for both doses," Nordstrom said.

The study, published in The Lancet Regional Health - Europe journal on Monday, is based on nationwide registry data from the Public Health Agency of Sweden,



the National Board of Health and Welfare, and Statistics Sweden.

In the main analysis, about 700,000 individuals were included. During a 2.5-month average follow-up period after the second dose, the study showed a 67 per cent lower risk of infection for the combination of AstraZeneca and Pfizer vaccine shots.

Source: PTI



This AI tech may spot unseen signs of heart failure

NEW YORK (TIP): US researchers have developed an electrocardiogram-reading algorithm that can detect subtle signs of heart failure.

Heart failure, or congestive heart failure, occurs when the heart pumps less blood than the body normally needs. For years, doctors have relied heavily on an imaging technique called an echocardiogram to assess whether a patient may be experiencing heart failure.

While helpful, echocardiograms can be labour-intensive procedures that are only offered at select hospitals.

In the study, the researchers at Mount Sinai described the development of an artificial intelligence (AI)-based computer algorithm that not only assessed the strength of the left ventricle but also the right ventricle, which takes deoxygenated blood streaming in from the body and pumps it to the lungs.

The algorithm was 94 per cent accurate at predicting which patients had a healthy ejection fraction and 87 per cent accurate at predicting those who had an ejection fraction that was below 40 per cent.

The algorithm also learned to detect right valve weaknesses from the electrocardiograms with 84 per cent accuracy at predicting which patients had weak right valves.

"We showed that deep-learning algorithms can recognise blood pumping problems on both sides of the heart from ECG waveform data," said Benjamin S. Glicksberg, Assistant Professor of Genetics and Genomic Science at Mount Sinai.

For the study, published in the 'Journal of the American College of Cardiology: Cardiovascular Imaging', the team programmed a computer to read patient electrocardiograms along with data extracted from written reports summarising the results of corresponding echocardiograms taken from the same patients.

In this situation, the written reports acted as a standard set of data for the computer to compare with the electrocardiogram data and learn how to spot weaker hearts.

Source: IANS

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Moon rocks brought back by China show recent volcanic activity on lunar surface

China's robotic spacecraft that went to the Moon last year brought back Moon rocks that have provided a new insight into lunar volcanic activity more recent than earlier thought

Moon rocks brought back to Earth by a Chinese robotic spacecraft last year have provided new insights into ancient lunar volcanic activity, a researcher said.

Li Xianhua said an analysis of the samples revealed new information about the moon's chemical composition and the way heat affected its development.

Li said the samples indicate volcanic activity was still occurring on the moon as recently as 2 billion years ago, compared to previous estimates that such activity halted between 2.8 billion and 3 billion years ago.

"Volcanic activities are a very important thing on the moon. They show the vitality inside the moon, and represent the recycling of energy and matter inside the moon," Li told reporters.

China in December brought back the first rocks from the moon since missions by the U.S. and former Soviet Union in the 1970s.

Last week, China launched a new three-person crew to its space station, a new



Visitors at the National Museum look at a display of the lunar rock samples retrieved from the moon by China's Chang'e 5 lunar lander late last year in Beijing. (AP Photo/Ng Han Guan, File)

milestone in a space program that has advanced rapidly in recent years.

China became only the third country after the former Soviet Union and the

United States to put a person in space on its own in 2003 and now ranks among the leading space powers.

Alongside its crewed program, it has expanded its work on robotic exploration, retrieving the lunar samples and landing a rover on the little-explored far side of the moon. It has also placed the Tianwen-1 space probe on Mars, whose accompanying Zhurong rover has been exploring for evidence of life on the red planet.

China also plans to collect soil from an asteroid and bring back additional lunar samples. The country also hopes to land people on the moon and possibly build a scientific base there. A highly secretive space plane is also reportedly under development.

The military-run Chinese space program has also drawn controversy. China's Foreign Ministry on Monday, Oct 18, brushed-off a report that China had tested a hypersonic missile two months ago. A ministry spokesperson said it had merely tested whether a new spacecraft could be reused. *Source: AP*

How to read deleted WhatsApp messages: Catch your sender red-handed

Amazingly, WhatsApp users on Android can actually read deleted messages by installing a third-party app. iPhone users have a cheeky way to do so.

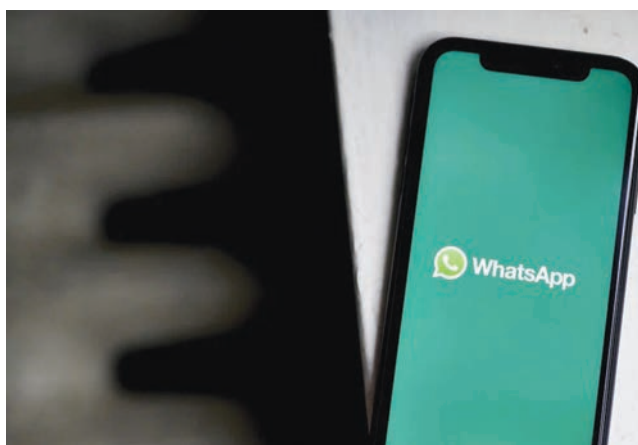
We all have been in the situation when someone sends you a WhatsApp message, and by the time you open it, it's deleted from their side – thanks to the Delete For Everyone feature. WhatsApp keeps showing the deleted message notification but natively, you cannot see what the message was. If this leaves butterflies in your stomach, we show you how to read deleted WhatsApp messages and catch the sender red-handed.

On Android, there's a hack available in the form of downloading third party apps. iPhone users, however, have to tread with caution and rely on their notifications to read the WhatsApp deleted messages.

How to read deleted WhatsApp messages on Android

The process is easy. All you need is a stable internet connection and access to the Google Play Store.

- Open Google Play and search for "WhatsApp deleted Messages".
- You will see a list of apps that claim to keep a copy of the deleted messages.
- We have tried WAMR, WhatsRemoved+ and few more, all of which have worked as advertised.
- Download the app and give it all the necessary permissions Android seeks.
- Once there, all such messages that get the "Delete for Everyone" treatment will be hosted within the app. Some of these apps can even save the media files.
- Note that since the app is free to use, you will witness advertisements within the app interface.



How to read WhatsApp deleted messages on iPhones

Sadly, iOS does not allow such apps to flourish on the App Store for catching hold of deleted messages. However, iOS allows a cheeky way to catch a glimpse of the WhatsApp deleted messages.

- This has all to do with the notifications. You have to be very careful with how you handle it.
- The deleted messages on WhatsApp stays listed in the Notifications Centre. You can long-press to read the content better.
- However, once you open the notification or the app, you won't be able to see the deleted WhatsApp messages. Hence, if you suspect someone to delete message frequently, try to catch a glimpse of their messages from the notification first.

Facebook plans to change its name: Report

Social media giant Facebook is reportedly planning to rebrand the company with a new name that focuses on the metaverse. According to a source with direct knowledge of the matter, Chief Executive Officer Mark Zuckerberg is expected to announce the name at the company's Connect conference on October 28, reports The Verge.

As per report, the rebrand would likely position the Facebook app as one of the many products under a parent company overseeing groups like Instagram, WhatsApp, Oculus, and more. Facebook first announced its plans to build out the metaverse – a term used to describe virtual, interactive spaces in the digital world – last month. Facebook earlier this month announced to hire 10,000 people to help the social network build the metaverse – a new phase of interconnected virtual experiences using technologies like virtual and augmented reality (VR/AR). According to the company, the next computing platform has the potential to help unlock access to new creative, social and economic opportunities.





Singapore tribunal rejects Future's plea to lift ban on Reliance deal

The Singapore-based arbitrator, SIAC, has rejected Future Retail's plea to lift the interim stay on its Rs 24,713-crore deal with Reliance Retail, giving a major relief to Amazon that is contesting the transaction.

The development comes a day after the Singapore International Arbitration Centre (SIAC) held that Future Retail is a party to the ongoing arbitration between Amazon and Future group in the dispute over the sale of its assets to Reliance Retail.

Future had contended before the SIAC that it should be excluded from arbitration proceedings because it is not a party to the dispute between its promoter Future Coupons Pvt Ltd (FCPL) and Amazon.

In a regulatory filing on Friday, Oct 22, Future Retail Ltd (FRL) said it has received SIAC's decision dated October 21, 2021 on its plea to vacate the Interim Award of the Emergency Arbitrator dated October 25, 2020.

"The Tribunal is satisfied that the orders set out in... the EA Award was correctly granted, and have not been vitiated by any subsequent events or proceedings. Further or alternatively, the Respondents have not demonstrated that circumstances have materially changed to justify any change to the EA Award," the filing said.

RIL Q2 profit jumps 43% to Rs13,680 cr

Billionaire Mukesh Ambani's Reliance Industries on Friday reported a 43% jump in its September quarter net profit as its businesses from oil to retail fired on all cylinders, growing both sequentially and on a year-on-year basis.

Net profit of Rs 13,680 crore, or Rs 20.88 per share, in July-September compared with Rs 9,567 crore, or Rs 14.84 a share, in the same period a year back, the company said.

While better realisation and a sharp rise in crude oil prices benefited the old-economy business, retail saw footfalls at stores reach pre-Covid levels and per user earning from telecom business rose. Revenue was up 49% at Rs 191,532 crore. Jio Platforms reported a 23.5% higher net profit at Rs 3,728 crore in the second quarter.

RBI imposes penalty on Paytm Payments Bank, Western Union

NEW DELHI (TIP): The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has imposed a monetary penalty on two payment system operators for deficiencies in regulatory compliance.

A statement issued by the RBI today read, "The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) had, by an order dated October 01, 2021, imposed a monetary penalty of Rs1 crore (Rupees one crore only) on Paytm Payments Bank Limited (PPBL), for an offence committed of the nature referred to in Section 26 (2) of Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007 (PSS Act)."

It further said, "A Compounding Order dated October 7, 2021, was also issued to Western Union Financial Services Inc (WUFSI), a Money Transfer Service - cross-border inbound service (customer to customer only) operator - imposing a penalty of ₹27,78,750 for non-compliance with certain provisions of the directions contained in the Master Direction on Money Transfer Service Scheme (MTSS Directions) dated February 22, 2017."

The RBI further stated that the penalties have been imposed in the exercise of powers vested in RBI under the provisions of Section 30 and Section 31 of the PSS Act.

This action is based on deficiencies in regulatory compliance and is not intended to pronounce upon the validity of any transaction or agreement entered into by the entities with their customers, it added.

The RBI further informed that on examination of PPBL's application for issue of final Certificate of Authorisation



(CoA), it was observed that PPBL had submitted information that did not reflect the factual position.

As this was an offence of the nature referred to in Section 26 (2) of the PSS Act, a notice was issued to PPBL. After reviewing the written responses and oral submissions made during the personal hearing, the RBI-determined that the aforementioned charge was substantiated and warranted the imposition of a monetary penalty.

The RBI further stated that the Western

Union Financial Services (WUFSI) had reported instances of breach of the ceiling of 30 remittances per beneficiary during the calendar years 2019 and 2020 and filed an application for compounding of the violation.

The RBI-determined that the aforementioned non-compliance warranted the imposition of a monetary penalty after analysing the compounding application, and oral submissions made during the personal hearing, it added.

Source: ANI

India smartphone market falls 5% in Q3

NEW DELHI (TIP): As smartphone vendors struggled with supply issues for low-end mobile handsets, the shipments in India fell 5 per cent (on-year) in the third quarter (Q3) this year, a new report showed on Thursday, Oct 21.

In Q3 2021 (July-September period), 47.5 million units were shipped and the market was once again led by Xiaomi at 24 per cent share (down 2 per cent from the year-ago quarter), followed by Samsung at 19 per cent (down 1 per cent from the year-ago period) and Vivo at 17 per cent (also down 1 per cent), according to data by market research firm Canalys.

The third quarter makes for a tough year-on-year compare, due to pent-up demand last year. Shipments in Q3 2021 were 47 per cent higher than in Q2 2021, as consumer demand bounced back rapidly owing to the suppression of Covid-19 wave.

"From the end of June, a



surge in demand has swept India, which is set to persist during the festive season. Smartphone vendors have seized the opportunity to push the older stock into the channel ahead of the holiday period," said analyst Sanyam Chaurasia.

But low-end model supply constraints mean shipments have been restricted, and "brands have been forced to use promotions to make their high-end models more

appealing," Chaurasia added.

These challenges will persist into Q4, and high component and logistics costs, together with container shortages will result in longer lead times and higher retail prices.

Xiaomi maintained its lead in the quarter by shipping 11.2 million units. Samsung remained second with 9.1 million units and vivo came third with 8.1 million shipments. Source: IANS

US budget deficit hits \$2.77 trillion in 2021, 2nd highest on record

WASHINGTON (TIP): The United States budget deficit totaled \$2.77 trillion for 2021, the second highest on record but an improvement from the all-time high of \$3.13 trillion reached in 2020. The deficits in both years reflect trillions of dollars in government spending to counteract the devastating effects of a global pandemic.

The Biden administration said Friday that the 2021 deficit, for the budget year that ended September 30 was \$360 billion lower than 2020 as a recovering economy boosted revenues, helping to offset government spending from pandemic relief efforts.

Before the pandemic deficits of the past two years, the biggest deficit the federal government recorded was a shortfall of \$1.4 trillion in 2009 during the Obama administration as the government spent heavily to lift the country out of a severe recession following the 2008 financial crisis. Source: AP

Shree Ganeshaya Namah

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

WEEKLY HOROSCOPE - 25TH OCT TO 31ST OCT 2021

Aries

It will be a neutral week for you, this week. Change has always made you very uncomfortable and this week will be no different but you will have to sit alone and introspect deeply and think your professional decision through. Apart from the discomfort, you won't face any other problems this week. Luck will mildly support you in what you do professionally this week hence make sure you are very productive this week.

Taurus

You will enjoy a lot this week. You're going to do great this week. You will achieve fame this week and you will be remembered for some time to come. You will need to focus on eating healthier and exercising more often now. Things will be much better for you on the health aspect if you can stay calm and keep your mind tension-free. If you try to accommodate some health care routines like exercise or yoga you feel a lot less tired. Your health will be a lot better this week.

Gemini

Your heightened energies will help you move past any hurdles without much effort. You will feel as if you're being the most productive and efficient in your work this week. Focus entirely on yourself and your health this week as you need to pay attention to your health. Although you will be busy working and hustling, you have the time this week to work as well as take care of your health. You'll find yourself excessively sweating and anxious this week; it is only because the stress of this week is getting to your body. Even though you'll have absolutely no appetite this week, be regular about having your meals regardless.

Cancer

Your clients will be very content and happy with your work this week. The possibility of your business expanding internationally is quite high this week. Hence your business will do just amazing this week. The consequences of the immense amount of happiness that you're feeling this week will be seen in your health as well as your personal life. But you need to work on improving your diet by eliminating sweets, especially for your throat. Work on avoiding foods like dairy or sweets. Having a habit of drinking warm water can highly benefit you.

Leo

You will be able to get through things that you were stuck at for a long time this week. It will be easy to focus on work and the new prospect this week as the energies align in your favor a lot this week. Learn what works for you in calming your energies this week. Some unexpected negative behavior from your partner might tick you off at the beginning of this week. This week might also get you slightly overwhelmed but don't lose your focus. Over thinking about the future will harm your current projects.

Virgo

You will be feeling overjoyed by the work you have done this week. You have a lot of expectations, from yourself you feel your partner does not believe in your ideas, but you need to approach the issue delicately. If you explain carefully, they will understand that you are as capable as them. Frequent stress due to work purposes might lead to stomach-related problems if you do not hydrate and eat well. You will have to either cancel your work plans by the end of this week or seek immediate professional help as your health will take up all of your attention and will bother you a bit by the end of this week.

Libra

You will experience a positive shift in your partner's behavior that you have been wanting for a long time. Your business is doing better than the past few weeks well. This week is a fantastic week for you. You're a fireball of energy this week. As the sun is working against your sign, expect a lot of overwhelming emotion this week. This will make it hard to focus on work or the new prospect. Learn what works for you in calming your energies this week.

Scorpio

You will achieve a personal goal that you have been secretly working on for a long time. Although announcing your achievement will have mixed results from your family, the win is so big you would not focus on the negative attention and the tantrums some of your family members show for not letting them know your plans sooner. Positive energies are mild for you this week when it comes to your relationships. Your partner will help you get out of drama this week. Appreciate their efforts even though you're in a tough situation this week you must not forget to express your gratitude.

Sagittarius

You will feel extremely loved and appreciated this week, which will boost your confidence. This week your partner will make you feel like you're worth a lot more than you have been given to date. Even though there won't be anything significantly positive that'll happen this week you will spend the week relaxing and having fun. Solitary bliss and knowing that you're financially stable will keep you happy and satisfied throughout the week. Your health is on its way to improve this week as well.

Capricorn

This week is a week full of realization for you. You will be learning through losses you face in your business or in your personal life that will force you to think deeper and seek solutions instead of just going through life passively. This week does not seem favorable for your business to make progress. You will find it tough to meet deadlines and focus on your work because you will be overwhelmed with a lot of deadlines and a lot of work, on top of that you will be distracted by the relationship problems that you are facing. You are likely to be working throughout this week.

Aquarius

There are people around you at home that make you feel a lot better about yourself this week. With the love and care, you receive this week and the people you receive them from, you will feel amazing from other people's positive vibrations. Your love life is doing just as well as your professional life. Your business is doing great this week. You'll receive an unexpectedly huge amount of money from a prospect. Your passion for your business speaks volumes to you. You are always fearless and inspiring. All those calculated risks that you took turned out to be in your favor and are paying off this week.

Pisces

You will feel extremely satisfied when it comes to your love life this week. Everything will work out exactly how you wanted it to be. The chance of getting good news regarding your love life is there this week. You might get an opportunity for some real adventure with your beloved this week. You would aim for a partner who holds a high position in society. Your reputation means everything to you and you shall find yourself satisfied with you and your partner's status this week.

BIRTHDAY HOROSCOPE : 25TH OCT TO 31ST OCT 2021

CONTD FROM PAGE 28

October 25

You seem to have a lot of luck today. A very productive day is on its way for you today. You will have a lot of work to do, which you will thoroughly enjoy. You will feel more energized and healthier and ready to take on any task that comes your way. Your health is improving a lot, today. You will feel like celebrating today for no reason as you will go through a very positive shift.

October 26

You will have a lot of free time to yourself today. 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 worry about your future, your life will be great today. Your hard work and dedication will serve you well today as you will be the smartest one in the room wherever you walk in today.

October 27

You will have a happy day, relaxing and taking care of your health. Focus on taking care of your health.

Consulting a nutritionist will work very well in your favor today. Your leadership skills will help you move past any hurdles without much effort. Today will be a good time to retrospect and think about your progress. Your hard work and dedication will prove fruitful to you in terms of business prospects as well as love interests today.

October 28

You will experience a new sense of being today as your relationship moves forward due to your efforts. You might feel vulnerable in a negative way in the beginning, but you'll soon realize that this was for the best. Your day will start with the rotation of Saturn bringing you mental peace as well as a lot of prosperity but will end with a little bit of workload. Income from unexpected sources is likely to find its way to you today.

October 29

Your love life is doing great today. Try to hurry up things it will work out for you today. You need to be open and expressive regarding your feelings towards your significant other. You are very likely to get

married soon and starting the preparations today will be extremely beneficial for you as Venus is dominant in your sign today.

October 30

Your business will work out exactly how you anticipated and planned it to grow, you will acquire new clients. Be it a big or a small prospect, you will observe that your business has grown the most today. You will have a relaxed day knowing how well life is working out for you today. Everyone that comes across your work will be infatuated with the way you present your work and yourself. Today you will earn yourself a lot of business prospects and finances.

October 31

You will be more independent today. You will be able to clear out things that you were stuck at for a long time. It will be easy to focus on work or the new prospect today as the energies align in your favor a lot today. Learn what works for you in calming your energies today. This newfound confidence will keep you happy throughout the day.

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Karwa Chauth: Celebration of love, marriage and the unbreakable bond

In Hinduism, Karwa Chauth is one of the most auspicious festivals for women. On this day, married women keep a Nirjala (without water) fast not only for the long life of their husband but also as a symbol of love and affection.

In many regions across the country, young girls also keep the Karwa fast in order to get the desired groom. Being a Hindu festival, it is more significantly celebrated in the northern part of India, however, any married woman can keep this fast in the love of her husband.

According to the Hindu calendar, Karwa Chauth is celebrated each year on the Chaturthi Tithi of Krishna Paksha in the month of Kartik. This year Karwa Chauth is falling on Sunday, 24 October 2021. On this day, women break the fast after offering Arghya to the moon at night in an earthen pot known as Karwa.

History

According to the Vrat Katha, there was a queen named Veerawati who deeply loved her husband. She also had seven brothers who loved her immensely. The story goes that one day Veerwati was visiting her home during Karwa Chauth while she was fasting for her husband's long life.

By evening, she began to feel a little faint and was eagerly waiting for the moon to come out so that she could eat something. Upon seeing her like this, her brothers could not bear to witness this and begged her to eat something. However, when she denied, they devised a plan to ease her misery.

One of her brothers climbed up a pipal tree and held up a sieve with a flame behind it. Their aim was to trick Veerawati into believing that the moon was out and that she could break her fast. Upon seeing the flame, the innocent Veerawati believed her brothers and broke the fast.

Unfortunately, the moment she did, the news of her husband's passing arrived within a few minutes. She began to cry when a goddess appeared in front of her and revealed that she had been tricked by her brothers. Veerawati promised to keep the fast with full devotion and begged the goddess to return her husband to life. This is when Yama, the Lord of Death saw her devotion and restored her husband's life.

Significance of Karwa Chauth

Karwa Chauth is a festival in which married women pray to Lord Shiva and Goddess Parvati for the long life of their husbands. They dress up in ethnic clothes mostly sarees and salwar suits and adorn all the traditional symbols of a married woman such as Sindoor. Women from the neighborhood gather at one

Karwa Chauth 2021 will be celebrated on Sunday, 24 October 2021.



place where they hear the Vrat Katha and sing hymns. Later in the evening, a Puja is performed and once the Moon is sighted, the fast is broken.

What's interesting is that in 2021, the moon on Karwa Chauth is expected to rise in the Rohini Nakshatra. According to the Hindu calendar, this constellation is very auspicious and since the Moon is the lord of this nakshatra, it is believed that seeing the moon and worshipping it in this nakshatra will be very auspicious.

Apart from observing fasts, women also pray for a prosperous and happy married life. Later in the evening, they perform puja for their husbands before

the moon sighting. After this, the women try to see the moon through a sieve and then catch a glimpse of their husbands through the same sieve. It is also believed that when a wife looks at her husband through a sieve, all negative emotions are filtered through it.

Once this is done, the women eat something and their fast is completed. The festival has also been made popular by its depiction in various movies and TV shows. During recent times, a lot of men have also started observing fasts for their wives. This has made the festival even more special as it signifies love, compassion and understanding.



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"If Hindus don't maintain Hinduism, who shall save it?"

"If India's own children don't cling to their faith, who shall guard it?"

"Indians alone can save India, and India and Hinduism are one."

History This Week

OCTOBER 22 TO 28, 2021

"HISTORY IS NOT A BURDEN ON THE MEMORY BUT AN ILLUMINATION OF THE SOUL." -JOHN DALBERG-ACTON**October 22***President John F. Kennedy*

OCTOBER 22, 1962 - President John F. Kennedy appeared on television to inform Americans of the existence of Russian missiles in Cuba. The President demanded their removal and announced a naval "quarantine" of Cuba. Six days later, the Russians announced they would remove the weapons. In return, the U.S. later removed missiles from Turkey.

OCTOBER 22, 1979 - The exiled Shah of Iran arrived in the United States for medical treatment. A few weeks later, Iranian militants seized the U.S. Embassy in Tehran and took 66 Americans hostage. They demanded the return of the Shah for trial. The U.S. refused. The Shah died of cancer in July of 1980. The hostages were freed in January of 1981.

BIRTHDAY - Hungarian composer Franz Liszt (1811-1886) was born in Raiding, Hungary. He was a brilliant pianist best known for Hungarian Rhapsody No. 2, Liebestraum No. 3, and his Faust and Dante symphonies.

October 23

OCTOBER 23, 1942 - British General Bernard Montgomery launched a major offensive against German forces under Erwin Rommel at El Alamein, Egypt.

OCTOBER 23, 1956 - A Hungarian uprising against Communist rule began with students and workers demonstrating in Budapest. Soviet Russians responded by sending in tanks and put down the revolt after several days of bitter fighting.

OCTOBER 23, 1983 - Terrorists drove a truck loaded with TNT into the U.S. and French headquarters in Beirut, Lebanon, exploding it and killing 241 U.S. Marines and 58 French paratroopers.

OCTOBER 23, 1989 - Hungary declared itself a republic 33 years after Soviet Russian troops crushed a popular revolt against Communist rule.

OCTOBER 23, 1990 - Ukrainian Prime Minister Vitaly Masol resigned after mass protests by students, becoming the first Soviet official of that rank to quit under public pressure.

October 24

OCTOBER 24, 1861 - The first transcontinental telegram in America was sent from San Francisco to Washington, addressed to President Abraham Lincoln from the Chief Justice of California.

OCTOBER 24, 1931 - Chicago gangster "Scarface" Al Capone was sentenced to 11 years in jail for Federal income tax evasion. In 1934, he was transferred to Alcatraz prison near San Francisco. He was paroled in 1939, suffering from syphilis. He retired to his mansion in Miami Beach where he died in 1947.

*The United Nations*

OCTOBER 24, 1945 - The United Nations was founded.

OCTOBER 24, 1980 - Communist authorities in Poland granted recognition to the trade union "Solidarity." It was subsequently outlawed in 1981 after the government imposed martial law. In 1989, it was re-legalized.

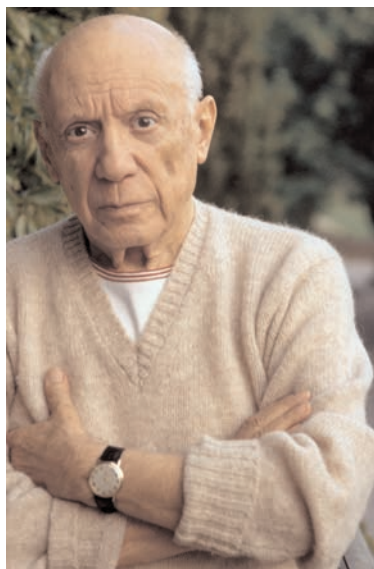
OCTOBER 24, 1994 - For the first time in 25 years, British troops were absent from the streets of Londonderry, Northern Ireland, following cease-fires by Irish Republican Army (IRA) and pro-British forces.

October 25

OCTOBER 25, 1854 - During the Crimean War, the Charge of the Light Brigade occurred as Lord Cardigan led the British cavalry against the Russians at Balaclava. Of 673 British cavalrymen taking part in the

charge, 272 were killed. The Charge was later immortalized in the poem by Alfred Lord Tennyson.

OCTOBER 25-30, 1983 - The Caribbean Island of Grenada was invaded by the U.S. to restore "order and democracy." Over 2,000 Marines and Army Rangers seized control after a political coup the previous week had made the island a "Soviet-Cuban colony," according to President Ronald Reagan.

*Pablo Picasso*

BIRTHDAY - Artist Pablo Picasso (1881-1973) was born in Malaga, Spain. He was an experimental painter and also became a fine sculptor, engraver and ceramist.

October 26

OCTOBER 26, 1881 - The shoot-out at the O.K. Corral in Tombstone, Arizona, occurred between the feuding Clanton and Earp families. Wyatt Earp, two of his brothers and "Doc" Holliday gunned down two Clantons and two others.

OCTOBER 26, 1825 - The Erie Canal opened as the first major man-made waterway in America, linking Lake Erie with the Hudson River, bypassing the British-controlled lower St. Lawrence. The canal cost over \$7 million and took eight years to complete.

OCTOBER 26, 1951 - Winston Churchill became Britain's prime minister for a second time, following his Conservative Party's narrow victory in general elections. In his first term from 1940-45 he had guided Britain through its struggle against Nazi Germany.

OCTOBER 26, 1955 - Ngo Dinh Diem proclaimed South Vietnam a republic and declared himself president.

BIRTHDAY - Hillary Rodham Clinton was born in Park Ridge, Illinois, October 26, 1947. She

was First Lady from 1993-2001 during the presidency of her husband Bill Clinton. In 2000, she became the only First Lady ever elected to the U.S. Senate, serving as a Democrat from New York. She was re-elected in 2006 and then began a presidential campaign, hoping to become America's first female president. She lost the Democratic nomination to Barack Obama who went on to win the general election and appointed her as U.S. Secretary of State in 2008.

October 27

OCTOBER 27, 1978 - The Nobel Peace Prize was awarded jointly to Menachem Begin of Israel and Anwar Sadat of Egypt.

BIRTHDAY - British navigator James Cook (1728-1779) was born in Yorkshire, England. He explored New Zealand, Australia, and the Hawaiian Islands.

*Theodore Roosevelt*

BIRTHDAY - Theodore Roosevelt (1858-1919) the 26th U.S. President was born in New York City. He succeeded to the presidency following the assassination of President William McKinley. Roosevelt served from September 14, 1901 to March 3, 1909. Best remembered for stating, "Speak softly and carry a big stick."

BIRTHDAY - Welsh poet and playwright Dylan Thomas (1914-1953) was born in Swansea, Wales. His works included; The World I Breathe, Portrait of the Artist as a Young Dog, The Doctor and the Devil and the drama Under Milk Wood.

October 28*Harvard University*

OCTOBER 28, 1636 - Harvard University, the oldest institution of higher learning in America, was founded in Cambridge, Massachusetts. It

was named after John Harvard, a Puritan who donated his library and half of his estate. Distinguished alumni include; Ralph Waldo Emerson, Henry David Thoreau, Henry James, and NAACP founder W.E.B. Du Bois.

OCTOBER 28, 1922 - Fascist blackshirts began their "March on Rome" from Naples which resulted in the formation of a dictatorship under Benito Mussolini.

OCTOBER 28, 1949 - Helen Anderson became the first woman ambassador, appointed by President Harry Truman to be Ambassador to Denmark.

OCTOBER 28, 1958 - Cardinal Angelo Giuseppe Roncalli, Patriarch of Venice, was elected Pope, taking the title John XXIII. Best known for undertaking the 21st Ecumenical Council (Vatican II).

OCTOBER 28, 1962 - The Cuban Missile Crisis ended with the announcement by Soviet Russia's leader Nikita Khrushchev that his Soviet government was halting construction of missile bases in Cuba and would remove the offensive missiles. President Kennedy immediately accepted the offer then lifted the U.S. naval blockade of Cuba.

OCTOBER 28, 1971 - The British House of Commons voted 356-244 in favor of joining the European Economic Community.

BIRTHDAY - Dr. Jonas Salk (1914-1995) was born in New York City. In 1952, he developed a vaccine for the dreaded childhood disease Polio (poliomyelitis, also known as infantile paralysis). His vaccine reduced deaths from Polio in the U.S. by 95%.

*Bill Gates*

BIRTHDAY - Microsoft founder Bill Gates was born in Seattle, Washington, October 28, 1955. In 1975, he co-founded Microsoft with Paul Allen, designing software for IBM computers. By 1980, Microsoft became the leading software company for IBM compatible computers. Gates became a billionaire by age 31 and remains one of the world's wealthiest individuals.

Bodh Gaya: Buddha, Mahabodhi Tree and the land of Nirvana

Bodh Gaya is a Buddhist pilgrimage site in Gaya District of Bihar. Famous for the Mahabodhi Temple, It was here under the Bodhi tree that Gautama Buddha attained enlightenment.

It is now one of the UNESCO World Heritage Sites, and a lot of foreign countries, including Japan and China, have helped the Indian government in building facilities for the Buddhist pilgrims. The place is bustling with pilgrims all through the year from India and abroad who come to pay their homage in monasteries, temples and remnants of Bodhi Tree.

Located near the river Neranjana, Bodh Gaya was earlier known as Uruwela. It was also known as Sambodhi, Vajrasana or Mahabodhi until the 18th century CE. It is one of the four important Buddhist sites that include: Kushinagar, Lumbini and Sarnath.

Places to visit

Mahabodhi Temple

The Mahabodhi temple, also called the "Great Awakening Temple", is a UNESCO World Heritage Site located in Bodhgaya, Bihar. It is a Buddhist temple that marks the location where the Lord Buddha is said to have attained enlightenment. Lord Buddha holds a very significant place in the religious history of India as he is believed to be the 9th and the most recent incarnation of Lord Vishnu to have walked the earth. The temple spreads over an area of a whopping 4.8 hectares and is 55 meters tall. The Bodhi Tree is situated to the left of the temple and is believed to be the direct descendant of the actual tree under which Lord Gautam Buddha meditated and attained enlightenment and laid down his philosophy for life. The original temple was built by Emperor Ashoka after he turned to Buddhism in order to seek peace and solitude from war and conquests.

The great Emperor Ashoka visited Bodh Gaya in around 260 BC. During his visit, he constructed a small temple by a tree, which was the Bodhi tree- the tree under which Gautam Buddha was sitting when he attained enlightenment. An inscription dated back to between 1st century and 2nd century read that the temple built by Emperor Ashoka was replaced by a new one. Many monks and devotees can be seen performing countless prostrations to the tree. It's a purificatory ritual, and some monks are known to do up to 1,00,000 prostrations at one time. The architecture of the temple and its overall silence and peace will surely enchant you as you visit it.

Great Buddha Statue

This statue of Lord Buddha is the tallest in India and was instated by the XIV Dalai Lama in 1989. It is a meditating Buddha resting on a giant lotus, constructed using intricately carved sandstone and red granite.

Bodhi Tree



The Bodhi Tree, located 100 kilometres to the south of Patna in the north Indian state of Bihar, is perhaps the most prominent and respected sacred places in Buddhism because of the rich historical significance attached to it. It is under this tree that Prince Siddhartha Gautama, the spiritual teacher who later became to be

known as the Buddha, attained enlightenment. It is believed that Prince Siddhartha had to sit and meditate under this tree for seven days. Later on, a shrine known as Animisalocana Cetiya was erected on the spot where he had sat down. A small temple was also built near the Bodhi tree in the 7th century.

The Bodhi tree is a frequently visited destination spot by tourists and is one of the four main Buddhist pilgrimage sites. In fact, the Anandabodhi tree in Sravasti and the Bodhi tree in Anuradhapura, both of which are again significant places that find mention in the history of Buddhism, are believed to have been propagated from this tree here at Bodh Gaya. The aura of the Bodhi tree and the temple complex in which this tree is located have attracted sages, meditators and yogis to it ever since the time of the Buddha. Great and renowned spiritual figures like Buddhajnana, Padmasambhava, Vimalamitra, Nagarjuna and Atisha, have lived and meditated underneath the historically and religiously significant Bodhi Tree. Bodh Gaya is also popular for its UNESCO World Heritage Site- the Mahabodhi Temple Complex, which is just beside the tree. Religious people, as well as lovers of history, find this place especially fascinating.

Thai Monastery

Well known for its curved roof covered with exquisite tiles of gold, the Thai Monastery houses a bronze statue of Buddha and another recently erected 25m high statue in the garden.

Muchalinda Lake

A popular site at Bodh Gaya, the Muchalinda Lake is located next to the main temple. It is associated with a mythological tale stating that Lord Buddha was protected from the storm by Snake King Muchalinda.

A popular site at Bodh Gaya, the Muchalinda Lake is located next to the main temple. It is associated with a mythological tale stating that Lord Buddha was protected from the storm by Snake King Muchalinda.

Vishnupad Temple

As the name suggests, this temple was built as a dedication to Lord Vishnu and features a 40 cm long footprint of Lord Vishnu that is enclosed by a basin made of silver plates.

This footprint marks the act of Lord Vishnu subduing Gayasur by placing his feet on Gayasur's chest. Within the courtyard, there are other temples situated as well. One is dedicated to Lord Narasimha and another to Lord Shiva in the form of Phalgwisvara. This temple serves as a very significant place of worship for Hindus and is located in Gaya.

Dungeshwari Hills

Dungeshwari Hills is where Lord Buddha spent a few years before travelling to Bodh Gaya in search of enlightenment. The hills are mostly known for the caves that Gautam Buddha used for shelter and meditation. The Stupas/ Buddhist shrines exist even today amidst the beautiful natural surroundings. The picturesque location of the Dungeshwari Hills is also a well-known trekking destination and draws enthusiasts in large numbers.

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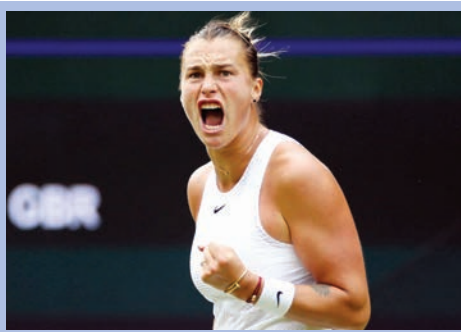
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Sabalenka returns with win over Tomljanovic at Kremlin Cup

Aryna Sabalenka played a match for the first time since reaching the U.S. Open semifinals and subsequently testing positive for the coronavirus, beating Ajla Tomljanovic 7-6 (2), 4-6, 6-1 Wednesday to reach the quarterfinals of the Kremlin Cup.

The second-ranked Belarusian, who had a bye in the first round, had 10 aces but also made 30 unforced errors.

"She's a tough opponent for the first match after a long time out on a break," Sabalenka said. "I calmed down a bit and started playing well."

Sabalenka had not played since her three-set loss to Leylah Fernandez in the U.S. Open semifinals. She was due to play in Indian Wells, California, but said she had tested positive for the coronavirus the day before play started.

Sabalenka will next play Ekaterina Alexandrova, who beat Anhelina Kalinina 6-4, 6-1. Garbine Muguruza reach the quarterfinals by beating Tereza Martincova 6-4, 4-6, 6-3. She will next face either Anett Kontaveit or Andrea Petkovic.

BCCI could earn up to \$5 billion from IPL broadcasting rights only

The BCCI is set for a windfall of gigantic proportions as the IPL broadcast rights (TV and digital) could fetch the Board up to USD 5 billion for the next five-year cycle (2023-2027) while some high-profile interest is being seen in the bidding process for the two new teams.

The current five-year rights (TV and digital) for IPL from 2018 to 2022 are with Star India but, according to people who are in decision-making capacity, the valuation, which is at Rs 16,347.50 crore (USD 2.55 billion) right now, could more than double and reach USD 5 billion (around Rs 36,000 crore approx at current exchange rate). "There is a well-known US based company which did send BCCI feelers some time back, expressing their serious interest in bidding for IPL media rights. With 10 teams playing IPL from 2022, the matches will go up to 74 and in any case, the valuation of the property increases," a senior BCCI said.

INDIA-PAK TIE

T20 World Cup: For Sunday 'dogfight', leadership key, says Matthew Hayden

KARACHI (TIP): Former Australia opener Matthew Hayden says leadership would be key in the much-anticipated match between India and Pakistan at the T20 World Cup on Sunday, October 24. India would be led in the contest by the passionate Virat Kohli while Pakistan's captain is Babar Azam, often cited as Kohli's rival as a top-class batsman.

The marquee match will be played on the second day of the main tournament after the qualifying round. Hayden, currently working with the Pakistan team as a batting consultant, cited the examples of MS Dhoni and Eoin Morgan in leadership roles in the recent IPL. "Their individual performances were not as good as they have previously done as per their statistical records but the way they led their troops and conducted themselves played an important part in their teams reaching the IPL final in UAE conditions," Hayden said.

No margin for error

Hayden said the margin for error will be very small in the big match. "I feel leadership will be key in the coming match as conditions in UAE leave very little margin for error and there are dogfight conditions out there," Hayden said. He said Azam would have a huge role to play in the match as a leader and top batter. "There will be additional pressure on him as captain and batsman because he will be targeted and everyone will be wanting to, like they say, put him in their pocket," Hayden said. "Babar has command and presence and he needs to fulfil that role in a batting sense and captain."

KL, Pant threat

Hayden also said that having followed



Indian cricket very closely over the years, he believed that KL Rahul and Rishabh Pant pose the biggest threat to Pakistan. "More or less I have watched KL Rahul grow and he is a major threat to Pakistan. I have watched him grow up as a boy. I have seen his struggles and his dominance in shorter formats," Hayden said. "I have seen someone like Rishabh Pant, his brash nature and beautiful vision for the game, how he has destroyed bowling attacks because he has got the opportunity because he sees it that way."

Matchless

Hayden said having been part of the

sport for a very long time, he believes nothing matches the rivalry between Pakistan and India. "For an Australian obviously the Ashes and matches against England are tops but nothing matches the rivalry of these two teams," he said.

Asked about his short-term role as consultant with the Pakistan team, Hayden said his main purpose was to bring calmness and control into the dressing room, telling the players to remain ever-present in play. "I have learnt for whatever reason you are always under pressure, you don't need to create additional pressure to what the game demands," Hayden said.

Source: PTI

Champions league: Ron rescues Man United, Barcelona finally win

MANCHESTER (TIP): Cristiano Ronaldo's late winning goal capped a classic Manchester United comeback win in the Champions League. In a less chaotic manner, Bayern Munich and Juventus also recorded typical trademark wins to top their groups with three straight victories and no goals conceded.

Trailing 0-2 at halftime at home against Atalanta, with Paul Pogba left on the bench, Manchester United's wild season under manager Ole Gunnar Solskjaer appeared ready to derail with last place in the group beckoning. Ronaldo put the club back on top, 3-2, in the 81st minute after goals from Marcus Rashford and Harry Maguire to deliver a second straight come-from-behind win at Old Trafford in the competition.

Bayern routed Benfica 4-0 with late goals including one from Robert Lewandowski after standout saves by Manuel Neuer in the Lisbon stadium where they won the 2020 title 14 months ago.

It was an efficient 1-0 win for Juventus at Zenit St. Petersburg thanks to an 86th-minute goal by Dejan Kulusevski.

Defending champion Chelsea also cruised to a 4-0 win, against Malmo, but lost strikers Romelu Lukaku and Timo Werner to injuries.

Salzburg were the other group leaders in action, beating Wolfsburg 3-1 with goals from the kind of young forwards the



Austrian champions excel in nurturing and then trading on. Teenage Germany forward Karim Adeyemi scored early before 21-year-old Switzerland winger Noah Okafor scored twice in the second half for Salzburg.

Barcelona finally got a win, 1-0 against Dynamo Kyiv, to end some unwanted historic streaks for the club and stay in contact in the group led by Bayern.

contd from page 1

Trump announces launch of media company, social media site

Trump has spoken about launching his own social media site ever since he was barred from Twitter and Facebook. An earlier effort to launch a blog on his existing website was abandoned after the page drew dismal views.

In addition to the app, which is expected to soft-launch next month, with a nationwide rollout early next year, the company says it is planning a video-on-demand service that will feature entertainment programming, news and podcasts. (Agencies)

'U.K.-India ties vital in coming decades': U.K. Foreign Secretary Elizabeth Truss

two discussed closer collaboration. Ms. Truss said her visit will boost the partnership and pointed out technology and infrastructure, security and defense, and "building back after COVID" as the areas of collaboration between the two sides.

"You are a fellow democracy; you believe in free enterprise and you believe in freedom. I think it's very important that countries like ours work together on our shared plans for the future," said Ms. Truss in her opening remarks in the meeting with Mr. Jaishankar.

Ms. Truss and Mr. Jaishankar "welcomed the progress in delivering the Enhanced Trade Partnership" that was announced at the India-U.K. virtual summit held on May 4, said the Ministry of External Affairs in a statement after Friday's meeting. Both ministers agreed on the need for launching FTA negotiations "at the earliest, with a focus on negotiating an interim agreement that can deliver quick gains to businesses in both India and the U.K."

Ms. Truss' visit comes in the backdrop of developments in Afghanistan after the departure of the U.S. and U.K. troops. There is a vocal section within the government of Prime Minister Boris Johnson that believes that the people of Afghanistan should not made to suffer while the world waits on the Taliban build an inclusive government in Kabul. "On Afghanistan, the need for full, safe and unhindered access for humanitarian assistance was discussed as also the need for Afghan territory not be used to threaten or attack any country or to

shelter or train terrorists, or to plan or to finance terrorist attacks," declared the press release issued by the MEA after the two ministers met.

The visit provides an opportunity to both sides to lay the ground for the upcoming visit of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to Glasgow to attend the global climate summit.

The Hindu reported earlier that PM Modi will travel to Glasgow on October 31. The COP26 summit has already drawn considerable attention as it will help create a blueprint of global climate action. The summit has also revealed deep divisions in the global community as Russia's President Vladimir Putin and Chinese President Xi Jinping are not expected to attend it.

The visit also marks a renewed focus of the U.K. on the Indo-Pacific region which is expected to receive greater maritime attention of London in the coming years. (Source: The Hindu)

Indo-US relationship based on trust which is increasing: Ambassador Sandhu

"Today, there is a very strong base between our bilateral relationship and that base is of trust. And that trust is increasing. And that's very important in the number of partnerships which we share," said Sandhu, who has been making special efforts with his Congressional outreach.

As close aides of lawmakers both in the House and the Senate, Congressional staffers, a number of whom are of Indian-origin, play a key role in shaping the policies and legislative agenda of the US Congress.

Many of them in the years to come climb up the ladder to even serve in presidential administration.

India, Sandhu asserted, plays a significant role in affordable healthcare, affordable medicines and vaccines.

"I'll just give you one example. Six years ago, both the US and India collaborated for a vaccine. We partnered in bulk production of a vaccine for another virus called RotaVirus. That collaboration got the cost of a single dose down from USD 60 to USD 1. That is the kind of depth that is there," he said.

Reiterating that there is a huge potential between India and the US in the healthcare sector, Sandhu also referred to the cooperation in energy, climate change and renewables.

Knowledge partnership and education sector is another key area of collaboration between the two countries, he said.

"I know that all of you are involved in some way or another in our bilateral relationship. I'm only going to quote what President (Joe) Biden said in 2006 that this is going to be one of the most important bilateral relations. In fact, he said, the most important. I have only added one of the most important," Sandhu said in his address to the senior Congressional staffers.

As part of his engagement with Congress, a day earlier, the ambassador hosted the leadership of the Indian Caucus at India House.

"Discussed deepening India-US relations incl, recent bilateral & QUAD Summits. Appreciate their strong support for India United States partnership (sic)," Sandhu said in a tweet.

He had another "engaging conversation" at the US Capitol with Congressman Jason Crow, a member of the House Armed Services Committee on the multifaceted India-US relations, including in vaccines, climate change and emerging technologies.

"Also discussed Quad partnership and other regional developments," Sandhu said.

The ambassador also had a substantive discussion with Senator Ben Ray Lujan on India-US partnership in health and vaccines; climate change and clean energy; education and research; Quad and deepening people-to-people ties. (Source: PTI)

Federal Regulators Say Benefits Outweigh Key Risks in Vaccine for 5- to 11-Year-Olds

Covid-19 with the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine outweigh the risks of side effects in the age group, New York Times reported.

The analysis came on the same day that Pfizer posted data showing that the vaccine had a 90.7 percent efficacy rate in preventing symptomatic Covid-19 in a clinical trial of 5- to 11-year-olds.

The findings could add momentum for F.D.A. authorization of the pediatric dose on an emergency basis, perhaps as early as next week, opening up a long-awaited new phase of the nation's vaccination campaign. The agency's independent vaccine expert committee is set to vote Tuesday on whether to recommend authorization.

In a briefing document posted on the F.D.A. website, the agency said it had balanced the dangers of hospitalization, death or other serious consequences



from Covid-19 against the risk of side effects. That included myocarditis, a rare condition involving inflammation of the heart muscle that has been linked to the Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna vaccines, especially among young men.

"The overall analysis predicted that the numbers of clinically significant Covid-19-related outcomes prevented would clearly outweigh the numbers of vaccine-associated excess myocarditis cases," regulators wrote.

As is customary, the regulators took no stance on whether the new use of a vaccine should be authorized.

If the F.D.A. rules in favor of authorization and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and its own panel of vaccine experts agree, the 28 million children in that age group could become eligible for shots in the first week of November.

"There's a lot of data to be encouraged by," said Dr. Kathryn M. Edwards, a professor of pediatrics in the division of infectious diseases at Vanderbilt University School of Medicine. She said the results exceeded the protection offered by the best flu vaccine and could eventually lead to the easing of restrictions intended to prevent elementary school children from contracting the virus.

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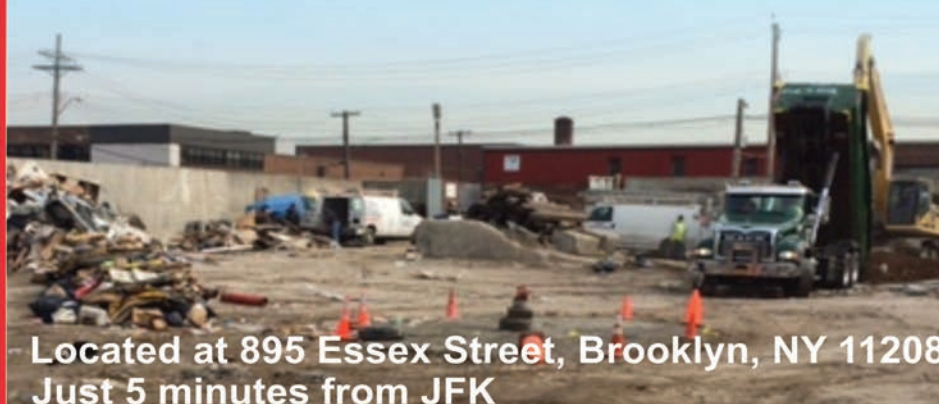
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**Message from
Peter J. McDonnell,
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Institute, Johns Hopkins
University, USA on the
occasion of laying the
foundation stone on
December 10, 2020**



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