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STAY SAFE AND BLESSED

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India to Play Leading Role in Global Revival: PM Modi

BIDISHA ROY

LONDON (TIP): In his first major speech to a global audience since the Covid-19 pandemic, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, July 9, assured the world that India will play a leading role in global revival in this crucial time with a spirit of reform and rejuvenation.

At his much-anticipated inaugural address of India Global Week, biggest international event on India's globalization, the Prime Minister said that India is ready to do whatever it can to further global good and prosperity.

"In these times, it is natural to talk about revival. It is equally natural to link global revival and India. There is faith that the story of global revival will

contd on Page 2



Prime Minister addresses India Global Week - Photo /PTI

US still 'knee-deep' in first wave of coronavirus, says Dr. Fauci

Coronavirus hot spots should pause reopening, not shut down again, recommends infectious diseases expert

WASHINGTON (TIP): States with spiking coronavirus cases still can contain them by pausing their reopening processes, rather than shutting down a second time, one of the nation's top infectious disease experts said Thursday, July 9.

Dr. Anthony Fauci's comments at an event hosted by The Hill news outlet contrast with what he said a day earlier: that states with a serious coronavirus problem "should seriously look at shutting down."

"Rather than think in terms of

reverting back down to a complete shutdown, I would think we need to get the states pausing in their opening process," Fauci, director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, told The Hill's Editor-at-Large Steve Clemons on Thursday.

"If we can do that consistently, I will tell you, almost certainly, you're going to see a down curve of those infections," Fauci said. On Wednesday, July 8, Fauci told the Wall Street Journal that a second shutdown might be the best move for

contd on Page 2



Dr. Fauci, one of the nation's top infectious disease experts said Thursday, July 9 that the coronavirus hot spots should pause reopening

Supreme Court rules Manhattan prosecutor may see Trump's financial records



WASHINGTON (TIP): In a pair of historic rulings on Thursday, July 9, the U.S. Supreme Court rejected President Trump's claim of absolute immunity under the law. The vote was 7 to 2 in cases involving grand jury and congressional subpoenas for Trump's pre-presidential financial records.

The Supreme Court ruled that a New York prosecutor is entitled to see President Trump's private and business financial records, ending an intense legal battle waged by the president to

keep them secret.

The court said Manhattan District Attorney Cyrus R. Vance Jr. had the authority to subpoena the records from Trump's private accounting firm. Trump had claimed an immunity from criminal investigations while in office.

Vance is investigating whether the Trump Organization falsified business records to conceal hush payments to two women, including pornographic film actress Stormy Daniels, who claimed they had sex with Trump before he took office. Trump has denied those claims.

Vance is seeking, Trump's tax returns, among other records. The president has refused to make them public, unlike previous modern presidents. Because the records are for a grand jury investigation, they would not likely be disclosed before the election. However, in a second decision on the House's request for similar information,

contd on Page 2

Sandeep Chakravorty Named New Joint Secretary of AMS (Americas) Division

BIDISHA ROY

NEW YORK (TIP): Sandeep Chakravorty, India's former Consul General in New York who left the city June 28 after completion of an overwhelming successful tenure, has been named the new joint secretary of the all-important AMS (Americas) division that handles all issues related to the US and Canada.

Mr Chakravorty served as India's Consul General in New York from August 2017 to June 2020. He was immensely popular in the Tri-State community for his innovative ideas, hard work and friendly approach. Before joining as Consul General of India in New York, he was Ambassador of India to Peru. Sandeep Chakravorty, is a member of the Indian Foreign Service (IFS) since 1996. Before joining the Government of India, he worked for several years in organizations dealing

contd on Page 2



Mr Chakravorty, who as India's CG at New York was immensely popular in the Tri-State community for his innovative ideas, hard work and friendly approach, is appointed as Jt. Secretary of Americas division



Vohra's paper, originally published in the journal *Games and Economic Behavior* in 1997, has served as an essential contribution to the literature on game theory

Indian Origin UPenn Professor Rakesh Vohra Wins SIGecom Test of Time Award

NEW YORK (TIP): Rakesh Vohra, George A. Weiss and Lydia Bravo Weiss University Professor at Penn, has won the 2020 SIGecom Test of Time Award for his paper, "Calibrated Learning and Correlated Equilibrium."

The SIGecom Test of Time Award recognizes research published between ten and twenty-five years ago that has, as the name suggests, stood the test of time in its field. SIGecom is the Association for Computing

Machinery's Special Interest Group on Economics and Computation, so it celebrates work that has "significantly impacted research or applications exemplifying the interplay" of those two topics.

Vohra's paper, originally published in the journal *Games and Economic Behavior* in 1997, has served as an essential contribution to the literature on game theory.

Vohra is a Penn Integrate Knowledge professor with appointments in Penn

Arts and Sciences' Department of Economics and Penn Engineering's Department of Electrical and Systems Engineering. He works at the intersection of economics, systems engineering, computer science and business, and is the Co-Director of the Warren Center for Network & Data Science. He is best known for his work on forecasting in low information environments and his many contributions to the economic field of mechanism design.

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India to Play Leading Role in Global Revival: PM Modi

have India playing a leading role. I see this closely linked with two factors. The first is- Indian talent. World over, you have seen the contribution of India's talent-force. This includes Indian professionals, doctors, nurses, bankers, lawyers, scientists, professors, our hard-working laborers. Who can forget the Indian tech industry and tech professionals? They have been showing the way for decades. India is a power-house of talent, that is eager to contribute, ever ready to learn. There is two-way synergy that is greatly beneficial", he said.

"The second factor is India's ability to reform and rejuvenate. Indians are natural reformers! History has shown that India has overcome every challenge, be it social or economic. India has done so with a spirit of reform and rejuvenation. The same sprit continues now", he affirmed.

India Inc. Group - the UK-headquartered media house behind flagship publications 'India Global Business' and the recently-launched diaspora news network 'iGlobal' - brought together some of the best strategic minds and experts in their respective fields.

With +75 sessions, +250 speakers and +5000 participants from 49 countries, India Global Week cements itself as the event where 'India Meets the World, and the World Meets India.

Prime Minister Modi tops a stellar list of speakers in packed program across three days between July 9 and 11, including External Affairs Minister Dr S. Jaishankar, Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal, IT & Law Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad and Skills Minister Mahendra Nath Pandey, from India.

The line-up covers a special address by HRH The Prince of Wales and several UK Cabinet Ministers, including Foreign Secretary Dominic Raab, Home Secretary Priti Patel, Health Secretary Matt Hancock, and International Trade Secretary Lizz Truss - all underlining the centrality of India to a post-Covid, post-Brexit Britain.

Other international speakers on a diverse range of topics, from geopolitics and business to culture and diaspora, and across four country streams of Australia, Singapore, the UK and the US include Steve Waugh, Former Australian Cricketer; Dr Mukesh Aghi, President and CEO, US-India Strategic Partnership Forum; Chng Kai Fong, Managing Director, Economic Development Board, Singapore; and William Russell, Lord Mayor of the City of London. Other big highlights include Kunal Nayyar, of 'The Big Bang Theory' fame, in conversation with Sadhguru, Founder, Isha Foundation; a conversation with Spiritual Leader Sri Sri Ravi Shankar; and an exclusive never-seen performance by Madhu Nataraj and her team.

US still 'knee-deep' in first wave of coronavirus, says Dr. Fauci

states struggling with burgeoning coronavirus cases and hospitalizations.

"I think any state that is having a serious problem, that state should seriously look at shutting down," Fauci told the newspaper in a podcast.

He did say Wednesday that simple steps short of full economic lockdowns -- controlling crowds, wearing masks and doing a better job at physical distancing -- would help.

The country and some states are setting records for average daily officially reported cases, ICUs in hot spots are reaching capacity, and most states are seeing spikes, recalling the uncertainty of months ago when the virus first broke out.

Another health expert echoed Fauci's initial comment about second shutdowns.

"If you're not doing the ... things we've talked about in the past to get this outbreak under control, starting with test and trace ... your only option is to shut down," Dr. Ali Khan, former director of the CDC's public health preparedness office said.

Climbing case numbers have motivated many states to pause or roll back plans to reopen economies after widespread shutdowns in the spring.

The US reached more than 3 million coronavirus cases this week, according to data from Johns Hopkins University. At least 33 states as of Thursday morning have seen an upward trend in average daily cases -- an increase of at least 10% -- over the last week.

Some states have recently reported alarming rates at which people are testing positive: 28% in Arizona; 26% in Texas; and 19% in Florida, according to The Covid Tracking Project.

Previous recommendations for reopening economies, expressed by the CDC, called for test-positivity rates of no greater than 20% just to reach first-phase reopenings, and less than 10% for fuller reopenings.

The country still is reckoning with job losses from the first stay-at-home orders. Though millions of jobs have come back, 18.1 million Americans currently are on continued unemployment claims, meaning they filed at least two straight weeks, the Department of Labor said Thursday, July 9.

And more than 3 million Americans appear to have lost jobs that aren't coming back any time soon, economists say.

Supreme Court rules Manhattan prosecutor may see Trump's financial records

the court appeared to question the breadth of congressional authority.

The Supreme Court ruled that the lower court needs

to consider separation of power issues related to the congressional subpoenas, suggesting that Congress did not have unlimited powers to investigate the president. That ruling was also 7-2, with Roberts writing the opinion.

Trump was apparently enraged by the outcome, tweeting a string of criticism that "this is all a political prosecution," and "Courts in the past have given 'broad deference.' BUT NOT ME!"

New York District Attorney Cyrus Vance issued a statement calling the decision in the grand jury case "a tremendous victory for our nation's system of Justice and its founding principle that no one - not even the president - is above the law."

Trump's personal attorney Jay Sekulow took a more optimistic tone than the president in his response to the Supreme Court rulings on the president's financial information.

"We are pleased that in the decisions issued today, the Supreme Court has temporarily blocked both Congress and New York prosecutors from obtaining the President's financial records. We will now proceed to raise additional Constitutional and legal issues in the lower courts," Sekulow said in a statement. (With inputs from agencies)

Sandeep Chakravorty Named New Joint Secretary of AMS (Americas) Division

with forestry, environment and watershed development issues in India.

He has served in India's missions in Madrid, Bogota and Dhaka. In the Ministry of External Affairs of India, he served on several desks including working as Press Relations Officer as well as Private Secretary to Minister of State for External Affairs. He also served in the Eurasia Division dealing with Central Asia and in the East Asia Division dealing with China, Japan, Korea and Mongolia. Before being appointed as India's Ambassador to Peru and Bolivia, he was India's Deputy High Commissioner in Dhaka, Bangladesh.

He holds a Master Degree in Advanced Studies from Geneva University and has an MA in Sociology. He has a PG Diploma in Forestry Management from Indian Institute of Forest Management (IIFM), Bhopal. He graduated in Physics from Delhi University.

The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) has named 3 new joint secretaries, or point persons including Mr Chakravorty, taking up some of the toughest assignments in the ministry. While Arindam Bagchi, an IFS officer of 1995 batch, will head the crucial northern division of MEA, which handles Bhutan and Nepal affairs, J P Singh, an IFS officer of 2002 batch and expert on Pakistan-Afghanistan affairs, has taken over as joint secretary of the high-profile Pakistan, Afghanistan and Iran (PAI) division.

Governor Murphy Pushes Mask Order in Outdoor Public Spaces When People Cannot Social Distance

TRENTON, NJ (TIP): New Jersey Governor Phil Murphy signed Executive Order No. 163, which requires individuals to wear face coverings in outdoor public spaces when it is not practicable to socially distance and keep a six-foot distance from others, excluding immediate family members, caretakers, household members, or romantic partners, except where doing so would inhibit that individual's health, where the individual is under two years of age, or in situations where individuals cannot feasibly wear a face covering, such as when eating or drinking at outdoor dining areas.



Governor Phil Murphy announces new funding to combat food insecurity in New Jersey with Senate President Sweeney, Assembly Speaker Craig Coughlin, Senator Vin Gopal, Department of Human Services Commissioner Carole Johnson, and Community FoodBank of New Jersey President & CEO Carlos Rodriguez on Thursday, July 9th, 2020

Photo / Courtesy Governor's Office

The Order also reiterates New Jersey's policy of requiring face coverings in indoor spaces that are accessible to members of the public, such as retail, recreational, and entertainment businesses, areas of government buildings open to the public, and mass transit buses, trains, and stations, again with exceptions for health reasons and children under two.

"As I've said before, we know this virus is a lot less lethal outdoors than indoors, but that does not mean it is not lethal," said Governor Murphy. "The hotspots we're seeing across the nation and certain worrisome transmission trends in New Jersey require us to do more. In the absence of a national strategy on face coverings, we're taking this step to ensure that we can continue on our road back as one New Jersey family."

New Jersey on Thursday, July 9 reported 28 new deaths due to COVID 19 and 354 new positive tests. The Garden State has now reported 15,448 known deaths related to COVID-19 - 13,501 lab-confirmed and 1,947 probable - with 174,270 known cases in the little more than four months since the state's first case was announced March 4.

Murphy on Thursday announced that he will direct money from the Coronavirus Relief Fund, established under the Federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act, to support New Jersey food banks, which have been providing families with food assistance at unprecedented rates during the COVID-19 pandemic. The total CARES Act funding amount will be \$20 million, with \$10 million distributed before August 2020 and an additional \$10 million available before December 2020.

New York to Decide by Early August if Schools Can Reopen in September

Picture caption -NY Governor Andrew M. Cuomo announced July 8 that malls will be allowed to reopen in New York State this Friday, July 10 under certain conditions while the state will decide by early August if schools can reopen in September



NY Governor Andrew M. Cuomo announced July 8 that malls will be allowed to reopen in New York State this Friday, July 10 under certain conditions while the state will decide by early August if schools can reopen in September

(Picture / courtesy Office of Governor)

(Picture / courtesy Office of Governor)
ALBANY, NY (TIP): New York Governor Andrew M. Cuomo announced that New York State will decide whether schools will reopen in the fall during the first week of August. New York State is now consulting with stakeholders on guidance, which will be finalized on July 13. Plans to reopen schools are due on July 31.

Cuomo on July 9 confirmed 584 additional cases of novel coronavirus, bringing the statewide total to 399,513 confirmed cases in New York State.

"New York continues to make progress fighting COVID-19 through a smart, data-driven approach and the thoughtful actions of everyday citizens, who've been practicing social distancing, mask wearing and hand washing," Governor Cuomo said during briefing New Yorkers on the state's progress during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. "But the surge in new cases and hospitalizations throughout the country - and the potential for those people to bring the virus into New York - combined with the complacency we've seen in parts of our own state is a potentially deadly mix. We need to stay vigilant and smart so we don't go back to the hell we experienced just two months ago. We are not out of the woods yet."

THURSDAY'S (JULY 9) DATA IS SUMMARIZED BRIEFLY BELOW:

- Patient Hospitalization - 851 (+10)
- Patients Newly Admitted - 79 (-5)
- Hospital Counties - 33
- Number ICU - 173 (+7)
- Number ICU with Intubation - 98 (+1)
- Total Discharges - 71,279 (+94)
- Deaths - 8
- Total Deaths - 24,959

The Governor also announced that all county fairs will be canceled until further notice out of an abundance of caution. Governor Cuomo previously announced that the New York State Fair will be canceled this summer.

Governor Cuomo also announced beginning Friday, July 10, malls can open in regions that have entered Phase IV of reopening if they have implemented an enhanced Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning - or HVAC - filtration system and follow proper ventilation protocols.

Mayor De Blasio announces cancellation of large events through September 30th



"As New York has begun its reopening process, accessible open spaces are more important than ever," said Mayor Bill de Blasio.

NEW YORK (TIP): Mayor Bill de Blasio, on July 9, announced that large events requiring a city events permit will be canceled through September 30th as the City works to prioritize open spaces for public use. The City will not issue a permit for any event in a location that interferes with the Open Streets or Open Restaurants program. Permits will also be denied for all events larger than one block, stage/video events that require amplification, street fairs, and

events in parks that may unreasonably diminish public use. The City will refund or defer fees paid in connection with a denied permit.

"As New York has begun its reopening process, accessible open spaces are more important than ever," said Mayor Bill de Blasio. "While it pains me to call off some of the city's beloved events, our focus now must be the prioritization of city space for public use and the continuation of social distancing."

Events that do not conflict with Open Streets or Open Restaurant areas and are for locations one city block or smaller can still apply for a permit. The Mayor's Executive Order will require all permit applicants to outline their plan to reduce the risk of transmission of COVID-19 at the event site and clean the event space both during and after the event. Applicants will be expected to address these concerns without utilizing City services, personnel and resources. Demonstrations, religious events, and press conferences will be exempt from the Executive Order and may receive permits. This Executive Order will help ensure social distancing, allow for greater public use of open space, address traffic flow concerns, and allocate City resources efficiently.



Andy Singh

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Indian American MIT School of Science Professor Receives Tenure for 2020



Suendranath is also a collaborator in the MIT Energy Initiative

BOSTON (TIP): Indian origin Yogesh Surendranath is among nine faculty members in the MIT School of Science who have been granted tenure by MIT.

Solving environmental challenges by studying and manipulating chemical reactions is the focus of Yogesh Surendranath's research. Using chemistry, he works at the molecular level to understand how to efficiently interconvert chemical and electrical energy. His fundamental studies aim to improve energy storage technologies, such as batteries, fuel cells, and electrolyzers, that can be used to meet future energy demand with reduced carbon emissions.

Surendranath joined the Department of Chemistry in 2013 after a postdoc at the University of California at Berkeley. His PhD was completed in 2011 at MIT, and BS in 2006 at the University of Virginia. Suendranath is also a collaborator in the MIT Energy Initiative.

Indian American Congressman lashes out at Trump for withdrawing from WHO

PARMINDER AUJLA

SACRAMENTO (TIP): Indian origin Rep. Ami Bera, M.D. (D-CA) Chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on Asia, the Pacific, and Nonproliferation heavily criticized President Trump after he formally withdrew the United States from the World Health Organization (WHO).

"Communities around the United States are grappling with increasing cases of coronavirus and instead of funding a national testing strategy and ramping up testing and contact tracing, the President has chosen to cut testing and to shift the blame by withdrawing the United States from the WHO. No response has been perfect, including the WHO's. But the WHO is playing a critical role by coordinating the global response and providing important guidance and information about the virus. It is this information and guidance that has helped countries in Europe and Asia tackle and contain the virus. They bent the curve. Our cases are increasing. If the WHO is to blame: why has the U.S. been left behind while many countries from South Korea to New Zealand to Vietnam to Germany return to normal?" he questioned.

That answer starts at the White House. Time and time again, even before COVID-



If the WHO is to blame: why has the U.S. been left behind while many countries from South Korea to New Zealand to Vietnam to Germany return to normal? Bera questioned

19, the President has downplayed the danger of pandemics. They proposed cuts to the CDC and DoD pandemic preparedness programs, which I helped reverse. They disbanded the National Security Council office responsible for preparing for these outbreaks, which I opposed. They tried to cut funds to defeat

Ebola during an actual Ebola outbreak, which Congress rolled back. Is it any surprise that when a pandemic came, this President was not prepared? Historically, the United States and the World Health Organization have worked hand in hand. We helped defeat smallpox and nearly eliminated polio. We used to lead the world in combatting infectious disease. Those efforts aligned and supported WHO's efforts. Not this time. America lost its best chance to defeat this virus once the President began to minimize the pandemic and shift blame onto others, instead of assuming responsibility and actually leading our country through this crisis. Today's decision comes as no surprise", he further added

Rep. Bera has been a leader in Congress on global health security. He chaired the first congressional hearing on the coronavirus on Feb. 5th, sounded the alarm after the Trump Administration disbanded the global health security office in the National Security Council in 2018, and is a member on the CSIS Commission on Strengthening America's Health Security, which in November 2019 made a series of recommendations to prevent pandemics.

Indian American Houston-Area Cardiologist Settles Allegations

HOUSTON (TIP): Advanced Cardiovascular Care Center P.A. and its owner and administrator have agreed to pay \$400,000 to resolve allegations they violated the False Claims Act (FCA), announced U.S. Attorney Ryan K. Patrick. Owner Dr. Annie T. Varughese, 57, and administrator Babu Varughese, 64, both of Spring, conducted business in three clinics located in Houston, Conroe and The Woodlands.

From June 4, 2013, through June 4, 2016, the company submitted claims to Medicare for cardiology services. These included cardiac external counterpulsation treatments, transthoracic echocardiography studies and duplex scans that were not reasonable and medically necessary. Therefore, they failed to meet the Medicare coverage and documentation requirements.

Further, patient files lacked documentation that Varughese directly supervised the cardiology services as Medicare requires. The company billed Medicare for services under Varughese's provider number when she was not in the office and, at times, not even in the United States. "Putting financial gain ahead of medical necessity undermines the integrity of the Medicare program," said Special Agent in Charge Miranda Bennett of the Department of Health and Human Services - Office of Inspector General (DHHS-OIG). *(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)*

Indian Origin Founder of South African Hindu political party dies of Covid

JOHANNESBURG (TIP): Jayraj Bachu, a founding member and national leader of South Africa's only Hindu political party, has succumbed to Covid-19. He was 75.

The Durban resident Bachu was cremated on Saturday, July 4.

Bachu's son Umesh told the weekly Sunday Tribune that his father passed away less than a week after he was admitted to hospital after an antibiotics course failed to address an influenza infection.

"Unfortunately, on Friday evening I received a call from the hospital to say he had taken a turn for the worse. They said two family members could go to the hospital, but by the time I got to the hospital my dad had passed on," Umesh told the weekly.

"He was not at the stage where he was on a ventilator. Reality of the virus hits you when it happens close to home. It was devastating for my mom, me and my siblings that we could not see him one last time," he said.

Bachu had served in community and political organizations for over five decades. Last year, he joined others to register the Hindu Unity Movement (HUM) with the Independent Electoral Commission.

He explained at the time that HUM was established because there had not been a voice in provincial, national or local governments catering to the needs of the Hindu community.



*Jayraj Bachu had served in community and political organizations for over five decades
Photo / courtesy Twitter@inanda884fm*

"Existing Hindu religious and cultural organizations are working from outside government to address the issues facing the community, but we need someone on the inside to get these issues addressed effectively," Bachu said.

Bachu's lifelong friend Ram Maharaj, who is the national chairman of HUM and also the president of the South African Hindu Dharma Sabha, said Bachu had endeared himself to the community because of his positivity and diplomatic approach to everything he did.

Maharaj said Bachu had led the fight since the 1980s to allow fireworks during Diwali when there were plans by government to ban its use at private homes.

Bachu is survived by wife, Renuka, children Vinod, Umesh, Reshma Harinarain, Rinku Singh and a number of grandchildren.

(Source: PTI)

Indian American Charged with Destruction of Federal Property

PORTLAND (TIP): An Indian American is among seven people who have been arrested and face federal charges for their roles in weekend riots at the Mark O. Hatfield U.S. Courthouse in Portland, Acting Homeland Security Investigation (HSI) Special Agent in Charge Eben Roberts and U.S. Attorney Billy J. Williams announced July 7.

According to court documents, since May 26, 2020, protests in downtown Portland have regularly been followed by nightly criminal activity including assaults on law enforcement officers, destruction of property, looting, arson, and vandalism.

Shant Singh Ahuja, 28, of Oceanside, California, is charged with destruction of federal property. On July 4, 2020, Ahuja is accused of willfully destroying a closed-circuit video camera mounted on the exterior of the Hatfield Courthouse.

The Hatfield Federal Courthouse has been a repeated target of vandalism, sustaining extensive damage. U.S. Marshals Service deputies and officers from the Federal Protective Service, HSI and U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) working to protect the courthouse have been subjected to threats; aerial fireworks including mortars; high intensity lasers targeting officers' eyes; thrown rocks, bottles, and balloons filled with paint from demonstrators while performing their duties.

58 Indian-origin executives employ over 3.6 million globally, account for \$1 trillion in revenue

NEW YORK (TIP): A group of 58 Indian-origin executives heading various companies across 11 different countries, including the US, Canada and Singapore, collectively employ more than 3.6 million people and account for a combined USD 1 trillion in revenue, USD 4 trillion in market capitalization, according to a list released by a US-based top Indian diaspora organization.

Indian-origin business leaders are reaching the pinnacle of corporate success in greater numbers than ever; many use their platforms for social change advocacy, said Indiaspora, a nonprofit organization of global Indian diaspora leaders from various backgrounds and professions.

The Indiaspora Business Leaders List of 58 executives head companies headquartered across 11 different countries, including the US, Canada, England, and Singapore and these companies have delivered annualized returns of 23 per cent during the tenure of these executives, outperforming the S&P 500 by 10 per cent.

These companies collectively employ more than 3.6 million worldwide and account for a combined USD 1 trillion in revenue and USD 4 trillion in market capitalization.

"We wanted to capture this incredible feat that our community is achieving with increasing numbers," said Indiaspora founder MR Rangaswami, a Silicon Valley-based entrepreneur and investor.

"The impact that the Indian diaspora is having in the realm of business is remarkable. It's one of the reasons we launched this project, and we hope our

lists will continue to raise the profile of those who have reached the very top of their fields while also serving as agents for positive change," Rangaswami said.

The stereotype of the Indian CEO is someone who represents the tech sector, but this list of 58 CEOs dispels that myth, he said, adding that these leaders represent many different sectors, including banking, electronics, consumer goods, and consulting.

Releasing the list during a virtual press conference, Rangaswami said that these executives are as young as 37, all the way to age 74 with the median age of these executives being 54.

During this coronavirus pandemic, these companies have made lots of humanitarian aid contributions, and also, they're taking care of their employees, their customers, their supply chain.

"So these companies are doing a lot to respond to COVID-19," Rangaswami said.

Many of the executives on the list have taken an active position on issues like Black Lives Matter in making sure that they also stand along with the black community in terms of getting racial equality and racial justice, he said.

The list of Indian-origin CEOs includes immigrants from India as well as professionals born in countries such as Uganda, Ethiopia, England, and the US.

"I'm amazed to see how far we've come in terms of representation in business," said Raj Gupta, former CEO of Fortune 300 company Rohm and Haas, and one of the first executives of the Indian diaspora to join the ranks of corporate leadership along with pioneers such as Indra Nooyi of PepsiCo and Dinesh

Paliwal of Harman International.

"There used to be only a handful of us leading corporations. Now that we are reaching prominence, I am eager to see how the next generation leaves its own legacy," said Gupta, an Indiaspora member, who serves as Chairman of two companies on the Business Leaders List, Aptiv and Avantor.

"It's inspiring to see so many leaders of Indian heritage playing a significant role in business and in society," said Ajay Banga, President and CEO of Mastercard.

"Our culture and our values are a common starting point. But it's what we do with the opportunities presented to us that make a difference. When we lean into our diverse experiences to deal with challenges like the pandemic or racial injustice, we can have an even greater impact on the lives of those around us," he said.

Indiaspora said that many of these diaspora executives have led their companies in advancing social change by addressing racial injustice, climate and sustainability justice, and the disproportionate effects of COVID-19 through policy and financial commitments.

Tech industry leader Sundar Pichai, CEO of Alphabet, has announced new goals for racial equity, including improving leadership representation of underrepresented groups at Google, and an "economic opportunity package" for the Black community.

Many of the leaders' companies have created or contributed funds in response to COVID-19, with monetary and humanitarian aid totaling more than USD 400 million, Indiaspora said.



Indian-origin business leaders, like Indra Nooyi, are reaching the pinnacle of corporate success in greater numbers than ever

The Indiaspora Business Leaders List also calls attention to the presence of a glass ceiling that women, including Indian women, still face. Out of 1,000 companies represented on the Fortune 500 list, only 61 have women CEOs; the Indiaspora List has a marginally higher percentage of women, yet includes only five women out of the 58 leaders.

"It's an honor to join so many outstanding leaders on this year's Indiaspora Business Leaders list, each of whom is making a meaningful impact within their industry," said Reshma Kewalramani, MD, CEO and President of Vertex Pharmaceuticals.

"As a physician and CEO dedicated to creating transformative medicines that improve the lives of people with serious diseases, I believe deeply in the critical role a diverse and inclusive culture plays in being able to achieve that mission at Vertex," she said. (Source: PTI)

Indian American Vijay Shanker Nominated by Trump as Associate Judge of Columbia Court of Appeals

WASHINGTON (TIP): US President Donald J. Trump June 25 announced his intent to nominate Vijay Shanker, of the District of Columbia, to serve as Associate Judge on the District of Columbia Court of Appeals.

Vijay Shanker serves as Senior Litigation Counsel in the United States Department of Justice, Criminal Division, and as Deputy Chief of the Appellate Section. Before joining the Department of Justice in 2012, Mr. Shanker was in private practice with the Washington, D.C., offices of Mayer Brown, LLP, and Covington & Burling, LLP. Upon graduation from law school, Mr. Shanker served as a law clerk to Judge Chester J. Straub on the United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit. Mr. Shanker earned his B.A., cum laude, from Duke University and his J.D. from the University of Virginia School of Law, where he served as a Notes Editor for the Virginia Law Review and was inducted into the Order of the Coif. He has briefed and argued almost sixty federal appeals, including four en banc rehearings. Mr. Shanker is currently serving on detail as Senior Litigation Counsel in the Criminal Division's Fraud Section, where he investigates and prosecutes violations of the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act and



Vijay Shanker is Deputy Chief of the Appellate Section of the Criminal Division at the United States Department of Justice.

related offenses and advises attorneys and leadership on a range of legal issues and litigation matters.

From October 2012 to February 2014, Mr. Shanker served in the Office of the Assistant Attorney General for the Criminal Division, first as Senior Counsel and then as Acting Deputy Chief of Staff and Counselor to the Assistant Attorney General. Mr. Shanker has been awarded the Attorney General's John Marshall Award, the Assistant Attorney General's Award for Exceptional Service, and the Assistant Attorney General's Award for Distinguished Service.

Mr. Shanker received his Bachelor of Arts degree in public policy studies, cum laude, from Duke University. He received his law degree from the University of Virginia School of Law, where he was named to the Order of the Coif and served as a Notes Editor on the Virginia Law Review. He was awarded the Roger & Madeleine Traynor Prize for "the graduate who has produced the best written work" and also the Law School Alumni Association Best Note Award. Following law school, Mr. Shanker clerked for the Honorable Chester J. Straub on the United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit.

Indian American Vinay Kumar Appointed Distinguished Service Professor at UChicago

CHICAGO (TIP): Prof Vinay Kumar has been named the Lowell T. Coggeshall Distinguished Service Professor in the Department of Pathology at University of Chicago.

Kumar is a pioneer in the field of the cellular and molecular biology of natural killer cells and a global leader in medical education. He was one of the first to propose the existence of a novel subset of lymphoid cells with antileukemic activity, subsequently identified as natural killer cells. His research has focused on understanding the origin and differentiation of these cells and their role in the rejection of transplanted bone marrow. His group also discovered that mutations in the human perforin gene give rise to severe and fatal disorders of immune dysregulation. This paradigm-shifting work has been recognized as a "pillar of immunology" by the Journal of Immunology.

He is the senior editor and co-author of five pathology textbooks, including Robbins and Cotran Pathologic Basis of Disease, which has been translated into more than 13 languages and is the most widely used pathology text in the world. He has received many honors for his research, including election as a fellow of the American Association for Advancement of Sciences in 2004, and the 2019 Gold Headed Cane Award, which is the highest honor granted by the American Society for Investigative Pathology.



Prof Vinay Kumar has been named the Lowell T. Coggeshall Distinguished Service Professor in the Department of Pathology at University of Chicago

The GITCC in association with Consulate General of India, New York organizes 2nd edition of the Webinar Series "Augmenting US India Trade Relations - 2020"

NEW YORK (TIP): The Global Indian Trade and Cultural Council in association with the Consulate General of India, New York organized the second webinar in the series "Augmenting US India Trade Relations - 2020" on July 1.

Welcoming the panelists, Mr. H.S. Panaser, President of The Global Indian Trade and Cultural Council said, "US strategic and trade affairs experts feel that US and India will be key to future production of medical supplies and pharmaceuticals not only to fight Covid-19 crisis but long thereafter."

"In the United States, every seventh American is seen by an Indian doctor, which will soon be 6:1, signifying the contribution of the diaspora in the American healthcare system. Today, as the world fights the corona pandemic and the US becomes its worst victim, with over 100,000 deaths and counting, health diplomacy has emerged as the new unifier for the two democracies and the driver for an intense partnership promising a big relief to the world with a timely vaccine against the coronavirus.

"Global Indian Trade and Cultural Council wants to accelerate and promote US India Relation in Healthcare industry. We are helping in FDI, collaborations, mergers and technology transfers and researchers and students exchange programs. The US has already identified Indian pharmaceutical companies as one of the partners for mass productions to meet global demands. We were privileged to have CFO of Bharat Biotech Mr. T Srinivas in our first Webinar and you will find another Executive who are launching a Covid vaccine

Panelists included Devi Prasad Misra, Consul (Trade, Education and Commerce), Dr. Subroto Chatterjee, Dr. H. G. Koshia, Mr. Suresh Khanna, Mr. Roopesh Bhargava, Mr. Anand Krishnamurthy, Mr. Gary Pasricha, Mr. Ajit Chawla, Prof. Indrajit S Saluja, and Mr. H.S. Panaser



MR. DEVI PRASAD MISRA, Consul Trade, Education and Commerce at the Indian Consulate in New York participated briefly.



DR. SUBROTO CHATTERJEE is a Professor of Pediatrics and medicine in the division of Cardiology at the Johns Hopkins University School of a Medicine. His expertise is in the area of heart disease and inflammation. He has published over 200 papers book chapters.

And has received international and national awards for his discoveries and patents. He serves as a thought leader to Merck, Novartis and has founded several Biotech companies

Prof Chatterjee said, "Studies show that inflammation is the underlying factor among others contributing to excessive morbidity and mortality in COVID-19 patients. And this pathology is attributable to

the release of cytokines subsequent to the binding of the virus to the angiotensin-2 receptors in white cells circulating in the blood. One of these cytokines, known as interleukin-6 (IL-6) bind to cells in the blood vessels - further amplifying the release of cytokines causing multi-organ failure and death. Immunotherapy using antibody against IL-6 /IL-6 receptors has shown promise with delayed viral clearance and markedly improved recovery from infection and reduced hospitalization time."



DR. H. G. KOSHIA is working as Commissioner at Food & Drugs Control Administration (FDCA), Gujarat, INDIA since January 2009. Notified as Commissioner of Food Safety of the Gujarat State from 5th August 2011. Diverse experience of 33 years in regulatory affairs working in

government and industry. Leading a cross-functional team of 1465 diverse regulatory experts to implement; enforce applicable regulation to regulate 4697 drug manufacturers and 39865 sales units in Gujarat.

Hemant said, "The crisis has faded many boundaries and brought people and countries together to stand united against the fight! More so true when it comes to the pharmaceutical industry - India has stood as a strong partner and friend with many countries including the US and fulfilled the duty of 'Pharmacy of the World'. I see tremendous avenues of US-India continued partnership in biomedical & pharmaceutical research and strengthen our regulatory & scientific relationship further. Exchange of knowledge, technology, science, and talent are few to name."



MR. SURESH KHANNA, Engineer by education, was Founder Chairman of M/s. Stabicon Life Sciences Pvt. Ltd. A Contract Research & Development Organization and Designated Partner of M/s. Dossiers Solutions Services LLP, a leading Regulatory Affairs

Company. He is a Business Advisor and Member of the Boards of a few companies in both India and abroad. Currently he is a Steering Committee Member of KDPMA, Chairman of Pharma Training Institute and Permanent Trustee of Karnataka Pharmaceutical Trust (KPT), a not for profit Organization, engaged in the upliftment of Pharmacy Education in India.

Mr Suresh Khanna said "India stated that India has a huge potential for providing Pharma Services which people generally don't talk about. India has very experienced and qualified pool of professionals who can assist in Formulation Product Development, Compiling Product Dossiers/API DMF's for registration in markets worldwide, SOP Writing, Clinical/BE studies & Clinical Data Management, Validation protocols, setting up Pharmacovigilance Call etc. at a very competitive cost. These costs will be affordable by many small and medium Centers scale companies in USA, thereby making them more competitive commercially worldwide. These services are akin to services provided successfully by Indian software Industry worldwide."



MR. ROOPESH BHARGAVA is an Experienced in leading and growing all sectors of a business (Pharmaceuticals / Nutraceuticals/ Vaccines) for the last three decades with Proven Credentials. He has served Companies like Sanofi as Senior Director / Besins Healthcare as

Managing Director and Bharat Serums & Vaccines as Chief Operating officer till very recently. He has the experience of having Worked in Greater India, China and US markets. Currently, he is a consultant to the Pharmaceutical Companies to make it dynamic and Progressive organization. Possessing excellent communication skills and able to establish sustainable and profitable relationships with Customers, suppliers and stakeholders across the country.

He said "India and US have to augment each other to ensure that best of the Medicines / Vaccines reach to fellow humans at an affordable price with excellent Quality. India Supplies 40% of total Generic medicine required by USA. The Capacity to Produce vaccines also lies with India as required. Hence faster approvals and joint efforts by each other is the call of the day. The advantage which India has in terms of cost efficiency, Economic drivers, Policy support and Investments can be fully leveraged under the trying circumstances for a Win- Win situation."



MR. ANAND KRISHNAMURTHY, CEO, Coolsoft LLC, is a fast-growing company, focused on AI and ML it is providing consulting and application development services in Information Technology. COOLSOFT combines technical expertise with in-depth business

knowledge to provide the best solutions to organizations in Healthcare, Transportation and Telecom.

Anand said "In the area of Pharmaceuticals, Science and technology will and should play a key role. Artificial Intelligence and Deep Learning will assist us in finding new cures for diseases. This will aid in discovery of cures for rare diseases where the ROI for the drug companies is not significant. Technologies such as blockchain will aid in the fight against counterfeit drugs which will save lives lost due to fake drug usage and administration. AI/ML and Genomics will cause as much a change to the human race as the industrial revolution did. More importantly, the close collaboration between academia, researchers and philanthropist between India and US should and will result in making new and affordable drugs for now and the future."



MR. GARY S. PASRICHA is the managing partner of the law firm of Pasricha & Patel LLC. He has been practicing law for over 25 years, specializing in representing businesses and individuals in business law matters such as contracting, mergers and acquisitions, secured lending, import and export regulations, labor law, and business immigration

Garry presented a ppt on laws in US under Covid 19 especially PPE



MR. AJIT CHAWLA is SVP & Global Head, Digital Business Unit, Birlasoft, a CK Birla group company whose Mission statement is "Making Societies more productive by helping our customers run their business". Guided by the company mission,

"Both lives and livelihoods are important. Return-to-work strategies need to be comprehensive yet pragmatic. While on one side, organizations in sectors such as Pharmaceuticals who engage in mission-critical operations

Govt of India's Vande Bharat Mission flights extended to major metros



A STAR ALLIANCE MEMBER

NEW YORK (TIP): AIR INDIA, Regional Office in New York, on July 9, announced that Vande Bharat Mission Flights have been extended to

major metros in India.

In a press release sent to The Indian Panorama, the airline said: "Effective July 11 through July 19, VBM flights previously scheduled to terminate at Delhi will now continue to major metros in India as per the following chart. To book one of the special VBM flights, you must go to Air India Website at www.airindia.in after registration. You will be quarantined at the final destination, i.e. Mumbai, Delhi, Bengaluru, Chennai, Hyderabad or Kochi".

AI-102	July 11, 13, 15, 18	New York/JFK	Delhi	1230	1200	Chennai	1945
AI-102	July 12, 14, 17, 19	New York/JFK	Delhi	1230	1200	Kochi	1945
AI-144	Daily July 11-19 except July 12/18	Newark/EWR	Mumbai	1205	1225	Terminates BOM	
AI-1104	July 12, 14, 16, 18	Washington/IAD	Delhi	1115	1100	Mumbai	1840
AI-126	Daily July 11-19	Chicago/ORD	Delhi	1200	1305	Hyderabad	1900
AI-174	Daily July 11-19 except July 14	San Francisco/SFO	Delhi	1030	1500	Bengaluru	2000

Repatriations under Vande Bharat Mission Cross 500,000

NEW YORK (TIP): A record 5 lakh stranded Indians have returned safely to India under the Vande Bharat Mission (VBM). The VBM operations commenced on 7th May 2020 and in less than two months 5,03,990 stranded Indians from 137 countries, including from remote areas, have returned to their homes. Considering that the initial target to bring stranded Indians with compelling reasons was only 2 lakh, this is a significant achievement.

Kerala received the largest number of stranded Indians (94,085), followed by Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Gujarat and Andhra Pradesh. The largest number of stranded Indians returned by VBM flights are from UAE (57,305), followed by Kuwait, Qatar, Oman, Saudi Arabia and USA and from Nepal (91,193) have returned through land border check posts.

The VBM involved 860 Air India flights; 1256 charter flights and 8 Naval Ships. The stranded Indians returned by Air India were 1,64,121; Indian Navy 3,987 in 8 ships from Maldives, Iran and Colombo; chartered flights - 2,30,832 and foreign carriers - 3,969; about 60 air ambulances and 95,220 through land border check-posts from neighboring countries.

This massive operation was carried out with the active support and cooperation of Indian Missions abroad, MoCA, MHA, MoHFW and State Governments. MEA designated senior officers as State Coordinators were in the forefront of these operations ensuring smooth coordination at all levels.



Police, Women's Commission clear Scribe of sexual misconduct

NEW YORK (TIP): The National Commission for Women in New Delhi has closed the sexual harassment case filed by an actress against senior Indian-American journalist, Dr. Prakash M Swamy on the basis of a report submitted by the Greater Chennai Police Department.

The Chennai Police has informed the Commission that it had closed the case against the scribe for want of evidence. The complainant failed to produce any proof of her alleged complaint. The case drew media attention nationally and internationally as the scribe is well known both in India and in the US. The veteran journalist of 40 years standing had also served as a diplomatic correspondent at the United Nations for over a decade.

According to a senior police officer in Chennai, the case is nothing but a Facebook fight where both parties had traded charges and accusations against each other. The scribe, a leading investigative journalist, was probing the alleged murder of the actress's husband. To seek revenge and to stop him from investigating the case, the actress had filed a false sexual harassment complaint that the scribe had visited her house and tried to molest her.

In her social media posts, she wept and cried for help to punish the journalist and went on to claim that the

harassment continued via phone and internet and that the journalist started sending her derogatory messages via WhatsApp, threatening to defame her. The extra actress and a group dancer, Gayatri Sainath also roped in her friends in the social media to bolster her case and damage the scribe's image deliberately.

The Chennai Commissioner of Police, who directed the Deputy Commissioner of Police (Mylapore) to investigate the case, has stated in his final report sent to the Commission in Delhi that the police conducted a thorough inquiry in the apartment complex where the actress lived and interrogated the neighbors of the complainant. It emerged that the apartment complex has a modern security system whereby outsiders can't access without the residents' permission. The actress had failed to produce any evidence of the alleged incident, the report said.

The scribe had earlier demanded CCTV footage of the apartment complex on the dates the actress alleged and also the guest register at the complex gate maintained by the security staff in support of her case but she could not produce any credible evidence to prove her claim to him or to the police.

Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news

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Attention to detail and accuracy are essential skills for this position.

Proficiency in B2W- Bid 2 Win estimating software, Insite earthwork takeoff software.

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Excellence in communication skills, both written and verbal and strong attention to detail.

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Must be able to speak, read and write in English.

Organized individual committed to performing duties with detail and accuracy.

Compensation:

This is a full-time position at our Paterson, NJ office. Salary commensurate with experience and qualifications. Excellent compensation, benefit package and performance bonus.

Send resume to: Ralph@gradeconstruction.net



By Suresh Kumar

The Covid-19 pandemic has wreaked unprecedented havoc on mankind and across nations. The contagion is global, and perhaps, requires a coordinated worldwide response. It has blurred the distinction between the developed and under-developed worlds and seems to be pushing for a new socio-economic world order.

The devastation caused by the pandemic is debated and feared by everyone. Trade, business and industry have been impacted in equal measure, though agriculture seems to have shown some resilience to beat the ill-effects of the virus. The producers of food grains have so far found their way through the shutdown. They have succeeded in the harvesting of winter crops and the sowing of summer crops despite the pandemic. Even the governments were at ease in distributing grains in the face of broken food supply chains because of sufficient buffer stocks. But the loss of producers of perishable commodities such as fruits and vegetables, dairy and poultry products could not be prevented owing to disruptions in transportation and demand contraction.

Likewise, loss of jobs, particularly those in unorganized sectors could not be avoided as production processes halted and the markets were closed. Even after unlocking the markets, there are not many buyers due to the declining income and liquidity crunch. The gradual opening of businesses has, however, created hope for many in the MSME sector. The revival of employment in agriculture has somehow shown more promise than the other sectors of the economy.

Without undermining the losses thrust upon society and the economy, it has to be admitted that the pandemic has compelled the people for a change in behavior that is otherwise difficult to achieve. Avoidance of non-essential travel and luxurious spending, maintenance of social distancing, hand hygiene, and the wearing of the mask or any such thing that keeps one's health assured or good and saves life are liked or at least not abhorred by the common man. Even those who preferred free loitering in groups are now maintaining social distancing.

AS I SEE IT

Pandemic has ushered in the new normal

The pandemic unlocked hidden energy in governments. The lethargy and inertia in governance disappeared without any loss of time as the threat to the common man's life and livelihood was perilous. It led to prompt decision-making, rapid re-formulation of programs and policies to minimize the devastation and provide relief to the vulnerable population.



A new world: Covid has enforced conduct that requires the use of new technologies along with the old but normal systems and practices

At times, it was difficult to persuade people to take potable piped water connections, build toilets, avoid open defecation, ensure safe food quality and maintain sanitation in galis (lanes) and mohallas (localities). Today, the demand for such basic services has increased. The communities are compelling for the provisioning of these essentials. They are even ensuring surveillance on Covid-19 cases and travelers around their villages or habitations. Health consciousness has risen to a new high. Even the addicts are seeking treatment to return to normal living, much to the detriment of drug suppliers and peddlers.

The pandemic has propelled the use of digital technology. Fintech, proptech, edutech, and agri-tech are now common in day-to-day conduct of business. Digital education, unknown to over 90 per cent of teachers, is now widely preferred. During the recent harvesting and sowing of crops in Punjab, most

farmers were eager to be a part of digital messaging through WhatsApp or other apps. They downloaded e-passes for the sale of their products and used debit/credit cards more often than ever before. The disrupted food supply chains were also kicking, even in containment areas, due to the use of digital technology. The Amazons and Zomatos were able to reach more households despite restrictions.

Another satisfying change is the decline in avoidable lavish spending on social occasions such as marriages and other such celebrations that are identified as one of the major reasons for the rising indebtedness amongst the farmers and landless workers. The restrictions on social extravaganzas, tried many times earlier, succeeded, though forcibly during the pandemic. No policy or programme could achieve this and hopefully, it will be maintained in the future.

The pandemic unlocked hidden energy

in governments. The lethargy and inertia in governance disappeared without any loss of time as the threat to life and livelihood for the common man was grave and hugely perilous. It led to prompt decision-making; rapid re-formulation of programs and adjustment of public policies to minimize, if not avoid, the devastation and provide immediate relief to the affected vulnerable populations. The quick proclamation of lockdown, rapid upgrade of health infrastructure, swift identification and resolution of unrealized problems such as migrant workers and fiscal stimulus are some of the outcomes of a new way of life and, of course, governance.

The pandemic has surely led to a new normal in our lives. It is different, but not so unusual. It may sometimes appear to be absurd and restrictive, but is not reprehensible or difficult. In many ways, it has taught us discipline, care for one another, use of technology, financial responsibility, and prudence in life. Covid-19 has made us realize values and systems, some of which can be termed as traditional, concerning hygiene, health, education and even society and communities in which we live. 'Leave your shoes out'; 'Take off your shoes'; 'Spitting not allowed' or 'Wash your hands', though may appear to be the new normal, are not new or unfamiliar phrases for us. The pandemic has perhaps enforced conduct that requires the use of new techniques and technologies with the widespread adoption of old but otherwise normal systems and practices, which were lost in our pursuits to grow, perhaps unknowingly. The pandemic has driven us to a new world of work and living.

(The author is Chief Principal Secretary to Punjab CM)

Guest Comment

Covid-19 has not only devastated lives and livelihoods across the globe, but also played havoc with the academic calendar. Amid the restrictions necessitated by the pandemic, educational institutions have been engaging with students through online classes - a 'something is better than nothing' option that factors in the current unfeasibility of in-person teaching. In a move betraying total disconnect with the situation on the ground, the Donald Trump administration has made it tougher for international students to stay and study in the US. America's Immigration and Customs Enforcement

Failing students: America's visa curbs reek of coercion, bias

agency has said that it would not allow holders of student visas to remain in the country if their institution goes fully online for the upcoming fall season. These students face the risk of deportation if they don't shift to universities and colleges offering a blend of in-person and online coursework.

The US State Department claims that this 'temporary accommodation' provides greater flexibility to foreign students, but it's actually a coercive step that severely limits their choices and forces them to 'take it or leave it'. The rash decision will particularly hit Indian and Chinese

nationals as the two countries together account for about half of the over 11 lakh international students in the US. With India's Foreign Secretary Harsh Vardhan Shringla promptly expressing concern over the development, the US is likely to find itself under increasing diplomatic pressure to do a rethink sooner than later.

The Trump administration has chosen to play the 'us versus they' card months before the presidential elections. The divisive order, which has been challenged in a federal court by Harvard University and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), could prove to be

counterproductive in more ways than one. Slamming the door on a large group of foreigners would deprive America of a major money-spinner at a time when its economy is in the doldrums. With no sign of a let-up in the Covid crisis, US universities and colleges are justified in switching to the online mode, albeit as an ad hoc, stop-gap measure. Maintaining the standards of education matters; so does the safety of students and teachers. The challenge lies in striking a balance between the two considerations.

(TRIBUNE, INDIA)

Beating China at its game

Curbs are important, but India must work with other regional & global powers



By G. Parthasarathy

“We are now seeing the beginning of movements across many parts of the world, and particularly across Asia, objecting to China’s territorial ambitions and its ‘Belt and Road’ infrastructure projects. But, given the size of its economy and its conventional and nuclear weapon capabilities, China’s global influence will remain significant. It will continue to work closely with Pakistan to undermine and contain Indian influence and power. It will also seek to undermine Indian influence in Nepal and Bangladesh. Thus, while our bilateral economic restrictions on China are important, we should remember that China will be influenced only if we work in coordination with other regional and global powers. It is, nevertheless, imperative that military and diplomatic contacts and dialogue with China should continue, while taking appropriate measures to meet the security challenges we continue to face, in Ladakh and elsewhere, across our borders with China.”



An Indian American community group led by social and political activist Prem Bhandari (wearing Modi jacket, second from right) protested Chinese aggression against India and called for boycott of Chinese products at the iconic Times Square in New York City, July 4.

Prime Minister Modi visited Ladakh on July 3 to express the nation's gratitude to the armed forces and paramilitary for their role in defending the country, while facing serious challenges posed by China. His visit also came in the wake of seething public anger and calls for retribution, because parts of the Galwan valley and the Pangong Tso had come under Chinese control. Referring to China's perfidy in seeking to expand its land and maritime frontiers, Modi noted: 'Whenever the obsession for expansionist victories takes over someone, it causes dangers to world peace.' He pointedly added: 'Expansionism has been dangerous to mankind.'

China's disastrous invasion of Vietnam in 1979, its ill-advised intrusions in Sikkim in 1975, the serious setbacks in its intrusions in Sumdorong Chu in Arunachal Pradesh in 1986, and in Doklam in 2017, have demonstrated that China's army is not invincible. The Chinese have refused to disclose their casualties in the Galwan misadventure. Reliable western journals have, however, disclosed that 43 Chinese soldiers were killed in hand-to-hand combat. The Chinese must now understand how a relatively small, but determined group of Indian Army soldiers responded strongly, decisively and effectively, when their unarmed compatriots were treacherously killed. Modi pointedly noted that 'territorial expansionism' was the biggest threat to humanity. He was alluding to China's arbitrary territorial claims on virtually all its neighbors, including Japan, Taiwan, Vietnam, Malaysia, Indonesia, the Philippines and even Russia, where some Chinese are now reviving claims to the Russian port of Vladivostok, which has been a part of Russia since 1860! China's past actions, aimed at expanding its frontiers, will now meet greater opposition from its immediate neighbors, across the western Pacific Ocean. China had thus far

overcome such opposition by a policy of 'divide and rule', backed by crude threats to those who disagree with it. Its 'disincentives' have included crude use of maritime military power against countries like Vietnam, Brunei, the Philippines and Indonesia. The primary motive for such behavior is to have unchallenged access to 11 billion barrels of untapped oil and 190 trillion cubic feet of natural gas in the South China Sea. China has used its powerful navy to take control of vast tracts of the sea, from its ASEAN maritime neighbors.

Three days after Modi's visit to Ladakh, NSA Ajit Doval had detailed discussions with Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi. India's Special Representative announced that Doval and Wang Yi agreed to complete the ongoing disengagement along the LAC and ensure de-escalation. This will reduce current tensions, but will it end the repeated violations of the LAC whose contours the Chinese refuse to define? It would require further negotiations to get China to pull out from Pangong Tso. This effort would have to be complemented by active international diplomacy that focuses on Chinese intransigence.

The leaders of ASEAN member states, meanwhile, have demanded that territorial and other differences should be settled in accordance with the provisions of the UN Convention of the Law of the Seas (UNCLOS). They added: 'UNCLOS sets out the legal framework within which all activities in the oceans and seas must be carried out.' The International Court of Arbitration at The Hague had issued a clear ruling in 2016 on a claim brought under the UNCLOS, against China, by the Philippines. The ruling was in favor of the Philippines. While China is a signatory to the treaty, which established the tribunal, it has refused to accept the verdict.

China cannot be pleased with the international diplomatic fallout of its behavior. US Secretary of State Mike

Pompeo launched a scathing attack on China on June 25, averring that the US would deploy additional forces in the Indo-Pacific Region in response to growing Chinese threats to India and other countries. He indicated that he had spoken to his counterparts in the EU about threats China posed to its 'peaceful neighbors like India'. He also alluded to Chinese threats to Vietnam, Indonesia and Malaysia, and its disregard for maritime frontiers. Pompeo's words have been accompanied by the unprecedented deployment of two US nuclear-powered aircraft carriers in the Indo-Pacific region. India should, in turn, promote greater maritime cooperation between members of the recently formed Quad grouping, comprising the US, Japan, India and Australia. This grouping is moving towards coordinated actions to counter Chinese territorial threats.

We are now seeing the beginning of movements across many parts of the world, and particularly across Asia, objecting to China's territorial ambitions and its 'Belt and Road' infrastructure projects. But, given the size of its economy and its conventional and nuclear weapon capabilities, China's global influence will remain significant. It will continue to work closely with Pakistan to undermine and contain Indian influence and power. It will also seek to undermine Indian influence in Nepal and Bangladesh. Thus, while our bilateral economic restrictions on China are important, we should remember that China will be influenced only if we work in coordination with other regional and global powers. It is, nevertheless, imperative that military and diplomatic contacts and dialogue with China should continue, while taking appropriate measures to meet the security challenges we continue to face, in Ladakh and elsewhere, across our borders with China.

(The author is Chancellor, Jammu Central University & former High Commissioner to Pakistan)

Maldives Tourism Minister sacked over alleged sex offences

MALE (TIP): The Maldives President has sacked the Tourism Minister after female employees in his office accused him of sexual offences, officials said on Thursday.

President Ibrahim Mohamed Solih had called for the resignation of Tourism Minister Ali Waheed and then sacked him after he failed to step down on his own, presidential spokesman Ibrahim Hood said.

Police confirmed receiving complaints of sexual misconduct by Waheed. Waheed did not answer phone calls seeking comment. An archipelago state in the Indian Ocean, Maldives is known for its luxury tourist resort islands. — AP

Pakistan's KPK govt announces Rs 1 cr financial aid package for Sikhs killed in train-bus accident

PESHAWAR (TIP): Pakistan's provincial government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa on Wednesday announced a financial assistance package of Rs one crore for the families of the 21 Sikh pilgrims who were killed in a train-bus accident last week. Special Assistant to KPK Chief Minister on Minorities Wazir Zada made this announcement during his visit to Bhai Joga Singh Gurdwara and expressed condolences over the demise of the Sikh pilgrims.

Each of the families of the Pakistani Sikhs who were killed in the accident will be given Rs five lakh financial assistance, Zada said. Twenty-one Pakistani Sikh pilgrims were killed when a minibus in which they were travelling was hit by a train in Sheikhpura district in Pakistan's Punjab province on Friday. "It was a tragic incident and the entire humanity was saddened over it. The government of KPK stood by its minorities in difficult times," Zada said. In India, the Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee (SGPC) has also announced Rs 1 lakh financial assistance to each of the families of the Pakistani Sikhs killed in the accident. The SGPC, an apex gurdwara body, will also give Rs 50,000 to each of those who were injured in the accident. PTI

6 dead in clash between factions of Bangladesh ethnic group

DHAKA (TIP): Six people were killed in a gunfight on Tuesday between two factions of an ethnic group over control of a hilly region in southeastern Bangladesh where armed gangs are active, police said. The clash took place between Parbatya Chattogram Jana Sanghati Samiti and its reformist faction, both dominated by the influential Chakma tribe in Bandarban district, police official Mobasser Hossain said. AP

Pak PM Imran inaugurates first-ever infectious diseases hospital as COVID-19 cases cross 240,000

ISLAMABAD (TIP): Prime Minister Imran Khan inaugurated Pakistan's first-ever specialised hospital for infectious diseases here on Thursday to meet the increasing challenges posed by the coronavirus that has claimed nearly 5,000 lives and infected over 240,000 people in the country.

The 250-bed Isolation Hospital and Infectious Treatment Centre (IHITC) was built in a record 40 days.

Speaking to the media after the inauguration ceremony, Khan appealed to the people to follow social distancing on Eidul Azha, expected to be observed on July 31.

He said the "carelessness on Eidul Fitr" in May led to an increase in the number of patients and pressure on hospitals.

"Today, I want to make a special appeal to you all: if we are careless on Eidul Azha, the virus could spread again and there could be a fresh spike in the number of infections. Hospitals will come under pressure again," said Khan, who was accompanied by Army chief General Qamar Javed Bajwa at the inauguration ceremony.

Khan also urged the people to follow the official guidelines and observe the festival with simplicity.

"I appeal to the entire nation to observe Eid with simplicity — for the sake of your country, its economy and especially the elderly and at-risk members of the society," he said.

Khan was briefed about the hospital which is a state-of-the-art medical facility and was built at a cost of Rs 980 million. The number of coronavirus cases in Pakistan crossed the 240,000-mark after 3,359 new infections were detected in the last 24 hours, while 61 people died of the disease, taking the



death toll to 4,983, the health ministry said on Thursday. According to the Ministry of National Health Services, the number of recovered patients has reached 145,311.

The number of critically ill patients is 2,193, out of which 435 are on ventilators. The death toll has reached 4,983 after another 61 people died due to the COVID-19 in the last 24 hours, the ministry said.

Out of the total 240,848 infections, Sindh has reported 99,362 cases, Punjab 84,587, Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa 29,052, Islamabad 13,731, Balochistan 11,052, Gilgit-Baltistan 1,605 and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir 1,459 cases.

A total of 1,491,437 tests have been conducted, including 24,333 in the last 24 hours. Separately, the National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) decided to set up a committee in the interior ministry to prevent the spread of misinformation about the deadly

coronavirus on social media.

The committee led by Interior Minister Ijaz Shah will prepare a legal framework to prevent and counter fake news.

Also, Prime Minister Khan has called for strict implementation of the standard operating procedures on the occasion of Eidul Azha and during Muharram. Meanwhile, Pakistan announced on Thursday to reopen all educational institutions in the country from September 15. Education Minister Shafqat Mahmood told the media in Islamabad that educational institutions would be allowed to operate after implementation of official guidelines. "The federal government will formulate SoPs and share with the provincial governments, and they will be authorised to close the institutions, which do not observe the SoPs," he said. PTI

Suicide bombing attack in Afghanistan kill 7 policemen

KABUL (TIP): A suicide car bomber targeted an Afghan police convoy in eastern Nangarhar province on Tuesday morning, killing four officers, including a police commander, a local official said.

Three other officers were killed in an attack in the country's south.

The suicide bombing, which struck at a market in the district of Khewa, also wounded 11 people—nine civilians and two members of the security forces, according to Attahullah Khogyani, the spokesman for the provincial governor.

He identified the slain commander as Mir Zaman; the other three officers were Zaman's bodyguards.

No one immediately claimed responsibility for the attack, but both the Taliban and the Islamic State group are active in eastern Afghanistan, especially in Nangarhar. Afghanistan has seen a recent spike in violence, with most attacks claimed by the local IS affiliate.



Earlier in May in the same district, an IS suicide bomber targeted the funeral of a pro-government militia commander and former warlord, killing 32 people and wounding 133. The dead in that attack included Abdullah Lala Jan, a provincial council member. His father, Noor Agha, a lawmaker, was wounded in the attack.

Also Tuesday, at least three policemen were killed and three were wounded in

southern Zabul province when insurgents attacked their convoy in Shinkia district, authorities said, blaming the Taliban for the attack.

The Afghan military has also been launching attacks against the Taliban the Defense Ministry has so far refused to give details. The Taliban did not immediately comment on the attacks in Zabul. --- AP

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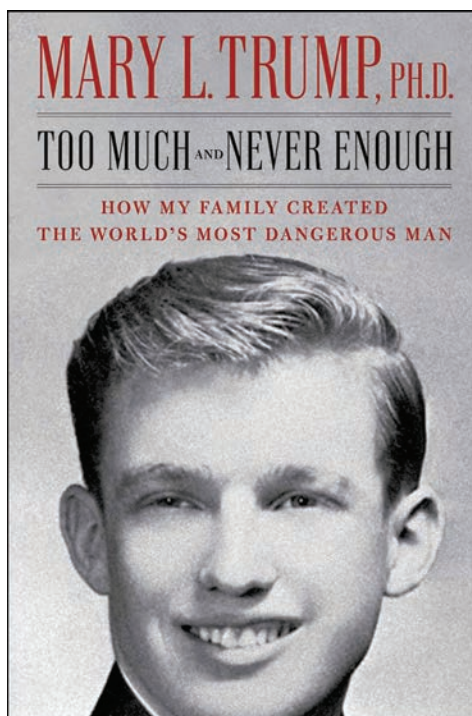
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Mary Trump's book offers scathing portrayal of President

Alleges that Donald Trump paid a friend to take SATs

Jr., who died after a struggle with alcoholism in 1981 at 42. The book is the second insider account in two months to paint a deeply unflattering portrait of the president, following the release of former national security adviser John Bolton's bestseller.

In her book, Mary Trump, who is estranged from her uncle, makes several revelations, including alleging that the president paid a friend to take the SATs - a standardized test widely used for college admissions - in his place.

She writes that his sister Maryanne Trump did his homework for him but couldn't take his tests and he worried his grade point average, which put him far from the top of the class, would "scuttle his efforts to get accepted" into the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania, where he transferred after two years at Fordham University in the Bronx.

"To hedge his bets he enlisted Joe Shapiro, a smart kid with a reputation for being a good test taker, to take his SATs for him," she writes, adding, "Donald, who never lacked for funds, paid his buddy well."

White House spokesperson Sarah Matthews called the allegation "completely false."

Mary Trump also writes, in awe, of Trump's ability to gain the support of prominent Christian leaders and white evangelicals, saying: "The only time Donald went to church was when the

cameras were there. It's mind boggling. He has no principles. None!"

White House press secretary Kayleigh McEnany slammed the book Tuesday, saying, "It's ridiculous, absurd accusations that have absolutely no bearing in truth."

Mary Trump traces much of her pain to the death of her father when she was 16. The president, who rarely admits mistakes, told The Washington Post last year that he regretted the pressure he and his father had put on Fred Jr. to join the family business when his brother wanted to be a pilot instead.

"It was just not his thing. ... I think the mistake that we made was we assumed that everybody would like it. That would be the biggest mistake. ... There was sort of a double pressure put on him," Trump told the paper.

Yet as her father lay dying alone, Mary Trump claims, "Donald went to the movies." She says that, as a child, Donald Trump hid favorite toys from his younger brother and took juvenile stunts - like Fred Jr. dumping a bowl of mashed potatoes on his then-7-year-old head - so seriously that he harbored resentments even when his eldest sister, Maryanne, brought it up in her toast at his White House birthday dinner in 2017.

She paints Trump, who often called her "Honeybunch," as a self-centered narcissist who demanded constant adulation - even from his family - and had little regard for family members' feelings.

Trump's crude rhetoric on the campaign trail, she said, was nothing new, reminding her "of every family meal I'd ever attended during which Donald had talked about all of the women he considered ugly fat slob or the men, usually more accomplished or powerful, he called losers."

The book is, at its heart, a lengthy psychoanalysis of the Trump family by a woman trained in the field, who sees the traits of her uncle that critics despise as a natural progression of behaviors developed at the knees of a demanding father. For Donald Trump, she writes, "lying was defensive - not simply a way to circumvent his father's disapproval or to avoid punishment ... but a way to survive."

Publisher Simon & Schuster announced Monday that it would be publishing the book two weeks early, on July 14, after a New York appellate court cleared the way for the book's publication following a legal challenge.

Robert Trump, the president's younger brother, had sued Mary Trump, arguing in legal papers that she was subject to a 20-year-old agreement between family members that no one would publish accounts involving core family members without their approval.

A judge last week left in place a restraint that blocked Mary Trump and any agent of hers from distributing the book, but the court made clear it was not considering Simon & Schuster to be covered by the ruling. (Source: AP)

Biden releases U.S.-centered economic plan, challenging Trump's 'America First' agenda

WASHINGTON (TIP): Joe Biden unveiled a proposal Thursday, July 9, to spend \$700 billion on American products and research, challenging President Trump's "America First" agenda with a competing brand of economic nationalism and setting the stage for an election-year showdown over the country's financial future.

The Biden campaign plan for manufacturing and innovation aims to bring back jobs lost this year and create at least 5 million more with sweeping investments in domestic technology; reduce dependence on foreign countries to supply critical goods; and implement trade and tax policies that empower U.S. workers.

"When we spend taxpayers' money, when the federal government spends taxpayers' money, we should use it to buy American products and support American jobs," Biden said in a speech in Dunmore, Pa. The presumptive Democratic nominee spoke at a metal works plant, delivering the first major element of what his campaign says will be a four-part agenda to spearhead an economic recovery.

Biden says economy is 'at risk' under Trump presidency

On July 2, presumptive Democratic presidential nominee Joe Biden said that President Trump "badly bungled" the health and economic responses to



Democratic presidential candidate and former Vice President Joe Biden

coronavirus. (Joe Biden/YouTube)

"Enough is enough," said Biden. "It's time to reverse the priorities in this country. It's time to help small businesses, middle-class folks, manage their way through the pandemic."

Trump has been arguing for months that the economy will regain its momentum when businesses, restaurants and other operations are allowed to reopen, and he has pushed for that to happen quickly despite the ongoing pandemic.

Biden's announcement prompted frustration by some Trump allies that it was released before the president announced a similar "Buy American" proposal that has been held up for months amid internal objections, according to current and former officials. Stephen K. Bannon, a former chief Trump strategist, said the president's team was "caught flat-footed."

Biden's pitch underscores a major shift by both major parties away from embracing globalization and free trade and toward protecting American workers and revitalizing struggling domestic industries. Those trends have been accelerated by the coronavirus pandemic, which has wreaked havoc on the economy.

Biden contrasts his coronavirus plan with Trump's Democratic presidential nominee Joe Biden outlined his points for managing coronavirus if elected, and condemned Trump's response on June 30. (Blair Guild/The Washington Post)

"Biden does not accept the defeatist view that the forces of automation and globalization render us helpless to retain well-paid union jobs and create more of them here in America," says a statement by the campaign detailing the plan.

The announcement suggests a recognition that support for Trump's handling of the economy remains a bright spot for the president in his otherwise weak poll numbers.

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Ambassador Taranjit Singh Sandhu Discusses Economic and People-to-People Relations with Governors of Washington and Michigan

WASHINGTON (TIP): Ambassador of India to the United States, Mr Taranjit Singh Sandhu interacted virtually with Governor of Washington, Jay Robert Inslee and Governor of Michigan, Gretchen Whitmeron 7 July 2020.

During the meeting with Governor Inslee, Ambassador Sandhu and Governor Inslee discussed the potential for further cooperation in aerospace, IT, retail, healthcare & pharma, and agricultural sectors. They discussed the complementarities, which can lead to job creation and mutual growth. The discussion also covered the important contributions of Indian and Indian-American companies, professionals and community to the state of Washington

India and Washington State share a growing trade and investment relationship. The total trade between India and Washington State stood at US\$ 1.23 billion in 2019. Major Indian exports include textiles, metals, computer and electronics, fisheries. Major Indian imports from Washington are transportation equipment (including aerospace), agricultural products, computer and electronics and food & beverages. As per CII's report on survey of Indian industry's footprint in the US, 14 Indian companies have invested around US\$ 143 million in Washington State,



Ambassador Sandhu interacted virtually with Governor of Washington, Jay Robert Inslee and Governor of Michigan, Gretchen Whitmer on 7 July 2020. - Photo / Courtesy Indian Embassy

creating more than 4,167 jobs. Washington-based companies have also established a strong presence in India's defense, retail

and food & beverages sectors.

During the interaction Governor of Michigan, Ambassador Sandhu and

Governor Whitmer discussed the ways to enhance the mutually beneficial trade and investment partnership in sectors such as automotive, manufacturing, aerospace, services and agriculture sectors.

India and Michigan have a robust trade and investment relationship. The total trade between India and Michigan stands at US\$ 2.49 billion (2019). Many Indian companies in IT, automotive, design, engineering & construction, life sciences/pharma, manufacturing & energy sectors have invested in Michigan. As per CII's 2020 report on Indian investment in the U.S., 23 Indian companies have invested around US\$ 453 million in Michigan, thereby creating 3,971 jobs. India is one of the few countries identified by the State of Michigan for business development and mutual investments. Michigan Economic Development Commission regularly conducts investment missions in India.

Ambassador Sandhu and Governor Whitmer also noted the vibrant presence of Indian community in Michigan, including a large number of Indian students in Universities/Colleges, and their contribution in strengthening the partnership between India and the State of Michigan.

(Based on a Press Release)

MIT and Harvard File Lawsuit against New ICE Regulations on Foreign Students

NEW YORK (TIP): Harvard and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) on July 8 filed a lawsuit against regulations barring foreign students from staying in the country if their classes are held entirely online. In the lawsuit, they asked the court to prevent ICE and DHS from enforcing the new guidance and to declare it unlawful.

On Monday, July 6 the federal government announced modifications to its rule for international students taking online courses in Fall 2020. The new rule would provide that nonimmigrant students cannot be physically attending universities in the United States if they are taking all of their courses online in Fall 2020. Under the rule, they will be given a student visa only if they will be taking some courses in person, and if they are here and the pandemic circumstances do not allow them to take an in-person course, they must either leave the United States or transfer to another university offering in-person courses.

"The announcement disrupts our international students' lives and jeopardizes their academic and research pursuits. ICE is unable to offer the most basic answers about how its policy will be interpreted or implemented. And the



guidance comes after many US colleges and universities either released or are readying their final decisions for the fall - decisions designed to advance their educational mission and protect the health and safety of their communities"; MIT President L. Rafael Reif wrote in an email to the MIT community. "MIT's strength is its people - no matter where they come from. I know firsthand the anxiety of arriving in this country as a student, excited to advance my education, but separated from my family by thousands of miles. I also know that welcoming the world's brightest, most talented and motivated students is an essential American strength", he further added.

Stanford is also joining the peer



institutions in an amicus brief to support Harvard and MIT in the lawsuit. The amicus brief will be filed shortly, pursuant to the court's briefing schedule.

"Our international students are important members of our community, with unique perspectives that greatly enrich the learning environment for all. They deserve the chance to continue making progress toward their degrees. But actions like this don't only harm international students: they damage university communities and impede our ability to educate future leaders, drive discovery and innovation, and fuel economic progress", President of Stanford University Marc Tessier-Lavigne said in a statement.

IRS.gov has answers about filing, paying and July 15 due date

WASHINGTON (TIP): As the July due date for filing a tax return draws closer, the Internal Revenue Service reminds taxpayers about the many resources available on



IRS.gov. Whether on home computers or mobile devices, the number of taxpayers visiting IRS.gov continues to grow year after year.

Easy-to-use tools, available 24 hours a day on the IRS website, have been used more than 1.2 billion times this year.

IRS.gov is home to IRS Free File, "Where's My Refund?", the Tax Withholding Estimator and a host of other convenient applications. Additional help is available in Publication 17, Your Federal Income Tax, available on IRS.gov. Publication 17 is also available as an eBook.

Taxpayers who have yet to file their tax returns should file electronically now and choose direct deposit if they're getting a refund. Taxpayers who owe for tax year 2019 can pay anytime up to the July 15 due date.

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CORONAVIRUS CASES

Over 26k fresh cases, India inches closer to 8 lakh mark

NEW DELHI (TIP): India recorded the highest single-day spike of over 26,502 new coronavirus cases and 475 deaths in the last 24 hours, pushing the total tally close to eight lakh with 21,604 deaths, Health Ministry's data revealed on Friday.

According to the data, out of total 7,93,802 cases, 4,95,513 have recovered while 2,76,685 remain active in the country. With more Covid-19 patients recovering, the gap between the number of recovered cases and active cases has increased by two lakh.

The rate of recovery among the Covid-19 patients continues to increase and has touched 62.42 per cent. India, however, remains to be the third worst-affected country after the US and Brazil.

During the last 24 hours, 2,83,659 samples were tested, as the testing lab network continues to expand. As on date, more than 1,119 labs have enabled people to undergo coronavirus tests.

Maharashtra tops the chart and remains the worst hit state, with cases reaching up to 2,30,599 and 9,667 casualties so far, of which 417 occurred in the last 24 hours. Tamil Nadu remained the second worst hit with a total of 1,26,581 cases, including 1,765 deaths.

With 2,187 new coronavirus cases and 45 deaths in the last 24 hours, the national capital on Thursday recorded a total tally of 1,07,051 cases and 3,258 deaths.

States with more than 10,000 cases include Gujarat with 39,194 cases and 2,008 deaths, Uttar Pradesh



Eight states account for 90% of Covid burden: Health Ministry

NEW DELHI (TIP): Even as Covid-19 cases topped 7,93,802, the government said India was not in community transmission stage and it was only witnessing local outbreaks amenable to containment.

The Health Ministry said 49 of India's 733 districts accounted for 80 per cent of all Covid cases and 90 per cent active infections. Likewise, 90 per cent of disease burden came from just eight states (Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Delhi, Karnataka, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Uttar

Pradesh and Gujarat), while six states (Maharashtra, Delhi, Gujarat, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal) made up 86 per cent of deaths.

Meanwhile, the Centre said the DG ICMR's letter mentioning August 15 launch for the ICMR-Bharat Biotech indigenous Covid vaccine was only meant to fast-track the processes to ensure speedy launch. "Don't read what's not there in the letter," the Health Ministry said, dialling down the August 15 deadline.

(32,362), Rajasthan (22,563), Madhya Pradesh (16,341), West Bengal (25,911), Haryana (19,369), Karnataka (31,105), Andhra Pradesh (23,814), Telangana (30,946), Assam (14,032) and Bihar (13,944) cases.

LASHKAR BEHIND J&K SBJP LEADER'S KILLING: COPS

SRINAGAR (TIP): The J&K Police said the Lashkar-e-Toiba was behind the killing of BJP leader Wasim Bari, his father and brother in north Kashmir's Bandipora district yesterday, calling it a "pre-planned" attack.



"A Pakistan militant and local ultra Abid of the LeT were involved in the killing," said IGP (Kashmir) Vijay Kumar. The police have arrested all 10 personal security officers of the slain leader and decided to dismiss them from service. "It was a lapse on their part. They will be dismissed soon," he said.

The IGP said from the CCTV footage, it seemed the attack was pre-planned as the militants had kept a close watch on Bari's movement. Bari was a member of the BJP state executive committee, while his father and brother were office-bearers of the party.

ED attaches Rs 2,200 crore assets in Yes Bank case

NEW DELHI (TIP): The Enforcement Directorate (ED) today attached assets worth Rs 2,203 crore of Yes Bank co-founder Rana Kapoor and DHFL's Wadhawan brothers under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA).

The probe agency said the present market value of these assets was more than Rs 2,800 crore, which included immovable properties in India and abroad, bank accounts, investments, luxury vehicles, etc. These assets belong to Kapoor, Kapil Wadhawan and Dheeraj Wadhawan and the entities controlled by them, the ED said.

"The assets belonging to Kapoor and entities connected to him amount to Rs 792 crore (the present market value Rs 1,400 crore). These include an independent residential building "Khursidabad" at Cumbala Hill, three duplex flats at Napean Sea Road, a flat in the NCPA, Nariman Point; eight flats in India Bulls Blue, Worli in Mumbai and a bungalow at 40 Amrita Shergill Marg in New Delhi having a market value of Rs 685 crore. All these properties have been attached," it said.

India exploring legal options in Kulbhushan Jadhav case: MEA

NEW DELHI (TIP): India on Thursday said it was exploring legal options in the case relating to Indian death-row convict Kulbhushan Jadhav, a day after Pakistan claimed that he refused to file a review petition against his sentence by a Pakistani military court on charges of espionage.



"At this stage, we are assessing our legal options. We will do our utmost to protect the life of the Indian national," Spokesperson in the Ministry of External Affairs Anurag Srivastava said at an online media briefing.

Jadhav, a retired Indian Navy officer, was sentenced to death by a Pakistani military court on charges of espionage and terrorism in April 2017.

Weeks later, India approached the ICJ against Pakistan for denial of consular access to Jadhav and challenging the death sentence. The ICJ, then, restrained Pakistan from executing him.

In July last year, the Hague-based court ruled that Pakistan must undertake an "effective review and reconsideration" of the conviction and sentence of Jadhav and also to grant consular access to India without further delay.

On Wednesday, Pakistan said Jadhav refused to file an appeal in the Islamabad High Court against his conviction despite being offered the option.

CHINA'S CLAIM ON GALWAN EXAGGERATED, COMPLETE DISENGAGEMENT MUST: INDIA

NEW DELHI (TIP): Terming China's claim on the Galwan valley as exaggerated and untenable, India on Thursday said it was necessary to ensure at the earliest complete disengagement of troops along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) and de-escalation.

The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) took on its Chinese counterpart, who had quoted his Foreign Minister and Special Representative (SR) for Border Affairs Wang Yi as saying that the right and wrong of what happened in the Galwan valley was "very clear".

Beijing had also sought to imply that it had ownership over the Galwan valley where 20 Indian soldiers died in a clash with Chinese troops on June 15.

The MEA said it was hopeful that the dialogue between diplomatic and military officials of both sides would take forward the process of disengagement and de-escalation, as agreed to by the SRs.

Addressing a press conference, MEA spokesperson Anurag Srivastava said India's SR, NSA Ajit Doval, had categorically conveyed India's position on the recent developments along the LAC, including in the Galwan valley area.

"The NSA emphasised that the Indian troops had always adopted a very responsible approach towards border management. At the same time, our forces were deeply committed to ensuring India's sovereignty and security," he added, implying that Doval had indicated that Indians were in a defensive and reactive mode.

During their conversation, the two SRs agreed that peace



and tranquillity in border areas were essential for the overall development of bilateral relations.

Srivastava said they also shared the view that it was necessary to ensure at the earliest complete disengagement of the troops along the LAC and de-escalation in the India-China border areas for full restoration of peace and tranquillity in accordance with the bilateral agreements.

In line with the first phase of the disengagement process from friction points in eastern Ladakh, China's PLA today completed moving back its troops from the face-off sites in Gogra and Hot Springs, sources said.

They said both sides had completed creation of a 3-km buffer zone in the three friction points of the Galwan valley, Gogra and Hot Springs as part of a temporary measure aimed at reducing the possibility of confrontation.

Kanpur gangster Vikas Dubey arrested for killing 8 cops shot dead in encounter

KANPUR (TIP): Gangster Vikas Dubey was killed in an alleged encounter on Friday after a police vehicle carrying him from Ujjain to Kanpur met with an accident and he tried to escape from the spot in Bhauti area, a senior police official said.

STF officials said there was an encounter as Vikas Dubey, arrested for killing eight policemen on July 3, tried to escape when the vehicle overturned early in the morning.

"Dubey was injured in the encounter and he was declared dead in the hospital," ADG Kanpur range, J N Singh said.

After the accident, Dubey snatched the rifle of an STF personnel and tried to flee but was surrounded by the police team and he was injured in an exchange of fire.

He was rushed to the hospital where he was declared dead.

The officer confirmed that Dubey "sustained injuries" but did not confirm to what extent, saying it would be revealed in the postmortem report.

Senior Superintendent of Police (Kanpur) Dinesh Kumar P said that the accident took place on Friday morning when it was raining heavily and the police vehicle overturned near Kanpur.

"Some policemen accompanying Dubey were also injured in the incident," the SSP said.

He did not specify whether they were injured in the accident or during the encounter.

Eight policemen, including DSP



Vikas Dubey was arrested on Thursday at a temple in Ujjain, Madhya Pradesh.

Devendra Mishra, were ambushed in Bikru village in Chaubeypur area of Kanpur when they were going to arrest Dubey and fell to bullets fired from rooftops shortly after midnight on July 3.

Earlier, five members of Dubey gang were killed in separate encounters.

While on July 3, two of his associates, Prem Prakash Pandey and Atul Dubey, were killed by police in an encounter in Kanpur, on July 8 the police killed another aide, Amar Dubey, who carried a reward of Rs 50,000, in an encounter in Maudaha village in Hamirpur district.

On July 9, two more aides of gangster Vikas Dubey, wanted in

connection with the Kanpur ambush, were killed in separate encounters in Kanpura and Etawah districts.

While Kartikeya alias Prabhat was killed in Kanpur when he tried to flee from police custody, another aide of Vikas Dubey, Praveen alias Bauwa Dubey, was shot dead in an encounter in Etawah.

Kartikeya, who was arrested from Faridabad on Wednesday, was being brought to Kanpur on transit remand when he snatched the pistol of a policeman and tried to flee.

Vikas Dubey, who was carrying a reward of Rs five lakh on information leading to his arrest, was arrested from Ujjain in Madhya Pradesh on Thursday.

TABLIGHI JAMAAT: DELHI COURT GRANTS BAIL TO 76 FOREIGNERS FROM 8 COUNTRIES

NEW DELHI (TIP): A Delhi court on Thursday granted bail to 76 foreigners from eight countries who were charge-sheeted for attending Tablighi Jamaat congregation here allegedly in violation of visa norms, indulging in missionary activities illegally and violating government guidelines issued in the wake of COVID-19 outbreak.

Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Gurmohina Kaur granted the relief to the foreigners on furnishing a personal bond of Rs 10,000 each.

Till date, 289 foreign nationals from 30 different countries, who were charge-sheeted in the case, have been granted bail by the court.

The police had in June filed 59 charge sheets, including supplementaries, against 956 foreigners belonging to 36 different countries in the case.

The accused who were granted bail on Thursday will file their plea bargaining applications on Friday, said advocate Ashima Mandla, appearing for some of them.

Under plea bargaining, the accused plead guilty to the offence, praying for a lesser punishment.

INDIA UPSET OVER US IMMIGRATION RULE FOR STUDENTS



NEW DELHI (TIP): India has conveyed its concerns to the US about a new immigration order that could force a large number of Indian students to return home, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said on Thursday.

"We have urged the US side that we need to keep in mind the role that educational exchanges and people-to-people relations have played in the development of our relations," MEA spokesperson Anurag Srivastava told mediapersons. The Trump administration has issued a new rule that bars foreign students from remaining in the US if their universities are not holding in-person classes during the upcoming fall semester because of Covid-19.

PM Modi to hold virtual summit with EU next week

NEW DELHI (TIP): After holding summits with Japan, China and South Korea, the European Union will hold a virtual meeting with India on July 15, the Ministry of External Affairs announced here on Thursday. The 15th meeting of the India-European Union Summit will be co-chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the President of the European Council Charles Michel; and the President of the European Commission Ursula von der Leyen.

The summit will review India-EU cooperation covering political and security relations, trade and investment and economic cooperation. The Summit is also expected to discuss developments around the Covid-19 pandemic and contemporary global matters of interest to both sides. The last India-EU Summit was held in October 2017.

In its report card on one year of Modi 2.0, the MEA had spoken about a reorientation towards Europe, a key source for high-end technology, though little of note has been transferred to India.

Govt sets up panel to probe Rajiv Gandhi Foundation, Indira Gandhi Trust

NEW DELHI (TIP): Days after BJP alleged that Rajiv Gandhi Foundation (RGF) received funds from the embassy of People's Republic of China, the Centre has set up an inter-ministerial committee to probe the fundings RGF, Rajiv Gandhi Charitable Trust and Indira Gandhi Memorial Trust.

The committee has been tasked with a probe into funds received by these organisations with respect to a suspected violation of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), Foreign Contribution Regulation Act (FCRA), and the Income Tax Act.

Sources said the committee will be headed by a Special Director from Enforcement Directorate (ED) and will have members from CIT, Income Tax Department; Ministry of Finance; Ministry of Urban Development, and Ministry of Home Affairs.

In a statement, the MHA said on Wednesday, "MHA sets up an inter-



ministerial committee to coordinate investigations into violation of various legal provisions of PMLA, Income Tax Act, FCRA, etc by Rajiv Gandhi Foundation, Rajiv Gandhi Charitable Trust & Indira Gandhi Memorial Trust. Spl. Dir of ED will head the committee."

Sources said the committee will investigate all sources of funds, including those received from foreign countries, in these organisations and see if they adhered to laid down laws and rules. Sources said the committee will first call for all relevant documents with regard to probe from these

organisations and then, if the need arises, call office bearers for questioning.

The development assumes significance as all the three organisations are headed by Congress president Sonia Gandhi and have top leaders of the Congress, including Rahul Gandhi, as members. RGF even has former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and former Finance Minister P Chidambaram as members.

RGF's trustees include former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and Montek Singh Ahluwalia.

On June 25, the ruling BJP had targeted the Congress by questioning a purported donation that the Rajiv Gandhi Foundation (RGF) had received, with BJP president J P Nadda saying that the foundation took \$3,00,000 from People's Republic of China and the Chinese embassy in 2005-06 to carry out studies that were not in the national interest.

WIPA PROGRAMS LAUNCH 2 WORKSHOPS

By Mabel Pais

NYYS-NJYS LAUNCH ARTIST STORIES SERIES

"Especially in these challenging times, it is more than essential to open our minds and create a safe space for learning on all levels."

"Collaborating with fellow institutions like the New York Youth Symphony for this 'Artist Stories Series' is a vital part of this ongoing endeavor."-Peter H. Gistelinck, Exec. Dir. - WIPA



Artists featured in virtual classes - Photo / courtesy WIPA

A weekly virtual conversation series featuring Black artists discussing the importance of equity, inclusion, and representation in the classical music world and music industry. This is free and open to the public.

The New York Youth Symphony (NYYS), and the New Jersey Youth Symphony (NJYS), a program of the Wharton Institute for the Performing Arts (WIPA), will co-host an "Artist Stories Series", a series of weekly one-hour virtual conversations exploring the importance of equity, inclusion, and representation in the classical music, jazz, and Broadway world.

Featured guest speakers include Toyin Spellman-Diaz, Kelly Hall-Tompkins, Jeff Scott, Carmen Ruby Floyd, Sean C. Jones, and Weston Sprott discussing what it means to navigate a professional music career.

In addition to the sharing of personal experiences, the artists will have the opportunity to impart their insights into needed actions to reinforce accountability and pursue responsive outcomes in American orchestras, music education, and the music industry. Attendees are encouraged to submit questions for the

artists in advance, to be answered during a Q&A portion of each session. The six-week webinar series is free and open to the public.

"New York Youth Symphony is proud to partner with the New Jersey Youth Symphony on the 'Artist Stories Series,'" said Shauna Quill, Executive Director of the NYYS. "Both of our organizations are committed to diversifying the voices in music, and that begins by listening to the artists currently in the field. Through their stories and continued conversations, our communities will be able to learn and grow."

"When we truly listen to understand, we learn something new. Through the "Artist Stories Series", we desire to create a space where young people can listen to and learn from these remarkable artists and their stories," said Helen H. Cha-Pyo, Artistic Director and Principal Conductor of the WIPA.

Schedule of Events

The first event takes place on Wednesday, July 8 and will feature oboist Toyin Spellman-Diaz, an original member of Imani Winds and hailed by the Washington Post for her "smooth, controlled tone and excellent technique." Winner of a Naumburg International Violin Competition Honorarium Prize and featured in the National Museum of African American History and Culture, Kelly Hall-Tompkins will appear on July 15. French horn player and Montclair State University faculty member Jeff Scott will follow on July 22; Broadway and television star Carmen Ruby Floyd on July 29; and Sean C. Jones, the Richard and Elizabeth Case Chair of Jazz at John Hopkins University's Peabody Institute in Baltimore, on August 5. The series will conclude on August 12 with Weston Sprott, trombonist with the Metropolitan Opera Orchestra and Dean of the Preparatory Division at The Juilliard School where he leads Juilliard Pre-College and the Music Advancement Program.

Each weekly webinar will be hosted on Zoom and live streamed via YouTube on Wednesday evenings, July 8-August 12, from 7-8pm EST. Zoom login is available at www.NJYS.org and www.nyys.org. Attendees may submit their questions online. For more information, call (908) 771-5544 or email info@njys.org.

About NYYS

The New York Youth Symphony (NYYS) is the most

awarded youth program of its kind in the nation, recognized for its innovative, tuition-free educational programs for talented young musicians. Founded in 1963 as an orchestra to showcase the metropolitan area's most gifted musicians ages 12-22, its activities have since grown to encompass programs in jazz, chamber music, conducting, composition, and musical theater composition, with performances at world class venues including Carnegie Hall, Jazz at Lincoln Center, and the Public Theater. Through its commissioning program, 'First Music', the NYYS has commissioned over 160 works from young composers since 1984.

About WIPA

The Wharton Institute for the Performing Arts' (WIPA) mission is to provide the highest quality performing arts education to a wide range of students in a supportive and inclusive environment, where striving for personal excellence inspires and connects those they teach to the communities they serve.

Wharton is New Jersey's largest independent non-profit community performing arts education center serving over 1,500 students through a range of classes and ensembles including the 15 ensembles of the New Jersey Youth Symphony, which serve 500 students in grades 3 - 12 by audition. Beginning with 'Out of the Box Music' and 'Pathways' classes for young children, Wharton offers private lessons, group classes, and ensembles for all ages and all abilities at the Performing Arts School. With the belief in the positive and unifying influence of music and the performing arts and that arts education should be accessible to all people regardless of their ability to pay, Wharton teaches all instruments and voice and has a robust musical theater program. Based in Paterson, New Jersey, the Paterson Music Project is an El Sistema-inspired program of the Wharton Institute for the Performing Arts that uses music as a vehicle for social change by empowering and inspiring children through the community experience of ensemble learning and playing.

WIPA is located in Berkeley Heights, New Providence and Paterson, NJ and reaches students from 10 counties. All of Wharton's extraordinary faculty members and conductors hold degrees in their teaching specialty and have been vetted and trained to enable their students to achieve their personal best.

NJYS: JTOLE SUMMER JAZZ WORKSHOP

"What separates our virtual workshop from others is that all of our teachers and master class clinicians understand and teach this music as a language. Jazz is a language and we at Wharton Arts have proven methods that will help students significantly increase their fluency to achieve the most in a short period of time."- Julius Tolentino, Director- JTole Summer Jazz Workshop

The New Jersey Youth Symphony (NJYS), a program of the Wharton Institute for the Performing Arts (WIPA), will hold a summer jazz workshop on its nationwide online learning platform.



Julius Tolentino - Photo / courtesy WIPA

The JTole Summer Jazz Workshop at NJYS, July 13-25, led by award-winning Jazz educator Julius Tolentino, will include a star-studded lineup of guest artists and faculty. Sean Jones, Chair of Jazz at Peabody Conservatory and Jazz Education Network President; Kenny Rampton, Founder of Jazz at Lincoln Center and Artistic Director of Jazz at Lincoln Center's Jazz Outreach Initiative; Tia Fuller, Professor of Saxophone at Berklee School of Music and Mack Ave Recording Artist; Rodney Green, Educator, Composer, and Sound Designer; Michael Dease, Professor of Trombone at Michigan State University; and Helen Sung, Composer, Performer, and Educator, will join faculty members David Gibson, Dave Schumacher, Shamie Royston, and Matt Slocum for the two-week workshop.

Said JTole Summer Jazz Workshop

Director Julius Tolentino, "What separates our virtual workshop from others is that all of our teachers and master class clinicians understand and teach this music as a language. Jazz is a language and we at Wharton Arts have proven methods that will help students significantly increase their fluency to achieve the most in a short period of time."

In addition to master classes and private lessons, workshop participants will experience virtual big band and combo classes culminating in a virtual jazz festival on Sunday, July 26 where a video project featuring the workshop participants will be released. For more information and registration, visit WhartonArtsOnline.org. To learn more about the Wharton Institute for The Performing Arts, visit whartonarts.org

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

PBS FILMS STREAMING IN JULY

By Mabel Pais

"COOKED: Survival by Zip Code"

I've made films that explore heedless corporate behavior, the long-term impact and bio-accumulation of toxic chemical exposure and one generation unwittingly poisoning the next. These issues are as personal to me [especially in the case of my DES-related cancer] as they are universal. -
Judith Helfand, Director-Producer

PBS TELEVISION SERIES INDEPENDENT LENS ON MONDAY, JULY 13

AS COVID-19 PANDEMIC COLLIDES WITH EXTREME HEAT AND A NATIONAL DEMAND FOR RACIAL JUSTICE, OVER 82 CITIES, COUNTIES, & STATES HAVE RECENTLY DECLARED RACISM A PUBLIC HEALTH ISSUE, INCLUDING BOSTON, CHARLOTTE, DALLAS, DENVER, DURHAM, HARTFORD, KANSAS CITY, MILWAUKEE, PITTSBURGH & MORE ON THE WAY

At a moment when potentially historic heat wave is expected to hit more than two-thirds of the continental U.S. in the first several weeks of July, according to the National Weather Service Climate Prediction Center

"COOKED: Survival by Zip Code" is Peabody Award-winning filmmaker Judith Helfand's ("The Uprising of '34", the Sundance award winning and 2x Emmy nominated "Blue Vinyl", its Peabody Award-winning prequel "A Healthy Baby Girl", and "Everything's Cool") searing investigation into the politics of "disaster" - by way of the deadly 1995 Chicago heat wave, in which 739 residents perished (mostly Black and living in the city's



A scene from "Cooked."

Photo / Courtesy The 2050 Group

poorest neighborhoods). The film blends the reporting of the 1995 Chicago heat wave with a potent argument that the best preparation for a disaster may start with investing in racial and economic justice.

Asking open-ended questions that push people to deeply consider what it might mean to redefine the term "disaster" and reframe the concept of "resilience," Helfand forges inextricable connections between the cataclysmic natural disasters we're willing to see and prepare for and the slow-motion disasters we're not - that is until an extreme weather event hits and they are made exponentially more deadly and visible. Using a combination of chutzpah, humor and candor, Helfand delves deep into one of our nation's biggest growth industries: disaster preparedness.

Whether it's a deadly heat wave in Chicago or Hurricanes Katrina, Sandy, Harvey or Maria, these

disasters reveal the ways in which class, race, and zip code predetermine who lives and dies everyday, regardless of the weather and who gets hurt the worst and first in the wake of an "official disaster." In "COOKED" Helfand challenges herself and ultimately all of us to respond to the man-made disasters taking place in towns and cities across the country before the next unprecedented "natural" disaster hits.

Judith Helfand, director-producer of 'Cooked' says "The COVID-19 virus, the current crisis that is literally stopping our world dead in its tracks, is much deadlier for some than others, and points to the underlying crisis and disease of acute systemic disparity and racism that is there everyday and has been killing people daily for decades. All the stats were there. The numbers for people and neighborhoods dying from or being crippled by asthma, diabetes, and heart disease and we did not make that an emergency worthy of a declaration or a stimulus package. If we had, this virus would not be killing some neighborhoods more than others, people would have been stronger to start with. COVID-19 is not an equal opportunity killer."

CREDITS

Director, Producer: Judith Helfand

Producer: Fenell Doremus

Editors: Simeon Hutner, David E. Simpson

Original Music: T. Griffin

"COOKED: Survival By Zip Code" is now streaming at PBS.org and on the free PBS Video App and will have its national TV rebroadcast on PBS television series Independent Lens on Monday, July 13 at 10:00 PM (Check local listings).

" WE ARE THE RADICAL MONARCHS "

NATIONAL BROADCAST DEBUT PBS DOCUMENTARY SERIES POV AND POV.ORG - JULY 20



A scene from "We Are The Radical Monarchs."

Photo / Courtesy The 2050 Group

We Are The Radical Monarchs" follows the two trailblazing, queer women of color who created The Radical Monarchs, a more diverse and inclusive alternative to the scout movement. The film is set in Oakland, a city with a deep history of social justice movements.

With bullhorns and protest signs at the ready, Co-Founders Anayvette Martinez and Marilyn Hollinquest juggle the challenges to grow their organization after a viral explosion of interest in the Radical Monarch's mission to create and inspire a new generation of activists. The film takes us on a journey following the first troop of Radical Monarchs for over three years - before and after the 2016 Presidential election - at the front lines of social justice as they complete units on such subjects as LGBTQ allyship, environment racism, and disability justice. The film also documents what it looks like for the Co-Founders to respond to the national

This is a women of color empowerment story at its core; as an intersectional feminist and a filmmaker, it is my intention to amplify women and girls' voices. **The Radical Monarchs give me hope for the future, and with this film I can share that hope.** - **Linda Goldstein Knowlton, director-producer**

and international desire for troops - to go from a group of ten girls, to starting a movement.

"This is a women of color empowerment story at its core; as an intersectional feminist and a filmmaker, it is my intention to amplify women and girls' voices. The Radical Monarchs give me hope for the future, and with this film I can share that hope," said filmmaker Linda Goldstein Knowlton.

Co-Founder Martinez was inspired to create a diverse and inclusive group for her daughter, Lupita, and other girls of color. Martinez and Hollinquest's work is anchored in the belief that adolescent girls of color need dedicated spaces and that the foundation for this innovative work must also be rooted in fierce interdependent sisterhood, self-love, and hope.

Instead of selling cookies, these formidable and outspoken girls earn badges for units such as "Radical Beauty," "Radical Bodies," and "Radical Roots." A typical troop meeting may focus on discussing what defines Pride, or the gender spectrum, or what it means to be an ally. Or it may find the girls meeting with an original member of the Black Panthers, getting into parks and the streets for protests, taking part in Black Lives Matter marches or even taking a road trip to the California legislature to advocate for highly pressing issues in their communities for their "Radical Advocacy" badge. For the inquisitive young women who

Radical means just being yourself. What makes you unique, what makes you pretty, what makes you cool. That's what radical is," **Amia, Radical Monarch**

make up the first Radical Monarchs troop - including, eight-year-old Amia and Martinez's ten-year-old daughter, Lupita - radical means respecting others while still standing up for yourself.

"Radical means just being yourself. What makes you unique, what makes you pretty, what makes you cool. That's what radical is," says Amia.

And while it may be surprising to hear such confident declarations coming from a group of tweens, it's only a sample of the inner strength, the personal growth, and the social awareness "We Are The Radical Monarchs" reveals.

"The dynamic young women in this film are the future, and the Co-Founders embody strength, vision, perseverance, and radical love that we should all aspire to. I'm so proud to celebrate their stories and important perspectives in the season opener for the 33rd season of POV," said Justine Nagan, executive producer/executive director of POV/ American Documentary.

Credits

Director, Producer: Linda Goldstein Knowlton

Producer, Editor: Katie Flint

Executive Producer: Grace Lee

Editor: Arielle Amsalem

Original Score: Ginger Shankar

Executive Producers for POV: Justine Nagan, Chris White

POV Shorts Producer: Opal H. Bennett

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



Urvashi Rautela shares why her boyfriend does not exist

Actress and former beauty queen Urvashi Rautela says her boyfriend is like "February 30" in a hilarious new post on social media.

Urvashi took to Instagram, where she shared a picture of herself. In the image, she is seen dressed in a light pink sweatshirt and blue jeans. She completed her look by leaving her tresses open and sporting minimum make-up. "My boyfriend is like the February 30th. He doesn't exist," she wrote alongside the image.

She added: "VIRGIN BHANUPRIYA premieres JULY 16th. Thanks a trillion guys for immense love for the trailer. I LOVE YOU." Have a look right here:

Virgin Bhanupriya also features Gautam Gulati, Archana Puran Singh, Delnaaz Irani, Rajiv Gupta and Brijendra Kala, Niki Aneja Walia and Rumana Molla.

Bhanupriya, played by Urvashi, is a college-going conservative girl who decides to lose her virginity. She thinks it should be the easiest thing in today's world. However, all her attempts go in vain and, a soothsayer predicts, it won't happen ever in her life. What happens next forms the crux of the story.

MIRA TO SHAHID: I FALL IN LOVE WITH YOU MORE EVERY DAY

Actor Shahid Kapoor's wife Mira Rajput has penned a note for her hubby on their fifth marriage anniversary on Tuesday.

"5 years, 4 souls, 3 homes, 2 babies and 1 beautiful family. There's nobody I'd rather be on this journey called life than you my love. I fall in love with you more every day.

"And I'm the luckiest girl in the world to have the love of my life be my best friend. Thank you for everything, for being my strength and for walking through everything together, hand in hand. I love you," she wrote.

Mira and Shahid got married in 2015 in Delhi and had their first child, daughter Misha, in 2016. Two years later, their second child, son Zain, was born.

In her post, Mira also reminded Shahid how wives are always right.

"You make me laugh like no one else. And more often than not I'm laughing at you. Please don't forget. Wife is always right. And the three golden words will always be 'I am sorry'. To many more years of us," Mira quipped.



DEEPIKA PADUKONE IS GRATEFUL AS SHE AMASSES 50M FOLLOWERS ON INSTA

Apart from breaking records and receiving numerous awards for her talent, Deepika Padukone has added a new feather in her hat. The actress crosses the 50 million milestone on Instagram. She has a devoted following on social media, and legion of fans across the globe.

Padukone is one of those stars who celebrates her success with her fans and always tries to communicate with them. Fans have always showered love and keeping up with their love and adulation, various fans have created special videos and collages of the actress and the hard work they have put in is commendable.

Taking the moment, the actress feels blessed and expressed gratitude towards all the love she received from her fans. She is very grateful for all this love and is thanking all her fan clubs on social media.

The Piku star has amassed a captive social media following who puts this platform to good use. Be it speaking about the importance of mental health or her sartorial choices, her fans listen to her and believe in her.

On the work front, Deepika Padukone will next be seen in Shakun Batra's directorial. Had the lockdown not happened, the actress would be in Sri Lanka shooting for the same. She also has 83 with Ranveer Singh coming up soon!

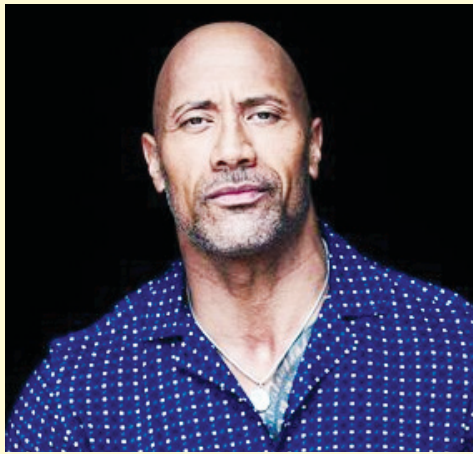


Taapsee Pannu is Back at Work Amid Coronavirus



Taapsee Pannu was juggling between various projects before coronavirus spread halted all shooting related activities in Bollywood and internationally. Now, Taapsee is back at work and even shared a glimpse from her vanity to emphasise that she has started shooting again. She can be seen getting her make up done in a boomerang video that she posted on her Instagram stories. This also makes Taapsee one of the first actresses in the film industry to resume work amid coronavirus spread.

Meanwhile, it is not confirmed on what project Taapsee has resumed work post lockdown. She had started filming for her thriller movie Haseen Dillruba with Vikrant Massey earlier. She was also invested in prepping for Mithali Raj biopic Shabaash Mithu and another sports movie titled Rashami Rocket. It could be that Taapsee is currently shooting for some brand endorsement. We will have to wait to find out what project the actress has resumed work on for the first time in over 100 days.



Dwayne Johnson dethrones Kylie Jenner on Instagram rich list

Actor Dwayne Johnson has dethroned business magnate Kylie Jenner off the top of the Instagram rich list, after Kylie lost her 'billionaire' status recently, according to Forbes. Johnson reportedly makes more than \$1 million per paid post on the social media platform.

According to Mirror Online, this is the first time in four years that either a Kardashian or a Jenner hasn't dominated the list. The list is compiled annually by Hopper HQ. While Johnson's earnings have grown by 15%, Kylie's have fallen by more than 22%. While Johnson commands Rs 7.6 crore per post, Kylie makes Rs 7.4 crore per post.

The actor, the highest-paid in Hollywood according to Forbes, has 188 million Instagram followers. Kylie, meanwhile, is the highest-paid celebrity in the world, and has 183 million followers. Forbes recently stripped her of her billionaire status, to which Kylie in a tweet responded, "inaccurate statements and unproven assumptions lol. I've never asked for any title or tried to lie my way there."

HALLE BERRY NOT PLAYING TRANSGENDER IN UPCOMING FILM AFTER CRITICISM

After facing criticism on taking up a role of a transgender character in an upcoming untitled Hollywood film, actress Halle Berry is reported to have pulled out.

It started when in an Instagram live interview, the Oscar-winning actress had revealed that she is in the running for a role of a transgender person. She said, "[The film is about] a character where the woman is a trans character, so she's a woman that transitioned into a man" and added, "She's a character in a project I love that I might be doing."

Soon after the news came out, Halle met with criticism on social media with people highlighting the problem of the cisgender actors playing transgender characters and not giving a chance to actors from that community.

After the heavy criticism, Halle apologized and tweeted that she was no longer considering the role. "Over the weekend I had the opportunity to discuss my consideration of an upcoming role as a transgender man, and I'd like to apologize for those remarks. As a cisgender woman, I now understand that I should not have considered this role, and that the transgender community should undeniably have the opportunity to tell their own stories," she wrote on Twitter.

She added, "I am grateful for the guidance and critical conversation over the past few days and will continue to listen, educate and learn from this mistake. I vow to be an ally in using my voice to promote better representation on-screen, both in front of and behind the camera."

Halle Berry's decision to pull out was met with praise from GLAAD, with the organization tweeting, "We are pleased that @halleberry listened to the concerns of transgender people and learned from them. Other powerful people should do the same. A good place to start is by watching @Disclosure_Doc to learn about trans representation in media."



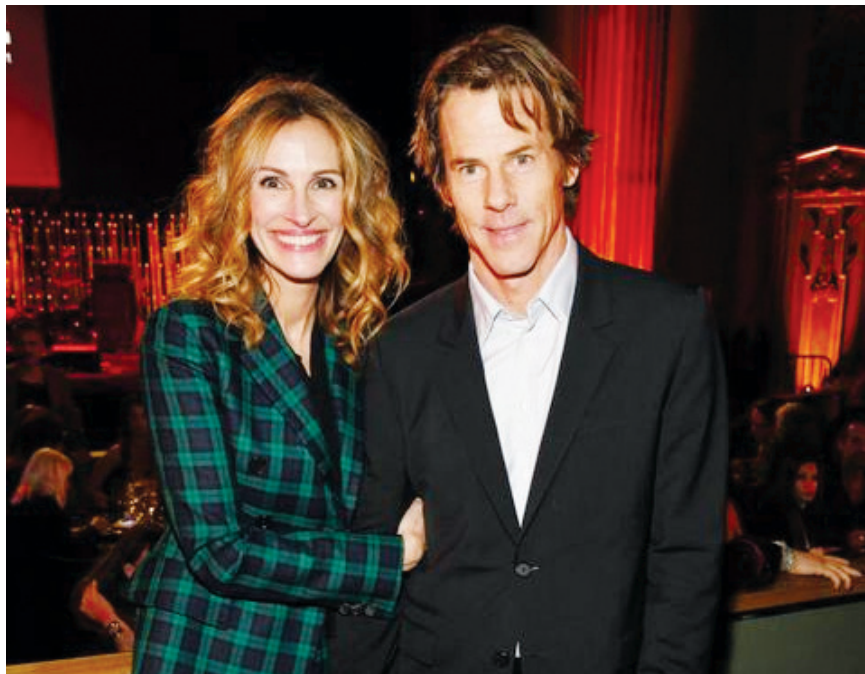
JULIA ROBERTS CELEBRATES 18TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY WITH HUSBAND DANNY MODER

On the occasion of completing 18 years as a married couple, American actor Julia Roberts and husband Danny Moder expressed their happiness on social media on Saturday.

According to People Magazine, the pair celebrated their anniversary with Roberts sharing a sweet photo of her planting a kiss on Moder's cheek.

The 'Pretty Woman' actor wrote alongside the photo, "18 years," adding the hashtag #heckyes. The 52-year-old actor and Moder wed in 2002 after meeting on the set of the 2000 film 'The Mexican', where Moder worked as a cameraman. The pair are parents to 12-year-old son Henry Daniel, and 15-year-old twins Hazel Patricia and Phinnaeus "Finn" Walter. Earlier this year, the couple stepped out for a date night, attending pal Sean Penn's 10th annual CORE gala in Los Angeles. The 'Runaway Bride' actor wore a plaid green skirt suit for the night out, while her cinematographer hubby opted for a classic black-and-white ensemble.

In 2017, Roberts told the outlet that she found her fairytale ending with Moder. "I mean, every day my



husband walks in the door it's like a recurrence.

In an interview with Extra a year later, Roberts raved about her husband, calling him an "awesome human being."

"If we go to work together and go home together, all that work time,

when you come home and [say], 'Oh, honey, how was your day?' We did all that in the day and in the car," she told the outlet. "So when we got home we got to put that all away, which was really delightful."

"We have so much fun," the 'Notting Hill' star added.

Brad Pitt's next is a screen adaptation of 'The Bullet Train'

After garnering awards and praises for his performance in Quentin Tarantino's 'Once Upon A Time In Hollywood' in 2019, Brad Pitt will now star in David Leitch's new film. The film is the big-screen adaptation of 'Bullet Train' which is based on the Japanese novel 'Maria Beetle' by Isaka Kotaro.

Leitch has previously helmed films like 'Deadpool 2' and 'Fast & Furious Presents: Hobbs & Shaw'.

In the novel, five assassins find themselves on a fast-moving bullet train from Tokyo to Morioka with only a few stops in between. They discover their missions are related to one another. The question they face is: "who will make it off the train alive and what awaits them at the terminal station?"

Antoine Fuqua, who originally developed the project for Sony Pictures, will produce the project. Screenwriter Zak Olkewicz has adapted the book.



1939-2020

JAGDEEP: SOORMA BHOPALI LIVES ON

Veteran actor and comedian Jagdeep, who is best known for his role in 'Soorma Bhopali' in 1975 Ramesh Sippy's *Sholay*, died on 8 July 2020 (Wednesday) in Mumbai due to age-related health issues. He was 81. He acted in around 400 films.

It's well known that Jagdeep, born Syed Ishtiaq Ahmed Jafri, joined the Hindi film industry as a child artiste, and that his comic timing made him popular as a comedian through most of his adult career. But not enough notice was paid to the fact that he moved well and had a good singing voice. His brief stint as a leading man didn't use these skills: those films, especially AVM's three-hankie weepie *Bhabhi*, were heavy with emotion. And so he tipped over into comedy, and there he stayed, cementing his place as one of Bollywood's top comic artistes.

You think of Jagdeep, and the first thing that comes to mind is Soorma Bhopali, the *Sholay* (1975) character who became so wildly popular that it nearly eclipsed everything else he did. Flash back to that scene in which our heroes, Jai and Veeru, come upon Soorma Bhopali telling a bunch of spellbound listeners of how he beat the two with a stick, and how he's found out: his paan-stained teeth, that Bhopali lilt, and comfort in a role meant strictly for laughs, made his Soorma unforgettable.

Too many of the nearly 400 roles, over six decades, that Jagdeep did were interchangeable. Broad, loud strokes for the comic folk meant that their tracks were filled with gags, pratfalls, and banana-peel humour: that was pretty much the way of the comedy from the 50s to the 80s. A whole series of talented comics, including Johnny Walker, Mukri, Paintal, Mehmood, Rajendra Nath, Keshto Mukherjee, were type-cast, and forced to that one thing that the audience wanted them to do. Jagdeep too fell into that trap of repeating himself, often using the same grins-and-grimaces, but he could always be relied upon to make us laugh.

Some of his early roles are memorable. Bimal Roy's *Do Bigha Zameen* and Guru Dutt's *Aar Paar*, as well as Hum Panchi Ek Daal Ke showcased his talent: he was a complete natural, and he had the ability to be droll, and both those gifts came in handy in his long career. He played a young, dapper Dilip Kumar in *Shikwa*, an unreleased 1954 film; he was equally comfortable in Ramsay Brother's horror fests. One of his last significant roles was playing Salman Khan's father in Rajkumar Santoshi's 1994 film *Andaz Apna Apna*: he was looking distinctly older, but the familiar verve was very much there.

Jagdeep's most famous avatar Soorma Bhopali led him to produce a film of the same name, but the 1988 film found no takers. The character lives on in our memories. 'Par hamaara naam Soorma Bhopali aise hi nahin hai', said Jagdeep, in that scene. Sahi farmaaya, janaab.

EARLY LIFE AND FAMILY

He was born on 29 March, 1939 (Wednesday) in Datia, Madhya Pradesh, Central Provinces, British India. His real name or full name was Syed Ishtiaq Ahmed Jaffri. His father was Syed Yawar



Husain Jafri and Mother Kaneez Hyder. He married three times. Naseem Begam was his first wife with whom he has a son Hussain Jaffery and two daughters Suraiya Haffry and Shakira Shafi. He then married to Sughra Begam with whom he has two sons named Javed Jaffrey and Naved Jaffrey (on Indian Television both host the popular show

called *Boogie Woogie*). He then married to Nazima and has a daughter named Muskaan Jaffrey. He lost his father when he was 5 years old. His debut film was *Afsana* in which he played child artists' role and was paid 3INR.

CAREER AS AN ACTOR AND COMEDIAN

He started his journey in cinema with the film "*Afsana*" in 1951 as a child artist and the filmmaker was B.R. Chopra. It was his directorial debut. For Jagdeep as a child, the story was a riches-to-rags, whose family fortunes declined after his father's death and the partition. In one of his interview, he recalled how his mother, once used to servants and other luxuries, raised him while working as a cook in an orphanage. Jagdeep at a young age want to help his mother and at the age of six or seven, he worked on the sets of "*Afsana*". He was spotted on the streets of Mumbai. Three rupees as a fee was decided for the role but it was doubled when the actor got to mouth a dialogue.

In an interview, Jagdeep's son Javed Jaffery told "My father was a child when he was looking for a job after Partition. When someone asked him if he wanted to work in films, he said he is need of a job of any kind. He was chosen from the streets to star in a film as a child actor. He was destined to be in the industry, it was fate."

After movie *Afsana*, he was kept picking in films for big or small roles in *Ab Dilli Door Nahin*, *K A Abbas's Munna*, and *Hum Panchi Ek Dal Ke*. In Jagdeep's career, the year 1957 was a milestone. He performed in a children's film, *Hum Panchi Ek Dal Ke* and for this, he was awarded along with other artists by Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, the Prime Minister of India.

As a comedian, he started his career with Bimal Roy's *Do Bigha Zameen* which was followed by *Teen Bahuraniyan* (1968), *Jeene Ki Raah* (1969), *Darpan* (1970), *Gora Aur Kala* (1972), *Ankh Micholi* (1972), *Insaaniyat* (1974), *Jaggu* (1975), *Chala Murari Hero Banne* (1977) and many more. He also played a lead role as a hero in some films including *Bhabhi* with Nanda, *Barkha*. *Do Bigha Zameen* was followed by Guru Dutt's maiden production, *Aar Paar* (1954).

He also acted in *Aasman*, *Bhaisahab*, *Dhake Ki Malmal*, and *Dhobi Doctor*, which was Bimal Roy's first production. He played the role of young Dilip Kumar in the film *Shikwa*. He was also in a negative role in the films *Ek Masoom* and *Mandir-Masjid*.

His most acclaimed comic role is the character Soorma Bhoplai in the movie *Sholay*. His famous dialogue in the film "Hamara Naam Soorma Bhopali Aisei Nahi Hai. No doubt the film is considered one of the greatest movies of Bollywood. As a comedian, Jagdeep's comic timing, big smile, unique voice, and facial expressions made his presence mandatory in films. As a comedian, Jagdeep knew how to make people smile through his performances. He acted in over 400 films. He is also known for his appearances in several horror movies, mainly in projects of the Ramsay Brothers.

Some of the hit songs that are picturised on him are *Paas baitho tabiyat bahal jayegi* from *Punarmilan*, *In pyar ki rahon mein* from the same film, *Chal ud ja re Panchhi* and *Chali Chali re Patang* from superhit movie *Bhabhi*, *Aa Gaye Yaaro Jeene Ke* from *Phir wohi Raat*.

He also directed a film titled *Soorma Bhoplai* which was a pure entertainer.



BRAZIL'S PRESIDENT SAYS DRUG PROVEN INEFFECTIVE AGAINST COVID WILL CURE HIM

Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro says he is confident that he will swiftly recover from the new coronavirus thanks to treatment with hydroxychloroquine, the anti-malaria drug that has not been proven effective against COVID-19.

Bolsonaro said he tested positive for the new coronavirus on Tuesday after months of downplaying its severity while deaths mounted rapidly inside the country.

The president told reporters he underwent a lung X-ray on Monday after experiencing fever, muscle aches and malaise. As of Tuesday, his fever had subsided, he said, and he attributed the improvement to hydroxychloroquine.

He stepped back from the journalists and removed his mask at one point to show that he looked well.

The 65-year-old right-wing populist who has been known to mingle in crowds without covering his face confirmed the results while wearing a mask and speaking to reporters huddled close in front of him in the capital, Brasilia.

WHO: Indoor airborne spread of coronavirus possible

The World Health Organisation is acknowledging the possibility that COVID-19 might be spread in the air under certain conditions after more than 200 scientists urged the agency to do so.

In an open letter published this week in a journal, two scientists from Australia and the US wrote that studies have shown "beyond any reasonable doubt that viruses are released during exhalation, talking and coughing in microdroplets small enough to remain aloft in the air."

The researchers, along with more than 200 others, appealed for national and international authorities, including WHO, to adopt more stringent protective measures.

WHO has long dismissed the possibility that the coronavirus is spread in the air except for certain risky medical procedures, such as when patients are first put on breathing machines.

Gyms, pools in next round of lockdown ease up in UK

LONDON (TIP): Gyms, pools and sports facilities will be among the next set of public venues able to reopen as the UK government announced further easing up of its COVID-19 pandemic lockdown measures on Thursday.

UK Culture Secretary Oliver Dowden told reporters at a 10 Downing Street briefing that outdoor pools and live shows can resume from this Saturday with social distancing in place and indoor gyms, sports facilities and pools will be able to reopen from the following Saturday, July 25.

"We need to get this match fit to defeat this disease. It is time to eat out to help out," said Dowden.

The Cabinet minister, however, warned that the government would not hesitate to apply the brakes on these further measures or impose localised lockdowns in the event of any spike in coronavirus cases.

"The reopening of gyms is the news millions across the country have been waiting for with many people desperate to jump on a spinning bike or dive into a pool," said Dowden.

Worldwide Covid cases cross 12.3 million, over 5.5 lakh dead

Global coronavirus cases topped 12.39 million with 5.5 lakh deaths and 6 million recoveries. The number of cases is triple that of severe influenza illnesses recorded annually, according to the World Health Organization (WHO).

The United States, which has the maximum number of cases worldwide, reported more than 59,000 new COVID-19 cases on Wednesday — the biggest increase ever reported by a country in a single day, according to a Reuters tally. The US now has more than 3 million infections. China's capital city Beijing, which had recently seen an uptick in infections, appeared to make headway in stamping out the outbreak, reporting no new local cases for the third day.

HONG KONG'S NEW OUTBREAK WORSENS; GERMANY SEES A DROP

An almost three-week lull in local infections has come to an abrupt end in Hong Kong, with 19 new cases reported Wednesday. The government has expressed fears that the city might be in the early days of a wider outbreak. It also found six additional locally-transmitted cases after the 4 pm cutoff time for the daily count on Wednesday, HK01 reported.

Germany's coronavirus infection rate fell the second day in a row, while the number of new cases stayed far below the level at the height of the outbreak. The reproduction factor — or R value — dropped to 0.70 on Wednesday from 0.81 the previous day, according to the latest estimate by the country's health body.

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EU situation 'very fragile', health chief says

Stella Kyriakides, the European Union health commissioner, said the 27-nation bloc must anticipate a second virus wave and prepare steps to control it. "The situation remains very fragile and we see this in a number of member states," Kyriakides told the European Parliament in

TRACKING THE VIRUS

GLOBAL

Cases | Deaths
12,390,370 | **557,411**

INDIA

Cases | Deaths
793,802 | **21,604**



CHINA CANCELS ALL INTERNATIONAL SPORTS EVENTS FOR THE YEAR

China says it will not stage any international sports for the rest of the year, apart from trials for the 2022 Winter Olympic Games in Beijing and the neighboring city of Zhangjiakou. The order from the General Administration of Sports affects at least six WTA tennis events, including the WTA Finals in Shenzhen in November. China also has four ATP tournaments lined up.

China has largely contained local transmission of the coronavirus but remains on guard for imported cases. The General Administration of Sports cited "science and order" in issuing its plan to proceed on Thursday.

COVID-19 pandemic in Africa is now reaching 'full speed'

The COVID-19 pandemic in Africa is reaching "full speed," the Africa Centers for Disease Control and Prevention chief said Thursday, while a South African official said a single province is preparing 1.5 million graves.

Just a day after confirmed coronavirus cases across Africa



surpassed the half-million milestone the total was over 522,000 and climbing, with more than 12,000 deaths. With testing levels low, the real numbers are unknown.

South Africa has the most confirmed cases with over 224,000, and for the first time Gauteng province — home to Johannesburg and the capital, Pretoria — has the country's most cases with over 75,000, or 33%.

Brussels. "A safe and effective vaccine likely remains the only permanent solution to this pandemic, but this is still some time away."

The EU is "fully engaged" in talks with pharmaceutical companies to ensure adequate supplies for the bloc of any vaccines, she said.

Turkey to appoint

'observers' to ensure social distancing

Turkey is preparing to appoint "observers" at weddings and engagement parties to ensure that social distancing practices are adhered. Health Minister Fahrettin Koca told reporters following a weekly meeting of the country's scientific advisory council on Wednesday that the

decision was reached after several recent COVID-19 outbreaks were traced back to weddings. Turkey saw an uptick in daily confirmed infections and deaths in mid-June, after it eased restrictions aimed at curbing the virus' spread. On Wednesday, the total number of infections in Turkey rose to 208,938. The death toll now stands at 5,282.

Oz halts HK extradition treaty

MELBOURNE (TIP): Prime Minister Scott Morrison on Thursday announced the suspension of Australia's extradition treaty with Hong Kong over the controversial Chinese national security law imposed there and offered visas to 10,000 students and temporary skilled workers from the former British territory to start a new life in this country.

The move came after Chinese President Xi Jinping last month signed a controversial legislation to impose a national security law in Hong Kong that allowed Beijing to crackdown against dissent, criminalising sedition and curtailing protests with punishments up to life in prison.

"Our decision to suspend the extradition agreement with Hong Kong represents an acknowledgement of the fundamental change of circumstances in relation to Hong Kong because of the new security law, which in our view undermines the 'one country, two systems' framework, and Hong Kong's own basic law and the high degree of autonomy guaranteed in the Sino-British Joint Declaration that was set out there," Morrison said in Canberra. — PTI

Zealand MP quits over information leak

WELLINGTON (TIP): A New Zealand politician has resigned after admitting he leaked the names of Covid patients to the media.

Conservative opposition lawmaker Hamish Walker said Wednesday he was sorry for his actions and withdrawing his candidacy for the September general election in a seat he was expected to win.

Walker sent the details of 18 patients to news outlets on condition he remained anonymous. He said he was exposing a "significant privacy issue" for the government because the patient names weren't password secured.

But news organisations said he'd given them the information to refute claims he was racist, after he'd earlier said that active cases were coming from India, Pakistan and South Korea. — AP

Nepal's ruling party puts off meet again

KATHMANDU (TIP): A crucial meeting of the ruling Nepal Communist Party to decide the political future of beleaguered Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli was once again deferred on Wednesday till Friday to allow more time for the top leaders to reach a power-sharing deal amid the heightened intra-party rift and his anti-India remarks.

The 45-member standing committee meeting has been postponed till Friday, said Surya Thapa, the Prime Minister's Press adviser. — PTI

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Under the guidance for reopening, gyms must use timed booking systems to limit the number of people in the building at one time and allow for



social distancing, while equipment must be spaced out and cleaned regularly.

All of these facilities have been closed since March 21 to help stop the spread of coronavirus.

The news comes as government figures show that a further 85 people

have died with coronavirus across all settings in the UK.

The Department of Health and Social Care said 44,602 people had died in hospitals, care homes and the wider community after testing positive for coronavirus in the UK as of Wednesday evening. PTI

Japan battered by heavy rain, floods; nearly 60 dead

TOKYO (TIP): Pounding rain that already caused deadly floods in southern Japan was moving northeast Wednesday, battering large areas of Japan's main island, swelling more rivers, triggering mudslides and destroying houses and roads.

At least 58 people have died in several days of flooding.

By Wednesday morning, parts of Nagano and Gifu in central Japan were flooded by massive downpours.

Footage on NHK television showed swollen water in the Hida River gouging into the embankment, destroying a national highway along the river. In another central Japanese city of Gero, river water rose to just below the bridge above it.

In a mountainous town of Takayama, several houses were hit by a mudslide, with uprooted trees and other debris scattered around. It was not immediately known what happened to their residents.

Across the country, about 3.6 million people were advised to evacuate, although evacuation is not mandatory and the number of people who actually took shelter was not provided.

As of Wednesday morning, the death toll from the heavy rain starting over the weekend had risen to 58, most of them from the hardest-hit Kumamoto prefecture. Four others were found in Fukuoka, another prefecture on Kyushu,



Japan's third-largest island.

Though the rains were causing fresh flooding threats in central Japan, flooding was still affecting the southern region. And search and rescue operations continued in Kumamoto, where 14 people are still missing.

Tens of thousands of army troops, police and other rescue workers mobilised from around the country to assist, and the rescue operations have

been hampered by the rains, flooding, mudslides and disrupted communications.

Japan is at high risk of heavy rain in early summer when wet and warm air from the East China Sea flows into a seasonal rain front above the country. In July 2018, more than 200 people, about half of them in Hiroshima, died from heavy rain and flooding in southwestern Japan. — AP

Missing Seoul mayor's body found after massive search

SEOUL / NEW YORK (TIP): Mayor Park Won-soon's body was discovered in hills in northern Seoul early Friday, July 10, more than seven hours after local authorities launched a massive search for him.

His daughter called police on Thursday afternoon and said her father had given her "a will-like" verbal message before leaving their home hours earlier. She said she decided to contact authorities because she couldn't reach her father on the phone.

Police officer Lee Byeong-seok told reporters that Park was last identified by a security camera at 10:53 a.m. at the entrance to the wooded hills stretching across northern Seoul, more than six hours before his daughter called police to report him missing. His cellphone signal was last detected in the area before the phone was eventually turned off.

Circumstances surrounding his disappearance and death remain unclear.

The Seoul-based SBS television network reported that one of Park's secretaries had lodged a complaint with police on Wednesday night over alleged sexual harassment such as unwanted physical contact that began in 2017.

The SBS report, which didn't cite any source, said the secretary told police investigators that an unspecified number of other female employees at Seoul City Hall had suffered similar sexual harassment by Park. MBC television carried a similar report.



The body of the missing mayor of Seoul, Park Won-soon, has been found in the hills in northern Seoul after a massive search that lasted seven hours.

Both the Seoul Metropolitan Police Agency and Park's office said they couldn't confirm the reports.

Park, 64, a longtime civic activist and human rights lawyer, was elected Seoul mayor in 2011. He became the city's first mayor to be voted into a third term in June last year. A member of President Moon Jae-in's liberal Democratic Party, he has been considered a potential presidential candidate in the 2022 elections.

As a lawyer, he was credited for winning the country's first sexual harassment conviction. He has also been an outspoken critic of Japan's colonial-era policies toward Korea, including the mobilization of Korean and other

women as sex slaves for Japanese soldiers.

Park also established himself as a fierce opponent of former conservative President Park Geun-hye and openly supported the millions of people who flooded the city's streets in late 2016 and 2017, calling for her ouster over a corruption scandal.

Seoul, a city of 10 million people, has been a new center of the coronavirus outbreak in South Korea since the country eased its rigid social distancing rules in early May. The mayor led an aggressive anti-virus campaign, shutting down thousands of nightspots and banning rallies in major downtown streets. *(With inputs from agencies)*

Landslide in China's Hubei buries nine after heaviest rain in years

BEIJING (TIP): A landslide buried nine people on Wednesday in China's Hubei province, the People's Daily newspaper reported, after some of the heaviest rain in decades brought floods that have killed more than 100 people.

The landslide occurred in Huangmei County in the early hours and efforts were being made to rescue the people, the newspaper said.

From June 1 to July 7, accumulated rainfall in the regions of Hubei, Anhui, Zhejiang and Chongqing has reached the highest levels for this time of year since 1961, with rainfall in some places two to three times higher than normal, according to the China Meteorological Administration.

Reuters

Brazil Prez Bolsonaro tests positive for Covid

SAO PAULO (TIP): Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro said on Tuesday he tested positive for Covid, adding in a television interview that he was in good health despite running a fever.

The right-wing populist, who has played down the severity of the virus which he has called a "little flu," took the test on Monday after developing symptoms.

In the interview broadcast on state-run TV Brasil, Bolsonaro said he began feeling ill on Sunday and had been taking hydroxychloroquine, an anti-malarial drug with unproven effectiveness against Covid. With 1.6 million confirmed cases and 65,000 deaths, Brazil has the world's second-largest outbreak.

Meanwhile, Melbourne and some other cities in Australia's Victoria state have been ordered back into lockdown for six weeks starting Wednesday after the state reported 191 new Covid-19 cases in the last 24 hours.

Residents have been advised against leaving their homes apart for four activities — purchasing essential items, medical care or caregiving, exercise and study/work. "The public health teams have advised me to reimpose stage 3 stay-at-home restrictions. Staying at home, except for the four reasons to leave, effective from midnight tomorrow night for a period of six weeks," Premier of Victoria Daniel Andrews said on Tuesday.

Iran has announced its highest single-day spike in deaths from the coronavirus, with 200 new fatalities. The spokesperson for the country's health ministry, Sima Sadat Lari, blamed the spike on citizens who "do not abide by restrictive measures". — Agencies

German intelligence warns against giving data to Chinese tech firms

BERLIN (TIP): Germany's domestic intelligence agency is warning consumers that personal data they provide to Chinese payment companies or other tech firms could end up in the hands of China's government.

In its annual report released Thursday, the BfV agency noted that Chinese government offices have access to data stored in China by companies such as Tencent, Alibaba "as well as other apps, web services and mobility providers such as for example (bike sharing) providers" that operate in Germany.

The head of the BfV, Thomas Haldenwang, said German's data isn't safe with Chinese companies because they were required by law to provide the data to their government.

"Any customer here in Germany who uses such a system shouldn't be surprised if this data is abused in Beijing," he told reporters. "We can only warn against this."

Germany's top security official also expressed concern about what he called the "hybrid threat" from China, which



included the purchase of key German companies.

"When it comes to critical infrastructure, in the energy supply or now with 5G lines, we have to consider how we can protect ourselves," said Horst Seehofer, Germany's interior

minister.

Seehofer added that Germany has yet to reach a "political decision" on whether to let Chinese telecom equipment company Huawei supply infrastructure to German cell-phone service providers. AP

USE ICE ROLLER FOR AMAZING SKIN BENEFITS

If you are a skincare aficionado then you must be aware of the ice roller trend. Ice rollers are one of the biggest trends in the beauty market today. There are a lot of them out there and you must have spotted a few while shopping for your skincare closet. If you haven't invested in an ice roller yet then you must.

Makes Your Skin Look Youthful

Wonder how do these Bollywood celebrities have such youthful skin? Well, ice therapy it is! Ice tightens your skin and prevents it from sagging. Using an ice roller is the best way to keep your skin tight and beautiful. Also, ice helps in preventing signs of ageing like wrinkles and fine lines.

Reduces Puffiness On Face

If you wake up with a puffy face like me everyday then ice roller is your best friend! If your face or under eyes look puffy in the morning then using an ice roller can help in reducing puffiness on the face. Also, ice rolling first thing in the morning makes your skin feel fresh.

Shrinks Pores

Open, big pores make your skin look dull. When you have open pores, dust and dirt start to accumulate and this leads to breakouts. To shrink face pores, you need ice therapy. Ice rolling helps in shrinking the pores which further prevents dirt and makeup clogging your skin.



Reduces Acne Redness

Usually, acne breakout makes your skin go red and it can also lead to itching. Using an ice roller helps in reducing this redness and it also calms your skin.

Gives You A Defined Jaw Line

If no Yoga asanas or exercises are helping you get that defined jawline then try ice rolling. When using it, make sure you concentrate on your jaw. Regular usage can help you get a more defined jaw.

Relieves Stress

Stress is one big reason why our

skin looks dull and tired. Ice rolling is a quick fix.

It helps in relieving stress and it makes your skin feel super fresh and soft.

Prevents Inflammation

Inflammation can lead to a lot of skin issues like acne and premature ageing. Ice roller helps in reducing inflammation, you should be using it everyday.

Tones Face Muscles

Just like the rest of our body, our face muscles also need some toning. Some ice rolling can tone up your face muscles and make your face look more defined.

Tips to make home dusting easier

Ceiling Fans & Light Fixtures

Don't just take a normal cloth duster and place the ladder to clean ceiling fans or light fixtures. You can lose balance and if you are not tall enough, it makes things more difficult. So instead get a bendable duster. The advantage here is that you can bend the duster and clean. Once you are done cleaning, remove the microfiber cover and put it in the machine to wash.

Walls

You may not have realised this but your walls too accumulate dust other than the spider webs. Wipe your fingers on your wall and see the shade difference. So dusting your walls is important especially when they are light in colour. Don't just take a broom and clean as that makes them dirtier. Take a flat head mop, a microfiber cloth and spray on some water on it. Make a 'W' pattern while cleaning as this will save your time and you will be able to cover more space.

Door Frames, Corners & Moldings

Cleaning door frames etc can be a task and this is where you see a lot of spiderwebs as well. Take an old sock that has lost elasticity or you don't use it and put it on a pole and swipe from end to end. Voila! it will be clean in no time.

Delicate Antiques & Showpieces

Spray some water on a small paintbrush or a makeup brush and clean the delicate areas of your antique pieces or carved decor items.

Bathroom Vents



This is one place that accumulates a lot of dust and grime. Clean them with a vacuum cleaner with the brush attached to it and watch all the dust vanish.

Dusting Direction

Dust falls from top to bottom so first always clean the highest point. Another way is spiral cleaning where you go clockwise especially on moldings and painting frames.

Microfiber Cloths

Ditch those cotton rags and get your hands on microfiber cloths. They lessen the cleaning time and do a thorough job. These cloths are electrostatically charged, so they attract dust. They are highly absorbent and give you streak-free surfaces.



By Tript Arora

CONNOISSEUR'S CHOICE



Pan-seared garlic and pepper mushrooms

Pan-seared mushrooms are offered as snacks in bistros and bars. They are served as sides to sizzlers and steaks as well. Alternatively, they can be used in salads or as pizza topping. They can even be layered on top of a bread toast along with mozzarella cheese to make a quick, healthy snack for kids. Mushrooms



are a rich source of the B Vitamins. Mushrooms are excellent for your gut, nervous system and hormonal system. Most people, be it vegetarians or non-vegetarians, like mushrooms.

Today, I am bringing to you a variety of pan-seared mushrooms with a dash of pepper and garlic. Mushrooms come in a many variety but we are using button mushrooms today.

We need

Button mushrooms- 200 grams, small size, Garlic- 10 pods, Baby onions- 5 to 6 cut into halves, Black pepper (freshly ground)- 1 tablespoon, Green chillies cut into 6 pieces diagonally- 2, Oil of your choice (I prefer olive oil)- 1 teaspoon, Butter- 2 teaspoon, Oregano- 1 teaspoon, Vinegar- half teaspoon

Lets begin

- Wash mushrooms in water to remove dirt and grime. After cleaning, remove from water and pat-dry them with a towel.
- Crush the garlic pods in mortel and pestle. Do not grind them. Heat a pan, add butter and oil. Avoid burning butter. Immediately Add the crushed garlic to it and saute for 1 minute. Do not let it burn. Add the cut onions, saute for maximum 1 minute. Do not let it change colour as it will cook further more with the mushrooms too.
- Add whole mushrooms, only if a piece looks very big as compared to the rest, then you can cut it to make it look similar to the group. Otherwise whole mushrooms are the best. Add black pepper. Now saute continuously on high flame. The mushroom will release water. When the released water dries up, this means that the mushrooms are done.
- Add salt and slit green chillis. Mix well. Add oregano. Mix well. Add vinegar. Mix well. Turn off the flame. Pan-seared mushrooms are ready. Enjoy! You can eat it alone like a snack or inside a sandwich. Or mixed with salad, whichever way you like.

Tips

- Do not keep the mushrooms immersed in water for long, as they soak water like sponge. Salt should be particularly added only at the end.
- If salt is added beforehand then the mushrooms will release a crazy amount of water and will shrink in size. Mushrooms should not be over-cooked.
- If they are, they will lose all their moisture and will taste very dry. Do not place the lid at any stage, otherwise there will be too much water to handle.

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SIGNS YOU'RE NOT EATING ENOUGH VEGETABLES

Low Mood

Vegetables are an important source of numerous vitamins and minerals needed for the body's critical functions. She added that not eating enough vegetables and focusing mainly on high-fat, high-carb or highly processed foods will result in getting a burst of energy followed by a crash, resulting in fatigue, memory loss and mood swings. Swapping these high-fat foods for more nutrient-dense foods like vegetables will prevent you from feeling that crash. It will also give you sustained energy for a longer period of time. Similarly, the vitamins and minerals found in vegetables can play an important role in your mood regulation. Some studies suggest that there is a relationship between diet and mood and diets low in fruits and vegetables are associated with higher risk for depression.

Easily Feeling Hungry

Adequate fiber from veggies helps increase satiety, keeping you fuller for longer while helping sustain energy. She also added that by not eating enough vegetables, you may be craving another meal or snack shortly after the food that you just consumed.

Dull Skin

Vegetables are loaded with antioxidants that can help protect your body from free radicals, which may damage skin texture. The author of "The Small Change Diet" added that many veggies like



tomatoes are packed with water, which can be hydrating for the skin.

Muscle Cramps

Muscles need enough potassium for smooth muscle contraction and that muscle cramps and twitches can happen due to extremely low blood levels of the mineral. Fruits and vegetables are the best sources of potassium. The best vegetable sources of potassium include spinach, swiss chard and other dark leafy greens, in addition to sweet potatoes.

Constipation

Enough dietary fiber from vegetables helps in adding more

bulk to waste and helps move waste more quickly through the intestines.

High Stress

Magnesium helps promote relaxation by maintaining healthy levels of GABA, a neurotransmitter that calms both the body and mind. This mineral also plays a role in the body's stress response system and that deficiency of it is linked to higher stress and anxiety. Veggies, especially dark leafy greens like spinach, are one of the best sources of magnesium. So, not getting enough veggies in your diet could certainly cause low blood levels of this mineral.



COMMON HYPERTENSION DRUGS MAY HELP LOWER COLORECTAL CANCER RISK

Medications commonly prescribed to help people treat high blood pressure have been found with anti-cancer effects. Researchers said that exposure to the drugs could help reduce the risk of developing colorectal cancer.

The new study, published in the journal Hypertension, looked into the effects of angiotensin converting enzyme inhibitor (ACE-i) and angiotensin II receptor blocker (ARB) medications. They are designed to manage conditions like heart failure, high blood pressure and heart disease.

ACE-i and ARB work by blocking the chemical called angiotensin, which causes arteries to become narrow. Doctors usually provide these medications to help people lower their blood pressure.

Researchers have long been exploring the effects of ACE inhibitors and ARBs on cancer development. However, earlier studies faced challenges such as having a small number of patients, short-term follow-ups and conflicting findings, according to Wai Leung, a clinical professor of medicine at the University of Hong Kong.

The latest study tried to address those issues. It looked into health records of 187,897 adult patients in Hong Kong and extended the analysis from 2005 to 2013.

All patients had a negative baseline colonoscopy for colorectal cancer. The disease ranks as the third most common cancer around the world and is the second leading cause of cancer death.

Researchers found that the patients who took hypertension medications, such as ACE-i and ARBs, had a 22 percent lower risk of having colorectal cancer. Majority of those who experienced anti-cancer effects were aged 55 or older and those with a history of colon polyps.

"Our results provide new insights on a potential role of these medications for colorectal cancer prevention," Leung, one of the study authors, said in a statement. "This is the first study to show the potential beneficial effects of ACE inhibitors and ARBs on colorectal cancer development, based on a large group of patients who were colorectal cancer-free at the beginning of the study."

However, the researchers noted more studies are needed to verify the potential benefits of hypertension medications on colorectal cancer risk. Leung hopes that their findings will soon guide doctors in considering ACE-i and ARBs for patients with high blood pressure, heart failure and kidney diseases.

Scientists rule out asthma as trigger for Covid-19 severity

Asthma does not appear to increase the risk for a person contracting Covid-19 or affect its severity, according to new research.

The team from Rutgers University in the US found that people with asthma – even those with diminished lung function who are being treated to manage asthmatic inflammation – seem to be no worse affected by SARS-CoV-2 than a non-asthmatic person.

"Older age and conditions such as heart disease, high blood pressure, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, diabetes and obesity are reported risk factors for the development and progression of COVID-19," said Reynold A. Panettieri Jr, a pulmonary critical care physician and director of the Rutgers Institute for Translational Medicine and Science.

However, asthma is not yet proven as one such risk factor.

"There is limited data as to why this is the case – if it is physiological or a result of the treatment to manage the inflammation," said Panettieri Jr in a paper published in the Journal of Allergy and Clinical Immunology.

Inhaled corticosteroids, which are commonly used to protect against asthma attacks, also may reduce the virus' ability to establish an infection.

However, studies have shown that steroids may decrease the body's immune response and worsen the



inflammatory response.

Children and young adults with asthma suffer mainly from allergic inflammation, while older adults who experience the same type of airway inflammation can also suffer from eosinophilic asthma – a more severe form.

In these cases, people experience abnormally high levels of a type of white blood cell that helps the body fight infection, which can cause inflammation in the airways, sinuses, nasal passages and lower respiratory tract, potentially making them more at risk for a serious case of COVID-19.

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THUNDERBOLT 4: THE NEXT-GEN HIGH-SPEED PERIPHERAL INTERFACE

Intel on Wednesday announced Thunderbolt 4, the next version of Thunderbolt interface which combines video and data on a single cable. The Santa Clara-headquartered chipmaker released the specifications of Thunderbolt 4, but the interface will only come to PCs towards the end of this year. With the USB-C interface becoming the go-to USB connector on most high-end laptops today, why do manufacturers need to switch to Thunderbolt? What is the advantage of Thunderbolt 4? Will your next laptop come with Thunderbolt 4? We answer all your questions in this explainer.

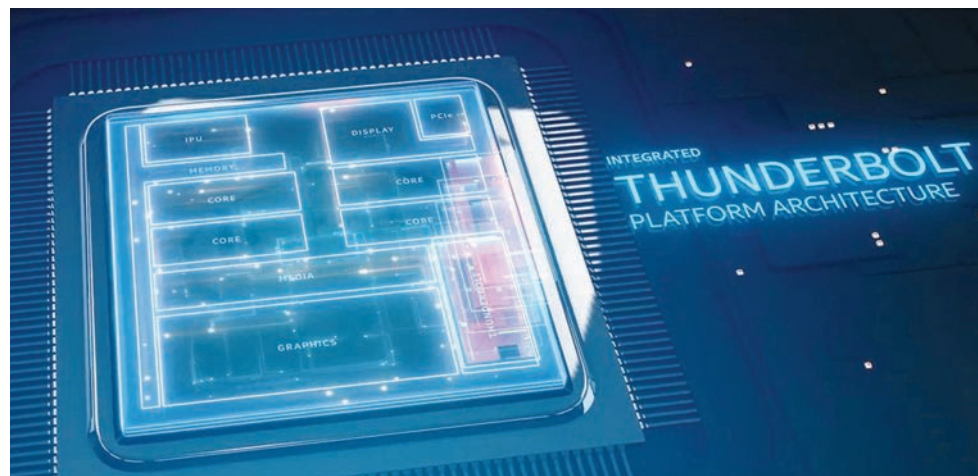
The history of Thunderbolt

Intel debuted Thunderbolt way back in 2009. Born as an Intel project called Light Peak, Thunderbolt is the one port to rule them all. The idea behind the Thunderbolt interface has always been to create a proprietary data and video transfer protocol.

Here's how Intel describes Thunderbolt:

Thunderbolt is the name of the high-speed protocol that dynamically switches to adjust data and video bandwidth depending on the device that you've plugged in or the application that you're doing.

Apple was the first company to exclusively use Thunderbolt in MacBook Pro in 2011. During the same year, Apple launched a Thunderbolt-capable iMac. Unfortunately, other than Apple, very few PC vendors lapped up Intel's Thunderbolt. One big hindrance that stopped major PC makers using Thunderbolt is that they need to obtain



certification from Intel. The high cost also stopped PC makers from adding a multipurpose connector into their laptops. Many also feared that Intel would jack up the price once the protocol became accepted in the industry, after all the chipmaker owned the standard, spec, and even supply.

Over the years, Thunderbolt has evolved. The original supported Thunderbolt 10Gbit/s of bandwidth and used the Mini DisplayPort connector. It was faster than USB 3.0, which could transfer data at speeds up to 5Gbps. Thunderbolt 2 was announced in 2013, and offered 20Gbit/s. Again, Apple was among the first companies to release Thunderbolt 2-capable products. Its 2013 Retina MacBook Pro laptop became the first device to use Thunderbolt 2.

What is Thunderbolt 4?

Thunderbolt 4, as the name suggests, is the fourth version of the Thunderbolt

interface. It won't be faster at transferring data than Thunderbolt 3 which is capable of data transfer speeds of 40Gbit/s, but offers additional features. These include support for two 4K displays or one 8K display (Thunderbolt 3 supports one 4K monitor at 60 Mhz) and fast storage speeds of 3000 megabytes per second. With Thunderbolt 4, users also get up to four ports – one connecting up to the computer and three more ports that will downstream when you connect other devices to (Thunderbolt 3 had either one port or two ports). And for the first time, Thunderbolt 4 will support universal 40GB/s cables up to 2 meters in length.

Which PCs include Thunderbolt 4?

Intel says Thunderbolt 4 will first be supported by its upcoming Tiger Lake mobile processors, slated to launch later

this year. This means we will see Thunderbolt 4-powered PCs start shipping either towards the end of the year or early next year.

Is Thunderbolt/ Thunderbolt 4 the same as USB-C?

No. Thunderbolt and USB-C look the same because both have the same reversible port, but they are different. Thunderbolt/Thunderbolt 4 offers extra features in comparison to USB-C, which is widely adopted by PC vendors and accessory makers. The point to remember is that USB-C does not match Thunderbolt in terms of transfer speeds. Thunderbolt 4 ports technically are backward-compatible with USB-C devices. However, not all USB-C ports support Thunderbolt 4 technology.

What's the difference between USB 4 and Thunderbolt 4?

Late last year, the USB Promoter Group announced the final specifications of USB 4, the next version of Universal Serial Bus, or USB as commonly known. USB 4 introduces a number of new features like it is designed to work in the same-shaped port as USB-C, transfer speeds of up to 40Gbps, backward compatibility with USB 3 and 2 devices, and compatibility with Thunderbolt 4 and Thunderbolt 3 devices.

Sure USB 4 is more advanced than the other generations of USB but both are two different protocols. It is important to know that Thunderbolt 4 is built on PCI Express (PCIe), meaning it moves large amounts of data very quickly. USB 4 doesn't use PCIe.

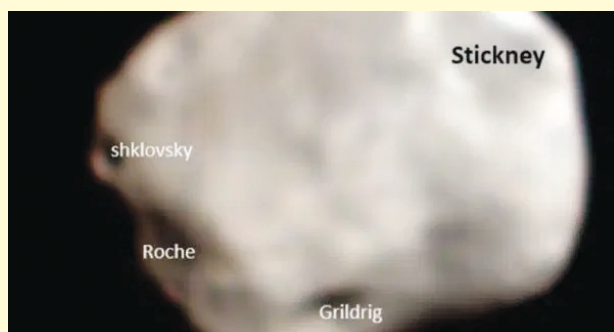
ISRO releases image of Mars' biggest moon Phobos

The Mars Colour Camera (MCC) onboard ISRO's Mars Orbiter Mission has captured the image of Phobos, the closest and biggest moon of Mars. The image was taken on July 1 when MOM was about 7,200 km from Mars and 4,200 km from Phobos. "Spatial resolution of the image is 210 m.

This is a composite image generated from 6 MCC frames and has been color corrected," ISRO said in an update along with the image.

Phobos is largely believed to be made up of carbonaceous chondrites.

According to ISRO, "the violent phase that Phobos has encountered is seen in the large section gouged out from a past collision (Stickney crater) and bouncing ejecta." "Stickney, the largest crater on Phobos along with the other craters (Shklovsky, Roche & Grildrig) are also seen in this image," it said. The mission also known as Mangalyaan was initially meant to last six months, but subsequently ISRO had said it had enough fuel for it to last "many years."



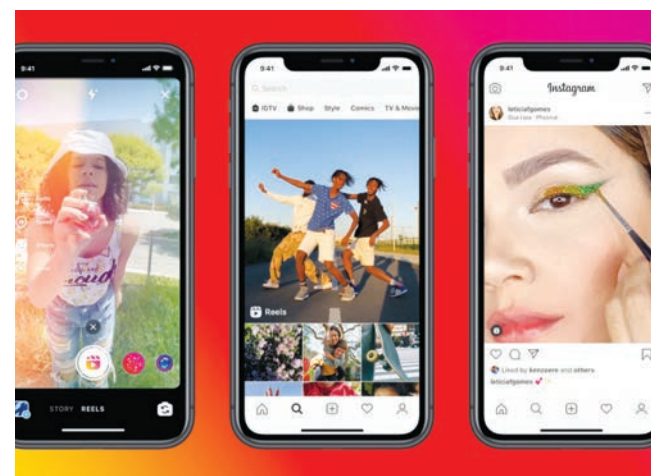
CREATE TIKTOK-LIKE VIDEOS ON USING INSTAGRAM REELS

Facebook has been testing Instagram Reels in a few countries including Brazil, Germany, and France. The feature now arrives in India. This is the best time to bring Reels to the country as the government put a ban on TikTok and demand for short video platform has spiked.

Currently, Instagram Reels feature is being tested in India, and on the basis of the response will be rolled out to each and every user in the days to come.

With TikTok banned in India, homegrown short video apps such as Roposo, Mitron, Chingari, Sharechat, and others are gaining wide popularity and millions of users every day. Facebook will also use this golden opportunity to attract 200 million TikTok users to Reels.

- To check whether you have received the update head over to Google Play store and App store and check if a new update is available. If yes, connect the phone to WiFi and install the update.
- After successfully updating the app open the Instagram camera.
- Reels option will be available right next to Boomerang, Superzoom, hands-free, and layout.
- Click on Reels and select audio from the Instagram Music library. Facebook has partnered with prominent music labels to provide a vast collection of songs to users so they can create interesting Reels.
- Similar to TikTok, Reels also come with an option to record original voice besides lipsyncing.
- Reels also let users add AR effects and provide



options like Timer, Speed to edit videos as required before sharing. Reels also let users re-record a video and even delete it if needed.

- After creating their Reel, users can choose to share it with either their followers or everyone on Instagram. Reels can be shared to Feed as well as Explore so everyone on Instagram can view it.
- Users with a Public Instagram account will be able to share Reels on Explore. This will build a better chance for the Reel to be seen and discovered by the wider Instagram community. Private account holders will be able to share Reel to Feed with followers or as Stories or DM.

Global economy to contract by 5.2 percent in 2020: Report

The global economy is likely to contract by 5.2 per cent in 2020 with the coronavirus still spreading and the economic prospects of countries across the world looking muted, says a report.

According to Dun and Bradstreet's Country Risk and Global Outlook Report, that covered 132 countries, the wider global context remains sombre and the global economy will not reach pre-pandemic levels of activity again before 2022.

"D&B is currently forecasting that the global economy will contract by 5.2 per cent in 2020 - the biggest decline since the Second World War and a far stronger contraction than the 1.7 per cent recorded in 2009 during the global financial crisis," the report said. The Asia Pacific region is unlikely to shake off the economic effects before the end of 2020, it added.

"Widespread quantitative easing means that financial asset prices globally are not reflecting the shock to fundamentals. But with many countries easing their lockdowns, a more varied picture of upgrades and downgrades has emerged," Dun & Bradstreet Chief Economist Arun Singh said.

Singh further noted that "worryingly, a sharp recession is still forecast, and we expect that the world economy will not attain pre-pandemic levels of activity before 2022." The report said any recovery into 2021 (even without a second bout of the pandemic) is going to be



curtailed by several factors. Foremost will be the presence of degrees of social distancing (despite the easing of lockdowns) and higher levels of post-lockdown unemployment and poverty.

Meanwhile, the number of cases around the world linked to COVID-19 has crossed 1.18 crore and the death toll has topped 5.44 lakh. In India, the death toll due to the disease rose to 20,642 and the number of infections increased to 7,42,417 on Wednesday.

Singh further said India's economy is expected to contract this fiscal year after four decades of positive growth. "In March, we downgraded India's rating to DB5c from DB4d - both the magnitude of the downgrade and the risk level

are the highest since 1994," Singh noted.

DB5 means high risk and denotes that "considerable uncertainty is associated with expected returns. Businesses are advised to limit their exposure and/or select high risk transactions only." Dun & Bradstreet's Country Risk Indicator provides a comparative, cross-border assessment of the risk of doing business in a country. The risk indicator is divided into seven bands, ranging from DB1 to DB7, with DB1 being lowest risk.

Each band is subdivided into quartiles (a-d), with 'a' representing slightly less risk than 'b' (and so on). Only the DB7 indicator is not divided into quartiles.

Brooks Brothers files for bankruptcy

NEW YORK (TIP): Brooks Brothers, the 200-year-old menswear retailer that has dressed 40 US presidents and unofficially became the outfitter of Wall Street bankers, has filed for bankruptcy.

The privately held company had been struggling as business attire grew more casual in recent years. But it has been decimated by the coronavirus pandemic, which sent demand for suits plummeting. Many working-from-home employees opted for far more relaxed looks of T-shirts and sweatpants rather than pinstripe suits and custom shirts.

"Although the pandemic has severely eroded the outlook for the business, Brooks Brothers has long suffered from a failure to decisively adapt to changing trends," said Neil Saunders, the managing director of GlobalData Retail. "When it comes to tastes and style, Brooks Brothers has been swimming against the tide."

Brooks Brothers filed for Chapter 11 early Wednesday in a Delaware court. It had warned in June it would lay off nearly 700 workers in three states and is seeking a buyer because coronavirus destroyed its business. The company has been evaluating various strategic options, including a potential sale. But it has struggled to find a buyer. A company spokesperson told CNN Business that it expects to "complete the sale process within the next few months."

The retailer is in the process of shuttering 20% of its 250 US stores. According to the bankruptcy filing, Brooks Brothers has secured \$75 million in financing to continue operating.



United Airlines warns 36,000 workers they could be laid off

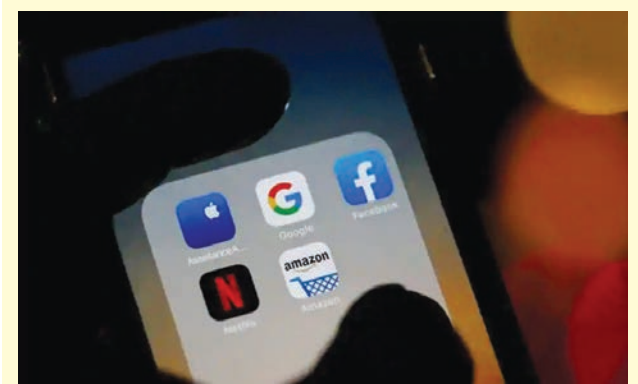
United Airlines is warning 36,000 employees — nearly half its US staff — they could be furloughed in October, the clearest signal yet of how deeply the virus pandemic is hurting the airline industry.

The outlook for a recovery in the airline industry has dimmed in just the past two weeks, as infection rates rise in much of the US and some states impose new quarantine requirements on travelers.

Airlines say they must shrink to match falling travel demand. American Airlines executives have said they could have 20,000 more employees than the airline will need this fall.

United told employees Wednesday that not everyone who gets a layoff notice will be furloughed. The company said job losses could be reduced if enough employees accept buyouts or early retirement by a deadline next week.

The buyouts come at a price too, however. United said it would take a \$300 million charge in the second quarter to cover voluntary departures so far. The company said it was unable to estimate the cost of workforce reductions for the rest of the year.



GOOGLE, AMAZON FUNNEL AT LEAST \$25 MILLION TO CORONAVIRUS CONSPIRACY SITES: STUDY

Digital advertising platforms run by Google, Amazon.com Inc. and other tech companies will funnel at least \$25 million to websites spreading misinformation about Covid-19 this year, according to a study released Wednesday.

Google's platforms will provide \$19 million, or \$3 out of every \$4 that the misinformation sites get in ad revenue. OpenX, a smaller digital ad distributor, handles about 10% of the money, while Amazon's technology delivers roughly \$1.7 million, or 7%, of the digital marketing spending these sites will receive, according to a research group called the Global Disinformation Index.

GDI made the estimates in a study that analyzed ads running between January and June on 480 English language websites identified as publishers of virus misinformation. Some of the ads were for brands including cosmetics giant L'Oreal SA, furniture website Wayfair Inc. and imaging technology company Canon Inc. The data exclude social-media and online-video services, so the true total is likely much higher.

Properties of Nirav Modi Worth Over Rs 329 Crore Attached

The Enforcement Directorate on Wednesday said it has attached properties of diamond merchant Nirav Modi worth Rs 329.66 crore, which now stand confiscated to the central government under the Fugitive Economic Offenders Act 2018 (FEOA).

The businessman and his uncle Mehul Choksi, among others, are being probed by the ED on money laundering charges in connection with \$2 billion alleged bank fraud at a PNB branch in Mumbai.

"The confiscated properties are in the form of four flats at the iconic building Samudra Mahal in Worli, Mumbai, one seaside farmhouse and land in Alibaug, a wind mill in Jaisalmer, a flat in London and residential flats in UAE, shares and bank deposits," said the central probe agency in a statement.

A special court in Mumbai had on June 8 authorised the ED to confiscate the assets.

Modi was declared a fugitive economic offenders by the same court on December 5 last year.

"The ED has attached the properties worth Rs 329.66 crore under the FEO Act, 2018, which now stands confiscated to central government," it said.

The agency till now has attached assets worth Rs 2,348 crore of Modi under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA).

The 49-year-old is currently lodged in a UK jail after being arrested in London in March last year and is fighting extradition to India.



Shree Ganeshaya Namah



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The Indian Panorama brings you Weekly and Birthday Horoscope from the World's most trusted astrologer Nastur Bejan Daruwalla.

Weekly Horoscope July 13 - July 19, 2020

ARIES: Ganesha says you are in an indulgent frame of mind and there is non-stop partying on the cards. There could also be many new alliances and it will make sense to be discreet about them. There is passion and deep bonding as you soar with the ecstasy of the moment. There are many unusual aspects now as you also assess the period that have gone by.

TAURUS: Ganesha says you will also indulge in strange esoteric pursuits, to flights of fancy, the supernatural, interest in spirits, witches, life-after-death, and occult phenomena. Ganesha wishes you well. You are in a quandary: there are many roads before you and you don't know which one to take. At one level, you want to focus on work and on another level you want to get away from it all and holiday far away in the hills.

GEMINI: Ganesha says the sweet sound of money in the bank, and the social standing and perquisites that come so easily to you are symbols of success. You enjoy them and revel in the joy they bring you and your family. Once again, you survey the rewards and seek to extend them further. But there are other concerns too. The health of someone really close to you, possibly someone older like parents or in-laws, causes you concern.

CANCER: Ganesha says you will also be enthused by meditation and an assortment of spiritual practices. Ganesha wishes you well. There are many pressures again. Your mind is in a twirl. At one level, you are enthused and rejuvenated. This can be a time of joy. There is positive thinking as you brush up your image, spruce up your life, look at the brighter side, shop for a new wardrobe, and generally project an attitude that spells out the material success you have achieved and also your sense of inner worth.

LEO: Ganesha says the focus shifts to the family. There will be beautiful interactions and associations that you will cherish forever. You also meet up with old friends and spend great moments in fond memories of wonderful times gone by. At another level, you are also slogging away like someone possessed. You feel happy and reach out to all that is important and desirable.

VIRGO: Ganesha asks you to take chances, take a few calculated risks, but also plan for the future. It is important that you read the fine print while signing documents. There could be hidden clauses or conditions that could prove to be less than favorable in the long run. Your introspective, withdrawn mood will end now and you are raring to go. You display positive thinking and matching action. The results will speak for themselves. They do not need any elaboration.

LIBRA: Ganesha says there is a lot of travel and new associations. You will be drawn into family and property matters and there will be expenses; there is also the risk of someone very close falling seriously sick. You will also be the conciliatory factor between erring factions. There is also an unusual hum in your life and everyone around you joins in. You naturally feel greatly energized, optimistic and very enthusiastic.

SCORPIO: Ganesha says you will be a human dynamo, a powerhouse of energy ready to attain targets. Many new ideas will emerge as you make glorious plans for future success leading to joy. There is a renewed zest for life, lots of vigor and energy, as you work exceptionally hard. Your success will be the envy of all. Ganesha is with you. There are great moments with the family. Children bring joy and you will spend a lot of time with them.

SAGITTARIUS: Ganesha says there could be an addition to the family, even the adoption of a girl child. I cannot be accurate here as I do not have personal details but these are the trends. This is an action-packed time without a doubt and you will be making the most of whatever falls on your lap. You will have a strong inclination to indulge in all kinds of mental activity.

CAPRICORN: Ganesha says you look at new avenues of self-expression and explore new areas of knowledge. The family and work angles are energized, bringing power, money, joy and glory, but there is a certain restlessness that might prove dangerous if it is not channelized properly. Do not give in to the urge to neglect either your commitments or the people who matter to you.

AQUARIUS: Ganesha says there is travel on the cards and you make many new friends. You could be furiously networking and may be a huge success in multilevel marketing, if you are involved in it. But you also need more tact and diplomacy in your dealings. This is not difficult but it doesn't ever harm to lay on the charm big time. In this period you have decided to come to grips with life.

PISCES: Ganesha says there is need for detachment. The health / emotional situation of someone in the family is cause for concern. But the benefits of power and position come your way and you compensate for all the troubles hampering you. There is a great period with many significant trends. Ganesha is with you all the way.

Birthday Horoscope July 13 - July 19, 2020

July 13: Ganesha says to handle current stresses, you may have no better option than to turn inward. Put your faith and trust in yourself, not outside sources.

July 14: If a hint of good news or positive developments came your way last night, you might find your mind lingering on that theme. At any rate, either that or something else gets your imagination going.

July 15: Today looks promising, at least from the point of view of your social life. Include your

friends in activities or ask for their input. You'll find that others are willing to lend a helping hand.

July 16: Radical ideas about money dealings seem to work out better in theory than in practice. It's best to scrutinize those and any proposals in terms of the potential risk-reward ratio.

July 17: Efforts directed toward family and home related projects will yield excellent results. Act on positive urgings to overcome problems or limiting conditions. Make improvements. Charity begins

at home.

July 18: There's tendency for talks that start out casual to turn profound. Secrets have a way of slipping out into the open, so watch what you reveal inadvertently. In all dealings, read between the lines.

July 19: Ganesha says long-standing frustrations could finally catch up with you, leading to an explosive confrontation. Don't overreact. Lie low if you can; if not, at least stay calm and choose your battles wisely.

SAPTARISHIS: THE 7 SAGES

Saptarishi are the seven greatest sages of the Vedic realm. They have attained a semi-immortal status, that of an exceedingly long lifespan due to their yogic power and by the power of their penance. The seven holy sages were assigned to be present through the four great ages, to guide the human race. These seven sages or Sapta Rishis worked closely with Lord Shiva to maintain the balance on Earth.

They are the seven mind-born sons of Brahma who live for a period of time known as a manvantara (306,720,000 Earth Years). During this period of time, they serve as representatives of Brahma and at the end of a manvantara, the universe gets destroyed and Saptarishi merge in God and the task of filling the Earth is given to newly appointed Saptarishi.

All the Saptarishi are Brahmarishis which means they have completely understood the meaning of Brahman. Usually, one cannot rise to the level of a Brahmarishi through merit alone, since the order was created divinely and is appointed by Lord Brahma. However, Vishwamitra rose to the position of a Brahmarishi through his own merit alone. He performed meditation and austerities (Tapasya) for tens of thousands of years and as a result, he was awarded the rank of Brahmarishi from Brahma himself.

Brahmarishis are so powerful that they are capable of defeating every weapon on earth, can forecast the future, and are not influenced by the circle of life and death. Saptarishis are greater even than the devtas in power and piety are the highest in rank over Devatas and other classifications of Rishis such as Rajarishi and Maharishi.

Maharishi means 'great sage' in Sanskrit and refers to one who has greatly expanded and refined senses. Their third eye is completely open and their intuition is used to its fullest capacity. Their attention and focus encompass the entire universe and yet they can still maintain incredibly precise detail in actions and thoughts. Rajarishi means 'royal sage' in Sanskrit. It refers to one who is a king or a prince as well as a sage. A Rajarishi can leave the kingship and become a Rishi such as Vishwamitra.

Seven Great Sages

The Saptarishi of the current Manvantara according to Brihadaranyaka Upanishad are listed below in this article. Brihadaranyaka Upanishad is one of the earliest Upanishadic Hindu scriptures.

Bharadwaja

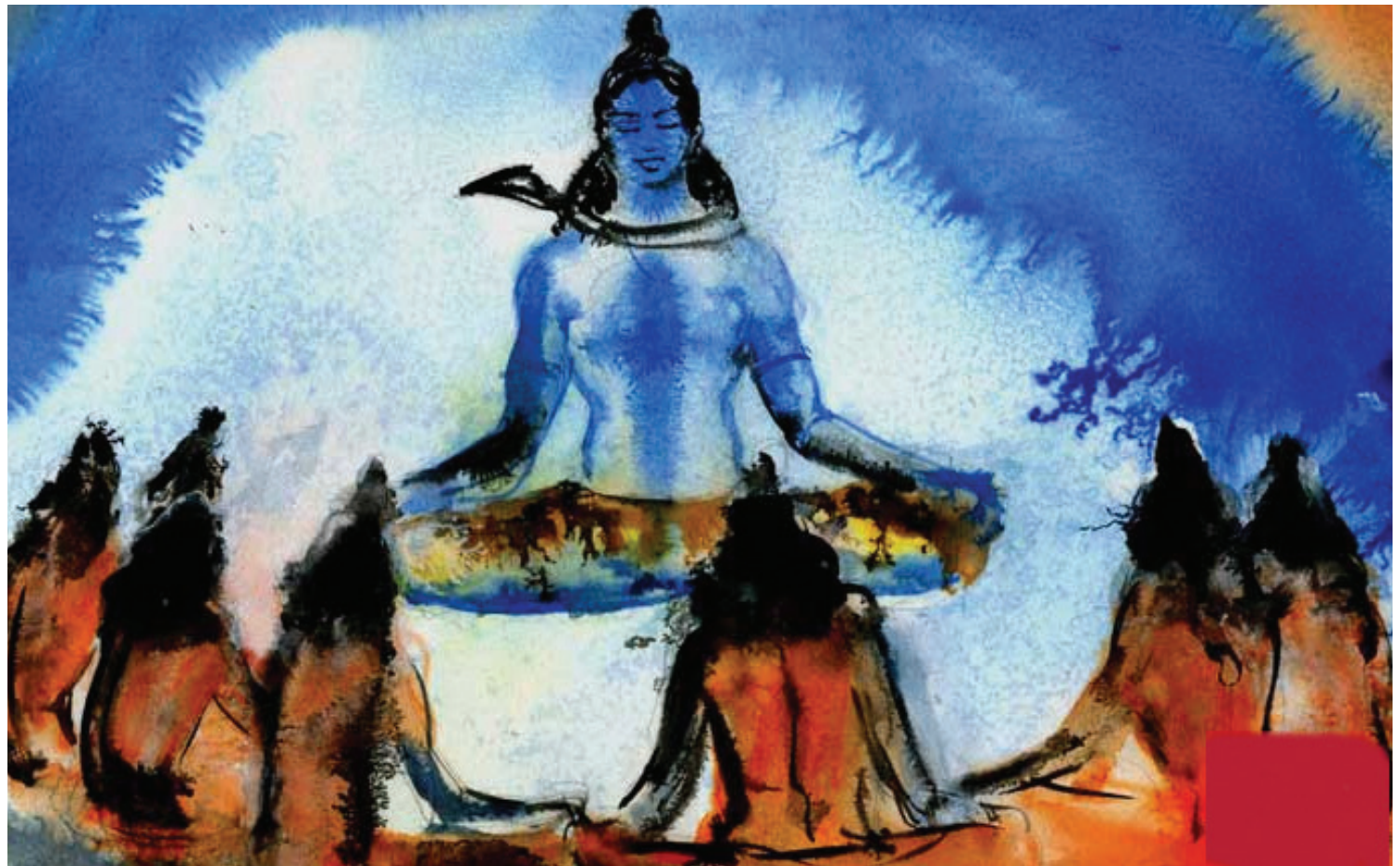
He is one of the greatest sage in Vedic times and also a descendant of sage Angirasa. His father is Devarsi Brihaspati. Sage Bharadwaja is the Author of Ayurveda. He is the father of Guru Dronacharya and his ashrama still exists in Allahabad. He was also a master of advanced military arts, including the Devastras. His wife is Suseela with whom he had a daughter named Devavarnini and son Garga.

Dronacharya (Guru of Pandavas and Kauravas) was born as a result of his attraction to Apsara.

According to some of the Puranas,

Vashista

Rishi Vasishtha is one of the Saptarishi of this Manvantara and husband of Arundathi. He is the mind-born son of



Lord Brahma and the Raja-guru of the Surya Vamsha or the Solar dynasty. He is the author of Vasisht Samhita a treatise on electional astrology. He and his family are glorified in a hymn in the Rig Veda.

Lord Rama once explains his disenchantment with worldly things and expresses sadness at the miserable life as a worldly man to King Dasaratha after returning from a pilgrimage of holy places. Then the Sage Vasishtha starts answering the questions posed by Lord Rama. This is the context and content of the scripture called "Yoga Vasistha".

Gautama

Gautama Rishi belongs to the lineage of Angiras. His sons were Vamadeva, Nodhas, Shatananda and were one of the earliest writers on Law. He also authored the Gautama Dharma Sutra and The Rig & Sama Vedic mantras.

His wife was Ahalya, who was the daughter of Lord Brahma. At the appropriate time, the Lord announced that whosoever goes around the Earth first shall win Ahalya's hand. Gautama Rishi went around the divine cow thus fulfilling the condition. Ahalya and Gautama Rishi were married. Gautama Rishi was a person without ego. When the people of the land suffered a draught, the Maharishi set out to meditate upon Lord Varuna. Pleased with his single-mindedness, Lord Varuna appeared. The Rishi asked Varuna for rain. Lord Varuna explained "The Law demands that there should not be rain in the place for this period of time. I cannot go against the Law since all five forces are governed by Lord Shiva. Ask me anything else." Maharishi immediately requested for an incessant supply of water in the reservoir. Thus Gautama Rishi saved many people.

Atri

Sage Atri is one of the Saptarishi in the current Manvantara and a son of Brahma. He is one among the Sages who propounded the sacred thread (Poonal).

Sage Atri's wife is Anusuya, an embodiment of chastity. He is considered to be one of the great discoverers of sacred mantras. Atri Samhita and Atri Smriti are two works of the great sage. Anusuya is known for chastity. One day Trimurty decided to test and arrives at her home as Brahmins.

They ask her to serve food in naked. She agrees and converts them into kids. Surprised with the power of her chastity trinity of gods requests to give their original form and hence she becomes their mother. Anusuya gave birth to Lord Dattatreya as an avatar of Trinity - Brahma, Vishnu, and Shiva.

Kashyapa

Kashyapa Rishi is one of the most popular ancient Rishi and Saptarishi. He is the son of Rishi Marichi and grandson of Brahma. He was the father of Devas, Asuras, Nagas, garudas, Vamana, Agni, Adityas, Daityas, Aryaman, Mitra, Pusan, Varuna, and all Humanity. He is the progenitor, Prajapati. He was an author of Kashyapa Samhitha which is a classical reference book in the field of Ayurvedic Paediatrics, Gynecology, and Obstetrics.

In the story of King Parikshith killed by Serpent Takshaka, Kashyapa arrives to stop it when Takshaka challenges him by biting a tree and turning it into ashes. Kashyapa restores the tree with his yogic powers and defeats the serpent. However, it explains the curse of Brahmin Boy and tells that consequences have to be faced. Sage understanding the future of King leaves the place taking offerings from Takshaka. Soon he realizes that what done is not correct and visits Tirupathi for getting rid of sin.

Jamadagni

Jamadagni is the father of Parashurama, the sixth avatar of Vishnu. Also the descendant of sage Bhrigu one of the Prajapatis created by Brahma. His wife was Renuka, who used to fetch water from the river in an unbaked clay pot with the power of her chastity. One day her heart was filled with desire when a group of Gandharvas is passing in the sky. The pot dissolved. She being afraid of her husband doesn't come home. Jamadagni knowing this from his yogic powers asks Parashurama to kill her mother which he did.

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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."

The GITCC in association with Consulate General of India, New York organizes 2nd edition of the Webinar Series "Augmenting US India Trade Relations - 2020"

CONTD FROM PAGE 6

cannot afford more disruptions, their employees also look for confidence and assurance on health & safety front to return to work. Guided by its Mission statement "Making Societies more productive by helping our customers run their business", Birlasoft has launched a solution named IntelliOpen™ that leverages digital technologies to empower its customers to make their facilities safer during and post COVID-19. IntelliOpen can help organizations in all industries but considering the ones in life-sciences industry touch human-lives directly, we are specially motivated in helping them balance productivity with safety."



PROF. INDRAJIT S SALUJA is the Publisher-Editor of The Indian Panorama (New York; Dallas), Advisor on Board at Global Indian Trade and Cultural Council., USA, President, Indo-US Media Inc., President, Opinio Media, Inc. is an

Academician, Journalist, Writer, Poet, Speaker, Actor, Television Host/ Anchor. Recipient of many honors and awards, Prof. Saluja has served on Panjab University

Academic Council and Languages Faculty and was nominated to a 2-year term on the National Youth Advisory Committee, headed by Prime Minister of India. Currently based in New York, he hails from Punjab, India where he was a college teacher of English language and literature for 35 years.

Prof. Saluja said there were enough areas and opportunities for cooperation between US and India. He underlined the present geopolitical scenario in which China which has hitherto been monopolizing trade with US, has fallen out with the nation which contributed most to its growth. It is an opportune time for India to take advantage of the situation and broaden its manufacturing base to substitute China for US needs of products from pins to toys to electronics etc.



MR. H.S. PANASER is the Founder and President of Global Indian Trade and Cultural Council, USA. He is a strong and innovative leader with more than three decades of experience in fortune 500 companies in Pharmaceutical, Medical Tourism and Food and Health segment in Global Marketing. Harinder had been

working for over a decade as Chair for a Super PAC promoting US India relations. His Other affiliations and experience includes Chair, NJ, NY Chapter, US India Political Action Committee, Ex. President, Global Haryana Chamber of Commerce, Advisor on Board, C3Summit International LLC, Ex. President, US SAARK Business Forum, Director A I Nexus, President - Global Marketing NYSO, India and Ex. Member on Board, Automotive Aftermarket Industry Association, USA.

Panaser concluded by thanking the speakers at the panel of this webinar and saying as we quote "India has emerged as a global capital of generic medicines and can contribute to the world by producing cheap drugs, including vaccines. With US support in scientific advancement and technology at its command, a high-quality medical research enabled to India can aid the mass production of vaccines and essential drugs in India, eventually helping the world facing a crisis like Covid-19 currently."

"In a continued effort of this series of webinars we are trying to get representatives from The Indian Council of Medical Research, Ministry of Health and Ministry of Chemicals, Government of India to join our webinar and address The Indian diaspora connected to the health care industry in the United States", Panaser concluded.

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CONTD FROM PAGE 12

Biden releases U.S.-centered economic plan, challenging Trump's 'America First' agenda

And it reflects the success of Trump's longtime message that protecting American workers is more important than ensuring a free flow of trade.

Trump's rise in 2016 was built heavily on promises of bringing back American jobs, as well as blaming immigrants for hurting American workers. As president, he has stoked a trade war with China and imposed tariffs that flew in the face of his party's orthodoxy. Biden, who once supported the North American Free Trade Agreement and Trans-Pacific Partnership, has focused his campaign on prioritizing American industries, following the lead of Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.), the democratic socialist who was his top rival for the Democratic nomination, and Sen. Elizabeth Warren (D-Mass.) who released a "Plan For Economic Patriotism" during the primary and has undergone vetting by Biden's campaign to be his running mate.

Biden and Warren's teams consulted closely on the new plan, according to two people with knowledge of the situation, who spoke on the condition of anonymity to describe private talks.

Biden's plan also reflects the growing alarm sparked by the coronavirus pandemic about the inability of American companies to produce enough medical supplies during a national emergency.

His new platform focuses heavily on using the power of the federal government to promote a U.S. domestic manufacturing base. He is advocating a \$400 billion procurement initiative over four years to spur demand for American products and services, as well as a \$300 billion investment in U.S. research and breakthrough technologies. Half of the \$300 billion is in clean-energy initiatives that were previously announced, the campaign said.

Before Biden spoke, he toured the plant with Sen. Robert P. Casey Jr. (D-Pa.) and plant owner Robert McGregor. "How are you, man?" Biden asked a worker. "I keep distance," the worker said. Biden wore a face mask throughout the tour.

Later, he delivered his remarks outside at a covered loading dock. Circles were placed in front of his lectern to encourage listeners to stay within them and maintain social distancing. Reporters had their temperatures taken and were asked coronavirus screening questions as they entered.

The plan, which represents one of Biden's most detailed general election policy prescriptions, also calls for the government to launch a 100-day "supply chain review" that could require federal agencies to buy only medical supplies and other goods manufactured in the United States. On the Republican side, White House advisers and allies worried about Biden's "Buy America" push, with Bannon saying on his radio program that the Democrat's rollout could help him in such states as Pennsylvania, Michigan and Wisconsin, which Trump narrowly won in major 2016 upsets.

"This is very disturbing. .??. They are essentially trying to steal the Trump program of 2016 and steal that playbook. For some reason, the White House and the campaign have been caught flat-footed," Bannon said. "Biden has very smart people around him, particularly on the economic side."

Trump aides said the president remains the obvious person to reignite the economy as he has done before. "President Trump's policies of lower taxes, deregulation, reciprocal trade and energy

independence built a booming economy once, and they will do so again under his leadership," said Judd Deere, a White House spokesman.

White House officials led by senior Trump adviser Peter Navarro have drafted an executive order requiring federal agencies to buy medical supplies and pharmaceuticals produced in America.

That executive order has languished for months, however, amid objections by some of Trump's other senior advisers, including Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin and Trump's son-in-law Jared Kushner, who have warned that it could lead China to limit the supply of personal protective equipment, or PPE, that it is sending to the United States.

Some analysts said Navarro's executive order could now be signed swiftly, but it remained unclear Thursday when or if that would happen.

Both campaigns are gearing up for a clash over the economy, a normally dominant theme in presidential elections. Trump argues that he built a booming economy before the coronavirus outbreak and could do it again. Biden blames Trump for his erratic reaction to the pandemic and frequent flouting of public health advice, which he says fueled the alarming rate of infections and badly damaged the economy as a result.

More broadly, Biden, who holds a significant lead in the polls, is seeking to close off any possible openings for Trump to make the race more competitive. In the months ahead, he plans to unveil proposals on infrastructure, caregiving and education, and racial equality, all part of what he bills as the "Build Back Better" plan.

In Thursday's proposal, Biden is calling for closing loopholes around existing "Buy American" clauses; eliminating waivers in Buy American provisions; and cracking down on false advertising of "Buy American" goods. To finance the ongoing costs of his economic agenda, Biden's campaign says he will reverse some of Trump's tax cuts for corporations and impose "common-sense tax reforms that finally make sure the wealthiest Americans pay their fair share." The campaign declined to provide a more detailed accounting of how it would pay for the \$700 billion in spending it is laying out Thursday.

A senior Biden campaign official said more specific details would be released once the full plan is out, speaking on the condition of anonymity because the campaign did not authorize the person to speak on the record. Those details would include a stimulus investment, which Biden believes will be needed, and continuing costs, the official said.

Biden often touts his central role in the Obama administration, but he has been less eager to tout the administration's championing of the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP), which proved controversial with the party's union base. Labor leaders said it did too little to require America's partners improve their environmental and labor standards.

Trump highlighted the shortcomings of the TPP and other trade deals in his 2016 campaign and rejected it upon taking office. "Trade negotiations over big trade deals is something that in sequence will follow a dramatic set of domestic investments," said the senior Biden campaign official.

Biden has said he wants to renegotiate the agreement, which includes several Asian countries and which supporters say could serve as a bulwark against China's influence. Thursday's plan calls for using tax dollars to "stand up to the Chinese government's abuses, insist on fair trade, and extend opportunity to all Americans." *(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)*

CONTD FROM PAGE 13

IRS.gov has answers about filing, paying and July 15 due date

FILE ELECTRONICALLY FOR FREE : Taxpayers whose income was \$69,000 or less last year are eligible to use the IRS Free File software to do their taxes. Also, regardless of income, any taxpayer who is comfortable preparing their own taxes can use Free File Fillable Forms. Taxpayers can use these electronic versions of IRS tax forms to complete their taxes and file them online. Free File options are available at IRS.gov/freefile.

GET ANSWERS TO TAX QUESTIONS: Taxpayers can find answers to many of their questions using the Interactive Tax Assistant. It's a tax law resource that uses a series of questions and responses to help. IRS.gov also has answers to Frequently Asked Questions on a variety of topics. The IRS website also has tax information in Spanish (Español); Chinese (??); Korean (???); Russian (P?????); Vietnamese (Ti?ng Vi?t); and Haitian Creole (Kreyòl ayisyen).

"WHERE'S MY REFUND?" : Taxpayers can easily find the most up-to-date information about their tax refund using the "Where's My Refund?" tool on IRS.gov and on the IRS mobile app, IRS2Go. Within 24 hours after the IRS acknowledges receipt of an electronically filed return, taxpayers can start checking on the status of their refund.

SCHEDULE A PAYMENT : Taxpayers can file now and schedule their federal tax payments up to the July 15 due date. They can pay online, by phone or with their mobile device and the IRS2Go app. When paying federal taxes electronically, taxpayers should remember:

Electronic payment options are the best way to make a tax payment.

They can pay when they e-file by using tax software online. If using a tax preparer, taxpayers should ask the preparer to make the tax payment through an electronic funds withdrawal from a bank account.

IRS Direct Pay allows taxpayers to pay online directly from a checking or savings account for free.

Taxpayers can choose to pay with a credit card, debit card or digital wallet option through a payment processor. No fees go to the IRS.

The IRS2Go app provides mobile-friendly payment options, including Direct Pay and payment processors on mobile devices. Taxpayers may also enroll in the Electronic Federal Tax Payment System and pay online or by phone. They can pay with cash at a retail partner. New locations available.

Taxpayers can go to IRS.gov/account to securely access information about their federal tax account. They can view the amount they owe, access their tax records online, review their payment history and view key information for the most recent tax return as originally filed.

Not required to file a tax return? Non-Filers tool available to register for Economic Impact Payments

People who are not normally required to file a tax return and don't plan to do so can use the Non-Filers tool to get an Economic Impact Payment. The only way they can get this payment is to register with the IRS by using this free tool. Available in both English and Spanish, the tool was developed jointly by the IRS and the Free File Alliance. The registration deadline is Oct. 15, 2020.

More information is available at IRS.gov/COVIDtaxdeadlines; IRS.gov/payments; IRS.gov/account; IRS.gov/ITA; IRS.gov/estimatedtaxes (Press Release)

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MONSOON DESTINATIONS

Monsoons in India are unique as the country is blessed with bountiful rains from June to August. Surroundings that have become parched due to the sweltering heat of May, burst with life due to the abundance of moisture. It's no surprise that this season has been immortalized in our folk songs, movies, plays, and ancient texts. Instead of staying in your home in this wet spell, venture out to the places featured below. You will not be disappointed. Here are the top monsoon destinations in India listed only for you.

Lonavala, Maharashtra

If you love being engulfed by wet, rain clouds, then Lonavla in Maharashtra is the place to be this monsoon. Snuggled up in the upper reaches of the Western Ghats, a short trip to, or a stay in this quaint little town is sure to refresh your senses. Famous for its cool weather, this British-era town bursts with greenery come rainy season. With the option of cruising down the Mumbai-Pune Expressway or using the National Highway 4, your journey to Lonavala will be just as memorable as the destination itself. Don't miss the opportunity to travel to Amby Valley, when in Lonavala – the road that connects you to that place is simply magical in the rains. Don't miss out on this; There is a reason Lonavala tops our list of best monsoon destinations in India.

Kodaikanal, Tamil Nadu

Does the thought of losing yourself in acres of greenery in the rains excite you? If yes, then you must visit Kodaikanal in the months of July and August.

In this season, the entire hill station looks fresh. The delightful scent of rain-drenched mud wafts through the trees, rejuvenating your senses. Kodaikanal in this season is dream come true for serious and amateur photographers alike. Here, you have the opportunity to snap up enchanting pictures of mist-covered hills and surrounding landscapes while the sun plays hide and seek with clouds. Bear Shola and Silver Cascade Waterfalls near the hill station boom with gushing water in the monsoons, which will remind you of your favourite wallpaper.

Coorg, Karnataka

Often called as Scotland of India, Coorg in Karnataka is famous for its picturesque hilly setting.

Travel up the hills beyond Kushalnagar in the rains, and you are bound to be surrounded by the ubiquitous fog that reduces your visibility to near nothingness. Fortunately, you will see very few fellow travellers on the road, so your journey will be a pleasant one. On the way up, every bit of earth is guaranteed to be green. If there are no clouds blocking your view, then you will get to see distant hills that are enveloped with clouds.

Upon reaching your destination, you may choose to relax in a warm Coorgi house or trek up the Thadiyandamol peak. Whatever your preference, you are bound to enjoy it.

Shillong, Meghalaya

If you wish to rendezvous with the



monsoon clouds, then a visit to Shillong in Meghalaya should be on your bucket list. When the state itself is called the 'Abode of the Clouds', you can guess what's coming your way in the monsoon.

Such is the intensity of the rain on the way up that it can slow down the world around you. Cars, people, animals...everyone has to bow down to Mother Nature in Meghalaya.

Once in Shillong, you must make your way to the Elephant Falls that cascades with the sound of thunder.

Pondicherry

Although Pondicherry, fondly called as Pondy, is famous for its beaches, a visit to the union territory in the monsoon enables you to enjoy the lush fields and surrounding hilly terrains that are exploding with greenery.

Walking down Pondy's Promenade Beach in the rains, you are bound to be drenched by raging waves of Bay of Bengal that splash over the walls. Sullen grey, moisture-laden clouds that hang low from the skies will greet you in Pondy this season. Another advantage of visiting Pondicherry in the rains is that there are very few tourists. So go ahead and enjoy some Indo-French cuisine with some liquor while the world moves slowly around you in the rains. Pondicherry surely tops the list of monsoon destinations in India,

If relaxing on a vacay is what you prefer, then a visit to the Auroville Universal City is a must, where you can meditate amidst verdant green lawns while clouds pour around.

Ranikhet, Uttarakhand

Ranikhet is a charming hill station that is located in the state of Uttarakhand, which is famous for its amazing natural beauty. Literally meaning 'Queen's meadow', the quaint town offers majestic views of pine trees in the lush green forests below.

Come monsoons, clouds stream through the forests, showing you the face of the hill station like never before. A walk through the verdant hillsides in this season is guaranteed to be invigorating. A word of advice – visit this hill station in the early monsoon as the risk of landslides increases exponentially when it pours heavily.

Enjoy the emerald beauty of Bhalu Dam, the tranquil ambience of Haidakhan Temple and the 8th-century shrine of Jhula Devi.

HOLDER WINS EARLY BATTLE WITH STOKES AS WINDIES TAKE CONTROL

SOUTHAMPTON (TIP): West Indies captain Jason Holder took a career-best 6-42 and won the first round of his private duel with England allrounder Ben Stokes as the touring side took control of the first Test at the Ageas Bowl on Thursday.

Holder capitalized on more favourable bowling conditions under overcast skies on Day 2 to claim his seventh five-wicket haul — and sixth in his last 10 tests — and help dismiss England for 204.

One of his wickets was Stokes, the stand-in England captain, who was dropped twice before getting drawn forward by Holder and edging behind for a team-high 43.

Shannon Gabriel used his pace and fuller length to nab the first three England wickets and then the last — of James Anderson, who put on a potentially crucial 30 runs with Dom Bess (31 not out) for the final wicket — to finish with 4-62.

The West Indies was 57-1 in reply after 19.3 overs when bad light stopped play just before 6 p.m. local time in Southampton. The teams never got back on the field.

Holder vs. Stokes has been billed as the biggest subplot of the series and the world's top two allrounders have already made their mark on a series being played in an isolated environment with no fans because



of the pandemic.

While Stokes rode his luck somewhat in scoring highest for England, Holder immediately settled into a rhythm with his accurate fast-medium bowling to rip through the middle and bottom order after the hosts resumed on 35-1.

In one spell, when Holder took his fifth wicket by reviewing an lbw decision against Jofra Archer (0) that was initially given not out, the West Indies captain took 3-1 in 14

balls. "My patience has definitely increased," Holder said. "Before, I was trying to bowl too many deliveries in one spell.

"I look at consistency, and patience was one of the things I was lacking. Using the crease is something I strive to do — and using the angles at the point of delivery. When you're not as quick as some people, you've got to be skilful." Holder also said he definitely wouldn't have batted first had West Indies won the toss.

Djokovic accuses critics of 'witch-hunt', undecided on US Open

BELGRADE (TIP): Novak Djokovic has accused critics of subjecting him to a "witch-hunt" after his regional Adria Tour tennis event ended in a novel coronavirus fiasco and said he was still uncertain whether he would play at the August 31-September 13 US Open.

Images and videos of the players hugging at the net, playing basketball together and partying at the tournament were posted on social media.

World No. 1 Djokovic, fellow Serb Viktor Troicki, Bulgarian Grigor Dimitrov and Croatian Borna Coric all tested positive for the virus and the event had to be called off.

Djokovic, who tested positive for COVID-19 after the Adria Tour's second leg in Croatia, pulled no punches in slamming his peers and pundits who said he was irresponsible to stage the event amid the pandemic.

"I can only see criticism lately and much of it is malicious," Djokovic told Wednesday's issue of Serbia's daily Sportski Zurnal.

"It's obviously more than just criticism, it's like an agenda and a witch-hunt are on. Someone has to take the fall, a big name," he said.

"I still haven't decided whether I will play in the U.S. Open, the upsurge in registered COVID-19 cases in the United States and New York in particular are not playing into the event's hands," added Djokovic who was back in training on Tuesday with Troicki.

Djokovic tested negative after the second test he took last week and, having conceded after the failed tournament that it came too soon, he reiterated that he had acted in good faith.



"My intention was pure, I was whole-heartedly committed to organising a humanitarian event to help players and tennis federations in the (Balkan) region," he said.

"We complied with all the laws and regulations. But we've learned our lessons and some things could have probably been done in a different way."



HOCKEY INDIA TOLD TO ELECT NEW PRESIDENT

NEW DELHI (TIP): It seems the Sports Ministry has finally decided to act tough against those National Sports Federations who have been flouting the National Sports Development Code, 2011. The Ministry, through its under-secretary Raju Bagga, has asked Hockey India to hold fresh elections as it deems M Mustaque Ahmed's election for a third term a violation of the Sports Code.

Prior to taking over as HI president, as per records, Ahmed has served two terms at HI — as treasurer in 2010-2014 and secretary general in 2014-2018. "HI is directed to conduct fresh election by 30.09.2020 for the remaining term i.e upto 30.09.2022 and inform the same to the Department," Bagga said in his letter dated July 6.

In February last year as well, the Sports Ministry had questioned Mustaque's election. In its reply, HI secretary general Rajinder Singh had said that since HI was not recognised in 2010, the Ministry shouldn't consider Mustaque's tenure as treasurer as his first term.

Ganguly announces cancellation of Asia Cup

NEW DELHI (TIP): BCCI president Sourav Ganguly on Wednesday announced the cancellation of the Asia Cup, which was scheduled to be held in September.

"Asia Cup cancel ho chuka hai, joh September me tha (Asia Cup, which was to be held in September, has been cancelled)," Ganguly told 'sports tak' in an Instagram live session.

There was no definitive word on the host country of the tournament.

With T20 World Cup in October-November also unlikely to go ahead in Australia due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Asia Cup's cancellation allows the BCCI to have a full-fledged IPL in the same window.

Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB), however, has not yet made any announcement regarding the tournament's cancellation.

PCB CEO Wasim Khan had earlier said that they would object to any change in the dates of the Asia Cup to accommodate the cash-rich IPL.

The Asian Cricket Council (ACC) met last month to decide on the road ahead for the continental event but no decision was taken.

India has the third largest load of coronavirus cases with more than 7.5 lakh infections reported so far.

In the same show, former skipper was asked about when the Indian team would be seen in action next. The Virat Kohli-led team last played in March.



Nyc Emergency Management advises New Yorkers to prepare for Potential Effects of Tropical Storm Fay

Heavy Rain Showers and High Winds Forecast for Friday, July 10

NEW YORK (TIP): The National Weather Service has issued a Tropical Storm Warning for NYC from 6 a.m. Friday, July 10 through 2 a.m. Saturday, July 11.

With Fay's track expected to impact NYC, NWS is forecasting moderate to heavy rain to move into the area early Friday morning, continuing throughout the afternoon before tapering off around midnight Saturday. A total of 1 to 2 inches of rain is forecast with this system, with locally higher amounts of 2 to 4 inches possible. Severe thunderstorms cannot be ruled out with this system. High winds are also in the forecast on Friday, with sustained winds 35 mph to 45 mph and gusts up to 50 mph. Winds are expected to taper off overnight Friday into early Saturday morning. There is also the potential for high surf on Friday, with a high risk of dangerous rip currents on Friday and Saturday.

"We are working closely with National Weather Service to monitor Tropical Storm Fay and the potential impacts it may have to New York City," said NYC Emergency Management Commissioner Deanne Criswell. "This storm is expected to bring strong winds and heavy rain tomorrow, so make sure you secure loose objects like garbage cans and patio furniture, charge cell phone batteries and other devices, and take other necessary precautions."

New Yorkers are encouraged to report clogged catch basins and areas of standing water to 311 (212-639-9675 for Video Relay Service, or TTY: 212-504-4115). The City's Downed Tree Task Force has also been notified. This multi-agency task force is responsible for coordinating the response to a large downed tree event.

Safety Tips

- If you live in a flood-prone area, keep materials such as sandbags, plywood, plastic sheeting, and lumber on hand to help protect your home.
- If you have a disability or access or functional need, make sure your plan addresses how your needs may affect your ability to evacuate, shelter in place, or communicate with emergency workers. Arrange help from family, friends, or service providers if you will need assistance.
- When outside, avoid walking and driving through flooded areas. As few as six inches of moving water can knock a person over. Six inches of water will reach the bottom of most passenger cars, causing loss of control and possible stalling. One or two feet of water can carry away a vehicle.
- Stay out of any building if it is surrounded by floodwaters.
- If you see downed electrical wires, do not go near them. Never attempt to

move or touch them with any object. Be mindful that tree limbs, leaves, or water can cover downed wires from view. Always stay away from downed power lines because they could be live.

- Report downed wires immediately. If a power line falls on your car while you are in it, stay inside the vehicle and wait for emergency personnel.

Power Outages

- To prepare for a possible power outage, charge cell phone batteries, gather supplies, and turn your refrigerator and freezer to a colder setting. If you lose power, items that need refrigeration will stay cooler for longer.
- Make sure your flashlights and any battery-operated radios or televisions are working. Keep extra batteries.
- If you lose power & have a disability, access and functional needs or use Life Sustaining Equipment (LSE) & need immediate assistance, dial 911.
- Do not use generators indoors.
- Check on friends, relatives, and neighbors, especially older adults and people with disabilities, access and functional needs, or health conditions. Help them to prepare if needed.

Prepare for Strong Winds

Strong winds can bring down trees and power lines and can turn unsecured

objects into dangerous projectiles. To protect against the hazard of strong winds, New Yorkers should:

- Check the area immediately surrounding your home for unsecured objects or potentially dangerous conditions. Tree limbs, garbage cans, yard debris, or other materials that can be moved by the wind are potential projectiles aimed at your home or parked vehicle.
- Bring inside loose, lightweight objects such as lawn furniture, potted plants, garbage cans, garden tools and toys.
- Anchor objects that would be unsafe outside, such as gas grills or propane tanks.
- Close up and secure patio furniture.
- Secure retractable awnings.
- Remove aerial antennas and satellite television dishes.

Stay Informed

Before and during an emergency, the City will send emergency alerts and updates to New Yorkers through various channels including Notify NYC, the City's free emergency notification system. Through Notify NYC, New Yorkers can receive phone calls, text messages, and/or emails alerts about traffic and transit disruptions and other emergencies. To sign up for Notify NYC, call 311, visit NYC.gov/NotifyNYC, or follow @NotifyNYC on Twitter.

(Based on a Press Release)

The Surge in U.S. Cases is driven largely by States that Reopened early

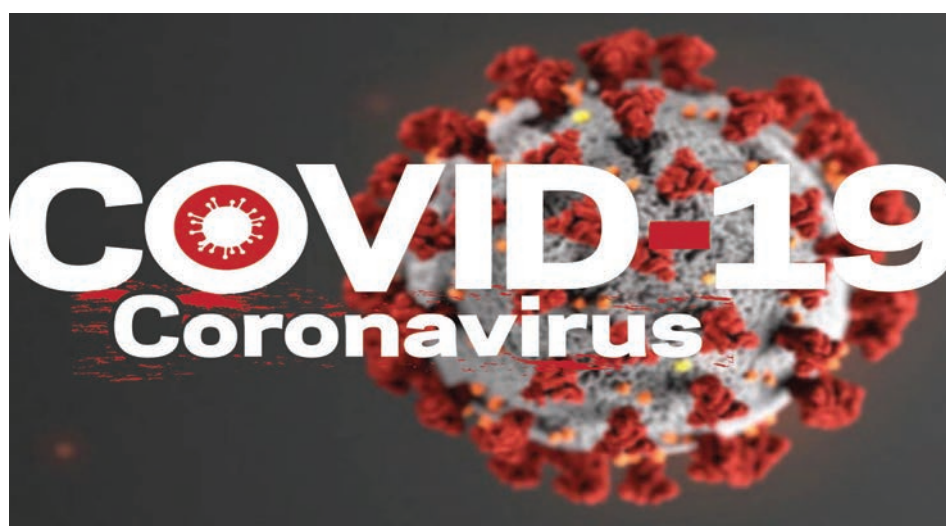
As President Trump pushes for schools to reopen, the country has set its fifth record in nine days

WASHINGTON (TIP): The surge in coronavirus cases in the United States, which has set new daily-case records five times in the past nine days, is being driven largely by states that were among the first to ease virus restrictions as they moved to reopen their economies.

Florida has seen its average new daily cases increase more than tenfold since it began reopening in early May. Cases in Arizona have jumped by 858 percent since beginning to reopen May 8. Cases in Texas have risen by 680 percent since beginning to reopen May 1.

Epidemiologists had warned that reopening could lead to waves of new infections if it was done before the virus was contained, and before contact tracing was sufficiently ramped up enough to contain future outbreaks.

The trajectory taken by many states that pushed to reopen early offers a



cautionary tale.

South Carolina, one of the first states to let retail stores reopen, has seen its average daily case count rise to 1,570, up from 143 from when the state began to reopen in late April, a 999 percent

increase. And in Georgia, where the governor's moves to reopen swiftly in late April were criticized as too aggressive by Mr. Trump - who had generally been pushing states to move faster to reopen - cases have risen by 245

percent.

Now the U.S. is debating when and how to reopen school classrooms - which Mr. Trump is pushing for strongly, even as school districts, teachers and some parents express concerns - and which steps should be taken by states that have become hot spots, from reimposing restrictions to ordering people to wear masks.

Many of the states that bore the brunt of cases in March and April but were slower to reopen have seen significant decreases in reported cases since. Average daily cases in New York are down 52 percent since the state began to reopen in late May, and they are down 83 percent in Massachusetts.

There are exceptions, though. California, once seen as a model for how to contain the virus, has seen an alarming increase in new cases, which are up 275 percent since May 25.

(With input from agencies)



Get your child up to date
on routine vaccinations now,
not later.

Vaccines are safe, essential, and they protect your
child from illness and underlying health conditions.

Call your child's doctor today to make an appointment.
If you need to find a doctor, call **311**.
Your child may be eligible for free medical care,
regardless of your immigration status.

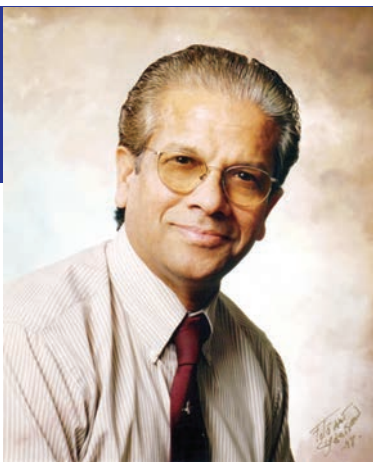


Bill de Blasio
Mayor
Oxiris Barbot, MD
Commissioner

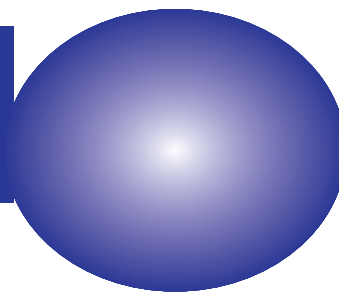


CORONAVIRUS HELPLINE

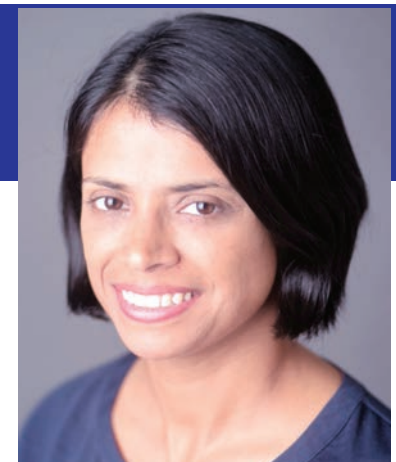
Dr. VK Raju and Dr. Leela Raju of the Eye Foundation of America will be glad to answer any eye related concerns of the readers of The Indian Panorama during this difficult period of Coronavirus onslaught



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