



The

INDIAN



PANORAMA

15 YEARS

EVER TRUTHFUL

1 Indian American Weekly : Since 2006

VOL 15 ISSUE 13 • NEW YORK / DALLAS • MAR 26 - MAR 25 - APR 01, 2021 • ENQUIRIES: 646-247-9458 • info@theindianpanorama.com

www.theindianpanorama.news



* 3.5 million + served
* 350 thousand + surgeries
* 30 thousand + on children

Wishes Readers of The Indian Panorama A HAPPY HOLI

“ Holi is a time to reach out with the colors of joy. It is the time to love and forgive.

“ It is the time to express the happiness of loving and being loved through colors.

Protect your eyes, as you play Holi with Colors

Eyes are extremely vulnerable because of their strategic position in body, and also because of the use of harmful chemicals in colors

Please ensure your eyes remain protected at all times

Use a sunglasses to protect your eyes from a misfire of color -filled dart of water jets

With your help, we can go where the need is greatest, often rural or impoverished areas, to provide sight-saving care to those in need, completely free of charge.

DONATE



Donate with PayPal
Donate with a Debit or Credit Card
All donations are tax exempt.
Tax Exempt #55-0621735
Registered in UK, too.
efoauk@eyefoundationofamerica.org

MEET THE TEAM

“There is nothing new under the sun. In this world, nothing is more important than children's nutrition and education. If we give them nutrition and education, they will take care of themselves. Since 1977, Eye foundation of America is striving to do just that. “Be part of that effort “



VK Raju, MD
President and Founder



Leela Raju, MD
Secretary and Education Coordinator



Sam Stone
Board Member, Legal Counsel



David Raese
Board Member



Sekhar Vemparala
Board Member



Sanku Rao
Board Member



Srinu Maddala
Board Member



Sam Maddali
Board Member



Ashok Raju
Board Member



Rajeev Rai
Board Member



Kathy Martin
Board Member

CONTACT US

We are always thankful for individuals wishing to get involved! Donations are accepted via mail, PayPal, FaceBook, or DonorView. For more information, feel free to contact our organization directly:

BY MAIL: 695 Westview Avenue, Morgantown, WV 26505

BY PHONE: 304-599-0705 | 304-288-2080

BY EMAIL: eyefoundationofamerica.org@gmail.com, vkraju@comcast.net

B बैंक ऑफ़ बड़ौदा
Bank of Baroda



FREE
RUPEE
REMITTANCE
TO INDIA

BONDING FOR A BETTER TOMORROW

HAPPY HOLI

Attractive Interest Rates on Certificate of Deposit
****Please visit our website for current Interest Rates and more information**

MEMBER FDIC

We are happy to continue offering services and patronising our valued customers in United States of America

Acceptance of Certificates of Deposit
Trade Finance • Syndicated/Bilateral Loans
Corporate Finance • Allied Services in Foreign Exchange • Correspondent Banking Business

One Park Avenue, New York, NY 10016
USA - Phone 212-578-4550 • Fax - 212-578-4565

E-mail: newyor@bankofbaroda.com
Web: www.bankofbaroda-usa.com



The INDIAN PANORAMA

EVER TRUTHFUL



1 Indian American Weekly : Since 2006

VAISAKHI SPECIAL EDITIONS

The INDIAN PANORAMA

will bring out a special edition to mark VAISAKHI on April 9. Advertisements may please be booked by April 2, and articles for publication may please be submitted by March 30 to salujaindra@gmail.com

First historic Mars helicopter flight on April 8: NASA



The flight model of NASA's Ingenuity Mars Helicopter - Image: NASA / JPL

WASHINGTON (TIP): NASA will attempt to fly Ingenuity mini helicopter, currently attached to the belly of Perseverance rover, on Mars on April 8, in first such attempt on another planet.

However, before the 1.8- kg rotorcraft attempts its first controlled flight, both it and its team back home must meet a series of daunting milestones.

"When NASA's Sojourner rover landed on Mars in 1997, it proved that roving the Red Planet was possible and completely redefined our approach to how we explore Mars. Similarly, we want to learn about the potential Ingenuity has for the future of science research," said Lori Glaze, director of the Planetary Science Division at NASA Headquarters.

contd on page 48

Will Organize Summit of Democracies, says Biden

"We've got to prove democracy works," he said.



I.S. SALUJA

WASHINGTON (TIP): President Joe Biden shared with media persons his thoughts on a wide range of issues, and also candidly answered their questions, March 25, at his first press conference since assuming office on January 20, 2021.

During the press conference, Mr. Biden remarked on and responded to questions regarding migrants at the U.S.-Mexico border, the COVID-19

contd on page 48

U.S. President Joe Biden holds his first formal news conference as president in the East Room of the White House in Washington, U.S., March 25, 2021. - Photo /CNN

Bill Gates says world should be back to normal by end-2022 due to vaccines: Polish media



Bill Gates - Twitter photo

WARSAW (TIP): The world should be back to normal by the end of 2022 thanks to COVID-19 vaccines, Bill Gates said in an interview for Polish newspaper Gazeta Wyborcza and television broadcaster TVN24, says a Reuters report.

contd on page 48

Farm unions mark 4-month anniversary of protest against agriculture laws

The nation-wide bandh call urged that shops, malls, markets and institutions remain closed

BENGALURU (TIP): Protesting farm unions under the banner of the Samyukt Kisan Morcha have called for a day long Bharat Bandh on Friday, March 26 to mark the four-month anniversary of their agitation on the borders of Delhi, and to reiterate their demand to repeal three contentious farm laws.



Activists and leaders of the Left parties and trade unions stage a protest on the national highway at Maddilapalem in Visakhapatnam as part of the Bharat Bandh on Friday, March 26. - Photo Courtesy / K.R. Deepak

The strike is in effect from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m.

The nation-wide bandh call urged that shops, malls, markets and institutions remain closed. Protestors intend to block road and rail

contd on page 42

Joe Biden eager to fix 'broken' immigration system, says White House -

Read the story on page 12



Andy Singh

516-441-7000
16 E. Old Country Road
Hicksville, NY 11801

E-mail: herman@omnimortgage.com



OMNI MORTGAGE CORP.
Residential | Commercial | SBA Loans



Herman Singh

718-441-7000
118-18 101 Avenue
Richmond Hill, NY 11419

Registered Mortgage Broker- NYS Dept of Financial Services
Loans arranged thru 3rd party providers

NOW HIRING!

Home Health Aides, Registered Nurses & Experienced Caregivers

Great Benefits & Flexible Hours



Call to Apply Today! (631) 509-5600

300 Motor Pkwy, Suite 125
Hauppauge, NY 11788

www.IDEALHCS.com

Health Care Providers Are in High Demand Get Professional Training Today!

- Medical Assistant, Home Health Aide (HHA), Nurse Aide (CNA), Phlebotomy, EKG, ...and Much More!



Classes Start Soon. Enroll Now! (631) 509-5602

300 Motor Pkwy, Suite 125
Hauppauge, NY 11788

www.ISAHC.com

Indian -origin Oxford University student's alleged cyber bullying probe begins

NIRPAL S. SHERGILL

LONDON (TIP): The University of Oxford on Tuesday, March 23, said a probe is underway and that it "investigates thoroughly" every complaint related to harassment or equality, following allegations of cyber bullying surrounding Rashmi Samant, the first Indian woman to be elected President of the Oxford Student Union (SU) who was forced to resign amidst controversy over some of her past social media posts.

Some British Hindu groups have also raised concerns around comments made online by a university staffer from the history faculty with the local Thames Valley Police, urging an investigation into a possible hate crime.

The police force confirmed that it has "received a report of an alleged hate incident".

The comments under scrutiny, posted with an image of Samant's family on Instagram by Dr Abhijit Sarkar, made references to their Hindu faith and also categorized their home state of Karnataka as a "bastion of Islamophobic forces".

"An investigation into these online comments is ongoing and we must allow time for this formal process to be followed. In cases such as these, student support is provided through their college and department," an Oxford University spokesperson said.

"The university is fully committed to creating an environment where people of all backgrounds, including our Hindu students and staff, can feel welcome, valued and respected," the university said, adding that it has strong policies in place to protect staff and students against "all forms of harassment, including online harassment".

Samant has been working on completing her MSc



University of Oxford said it had initiated a probe into allegations of cyber bullying surrounding Rashmi Samant

course in Energy Systems at the university remotely from her hometown in Udipi, after she flew back to India in the wake of her resignation.

She said the continued "cyber bullying" makes it difficult for her to consider returning to the university at this stage.

"I'm just very glad that the university and the police have launched an investigation into my complaint, and I look forward to resolving it in the best manner possible," said Samant, in a statement from India.

"I think it's a long road for me to feel safe about the prospect of coming back and getting respite from the cyber bullying," she said, adding that the Indian community in the UK had been "super supportive" through the course of the incident since last month.

The issue even found its way to the Indian Parliament last week, when BJP MP Ashwini Vaishnav raised it as a question of "racial discrimination" in the Rajya Sabha. External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar had responded to say that India would "never ever turn our

eyes away from racism wherever it is" and that these developments will be monitored "very, very closely".

This resulted in a joint statement from the Oxford India Society, Oxford University Hindu Society and Oxford South Asian Society against what they branded a "misleading narrative" being played out in India.

"We reiterate that these calls [Samant's resignation] did not have anything to do with the fact that she is Indian or Hindu or a woman," the statement reads.

However, the groups agreed that the faculty member at the center of the controversial online comments must apologize for his social media posts.

"We further strongly disapprove of the actions of Dr Abhijit Sarkar, Postdoctoral History Researcher at New College. Dr Sarkar's social media posts about Ms Samant's parents and their religious beliefs had no place in a conversation about Ms Samant's reprehensible actions... It is imperative that Dr Sarkar take responsibility for his words and apologize to Ms Samant," the statement adds.

Earlier this month, the online remarks of the staffer were raised by a former Oxford University alumnus and British Indian entrepreneur Alpesh Patel, who had issued a formal complaint to the Vice-Chancellor's office.

"This matter deserves a police investigation into the bullies on incitement to racial hatred," said Alpesh Patel, Chair of the City Hindus Network (CHN).

Satish K Sharma, Senior Managing Director of the Global Hindu Federation, has taken up the matter of following up on the police complaint and accused the faculty member of "unlawful conduct and inexcusable bigotry". "Rest assured that the British Hindu community will persist until a just conclusion has been reached," he said.

Indians abroad studying at London universities register 'astonishing' growth

NIRPAL S. SHERGILL

LONDON (TIP): The UK capital is by far the most attractive destination of choice for Indian students coming to study at British universities, rising from third place in 2018-19 to become the second-largest international student market for London in 2019-20.

According to new data released by the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA), 13,435 Indian students are enrolled at London universities, up a massive 87 per cent on the previous year's 7,185 students.

The latest data has been dubbed "an impressive period of growth" for India, after falling to fourth place in 2017-18 before rising to third place the following year.

"These new figures are a resounding confirmation of the status of London's world-leading universities," said Lalage Clay, Director of Education and Talent at London & Partners (L&P) - the Mayor of London's international trade, investment and promotion agency.

"The astonishing growth of Indian students choosing London demonstrates the great opportunity that studying in the UK's capital unlocks, alongside the option to remain in the UK for two-years post study," she said.

"Whether it's fashion or financial economics, accountancy or art history, prospective international students know when they choose



London, they are choosing a first-class education and a cultural experience like no other," she added.

China maintained its first place in the ranking with 29,940 students, while the US dropped to third with 7,245.

For India, the 2019-20 figures demonstrate an

"unprecedented" 152 per cent increase on 2017-18 levels.

"Applications by Indian students may have been encouraged by the reintroduction of the two-year post-study visa for international students by the UK government, allowing overseas graduates a longer period of time to look for employment after their studies," the L&P notes.

Overall, the data shows 55,465 Indian students enrolled across higher education institutions across the United Kingdom, with England being the dominant region for these students followed by Scotland and then Wales and Northern Ireland.

The statistics from HESA, the designated higher education data body for England, show that the total number of international students at London's universities has risen to 135,490, up 8.4 per cent on last academic year to the highest level on record.

This also marks uplift in overseas students in London for the seventh consecutive year, which L&P says reflects the UK capital's growing appeal for prospective international students.

Indian-origin Deepanshu Kher sentenced to 2 years for deleting company's 1,200 user accounts

WASHINGTON (TIP):

An Indian-origin has been sentenced by a US court in California to two years in prison, who after being fired by his company accessed its server and deleted over 1,200 Microsoft user accounts, according to a statement.

Deepanshu Kher was arrested when he flew from India to the United States on January 11, 2021, unaware of the outstanding warrant for his arrest. "This act of sabotage was destructive for this company," said Acting US Attorney Randy Grossman on Tuesday.

In pronouncing the sentence, US District Court Judge Marilyn Huff noted that Kher perpetrated a significant and sophisticated attack on the company, an attack which was planned and clearly intended as revenge. In addition to the two years in custody, Judge Huff sentenced Kher to three years' supervised release and restitution to the Company of USD 567,084, the amount that the Company paid to fix the problems, which Kher caused.

According to court documents, Kher was employed by an information technology-consulting firm from 2017 through May 2018. In 2017, the consulting firm was hired by the Carlsbad Company to assist with its migration to a Microsoft Office 365 (MS O365) environment. In response, the consulting firm sent its employee, Kher, to the company's Carlsbad headquarters to assist with the migration.



In pronouncing the sentence, US District Court Judge Marilyn Huff noted that Deepanshu Kher perpetrated a significant and sophisticated attack on the company, an attack which was planned and clearly intended as revenge.

(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)

Indian American, Stanford - bound, basketball phenom Ryan Agarwal is a star in the making - "DIFFERENT"

STANFORD (TIP): "DIFFERENT," the title of Indian American high school basketball phenom Ryan Agarwal's recent Stanford University commitment video reads.

While the past few decades have seen the Indian American community climb to heights never seen before, reaching insurmountable levels of success in fields and sectors such as business, entertainment, and politics, it still lags behind in the sporting world.

It is especially true of the sport of basketball.

After witnessing the success of talents such as Yao Ming and Jeremy Lin and what they've done for the Chinese and other Asian American communities, Indian Americans have longed for a comparable talent.

Many thought the next genesis of South Asian hoopers would come in the form of giants. At least that's what recent history might suggest. The greatest talent from the community we've seen thus far has come from the likes of Indo-Canadian Sim Bhullar and Indian-born Satnam Singh, both 7-foot low-post behemoths who had stints in the NBA.

Bhullar became the first player of

Indian descent to play in an NBA game in 2015 and Singh was the first Indian-born player to be drafted, also in 2015. Although they broke glass ceilings by making it to such a stage in the first place, unfortunately neither has enjoyed much success in the league.

It seemed as if the community would have to wait awhile before they saw such a talent grace the courts.

But Agarwal may already be well on his way to change that.

Standing at 6'7 and a slender 175 pounds, the Indian American teen is a far cry away from the two leaguers in Singh and Bhullar in terms of size or strength. But, don't be fooled, the kid is a certified bucket.

A prolific shooter from the three-point line and beyond, along with the ability score in the midrange or to take it to the rim and finish, coupled with his slender frame and long arms, and it's no surprise why Agarwal has received a number of Kevin Durant and Brandon Ingram comparisons growing up.

However, he would describe his own game as a combination of those players along with a mix of Duncan Robinson and Klay Thompson, depending on the

situation.

Agarwal has excelled and it's why he's a four-star recruit, the 89th ranked player in the nation and 11th in the state of Texas. It's also helped him garner the attention of more than a dozen D1 schools.

However, perhaps none more meaningful than the one he received from his dream school, Stanford University.

For Agarwal, it was more than just an offer from the best school in the country. It was the realization that this was all really possible; that the amalgamation of all the hard work he's put into the game of basketball could take him to heights he had never dreamed of.

Off the court, Agarwal is just like any other typical high schooler. He loves to listen to Lil Baby and Gunna, watch Netflix, and hang with "Day-1's." He's even just like any other South Asian high schooler, able to understand the language of his parents [Hindi and Tamil], but unable to speak it.

That's not to get it twisted, however. His heritage means everything to him. Because for Agarwal the journey goes beyond just himself. While the 4-star



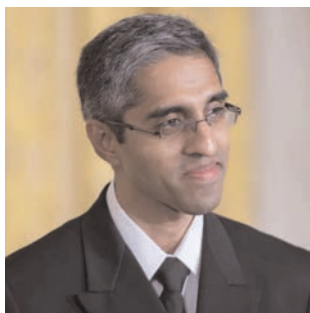
Indian American high school basketball phenom Ryan Agarwal

signee ultimately has dreams of playing in the NBA, he's not only doing it for himself. He wants to inspire a community of kids that look just like him. A community of people that might never have thought they were athletic enough to play at the next level.

He's doing it for the culture.

And that's different.

Indian American Vivek Murthy confirmed as US Surgeon General



The United States Senate has confirmed Vivek Murthy as America's Surgeon General.

WASHINGTON (TIP): The United States Senate on Tuesday, March 23 voted to confirm Indian-origin Dr. Vivek Murthy as America's surgeon general.

The vote in the Senate was 57-43, making Dr. Murthy, President Biden's main public health official to handle the coronavirus pandemic.

"I am deeply grateful to be confirmed by the Senate to serve once again as your Surgeon General. We have endured great hardship as a nation over the past year, and I look forward to working with you to help our nation heal and create a better future for our children," Vivek Murthy tweeted.

Dr. Murthy had previously served in the same capacity under the Obama administration but was fired by former President Donald Trump in 2017.

Dr. Murthy is a distinguished physician and former Vice Admiral in the Public Health Service Commissioned Corps.

Indian American, Cincinnati mayoral candidate Aftab Pureval, endorsed by AAPI Victory Fund



Indian American Aftab Pureval, who is running for the mayor of Cincinnati, has earned the endorsement of AAPI Victory Fund

CINCINNATI, OH (TIP): AAPI Victory Fund, a pro-Democratic Party group that mobilizes voters from the Asian American and Pacific Islanders communities, has endorsed Indian American Aftab Pureval, who is running for the mayor of Cincinnati.

Pureval, who is currently serving as Hamilton County (Ohio) Clerk of Courts, announced his candidacy in January. The incumbent mayor, John Cranley, who has been in office for the past eight years, is term-limited and cannot run again.

"Pureval is a necessary progressive voice that has been able to achieve success with Democrats and Republicans alike, AAPI Victory Fund said in a statement March 22. "As the son of first generation Americans, he has spent his career defending the most vulnerable in his community, including with the FBI to prosecute crimes against children." The group also endorsed another Asian American, Michelle Wu, who is running for the mayor of Boston. "It is more important than ever for diverse leadership across local, state and federal governments, and these candidates will bring their unique voices and experiences to lead large metropolitan areas," the Fund said.

"I'm honored to be endorsed by the @AAPIVictoryFund," Pureval said in a tweet Monday. "Now more than ever, AAPI representation and leadership matters. As Mayor, I'll lift up all of Cincinnati and make sure we grow equitably."

Puravel, son of Indian-born father and Tibetan refugee mother, was born and raised in southwest Ohio. He earned his undergraduate degree in political science from the Ohio State University and law degree from University of Cincinnati College of Law.

He is the first Democrat to get elected as the Hamilton County Clerk of Courts in more than 100 years. In 2018, he ran for Congress from Ohio's first district, but failed to unseat incumbent Republican Steve Chabot.

Cincinnati, which boasts three major sports teams, Cincinnati Reds, Bengals and FC Cincinnati, has a population of 300,000. The Cincinnati metropolitan area is home to nearly 2.2 million people.

AAPI Victory Fund, founded by Indian American Shekar Narasimhan, is a so-called SuperPac that works for building political power of the Asian American Pacific Islander community.

Indian - origin scientist shows promise of leprosy drug for Covid-19

PARMINDER S AUJLA



"Clofazimine is an ideal candidate for a Covid-19 treatment. It is safe, affordable, easy to make, taken as a pill and can be made globally available," says Sumit Chanda.

SACRAMENTO (TIP): Leprosy drug clofazimine, which is on the World Health Organization's List of Essential Medicines, holds promise as at-home treatment for Covid-19, according to a Nature study co-authored by an Indian American scientist. The FDA approved drug exhibits potent antiviral activities against SARS-CoV-2 and prevents the exaggerated inflammatory response associated with severe Covid-19, it shows, according to a press release.

Based on these findings, a Phase 2 study evaluating clofazimine as an at-home treatment for Covid-19 could begin immediately, suggest scientists at Sanford Burnham Prebys Medical Discovery Institute and the University of Hong Kong. "Clofazimine is an ideal candidate for a Covid-19 treatment. It is safe, affordable, easy to make, taken as a pill and can be made globally available," says co-senior author Sumit Chanda.

"We hope to test clofazimine in a Phase 2 clinical trial as soon as possible for people who test positive for Covid-19 but are not hospitalized," says Chanda, PhD, professor and director of the Immunity and Pathogenesis Program at Sanford Burnham Prebys, La Jolla, California. "Since there is currently no outpatient treatment available for these individuals, clofazimine may help reduce the impact of the disease, which is particularly important now as we see new variants of the virus emerge and against which the current vaccines appear less efficacious."

Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news

SPECIAL on 50th anniversary of Bangladesh's Independence.
Happy Independence Day to Bangladeshis.

The creation of Bangladesh

India must also recall the political and diplomatic successes of 1971 under Indira

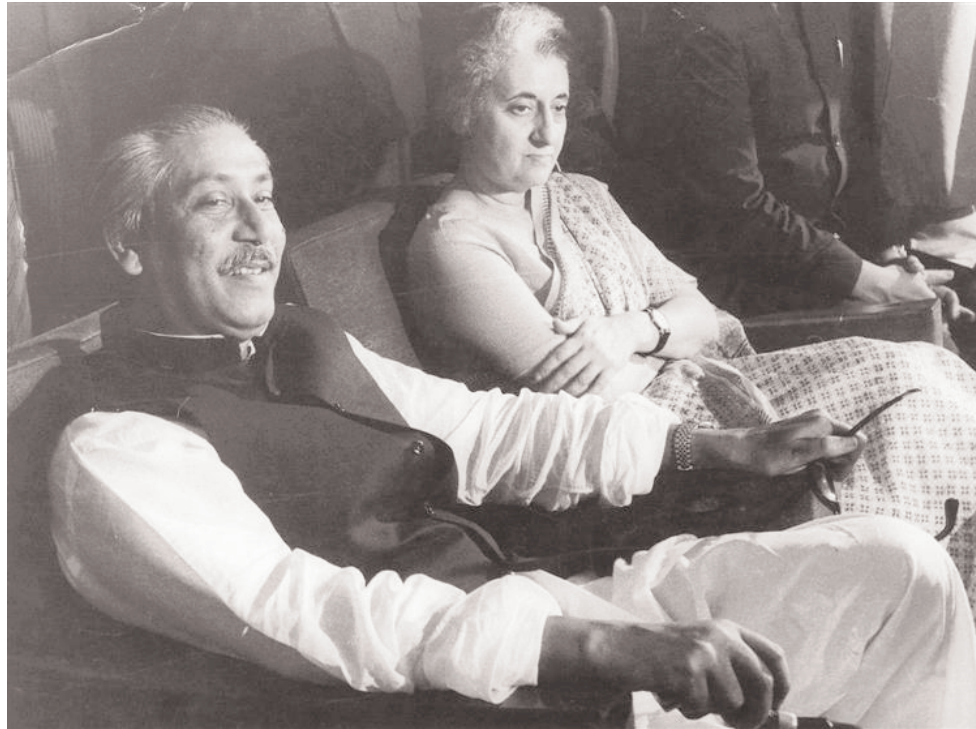


BY VIVEK KATJU

PM Modi will participate in the 50th anniversary of Bangladesh's independence on March 26 in Dhaka as the guest of honor. This is only fitting because of the role played by India under the leadership of PM Indira Gandhi in assisting Bangladesh in its war of independence in 1971 to end West Pakistani colonialism. The focus in Dhaka will be on the courage and resilience of the Bangladeshi people who overcame the genocidal onslaught of the Pakistani army against its then co-nationals. It will also be on Sheikh Mujibur Rahman whose birth centenary Bangladesh is currently celebrating. He embodied the aspirations of the then East Pakistani people for equality within Pakistan, and as that prospect became remote, for throwing off the West Pakistani yoke.

Amidst all the celebrations, will Indira Gandhi's leadership be recalled, and if so, to what extent and in what terms? Also, later in the year, as India marks the golden jubilee of its victory in the 1971 War, how will it honor the leader who led the country with skill and iron determination to victory against very great odds? Her later mistakes cannot take away her 1971 achievement.

Whenever people look back to the events of 1971, their attention is claimed by the success of the Indian Army or shifts to the controversies generated by the Simla Agreement of July 1972. Consequently, the political and diplomatic successes of 1971, which provided the foundation for military achievements, have fallen into the crevices of public memory. However, Indian diplomacy leading to the Simla Agreement and Indira Gandhi's specific role in its conclusion is evaluated and certainly criticism can be levelled on many aspects of the agreement and the assumptions that led to it - should be segregated from the political and



Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and Indira Gandhi - File photo

diplomatic management of 1971.

But first, how should the events of 1971 be evaluated in strategic terms, both on account of their challenges and opportunities? After the trauma of the Partition with its attendant dislocation, the next strategic challenge the country faced was in 1965 when Pakistan sought to wrest J&K. Did the extended 1971 drama pose a greater threat to the nation's interests as compared to the 1965 Pakistani aggression? Since 1971, has the country been confronted by an overall threat that can compare to that difficult year? Howsoever strategic experts view these different situations, there is little doubt that 1971 was a supremely difficult year which required flawless coordination of all aspects of national power. These included military and diplomatic and also political to ensure unity and social cohesion as the country navigated the enormous obstacles that came its way.

Indira Gandhi's government achieved the integration of all these diverse elements to convert challenges into opportunities. Indian actions led to basic changes in the map of the Indian

subcontinent. The independence of Bangladesh also eroded the view that religion by itself can be a lasting glue for nationalism, thereby destroying the two-nation theory.

The December 1970 Pakistani election shocked the Pakistan army and West Pakistan political elite because Sheikh Mujib's party, the Awami League, secured 167 of the 169 seats of East Pakistan and had sufficient numbers to form the federal government. The army led by the then dictator and President Gen Yahya Khan and the West Pakistan political leaders were determined to prevent this from happening, for they feared that Mujib would end their domination by insisting on provincial autonomy and the end of exploitation of the country's eastern wing. When negotiations failed, the army began an unrestrained massacre of the Bangladeshi people on the night of March 25, 1971. It especially targeted the Hindu population. Refugees started to pour into India, and by the time armed hostilities began in December, around one crore had come into India. It was an intolerable strain.

India had gone through political

turmoil with a split in the Congress in 1969 and elections called by Indira Gandhi were held in March, which she swept. She was sworn in as PM for a fresh term, only around 10 days before the Pakistan army's crackdown in Bangladesh. As the refugees began to cross over, people demanded military intervention to stop the slaughter. The military made it clear that it would take months to prepare and would prefer to wait till November, when the weather would permit quick and decisive action to liberate Bangladesh. Diplomatic work was also necessary to prepare the ground for the intervention, especially as it became clear that the US was against the break-up of Pakistan.

India's diplomatic efforts were directed at cultivating western liberal opinion, which, when facts were brought to its attention, was appalled at the Pakistani action. But western governments and Islamic countries remained unmoved, for they wanted the preservation of Pakistan's territorial integrity. President Richard Nixon and his NSA, Henry Kissinger, remained hostile to India. China, too, made threatening noises. The top leaderships of both countries were personally grateful to Yahya Khan for his role in enabling their initial contacts in secrecy.

In this international situation, India took the precaution of securing Soviet support through a friendship treaty which implicitly ensured its support against aggression. Indira Gandhi did not let India's commitment to non-alignment to inhibit the demands of realism. She also gave full support and shelter to Bangladeshi leaders who set up a government in exile, and also the Mukti Bahini that launched a resistance campaign.

Indira Gandhi's speech in Parliament, announcing the surrender of Pakistani forces and declaring 'Dhaka is the free capital of a free country', is one of the shining moments of the Republic's history, as is the iconic photograph of Pakistan General, AAK Niazi, signing the instrument of surrender.

(The author is a former secretary, Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India)

LETTER TO EDITOR

Government of India 's latest notification on OCI Card -Implications

GOPIO has been receiving a large number of complaints from the Indian Diaspora community around the world. We have also received a letter from a OCI card holder businessman who had gone back to India and established a highly successful business in health supplements and Ayurvedic products.

There are several millions of

OCIs/PIOs who are concerned about this new ruling. I have compiled responses I had received in the last three days, i.e., from Sunday to Tuesday. It was too much time consuming. So, I didn't compile many more which came earlier. They are all similar. Most comments are concerning about their properties in India. Govt. of India did not make any statement after the ruling from Deccan

herald story about foreign nationals can't buy or sell properties in India. So suddenly, all those who invested their earning for a retirement home or bought it for their children or have family properties find themselves in a fix. If everyone starts selling their properties in India, it may affect the whole Real Estate market in India. Already, after demonetization and now with covid, it

was still the Diaspora who kept buying properties in India.

So, this could become a major issue if govt. does not reverse the ruling. My concluding statement,

"Indian origin person who moved out from India for employment or business, whether they took foreign citizenship or whether they have OCI card or not, they should be allowed to buy and sell properties in India, since they are all sons and daughters of Mother India"

A concerned citizen

'Let's think bigger': Nassau County Executive Laura Curran delivers State of the County address

MINEOLA, NY (TIP): During her State of the County address, March 25, County Executive Laura Curran lauded the Nassau Legislature's recent passage of a police reform plan.

"For the first time in history, Nassau County police officers will wear body cameras -- a proven tool for accountability, safety, and improved officer performance," she said.

Nassau County was named the safest in the nation by U.S. News and World Report with record low crime rates, according to Curran.

She says her administration won't get complacent, promising greater transparency and oversight of county police.

The county executive also touted the soon-to-be opened Nassau County Training and Intelligence Center, the new Long Island Railroad station in Elmont and the Islanders' new home at the UBS Arena.

She thanked the residents of Nassau County for their resiliency during the pandemic and called the way many stepped up to be "heroic."

Her voice broke toward the end of her remarks when reflecting on the challenges of the past year.

"Let's not return to normal...let's think bigger and bolder," she said.

John R. Ferretti, Jr., of the 15th Legislative District, delivered the Republican response to her address.

(Source: News 12)



Nassau County Executive Laura Curran delivering the State of the County address, March 25 - News 12 screenshot

The National Indo-American Association for Senior Citizens stands in solidarity with the AAPI Community



NEW YORK(TIP): The National Indo-American Association for Senior Citizens Inc. (NIAASC), has come out to express that they are extremely saddened by the massacre of eight innocent people, including six Asian

women.

This violence comes at a time when racist attacks on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders (AAPI) both verbal and physical are happening more and more often across the country, making these deaths even more painful.

Whilst condemning the abhorrent attack by the perpetrator, the Chairman Rajeshwar Prasad of NIAASC warned that hate crime committed against one community is a crime committed against every community and we must all join hands and prevent this from recurring. President Gunjan Rastogi stated that hate crime has no place in civil society and both the Government administration and the private sector must make a joint effort to stamp out this systemic discrimination.

Our sympathies go to the families and friends of those who senselessly lost their lives in this racially charged attack. Unfortunately, racism still exists today, and it is a reminder to us all to stay vigilant. We hope this will be another eye-opener to the appropriate authorities to take immediate action so that such a tragedy never happens again.

New OCI rules confuse and anger NRI's

NEW YORK (TIP): Those who hold Overseas Citizen of India or Person of Indian Origin cards will now be considered "foreign nationals" in India, according to the Narendra Modi government's new rules governing the rights and privileges of diaspora Indians.

India's Ministry of Home Affairs issued a notification on March 4, which includes new and sweeping restrictions on what OCI or PIO card holders can - and cannot - do in India.

The notification says: "...the OCI cardholder shall be required to obtain a special permission or a Special Permit, as the case may be, from the competent authority or the

Foreigners Regional Registration Officer or the Indian Mission concerned, namely: -

- (i) to undertake research.
- (ii) to undertake any Missionary or Tabligh or Mountaineering or Journalistic activities.
- (iii) to undertake internship in any foreign Diplomatic Missions or foreign Government organizations in India or to take up employment in any foreign Diplomatic Missions in India.

(iv) to visit any place which falls within the Protected or Restricted or prohibited areas as notified by the Central Government or competent authority."

The new rules have come as a shock for many in the Indian-American community that is, according to at least one study and ample anecdotal evidence, largely in favor of Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Thomas Abraham, chairman of GOPIO International, a major Indian diaspora organization in the US, told indica News: "This is a very drastic move by the government. Once a person is treated as foreign national, major OCI benefits are gone."

Some of the new clauses will hurt OCI cardholders doing business India, he said.

"So far, they were treated on par with resident Indians.

Once they are termed as foreign nationals, they have to take permission for many things including conducting research in a company owned by an OCI cardholder."

Abraham said he had been receiving calls from OCI cardholders doing business in India.

"Businesspeople are very much concerned about this new rule," he underlined.

"GOPIO is studying these new clauses and getting feedback from our members. GOPIO will send a response letter to the government of India soon," he said.

One of the Indian Americans who have seen their business hit directly by the new rules is Dr Muhammed Majeed, founder of Sabinsa Corporation in New Jersey. Sabinsa, founded in 1988, is a manufacturer and supplier of herbal extracts, cosmeceuticals, minerals and specialty fine chemicals. In 1991, Majeed started Sami Sabinsa Labs in Bangalore.

He has over 1,150 employees including scientists who do research work for him in Ayurveda-related products.

Majeed, who said he was one of the sponsors of the event of Indian Prime Minister Modi at Madison Square Garden in New York, sounded bitter about the new rules.

"Indians come back to India, I will give you a dream of India [is what Modi said]. But my dream is not to be treated as second class citizen in my own country," Majeed said.

He said that this new policy was making him think of moving his business out of India.

He said he offers "value added products and cultivated products that were exempted from government permit, and now they say none of them are exempted.

"If you are touching any biodiversity products you pay," he said.

"This rule is for only foreign nationals. And they found one loophole in my case that I have OCI card and I am a foreign citizen," Majeed told indica News.

(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)

US Defense Secretary's Visit to India: Signposts and Markers



BY PRABHU DAYAL

"It may be pointed out that Lloyd Austin is the Secretary of Defense, and within the US set up, matters such as human rights and democracy overseas do not come under his domain. However, while responding to a question during a media briefing, Austin said that he had raised issues of human rights of the country's minorities with members of the Indian cabinet as "partners need to be able to have those kinds of discussions". Asked specifically if he had raised the violation of human rights of India's minorities as the first member of the Biden administration to meet Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Austin replied that he "did not have an opportunity to talk with him about that issue during their meeting," adding: "Having said that, I did have a conversation with other members of the cabinet on this issue. I think we have to remember that India is our partner and a partner whose partnership we value, and I think partners need to be able to have those kinds of discussions. And certainly, we feel comfortable in doing that, and you can have those discussions in a very meaningful way and still make progress," Austin said."



Gen. (Retd) Llyod Austin, the US Secretary of Defense meets his Indian counterpart Raj Nath Singh in Delhi - Photo / Courtesy PTI

Gen. (Retd) Llyod Austin, the US Secretary of Defense, visited India from March 19-21. As would be expected, the Indian Government rolled out the red carpet and gave the visit a very high degree of importance. He met Prime Minister Modi, Defense Minister Raj Nath Singh, National Security Adviser AjitDoval and External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar.

What are the key takeaways from this visit? What are the markers and signposts which can help understand where the relationship is headed?

In diplomacy, timing matters a lot, and the timing of the visit was very significant. It came on the heels of the US-China acrimonious talks in Alaska which have been described by the BBC as 'an unusually undiplomatic sparring match'. Moreover, it was just a week after the Quad summit had been convened by President Biden, and which PM Modi had attended.

It was also the first overseas visit by a senior member of the Biden Administration, and it came right after his own visits to Japan and Korea-both key allies of the US. Clearly, the visit was aimed at strengthening the strategic partnership between India and the US.

US Defense Secretary Austin had stated unequivocally during his Senate confirmation hearing on January 19 that "If confirmed, my overarching objective for our defense relationship with India would be to continue elevating the partnership". The fact that India figured in the list of countries during his first visit abroad shows that he is keen to translate his commitment into action. Working closely with India has become an important aspect of US foreign policy, and US policy planners envision that it is in their country's interest to augment the bilateral proximity in the present global scenario.

The importance attached by President Biden to working with India was emphasized by his Administration from the very start. Just two days after the Presidential inauguration, Jen Psaki, the White House Press Secretary said at a

news briefing that "President Biden, of course has visited India many times, respects and values the long, bipartisan, successful relationship between leaders in India and the United States. He looks forward to a continuation of that." Again, on March 9, Psaki said that Biden has made the Quad summit on Friday March 12 one of his earliest multilateral engagements, and that it shows the importance which the US is giving to closer cooperation with its allies in the Indo-Pacific region." Thus, the White House had sent clear signals that it would seek to strengthen Indo-US relations.

Of course, China's territorial and economic expansionism is serving as a catalyst in this regard. Early on, there were signs that the Biden administration saw the US-China relationship in less hostile terms as compared to the Trump Administration. However, as the days rolled by, there was a perceptible hardening of the Biden Administration's attitude towards China. Slowly, it became more upfront in being publicly critical of Beijing. When he delivered a virtual address at the Munich Security Conference on 19th February, Biden said "We have to push back against the Chinese government's abuses and coercion that undercut the foundations of the international economic system". In his blunt opening statement at the Alaska meeting on 18th March, Secretary of State Antony Blinken said the US side would "discuss our deep concerns about actions by China, including in Xinjiang, Hong Kong, Taiwan, cyber-attacks on the United States, economic coercion of our allies", adding "each of these actions threatens the rules-based order that maintains global stability."

The US approach was also spelt out recently by Blinken and Austin in their joint op-ed in the Washington Post on 15th March-just three days before the Alaska meeting and Austin's visit to India. They wrote: "The United States is now making a big push to revitalize our ties with friends and partners - both in one-to-one relationships and in multilateral institutions - and to recommit to our

shared goals, values and responsibilities." They also wrote: "The Indo-Pacific region is increasingly the center of global geopolitics. It is home to billions of the world's people, several established and rising powers, and five of America's treaty allies. Plus, a great deal of the world's trade travels through its sea lanes. It is strongly in our interests for the Indo-Pacific region to be free and open, anchored by respect for human rights, democracy and the rule of law."

About the threat from China, they wrote: "Not all countries share this vision. Some seek to challenge the international order - that is, the rules, values and institutions that reduce conflict and make cooperation possible among nations. As countries in the region and beyond know, China in particular is all too willing to use coercion to get its way. Here again, we see how working with our allies is critical. Our combined power makes us stronger when we must push back against China's aggression and threats. Together, we will hold China accountable when it abuses human rights in Xinjiang and Tibet, systematically erodes autonomy in Hong Kong, undercuts democracy in Taiwan or asserts maritime claims in the South China Sea that violate international law. If we don't act decisively and lead, Beijing will." Underscoring the importance of working with like-minded nations, they wrote that "it's the most effective way to meet the challenges we face today, few of which can be solved by us acting alone."

In this context, working closely with India makes good sense to US policy makers. After Austin's meetings with PM Modi and NSA Doval, the US Embassy said "Both sides exchanged perspectives on shared challenges confronting the region and committed to further strengthen their broad ranging and robust defense cooperation." On its part, India reciprocated the sentiment. PM Modi tweeted after the meeting "India and the U.S. are committed to our strategic partnership that is a force for global good." The Ministry of External Affairs also said in a statement "The Prime Minister welcomed the warm and close relationship between the two countries, which is rooted in shared values of democracy, pluralism and commitment to a rules-based order." In this context, working closely with India becomes more intrinsic to US policy formulation.

At the same time, another aspect of Defense Secretary Austin's visit should not be overlooked. The Pentagon sees India as a potential purchaser of advanced weapons systems and this makes it even more necessary for Biden to seek a closer relationship with the Indian political establishment. The on-going India-China standoff at the LAC continues to be seen by the US as a great opportunity to sell weapons and other defense-related items which India needs to acquire at such a difficult time.

CONTD ON PAGE 9

CONTD FROM PAGE 9

Both countries have increased their defense partnership in recent years and signed four key foundational defense pacts. The General Security of Military Information Agreement (GSOMIA) was signed by the government of Atal Bihari Vajpayee back in 2002. It aims to protect the military information shared by the US. The Logistics Exchange Memorandum of Agreement (LEMOA) was signed a full 14 years later in 2016, and it aims to provide mutual logistics support around the world. The Communication Compatibility and Security Agreement (COMCASA) was signed in 2018, and it aims to facilitate communication between the weapons platforms of the two armed forces. Finally, the Basic Exchange and Cooperation Agreement was signed at the Indo-US 2+2 meeting in October 2020 and it largely pertains to geospatial intelligence, sharing information on maps and satellite images for defense. BECA will provide Indian military systems with a high-quality GPS to navigate and missiles with real-time intelligence to precisely target the adversary. It will also give access to topographical and aeronautical data and products that will aid navigation and targeting.

In this context, it may be noted that India has substantially increased its acquisition of US defense equipment. Indian forces are operating US-sourced platforms such as P-8s, C-130Js, C-17s, AH-64s, CH-47s, Precision Guided-Excalibur Munitions, and M777 howitzers. In February, India agreed to acquire Apache and MH-60R multi-mission helicopters worth \$3.1 billion, and is considering other US systems. A deal for 30 armed drones, 10 each for the army, air force, and navy, estimated at \$3 billion, is close to being approved by the Indian defense ministry. In November 2020, the Indian Navy acquired two Sea Guardian unarmed drones from the U.S. on a one-year lease. India has plans also to buy six additional P-8I long range maritime patrol aircraft in addition to the 12 already contracted.

During the Trump Administration, amidst all the din about the US standing alongside India to ward off the Chinese threat, there was an unmistakable sales pitch that was clear as daylight. US media reports made no secret of the fact that during the 2+2 dialogue in October 2020, Mike Pompeo and Mark Esper had tried to push India to purchase MQ-9 Reaper drones. From the beginning, Trump had made arms sales a central component of his foreign policy.

It cannot be doubted that the Biden Administration will also push for arms-sales to India, and Defense Secretary Austin undoubtedly saw this as a priority item on his agenda during his visit.

However, some irritants in the Indo-US bilateral relationship cannot be overlooked. Prior to his visit to India, US Senate Foreign Relations Committee chair Bob Menendez had written a letter to him asking him to raise concerns about India "trending away" from shared democratic values, including the Indian government's handling of the farmers' protest and a crackdown on journalists and critics. "In meetings with Indian counterparts during your upcoming visit, I strongly encourage



US Secretary of Defense Lloyd J Austin inspects the Tri-Services' Guard of Honor at the Vigyan Bhawan lawns, in New Delhi - Photo / Courtesy ANI

you to make clear that in all areas, including security cooperation, the US-India partnership must rest on adherence to democratic values," Menendez said in his letter.

In his capacity as Chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, Menendez plays a key role in influencing the country's foreign policy and national security. Among his predecessors include President Joe Biden, who occupied this position during former president George Bush's administration and former secretary of state John Kerry.

It may be pointed out that Lloyd Austin is the Secretary of Defense, and within the US set up, matters such as human rights and democracy overseas do not come under his domain. However, while responding to a question during a media briefing, Austin said that he had raised issues of human rights of the country's minorities with members of the Indian cabinet as "partners need to be able to have those kinds of discussions". Asked specifically if he had raised the violation of human rights of India's minorities as the first member of the Biden administration to meet Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Austin replied that he "did not have an opportunity to talk with him about that issue during their meeting," adding: "Having said that, I did have a conversation with other members of the cabinet on this issue. I think we have to remember that India is our partner and a partner whose partnership we value, and I think partners need to be able to have those kinds of discussions. And certainly, we feel comfortable in doing that, and you can have those discussions in a very meaningful way and still make progress," Austin said.

In this regard, the thinking of some key players in the Biden Administration is no secret. In 2019, soon after the Centre stripped Jammu and Kashmir of special status under Article 370 and split it into two Union Territories, Kamala Harris did not mince words. "We have to remind Kashmiris they are not alone in the world," she said. "We are keeping a track on the situation. There is a need to intervene if the situation demands." Again, in the Biden campaign's agenda

for Muslim Americans, India's National Register of Citizens and Kashmir featured in the list of threats to Muslim populations across the world. "In Kashmir, the Indian government should take all necessary steps to restore rights for all the people of Kashmir," said the campaign agenda. "Restrictions on dissent, such as preventing peaceful protests or shutting or slowing down the Internet, weaken democracy."

Freedom House, a US-based, US-funded Non-Governmental Organization said in its recent report 'Democracy under Siege' that Civil liberties in India have been in decline since PM Narendra Modi came to power in 2014. The report downgraded India's rating to 'partly free'. Trump had maintained a tactical silence in regard to India's Citizenship Amendment Act and the human rights situation in Jammu and Kashmir. While the Biden Administration may also find it necessary to maintain a similar tactical silence on these internal matters of India, during closed-door meetings with the Indian side, such reports are likely to be cited as instances of 'independent' studies calling on India to undertake a course-correction. Something of this nature appears to have been done by Austin. On their part, senior Indian officials have said that human rights and values were discussed as shared strengths of the two countries. However, this irritant is likely to keep raising its head from time to time.

There is another and perhaps more serious danger to the US-India relationship lurking on the scene and it relates to CAATSA (Combating America's Adversaries Through Sanctions Act). On India's reported plan to purchase the Russian S-400 missile defense system, Senator Menendez said in his letter to Defense Secretary Austin that if India chooses to go forward with its purchase, that act will clearly constitute a sanctionable transaction with the Russian defense sector under provisions of CAATSA. "I recognize that India is not a US treaty ally and has historical ties with the Soviet and Russian militaries. However, if India chooses to go forward with its purchase of the S-400, that act will clearly constitute a significant and

therefore sanctionable, transaction with the Russian defense sector under Section 231 of CAATSA," Menendez wrote. "It will also limit India's ability to work with the US on the development and procurement of sensitive military technology. I expect you to make all of these challenges clear in conversations with your Indian counterparts," he said.

Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin did raise the issue of India's planned acquisition of the S-400 air defense system from Russia and stressed that allies and partners should avoid "any kind of acquisitions that will trigger sanctions".

It may be recalled that In October 2018, India had signed a USD 5 billion deal with Russia to buy five units of the S-400 air defense missile systems, despite a warning from the then Trump administration that going ahead with the contract may invite US sanctions. In 2019, India made the first tranche of payment of around USD 800 million to Russia for the missile systems which are expected to be delivered later this year.

The United States had in January 2021 imposed sanctions on Turkey, a NATO ally for purchasing S-400 surface-to-air missile systems from Russia. However, it had done so only after Turkey took the delivery of the first shipment. Briefing the media, Austin said that the question of CAATSA or sanctions against India is not on the table as India has not taken delivery of the system. He, however, did not elaborate on what will happen when India will take delivery of the system later this year.

Summing up, one cannot ignore these potential roadblocks for the Indo-US relationship. They cannot be wished away because they are very much real. There is a great deal of affinity being shown by US policy makers towards India, but it may lessen considerably if they can sort out their difficulties on trade-related issues with China. The signposts and markers in the unfolding scenario will have to be watched closely to understand where the relationship is heading.

(The author is a retired Indian diplomat. He can be reached atprabhu_dayal70@hotmail.com)

(Courtesy OPOYI)

Global Effects of Insecurity of Man



BY HARBACHAN SINGH

"When incidents like the recent AAPI shootings in Atlanta and the Colorado shootings manifest in a volcano like eruption, voices are heard here and there why we must quickly unite communities to curb hurting each other's feelings. Some vigils are hurriedly arranged, some reaching out efforts are made to cool down tempers and prevent escalation of the situation. Rallies and protests often result in some legislative adjustments or some payment of remuneration or legal punishment of individual perpetrators to bring down tension and restore status quo. But these are temporary band-aid measures. Even then insecure feeling continues to prevail."

Inter-racial rivalries and wars go as far back as memory can take us, back to long time ago when men formed groups to secure themselves and their possessions from the others. As the saying goes, "Birds of the same feather flock together" human beings also divide themselves, by race, color, gender, height, wealth each possess, education, local community, language, religion, caste, sexual orientation (transgender), country, age, and the list goes on ad infinitum. Lines of divide (including political party lines) are drawn both horizontally and perpendicularly to garner strength and produce fear.

Basically, man is worried for his future, primarily food and shelter. He wants security. He wants to acquire more to be more secure. He will compete hard or will deploy devious methods to acquire more. For this, wars have been fought where people have killed each other and destroyed each other's possessions both real property and personnel. They have conquered each other and stolen from each other their possessions. Physical walls and natural barriers like rivers



A site of shooting in Atlanta



Protesting attack on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders (AAPI)

and mountain ranges and now electronic surveillancesystems were built, such as The Great Wall of China, the Wall in Germany etc., and also to divide cities e.g., in Jerusalem. Trade wars were fought for the same reasons to accumulate more loot than the other person or the adversary. Gradually this greed permeated into cultural wars and religious wars and then there were the World War I and the World War II. Even intra-wars within each category itself grew and retarded the progress of man. He was still not content. Man has during all this time developed religions and cults to teach and discipline men how to live in peace with each other and to abate greed. Our grandparents referred us to scriptures such as "To do to others as I would that they should do to me..." or they would say "Put yourself in the other person's shoes to better understand the problem," or they would say, "overload your adversary with love and influence him into submission."

International organizations had been created like the League of Nations and the United Nations to bring countries together to conclude multilateral agreements so that countries can feel secure, safe and assured that their possessions are well protected and life could go on in a normal manner. Nuclear test ban treaties and treaties on environment and climatic change agreements were also aimed towards the same goal. Compliance systems are in-built and monitored.

When religious institutions and world governments fail in their respective responsibilities, this same human fear begins to debilitate man. Mistrust intensifies and tensions grows high. It then only needs a small incident, spark or excuse to blow up the built-up contained and compressed or suppressed tension.

When incidents like the recent AAPI shootings in Atlanta and the Colorado shootings manifest in a volcano like eruption, voices are heard here and there why we must quickly unite communities to curb hurting each other's feelings. Some vigils are hurriedly arranged, some reaching out efforts are made to cool down tempers and prevent escalation of the situation. Rallies and protests often result in some legislative adjustments or some payment of remuneration or legal punishment of

AAPI attack in Atlanta and the Colorado shooting can be attributed to the continuing rivalry of man with his neighbor. We may have recently fed a beast that is now coming out and attacking people's lives. The rhetoric that came out of the White House has played havoc.

individual perpetrators to bring down tension and restore status quo. But these are temporary band-aid measures. Even then insecure feeling continues to prevail.

Unless and until man takes a step back and thinks out of the box and addresses the root causes of this perennial problem which has existed from times immemorial, World War III is but inevitable and the clock is ticking.

To find a real solution, we may have to create another United Nations like organization to tackle this gargantuan problem. It is after all a worldwide problem. The present Charter of the UN touches lightly on this point but does not provide for any substantive action to create and sustain sufficient level of safety and security between men and through them between nations that will do a creditable job.

The fact is that traditional monitoring methods or the stable building of understandings between men have failed to resolve this 'insecure feeling'. New methods in this day and age of modern technology must therefore be developed using scientific methods or the IT as necessary, which are capable and reliable enough for men to have total confidence in the product which can perpetuate and guarantee complete faith in one another in the world where everlasting distrust amongst mankind has incessantly plagued the world with this problem. Could the solution lie in drawing the separation lines in a cross-section manner or in any other way to bring about the desired result? In other words,

can we eliminate the lines of distinction?

Actually, we may need to collect a bunch of genius youth from around the world and put them into a room and lock them up until we see the smoke appear from the window. They will have to look directly into the eyes of hate and discrimination to tackle the problem. Only they can find a solution and create a world devoid of hate and discrimination for their own world. The bias with which we have grown-up with prevents us from thinking wisely or creatively. They may even say do away with police in uniforms with guns. It is understood that UK Bobbies and UN Peacekeepers do not carry guns. Any solution must restore complete confidence in social interaction and reform public safety. The solution must take a more holistic approach.

Sometimes we say we should de-fund the police or come up with other proposals such as to promote more blacks, in order to address the problem. For how long can we keep on barking up the wrong tree? These are symptoms. We have to get the bull by the horn.

AAPI attack in Atlanta and the Colorado shooting can be attributed to the continuing rivalry of man with his neighbor. We may have recently fed a beast that is now coming out and attacking people's lives. The rhetoric that came out of the White House has played havoc. He has not backed off nor apologized but has kept on digging. Basic cause has not changed - insecurity for life and possessions. Jealousy, greed and arrogance, are but offshoots of the basic phenomenon. We must stop making the mistake over and over again. This monster must be wrestled down permanently lest we continue to live in danger and in the process destroy the planet on which we live and depend on. The number of resources and the amount energy that gets consumed when we continue to live under insecure conditions today can eradicate entire poverty and disease on this planet. Has anyone calculated the total daily military budget of all nations in the world? We will save all these trillions of dollars if we can find a solution to the insecure feeling of man in this universe.

(The author is a former Chairman of United Nations Headquarters Committee on Contracts. He can be reached at 4harbachan@gmail.com)



**With appreciation for your business and
warmest wishes in celebration of**

Holi



HAB BANK

1585 Oak Tree Rd, Iselin, NJ 08830
t: (732) 205 1777 f: (732) 205 1772
Second Vice President: Girish Vazirani

New York, New Jersey, & California

www.habbank.com

Member FDIC

Equal Housing Lender

HAB BANK is service mark of Habib American Bank

Holi: Let the color shower joy

Holi is an ancient festival of India and was originally known as 'Holika'. The festival finds a detailed description in early religious works such as Jaimini's Purvamimamsa-Sutras and Kathaka-Grhya-Sutras. Historians also believe that Holi was celebrated by all Aryans but more so in the Eastern part of India.

It is said that Holi existed several centuries before Christ. However, the meaning of the festival is believed to have changed over the years. Earlier it was a special rite performed by married women for the happiness and well-being of their families and the full moon (Raka) was worshiped.

This year, Holi falls on Monday, March 29, while Holika Dahan is on Sunday, March 28.

Calculating the Day of Holi

There are two ways of reckoning a lunar month- 'purnimanta' and 'amanta'. In the former, the first day starts after the full moon; and in the latter, after the new moon. Though the amanta reckoning is more common now, the purnimanta was very much in vogue in the earlier days.

According to this purnimanta reckoning, Phalguna purnima was the last day of the year and the new year heralding the Vasanta-ritu (with spring starting from next day). Thus the full moon festival of Holika gradually became a festival of merrymaking, announcing the commencement of the spring season. This perhaps explains the other names of this festival - Vasanta-Mahotsava and Kama-Mahotsava.

Reference in Ancient Texts and Inscriptions

Besides having a detailed description in the Vedas and Puranas such as Narad Purana and Bhavishya Purana, the festival of Holi finds a mention in Jaimini Mimamsa. A stone inscription belonging to 300 BC found at Ramgarh in the province of Vindhya has mention of Holikotsav on it. King Harsha, too has mentioned about holikotsav in his work Ratnavali that was written during the 7th century.

The famous Muslim tourist - Ulbaruni too has mentioned about holikotsav in his historical memories. Other Muslim writers of that period have mentioned, that holikotsav were not only celebrated



by the Hindus but also by the Muslims.

Reference in Ancient Paintings and Murals

The festival of Holi also finds a reference in the sculptures on walls of old temples. A 16th century panel sculpted in a temple at Hampi, capital of Vijayanagar, shows a joyous scene of Holi. The painting depicts a Prince and his Princess standing amidst maids waiting with syringes or pichkaris to drench the Royal couple in coloured water.

A 16th century Ahmednagar painting is on the theme of Vasanta Ragini - spring song or music. It shows a royal couple sitting on a grand swing, while maidens are playing music and spraying colors with pichkaris.

There are a lot of other paintings and murals in the temples of medieval India which provide a pictorial description of Holi. For instance, a Mewar painting (circa 1755) shows the Maharana with his courtiers. While the ruler is bestowing



gifts on some people, a merry dance is on, and in the center is a tank filled with colored water. Also, a Bundi miniature shows a king seated on a tusker and from a balcony above some damsels are showering gulal (colored powders) on him.

Legends and Mythology

In some parts of India, specially in Bengal and Orissa, Holi Purnima is also celebrated as the birthday of Shri Chaitanya Mahaprabhu (A.D. 1486-1533). However, the literal meaning of the word 'Holi' is 'burning'. There are various legends to explain the meaning of this word, most prominent of all is the legend associated with demon king Hiranyakashyap.

Hiranyakashyap wanted everybody in his kingdom to worship only him but to his great disappointment, his son, Prahlad became an ardent devotee of Lord Naarayana. Hiranyakashyap commanded his sister, Holika to enter a

blazing fire with Prahlad in her lap. Holika had a boon whereby she could enter fire without any damage on herself. However, she was not aware that the boon worked only when she enters the fire alone. As a result she paid a price for her sinister desires, while Prahlad was saved by the grace of the god for his extreme devotion. The festival, therefore, celebrates the victory of good over evil and also the triumph of devotion.

Legend of Lord Krishna is also associated with play with colors as the Lord started the tradition of play with colours by applying colour on his beloved Radha and other gopis. Gradually, the play gained popularity with the people and became a tradition.

There are also a few other legends associated with the festival - like the legend of Shiva and Kaamadeva and those of Ogress Dhundhi and Pootana. All depict triumph of good over evil - lending a philosophy to the festival.



Significance of Holi

In spite of being such a colorful and gay festival, there are various aspects of Holi which makes it so significant for our lives. Though they might not be so apparent but a closer look and a little thought will reveal the significance of Holi in more ways than meets the eyes. Ranging from socio-cultural, religious to biological there is every reason why we must heartily enjoy the festival and cherish the reasons for its celebrations.

So when, its time for Holi, please don't hold yourself back and enjoy the festival to the hilt by participating with full enthusiasm in every small tradition related to the festival.

Mythological Significance

Holi gets us close to our religion and our mythology as it is essentially the celebration of various legends associated with the festival.

Foremost is the legend of Prahlad and Hiranyakshyap. The legend says there once lived a devil and powerful king, Hiranyakshyap who considered himself a god and wanted everybody to worship him. To his great ire, his son, Prahlad began to worship, Lord Vishnu. To get rid of his son, Hiranyakshyap asked his sister, Holika to enter a blazing fire with Prahlad in her lap, as she had a boon to enter fire unscathed. Legend has it that Prahlad was saved for his extreme devotion for the lord while Holika paid a price for her sinister desire. The tradition of burning Holika or the 'Holika dahan' comes mainly from this legend.

Holi also celebrates the legend of Radha and Krishna which describes the extreme delight, Krishna took in applying colour on Radha and other gopis. This prank of Krishna later, became a trend and a part of the Holi festivities.

Mythology also states that Holi is the celebration of death of Ogress Pootana who tried to kill infant, Krishna by feeding poisonous milk to it.

Another legend of Holi which is extremely popular in Southern India is that of Lord Shiva and Kaamadeva. According to the legend, people in south celebrate the sacrifice of Lord of Passion Kaamadeva who risked his life to revoke Lord Shiva from meditation and save the world.

Also, popular is the legend of Ogress Dhundhi who used to trouble children in the kingdom of Raghu and was ultimately chased away by the pranks of the children on the day of Holi. Showing their belief in the legend, children till date play pranks and hurl abuses at the time of Holika Dahan.

Cultural Significance

Celebration of the various legends associated with Holi reassure the people of the power of the truth as the moral of all these legends is the ultimate victory of good over evil. The legend of Hiranyakashyap and Prahlad also points to the fact that extreme devotion to god pays as god always takes his true devotee in his shelter.

All these legends help the people to follow a good conduct in their lives and believe in the virtue of being truthful. This is extremely important in the modern day society when so many people resort to evil practices for small gains and torture one who is honest. Holi



helps the people to believe in the virtue of being truthful and honest and also to fight away the evil.

Besides, Holi is celebrated at a time of the year when the fields are in full bloom and people are expecting a good harvest. This gives a people a good reason to rejoice, make merry and submerge themselves in the spirit of Holi.

Social Significance

Holi helps to bring the society together and strengthen the secular fabric of our country. For, the festival is celebrated by non-Hindus also as everybody like to be a part of such a colourful and joyous festival.

Also, the tradition of the Holi is that even the enemies turn friends on Holi and forget any feeling of hardship that may be present. Besides, on this day people do not differentiate between the rich and poor and everybody celebrate the festival together with a spirit of bonhomie and brotherhood.

In the evening people visit friends and relatives and exchange gifts, sweets and greetings. This helps in revitalising relationships and strengthening emotional bonds between people.

Biological Significance

It is interesting to note that the festival of Holi is significant for our lives and body in many other ways than providing joy and fun.

We also need to thank our forefathers who started the trend of celebrating Holi at such a scientifically accurate time. And, also for incorporating so much fun in the festival.

As Holi comes at a time of the year when people have a tendency to feel sleepy and lazy. This is natural for the body to experiences some tardiness due to the change from the cold to the heat in the atmosphere. To counteract this tardiness of the body, people sing loudly or even speak loudly. Their movements are brisk and their music is loud. All of this helps to rejuvenate the system of the human body.

Besides, the colours when sprayed on the body have a great impact on it.



Biologists believe the liquid dye or Abeer penetrates the body and enters into the pores. It has the effect of strengthening the ions in the body and adds health and beauty to it.

There is yet another scientific reason for celebrating the Holi, this however pertains to the tradition of Holika Dahan. The mutation period of winter and spring, induces the growth of bacteria in the atmosphere as well as in the body. When Holika is burnt, temperature rises to about 145 degrees Fahrenheit. Following the tradition when people perform Parikrama (circumambulation or going around) around the fire, the heat from the fire kills the bacteria in the body thus, cleansing it.

The way Holi is celebrated in south, the festival also promotes good health. For, the day after the burning of Holika people put ash (Vibhuti) on their forehead and they would mix Chandan (sandalpaste) with the young leaves and flowers of the Mango tree and consume it to promote good health.

Some also believe that play with colours help to promote good health as colours are said to have great impact on our body and our health. Western-Physicians and doctors believe that for a

healthy body, colours too have an important place besides the other vital elements. Deficiency of a particular colour in our body causes ailment, which can be cured only after supplementing the body with that particular colour.

People also clean-up their houses on Holi which helps in clearing up the dust and mess in the house and get rid of mosquitoes and others pests. A clean house generally makes the residents feel good and generate positive energies.



Holi celebrations in India and around the world

Holi is famous as Basant Utsav in rural India. It is one of the major festivals in India and is celebrated with extreme enthusiasm and joy. Gulal, abeer and pichkaris are synonymous with the festival. Elaborate plans are made to color the loved ones. Everybody wants to be the first one to color the other. In the ensuing battle of colors, everybody is drowned not just in colors of gulal but also in love and mirth. People love to drench others and themselves in colored water. Gujias and other sweets are offered to everyone who comes across to color.

Temples are beautifully decorated at the time of Holi. Idol of Radha is placed on swings and devotees turn the swings singing devotional Holi songs. Now-a-days small plays are organized reflecting the spirit of the festival.

What is remarkably same across the country is the spirit of Holi. Fun, frolic, boisterousness to the extent of buffoonery marks this festival of colors. What more can be expected- when the people get a social sanction to get intoxicated on the bhang, open not just their hearts' out but also their lungs. And viola, nobody is expected to take offense too, as the norm of the day is, 'Bura na mano Holi hai'.

Andhra Pradesh

Though the celebrations of Holi in South India are not as grand as compared to that in North India. Yet, what is particularly noticeable in Andhra Pradesh as in other Dravidian states is the heightened feeling of communal harmony. Here too, people participate in merry making. Besides, in the evening, youngsters play with dry colours and seek elders' blessings by putting gulal and abeer on the feet of the elders.

The Banjara tribes of Andhra Pradesh celebrate Holi in their own way. Graceful dances are performed by the colourful Banjara gypsies.

Bengal

There is a particular elan in the way Holi is celebrated in the state of West Bengal. Panache is added by the presence of the rich Bengal culture and the existence of Shantiniketan.

Basant Utsav

The high point of this state is the celebration of 'Basant Utsav'. The tradition was reintroduced by poet and Nobel laureate Rabindranath Tagore at Shantiniketan, the University he founded. 'Basant Utsav' means 'Spring Festival', here boys and girls joyfully welcome Spring, the season of Hope not just with colours but with songs, dance, chanting of hymns in the serene ambiance of Shantiniketan.

Dol Purnima

On the Dol Purnima day in the early morning, the students dress up in saffron-colored clothes and wear garlands of fragrant flowers. They sing and dance to the accompaniment of musical instruments presenting an enchanting view to the onlookers and a memory to cherish for years.



In Bengal, Holi is known by the name of 'Dol Jatra', 'Dol Purnima' or the 'Swing Festival'. The festival is celebrated in a dignified manner by placing the idols of Krishna and Radha on a picturesquely decorated palanquin which is then taken round the main streets of the city. The devotees take turns to swing them while women dance around the swing and sing devotional songs. All this while men keep spraying coloured water and colour powder, 'abeer' at them.

Barsana

Holi of Barsana, the birthplace of Radha, a village, 42 kms away from Mathura, is of particular interest. Here, men from Nandgaon, the land of Krishna come to play Holi with the girls of Barsana and hope of raising their flag over Shri Radhikaji's temple. But, instead of colours they are greeted with sticks by the gopis. Hence, the Holi get its new name here-Lathmaar Holi.

Smart enough, men come fully padded as they are fully aware what kind of welcome awaits them and also the fact that they are not allowed to retaliate on that day.

In this mock battle of sorts, they try their best not to be captured. The unlucky one's however, are forcefully led away and get a good thrashing from the women. Further, they are made to wear a female attire and dance in public. All in the spirit of Holi.

Renowned poets like Surdas, Nand-das, Kumbhan-das and others have picturesquely described how Lord Krishna received similar treatment and was forced to don a sari and wear make-up and perform dance before being released by the gopies.



Continued on Page 15

From Page 14

The next day, it is the turn of men of Barsana. They reciprocate by invading Nandgaon and drench the womenfolk of Nandgaon in colours of kesudo, naturally occurring orange-red dye and palash. Today, the women of Nadagow beat the invaders from Barsana. It is a colourful site.

However, in the interest of tourism and safety, the state tourist board has set up excellent vantage points for the public. A large open ground, on the outskirts of the town is specially set aside for the most magnificent display of the festivities.

The week long Holi celebrations also continue in the various Krishna temples on different days. The celebrations are filled with clouds of colours and of course, much fun.

Mathura-Vrindavan

People from all corners of India, rather, world gather at Mathura-Vrindavan every year to feel the essence of Holi in the land of Krishna. People relive the legends of Holi associated with Radha and Krishna and play pranks the young Krishna played with the cowgirls called gopis. The underlying feeling of this fun-frolic was love and devotion. Even today, romance can be experienced in the very atmosphere in the Krishna-nagari. One just needs to breathe in this air and drench oneself in the feeling of love and romance. Myriad colours of Holi are simply a facade on this.

Celebrations Continue for a Week

With an immensely strong bonding with Lord Krishna, people of Mathura and Vrindavan celebrate Holi for over a week. Each major Krishna temple celebrates Holi on a different day.

Of immense interest for the tourist is the celebrations which take place at the famous Bakai-Bihari Temple at Vrindavan. Drenched in the colours of Holi people can be found totally immersed in the spirit of devotion here.

Another interesting place for Holi celebrations is Gulal-Kund in Braj; a beautiful little lake near Govardhan mountain. Here, the festival is commemorated on a more regular basis. Pilgrims can see the re-enactments of Holi throughout the year at this lake. Local boys, acting in the Krishna-Lila drama troupes re-enact the scenes of Holi for the pilgrims.

So much is the passion of the people here, that they throng these temples every day and get drenched in coloured water...all in the name of the Lord they love so much.

Around the world

Mauritius



Just as the many other major Hindu festivals, the large Indian majority, (about 63 per cent) celebrate Holi with a lot of enthusiasm in the island of Mauritius.

It is an official holiday in the country and therefore people get all the time to make merry and drench themselves in the spirit of Holi and of course, colour water.

Hindus, here duly perform the tradition of Holika Dahan or lighting of bonfire on the eve of Holi and celebrate the victory of good over evil. Next day people revel and play with colours and drench everybody with water jets called pichkaris. While in the evening they greet each other with tilak and exchange sweets.

Nepal

Holi is celebrated with great pomp and show in Nepal. Celebrations lasts for a week in which the entire country gets drenched in the coloured water.

Celebrations are of marked importance at Terai and also where Indian community mainly Marwaris have settled. Families and friends get together and celebrate the occasion with a lot of merry making.

All over the streets people can be watched having fun, throwing colours and water-balloons, locally called 'lolas' on



each other.

Though play of colours takes place on the last day, a ceremonial pole called, 'chir' is installed on the first day. Chir is a bamboo pole fringed with strips of clothes representing good luck charms. As the pole is put up in the street at Basantapur, the festivities and worship commences for the week. At the end of the festivities chir is taken to a bonfire.

United Kingdom

Hindus settled in UK do not miss out the excitement of Holi celebrations and enjoy to the hilt. Zeal for the festival is particularly marked in this country as Indians constitute the second largest ethnic minority. Celebrating festivals help them to feel close to their families and cultural roots.

The celebration of Holi is noticeable at places that witness a large congregation of Indians. The British city of Leicester is particularly known for its love for celebrating Indian festivals. Excitement reaches its peak when the occasion is that of celebrating a joyous festival like Holi. Children love to use their spray cans and

colour each other. Holi parades are also carried and in the evening people visit their friends and relatives to exchange greetings and sweets. They hug each other and also apply the tilak as the meet Holi in a traditional manner.

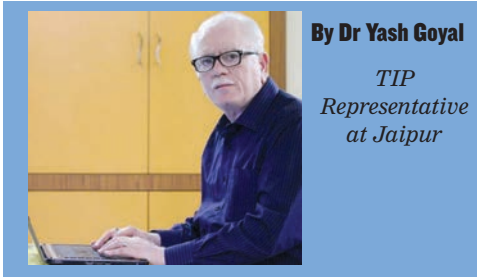
USA

With a large population of Indians settled in the United States of America, Holi is celebrated with gaiety and lot of fanfare in this country.

Different societies formed by the Indians and religious organisations help people to celebrate this joyous festival and feel close to their cultural roots. Music programmes and Holi Meets are also organised by them to mark the occasion. These meets help the new generation to identify with their cultural root. Children learn to understand the significance of celebrating festivals and know legends associated with them.

Great enthusiasm for the festival can be specially witnessed in cities where large number of Indians have settled. Holi celebrations are particularly marked in the city of New York.

Rainbow shades of Holi in Rajasthan desert



By Dr Yash Goyal

TIP
Representative
at Jaipur

Geographically, in the largest desert of the country, not only the 'dialect' (dialect/language) changes on every twenty 'Kos' (less than Km), but also the manner and ritual of celebrating the Teej-Tyohar (festivals). Holi Dahan and Dhulandi have their own adventures in India after Deepotsav. There was a period of playing Holi in Rajasthan against the background of the kings, which is changing with the times today.

The people living in the cities may be seen in the colors of Holi, but the ancestral customs which are prevailing in the rural area, they look very seductive and amazing. The enthusiasm and mutual love of the villagers in celebrating Holi with their splashes of color and their unique way attracts not only the city dwellers but also foreign guests so much that in many places they are also seen in Holi. After Agra, Rajasthan is also the main tourist destination of foreigners.

In this vast region, the festival of Holi is celebrated somewhere with splashes of color, while in the districts of Barmer and Dungarpur, the stones of Holi are enjoyed. LathmarHoli in Barmer, Pali and Mewar in Karauli and Bharatpur; MurdaRide in Bhilwara, Chang and Gidar dance in Shekhawati, Kodamar in Ganganagar, Gota Gar in Bhinmal, Kando (cow dung) rod in Dungarpur; Holi of flowers in Govind-Devji temple in Jaipur; cutting of strings in Bikaner, clothes-tearing in Pushkar and the riot of Hela Khayal in Lalsot (Dausa) are also popular and include their own history to celebrate this colorful festival.

Although this festival is of brotherhood and harmony, but Muslim families of Gulabinagri make 'Gulal Gota' for Hindus. To play Holi from the four-year-old 'Gulal Gota', people still go to the narrow streets of Manihars-Ka-Rasta in the four walls of Jaipur. The ball is dried by the ladies with their fingers in the lokh



Fower holi at Govind Dev Ji Temple.

(resins used in the bangle) in a slow flame, giving it the shape of a ball and taping it.

Since the forts in Rajasthan are still there, where the descendants of the erstwhile kings, living in heritage palaces and princely states, keep the tradition of Holika Dahan and Dhulandi alive even today, which attracts the residents of small towns even today. There was an old time when it was a pleasure to celebrate Teej festival among the kings and queens. In Jaipur's City Palace, where many people came into active politics, and even today Diya Kumari is BJP's MP from Rajsamand, this trend has been made alive.

Before Independence then, first of all, the Raj family's Holi celebrations at the City Palace. After this, Holi Dahan would



Hela Khayal Dangal at Lalsot.



Foreigners celebrating Holi at Chaugan Stadium.

take place in other mohallas of the city. Citizens (subjects) used to race to light the Holi of their neighborhood with the spark of fire / upleap of Holi, which was lit in the City Palace. Then Holi would have a beautiful atmosphere of Nandotsav in the city. The Maharaja visited Govinddev Maharaj in the morning and came out to celebrate Holi Day. The music of Janani Diyodhi and City Palace would be accompanied by sajtis, mujra and mands, and saffron with saffron.

Jitendra Singh Shekhawat, the iconic historian and journalist of the 'Heritage Window', says that for the Maharaja Holi Day at Chandramahal's Jayanivas Bagh on Dhulandi in the City Palace, there was a buzz of music after colors, gulal and

dolchiis. Later the court of the Maharaja was used. In this royal procession, the feudatories of the princely state of Jaipur, Umrao, Nawab, Nagar Seth, Tajimi Sardar, and would be special guests of the country and abroad, who honored him by presenting him an eyeful after playing Holi with the court. In the royal dress of Phaganis Safa, Jodhpuri Achkan and Churidar Pajama, the Maharaja used to lift his hose pipe and show it colors. There were drums, Shehnai ringing at the door. Dholania sings songs of Holi.

The pranksters used to display their art, causing fountains of laughter to

Continued on page 17

From page 16

erupt. In addition to liquor made of saffron, grapes, raisins, pistachios, there were also jams of foreign liquor. Gulal was also offered as a gift in small skins. Only kings could go to see the game of holi of queens in Janani Deodhi.

The era changed but the former royal family recites the history of wet and dry colors in a pool of water, with former guests celebrating Holi at the City Palace. Now these Rangotsavs organize event management on one theme. Jaipur is also called Chhoti Kashi because of Govinddevji Maharaj. That is why the historical Holi culture is still prevalent here. In the courtyard of the temple of Govinddevji, women, men and big and small devotees spend hours in Holi in the flowers of Holi and get lost in Radha-Govind.

There are also many types of Ras Leela during the Holi and Shitala Ashtami of Lalsot in Dausa district in Jaipur division, 'Hela Khayal Dangal' is also an important occasion for all the castes (Gurjars, Meena especially) to be threaded in the same color. In this, the legislators and ministers of the ruling and opposition also openly enhance the dignity of the ceremony. In the 10 to 20 congregations of the pro-opposition, the men squarely sing sarcasm on political-socio-business issues. Let us sing whatever thought comes to mind immediately. A second sarcasm is carried out amidst the banging of the dhol-nagade-other folk instrument that the participants listeners are enchanted and throw colors of Holi. There is also special food and drink. This riot lasts for 36 to 72 hours continuously. The city of Lalsot is covered in a hue and cry of color.

The Chaugan Stadium in Gulabi Nagar and the Rajasthan Tourism Department in Khasakothi also organize Dhulandi festivities for foreigners with invites and focal points of foreign tourist attractions. Before Holi in Bharatpur, the Firangi in Braj Holi festival is seen with Indian colors.

Playing 'cloth tearing' Holi of Indian tourists with foreigners in Brahma's city of Pushkar has also gained a lot of fame. Under the prior permission and supervision of the police and the district administration, the cloth tearing celebrations are celebrated at the Varah Ghat Chowk and the Trans Party is celebrated. Varaha is an incarnation of Lord Vishnu. In this, the participants tore each other's clothes decently. But there is no indecency or physical vulgarity in him. Women and men have different enclosures for those who get drenched in the colors of Holi. It is not allowed to bring any kind of liquor and drugs here.

Stoning during Holi from Barmer has also been prevalent in history since the beginning of the last century. The festival of Holi was played with joy and affection amidst the killing of mutual stones, keeping away mutual disharmony, antipathy, enmity. This love of Holi was played between two parties and two mohallas. The people of both the parties had already collected stone shelves on the high roofs of their houses, shops, religious establishments, and the way the shield is used in the war to avoid this, people like iron. Tagari vomited and attacked each other. Some people were also injured. This practice of Holi is still heard in this district. By the way, the Holi of these stones started celebrating slowly with dust and mud. Children also enjoy raining dust on passers-by. Holi is celebrated in all areas of the country, but due to a belief in the tribal villages of Rajasthan, there is bloodshed on the



Foreign tourists celebrating the festival of colors.

occasion of Holi.

here had killed a Patidar caste person blood does not fall here on the day of



Due to this strange recognition of the tribal dominated area of Banswara and Dungarpur districts of Rajasthan, many people are injured every year on Holi. Ambulance 108 is placed on the occasion of Holi in Bhiluda and Ramgarh villages of Dungarpur. Many people reach the hospital here. People have collected stones. This game starts from the night after Holika Dahan and runs till Dhundi. In the atmosphere, drums and Chang are played to fill the heroic juices. People call this Holi as Holi of Raad, Rada or enmity. If the elders of the tribal area believe that the cause of the stone-pelting Holi, then the king

on the day of Holi centuries ago. The wife of the deceased got sati with her corpse in her lap and cursed while dying has collected stones This game starts from the night after Holika Dahan and runs till Dhulndi. In the atmosphere, drums and Chang are played to fill the heroic juices. People call this Holi as Holi of Raad, Rada or enmity. If the elders of the tribal area believe that the cause of the stone-pelting Holi, then the king here had killed a Patidar caste person on the day of Holi centuries ago. The wife of the deceased got sati with her corpse in her lap and cursed while dying Has gone. He said that if human

Holi, then natural calamity will come. Only due to this belief, Holi is played here every year on the occasion of Holi.

In Bhilwara of Mewar region, stones are also sung, the Murday (effigy) ride from the mansion of Chittorgarh, non-dance in Pali, Dandi-non dance in Marwar and singing with phag songs, and Dewar-Bhabhi in Sriganganagar. The beach-whipped Holi is very popular.

(Yash Goyal recently wrote the article inHindi for Dainik Tribune, and translated in English for TIP with original pictures obtained from professional photojournalists)

Muslim artists keep Jaipur's 'Gulal Gota' tradition alive for Hindus' Holi festival

By Yash Goyal

For the last six generations, about 400 years ago, it is Muslim artists who are relentlessly working throughout the year to keep Jaipur's 'Gulal Gota' tradition alive for Hindus' Holi festival of color filled in lac made balls. Whereas the pandemic Covid-19 has hampered its export and inter-state sale.

Besides making Jaipur's famous 'Lakh Ki Churi' (bangles made up of lac) in Mani-Haron-ka- Raasta near Isarlat Sargasooli of walled city, a few scions of Muslim families devoted making 'Gulal Gota', a lac ball filled with Gulal powder for last six to nine generations.

Artists get precious Lac (a scarlet resin secreted by an insect that makes its home on trees), blow it with a copper made pipette under flames in a shape of hollow ball, then these balls are filled with herbal colors and sealed with lac. While celebrating, Holi revelers throw them on each other, and as the balls burst, the Gulal is automatically get smeared on the body parts without hurting them. Gulal used in these balls are made up of odorous 'Ararot' (Arrowroot roots: Maranta scientifically) when sprinkled and spilled over.

Gulal Gota is just weights 10 to 20 grams range in desired color combinations, depending on size, and a pack from four to 10 Gota are being sold from Rs.90 to Rs.120, Shadab Ahmed, recipient of Asia's Outstanding Achievement Award 2020/21 for making Lac Bangles and other products, told TIP here on Weekend.

Old generation people who know its importance and fun used to buy these



Colorful Gulal Gota in a pack.

balls, while there are orders from foreign countries like Britain, Spain, Canada, Australia, Nepal and France where Indian are living, Shadab said adding but unfortunately due to Covid-19, the Gulal Gota market slashed to just 5 percent in Indian and Foreign market. The very Gulal Gota business would have to bear a cumulative loss from Rs.70 to 90 lakh this Holi festival, he anticipated. There were no orders from other states like Gujarat,

Bengal and Assam, and so is the situation has emerged for exports, Shadab said hoping it would be better in next year's Holi.

Making to packaging of this on the religious occasion is done precisely by the artists to avoid any risk of ball bursting inside the gift wrap, Sadik said, adding during Fagotsav at Govindvji temple these balls are quite often used by folk artists on each other.

"We are running this tradition and legacy for Holi alone besides doing our Lac Bangle making at small shops, otherwise this alone cannot be profitable to a single family of Mani-Haron-Ka-Raasta representing Jaipur's heritage market for centuries. Cost of production is getting very high, and profit is just not more than 5 percent," Mumtaz, the mother-in law of Shadab, emphatically said.



Gulal Gota maker Sultana

Gulal Gota like Tomatoes



Holi and Bollywood: A nostalgic walk down the memory lane



By Murtaza Ali Khan

Holi celebrations have been a part of Hindi films for as long as one can remember. Right from the early 1940s, Indian filmmakers have tried to include Holi songs in movies in order to embellish the stories so much so that some of the most popular songs of all time happen to be Holi songs. In fact, Holi has always been an important festival for the Indian film fraternity, not just on-screen but off-screen too. RK Studio hosted some of the biggest Holi parties in Bollywood with the legendary Raj Kapoor serving as a great host to the who's who of the film industry. And it remained so for decades. The photos from the time reveal how Holi was an integral part of the studio's celebrations. In fact, taking a leaf out of RK Studios, many others started hosting similar Holi parties and the trend continues till date.

One of the earliest Holi songs that we come across in Hindi cinema is a song called "Jamuna Tat Shyam Khele Horee" from the 1940 film titled "Aurat". As we move into the 1950s, we come across more and more of these songs with "Holi Khele Nandalal Biraj Mein" from the 1953 film titled "Rahi", "Khelo Rang Hamare Sang" from the 1953 film titled "Aan", "Mat Maro Shyam Pichkari" from the 1956 film "Durgesh Nandini", "Holi Aayi Re Kanhai Rang Barse" from the 1958 film "Mother India", and "Are Jare Natkhat" from the 1959 film "Navrang" amongst the most famous ones.

In the 1960s, Bollywood unleashed evergreen Holi songs such as "Tan rang lo ji aaj man rang lo" from the 1960 classic "Kohinoor", "Holi Khelat Nandlal" from the 1963 film "Godaan", "Piya Tose Naina" from the 1965 Vijay Anand masterpiece "Guide", "Layi Hain Hazaron Rang Holi" from the 1966 classic "Phool Aur Patthar". As Hindi cinema moved into the 1970s,



Shammi Kapoor, Raj Kapoor with Amitabh Bachchan at Holi celebrations.

the writer duo of Salim-Javed injected a new kind of rage and angst in the depiction of the hero that catapulted Amitabh Bachchan's Angry Young Man to superstardom even as the likes of Rajesh Khanna, Dharamendra, Dev Anand and others continued to play more conventional romantic heroes.

Some of the most popular Holi songs from the 1970s include "Aaj Na Chhodenge" from the 1970 Shakti Samanta classic "Kati Patang", "Holi Aayi Re" from the 1970 film "Holi Aayi Re", "Holi Re Holi Rangon Ki Holi" from the 1971 film "Paraya Dhan", "Nadiya Se Dariya" from Hrishikesh Mukherjee's 1973 classic "Namak Haram", "Phagun Aayo Re" from the 1973 Rajinder Singh Bedi classic "Phagun", "Holi Aayi Re Mastano Ki Toil" from the 1975 film "Zakhmee" and "Holi Ke Din" from Ramesh Sippy's epic magnum opus "Sholay".

Bollywood's craze for Holi songs continued in the 1980s with hits like "Rang Barse Bheege Chunarwali" from the 1981 Yash Chopra classic "Silсила", "Bhagi Re Bhagi Brij Bala" from the 1982 film "Rajput", "Saat Rang Main Khel Rahi



Rajesh Khanna and Asha Parekh in Kati Patang Holi song.

Continued on Page 20



Rang Barse: Amitabh with Rekha in Silсила.



The famous Holi celebrations at RK Studio.

From Page 19

Hain" from the 1985 film "Aakhir Kyon", and "Diwani Tum Jawanon Ki Toli" from the 1988 film "Dayavan". The 1990s saw Holi songs like "Ang Se Ang Lagana" from the 1993 Yash Chopra blockbuster "Darr", "Rang Di Rang Di" from the 1993 film "Dhanwaan", and "JhankaroJhankaro" from the 1994 film "Krantiveer".

The turn of the millennium witnessed Amitabh Bachchan successfully embarking upon his second innings after a few hiccups. The song "Hori Khele Raghuvra" from the 2003 film "Baghban" went on to become one of the biggest hits of Bachchan's stellar career. Some other popular Holi songs from the decade include "SoniSoni" from the 2000 Aditya Chopra film "Mohabbatein", "Do Me A Favour Lets Play Holi" from the 2005 Vipul Amrutlal Shah directorial "Waqt: The Race Against Time". The most recent superhit Holi number include "BalamPichkari" from the 2013 Ayan Mukerji film "BalamPichkari", "LahuMunh Lag Gaya" from the 2014 Sanjay Leela Bhansali blockbuster "Goliyon Ki Rasleela Ram-leela", and "Jai JaiShivshankar" from the 2019 Siddharth Anand blockbuster "War".

With the death of Raj Kapoor in the year 1988, RK Studios stopped having these Holi parties but others continued hosting these Holi parties. In the recent years, the likes of Shabana Azmi and Javed Akhtar, Ekta Kapoor, Varun Dhawan, Sidharth Malhotra, Ranveer Singh, Alia Bhatt, etc. have kept the tradition alive.

The growing concerns over use of chemical colors and water shortage have



Ranveer Singh and Deepika Padukone in Goliyon Ki Rasleela Ram-Leela Holi song.

led to a few changes in the way the festival is celebrated but the spirit has pretty much kept alive. This year, however, with the ongoing pandemic, the Holi celebrations in the B-town are

expected to be little mellow. So it appears that one would have to wait for at least one more year to see the same old zeal in B-town's Holi celebrations once again.

(Murtaza Ali Khan is a Delhi-based Film & TV Critic / Journalist who has been covering entertainment for over 10 years. He can be reached at murtaza@apotpourriofvestiges.com)



Alia Bhatt with Sidharth Malhotra.



Ekta Kapoor's Holi celebrations.



Shabana Azmi and Javed Akhtar.

Regional names of Holi

Popularity of Holi can be gauged from the number of names Holi has in different states. Also of great interest is the story behind each of these names.

As one moves across from one state to another, one can surely discover the myriad shades of human emotions behind the story that goes with each of these names of holi.

These stories will make you feel proud of the rich cultural diversity of India. Besides, what is to be appreciated is the underlying strong bond of unity that binds this uniquely culturally diverse country.

Even the Gods that are worshiped on Holi differ in different corners of the country. The way the festival is celebrated also differs but the spirit is same - the one of love and brotherhood. In spite of their uniqueness in different states, the festival is considered to be the one which enhances the secular fabric of India.

Lathmaar Holi

In what is known as the hub of holi in India - Barsana, Holi is known as Lathmaar Holi. Sounds violence?? There is more violence than the name signals off. The stick is in the hands of the women on this day and the men need to work a lot to save themselves from the immensely charged up womenfolk.

The birth place of Lord Krishna's beloved Radha, Barsana celebrates Holi with extreme enthusiasm as Krishna was famous for playing pranks on Radha and gopis. In fact, it was Krishna who started the tradition of colours by first applying colour on Radha's face.

Womenfolk, of Barsana it seems, after thousands of centuries want to take a sweet revenge of that prank of Krishna. Even men have not left their mischief and are still eager to apply colour on the women of Barsana.

Dulandi Holi

Holi receives this name in the state of Haryana. Here, bhabhi - the brothers wife gets an upper hand on the day of holi. And, devar's - husband's younger brothers need to watch out.

The bhabhi's on this day get a social sanction on Holi to beat their devars and make them pay the price of all the pranks they played on them for the entire year. Bhabhi's roll up their saris in the form of a rope in a mock rage, and give a good run to their devars.

In the evening, devars are supposed to bring sweets for their dear bhabhi.

Besides, there is also a tradition of breaking the pot of buttermilk hung high in the street by forming a human pyramid.

Rangpanchami

People of Maharashtra commonly know this festival of colours by the name of Rangpanchami as the play of colours is reserved for the fifth day here. Locals of Maharashtra also know Holi as Shimga or Shimgo.

The festival is particularly popular amongst fisher folk. They celebrate it in on a large scale and revel in the festivities by singing, dancing and merry-making. This special dance provide them means to release all their repressed feelings, needs and desires. People also utter sound through their mouths in a peculiar fashion by striking



their mouths with the back of their hands.

Basant Utsav

Holi by the name of Basant Utsav is celebrated with fervour in the state of

West Bengal. The tradition of Vasant Utsav is celebrated in West Bengal as compared to boisterous Holi witnessed in most parts of India. Boys and girls joyfully welcome Spring, the season of hope not just with colours but with songs, dance, chanting of hymns in the serene ambiance of Shantiniketan. Anybody who got a chance to witness this elegant way of celebrating Holi in Bengal remembers it with fond memory for the rest of his life.

Dol Purnima

Holi is also known by the name of Dol Purnima in West Bengal.

Early in the morning, on the Dol Purnima day students dress up in saffron-coloured clothes and wear garlands of fragrant flowers. They sing and dance to the accompaniment of musical instruments presenting an enchanting view to the onlookers and a memory to cherish for years.

The festival is also known as 'Dol Jatra', 'Dol Purnima' or the 'Swing Festival'. The festival is celebrated in a dignified manner by placing the idols of Krishna and Radha on a picturesquely decorated palanquin which is then taken round the main streets of the city. The devotees take turns to swing them while women dance around the swing and sing devotional songs. Throughout the procession men keep spraying coloured water and colour powder, 'abeer' at them.

Hola Mohalla

Holi gets this joyful name in the state of Punjab. The festival is celebrated in an entirely different manner, it's meaning and significance also shifts a little here.

Hola Mohalla is actually an annual fair that is organised in a large scale at Anandpur Sahib in Punjab on the day following the festival of Holi. Practise of holding a fair of this kind was initiated by Guru Gobind Singh, the tenth Sikh guru. Purpose of the fair was to physically strengthen the Sikh community by holding military exercises and mock battles.

The festival is celebrated for three consecutive days, in which members of Sikh community display their physical strength by performing dare-devil acts like bareback horse-riding, standing erect on two speeding horses, Gatka (mock encounters), tent pegging etc. This is followed by music and poetry competition to lighten the charged up atmosphere.

A number of durbars are also held where Sri Guru Granth Sahib is present and kirtan and religious lectures take place. This helps strengthening the soul of community. On the last day a long procession, led by Panj Pyaras, starts from Takth Keshgarh Sahib, one of the five Sikh religious seats, and passes through various important gurdwaras like Qila Anandgarh, Lohgarh Sahib, Mata Jitoji and terminates at the Takth.

For people visiting Anandpur Sahib, langars (voluntary community kitchens) are organized by the local people as a part of sewa (community service). Raw materials like wheat flour, rice, vegetables, milk and sugar is provided by the villagers living nearby. Women volunteer to cook and others take part in cleaning the utensils. Traditional cuisine is served to the pilgrims who eat while sitting in rows on the ground.

West Bengal. The tradition of Vasantotsav, meaning Spring Festival was started by poet and Nobel laureate Rabindranath Tagore at Shantiniketan, the University he founded.

What is appreciated is the grace and

The 'unholy' side of the colorful festival

A colorful festival for a colorful country, Holi, or the festivals of colours is originally an ancient Hindu festival celebrated to presage the arrival of spring, nature's gift of colour that also promises the budding of new life and harvest. Much like every other gregarious festival that draws families, friends and even strangers to come together, Holi is also observed by Hindus in Bangladesh, Pakistan as well in countries with large Indian subcontinent diaspora populations such as Suriname, Guyana, Trinidad and Tobago, South Africa, Malaysia, the United Kingdom, the United States, Canada, Australia, Mauritius, and Fiji.

What is ironical, however about this colourful festival is that, the festival, also carries a dark-side much like every other big festivals of any other faith, which many choose to conveniently ignore. Without much gibbering, here are some of the dark side of the colourful festival, Holi, that might not be so holy:

Unnecessary water wastage

A 'believed' celebration celebrated to celebrate the victory of good over evil, water balloons, pichkaaris, splashing buckets of water is all, but a new addition, an addition that needs to be discussed-about. According to a global report released by non-profit organisation WaterAid, about four billion people around the globe live in water scarce areas out of which one billion are people live in India. The report further adds that out of these billion people, almost 600 million Indians live in areas where water scarcity ranges from high to extreme. Now, if you think wasting over some 150 lakh litres of water in the name of celebration is OK, we need to rethink what celebration really is.

'Holi Hai Bura Mat Mano' as an excuse for sexual molestation

The good old excuse to get away with misdemeanour and sometimes, even sexual molestation, Holi for some, has become a 'licensed' day to get away with acts that is in no way appropriate nor lawful. How can anyone forget the 2018 case by a DU student who alleged that she was attacked by two men on a bike who flung the 'semen-filled balloons' at her during a bus ride forcing women to take to the streets to protest?

Animals as target of abuse

Unless nature has provided them with yellow, green or pink fur, coat, it is not 'cute' nor 'safe' to see the fearful, voiceless beings covered in Holi colours. By hurling them the colours on their coat, you are risking their health skin-related diseases as colours of Holi are made from harmful substances that contain metal oxides, lead, mica and sometimes pieces of glass too.

Skin diseases

Originally or historically, Holi's colour was derived from nature such as berries, fruits, flowers and the likes which can still be implimented. But, when an easier



and quicker way of colour is at our avail at every shop and every footpath, why bother? By resorting to packages of Holi colours that contain substances like mica, glass powder we are risking ourselves to severe skin or hair problems risking our health to eczema, Rhinitis, Pneumonitis, eye infection among several, several others.

The bright colour may be 'dark' for the environment

By purchasing the packet of Holi colours, we may be contributing to the commercialization of Holi which means, more deforestation as big companies clear the ground to manufacture chemically prepared colours (Dyes) which are highly toxic for the environment. They are not readily degradable under natural conditions and cannot be removed by conventional wastewater treatment methods.

Researchers Joy Joseph Gardner from University of Rajasthan and Deepanjali Lal from Jaipur National University who studied the effects of colours used during Holi on both water and soil produced some startling results for the colourful compound adding that the artificial colours that are used are highly structured polymers and are next to impossible to decompose biologically.

'They are not readily degradable under natural conditions and are typically not removed from waste water by conventional waste water treatments' he said.

As for the water bodies, bags of plastics, balloons, or plastic items such as toys can add even more pollution to the water bodies which, currently sits at one of the most polluted water bodies in the world.

Source: Newsnationtv.com



Why House panel wants govt to implement one farm law

The Standing Committee on Food, Consumer Affairs and Public Distribution has asked the government to implement in "letter and spirit" the Essential Commodities (Amendment) Act, 2020, one of the three farm laws against which the farmers are protesting at the borders of Delhi for the last 116 days.

What is the law?

The Essential Commodities (Amendment) Act, 2020 is one of the three contentious farm laws. It was enacted on September 26, 2020 by amending the Essential Commodities Act, 1955. Under the amended law, the supply of certain foodstuffs — including cereals, pulses, oilseeds, edible oils, potato — can be regulated only under extraordinary circumstances, which include an extraordinary price rise, war, famine, and natural calamity of a severe nature. In effect, the amendment takes these items out from the purview of Section 3(1), which gave powers to the central government to "control production, supply, distribution, etc., of essential commodities."

Through the Essential Commodities Act, 2020, the government has inserted sub-section I(A) in the Section 3 of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955. The new sub-section states, "the supply of such foodstuffs, including cereals, pulses, potato, onion, edible oilseeds and oils, as the Central Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, specify, may be regulated only under extraordinary circumstances which may include war, famine, extraordinary price rise and natural calamity of grave nature..."



The new law also specifies conditions when the stock limits can be imposed.

The Parliamentary Standing Committee on Food, Consumer Affairs and Public Distribution, headed by TMC member Sudip Bandyopadhyay, has recommended to the government to implement, "in letter and spirit," the Essential Commodities (Amendment) Act, 2020. In its report on 'Price Rise of Essential Commodities- Causes and Effects,' the committee has given reasons for the implementation of the law.

"The Committee note that although the country has become surplus in most agricultural commodities, farmers have been unable to get better prices due to lack of investment in cold storage, warehouses, processing and export as entrepreneurs stated to be get discouraged by the regulatory mechanisms in the Essential Commodities Act, 1955," says the report of the committee.

How is an 'essential commodity' defined?

There is no specific definition of essential commodities in The Essential Commodities Act, 1955. Section 2(A) states that an "essential commodity" means a commodity specified in the Schedule of the Act.

The Act gives powers to the central government to add or remove a commodity in the Schedule. The Centre, if it is satisfied that it is necessary to do so in public interest, can notify an item as essential, in consultation with state governments.

According to the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, which implements the Act, the Schedule at present contains seven commodities — drugs; fertilisers, whether inorganic, organic or mixed; foodstuffs including edible oils; hank yarn made wholly from cotton; petroleum and petroleum products; raw jute and jute textiles; seeds of food-crops and seeds of fruits and vegetables, seeds of cattle fodder; jute seed, cotton seed.

Farmers prepared to continue protest till November, says BKU leader Rakesh Tikait

Farmers agitating against the Centre's farm laws are prepared for a long haul, BKU leader Rakesh Tikait said on Thursday. Tikait, who is at the helm of the farmers' protest in Ghazipur, was addressing a mahapanchayat at Assandh in Haryana's Karnal district.

Asserting that protesting farmers will not relent unless the laws are repealed, Rakesh Tikait said, "We have made preparations till November-December."

Spokesperson of the Bharatiya Kisan Union (BKU), Rakesh Tikait reiterated his demand for withdrawal of the agriculture reform laws and the provision of a legal guarantee on MSP.

Referring to his late father Mahender Singh Tikait, Rakesh Tikait said, "Tikait sahib used to say that when Haryana stands in support of an agitation, government shivers."

Farmer leader Tikait went on to say that the Centre's farm laws will have an adverse impact not just on farmers but also on other sections. "This fight is not just of farmers but it is also for the poor, small traders," he said.

During his speech in Karnal on Thursday, Rakesh Tikait also said that the central government tried to break the agitation by dividing it on the lines of Punjab and Haryana. That did not work, he said adding that the protesting farmers have shown that they can look after their crops and the agitation at the same time.

"There is the possibility that in the name of corona, restrictions may be imposed but our agitation will go on. We will follow all the guidelines, but we will not end our dharnas," Rakesh Tikait said.



'Send them home happy': Congress to Centre on farmers' protest

NEW DELHI (TIP): Opposition Congress on Wednesday, March 24, urged the government to agree to the demands of farmers who are protesting against the agri laws and "send them home happy", warning that "making fun" of them would prove very costly to it.

Initiating the debate on the Finance Bill in Rajya Sabha, Congress member Deepinder Singh Hooda questioned the government over its promise of doubling the income of farmers by 2022, alleging that instead of increasing the minimum support price of crops, it was trying to snatch the MSP.

Hooda also demanded that the government express condolences over the "death of over 300 farmers during their agitation" and announce an economic package for their families along with job opportunities.

He also accused the government of following wrong economic policies



leading to a decline in economic growth. He said it was the farmers who saved the country and kept the economy alive during the coronavirus pandemic.

Hooda said that in 2015-16, the income of farmers was estimated at Rs 8,000 per month, and by 2022 it should be around

Rs 16,000 per month, but it seems to be going down as input costs especially on diesel have risen substantially.

"I urge the government to hear out farmers and show some compassion and sensitivity towards them and send them home happy after agreeing to their

demands. The government should announce an economic package for families of those who died during the protests and provide them with employment opportunities. Send the farmers back home happy.

"I urge you with folded hands not to make fun of farmers, as this would prove very costly to you. Please allow farmers to happily return home," he said. Hooda said farmers are sitting in protest for over four months now and 300 farmers have died.

"Farmers expected that you would fulfil the promise of doubling their incomes, but what has happened is that you have reduced the agriculture budget by 8.5 percent," he said.

"You promised to double farmers' income. Instead of doubling MSP rates, you are trying to snatch it away from farmers. You have attacked the MSP itself and farmers are now fighting to save it," he also said.

Joe Biden eager to fix 'broken' immigration system, says White House

Bicameral immigration Bill, if signed into law by President Biden, would also benefit hundreds and thousands of Indian IT professionals and their families

WASHINGTON (TIP): President Joe Biden is keen that the US Congress should quickly fix America's "broken" immigration system, for which he has already sent in a legislation, the White House has said. In February, the Biden administration introduced an ambitious immigration bill in Congress which among other things proposes to eliminate the per-country cap for employment-based green cards. The US Citizenship Act of 2021 proposes a pathway to citizenship to 11 million undocumented workers, elimination of per country quota for employment-based green cards and work authorization for dependents of H-1B foreign workers.

"The president...believes that there should be faster processing, that our immigration system is broken at many levels and of the system and that he is eager for Congress to move forward with action there," White House Press Secretary Jen Psaki told reporters on Wednesday at her daily news conference.

She was responding to a question on the recent protest by Indian-American doctors who are seeking the elimination of the existing per country quota for Green Card, as a result of which the backlog for Indians now runs into several decades.

A Green Card, known officially as a Permanent Resident Card, is a document issued to immigrants to the US as evidence that the bearer has been granted the privilege of residing permanently. The bicameral immigration bill, if passed by both the chambers of the Congress House of Representatives and the Senate and



White House press secretary Jen Psaki holds a press conference. - File photo / CNN Screen shot

signed into law by President Joe Biden, would bring citizenship to millions of foreign nationals, including undocumented workers and those who came to the country legally. The legislation would also benefit hundreds and thousands of Indian IT professionals and their families. Responding to another question on the inordinate delay in the issuance of employment authorization card to H4 and L2 visa holders, a significant number of whom are Indian women, Psaki said that part of the reason the administration went to push for action on immigration on the Hill is to move forward with expediting the processing and doing that on several levels, including a number of the visas.

"So, that's part of the reason why we think that's such an important piece to move forward," Psaki said.

An H-4 visa is issued by the US Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) to immediate family members (spouse and children under 21 years of age) of the H-1B visa holders, most of whom are Indian IT professionals.

The Biden administration has taken several steps to address the problems related to legal immigrants.

The citizenship bill sent by the White House to Congress includes providing new funding to the state and local governments, private organizations, educational institutions, community-based organizations, and not-for-profit organizations to expand programs to promote integration and inclusion, increase English-language instruction, and provide assistance to individuals seeking to become citizens.

This bill clears employment-based visa

backlogs, recaptures unused visas, reduces lengthy wait times, and eliminates per-country visa caps.

The bill makes it easier for graduates of US universities with advanced STEM degrees to stay in the US; improves access to green cards for workers in lower-wage sectors; and eliminates other unnecessary hurdles for employment-based green cards.

The bill provides dependents of H-1B visa holders work authorization, and children are prevented from "aging out" of the system.

The bill sent by the White House also creates a pilot programme to stimulate regional economic development, gives the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) the authority to adjust green cards based on macroeconomic conditions, and incentivizes higher wages for non-immigrant, high-skilled visas to prevent unfair competition with American workers. It also requires that the DHS and the Department of Labor establish a commission involving labor, employer, and civil rights organizations to make recommendations for improving the employment verification process.

Workers who suffer serious labor violations and cooperate with worker protection agencies will be granted greater access to U visa relief.

The bill protects workers who are victims of workplace retaliation from deportation in order to allow labor agencies to interview these workers.

It also protects migrant and seasonal workers and increases penalties for employers who violate labor laws.

(Source: PTI)

Chicago city resolution against caste crimes in India falls

COUNCILORS ARGUE AGAINST GETTING INVOLVED IN EVENTS 8,000 MILES AWAY



CHICAGO (TIP): Some spirited footwork by Indian-American businessmen and diplomats from the Indian consulate in Chicago stemmed the tide of resolutions criticizing the Modi Government's policies being passed by city councils in America.

A proposed resolution expressing the

Chicago City Council's solidarity with its South Asian community "regardless of religion and caste" failed on Wednesday, March 24.

The proposal fell by a 26-18 vote with several abstentions, which US analysts said was a tight call for a nonbinding resolution.

Several American cities, including Riverdale (Illinois), San Francisco, Seattle, Albany (New York), and St Paul (Minnesota), passed resolutions last year condemning the state violence in India.

The resolution, introduced by Maria Hadden, led to both sides of the Indian-American community getting involved in vigorous lobbying and reports said there was active assistance from Indian diplomats posted in the US. The US Ambassador to India Taranjit Sandhu is an old American hand having served

there for over a decade in several postings.

Hadden hinted at the involvement of Indian diplomats. "There were some concerns, hinted at by the Consul General, that maybe this would damage some relationships with the city. I'm uncertain if this has happened before but it's not typical," she said.

The resolution meant to condemn violence against certain castes and religious minorities in India.

But some Chicago council members, including George Cardenas, did not want to get involved in matters 8,000 miles away. "If we take this on, why not take on the Chinese ethnic cleansing debate? We are a global city; I consider us a global city. But we have many pressing issues here at home that need our attention," asked Cardenas.

Earlier, the Seattle City Council had passed a unanimous resolution criticizing the CAA and NRC. Introduced by Kshama Sawant, an Indian-American member of the City Council, it had called upon Parliament to uphold the Constitution by repealing the CAA. It has also urged India to press the stop button on the NRC and come to the aid of refugees by taking the United Nations route and ratifying the relevant treaties.

In both instances the opponents had said such resolutions needlessly sow division within Chicago's Indian-American community. The supporters argued that the latest resolution was a symbol of solidarity "with Chicago's South Asian community regardless of religion and caste".

(Source: Tribune, India)

Asian-Americans want greater share in political power post Atlanta shootings

WASHINGTON (TIP): There are at least 160 Asian-American and Pacific Islanders in 33 state legislatures nationwide, according to the Asian Pacific American Institute for Congressional Studies. A whopping 51 of those sit in Hawaii's legislature. And, out of the 535 members of Congress, just 17 are of Asian or Pacific Islander descent, according to the Congressional Research Service. There are also three nonvoting delegates who are Asian American and Pacific Islanders.

President Joe Biden and his aides have been repeatedly pressed to include Asian-Americans in his Cabinet. On Tuesday, two Democratic senators, Mazie Hirono of Hawaii and Tammy Duckworth of Illinois, threatened to oppose any upcoming nominees who don't enhance the administration's diversity.

"I've been talking to them for months and they're still not aggressive," Duckworth said. "I'll be a no on everyone until they figure this out."

Later, the two senators set aside their blockade after talks with the administration. White House press secretary Jen Psaki announced late Tuesday the addition of a senior-level Asian American Pacific Islander liaison "who will ensure the community's voice is further represented."

Biden did pick Katherine Tai, who is Taiwanese American, as his top trade envoy. She was confirmed last week, becoming the only Asian American to hold a Cabinet-level post in the new administration. Vivek Murthy, the son of Indian parents, Biden's nominee for surgeon general, a sub-Cabinet position, was confirmed



Tuesday.

Many Asian Americans say feelings of being marginalized politically will take years to fully overcome. Last week, an emotional congressional hearing cast a national spotlight on combating racism among the community - but major legislation addressing it isn't likely forthcoming.

"I think symbolism and representation matters, but only up to a point," said Aarti Kohli, executive director of Asian Americans Advancing Justice. "What's more important is actually doing the work." There are signs of change.

Kamala Harris, whose mother was born in India, is the first Black woman and person of South Asian descent to become vice president. More than 300 Asian American and Pacific Islanders ran for office up and down the ballot in 2020, according to the Asian Pacific American Institute for Congressional Studies.

More appear to be preparing campaigns for the future. Madalene Xuan-Trang Mielke, the group's president and CEO, said her organization recently held a training for people interested in joining municipal and state legislative races and had about 30 attendees. She also encourages members of the community to join local boards and commissions.

"We are subject matter experts in a wide array of industries, and we should have that be a reflection of our democracy by having people like us and others be a part of any sort of public policy conversation," Mielke said.

Asian-Americans are eyeing other major offices across the country.

In New York City, former Democratic presidential candidate Andrew Yang is gaining attention - and campaign cash - in a bid for mayor. And in California, home to the nation's largest Asian American community, elected officials are urging Democratic Gov. Gavin Newsom to appoint an attorney general of Asian descent as a successor to Xavier Becerra, who was picked as Biden's health and human services secretary.

Still, Stop AAPI Hate, an activist group that formed as shutdowns related to the pandemic were taking hold across the US, had received nearly 4,000 self-reported incidents of bias or discrimination from all 50 states as of last month. And nearly 3 in 10 Asian Americans said they'd been subjected to racial slurs or jokes since the coronavirus outbreak began, according to Pew Research Center data released last summer.

Suromurchhana's mega Annual Music Festival 2021 casts a spell on the audience

MARYLAND (TIP): Suromurchhana's mega Annual Music Festival 2021 conducted online over a six-week period from 6th February to 13th March, concluded with a grand success. The event was envisioned by Shri Sanjoy Banerjee, founder of Suromurchhana - an academy dedicated to promoting Indian classical music. This organization, which was envisioned by Vidushi Malabika Kanan, started in 2007 in Kolkata and currently operates in several locations in USA in New York, New Jersey and Maryland.

Shri Sanjoy Banerjee, a scholar of Sangeet Research Academy and a worthy disciple of Late Pt. A. Kanan and Late Vidushi Malabika Kanan, has been carrying their tradition by teaching nuances of Indian classical music to his students in India and USA at his own institution and at Chhandayan Center for Indian Music in New York. Suromurchhana, is one of the premier Indian classical music institutions in USA that has been involved in promoting this art form in a variety of means through offering classes to students both in person and online, conducting workshops and masterclasses with invited guest musicians, moderating panel discussions, and holding concerts featuring world class musicians.

The organization also provides a platform for upcoming artists and has featured several students in concert performances and participated in community events in New York City.

Suromurchhana presents
Birth Centenary Celebration of Late Pt. A. Kanan
& support musicians in the time of COVID-19

Annual Music Festival 2021

February 6th Smt. Suman Laha, Vidushi Manjusha Asanare Kelkar	February 13th Ustad Rafique Khan, Pt. Navan Ghosh & Shri Ishaan Ghosh	February 20th Smt. Namami Karmakar, Pt. Pravin Godkhindi
February 27th Smt. Namami Karmakar, Vidushi Manjusha Asanare Patil	March 6th Smt. Namami Karmakar, Pt. Uday Bhawalkar	March 13th Shri Sanjoy Banerjee, Vidushi Anupama Bhagwat

6:30 pm to 9:30 pm for every time zone

For US & Abroad Audience
Daily Pass: \$15
Festival Pass: \$60 for a limited time
\$75 - \$200
Suromurchhana.viewcy.com

For India Audience
Daily Pass: Rs.100 Festival Pass: Rs.500
GPay to 9831398466
email to suromurchhana@gmail.com

Promotional Partner: VIEWCY

Visit: www.suromurchhana.org | Suromurchhana US | Suromurchhana

Suromurchhana feels honored and privileged to follow the footsteps of its revered gurus Pt. A. Kanan & Vidushi Malabika Kanan.

The Annual Music festival consisted of twelve full featured concerts presenting star studded musicians, from different gharanas, vocal and different instruments, upcoming and master musicians including the likes of tabla virtuoso Pt. Nayan Ghosh and his son Shri Ishaan Ghosh; Pt. Uday Bhawalkar- the foremost Dhrupad vocalist; Vidushi Manjiri Asanare-Kelkar - a torch bearer of Jaipur-

Atraulia Gharana; Vidhushi Manjusha Patil of Gwalior Gharana; Pt. Pravin Godkhindi and his son Shri Shadaj Godkhindi on bansuri; Vidushi Anupama Bhagwat, sitarist, of Imdadkhani gharana; Ustad Rafique Khan, sitarist from Dharwad gharana; and Shri Suman Laha on guitar in Dhrupad style. The roster read like a "who's who" of Indian Classical Music today and featured musicians who have performed at the most prestigious festivals and conferences around the world.

The festival also presented young maestros like, Shri Yadnesh Raikar on

violin, Smt. Namami Karmakar, vocalist and senior most disciple of Shri Sanjoy Banerjee and Kumari Sumouluka Sarkar; also a student of Shri Sanjoy Banerjee. They ably presented the depth, beauty and complexity of the art form. Last but not least, through his mesmerizing renditions of khayals Shri Sanjoy Banerjee paid his homage to his gurus. All these featured concerts were enhanced by their accompanying musicians including Pt. Abhijit Banerjee, Shri Subrata Bhattacharya, Shri Nitin Ware, Shri Indranil Bhaduri, Shri Kiran Godkhindi, Shri Ishaan Ghosh, Shri Trilochan Kampli, Shri Prashant Pandav, Shri Rupak Mitra, and Shri Rahul Pophali on tabla; Shri Pratap Awad on pakhawaj; and Shri Suyog Kundalkar, Shri Anirban Chakrabarty, and Shri Dnyaneshwar Sonawane; and Shri Pratik Singh on harmonium.

This online music festival was one of the biggest online Indian classical concerts, organized in USA, that was broadcast in different time zones. Even though the audience spanned the world and were separated by geography, they watched and participated in the online festival with rapt attention and to great admiration of the melodious music that unfolded before them. The performances enthralled the audiences displaying the rich tradition, the vast range of Indian classical music and showcased several ragas set in different styles. It was a musical treat to both the student and the connoisseur.

Suromurchhana continues its mission with classes, workshops and concerts featuring promising students and artists from India and USA, and master musicians, and hopes to bring its live concerts to the audience soon. For more information visit www.suromurchhana.org.



Sonam suggests measures to tackle anonymous trolls

Actor Sonam Kapoor wondered if Twitter has 'become too toxic' after model and television personality Chrissy Teigen announced her decision to quit the platform on Wednesday night, citing negativity. Sonam suggested that ID proofs be made mandatory while creating social media accounts to combat the menace of anonymous trolling.

Sonam shared an excerpt from Chrissy's tweets: "My life goal is to make people happy. The pain I feel when I don't is too much for me." She then asked, "Has Twitter become too toxic? @Twitter @TwitterIndia @jack."

Giving a suggestion to reduce negativity on Twitter, Sonam added, "Should we all quit Twitter? I'm not very active but I get my news through it. But there is no accountability on the social media platform. Opening social media accounts should be like opening any other accounts in the real world. You should need an ID proof."

Bhagyashree returning to Bollywood After 11 years

Playing Kangana Ranaut's mother in *Thalaivi*

Maine Pyaar Kiya actress Bhagyashree is making her acting comeback with *Thalaivi* after 11 years. Bhagyashree, who had quit films after marriage to focus on her family, will be seen playing the role of J Jayalalithaa's mother in the Kangana Ranaut starrer biopic. The actress was seen for a few seconds in the trailer of the film that was released on Tuesday.

While the 52-year-old actress was seen in the 2019 Kannada film *Seetharama Kalyana*, her last Bollywood film was 'Red Alert: The War Within' co-starring Suniel Shetty.

After the trailer released on Kangana's birthday, Bhagyashree posted a still with her co-star and wrote, "Wish you a very happy birthday @kanganaranaut Congratulations on yet another national award. I am sure your sincere portrayal of Jayalalitha is going to win you more accolades ...brilliant performance. Shine bright as #thalaivi #birthdaywishes #thalaivi #kanganaranaut #allthebest #congratulations."

Offering a sneak peek into the life of the legendary J Jayalalithaa, the trailer of *Thalaivi* gave a peek into the untold story across the varied stages of



the superstar-turned-politician's life. The diverse looks of Kangana as J Jayalalithaa and Arvind Swamy as MGR have generated excitement. Fans

are waiting eagerly to witness the characters bring alive the past, owing to the striking similarities of their looks.

Taapsee Pannu announces wrap of Anurag Kashyap's Dobaaraa

Taapsee Pannu has been on a roll these days. The actress has some interesting movies in the pipeline and she has been shooting for them back to back. While the curly hair beauty had wrapped *Rashmi Rocket* and *Tahir Raj Bhasin* starrer *Loop Lapeta* early this year, Taapsee is once again making the headlines as she has wrapped another project now. We are talking about Anurag Kashyap directorial *Dobaaraa*. The movie happens to be a sci-fi thriller and had hit the floors in February this year.

Sharing the news of the wrap of *Dobaaraa*, Taapsee shared a pic with Anurag wherein they were seen shaking hands and assured fans that they will be collaborating once again. She wrote, "23 days of pure honest energy on set and it's a wrap! #Dobaaraa And on that parting note a bet is placed, the content of that bet shall be disclosed later but for now just know if I win, he will have to do another film with me of my choice and if he wins, in the next movie we do together, I shall not argue with him on set. Point being, nevertheless, u shall see us together once again....."

To note, *Dobaaraa* marked Taapsee's third collaboration with Anurag after the 2018 released *Manmarziyaan* and the 2019 released *Saand Ki Aankh* which was produced by the filmmaker. The diva was quite excited about this collaboration and wrote, "My #DobaaraaSeries Coz some collaborations deserve to be repeated. Ready to create more memories because we were running out of *Manmarziyaan* stories to tell..@anuragkashyap10 let's do this #Dobaaraa."



Anil Kapoor gifts wife Sunita Kapoor a Mercedes on her birthday

Anil Kapoor has got a sweet new gift for his wife, Sunita Kapoor. To celebrate her birthday, Anil got her a brand new Mercedes car.

The paparazzi outside his home got a good look at the new car. It is a deep black Mercedes Benz GLS which currently retails at about Rs1 crore.

Earlie in the day, Anil had shared a sweet birthday wish for his wife. Sharing a bunch of pictures with her, he wrote, "To the love of my life, @kapoor.sunita From travelling in 3rd class train compartments to local buses to rickshaws to kali peeli taxis; from flying economy to business to first class; from roughing it out in small dingy hotels in villages like Karaikudi down South to staying in a tent in Leh Ladakh...We have done it all with a smile on our faces and love in our hearts. These are just some of the million reasons I love you...You are the reason behind my smile and you are why our journey together has been so happy and fulfilled. I feel blessed to have you as my soul mate and partner for life, today, everyday and forever ...Happy Birthday...Love You Always."





Helen Mirren cast as villain in Shazam: Fury of the Gods

Hollywood veteran Helen Mirren will be playing the main villain in DC Films and New Line's upcoming superhero movie Shazam! Fury of the Gods. Mirren, the star of films such as The Queen, Hitchcock and Red series, will play Hespera, the villainous daughter of the god Atlas, reported Variety.

Zachary Levi will return as the titular superhero for the movie, which is a sequel to 2019 hit Shazam!.

David F Sandberg, who helmed the first part, is also coming back to direct the sequel from a screenplay by Henry Gayden.

Actor Asher Angel will reprise his role of teenager Billy Batson.

Newcomer Rachel Zegler, who is set to make her screen debut as Maria in Steven Spielberg's take on classic movie West Side Story, will also feature in the new movie in a key role.

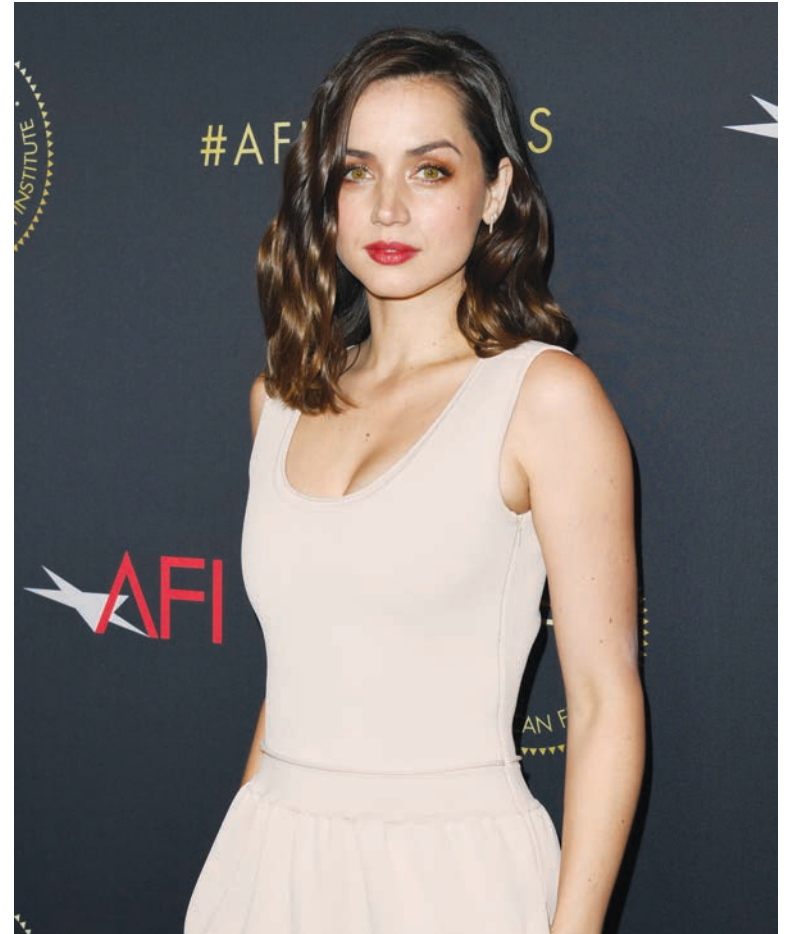
Ana de Armas fuels rumours she's back with Ben Affleck, then shuts them down

Actor Ana de Armas on Sunday fuelled rumours that she'd gotten back together with Ben Affleck. She took to Instagram Stories and posted a picture of herself wearing a necklace she used to wear when she was reportedly dating Affleck last year. They were said to have split up earlier this year.

The picture shared by her showed the actor wearing a beige top, and a half-heart pendant. Fans were quick to notice that it was one half of the matching pendant she used to wear with Affleck.

However, the actor seemingly dismissed the rumours almost immediately when she posted a follow-up story, which was simply a collection of stickers that said 'nope' and 'I don't think so'.

"Ana de Armas really said: thank you, next," one fan wrote in a tweet. Another person tweeted, "Omg it's March 2020 all over again. We're in the middle of a global pandemic. Barchie isn't getting together after getting my hopes up. And Ben Affleck and Ana de Armas might be dating again." A third person commented, "Ben Affleck and Ana de Armas are still dating which means 2020 never ended." "Ben is no longer dating Ana. Their relationship was complicated. Ana does not want to be Los Angeles based and Ben obviously has to since his kids live in Los Angeles," a source told People magazine earlier this year.



Scarlett Johansson-starrer Black Widow release date postponed

Marvel Studios has announced that the release of Scarlett Johansson-starrer Black Widow has been postponed. In a blow to fans, the release has been pushed to July 9 from May 7. The movie will get simultaneous release in the theatres and on streaming service Disney Plus. For home viewers on Disney Plus, the movie will be released at an additional cost to subscribers.

Taking to social media platform Marvel Studios shared a poster featuring Scarlett with a post that read, "Black Widow in theatres July 9 and on Disney Plus with Premier Access. Additional fees required."

Johansson's Black Widow, the long-awaited solo film based on Marvel Cinematic Universe (MCU) superhero Natasha Romanoff, has been pushed back by two months. The Cate Shortland-directed film has been delayed three times since the pandemic started in 2020. It was originally scheduled to release in theatres on May 20, 2020.

Johansson's Black Widow, the long-awaited solo film based on Marvel Cinematic Universe (MCU) superhero Natasha Romanoff, has been pushed back by two months. The Cate Shortland-directed film has been delayed three times since the pandemic started in 2020. It was originally scheduled to release in theatres on May 20, 2020.



Pierce Brosnan joins Dwayne Johnson's 'Black Adam' as superhero

Former James Bond Pierce Brosnan has something exciting up his sleeve as the dashing actor has now been roped in for his first role as a superhero.

The actor will now play the role of Dr Fate in DC and New Line's 'Black Adam' feature alongside Dwayne Johnson who will play the titular role in the feature.

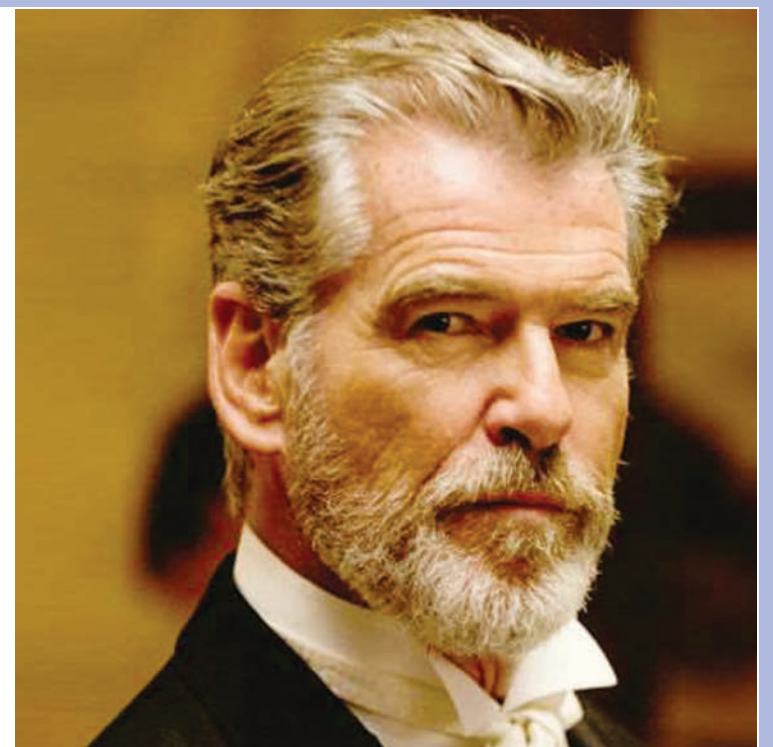
Pierce Brosnan's Dr Fate is also known as Kent Nelson, founding member of the Justice Society who gains superpowers through putting on the magical Helmet of Fate.

Meanwhile, the casting has now been complete with the addition of Brosnan as Black Adam now comprises Aldis Hodge playing Hawkman, Noah Centineo as Atom Smasher and Quintessa Swindell taking on Cyclone.

'Black Adam' follows the story of the anti-hero of the same name, played by Dwayne Johnson. The character of Black Adam first appeared in DC Comics in the 1940s as a power-corrupt villain, and slowly became an anti-hero by the 2000s, known for his disregard of rules and conventions.

'Black Adam' is directed by Jaume Collet-Serra, who also directed Johnson in Disney's 'Jungle Cruise'.

It's being produced by Dwayne Johnson, Dany Garcia and Hiram Garcia of Seven Bucks Productions with Beau Flynn of FlynnPictureCo.



commUNITY: Herald Native Women

BY MABEL PAIS

“commUNITY: Herald Native Women” features a curation of online films all produced and/or directed by Native women. These films can be streamed online worldwide until March 31, 2021.

The program portrays Native women in leadership, coming of age, and language revitalization stories suitable for the entire family. Accompanying the films, Vision Maker Media, in partnership with Americans for Indian Opportunity (AIO) hosts a moderated panel with effective Native women leaders for social change. For more information, visit visionmakermedia.org

The films are FREE and open to the public, but REGISTRATION is required.

The following films can be watched now:

APACHE 8

This is the story of the courageous all-female Apache 8 firefighting unit which has protected their reservation and responded to wildfires around the nation for 30 years. This group, which recently became co-ed, earned the reputation of being fierce, loyal and dependable-and tougher than their male colleagues.

Watch now - youtu.be/Eh6l5mjUZgY

KEEP TALKING

"Keep Talking" follows four Alaska Native women



Vision Maker Media Logo - Photo / Vision Maker Media

fighting to save Kodiak Alutiiq, a critically endangered language with only 41 fluent Elders remaining.

Watch now - youtu.be/Jbs_Fw0Le5w

MEDICINE WOMAN

What does it take to heal a people? That's the question at the heart of "Medicine Woman," a one-hour PBS documentary interweaving the lives of Native headers of today with that of the first Native American doctor.

Watch now - youtu.be/Jbs_Fw0Le5w

OHERO: KON UNDER THE HUSK

"Ohero: Kon Under The Husk" is a 26-minute documentary following the journey of two Mohawk girls as they take part in their traditional passage rites to becoming Mohawk Women.

Watch now - youtu.be/zBPDAIvGfbc

KINAALDA: NAVAJO RITE OF PASSAGE

A Navajo filmmaker turns the camera on herself and her family as she documents the Kinaalda, or coming of age ceremony, of her niece.

Watch now - youtu.be/Xg-kDBfiBo

LADONNA HARRIS: INDIAN 101"

"LaDonna Harris: Indian 101" chronicles the life of Comanche activist and national civil rights leader LaDonna Harris and her influences in Native and mainstream American history.

Watch now - youtu.be/JZxRTmO33Dk

WITHOUT A WHISPER - KONNON:KWE

Explore the untold story of how indigenous women influenced the early suffragists in their fight for freedom and equality.

Watch now - youtu.be/y9AsnyielBI

About Vision Maker Media

Vision Maker Media empowers and engages Native people to share stories. They envision a world changed and healed by understanding Native stories and the public conversations. To learn more, visit www.visionmakermedia.org

New York's Women who made history

BY MABEL PAIS

In New York City, throughout history, many women have risen to national and international renown. Their significant achievements in the arts, politics and urban planning can be celebrated every day throughout the five boroughs. Read up on some of the City's most prominent women and where to pay tribute to them.

Shirley Chisholm



Congresswoman Shirley Chisholm announcing her candidacy for 1972 presidential nomination.

Photo / Courtesy Library of Congress

HOW SHE MADE HER MARK: Chisholm, a native Brooklynite, spent a lifetime advocating for equal rights on behalf of women and minorities. She was the first African American woman in Congress-elected in 1968-where she served seven terms in the House of Representatives. She was also the first African American to seek the nomination for president of the United States from one of the two major political parties, running as a Democrat in 1972.

PAY TRIBUTE TODAY: Shirley Chisholm Circle, in Crown Heights' Brower Park, and at Shirley Chisholm State Park, on the waterfront in Brooklyn's East New York neighborhood.

Bella Abzug

How she made her mark: Feminist, civil rights advocate and a three-term member of Congress, the

Bronx-born Abzug spent much of her career pressing for women to have a central role in politics. Prior to her time in the House (1971-77), she spent two decades as a lawyer advocating for underserved populations. After taking the oath of office for the 92nd Congress, Abzug took a "people's oath," administered by Shirley Chisholm (see above), to recognize her continued work for all people.

PAY TRIBUTE TODAY: Bella Abzug Park, a green space in Hudson Yards, and Bella Abzug Way, at the intersection of Bank Street and Greenwich Avenue.

Peggy Guggenheim

How she made her mark: Credited with launching the career of Jackson Pollock, Peggy Guggenheim (niece of Solomon) is part of the famed Guggenheim art family. She supported many upstart artists and collected their works, which can be seen in Venice's Peggy Guggenheim Collection. This put her smack dab in the middle of the modern art movement in the 20th century, as did her gallery's 1943 show 'Exhibition by 31 Women,' the first-ever dedicated to female artists in America.

PAY TRIBUTE TODAY: Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum.

Caroline Schermerhorn Astor



Trinity Church yard Photo / Will Steacy

HOW SHE MADE HER MARK: Wife of William Backhouse Astor Jr. and mother to John Jacob Astor IV,

"the Mrs. Astor" created the famous List of 400, which included high-society families that represented the crème de la crème of New York money. (Absent was the Vanderbilt family, who the Astors considered "crass.") She held society parties at her Fifth Avenue townhouse, now the location of the Empire State Building.

PAY TRIBUTE TODAY: Uptown Manhattan's Trinity Church Cemetery and Mausoleum, where the Astor family is interred in a vault. In Lower Manhattan, a 39-foot-tall cenotaph honoring Mrs. Astor is set in the yard of Trinity Church.

Alice Austen

HOW SHE MADE HER MARK: A pioneering journalistic photographer who produced nearly 8,000 images over her lifetime, Austen was one of the first women on Staten Island to own a car. Her work documented life in the borough. During the Victorian Era, Austen chose to live with her girlfriend, with whom she remained partnered for 50 years. Austen was in attendance at the first Alice Austen Day, attended by approximately 300 people, on October 9, 1951. She died soon after.

PAY TRIBUTE TODAY: Her former home, where she developed her images, is open to the public as the Alice Austen House Museum.

Billie Holiday

HOW SHE MADE HER MARK: In the late 1920s, at the height of the Harlem Renaissance movement, Holiday began singing at jazz nightclubs in the neighborhood; she eventually scored a record deal in 1935. Her biggest hit? The song "Strange Fruit" (though it was considered too controversial for airplay). Throughout her career she performed all over New York City-around 30 times at the Apollo alone-and pioneered a jazz vocal style defined by her melodic phrasing and interplay with instrumentation. In short, she was one of the most influential singers of her time.

PAY TRIBUTE TODAY: Apollo Theater.

(WOMEN WHO MADE HISTORY IN NEW YORK - TO BE CONTINUED)

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

NJYS Concerto winners give Recital

BY MABEL PAIS

"I always knew that music and youth are a dynamic combination, but it seems more powerful during the pandemic."- Helen H. Cha-Pyo, Artistic Director & Principal Conductor

The New Jersey Youth Symphony (NJYS) presents a virtual recital featuring the 2021 Concerto Competition Winners on Friday, March 26 at 7:00 p.m. EST on WhartonArts.tv. The concert will feature this year's first place winner, violinist Samantha Liu; second place winner, clarinetist Alex Cha; and third place winners violinist James Song and pianist Sarah Ouyang; as well as the 2020 Concerto Competition Winner, French hornist Thomas McGrath.

New Jersey's largest youth orchestra program holds the annual competition for current members of the NJYS Youth Symphony with the top winner earning the opportunity to perform with the ensemble at a prestigious concert hall. This year, the competition was held virtually with 19 entrants performing for two guest adjudicators, Ilmar Gavilan, violinist of Harlem Quartet and Dr. Mark Laycock, professor of orchestral studies at Wichita State University.



NJYS Concerto Winners - Photo / WIPA

First place winner Samantha Liu of Basking Ridge, a junior at Basking Ridge High School, will perform the first movement from Barber's Concerto for Violin and Orchestra, Op. 14. She has studied violin for nine years with Yousun Kim and has been a member of the NJYS for six years. She wants to thank her violin teacher, her NJYS friends, and Artist Director and Principal Conductor Helen H. Cha-Pyo, all of whom inspire her to be a better musician. She looks forward to making live music together in the spring.

Second place winner Alex Cha of Westfield, a senior at Westfield High School, will perform the first movement from Mozart's Clarinet Concerto in A major, K. 622. A proud member of the NJYS's Clarinet Quartet and Youth Symphony, he has been playing the clarinet for over nine years and currently studies with Jo-Ann Sternberg at the Manhattan School of Music Pre-College Division. Accolades in his musical career include placing first in the National Artists Competition and second place in the International Grande Music Competition as well as performing with the New Jersey Regional and All-State Bands.

Third place winner James Song of New Providence, a senior at the Union County Magnet High School, will perform the Finale from Bruch's Violin Concerto No. 1 in G minor, Op. 26. He studies with Oleg Pavlov and joins NJYS in his freshman year of high school as a member of NJYS. He has been placed in several competitions, most notably First Place in the American Protege International Concerto Competition (2020), Grand Prix Winner in the Concert Festival International Competition (2020), and Second Place in the American Protege International Piano & Strings Competition (2017).

Third place winner Sarah Ouyang of Basking Ridge, a junior at Ridge High School, will perform the first movement from Mozart's Piano Concerto No. 23 in A major, K. 488. A young musician who loves both the piano and the cello, she studies piano with Gloria Chu and cello with Gerall Hieser. She has performed as a piano soloist with Sinfonica del Festival di

Chioggia under the baton of Maestro Pietro Perini at the International Festival Musica in Laguna in Chioggia, Italy, as well as performing Beethoven's Piano Concerto No. 1 in C Major, Op. 15 with the Plainfield Symphony Orchestra under the direction of Maestro Charles Prince. As a cellist, she joined NJYS in 2015 and has been a proud member of NJYS since 2018.

In 2020 the NJYS Concerto Competition Winner Thomas McGrath of Princeton, a senior at Princeton High School, will perform Mozart's Horn Concerto No. 1 in D major, K. 412. He studies with Kathryn Mehrtens at The College of New Jersey and has performed with the New Jersey All-State Wind Ensemble and All-State Orchestra (Principal horn, 2020), Central Jersey Regional Orchestra, and Philadelphia Sinfonia.

NJYS, WIPA & PMP

The New Jersey Youth Symphony (NJYS), founded in 1979, is a tiered orchestral program offering ensemble education for students in grades 3-12 across New Jersey. NJYS has grown from one orchestra of 65 students to over 500 students in 15 different orchestras and ensembles, including the internationally recognized Youth Symphony.

NJYS is a program of the Wharton Institute for the Performing Arts (WIPA). Wharton is New Jersey's largest non-profit performing arts education organization serving over 1,500 students of all ages and abilities through a range of classes and ensembles.

In addition to the New Jersey Youth Symphony (NJYS), programs include the Paterson Music Project (PMP), an El Sistema-inspired program that uses music as a vehicle for social change by empowering and inspiring children through the community experience of ensemble learning and playing in its hometown of Paterson.

To learn more about NJYS, PMP and WIPA, visit WhartonArts.org

FILM

BY MABEL PAIS

STILL LIFE IN LODZ

DIR/PROD: Slawomir Grünberg | 2021 | Polish w/Eng subs | 1h 16m

"The individual stories are powerful, as are the visual comparisons between present-day and historical locations. A few animated sequences effectively evoke the evanescence of memory." - Ben Kenigsberg, 'The New York Times'

The film takes a look at how fragile - but also how incredibly necessary - our relationship with the past is for creating the future.

STILL LIFE IN LODZ," an emotionally riveting documentary that journeys to the historically tumultuous city of Lodz, Poland, has at its heart



Lilka, Paul and Roni place 'Still Life' photo back in original place - Photo / StillLifeInLodz.com

the lure of family mysteries. Here, a surprise reunion with a painting that hung in the same apartment for 75 world-altering years becomes a probing investigation into the power of memory, art, time and resilience.

Once, this painting was the constant companion to Lilka Elbaum, who grew up in Lodz and lived there until 1968, when at the age of 19, an antisemitic purge drove her and her entire family out of Poland. The portrait might have been a simple likeness of lush flowers and ripe fruit, but for Lilka, it had been an indelible connection to her childhood and to Lodz itself.

Forty-eight years later, by remarkable chance, Lilka has an emotional re-encounter with the painting in

Lodz. This will spark a new journey full of startling new discoveries but also to a reckoning with the countless ghosts and complicated stories of the city. She brings two important companions on her trek, each with roots in Lodz from different eras, each searching for their own answers. New Yorker Paul Celler brings the perspective of a second-generation Holocaust survivor as he traces how his mother, against all odds, made it out of the Lodz Ghetto and Auschwitz. Exploring the preWar life of Lodz is Israeli artist Roni Ben Ari who is drawn back to the spot of her family's textile workshop once located in Lilka's same building. Together, the trio maps their own labyrinthine stories onto Lodz's current landscape.

For Lilka, Paul and Roni, diving into the riddles and secrets of Lodz's past brings new personal revelations. But it also opens a way forward. For they each believe that a brighter future can be built by truly honoring the voices that still speak from Lodz's streets and walls...and from a painting that even in stillness was able to contain some of the vast beauty, wonders and sorrows of an entire century.

To access screenings, visit www.stilllifeinlodz.com/screenings

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

India, US agree to work towards resolving key bilateral trade issues

India and the United States have agreed to work constructively to resolve key outstanding bilateral trade issues and to take a comprehensive look at ways to expand the trade relationship, the Biden administration has said.

United States Trade Representative Katherine Tai discussed the important trade and investment relationship between the two countries during her maiden phone call with her Indian counterpart Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal.

"They committed to strengthening cooperation on shared objectives and to revitalise engagement through the US-India Trade Policy Forum. They also agreed to work constructively to resolve key outstanding bilateral trade issues and to take a comprehensive look at ways to expand the trade relationship," the United States Trade Representative (USTR) said in a readout of the call on Thursday.

Tai, who was confirmed by the Senate only a few days ago, stressed the critical importance of cooperation on a broad set of issues, including digital trade, intellectual property, agriculture, labor, and climate and environment.

Tai and Goyal agreed to hold the next ministerial-level meeting of the Trade Policy Forum during 2021, the USTR said.

Supreme Court upholds Tata Sons' appeal in Mistry case

The Supreme Court on Friday set aside a 2019 order of the National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT) which reinstated Cyrus Mistry as the executive chairman of the over \$100 billion Tata Sons. It allowed Tata Sons' appeal, holding that well-settled principles had been overturned by the NCLAT when it decided the dispute in the previous round.

"All the appeals filed by Tata Sons against Cyrus Mistry are allowed," the bench headed by Chief Justice of India (CJI) SA Bobde added.

Mistry had succeeded Ratan Tata as chairman of Tata Sons in 2012 but was ousted four years later in a board meet.

About the issues relating to valuation of shares and the Shapoorji Pallonji (SP) Group pledging its shares in Tata Sons to raise funds, the top court maintained that both parties were at liberty to raise these before appropriate forum and that the court would not pass any order.

2nd wave of Covid-19 in India could last up to 100 days, peak in April: Report

NEW DELHI (TIP): India is in the midst of a second wave of the Covid-19 pandemic. Considering the duration from the present level of daily new cases to the peak India saw last year, the country is expected to reach the high in the second half of April. The second wave, which could last until the end of May, could see an addition of 25 lakh cases if trends till March 23 are taken into consideration.

These projections are part of findings of a State Bank of India (SBI) research report titled 'The second wave of infections: The beginning of the end' by Chief Economic Advisor Soumya Kanti Ghosh.

In the report, Ghosh assessed that the duration of the second Covid-19 wave might last up to 100 days starting from Feb 15, while he added that vaccination is a more effective way than lockdown to beat the pandemic.

"Though global Covid-19 experience shows the second wave much higher in intensity than the first wave, presence of vaccine makes the difference currently. But India will be able to manage the situation better," the report said.

India reported 53,476 cases in a day on March 25, the highest since November 6, 2020 -- Maharashtra and Punjab being the worst-affected states.

The daily spike in coronavirus cases during the peak in the second wave could be much higher than last year, the report warns as it cites France which saw the peak of daily cases around 11.5 times more than the first wave.

The only silver lining this time, according to the report, is the availability of vaccines against Covid-19.

The report argued that if one considers the number of days taken to reach the current level from the lowest level of



daily new cases witnessed on February 21, the time it took for the second Covid-19 wave to hit India is similar to what happened in the first wave.

"However, the difference lies in the speed of spread of infection in states like Gujarat, MP, Maharashtra, Punjab and Chhattisgarh, where the cases have increased at a much faster pace during the current second wave," the report stated.

Considering the number of days from the current level of daily new cases to the peak level during the first wave, India might reach the peak in the second half of April, the report says and adds that the entire duration of the second wave might last up to 100 days counted (from Feb 15). A district-wise analysis in the report revealed that cases have again started rising in the top 15 districts of India, mostly urban, while the spread in rural districts is almost stable.

It says that cases are largely localised and concentrated and while Rajasthan, Gujarat, Kerala, Uttarakhand, Haryana

have vaccinated more than 20 per cent of their elderly population, other states with a higher elderly population (>60 years) like Punjab, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra and West Bengal have vaccinated a lesser percentage.

The report points out that Kerala had the maximum number of worst-affected districts in January 2021. However, all districts in this top-10 list are now rural districts of Maharashtra.

Recommending a strong push to the vaccination programme, the report says, "If the daily vaccine inoculation increases to 40-45 lakh from the current maximum level of 34 lakh, then we can vaccinate our population above 45 years in four months from now."

The SBI report also proposes restrictions to prevent the spread of Covid-19. "Air travel has slowly inched towards the level it was at...However, a plethora of new variants emerging still make a case for being wary about the overall recovery in air travel," the report noted. *Source: India Today*

NIA claims suspended Mumbai Police officer Vaze admitted to planting explosives

MUMBAI (TIP): The suspended Mumbai police officer, Sachin Vaze, said that he is being made a scapegoat after an NIA officer claimed that he admitted to planting explosives outside Mukesh Ambani's house in Mumbai. Sachin Vaze has been sent to NIA custody till April 3.

Upon extension of custody, Vaze told the court that he is being made a scapegoat. "I have nothing to do with the crime," he added.

During the hearing Vaze said: "I had investigated this case till I was in charge of it. Also, I wasn't the only one, the crime branch and Mumbai Police did what they had to. Now, suddenly these charges have come up against me."

The senior cop said that he had gone to the NIA all by himself but was suddenly arrested. "It is being said that I have accepted my crime. This is not true," Vaze said.

Court has now asked Vaze to give his statement in writing.

Suspended Mumbai cop Sachin Vaze was today produced in the National Investigation Agency (NIA) court. He has



Suspended Mumbai police officer Sachin Vaze said that he is being made a scapegoat after an NIA officer claimed that he admitted to planting explosives outside Mukesh Ambani's house in Mumbai. Sachin Vaze has been sent to NIA custody till April 3.

been in NIA's custody for his alleged role in planting an explosive-laden SUV near industrialist Mukesh Ambani's residence Antilia in Mumbai on February 25.

Vaze's NIA's custody was supposed to end on March 25. Meanwhile, on Wednesday, the NIA had invoked provisions of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) in the case.

Vaze, an assistant police inspector (API) with the Mumbai police, has been charged under sections 16 and 18 of the UAPA, sources said.

The NIA authority said that they have so far recorded statements of 35 people and their team is also scanning through 112TB of data.

Meanwhile, sources said NIA officers have also recorded the statement of the mysterious woman who was seen with Vaze.

'Motive'

Investigating officer Vikram Khatale said: "During the probe, Sachin Vaze claimed that he wanted to be a super cop. He had planned to plant the explosives and later detect them. He wanted to make some name for himself."

"We are, however, verifying his claim," added the officer. *Source: India Today*

Budget session curtailed due to state polls; LS output 114%

NEW DELHI (TIP): Parliament was on March 25 adjourned sine die with the Budget session cut short by 14 days in view of the Assembly elections in West Bengal, Assam, Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Puducherry.

The second leg of the session, which began on March 8, was scheduled to end on the April 8. Members of the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha had urged the government to curtail the session keeping in view of state elections. The demand had become stronger after Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla tested positive for Covid-19.

After Question Hour in the Lok Sabha, Congress MP Ravneet Singh said, "The Budget session is going on... the entire country is watching. Should we meet the PM in a West Bengal rally?"

Even as Minister of State of Parliamentary Affairs Arjun Ram Meghwal was telling Ravneet Singh that this was "not correct as the PM had been attending" the proceedings, PM Modi walked into the House. Congress leader Rahul Gandhi and several Cabinet ministers were also present on the occasion. In his valedictory speech, presiding officer Bhartruhari Mahtab said 18 Bills were passed



and 17 introduced in the House. The productivity of the Lok Sabha stood at 114 per cent during the Budget session and 146 MPs participated in the discussion on the Union Budget, he said.

Rajya Sabha Chairman M Venkaiah Naidu said the Upper House functioned for 104 hours as against the total scheduled time of 116 hours. "Against a total of 33 sittings scheduled, from January 29 to April 8, we are concluding it after having 23 sittings," he said. The Budget session provided the members of this House an opportunity to deliberate on issues concerning economic growth and recovery, particularly in the post-Covid phase, he said.

In a media briefing, Parliamentary Affairs Minister Pralhad Joshi said the Budget session remained highly productive due to the cooperation of parliamentarians from all parties.

The Rajya Sabha on Thursday passed the Bill for setting up the National Bank for Financing Infrastructure and Development (NaBFID). Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said despite remaining out of purview of the "3Cs" (CBI, CVC and CAG), it would not be beyond oversight. It would submit its audited reports to both Houses of Parliament besides being duty-bound to submit these as and when sought by the government, she said. *Source: TNS*

2 die in Mumbai covid centre fire, 70 patients rescued

MUMBAI (TIP): At least two persons have reportedly perished and around 73 evacuated after a major fire engulfed the Sunrise Hospital located within the Dreamz Mall in Mumbai's Bhandup, early on Friday, March 26, officials said.

The blaze was noticed around midnight on the first floor and quickly spread to the two upper floors of the 3-storied mall which houses the Covid-19 hospital on the top floor.

Mumbai Fire Brigade and disaster teams rushed to combat the blaze and to rescue and transfer the Covid patients to other hospitals in the vicinity.

While the BMC said that there were no casualties, a hospital statement said early today that there were bodies of 2 Covid-19 patients in the premises, and further details of the same are awaited.

At least 10 fire-tenders were battling the blaze till this morning and top officials including Additional Municipal Commissioner Suresh Kakani, top fire brigade, police and civic officials rushed to the spot.



Caste-based reservations may go, but it's for Parliament to decide: SC

NEW DELHI (TIP): All caste-based reservations may go and only those meant for Economically Weaker Sections (EWS) may remain, the Supreme Court said on Thursday, March 25, even as it clarified that it was a radical idea and a policy matter to be decided by the government and Parliament.

On the ninth day of hearing on revising the 1992 Mandal case, advocate Shriram P Pingle submitted before a five-judge Constitution Bench led by Justice Ashok Bhushan on behalf of SCBC Welfare Association that an endeavour should be made to remove caste-based reservations in a phased manner because the issue was getting politicised.

"That is for Parliament and the legislature to consider. It is a welcome idea... When the Constitution was enacted, the object was a casteless, egalitarian society... Your thoughts are very radical and good. But it is for the government to take a decision that caste and reservations should go," the Bench said.

It said, "Mr Pingle you may be right. This may be a beginning, all reservations may go and only EWS (reservation) may remain. But these are policy matters," it noted. Noting that affirmative action was not limited to reservation alone, the top court had on Monday said states should take additional steps to promote education and establish institutions for the upliftment of socially and educationally backward classes (SEBS). "Why can't other things be done. Why not promote education and establish more institutes? Somewhere this matrix has to move beyond reservation. Affirmative action is not just reservation," it had noted. *Source: TNS*

Delhi-Dhaka ties move beyond symbolism, seek to power growth and connectivity

NEW DELHI (TIP): Prime Minister Narendra Modi laid the foundation for his neighbourhood visit well before he took oath on May 26, 2014 when he asked Ajit Doval, the then director of Delhi-based think tank Vivekananda International Foundation, to request leaders of Saarc countries to attend the swearing-in ceremony at the Rashtrapati Bhavan forecourt.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina couldn't make it. She had a scheduled visit to Japan at that time and conveyed through her interlocutors that Bangladesh Parliament Speaker Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury would represent Dhaka at the event.

As PM Modi landed in Dhaka on Friday to begin a two-day visit to remember 'Bangabandhu' Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, the father of the nation of Bangladesh, and celebrate the golden jubilee of the 1971 liberation war, India's ties with Bangladesh has gone way beyond symbolism. It is part of an integrated vision of PM Modi for the development of eastern India, particularly the North-East with the help and support of Bangladesh.

What started with a historical 2015 Land Boundary Agreement (LBA) to settle legacy issues with Bangladesh has developed into a close partnership with India making it a priority to supply Covid-19 vaccine to Dhaka under the "Vaccine Maitri" initiative. PM Modi has made it clear to all that Bangladesh, like Bhutan, Nepal and Myanmar, occupy a special place in Indian diplomacy and all help should be extended to them for mutual growth and security. Since 2014, the bilateral relationship with Dhaka has achieved the following milestones:

- Land Boundary Agreement
- Restoration of pre-1965 rail links with India. Five out of six have been completed.
- Reviving the protocol on inland water and trade transit.
- Agreement on the use of Chittagong and Mongla ports for trade and transit.
- Building of the Maitree Bridge on the Feni river.
- Agreement to export power including building a transmission line from Berhampur in India to Bheramara in Bangladesh
- Supply of diesel to Bangladesh from Numaligarh



Prime Minister Narendra Modi's two-day visit to Bangladesh is part of his continuing focus on cementing ties with the neighbour. (Twitter/PMO India)

refinery.

While Bangladesh is the key to connectivity to north-eastern India, it also fits into the calculus of trans-Asian highways that will link India to Vietnam by road and could become an economic engine for growth in Myanmar, Thailand, Cambodia, Laos and Vietnam.

The development and growth of India's eastern flank will not only contribute to its GDP with tourism holding a vast potential in North-East but also politically stabilise the region with the Bharatiya Janata Party is a major political force on the eastern front.

The development of ties with immediate neighbours is also a priority with PM Modi, now that legacy issues like Article 370 and 35 A have been resolved and Kashmir is no longer the permanent stick for adversaries to beat India. When PM Modi becomes the first foreign leader to visit the Bangabandhu mausoleum at Tungipara tomorrow, he will be taking the next steps to cement ties with Dhaka under Sheikh Hasina's leadership. *Source: HT*



Russia opposition leader Navalny's health worsens in prison

MOSCOW (TIP): Russian opposition leader Alexei Navalny has suffered back pains and leg problems in prison, his lawyer said Thursday.

The lawyer, Olga Volkova, said Navalny's condition has notably deteriorated in recent days.

"He's suffering strong pains in his back and his right leg. He's feeling numbness in his right lower leg," Volkova said outside the prison in remarks carried by independent Dozhd TV. "His right leg is in terrible shape."

The 44-year-old Navalny, who is President Vladimir Putin's most outspoken opponent, was arrested on January 17 upon his return from Germany, where he spent five months recovering from a nerve-agent poisoning that he blames on the Kremlin. Russian authorities have rejected the accusation.

Volkova said Navalny was taken to a hospital outside prison on Wednesday for magnetic resonance tomography but wasn't given the results. She said Navalny has received pills and ointment for his pain, but prison authorities refused to accept medicines that lawyers brought to him.

Volkova said Navalny had experienced back pain for four weeks, but prison officials also would not permit a visit by his doctor. The lawyer argued that authorities should transfer Navalny to Moscow so he could get better treatment.

Earlier this month, Navalny was moved to a prison colony in Pokrov in the Vladimir region, 85 kilometers (53 miles) east of Moscow. The facility stands out among Russian penitentiaries for its particularly strict regime that includes routines like standing at attention for hours.

Russia's Federal Penitentiary Service said earlier Thursday that Navalny had undergone medical check-ups the previous day, describing his condition as "stable and satisfactory." Last month, Navalny was sentenced to 2½ years in prison for violating the terms of his probation while convalescing in Germany. The sentence stems from a 2014 embezzlement conviction that Navalny has rejected as fabricated — and which the European Court of Human Rights has ruled to be unlawful.

Russian officials have rejected demands from the United States and the European Union to free Navalny and stop the crackdown on his supporters. AP

With all votes counted in Israel's polls, Arab leader seems to be emerging as 'kingmaker'

JERUSALEM (TIP): Mansour Abbas, an Arab leader in Israel seems to have emerged as the unusual "kingmaker" whose possible support has split open differences not only in the ruling Likud party, but also in its right-wing coalition, making the road to the government formation even more bumpy for Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

Netanyahu's Likud party has emerged as the largest party, with all votes counted in Israel's unprecedented fourth election in less than two years. However, it still does not have a clear path to a 61-seat majority needed to form a coalition in the 120 member Knesset (Israeli Parliament).

The anti-Netanyahu bloc, comprising left, right and centrist factions which is boosted by some "friends turned foes" determined to oust Israel's longest-serving premier, is also short of a majority in a highly-divided Israeli political spectrum.

Most of the analysts predicted a Netanyahu-led coalition, based on the exit polls on Tuesday, with the support of Yamina party led by former defence minister Naftali Bennett, who has not declared his support for anyone but his political inclination is more likely to draw him towards the Prime Minister led right-wing bloc.

Bennett and Netanyahu had bitterly attacked each other during the election campaign but the former did not rule out sitting in the government with the latter.

However, in a surprising twist to the tale, the Islamist United Arab List party (UAL), headed by Abbas, managed to cross the threshold belying all predictions and secured four Knesset seats, spoiling the turf for the



Netanyahu camp which finds itself at 59 seats, in the best-case scenario including Bennett's Yamina party, making Abbas' support indispensable if the Prime Minister does not manage to split other parties opposed to him and draw the required support to form the government. The UAL and Yamina have not yet declared their support for either bloc. Abbas on Wednesday continued to be evasive over potential alliances, telling Channel 12 that "UAL's approach is to not rule out anyone who does not rule us out. If a ruling party makes contact, Ra'am will hold the process appropriately and respectfully, our partners would be a ruling party and a candidate for Prime Minister, not their satellite candidate".

He said that he has not yet been contacted by Netanyahu.

The UAL could potentially put either side over the 61-seat mark for a majority, but right-wing politicians, both in the pro-Netanyahu bloc and the anti-Netanyahu camp, have ruled out basing a

coalition on the party's support, due to what they say is an anti-Zionist stance.

Netanyahu himself has in the past ruled out sitting with the UAL in a coalition.

However, the Prime Minister is concerned that Abbas could support a possible legislation being considered by his opponents that would prevent him from forming a coalition, Kan Radio reported on Thursday.

Netanyahu's opponents are also considering the possibility of replacing Likud lawmaker Yariv Levin as Knesset speaker, shifting control over Parliament's agenda to a lawmaker opposed to the Prime Minister.

With the speakership, lawmakers from the anti-Netanyahu bloc could pass legislation barring a candidate under criminal indictment from forming a government.

Doing so would prevent Netanyahu, who is on trial in three graft cases, from being tasked with assembling a coalition. PTI

African elephants face growing risk of extinction: Red List

GENEVA (TIP): African elephants living in forests and savannas are increasingly threatened with extinction, the Red List of species in trouble showed on Thursday, as conservationists called for an urgent end to poaching.

The new assessments by the International Union for Conservation of Nature underscore the persistent pressures faced by the two species of elephants in Africa due to poaching for ivory and human encroachment.

"We must urgently put an end to poaching and ensure that sufficient suitable habitat for both forest and savannah elephants is conserved," said Bruno Oberle, IUCN Director General.

The Swiss-based body's latest survey said the savanna elephant was "endangered" and the much smaller, lighter forest elephant was "critically



endangered"—its highest category before extinction in the wild.

Previously IUCN had treated both elephants together which it considered as "vulnerable" but opted to separate them following genetic evidence that they are different species.

The IUCN cited data showing that the populations of Africa's savanna

elephants found in a variety of habitats had decreased by at least 60% over the last 50 years while the number of forest elephants found mostly in Central Africa had fallen by 86% over 31 years.

Combined, around 415,000 remain, it said.

Despite the overall decline, some populations of forest elephants were rebounding due to successful conservation measures such as those taken by Gabon and Republic of Congo. In Southern Africa's Kavango-Zambezi Transfrontier Conservation Area, savanna elephant numbers were also stable or growing, IUCN said.

IUCN's latest assessment—the first of three annual updates—assessed 134,425 species of plants, fungi and animals of which more than a quarter are threatened with extinction. Reuters

New Zealand passes miscarriages bereavement leave law

WELLINGTON (TIP): New Zealand's parliament has passed legislation giving mothers and their partners the right to paid leave following a miscarriage or still birth, becoming only the second country in the world to do so.

The bereavement allowance, passed unanimously in parliament late on Wednesday, gives employees three days leave when a pregnancy ends with a stillbirth without having to tap into sick leave.

"The passing of this bill shows that once again New Zealand is leading the way for progressive and compassionate legislation, becoming only the second country in the world to provide leave for miscarriage and stillbirth," said Labour Party MP Ginny Andersen, who initiated the bill.

"The bill will give women and their partners time to come to terms with their loss without having to tap into sick leave.

"Because their grief is not a sickness, it is a loss. And loss takes time."

The leave provisions apply to mothers, their partners as well as parents planning to have a child through



adoption or surrogacy, she said.

One in four New Zealand women have had a miscarriage, Andersen said in her statement.

India is the only other country with similar legislation, media said.

New Zealand was the first country in the world to give voting rights to women

and has been an pioneer on issues around woman's rights.

The ruling centre-left Labour government is led by Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern, who is seen as a global champion for women. Her government last year passed a historic law to decriminalise abortion. Reuters

Suez Canal suspends traffic as ship stuck like 'beached whale'

EGYPT (TIP): A container ship blocking the Suez Canal like a "beached whale" created a new setback for global trade on Thursday as officials stopped all ships entering the channel and the salvage company said it may take weeks to free.

The 400 m (430 yards) Ever Given, almost as long as the Empire State Building is high, is blocking transit in both directions through one of the world's busiest shipping channels for oil and grain and other trade linking Asia and Europe.

The Suez Canal Authority (SCA) said eight tugs were working to move the vessel, which got stuck diagonally across the single-lane southern stretch of the canal on Tuesday morning amid high winds and a dust storm.

"We can't exclude it might take weeks, depending on the situation," Peter Berdowski, CEO of Dutch company Boskalis which is trying to free the ship, told the Dutch television programme "Nieuwsuur".

A total of 156 large container ships, tankers carrying oil and gas, and bulk vessels hauling grain have backed up at either end of the canal, Egypt's Leith Agencies said, creating one of the worst shipping jams seen for years.

The blockage comes on top of the disruption to world trade already caused



in the past year by COVID-19, with trade volumes hit by high rates of ship cancellations, shortages of containers and slower handling speeds at ports.

The SCA, which had allowed some vessels to enter the canal in the hope the blockage could be cleared, said it had temporarily suspended all traffic on Thursday. Shipping giant Maersk said in a customer advisory it had seven vessels affected. Berdowski said the ship's bow and stern had been lifted up against either side of the canal.

"It is like an enormous beached whale. It's an enormous weight on the sand. We might have to work with a combination of reducing the weight by removing containers, oil and water from the ship, tug boats and dredging of sand." Roughly 30% of the world's shipping container volume transits through the 193 km (120 miles) Suez Canal daily, and about 12% of total global trade of all goods.

Shipping experts say that if the blockage is not cleared in the coming days, some shipping may re-route around Africa, which would add roughly a week to the journey.

"Every port in Western Europe is going to feel this," Leon Willems, a spokesman for Rotterdam Port, Europe's largest, said.

"We hope for both companies and consumers that it will be resolved soon. When these ships do arrive in Europe, there will inevitably be longer waiting times." Consultancy Wood Mackenzie said the biggest impact was on container shipping, but there were also a total of 16 laden crude and product oil tankers due to sail through the canal and now delayed.

The tankers were carrying 870,000 tonnes of crude and 670,000 tonnes of clean oil products such as gasoline, naphtha and diesel, it said.

According to oil analytics firm Vortexa, Russia and Saudi Arabia are the top two exporters of oil through the canal, while India and China are the main importers. Joanna Konings, senior economist, International Trade Analysis at Dutch bank ING, said the impact on the world economy would be limited if it did not drag on since the container shipping industry was used to days of delays. Reuters

UK revenge porn nearly doubled in two years, finds survey

LONDON (TIP): The number of British people who have been a victim of so-called revenge porn has almost doubled in the last two years, researchers said on Thursday, calling the figure "deeply worrying".

Some 15 per cent of British people between the ages of 18 and 45 surveyed by leading law firm Slater and Gordon said intimate sexual pictures of them had been shared without their consent — up from 8 per in 2019.

The firm said it was also shocked that nearly one in 10 people admitted they had shared or threatened to share an explicit image — more than twice the number in 2019.

One in five said they "wanted to scare" the victim. A quarter said it was "just a laugh", while a similar number deemed the image as "their property" to share.

Motives included punishing someone for ending a relationship or trying to force someone to stay in a relationship.

"These numbers are deeply worrying," said Slater and Gordon family lawyer Holly Atkins. "We were shocked to see they had doubled."

She said they had hoped revenge porn would have decreased as the issue became more widely discussed and condemned.

Women accounted for more than three quarters of victims, according to the poll.

Britain, which outlawed the sharing of explicit images without someone's consent in 2015, announced this month that threatening to share such images would also be criminalised with offenders facing up to two years in jail.

Calls to broaden the law had been backed by Oscar-winning actress Olivia Colman, famous for playing Queen Elizabeth II on "The Crown", and "Love Island" reality TV star Zara McDermott, herself a victim of revenge porn.

Of the 2,000 people surveyed, more than 40% knew someone who had been a victim of revenge porn and 22 per cent knew someone who had been threatened with revenge porn.

About 40 per cent of threats came from an ex-partner, 18% from a friend and 11% from a family member.

Slater and Gordon said just under a third of victims reported threats to the police — slightly down on 2019.

Domestic abuse charity Refuge has described threats to share intimate images as a "devastating form of domestic abuse" that ruins lives.

It says most threats are a domestic abuse issue as they are predominantly made by current or former partners and often used as a means to control or manipulate the victim.

Slater and Gordon commissioned its first survey in 2019 after family lawyers noticed fears around revenge porn were cropping up as divorce proceedings turned toxic. — Thomson Reuters Foundation

Biden announces 200mn vax doses in 100 days

US President Joe Biden announced a new goal of administering 200 million Covid-19 vaccine doses to Americans in his first 100 days in office.

Biden made the announcement at a press conference on Thursday, March 25, which was his first since taking office on January 20, Xinhua news agency reported.

He had initially set the plan of having 100 million shots in the arms of Americans by his 100th day in office, but is now increasing the objective to 200 million.

"I know it's ambitious, twice our original goal, but no other country in the world has come close to what we're doing," Biden told reporters.

"I believe we can do it," he added.

As of Thursday, the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reported that a total of 133 million Covid-19 vaccine shots had been administered, and that 14 per cent of the American population is fully vaccinated.

The federal government has a deal with Johnson & Johnson for delivery of 200 million doses, a CNBC News report said.

The first half of that order expected by the end of June.

Merck is helping to make J&J's shot, which is a single-dose vaccination.

UK govt mulling Covid vax certification

UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson said that his government is considering coronavirus vaccine certification but suggested it might only be implemented once all adults in the country have been offered a jab by the end of July.

Speaking in London on Thursday, March 25, Johnson said "no decisions have been taken at all" before the publishing of a government review into Covid-19 certification early next month, reports Xinhua news agency.

"All sorts of things are being considered," Johnson said, adding it was "a bit premature" to speculate on whether pubs could run entirely by implementing a certification scheme while scrapping social distancing and mask-wearing rules.

"What we want to do is (to) roll out the vaccine program and see what that builds in terms of general resistance to the virus," he told Sky News.

"I do think there is going to be a role for certification," he said.

However, Johnson said Britain needs to think carefully about the issue. "As I've said before there are lots of difficult issues, because there are some people who, for medical reasons, can't get a vaccination, pregnant women can't get a vaccination at the moment," the Prime Minister said.

Johnson suggested that whether someone's vaccine status, any possible immunity after having recovered from the virus or a negative test "could work together" in a possible certification scheme.

Global Covid-19 caseload tops 125.3 mn

WASHINGTON (TIP): The overall number of global Covid-19 cases has surpassed 125.3 million, while the deaths have surged to more than 2.75 million, according to the Johns Hopkins University.

In its latest update on Friday morning, the University's Center for Systems Science and Engineering (CSSE) revealed that the current global caseload and death toll stood at 125,399,418 and 2,754,289, respectively.

The US is the worst-hit country with the world's highest number of cases and deaths at 30,076,486 and 546,507, respectively, according to the CSSE.

Brazil follows in the second place with 12,320,169 cases and 303,462 fatalities.

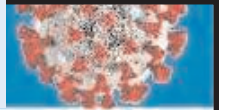
The other countries with more than 2 million confirmed coronavirus cases are India (11,787,534), France (4,484,658), Russia (4,442,492), the UK (4,332,907), Italy (3,464,543), Spain (3,247,738), Turkey (3,120,013), Germany (2,732,130), Colombia (2,359,942), Argentina (2,278,115), Mexico (2,214,542) and Poland (2,154,821), the CSSE figures showed.

In terms of deaths, Mexico comes in the third place with 200,211 fatalities.

Nations with a death toll of over 50,000 are India (160,692), the UK (126,684), Italy (106,799), Russia (95,010), France (93,535), Germany (75,549), Spain (74,420), Colombia (62,519), Iran (62,142), Argentina (55,092), South Africa (52,535), Poland (50,860) and Peru (50,656).

Source: IANS

TRACKING THE VIRUS



GLOBAL

Cases **125,399,418** | Deaths **2,754,289**

INDIA

Cases **1,18,46,652** | Deaths **1,60,949**



Surge in fresh COVID-19 cases, India records 59,118 new infections

NEW DELHI (TIP): India saw 59,118 new coronavirus infections in a day, the highest single day rise so far this year, taking the nationwide COVID-19 tally to 1,18,46,652, according to the Union Health Ministry data updated on Friday, March 26.

The active caseload breached the 4 lakh-mark again after around three-and-half months.

Registering an increase for the 16th day in row, the active cases have increased to 4,21,066 comprising 3.55 per cent of the total infections, while the recovery rate has further dropped to 95.09 per cent, the data stated.

The 59,118 new infections reported in a span of 24 hours were the highest since October 18, 2020. The death toll increased to 1,60,949 with 257 daily new fatalities, the data updated at 8 am showed.

As many as 61,871 new infections were recorded in a span of 24 hours on October 18.

The number of people who have recuperated from the disease surged to 1,12,64,637, while the case fatality rate was recorded at 1.36 per cent, the data stated.

India's COVID-19 tally had crossed the 20-lakh mark on August 7, 30 lakh on August 23, 40 lakh on September 5 and 50 lakh on September 16.

It went past 60 lakh on September 28,



70 lakh on October 11, crossed 80 lakh on October 29, 90 lakh on November 20 and surpassed the one-crore mark on December 19. According to the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), 23,86,04,638 samples have been tested up to March 25 with 11,00,756 samples being tested on Thursday.

The 257 new fatalities include 111 from Maharashtra, 43 from Punjab, 15 from

Chhattisgarh, 12 from Kerala, 11 from Tamil Nadu and 10 from Karnataka.

A total of 1,60,949 deaths have been reported so far in the country including 53,795 from Maharashtra, 12,641 from Tamil Nadu, 12,471 from Karnataka, 10,978 from Delhi, 10,316 from West Bengal, 8,773 from Uttar Pradesh and 7,201 from Andhra Pradesh and 6,517 from Punjab.

Source: PTI

14 sentenced to death for bid to kill Hasina

DHAKA (TIP): Hasina has in the past survived several assassination attempts with the first in 1975 when a military coup killed her Father and Bangladesh's founder Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman along with most of his family members.

The PM and her younger sister Sheikh Rehana survived the carnage as they were on a visit to Germany. Hasina miraculously survived a grenade attack when she was addressing an anti-terrorism rally in 2004. The attack claimed 24 lives and injured some 500 others.

Fourteen Islamist militants were on Tuesday given death sentence by a Bangladeshi court here for attempting to kill Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in 2000. Judge Abu Zafar Md Kamruzzaman of Dhaka's Speedy Trial tribunal-1 pronounced the verdict as nine of them were brought to the court from jail to face the trial in person. The remaining five convicts are on the run. They were tried in absentia and defended by state-appointed lawyers.

"The verdict will be executed by a firing squad to set an example, unless the



law barred it," the judge said. Otherwise, the convicts could be hanged in line with the prevailing practice, following mandatory review of the death sentences by the High Court Division of the Supreme Court under the Bangladesh law, the judge said.

Under the Bangladesh law, the death sentences would require to be endorsed by the High Court following an automatic death reference hearing. The convicts are allowed to file an appeal as

well.

For the five convicts who are at large, the judge ordered the verdict to be executed after their arrest or surrender. All convicts are operatives of outlawed Harkatul Jihad Bangladesh (HuJI-B).

HuJI-B's chief Mufti Abdul Hannan, who was found to be the mastermind of the plot, too was indicted in the case but his name was dropped from the trial as he was executed in 2017 in another case involving attempted assassination of the then Bangladeshi-origin British High Commissioner. The convicts had hatched the plot to kill Hasina by planting a high-powered 76 kilogram bomb near a ground in her constituency in Kotalipara area in southwestern Gopalganj district where she was supposed to address an election rally in July 2000.

However, security agencies detected the device ahead of the rally at the spot where the premier's helicopter was set to land. Days later, another device weighing 40 kilograms was detected from a nearby spot. In 2017, 10 militants were sentenced to death and nine others jailed for 20 years each by a court in the case. PTI

5 killed by avalanche in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir

ISLAMABAD (TIP) : At least five members of a family were killed by an avalanche that hit their home in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir on Thursday.

The snow slip swept away the house far away from where it initially stood in Sargan village of Neelum Valley, Radio Pakistan reported.

The victims—a woman and her four children—were shifted to a nearby hospital where they were pronounced dead.

Heavy snowfall snapped the communication lines, resulting in delayed alert to the district authorities. PTI

Nepal kicks off preparations for 12th National Population Census

KATHMANDU (TIP): The Nepal government has kicked off preparations for the 12th National Population Census, a government official said.

Pushparaj Kadel, vice-chairman of the National Planning Commission told Xinhua news agency that this Census is crucial since it is the first one under the 2015 Constitution and new federal system.

The Central Bureau of Statistics (CBS) conducts National Population Census Programme every 10 years and the first one took place in 1911.

The programme compiles population statistics at the national and local levels.

It also contains data on a variety of social, demographic, and economic indicators relevant to the monitoring and assessment of National Periodic Development Goals and Sustainable Development Goals.

In order to ensure the success of the national census, the CBS has been conducting a sample census programme.

According to information made public on the CBS website, the sample census programme will be conducted in 55 wards across 14 districts until April 12.

The CBS department says that it has arranged a variety of trainings to ensure the census effective.

From February 14 to February 20, the department held a National Facilitator Training.

From March 22 to March 28, state-level trainers will be receiving instruction, according to officials.

Similarly, the department has stated that it will provide training to local census officers from April 1 to April 7.

According to the 2001 Census, Nepal's total population was 23,151,423 people. In the 2011 Census, it rose to 26,620,809.

According to CBS officials, the full details of the Census will be made public in around five years.

The CBS office predicts that the Census would cost more than \$35 million. — IANS

India abstains from UNHRC vote on Sri Lanka resolution

COLOMBO (TIP): Faced with pressure from its electoral allies in Tamil Nadu and the need to maintain long-term ties with Colombo, India today abstained from a UN Human Right Council resolution on Sri Lanka.

The resolution was passed with 22 countries for and 11 against, while 14 abstained from voting.

India's abstention was in contrast to the stand taken by other neighbours of Sri Lanka such as Bangladesh, China, Russia, Pakistan and the Philippines were among those which voted no while Nepal, like India, abstained from the vote.

Votes largely came from European countries, Uruguay and Brazil. Japan, which recently lost a container terminal deal in Sri Lanka, abstained from the vote.

The resolution against Sri Lanka is for war crimes against Tamils and is among the series of such resolutions the UNHRC has been bringing for a decade. India abstained from voting in 2014 and had voted in favour of a similar resolution in 2012.

The preset draft resolution is based on a report submitted by the Office of the High Commissioner for human rights in January. The report warned that Sri Lanka is "on an alarming path towards recurrence of grave human rights violations" and that "failure to deal with the past continues to have devastating effects on tens of thousands of family members from all communities who



persist in seeking justice, reparations and the truth about the fate of their loved ones".

The resolution was tabled by the UNHRC's Core Group, which includes the UK, Germany and Canada and wants sanctions to be imposed on Sri Lanka besides listing certain action points for its government.

Ten days before the vote, Sri Lankan President Gotabaya Rajapaksa had called up PM Narendra Modi, who had reiterated the importance of Sri Lanka to India's Neighbourhood First policy.

Tamil parties had called on PM Modi to vote in favour of the resolution but that would have jeopardised the prospects of India building major infrastructure

projects as well as provided a breach to China to step in.

Twin pressure from Tamil allies, Colombo

The resolution titled 'Promotion of Reconciliation Accountability and Human Rights in Sri Lanka' was adopted by the UNHRC after 22 members out of 47-member Council voted in favour of it.

Eleven members voted against the resolution tabled by the Core Group on Sri Lanka consisting of countries like the United Kingdom, Canada and Germany.

Tamil parties had called on PM Modi to vote in favour of the resolution but that would have jeopardised the prospects of India. TNS

Skincare tips before and after Holi celebrations

As the most colourful festival is finally here, it is important to keep skincare in mind as Holi celebrations go beyond dry colours and flower petals. There are synthetic elements in certain colours and of course, we end up using other materials that can have a damaging impact on skin and hair. It is important to keep certain tips in mind to protect the skin and hair before and after the colourful celebrations. It is crucial to keep your skin and hair safe so here are the top 5 useful and easy tips for pre and post Holi celebrations.

Moisturise

Keeping your skin moisturised is the most important step. Apply a gentle moisturiser that keeps you protected from the hazardous effects of colours and the synthetic elements in it. Pick a moisturiser that suits your skin type and helps retain moisture.

Hydrate

You can go for a good water based toner to maintain the nourishment level for your skin. You can either go for a clinically recommended toner or a herbal one is also a good choice.



Oiling

Applying oil to your skin and hair before the Holi celebration begins is always a good idea as it helps in getting rid of the colours post celebrations in a much easier way.

Scrub

Before the final cleanse regime, go for some homemade scrubbing as it will help in getting rid of the dead

skin and the remaining colours post the festivities.

Cleanse

Finally, use a good cleaner to complete the skincare. Go for a natural mild cleanser and complete the process and thereafter, apply some moisturiser and you are good to go. If there is any eruptions and boils due to any sensitivity, wash it properly and consult a skincare specialist.

How to decorate your home this Holi

Holi is around the corner and it's the best time to add colors not in your life but also in your home. If you are going through holi party at your home, first check the holi party ideas and then plan as per your holi theme for holi party decoration. So here I am sharing the top best holi decoration ideas for a home that will definitely give you complements from your guests. Try this easy DIY holi decoration ideas and make your home colorful one.

Rangoli

Rangoli - one of the most beautiful things that people love to do with so much excitement and fun. Rangoli plays a very important role in Indian culture and makes every festival more special. Download the traditional and contemporary rangoli designs from the internet and draw with chalk or pencil wherever you want. Most people draw rangoli designs from their entrance home door. Now add some bright colors and make this auspicious day with a touch of colorfulness. You can also use flower petals in your rangoli.

Balloon arrangement

Balloons are the king of every party and occasion. With balloon decoration, the house looks beautiful and adorable. Pick the balloons as per your requirements and stick them on little high places. You can also use balloons in your entrance home door, food area, party area, etc. In metro cities, people use water balloons that everyone loved the most. It's the time to celebrate Holi festival India in your own style.

Flower hangings in colorful pots

Every occasion is incomplete without flowers decoration. Buy some plain pots from local markets or malls and color them with bright colors. You can also use stones, sparkles, laces, mirrors, paint and many other things you can add on your pot. Let them dry and then add flowers and hang them wherever you want like walls, outdoor garden, drawing room, etc. Arrange them in a different way.



Cover your empty space with drinks

Holi without Bhaang is incomplete especially when you through the party at your home. Choose an empty space and filled up with drinks and bhang and make your empty space into a home bar. This will look awesome and gives a long-lasting impression in front of your friends and relatives.

Radiant Color Rugs

The whole house is decorated, then why not the floor? Choose colorful rugs, doormats, and carpets that compliment your interior and will create a sense of ambiance in your home. Choose the darker shade rugs, so that it cannot spoil in HOLI Colors.

Artistic Color Wall Hangings

Say goodbye to the boring plain walls and this holi makeover your house with colorful wall hangings and handmade paintings that gives the royal touch impression in your home décor. Start your shopping today and buy some artistic color wall hangings that match your walls.



By Tript Arora

Bread cutlet

Crispy and tasty bread cutlets with a hot cup of tea make an excellent evening snack. My family enjoys them for breakfast as well. Boiled potatoes and veggies, rolled in bread and are then coated with bread crumbs. You can either shallow fry them or deep fry them. Choice is yours. In this recipe I am doing a deep fried version. You can use brown, white, wheat or any other type of bread for this recipe. Serve them hot with coriander and peanut chutney (recipe for chutney is towards the end). Enjoy bread cutlet or any other snack with this healthy and tasty dip.



We Need

8 slices of Bread, 500 gm Boiled Potatoes, 100 gm boiled peas, 1 onion chopped finely, 2 green chillies chopped finely, 1 Tbsp of grated Ginger, 2 Tbsp chopped Coriander leaves, 1 Tbsp Salt or to taste, 1 Tbsp of Red chilli powder, 1 Tbsp of Coriander powder, 1 Tbsp dried Mango powder, 1 Tbsp roasted Cumin powder, 2 Tbsp Corn flour, 1 cup Breadcrumbs for coating, Any vegetable Oil for frying.

Here We Go

- Mash boiled potatoes. Add chopped onions, boiled peas, chopped green chillies, chopped coriander, grated ginger, mango powder, salt, red chilli powder, coriander and cumin powder.
- Mix everything together to form a dough.
- Cut the sides of the bread slices and keep aside.
- Take ½ Cup water in a bowl. Add ¼ tsp of salt to this. Take a slice of bread and wet the surface of the slice in this water. Wet the slice from both sides by turning each side. Now by pressing in between your palms squeeze out extra water.
- Make a ball of potato mixture and keep in the middle of the wet slice. Cover this potato mixture with the slices and press it gently from all sides shaping it into cutlet. Make all the cutlets and keep aside.
- Mix 2 Tbsp of cornflour in water. Now dip each cutlet in this mixture and roll it in breadcrumbs covering all sides. Coat all cutlets in cornflour mixture and roll in breadcrumbs. Keep aside.
- Heat oil in a pan for frying. Keeping the flame on medium, fry all cutlets till golden brown and crisp.
- Drain on a paper towel to absorb extra oil.
- Serve hot with coriander and peanut dip. Enjoy them in evening snacks or morning breakfast.

Coriander & Peanut Dip:

- In a grinder jar, add 1 cup coriander stems/leaves, ¼ Cup roasted peanuts, 2 green chillies, salt, juice of one lemon and 1 Tbsp grated ginger. Add ½ Cup of water and grind to a fine paste. Take out in a bowl and serve it with any snack.
- Preparation Time : 15 min
- Cooking Time : 30 minutes.

Tips

- Avoid over boiling the potatoes as they will become soft & mushy.
- Immediately take out water from potatoes after boiling as they soak water and will become soft and pulpy thereby making it difficult to hold shape.

You Can reach me at: www.triptasfoodtunnel.com
Email : triptasfoodtunnel@gmail.com.
Instagram: [@triptasfoodtunnel](https://www.instagram.com/triptasfoodtunnel)

Strong coffee before exercise ups fat-burning in men: Study

Caffeine—about 3 milligrams per kilogram (mg/kg), the equivalent of a strong coffee—ingested half an hour before aerobic exercise significantly increases the rate of fat-burning, suggests a new study.

The study, published in *Journal of the International Society of Sports Nutrition*, also found that if the exercise is performed in the afternoon, the effects of the caffeine are more marked than in the morning.

"The results of our study showed that acute caffeine ingestion 30 minutes before performing an aerobic exercise test increased maximum fat oxidation during exercise regardless of the time of day," said lead researcher Francisco Jose Amaro-Gahete from the University of Granada in Spain.

For the study, the researchers aimed to determine whether caffeine—one of the most commonly-consumed ergogenic substances in the world to improve sports performance—actually does increase oxidation or "burning" of fat during exercise.

A group of men with a mean age of 32 participated in the research, completing an exercise test four times at seven-day intervals. Subjects ingested 3 mg/kg of caffeine or a placebo at 8 am and 5 pm (each subject completed the tests in all four conditions in a random order).

The conditions prior to each exercise test (hours elapsed since



last meal, physical exercise, or consumption of stimulant substances) were strictly standardized, and fat oxidation during exercise was calculated accordingly.

In summary, the findings of this

study suggest that the combination of acute caffeine intake and aerobic exercise performed at moderate intensity in the afternoon provides the optimal scenario for people seeking to increase fat-burning during physical exercise.



Add these vitamins, supplements to your routine to reduce anxiety

Ashwagandha

A powerful Indian herb with potent adaptogenic qualities, it is great for those facing stress issues resulting from emotional, as well as physical issues. Athletes also use this to help reduce the stress-induced by intense exercise and helps in a significant drop in cortisol — the stress hormone post-consumption.

Omega 3

Maintaining brain health is important to ensure you can process your thoughts in the most efficient manner possible. One of the ingredients that promote a healthy nervous system is omega 3 fatty acids.

Owing to the fact that the brain comprises almost 80 per cent fat, this ingredient has proven to not only promote brain health, but studies have also shown to reduce symptoms associated with disorders like Alzheimer's. Adding this to your daily routine can definitely help reduce inflammation on a physical level and enhance the blood supply and nutrition required for your brain.

B complex vitamins

This set of 8 vitamins have been proven to help improve symptoms of stress such as mood and energy levels by lowering the homocysteine levels in the blood." This results in lesser work-induced stress symptoms when this supplement is consumed regularly.

L-Theanine

Commonly referred to as green tea extract, this has been used for its ability to promote relaxation without causing any sedative-like effects. "Numerous studies have denoted that people consuming green tea that is rich in L-Theanine have experienced reduced anxiety symptoms and improvements in memory and attention. Supplementing with L-Theanine has successfully helped in lowering cortisol levels much like ashwagandha.

Midlife loneliness may up dementia, Alzheimer's risk

Being persistently lonely during midlife appears to make people more likely to develop dementia and Alzheimer's Disease (AD) later in life, a new study finds.

The study, published in the journal 'Alzheimer's & Dementia', also indicated that people who recover from loneliness appear to be less likely to suffer from dementia.

"Whereas persistent loneliness is a threat to brain health, psychological resilience following adverse life experiences may explain why transient loneliness is protective in the context of dementia onset," said researcher Wendy Qiu from the Boston University School of Medicine.

Loneliness is a subjective feeling resulting from a perceived discrepancy between desired and actual social relationships.

Although loneliness does not itself have the status of a clinical disease, it is associated with a range of negative health outcomes, including sleep disturbances, depressive symptoms, cognitive impairment, and stroke.

For the study, the team examined data involving cognitively normal adults. Specifically, they investigated whether persistent loneliness more strongly predicted the future development of



dementia and AD than transient loneliness.

They also wanted to see whether this relationship was independent of depression and established genetic risk factors for AD, such as the Apolipoprotein e4 (APOE e4) allele.

After taking effects of age, sex, education, social network, living alone, physical health and genetic risk into account, persistent loneliness was associated with higher risk, whereas transient loneliness was linked to lower risk of dementia and AD onset after 18 years, compared with no loneliness.

PAGE SPONSORED BY

DR. SATISH AND GITANJLI ANAND



DR. SATISH ANAND
Former Chairman, Board of Trustees, AAPI National
E-Mail: sanandmd@gmail.com

GITANJLI ANAND
Former President, India Association of Long Island (IALI)
E-mail: gitanjlianand@gmail.com

WhatsApp rolls out Chat Threads to beta testers

WhatsApp is working on a number of features that will enable users to interact with the company. One of those features is Chat Threads. In the past, reports have talked about such a feature being in the works at the company. Now, a new report gives more details about it.

WABetaInfo, the tipster that tracks development in the Facebook-owned messaging platform, says that WhatsApp has finally released the Chat Threads feature for specific beta testers on Android. This means that not all beta testers have access to this feature yet.

If you are a beta test, you can verify if this feature is enabled for you by going to the Settings menu in WhatsApp and then tapping on the Contact Us option in the Help section.

If you have got the access to the feature, you would see a dialogue box where you can type in your issue. You can also select if you want to give away technical details about your phone, such as your phone's model and settings, to WhatsApp so that it is able to solve your queries better.

Once you send the message, WhatsApp will start a Chat Thread that will appear in the main menu alongside your other chats. It will close once your query has been resolved.

Windows 10 users can now access Microsoft Power Automate Desktop for free

Microsoft on Thursday announced that it was making its Power Automate Desktop solution for Windows 10 available to Windows 10 users in the country for free. The company's low-code automation system allows businesses to automate certain tasks — especially repetitive and manual ones, as part of its Power Automate Service.

Running a business today involves a lot of constantly changing factors, some of them out of the control of those at the helm — such as the novel coronavirus pandemic. Performing manual tasks repetitively can impact employee productivity, according to the company. Power Automate Desktop for Windows 10 features a low-code Robotic Process Automate (RPA) application which essentially automates these tedious tasks and helps streamline workflows, the company said on Thursday. Microsoft's Power Automate Desktop system allows companies to record actions such as mouse and keyboard clicks as part of the RPA solution that was first announced at Microsoft Ignite in 2019. Once a user has recorded those actions, they can be "re-played" repeatedly, on various applications like Microsoft Outlook, Microsoft Excel and Sharepoint.

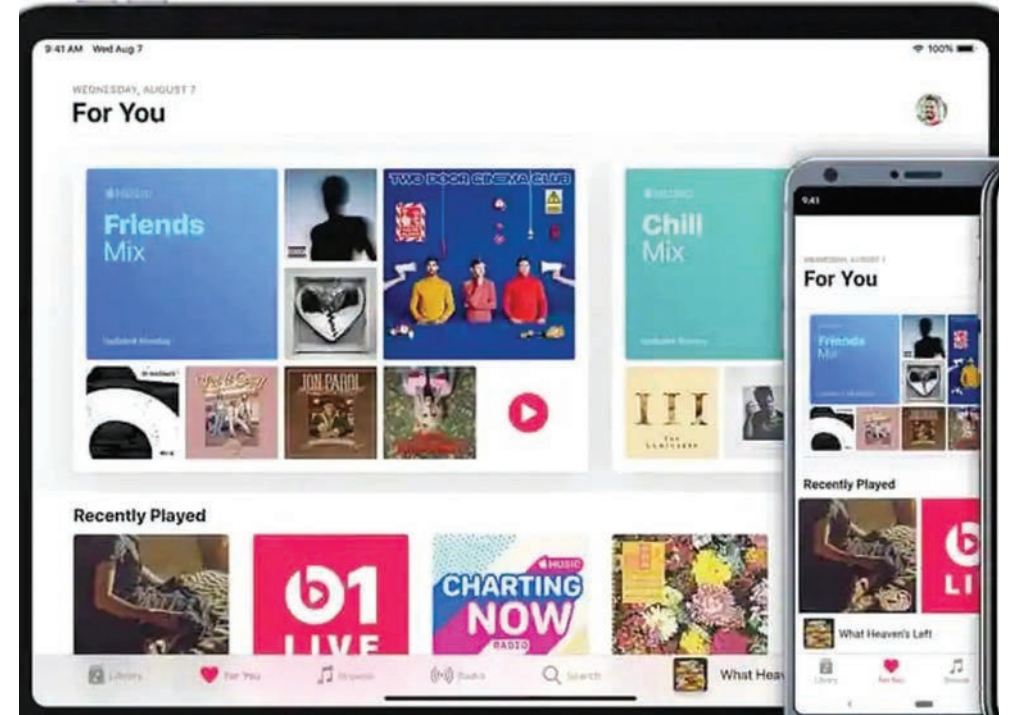
Apple Music 'Saylists' will help children with speech-sound disorders

Apple Music has partnered with Rothco and Warner Music to develop a series of playlists with over a hundred tracks called 'Saylists' in order to help young listeners with speech-sound disorders, according to reports.

According to a report by the BBC, the streaming service and Warner Music have relied on algorithms to identify songs that feature challenging sounds that young children with speech-sound disorders, especially those that repeat the sounds.

Apple Music has so far added 173 tracks to the playlist and the tracks include Don't Start Now by Dua Lipa, and Right Now by Fatboy Slim, according to the report. It also states that the algorithm analysed the lyrics of all the music in Apple's 70 million song catalogue and identified the tracks that would repeat those sounds most often before adding them to the playlist.

A speech sound disorder is also known as an articulation disorder or a phonological disorder and is used to describe the issues faced by children who do not say sounds by the time they reach the appropriate age. Typically sounds like mm, n, h, w, p, b, t, d, k, and g are learnt early on, but some sounds like y, v, s, sh, ch, j, ng, th,



z, l, and r are more difficult and are learnt by the age of four along with all other speech sounds, according to the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (or ASHA).

"Every speech and language therapist wants to keep children engaged during the therapy sessions

as well as help them generalise the target sounds, both in school and at home. Saylists provide a fun, new way to practise the sounds I teach them — without feeling pressured or getting bored. Having fun is the first step to learning," said Anna Biavati-Smith, speech and language therapist.

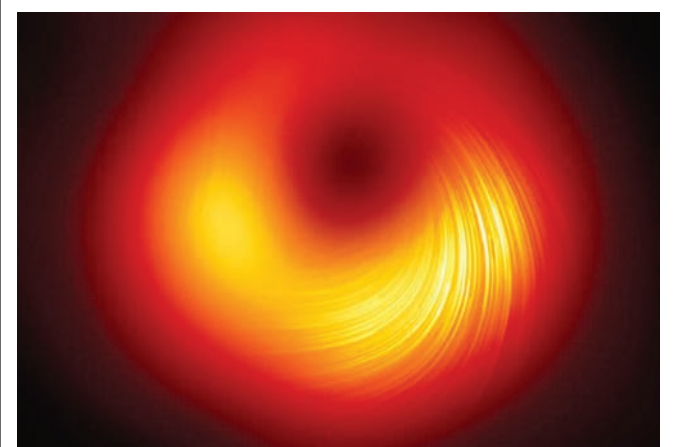
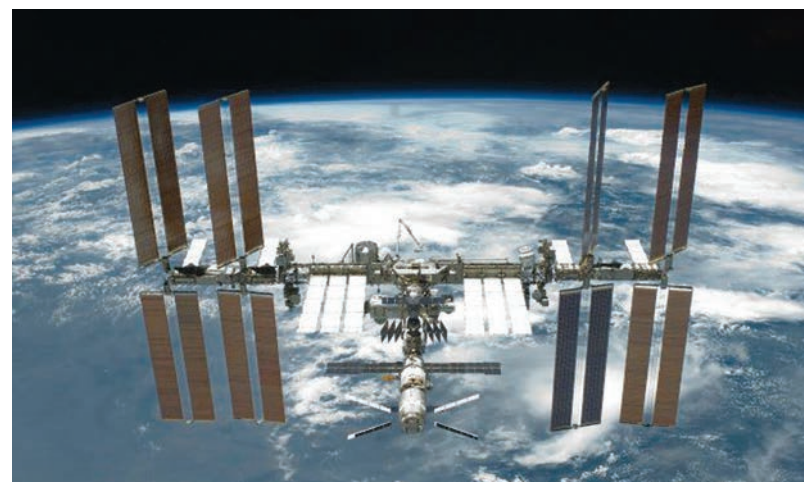
New bacterial strains found on International Space Station may help grow plants in space

Discovery of novel bacterial strains aboard the International Space Station (ISS) suggests the possibility of astronauts growing their own vegetables while in space, says a new study by researchers based at University of Hyderabad (UoH) and NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL), among other institutions.

The new bacterial strains discovered from different locations aboard the ISS flights may help in creating the "fuel" to help plants withstand such stressful situations.

The findings of the study were published in a recent issue of the journal *Frontiers in Microbiology*. The research teams were led by Dr. Kasthuri Venkateswaran of NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory, C.C. Wang of WorldQuant Initiative for Quantitative Prediction, Professor Appa Rao Podile from the University of Hyderabad (UoH) with expertise on plant growth promoting bacteria and plant microbiome and Dr. Ramprasad, a CSIR-pool Scientist.

The bacterial strains belonging to the family Methylobacteriaceae were isolated from different locations aboard the ISS across two consecutive flights.



A new image gives a closer look at M87 black hole and its magnetic field

Astronomers have used Event Horizon Telescope (EHT) to release a new and more detailed image of the M87 black hole, showcasing spiraling lines with mysterious magnetic forces close to its edges. The image showing the gigantic black hole at the center of the M87 galaxy, which is nearly 55 million light-years away. The image was obtained using polarised lights.

Astronomers believe that this will help them understand how black holes are able to launch energetic jets from their core which extend "far beyond the galaxy".

"We are now seeing the next crucial piece of evidence to understand how magnetic fields behave around black holes, and how activity in this very compact region of space can drive powerful jets that extend far beyond the galaxy," Monika Moscibrodzka, coordinator of the EHT Polarimetry Working Group and Assistant Professor at Radboud University in the Netherlands said.

SEBI relaxes norms for listing of startups

Seeking to boost listing of startups, markets watchdog SEBI on Thursday decided a slew of relaxations to norms, including reducing holding period for pre-issue capital and allowing discretionary allotment to eligible investors.

The changes have been approved to the framework for listing on the Innovators Growth Platform, SEBI said after the Board meeting.

Other proposals approved include easing delisting requirements and relaxation in guidelines for migrating to main Board.

"The Board has approved the proposals with respect to framework of Innovators Growth Platform (IGP) under the SEBI (Issue of Capital and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2018, with an objective to make the platform more accessible to companies in view of the evolving startup ecosystem," SEBI said.

The regulator has decided to reduce the period of holding of 25% of pre-issue capital of the issuer company by eligible investors to one year from the current requirement of two years. The term 'Accredited Investor' for the purpose of IGP is renamed as 'Innovators Growth Platform Investors'.



H&M, Nike face boycotts in China as Xinjiang becomes wedge issue

US and European retail brands in China are suddenly facing a dilemma: Embrace cotton from Xinjiang and come under attack in the West, or reject it and risk a boycott in the world's second-biggest economy.

Hennes & Mauritz AB was blasted by the Communist Youth League and the People's Liberation Army on Wednesday after social-media users dug out an undated company statement about accusations of forced labor in Xinjiang. Calls to boycott the Swedish retailer quickly spread to include Nike Inc., which has previously said it won't source products from the region due to labor concerns. Brand ambassadors in China for both firms cut ties with the companies in recent days.

"Want to make money in China while spreading false rumors and boycotting Xinjiang cotton? Wishful thinking!" the Communist Youth League said in a post on Weibo, referring to H&M. One of the PLA's Weibo accounts called H&M's statement "ignorant and arrogant."

The Communist Party's move to target companies over Xinjiang shows President Xi Jinping's government is seeking to impose real costs for governments and businesses that criticize China's human-rights record as the Biden administration aims to unite allies over the



issue. Beijing slapped reciprocal sanctions on European Union officials on Monday, following coordinated sanctions and statements by the EU, US, Canada, Australia and New Zealand.

At a testy meeting between top diplomats of the US and China last week, Politburo member Yang Jiechi made extended remarks attacking the US's human-rights record and calling on the world to stop interfering in China's "internal affairs." Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Hua Chunying continued the pushback this week, hitting the US and Europe over

everything from the slave trade and Nazism to the killing of George Floyd and alleged hoarding of coronavirus vaccines.

Chinese firms are now rallying around Xinjiang, which produces more than 80% of the country's cotton. Anta Sports Products Ltd. and Hongxing Erke Sports Products Co. were among companies that issued statements saying they will continue to source the material from the region. Shareholders rewarded firms that displayed patriotism, while punishing those with links to Western brands.

India's economy on path of gradual recovery: IMF

India's economy is on the path of gradual recovery, the International Monetary Fund has said ahead of its next month's spring meeting with the World Bank.

"India's economy is on the path of gradual recovery, real GDP growth, return to positive territory in fourth quarter of 2020. And that's for the first time actually since the start of the pandemic and it's supported by a pickup in gross, fixed capital formation," IMF's spokesperson Gerry Rice told reporters at a news conference here on Thursday.

"Beyond that, I can say that high frequency indicators including PMIs trade and mobility suggests a continued recovery in the first quarter of this year, '21; however, the recent emergence of the variants and localised lockdowns could pose risks to a sustained recovery," Rice said.

The IMF is scheduled to release its World Economic Outlook on April 6.



Oil prices slide as coronavirus lockdown concerns outweigh Suez Canal disruptions

Oil prices skidded around 2% as fuel demand concerns re-emerged alongside fresh coronavirus pandemic lockdowns, trimming overnight gains spurred by the grounding of a giant container ship blocking crude shipments through the Suez Canal.

Brent crude futures slid \$1.14, or 1.8%, to \$63.27 a barrel at 0139 GMT, after jumping 6% overnight. US West Texas Intermediate (WTI) crude futures dropped by \$1.27, or 2.1%, to \$59.91 a barrel, after climbing 5.9% overnight.

Prices had tumbled earlier in the week on worries about tighter pandemic curbs in Europe and vaccine delays stalling growth in demand for fuel, but sharply reversed on Wednesday with the grounded ship in the Suez Canal potentially blocking 10 tankers carrying 13 million barrels of oil.

The market was also helped on Wednesday by data showing US gasoline demand improved and refinery run rates were picking up.

However, those factors supporting the market were short-lived, even as tugs struggled to free the stranded Suez Canal ship.



India ranks 40th on International Intellectual Property Index

WASHINGTON (TIP): India ranked 40 among 53 global economies on the latest annual edition of the International Intellectual Property (IP) Index released on Tuesday, March 23.

Released annually by the US Chamber of Commerce Global Innovation Policy Centre (GIPC), the Index evaluates Intellectual Property rights in 53 global economies—from patent and copyright policies to commercialisation of IP assets and ratification of international treaties.

The overall global IP environment improved in 2020, with positive score increasing in 32 of the 53 economies measured by the IP Index. This is the ninth IP index released by the GIPC.

"India ranked 40th in 2020, scoring 38.4 out of 100 on a set of 50 intellectual property-related indicators," the GIPC said in a media release. India's overall score has increased from 36.04 per cent (16.22 out of 45) in the seventh edition to 38.46 per cent (19.23 out of 50) in the eighth edition. India has shown real



improvement over the past few years, the report said, adding that it has made a string of positive efforts which resulted in a score increase because of stronger enforcement efforts and precedent-setting court cases involving copyright and trademark infringement.

Nevertheless, rights-holders in India continue to face substantive challenges, particularly regarding the patenting environment, in which India's policy framework continues to deny patent eligibility to a broad range of innovations, it said.

Agni deva is the fire god and acceptor of sacrifices. He is the god of divine knowledge. He is also the ashta-dikapala (guardians of the directions) of the southeast direction. To invoke Agni deva the mantra is 'Om Agnidevaya Namaha'. In the Vedas, Agni is the second-most important deva after Devapati Indra. His mount is a goat named Rama (not Rama, the avatar of Lord Vishnu).

Family

Father: Brahma

Wife: Svaha

Sons: Pavak, Pavanmaan, Shuchi

Marrying Swaha

Once Agni attended a yagna. The Saptarishis and their wives had also come to this yagna. Agni fell in love with them, but he knew that none of them would cheat on their husbands. Dejected, Agni wandered around in the forest. Swaha, the daughter of Daksha, had wanted to marry Agni for a long time. She took advantage of this opportunity and disguised herself as the wife of Angiras. Disguised as the wife of Angiras, she was able to seduce Agni. Swaha then went on to disguise herself as six of the wives of the Saptarishis. However, when she tried to take the form of Arundhati, Vashishta's wife, and seduced Agni, Agni realized it was a trick. This is because Arundhati is really devoted to Vashishta.

Agni said to Swaha, "Thanks to you, I was able to fulfill my desire of making love with the wives of the Saptarishis without breaking the rules of marriage. I am very pleased with you and wish to have you as my wife," Agni said.

Swaha was really happy and accepted the proposal. Agni and Swaha were then married. Agni declared that in a yagna, he would not accept an offering unless the name "Swaha" was uttered. That is why priests say Swaha before pouring anything into the fire.

Conflict with Bhrigu

In this second birth, Bhrigu rishi married Puloma, a daughter of Kashyapa. Puloma and Bhrigu started living together in an ashram. She soon became pregnant with a son.

Once, Bhrigu went for his morning ablutions and left Puloma in the care of Agni deva. At that time, a rakshasa named Puloma came to the ashram and saw the beauty of Puloma. This rakshasa had actually been betrothed to Puloma before she married Bhrigu and was still enamored by her. But the Rakshasa then saw Agni deva and asked him, "Was Puloma wedded with Bhrigu through sacred Vedic rights?" Reluctantly, Agni said no. Hearing this, Puloma rakshasa decided to abduct Puloma. He turned into the form of a boar and he ran away with her. Frightened by this, Puloma gave birth to a son who fell to the ground. He was called Chyavana, which means "fallen from the womb", and he was shining brightly. Overwhelmed by this, Puloma rakshasa ran away.

Puloma then came back to the ashram and told Bhrigu what had happened to her and her son. Bhrigu was pleased with the birth of their son, but he was enraged when he was told that Agni had revealed Puloma's status. In a fit of rage, Bhrigu cursed, "Agni! You will become the consumer of all things!"

Agni became furious after hearing Bhrigu's curse. "I am omnipresent. The gods and the pitrs (ancestors) accept oblations offered to me. Thus, it would be improper for me to consume an offering of unclean things," he thundered. Agni refrained from cursing Bhrigu because he was a revered Brahmin and rishi. After this incident, Agni went into incognito. Brahma then called Agni and told him that the curse stands modified because his flames will consume everything but his body will remain pure. Satisfied, Agni went back to his duties.

Angiras becomes the Son of Agni

Once, sage Angiras performed severe penance and became more brilliant than Agni. The entire world was illuminated by his brilliant flames. Since Angiras was fulfilling the role of Agni, the people of the world started disregarding Agni. Agni was really upset by this and he once again went into hiding in a forest. When Agni disappeared, everyone was dismayed. Angiras went to the forest and consoled Agni and took him to Brahma. Brahma declared that from that day on, Angiras would be known as the son of Agni. Agni then resumed his regular duties.

Testing King Shibi

Agni deva: The acceptor of sacrifices



Shibi was a famous king. He was very righteous and virtuous. Once, he was doing a large yagna that would elevate him to the status of a minor deva. When Agni and Indra heard about this, they decided to test him. Agni turned into a pigeon and flew to King Shibi. Indra turned into a hawk which was trying to eat the pigeon (Agni). Agni settled in Shibi's hand and said, "King, please protect me from this hawk that is trying to eat me." Shibi replied, "I will protect you."

The hawk arrived there and said, "Give up that pigeon, it is my food." The king replied, "It has sought my protection. I cannot give it to you." "I too need your protection. If I don't catch that pigeon, my wife, my children and I will starve to death," the hawk said. The pigeon whispered, "Please do not give me to him!" The king said, "I won't." The hawk replied, "If you care so much about that pigeon, slice a piece of your flesh from your right thigh equal to the pigeon." The king immediately agreed to cut his thigh. He cut a portion of his thigh and weighed it with the pigeon. Since the pigeon weighed more, Shibi cut even more of his thigh.

Suddenly, the pigeon turned back into Agni and the hawk turned back into Indra. The part that Shibi had cut from his thigh was restored. Shibi bowed down to Agni and Indra. Agni and Indra gave Shibi the blessing that his name would remain immortal and that there would be a special place in Swarga reserved for Shibi.

Agni's Indigestion

There was once a mighty king called Svetaki. He conducted many long yagnas. Not able to tolerate the high amounts of smoke in the yagna hall, all the sages left the king. Undismayed, Svetaki started another 12-year yagna in which no sages took part. Instead, the sages said that if he wanted to conduct another yagna, he could invite sudras (the lowest caste). Svetaki could not tolerate this insult and started doing penance on Mount Kailash. Soon, Lord Shiva appeared before him and made Durvasa rishi his priest. Durvasa rishi agreed to conduct the 12-year yagna. Throughout the 12-year period, Durvasa rishi fed the Agni (fire) lots of food. Agni was overfed and he developed indigestion. He lost his appetite, became weak, and his brilliance vanished.

Agni and the Khandava Forest

Agni's indigestion continued for a long time.

Dismayed, Agni approached Brahma for advice. Brahma said that Agni's indigestion would be cured if he could burn the Khandava forest, the abode of the Nagas. Agni tried to consume the forest by burning it, but the Nagas quickly extinguished his fires. Agni was disheartened and once again approached Brahma. Brahma told him to wait for the arrival of Nara-Narayana at the forest. They would be the ones who would assist him.

Agni waited for the arrival of the pair for many years. At that time, Arjuna and Krishna, who were Nara and Narayana, were living in Indraprastha. The Khandava forest was part of their half of the Kuru kingdom. Wishing to explore and civilize their lands, Arjuna and Krishna arrived at the Khandava forest. Hearing about the arrival of Arjuna and Krishna, Agni disguised himself as a Brahmin and requested their help.

"I have tried countless times to burn this forest, but my efforts are always futile due to Indra. His friend Takshaka, the king of the Nagas, resides in this forest. Every time I set off a fire, Indra sends down rains to protect his friend's tribe," Agni explained.

Arjuna and Krishna agreed to help Agni. But they needed to arm themselves. Agni gave Arjuna a chariot bearing the flag of Hanuman and four white horses. Arjuna then prayed to Varuna deva, who gave him the Gandiva bow and two inexhaustible quivers.

Agni then started burning the forest. Immediately, Indra sent down a rainstorm, but Arjuna created a canopy of arrows above the forest to block the rain. Krishna used his Sudarshan chakra and assisted Arjuna. Soon, the entire forest was reduced to ashes and Agni was cured of his indigestion.

Agni and Sudarshana

King Nila of Mahishmati had a beautiful daughter named Sudarshana. Once, Agni took a small glance at her and immediately fell in love. Agni started dreaming about the beautiful lips of Sudarshana. In the end, Agni married Sudarshana and started staying at the palace of King Nila.

At this time, Yudhistira launched the Rajasuya military campaign and Sahadeva was sent south. After conquering Vidarbha, Sahadeva entered the kingdom of Nila. Before long, a fire erupted in his camp. Sahadeva was distressed by this setback and started praying to Agni deva. This led to him learning about the relationship between Nila and Agni.

But Agni deva knew that for the Rajasuya yagna to be successful, Nila would have to surrender and pay tribute. He advised Nila to peacefully surrender. Nila listened to the advice of Agni and surrendered. Sahadeva then moved on to other southern kingdoms.

Source: *Glorioushinduism*

PAGE SPONSORED BY

ARISH K. SAHANI

Serving Since 1972

Please Call or Write for Your Insurance Needs

Arish K Sahani (Father)

Shiv Sahani (Son)

Priya Sahani Sood (Daughter)

718 - 271 - 1906



arish.sahani@gmail.com

"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."

Shree Ganeshaya Namah



**VEDIC ASTROLOGER NASTUR
BEJAN DARUWALLA**

**By Vedic Astrologer
Nastur Bejan Daruwalla
is available for astrological
consultations.**

**He can be reached at
info@bejandaruwala.com
and on phone**

**+91 8141234275
for astrological
queries**

www.bejandaruwala.com



Chirag Bejan Daruwalla with his father late Bejan Daruwalla

**TIP brings you Weekly and Birthday Horoscope from the
World's most trusted Vedic Astrologer Nastur Bejan Daruwalla.**

**WEEKLY HOROSCOPE
29th March to 4th April 2021**

Aries

There will be a highly positive shift in your confidence this week and your competitors will think twice before facing you. People will not dare to pick fights with you this week, let alone ask favors from you. You need to use this opportunity this week to build better relationships. Your love life will flourish to a new level this week. You will feel loved and you will in-turn love and care for your partner. This week is very good for you to take the next step in your life. Work on taking out more time from your work to focus on your relationship and getting to know each other better as well as what makes each other happy.

Taurus

You will find the person of your dreams unexpectedly this week if you're single. Venus is in your favor this week. You will have wonderful adventures this week with your partner. You will need to put some effort to please your partner. But all in all, this week will be a great week for you to get to know how your partner reacts when things don't work out. You will move on to the next level with your partner this week and that will be celebrated by all of your family members, you will experience a positive shift in your feelings, the world has never seemed this beautiful to you before and you will simply be high on life this week.

Gemini

It will be necessary for you to receive a loan and to seek experienced advice this week. If you are starting an innovation in your existing business, you can expect help to come by in the form of sponsors. If you are looking at starting a new venture itself, there will be obstacles and its success will come after a lot of challenges. It is also possible that some business advisors' changes create a lot of trouble for you. You will understand and accept the concept of different perspectives this week which will keep your relationships at ease. As you become more accepting of people you will find yourself more reliable for other people. People will start craving your company this week.

Cancer

You will gain a lot of profit in your business this week which will set a positive tone for the week. You won't need to do things that you hate in terms of work anymore. You will have the time, space and affordability to follow your passion. You need to put in

a lot of effort to maintain your health. You need to work on becoming more responsible for your own behavior and actions towards your partner and your loved ones. Your poor behavior might cause you to lose people who truly care and look out for you, if you continue to reflect your anger onto others this week itself.

Leo

You have been very blind and forgiving in your current relationship this week. Ignoring every red flag and making excuses for your partner's poor behavior will only end up wasting your time and you will highly regret it. Be mentally strong and focus on yourself more than other people. This may not be very tender or romantic, but it's meant to make you strong enough for you to be able to make sensible decisions.

Virgo

Positive energies are mild for you this week. The positive highlight for you this week is you will gain a lot of clarity and insight into your love life. You will see your partner and their behavior the way it is and not with your love glasses on like you have been for a while now. This will make it very easy for you to make decisions and will be fruitful for you.

Libra

You will really content and happy with at the stage your relationship is and the way your partner treats you this week. You will feel what it is like to have a safe haven, someone whom you can trust so deeply yet be yourself around them so easily without the fear of any judgment. Your health will be the most negative part of this week for you. Severe joint pain will bother you and you won't be able to be your usual productive self being in so much pain this week.

Scorpio

You will find yourself in a very uncomfortable position in your relationship this week. If you try to come to an understanding with your partner things will get tangled even more. You tend to lose focus when in a heated argument and easily get into your partner's past mistakes. If you at all still decide to be confrontational, you need to focus on the issue at hand. A new prospect is very likely to arise this week, you will feel your business grow throughout the week and feel a sense of satisfaction in terms of your finances. This week is an amazing week for your business you will grow a lot professionally this week.

Sagittarius

You will receive a lot of love, support and understanding from your partner this week. You will enjoy the pampering you receive a lot this week, meanwhile, remember to reciprocate it back this week itself. You need to realize that this is a give and get relationship and one-sided efforts don't last long. Although you're the type of person that does not go big, small kind gestures will be more than welcomed by your partner. Your business might be challenging this week. You will not focus on it a lot due to personal commitments and towards the end of the week; you'll realize the consequences of that. Being self employed you lack a lot of discipline. Delay in the work of a particular client will cause you to lose your reputation in the industry.

Capricorn

This week is going to be fabulous for you. Positive news at the beginning of the week itself will boost your confidence for moving out of your comfort zone and socializing and stating your ideas more in your workplace. You will find finances in abundance this week. Although there would be great earning potential, you must still be cautious about your hard-earned money. If you decide to make huge investments this week, you may incur some losses as luck is not in your favor this week. You should focus on improving your savings instead of spending this week.

Aquarius

Your optimistic nature will help you move past any hurdles without feeling sad or disappointed. You will feel as if you're being tested in strength and character as well as patience by your partner. Use the energy you have this week to focus entirely on your health, spirituality, goals and aspirations. Although you will be annoyed by your partner, you have the will and strength this week to ignore them and focus on yourself.

Pisces

A very positive week for you this week. This week will be simple yet serene. No new exciting prospects or projects will arise, but you'll fall in love with your work and fall in even more love with your partner this week. Your business will flourish because of old projects that you already have. You need to work on updating your skillset even though it sounds tough and challenging for you.

(Read Birthday Horoscope on Page 42)

BIRTHDAY HOROSCOPE
29th March to 4th April 2021

March 29

Today is a great day for you to look back and reflect and all the hard work that you have done and everything that you have been through the past year. Today you will realize that no matter what comes your way, you will be able to tackle it with great strength and will. Knowing your strong qualities will make you happy and content today. You might not have a lot of people celebrating with you today, but you won't need anyone as well because today you will be enough for yourself.

March 30

Your day will have you exhausted by noon itself because of the unending to-do list you have today. The negative part of today is that you won't have the time to stop and enjoy the day as it is because you will be running errands the whole day today. Nothing significantly negative will happen today other than you being very tired and exhausted but you need to decide how you want to spend the day at the beginning itself which will help you manage your time well.

March 31

A lot of socialization will happen for you today. You might love some parts of the day because you will get to spend it with your favorite people but you might have some parts as well because you do not like to be fake around people you don't like but you will have to be all smiles today and greet everyone that comes to see you. All in all, you will have a fun day with the people you love doing things that make you happy.

April 1

You are a very happy person today because you already what's coming for you today. You will be very assertive in letting everyone know how you want to spend your day today, which might take some people by surprise and you might even upset some of your friends, but you will not care today as your self-confidence is just on another level today. Today is your day and you will absolutely have it your way.

April 2

You will have lots of fun with someone that you love today. If you're in a relationship today will be exclusively about you and your partner. Your partner might plan a small but very beautiful surprise getaway for you that will melt your heart. You will feel that love

is in the air today and you will be beaming with happiness wherever you go. If you're single, the chances of meeting your partner today are very high, hence socialize as much as you can today.

April 3

You will lead by example at your workplace today because you will voluntarily not take the day off today and help your team get out of the mess and finish the work on the given deadline. You have been quite diligent and responsible at work which will help you attain the next position in your workplace today. Prosperity and fame are both in your cards today; hence even though you will spend the day working, you will feel great all day today.

April 4

You might face some drama in your family at the beginning of the day. Although the drama does not include you directly, choosing between two people you love will be difficult for you. If you try to escape the situation it would be better for you. Everything will calm down as the day comes to an end and you will feel better as well. You might want to be cautious about foods that you consume today because your health is in a sensitive state and you do not want to mess it up hence try to eat as healthy as you can and also make some time for exercising today.

CONTD FROM PAGE 3

Farm unions mark 4-month anniversary of protest against agriculture laws

transport and suspend services, except for ambulances and other emergency services.

Here are the live updates:

9.40 AM

Traffic movement suspended on Ghazipur border

The Delhi Police has closed both carriageways of National Highway-24

passing through the Ghazipur border in view of the 'Bharat Bandh'.

In a tweet, the Delhi Traffic Police said, "Traffic movement is closed on Ghazipur Border NH-24 (Both carriageways)." The one side of the carriageway was earlier opened on March 15 for traffic. However, the other side from Ghaziabad towards Delhi is closed since the farmers' protest started. - PTI

9.30 AM

'Satyagraha' ends atrocities, arrogance: Rahul Gandhi on Bharat Bandh

India's history shows that 'satyagraha' ends atrocities, injustice and arrogance, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi said, expressing support for the 'Bharat Bandh'.

In a tweet in Hindi, Mr. Gandhi said India's history shows that 'satyagraha' ends atrocities, injustice and arrogance. The movement should be in national interest and peaceful, the former Congress chief added.

9.20 AM

Vehicular movement hit in Punjab, Haryana, Delhi

In Punjab and Haryana, groups of farmers started sit-in protests, or dharnas, on key roads, including national and State highways, as well as besides railway tracks at a few locations.

Vehicular movement was disrupted in parts of the two States, which have been at the forefront of the protests. Public transport, including buses and taxis, stayed off the roads. SKM members will hold dharnas at 120 places in Punjab alone, said Jagmohan Singh, general secretary, Bhartiya Kisan Union-Ekta (Dakonda).

At least five agitation points have also been identified within Delhi city, with protests to begin by 11 a.m. This will also be the first major agitation within the capital since the Republic Day tractor parade.

8.40 AM

Farmers occupy key roads in Punjab, Haryana

Several groups of farmers on Friday went on dharna on key roads, including national and State highways, besides railway tracks at a few places, in Punjab and Haryana amid the call for 'Bharat bandh'.

Vehicular movement was disrupted in parts of Punjab and Haryana. Public

transport, including buses and taxis, stayed off the roads.

"A complete shutdown has been called from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m.," said Jagmohan Singh, general secretary, Bhartiya Kisan Union-Ekta (Dakonda).

DELHI

Adequate security arrangements in place, says Delhi Police

The Delhi Police said adequate security arrangements have been put in place in view of the 'Bharat Bandh'.

Delhi Police PRO Chinmoy Biswal said there will be intense patrolling to maintain peace in the national capital. "There will be adequate security arrangements in all police districts during the 'Bharat Bandh'," he said. "The patrolling staff will roam in their area throughout the day and their focus will be to maintain peace in busy marketplaces," Mr. Biswal said.

ODISHA

Odisha declares closure of educational institutes

The Odisha government declared the closure of all educational institutions across the state on March 26 in view of the nationwide Bharat Bandh call.

The Congress and Left parties have announced their support to the 12-hour bandh to be observed from 6 a.m.

The State's BJD government has asked its employees to reach offices by 9.30 a.m. on Friday in view of the bandh.

The front gates of state secretariat Lok Seva Bhawan will be closed at 10.15 a.m. and all the passage will be regulated through rear gates. Security check of identity cards and passes of the employees and visitors will be intensified, the home department said.

In a notification, the government said that schools, colleges, universities and technical institutions will be closed on Friday in view of the bandh. (Source: PTI)

INVITATION

World Autism Awareness Day

Inclusion in the Workplace:
Challenges & Opportunities in a Post-Pandemic World

Virtual Event

Thursday, 8 April 2021 | 10 - 11 a.m. EST | 16 - 17 p.m. CET

Event Registration - click here

हेरम्ब, न्यूयार्क प्रस्तुति

RANG SANGAM, SUN MARCH 28 AT 10:00AM ET
YOUTUBE.COM/HERAMBASTUDIO &
FACEBOOK.COM/HERAMBASTUDIO




रंग-संगम कवि सम्मेलन

The South Asian Times
excellence in journalism

The INDIAN PANORAMA
EVER TRUTHFUL




संयुक्त राष्ट्र संघ
Consulate General of India
New York

**ICCR Scholarship Scheme
for Indian Culture 2021-2022**



Indian Council for Cultural Relations
वर्तमान संसाधनों के तहत

*Study
Indian Classical Music,
Dance,
Painting, Yoga & Sculpture
at
Indian Universities/Institutes*

Application/ information:
<http://azascholarships.iccr.gov.in/>

Application submission process begins - 15 March 2021
Last date of submission - 30 April 2021
Open for all Nationals




9:41

The INDIAN PANORAMA
EVER TRUTHFUL

**is NOW
on
APPLE
NEWS, too**



R & R Dental Lab

86-24 Whitney Ave. Elmhurst, NY 11373

Tel. (718) 533-1611; (347) 808-7258

Email: rbarua1953@gmail.com



- We make all kinds of Acrylic, Metal and Flexite Dentures, applying high quality technology by experienced technicians.
- We repair, reline night guards etc.
- We do delivery and pick up. Quick delivery on the same day.
- EMERGENCY new dentures SAME DAY service

We are in Dentures Work for the last 40 years.
We **GUARANTEE** full satisfaction



SONU INSURANCE AGENCY INC.

Insurance, Money Transfer, Tax Preparation

Specializing in:

- Auto ● Home ● Business
- Construction
- Workers Compensation

TAX PREPARES- PERSONAL RETURNS (1040)
MONEY TRANSFER: Send money to India, Pakistan, Bangladesh



MASTER MOHINDER SINGH
Licensed Real Estate Salesperson
Licensed Mortgage Loan Originator
Cell: 646-523-5092

CALL TODAY
OPEN 9 AM to 6 PM

**113-09 101st Avenue (Opposite Gurdwara),
Richmond Hill, NY 11419**
Phone: 718-847-1878/ 1885 Fax: 718-847-1879
Email: sonuinsurance@yahoo.com



77 North Broadway Hicksville, NY 11801
127-24 101 Ave. Richmond Hill, NY 11419
(516) 932-3400
www.hprealty1.com

- Residential & Commercial Real Estate
 - Single Family, Multi-family, Investment properties
 - Hotels/Motels, Gas Stations, Restaurants
 - Relocation Assistance - brokers licensed in
 - New York and Indiana
- Insurance Services
 - Home Life and Health
- Mortgages (provided by affiliate lenders)
 - New Purchase Refinance
 - Hard Money Loans Business/SBA Loan

ARE YOU BEHIND ON YOUR MORTGAGE PAYMENTS?
IS THE BANK GIVING YOU A HARD TIME FOR MORTGAGE DEFERRAL OR FORBEARANCE?
STOP FORECLOSURE!

CALL THE EXPERTS AT HP REALTY FOR MORTGAGE RELIEF ASSISTANCE



Pal Singh Dhillon
Licensed Real Estate Broker
QA Software Engineer, E-Pro Certified
Notary Public
(516) 304-2630

Jeet Dhillon
Licensed Real Estate Broker
New York and Indiana

(516) 830-0352

hprealty1@gmail.com





HOLI CELEBRATION



WITH THE SUPPORT OF
CONSULATE GENERAL OF INDIA, NY &
GLOBAL ORGANIZATION OF PEOPLE OF INDIAN ORIGIN (GOPIO)
GOPIO - NEW YORK

INVITING ALL OF YOU TO JOIN US WITH FAMILY AND FRIENDS
TO CELEBRATE VIRTUAL HOLI ON ZOOM

DATE MARCH 28TH, 2021, 10.30 AM - 12.30PM



HON. RANDHIR JAISWAL
CONSUL GENERAL OF INDIA, NY
CHIEF GUEST



MR. LAL MOTWANI
CHAIRMAN GOPIO-NY
GOPIO - INTERNATIONAL COORDINATOR AT LARGE



BEENA KOTHARI
PRESIDENT
GOPIO-NY



zoom

MEETING ID:
822 5836 5378
PASSCODE:
HOLI



DIGITAL PARTNER
Viven
PRODUCTION
9320 80 90 80



EMCEE
MRS. SHRUTI BEKAL
MRS. INDIA, USA - 2019 - 20



RAM GADHAVI
USA



PALLAVI VERMA
BELWARIAR



APARNA
SREEDHAR



MAMATHA PUTTASWAMY
MRS. INDIA CONNECTICUT
2019-20



ANOOP
BHARGAVA
USA



MR ANWAR HUSSAIN
BOLLYWOOD MAHARAJAH
TROUP FROM JAIPUR



KASHYP JAIN
USA



SIDHYA GANESH
MISS INDIA USA
TEAM-2020



SRISHTI
BELWARIAR



JAI SRI LASYA
CLASSICAL DANCER
SOUTH AFRICA



PANDIT SATYANARAYAN
CHARKA GROUP



PRITISHA SINGER
SOUTH AFRICA



NISHKA
SOUTH AFRICA



RENU KUNDEM
CANADA



VIM GOYAL USA
GOLD SPONSOR

OTHER SPONSORS - BEENA KOTHARI, KETAN SHAH, MIHIR PATEL, MALNI SHAH, DHIRAJ AHUJA, & BINA SABAPATHY



HOLI CELEBRATION

GOPIO - NEW YORK EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

LAL MOTWANI 516-581.3323 - BEENA KOTHARI 631-988-1280 - INDERJIT SINGH - 646.919-7576
MIHIR PATEL 917-440-2837 - YOUSUF SYED 631.630-1584 - JOHN PAUL 917.880-9045



GOPIO INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE :-

VIMAL GOYAL, MALINI SHAH, BINA SABAPATHY

- DR. THOMAS ABRAHAM - CHAIRMAN**
- SUNNY KULATHAKAL - PRESIDENT**
- ISHWAR RAMLUTCHMAN - EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT**
- RAM GHADHAVI - VICE PRESIDENT**
- GEORGE VERGHESE - GENERAL SECRETARY**
- SOHAN P JOSHI - TREASURER**
- LAL MOTWANI - INTERNATIONAL COORDINATOR AT LARGE**
- HARBACHAN SINGH - INTERNATIONAL COORDINATOR FOR NORTH AMERICA**
- ISSAC JOHN - GLOBAL AMBASSADOR**
- MEHEN POINOOSAWMY - INTERNATIONAL COORDINATOR FOR EUROPE**
- RITA ABRAHAM - INTERNATIONAL COORDINATOR FOR AFRICA**
- JOHNY KURUVILLA - INTERNATIONAL COORDINATOR FOR MIDDLE EAST**
- JAGDISH LODHIA - INTERNATIONAL COORDINATOR FOR OCEANIA**
- DR. ASHA SAMANT - INTERNATIONAL COORDINATOR AT LARGE**
- NIRAJ P BAXI - CHAIRMAN OF GICC**
- JEAN REGIS RAMSAMY - INTERNATIONAL COORDINATOR FOR FRANCOPHONE**
- BALA GOPAL - INTERNATIONAL COORDINATOR FOR SOUTH ASIA**
- J. NAMI KAUR - CHAIRPERSON MEDIA COUNCIL**
- JAY MODY - ASSOCIATE SECRETARY**
- ASHOK MADAN - SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA AREA COORDINATOR**
- SUNIL RAWLA - LIAISON WITH GOVERNMENT OF INDIA**
- DR.SAI GIRIDHAR - CHAIR, CHAPTER REVIEW COMMITTEE**

ZOOM INFORMATION :-

TIME: MAR 28, 2021 10:30 AM EASTERN TIME (US AND CANADA)

JOIN ZOOM MEETING
[HTTPS://US02WEB.ZOOM.US/J/82258365378](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82258365378)

MEETING ID: 822 5836 5378
PASSCODE: HOLI

ONE TAP MOBILE
+16465588656,,82258365378#,,,,*510222# US (NEW YORK)
+13017158592,,82258365378#,,,,*510222# US (WASHINGTON DC)

DIAL BY YOUR LOCATION
+1 646 558 8656 US (NEW YORK)
+1 301 715 8592 US (WASHINGTON DC)
+1 312 626 6799 US (CHICAGO)
+1 253 215 8782 US (TACOMA)
+1 346 248 7799 US (HOUSTON)
+1 669 900 9128 US (SAN JOSE)

MEETING ID: 822 5836 5378
PASSCODE: 510222
FIND YOUR LOCAL NUMBER: [HTTPS://US02WEB.ZOOM.US/J/82258365378](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82258365378)

THE INTERNATIONAL TIMINGS FOR THE EVENT : 15:30 PM - UK, 16:30 PM - EUROPE, 17:30 PM - SOUTH AFRICA, 19:30 PM - MAURITIUS, 21:00 PM IST INDIA

Indian Visa Center

VISA / OCI PIO / PASSPORT
APPLICATION ASSISTANCE CENTER

349 S. Broadway, Hicksville, NY 11801

DEEPAK BANSAL

Email: deepakbansalny@gmail.com

Cell: 516.304.8808 Fax: 516.218.8009

LADOO MATRIMONIAL

ਰਿਸ਼ਤੇ ਹੀ ਰਿਸ਼ਤੇ RISTHE HI RISTHE

We Provide Worldwide Services



Jetander Sapra

212-470-7175, 516-309-0236

ladoomatrimonial@gmail.com

jetandersapra@gmail.com

261-03, Hillside Ave, Floral Park-11004

www.ladoomatrimonial.com



Do you want to succeed in a very rewarding career?

NEW YORK LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY

IS HIRING

Do you want to capitalize on your ability to produce?

COME CHECK IT OUT!

CALL MR. ROHAN HANDA 718-286-1132 | 516-435-6120

Rohan Handa
Executive Partner
New York Life

Conveniently located at:
95-25 Queens Blvd., 4th Floor
Rego Park, N.Y. 11374



Be a Vigilant Citizen

Be a part of
The Indian Panorama Team.
There is so much the
communities are
uncomfortable about, or need.
Share your thoughts with
The Indian Panorama at
editor@theindianpanorama.com

WE THANK OUR CUSTOMERS FOR THEIR TRUST & LOYALTY

26 YEARS OF EXCELLENT CUSTOMER SERVICE



INDO US EXPRESS, INC.

HICKSVILLE, NEW YORK

WORLDWIDE COURIER FREIGHT-FORWARDER
DOMESTIC & LOCAL DELIVERY

CALL US AT: 212-447-5720 or FAX 516-932-3750

ALTERNATE NUMBER: 347-538-7041

OR EMAIL US: INDOUSEXPRESS@GMAIL.COM

www.indousexpress.com

GREAT SERVICE, 7 DAYS A WEEK, 365 DAYS A YEAR!

CALL ABOUT OUR SPECIAL RATES

TO INDIA/WORLDWIDE

Get
to the
Point



The **INDIAN PANORAMA**

EVER TRUTHFUL
A DELIGHTFUL READING EVERY WEEK

Widest Coverage

Your Trusted Partner in Business

The Indian Panorama

P.O. Box No. 190067, South Richmond Hill, NY 11419, Tel: 646-247-9458
Dallas Edition - P.O. Box 121695, Arlington, TX 76012

www.theindianpanorama.news

Rishikesh: The celestial city of hermit's hermitage

The celestial city of Rishikesh is a hermit's hermitage, a sage's abode and an adventure lover's hub. This lively city is among the holiest places of Hindus. The tranquil and sometimes raging river of Ganges flows in eternity in this holy city, providing nourishment and life to many the earthly beings. After having a rendezvous with Rishikesh, the river Ganga leaves the Shivalik hills behind and flows into the plains of northern India.

The word Rishikesh literally suggests the 'locks or hairs of a sage'. The city is famously known as the 'Gateway to the Garhwal Himalayas' and the 'Yoga Capital of the World'. Many locals, as well as foreign tourists, visit this place in the quest for spirituality and peace. Rishikesh is also a commercial as well as a communication hub that lavishly sprawls over the suburban area of Muni ki Reti or the 'sands of the sages'.

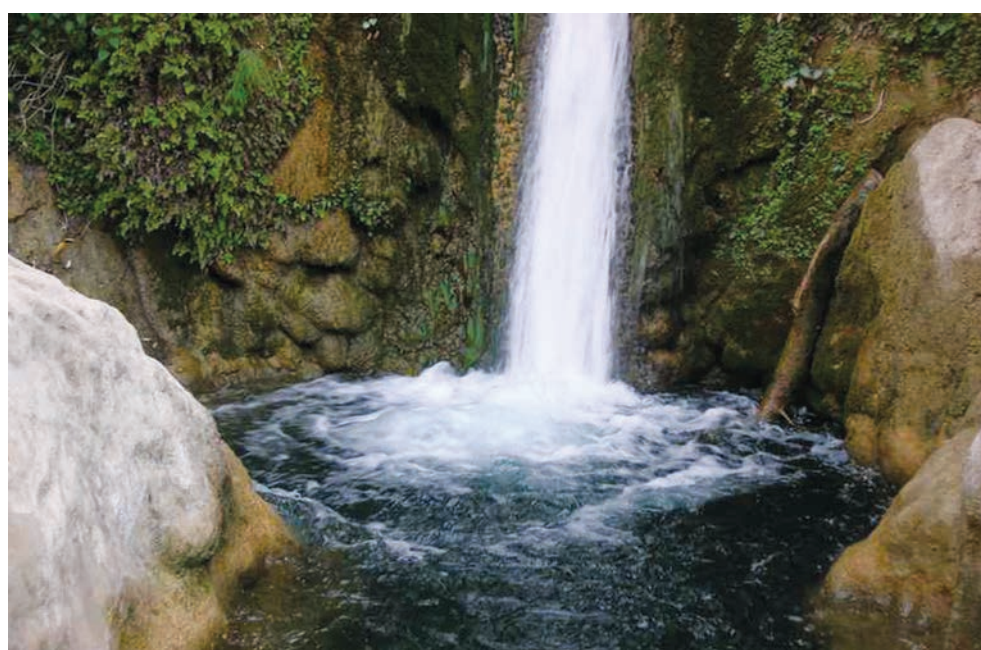
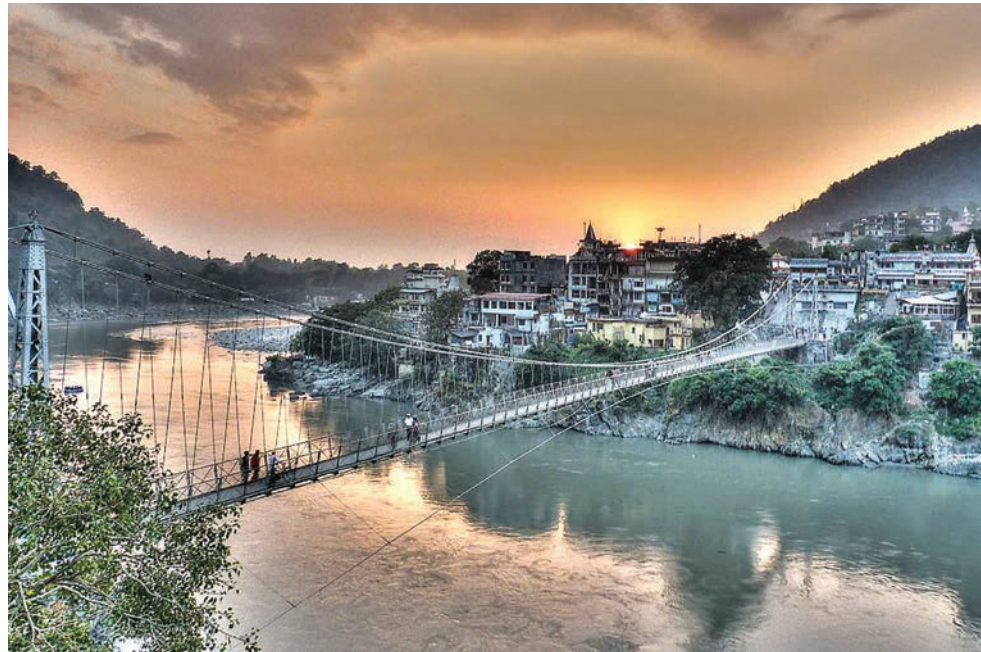
Places to visit

NEERGARH FALLS

Rishikesh is the home to many lesser-known waterfalls and the beauty of these hidden treasures is that one has to take a trek of few Kilometres to reach the falls. If you wish to spend some quality time with your family and friends amidst nature-rich environs, you can definitely plan a waterfall trekking in Rishikesh. The trekking to Neergadh Waterfall starts 3 km away from Laxman Jhula on the Badrinath Highway. It is one of the most frequented waterfalls as it is easiest to access. Visit Neergarh Waterfall just after monsoon season and you will witness water cascading thousands of feet from the mountain top. There are small pools along the hike where a hiker can sit and enjoy the serenity of falls, while soaking the tired feet. You can also consider taking a dip into the pool of fresh water. Trekking through Neergarh waterfall and passing by shallow pool will give you a feel and touch of what the state of Uttarakhand is all about. The best thing about this adventure activity is that it does not require any special skill to trek, owing to easy path and can be undertaken by people from all age group. Vendors are also available here to sell the beverages, which will cost slightly higher but a cup of tea in hand will be a good idea to enjoy the surreal beauty of the place.

NEELKANTH TEMPLE

Neelkanth temple is one of the most sacred places of worship for Hindus. It is situated on a hill above Swargashram and located at a distance of 32 km from Rishikesh. Neelkanth temple is considered to be an apt example of complete natural hill heaven that lies adjacent to mountain ranges of Nar-Narayan. Owing to its raw beauty & religious significance, both the devotees and nature lovers visit the place round the year. The way to the temple is quite exhilarating. There are steep & narrow roads taking above the hill, which will add the extra spice of adventure amidst the beauty. There is river flowing on one



side and mountain terrain is on the other side. Road is very curvy and narrow with steep slopes.

TREKKING

Trekking is all about reconnecting yourself with nature and exploring the

wonders of the Himalayas. For adventure enthusiasts, it is a much sought after option to escape the daily mundane life to find themselves in the lap of nature. Walking through verdant landscape, lush greenery and waterfall, and breathing in fresh air really prove to

be a refreshing experience. Located in the lap of the Shivalik Himalayas, the picturesque town of Rishikesh offers a host of scenic locales for trekkers. It gives the trekker a chance to witness the outstanding scenery of flowery green meadows, dense forests, fascinating local communities and astounding landscape of the eastern part of the Garhwal Himalayan ranges. There are all sorts of treks available near Rishikesh, which can be categorised into easy, moderate and hard treks. Small treks can be done in the adjoining villages and waterfalls while longer treks can be taken in nearby mountains. Few famous treks which can be taken near Rishikesh are Neer Garh waterfall trek, Kunjapuri trek, Neelkanth Temple Trek, and Jhilmil Gufa Trek. Longer treks which serve route from Rishikesh are Gomukh (Gaumukh) Trek, Valley of flower Trek, Tungnath-Chandrasheela Trek, Deoria Taal Trek, Hemkund sahib trek, Kuari Pass Trek and Roop Kund Trek.

DEVPRAYAG

In Sanskrit, prayag means 'confluence' and Devprayag stands for 'holy confluence'. Devprayag is the confluence of two holy rivers Alaknanda and Bhagirathi to form Ganga. According to religious scriptures, Devprayag is one of the five important holy confluences. Rivers like Bhagirathi, Alaknanda & the mythological river Saraswati (flowing underground) meet to form the River Ganga. River Bhagirathi originates from Gangotri and Alaknanda originates from Badrinath, both of which are considered sacred destinations for Hindus across the world. Devprayag is the last prayag of River Alaknanda. Religiously, the site is very sacred and holds immense significance among the Hindu followers. It is believed that Lord Rama and the King Dushratha did penance here. There is an ancient temple of Raghunathji built above the confluence with massive rocks. It is believed that the temple was built more than ten thousand years ago. There is a small water spring called Baitalshila, which is believed to have powers to cure leprosy. Devprayag is also hugely blessed with divine natural beauty and showers tourists with its serenity. The place is accessible throughout the year and can be visited anytime.

RAJAJI NATIONAL PARK

Rajaji National Park is known for its pristine scenic beauty and rich biodiversity. A paradise for nature lovers and wildlife enthusiasts, Rajaji National Park or Chilla Park is just 25 km away from Rishikesh. A normal safari by jeep usually takes 3 to 4 hours to complete the 36 km stretch of safari range and costs around Rs. 1200-1500 per person. It is carried out twice in a day; at 7 am in the morning and around 2 pm in the afternoon. Rajaji National Park is home to Asian elephants, deers, birds, tigers (only few), and antelopes such as the Nilgai, langoors etc. This park is the first staging ground for the migratory birds when they cross Himalayas to enter India.

PRESIDENT/PUBLISHER:

Prof. Indrajit S. Saluja

VICE PRESIDENT:

Chitagam Saluja

CHIEF EDITOR:

Prof Indrajit S. Saluja

CONSULTING EDITOR :

Deepak Dwivedi, Chairman,
Bhaskar Group, Delhi

ASSISTANT EDITOR:

Bidisha Roy

SPL. REPORTER UNO:

H.S. Panaser

GRAPHICS DIRECTOR:

Om Parkash Malik

DIRECTOR

ADMINISTRATION:

Gauri Beri

CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHERS:

Baldev Singh / BJ Videos
Gunjesh Desai / Masala Junction
Jay Mandal,
Mohammad Jaffer,
SnapsIndia
Mohammad Shahzad,
Zia Khan,
Nisha Rani
Vaaho Photographers,
Vijay Shah - Photo Journalist.

CORRESPONDENTS :

SACRAMENTO:

Parminder S. Aujla

NEW YORK :

Chitagam

FRESNO:

Tarlochan Singh

DALLAS:

Harjit Dhesi, Amarjit Dhillon

OVERSEAS CORRESPONDENTS LONDON

Nirpal Singh Shergill

SPL CORRESPONDENT

DELHI BUREAU CHIEF:

Chandan Singh

CHANDIGARH:

Manjit Sidhu

LUDHIANA:

A.S. Arora,

R.P.Sharma

JAIPUR :

Dr. Yashpaul Goyal

DALLAS BUREAU CHIEF & VP

Lovlien Kaurr

972-330-3139

editor@theindianpanorama.news

The Indian Panorama

P.O. Box No. 190067, South
Richmond Hill, NY 11419,
Tel: 646-247-9458

Email:

editor@theindianpanorama.news

DISCLAIMER

THE INDIAN PANORAMA ASSUMES NO RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE CLAIMS MADE IN ADVERTISEMENTS. WE ONLY SELL SPACE. VIEWS PUBLISHED IN THE NEWSPAPER ARE THOSE OF THE AUTHORS AND DO NOT NECESSARILY REFLECT THE VIEWS OF THE NEWSPAPER. ALL RIGHTS ARE RESERVED. REPRODUCTION IN WHOLE OR IN PART WITHOUT PERMISSION IN WRITING FROM THE INDIAN PANORAMA IS PROHIBITED.

CONTD FROM PAGE 1

Will Organize Summit of Democracies...

pandemic, the filibuster, voting rights laws, and troop withdrawal from Afghanistan, and China.

When asked if he would run again in 2024, he said: "The answer is yes. My plan is to run for re-election. That's my expectation."

When asked why he had not already announced a second run, while his predecessor had announced it much earlier on in his first term, he said Mr. Trump needed to announce his re-election early on in his term.

"My predecessor ... oh god I miss him," Mr. Biden said sarcastically.

Mr. Biden also said he expects Vice-President Kamala Harris to be his running mate again. "I would fully expect that to be the case, she's doing a great job, she's a great partner," he said.

When asked if he believed he would be running against former President Donald Trump, Mr. Biden said, "Oh, come on. I don't even think about ... I have no idea. I have no idea if there'll be a Republican party. Do you?" he said.

ON TROOP WITHDRAWAL : Mr. Biden said it was going to be difficult to get U.S. troops out of Afghanistan by May 1 - a deadline set by Mr. Trump following talks with the Taliban.

"The answer is that it's going to be hard to meet the May 1 deadline in terms of tactical reasons," Mr. Biden said. He however added that he did not expect to have troops there next year. "I can't picture that being the case," Mr. Biden said, adding that his administration was consulting allies and that whether it would be in a "safe and orderly" manner if the U.S. leaves. There are between 2,500 and 3,500 U.S. troops in the country as per differing estimates.

ON NORTH KOREA : On the news that North Korea had tested two short range ballistic missiles off its eastern coast - the first such test in nearly a year- Mr. Biden warned of a response but left the door open to diplomacy.

"We are consulting with our allies and partners, and there will be responses if they choose to escalate. We will respond accordingly," he said. "I'm also prepared for some form of diplomacy, but it has to be conditioned upon the end result of denuclearization," he added.

ON CHINA : On China, Mr. Biden talked about how he knew Chinese President Xi Jinping from the time they were both Vice-Presidents of their respective countries. He recounted a two-hour conversation he had as President with Mr. Xi and said he told him that he [Mr. Biden] was not looking for confrontation but that he knew there would be "steep, steep competition" and that he would insist that China play by the rules. Mr. Biden also talked about shoring up alliances, including with European allies, with whom he was scheduled to speak with later in the day.

He said he had been clear that it was not "anti-Chinese."

"And earlier this month...and apparently it got the Chinese attention...that's not why I did it...I met with our allies...and how we're going to hold China accountable in the region," he said. "Australia, India, Japan, the United States...the so-called Quad. Because we have to have democracies working together," he said.

Adding that he would be inviting an alliance of democracies to come to the U.S. to "discuss the future." Mr Biden had said he would organize a "summit of democracies" in his campaign manifesto.

"We're going hold China accountable to follow the rules," Mr. Biden said. "Whether it relates to the South China or North China Sea or the agreement made on Taiwan or a whole range of other things," he said.

Mr Biden said that he and Mr Xi understood each other well.

"As long as you and your country continues to so blatantly violate human rights, we're going to continue in an unrelenting way call to the attention of the world and make it clear what's happening, and he [Mr Xi] understood that [sic]," he said, citing China's actions against its Uighur minority and its encroachment on democratic process in Hong Kong.

He said the moment an American president walks away from these issues, as Mr. Trump did, is the moment America begins to lose legitimacy in the world. He said China had an overall goal to become the "leading", "wealthiest" and "most powerful" country in the world, and while he did not criticize that goal, Mr Biden said it would not happen on his watch.

Mr Biden said the world was in the middle of a fourth industrial revolution and that there was a battle between

democracies and autocracies in the 21 Century.

"We've got to prove democracy works," he said. (with inputs from agencies)

Bill Gates says world should be back to...

"This is an incredible tragedy," the Microsoft co-founder said on the pandemic, adding that the only good news was the access to vaccines.

"By the end of 2022 we should be basically completely back to normal," Gates said.

Gates, a billionaire who stepped down as chairman of Microsoft Corp in 2014, has through his philanthropic Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation committed at least \$1.75 billion to the global response to the COVID-19 pandemic. That includes support for some makers of vaccines, diagnostics and potential treatments.

The COVAX facility, backed by the World Health Organization (WHO) and the Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunization (GAVI), aims to secure 2 billion vaccine doses for lower income countries by the end of 2021.

First historic Mars helicopter flight on April...

"Ingenuity is a technology demonstration that aims to be the first powered flight on another world and, if successful, could further expand our horizons and broaden the scope of what is possible with Mars exploration," Glaze said in a statement on Wednesday.

On March 21, the rover deployed the guitar case-shaped graphite composite debris shield that protected Ingenuity during landing.

The rover currently is in transit to the "airfield" where Ingenuity will attempt to fly.

Once deployed, Ingenuity will have 30 Martian days, or sols, (31 Earth days) to conduct its test flight campaign.

Flying in a controlled manner on Mars is far more difficult than flying on Earth.

The Red Planet has significant gravity (about one-third that of Earth's) but its atmosphere is just 1 per cent as dense as Earth's at the surface.

During Martian daytime, the planet's surface receives only about half the amount of solar energy that reaches Earth during its daytime, and night-time temperatures can drop as low as minus 90 degrees Celsius, which can freeze and crack unprotected electrical components.

To survive the frigid Martian nights, it must have enough energy to power internal heaters.

"Every step we have taken since this journey began six years ago has been uncharted territory in the history of aircraft," said Bob Balaram, Mars Helicopter chief engineer at JPL.

"While getting deployed to the surface will be a big challenge, surviving that first night on Mars alone, without the rover protecting it and keeping it powered, will be an even bigger one," Balaram added.

The helicopter deployment process will take about six sols (six days, four hours on Earth).

While Ingenuity will attempt the first powered, controlled flight on another planet, the first powered, controlled flight on Earth took place on December 17, 1903, on the windswept dunes of Kill Devil Hill, near Kitty Hawk, North Carolina.

Orville and Wilbur Wright covered 120 feet in 12 seconds during the first flight. The Wright brothers made four flights that day, each longer than the previous. (Source: IANS)



Be a part of
The Indian Panorama Team.
So much is happening around.
Share your observations.
Email your
report / story to
editor@theindianpanorama.com

Venus Williams loses early at Miami Open

It has been 20 years since Venus Williams won her home tournament, and her stay at the 2021 Miami Open was brief.

Williams was eliminated on the first day of play Tuesday, March 23, by 89th-ranked Zarina Diyas of Kazakhstan, 6-2, 7-6 (10).

The 40-year-old Williams, ranked 79th, was making her 21st appearance in the tournament, now held 75 minutes from her residence in Palm Beach Gardens, Florida.

Williams' most recent title in the event came in 2001, when she beat Jennifer Capriati in the final. She also won the 1998 and 1999 titles.

Crowds were small for the first day of play, and will continue to be. Because of the pandemic, only 750 fans will be allowed on the grounds per session, and the 5,000-seat grandstand will be used for showcase matches.

Seeded players have first-round byes, including No. 1 Ash Barty, who can use the extra time to adjust her body clock. She arrived in Miami after a 45-hour trip from her native Australia.

France own goal in 1-1 draw with Ukraine

Holders France got their World Cup qualifying campaign off to a disappointing start with a 1-1 draw at home to Ukraine while Turkey pulled off an impressive 4-2 win over the Netherlands, powered by a Burak Yilmaz hat-trick. Croatia slumped to a shock 0-1 defeat away to Slovenia, while Belgium continued their remarkable run in qualifiers by coming from behind to beat Wales 3-1. Ireland scored twice away to Serbia but still got beaten 3-2, while Czech Republic routed Estonia 6-2 and Portugal scraped past Azerbaijan 1-0.

Kidambi Srikanth marches to quarters

As India shuttler Kidambi Srikanth on Thursday, March 25, advanced to the quarter-finals of the ongoing Orleans Masters.

Srikanth defeated Malaysia's Cheam June Wei in straight games in the third-round that lasted for 46 minutes. Despite facing a tough fight in both the games, Srikanth got better of his opponent and won the encounter 21-17, 22-20.

Indian men's doubles pair of Arjun MR and Dhruv Kapila also reached the quarter-finals after defeating England's Rory Easton and Zach Russ 21-11, 21-12 in just 29 minutes. Another men's doubles pair of Krishna Prashad Garaga and Vishnu Vardhan Goud Panjala stormed into the quarter-finals after overcoming the Danish pair of Kristian Kraemer and Marcus Rindshoj 21-7, 21-13 in just 28 minutes.

Germany, England, Italy win but Spain held in World Cup qualifying

Former champions Germany, England and Italy got off to winning starts in their World Cup qualifying campaigns on Thursday but Spain were held to a 1-1 home draw by Greece.

Four-times winners Germany enjoyed a 3-0 win over Group J rivals Iceland in Duisburg thanks to goals from Leon Goretzka, Kai Havertz and Ilkay Gundogan.

The German team followed the example of Norway on Wednesday in making a protest before the start of the game, lining up in Tee-shirts spelling out "Human Rights". The 2022 World Cup finals will be held in Qatar, who have been criticised by human rights groups.

"We want to make it clear to society that we are not ignoring this but say clearly what the conditions are," Goretzka told RTL television.

After the Norway protest, FIFA said it would not be sanctioning the team, saying it supported free speech.

The Germans took the lead after a delightful move as Joshua Kimmich found Serge Gnabry with a perfectly weighted pass and he touched it back for Goretzka to volley home in the third minute. Havertz made it 2-0 after another defence-splitting pass from Kimmich released Leroy Sane who squared it back for the Chelsea forward to curl in a low shot.

Dominic Calvert-Lewin scored twice and Ollie Watkins marked his debut with a goal as England crushed San Marino 5-0 at Wembley.

San Marino, who have never won a competitive game, held out for 13 minutes before James Ward-Prowse



England's James Ward-Prowse celebrates scoring their first goal.

opened his England account with a smart finish and Calvert-Lewin made it 2-0 with a header. Raheem Sterling made it 3-0 just after the half-hour mark at which point it seemed England might run riot.

But San Marino's mostly part-time players dug deep with Calvert-Lewin's second goal the only addition to the score until substitute Watkins slotted in late on as England moved top of Group I.

In Parma, Roberto Mancini's Italy had a tougher task but also made a positive start with a 2-0 win over Northern Ireland in Group C.

Two goals inside the first 39 minutes from Domenico Berardi and Ciro Immobile settled Italy's nerves as they

look to banish the disappointment of failing to qualify for the 2018 World Cup.

Northern Ireland rallied in the second half, forcing Italy goalkeeper Gianluigi Donnarumma into several saves.

FRUSTRATING NIGHT

A frustrating night for Spain in Granada began promisingly when Alvaro Morata opened the scoring for the hosts after 32 minutes, moments after Dani Olmo had rattled the crossbar.

However, shortly before the hour mark, substitute Inigo Martinez - on for captain Sergio Ramos - was penalised for a rash tackle on Greek midfielder Giorgos Masouras. *Source: Reuters*

IND vs ENG, 2nd ODI: Series win in sight, India fret over spin combination

MUMBAI (TIP): An image of Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma, arms around their shoulders, trended on social media on Wednesday as Team India made the most of a rare leisure day in their bio-bubble in Pune. But come Friday, they will be back to business as the hosts look to overpower England in the second ODI and seal the three-game series.

Keeping England's aggression in check may not be easy for India and the visitors' belligerence seldom dips. After putting up a 318-run target in the first ODI, the Kohli-led Indian team had to weather an England batting storm that saw them notch 131/0 in just 14 overs, although the chase faltered in the latter stages with Shardul Thakur striking crucial blows.

Credit should go to debutant pacer Prasidh Krishna (4/54), Thakur (3/37) and the experienced Bhuvneshwar Kumar (2/30) for stopping England's onslaught. The Indian spinners Kuldeep Yadav and Krunal Pandya - who combined went for 127/1 in 19 overs - were unimpressive. If Hardik Pandya is going to be used sparingly in bowling, then getting the spin combination right becomes even more vital.

Krunal, after conceding 36 in his first



three overs, managed to pull things back but Yadav looked listless in his nine overs. The Chinaman bowler, who has been regularly overlooked for a place in the XI in the last few months, couldn't do any good to his future prospects. His numbers show a worrying trend. Yadav, picked as a mystery spinner after the 2017 Champions Trophy, took 93 wickets at an average of 23 and economy rate of 4.95 till the 2019 World Cup. After that, he has averaged 51.41 for his 12 wickets, conceding 6.1 runs per over.

In Yuzvendra Chahal, India has an able replacement but bringing in the leg-spinner could be a risk against a batting line-up comprising attacking left-handers like Ben Stokes, Moeen Ali and Sam Curran. Besides, Krunal, whose place in the team looks assured thanks to his 31-ball 58* on debut in the first ODI, also brings the ball into the left hander. Washington Sundar is the other spinner in the squad but India may not be confident of using him as a lead spinner in the ODIs. *Source: HT*

Indian Americans top in family stability: Institute of Family Studies

CHARLOTTESVILLE, VA (TIP): As a group, immigrant families tend to be more stable than families of native-born Americans with Indian Americans ranking at the top in family stability, according to new study.

But not all immigrant families are equal when it comes to family structure, according to an analysis of census data by the Institute of Family Studies (IFS), a Charlottesville, Virginia, -based think tank.

Among the 30 largest groups of working-age immigrants in the US, Indian Americans rank at the top in family stability, noted Wendy Wang, director of research at the IFS.

Almost all (first-generation) Indian immigrants with children are stably married (94%), according to an IFS analysis of the 2019 American community survey. About 4% are remarried, and the share of unmarried Indian immigrants with children is only 2%.

Family stability is also higher among immigrants from other parts of Asia, such as Bangladesh, Pakistan, Taiwan, Korea, China, and Japan, the study noted.

More than 80% of immigrant families from these countries comprise two stably married adults with their children.

The conventional wisdom that higher education and higher income drive family stability applies to immigrant families to some extent, says Wang,

For example, immigrants from Asia tend to have higher educational levels than other immigrants and their family stability is also higher.

More than six-in-ten Asian immigrants with children are college-educated (64%), compared with 13% of their Hispanic peers.

And Indian immigrants not only top the list of family stability but also are one of the most highly educated and financially successful immigrant groups, IFS noted.

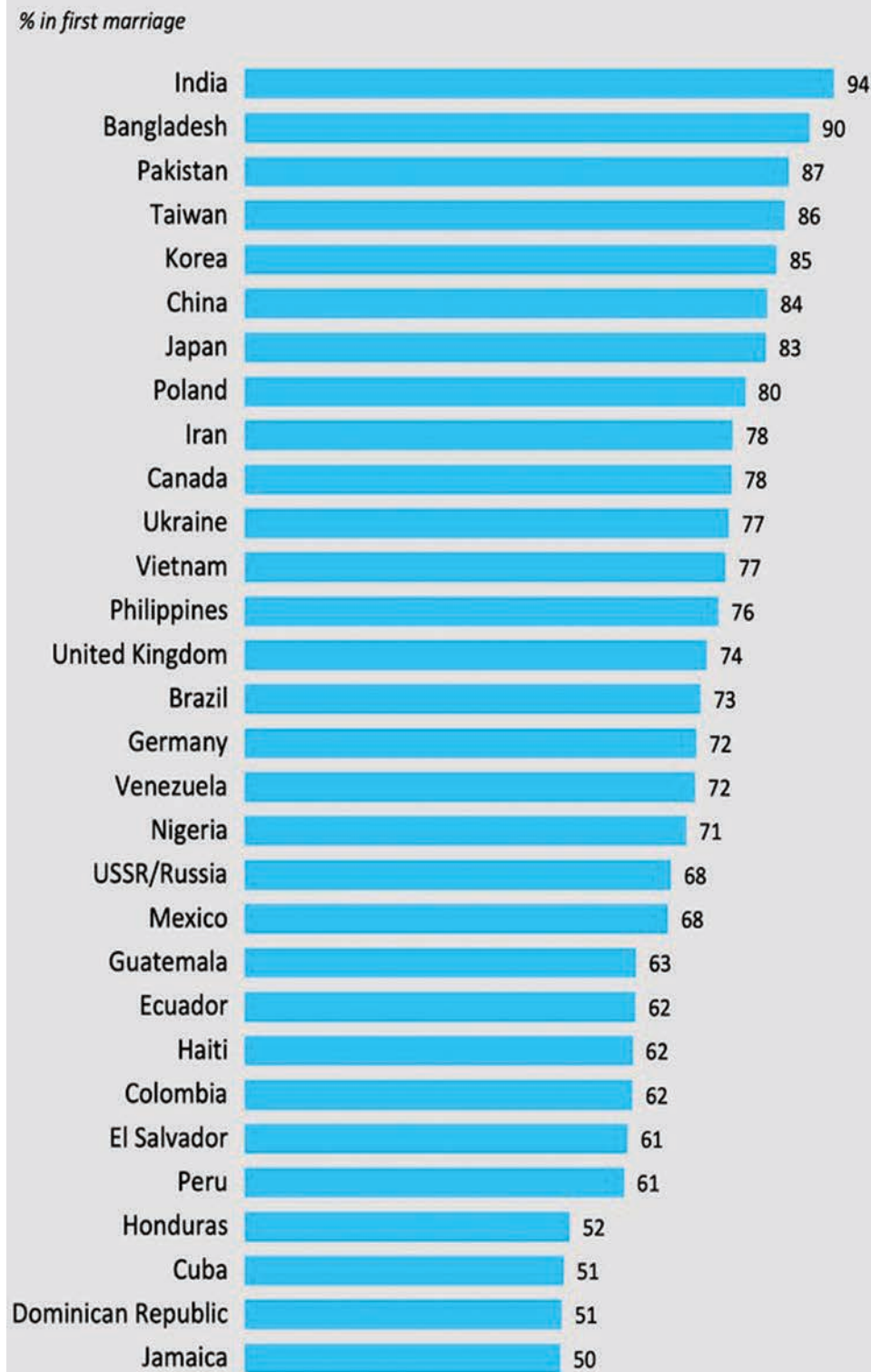
Compared with native-born American parents, however, immigrants with children overall have lower levels of education and higher rates of poverty.

Some 48% of immigrant parents have a high school or less education, compared with only 29% of native-born parents.

If the poverty rate is 15% for immigrant families with children, compared to 11% for native-born American families. Yet, immigrant families are more stable than native-born American families.

In fact, after controlling for education, income, race/ethnicity and age, immigrants with children are

Indian Families Lead in Marriage Stability



Notes: Based on adults ages 18 to 64 with children under age 18 in top 30 working-age immigrant groups by population size. Source: IFS analysis of American Community Survey 2019, IPUMS.

Institute for Family Studies

twice as likely to be in an intact family than native-born parents.

Native-born Asian Americans with children are less likely to be in a stable marriage than first-generation Asian immigrants (78% vs. 85%), even though their income is higher.

While Indian immigrants have the highest family stability: 94% of Indian immigrants with children are stably married, the share of intact marriage drops to 87% among native-born Indian Americans with children, the study noted.

This is so despite the fact that they have higher incomes than the first-generation Indian immigrants, and their educational levels are equally high, Wang wrote.

After controlling for education, income and age, Indian immigrants are more than twice likely to be in an intact family than native-born Indian Americans.

"Obviously, education and income alone cannot explain this family advantage of first-generation immigrants. So, what is it that makes

immigrants stand out?" Wang asked and suggested, "In a word: culture."

Immigrants are more likely than native-born Americans to embrace a family-first mindset when it comes to marriage and children.

The families that immigrants embrace not only provides them a safe harbor when facing the challenges as newcomers, it also helps to provide a better environment for their children to advance in life, the study noted.

According to a recent analysis by IFS senior fellow Nicholas Zill, children of immigrants are doing surprisingly well in school: they are more likely to get "As" and are less likely to have behavior problems.

The reason for their academic success is not because these children are from better-off families (in fact, the majority of them are not), it is partly because they are more likely to live in intact families with two married parents, Wang wrote.

With the share of immigrants in the US population near a historic high of about 14% or 45 million, the IFS study highlighting their cultural diversity noted the strength of immigrant families. Specifically, 72% of immigrants with children are still in their first marriage, whereas the share among native-born Americans is just 60%, it noted.

Behind these numbers are the relatively higher marriage rates and lower divorce rates of immigrants in general. For every 1,000 unmarried immigrants ages 18 to 64 in 2019, 59 got married.

The corresponding number for native-born Americans was 39. Likewise, only 13 out of 1000 married immigrants ages 18-64 got a divorce in 2019, compared with 20 out of 1000 among native-born Americans of same age.

While immigrants represent a diverse array of cultures and traditions, what many new immigrants have in common is a dedication to family that translates into better performance in school and a stronger shot at realizing the American Dream, Wang wrote.

Top 10 US immigrant groups leading in marriage stability:

1. **India** - **94%**
2. **Bangladesh** - **90%**
3. **Pakistan** - **87%**
4. **Taiwan** - **86%**
5. **Korea** - **85%**
6. **China** - **84%**
7. **Japan** - **83%**
8. **Poland** - **80%**
9. **Iran** - **78%**
10. **Canada** - **78%**

EAST WEST OPTICIANS



***Eye Exam**
***Contact Lens**
***Eye Glass**
***Sunglass**

Authorized Dealer of
Rayban, Prada, G.A.,
Versace, Flexon
& Much More.....

MOST INSURANCES ACCEPTED



263-18 Hillside Avenue, Floral Park, N.Y. 11004
Phone: 718-335-6000; 718-533-6664
Phone / fax: 718-457-5988, Phone /Text:718-514-0025

Order Online: www.eastwestopticians.com
Email: anilguptaus@yahoo.com
Mon to Sat : 12.00 P.M to 7.00 P.M. Sunday with Appt.

Full Service Unisex Salon

Rita's Beauty Parlor

THREADING SPECIALIST
SPECIALIZING IN :

- Eyebrow Threading
- Ayurveda Herbal Facials • Mini Facials
- Full Body Waxing • Brazilian Waxing
- Bridal Makeup • Mehendi
- Unisex Hair Cuts and Hair Styling
- Fruit Based Color Highlights and Ladies Body Massage

Soothing Relaxing Atmosphere
Quality Services
High on Hygiene & Sanitized Parlor



Open Tuesday to Sunday
10.00 am to 7.30 pm

454 S BROADWAY, HICKSVILLE, NY 11801
516-622-9300 / 347-608-9424

Email: ritabeautyparlor@aol.com
www.ritasbeautyparlor.com

Call now
and say coupon TIP50FF
to avail discounts
BOOK ONLINE APPOINTMENT

Dr. Frederick M. Ruffen Audiologist

Restoring your ear power

CELEBRATE THE SOUNDS OF YOUR LIFE




***Hearing Aid Evaluation * Hearing Aid Repair**
***Tympanometry * Ear Wax Removal**

- Complete Audiological Evaluations
- Tympanometry and Acoustic Reflex Testing
- Hearing Aid Evaluations
- Advanced Ear Mold Selection Skills
- Swim Plugs, Musician Plugs, etc.
- Wide Selection of Hearing Aids
- Hearing Aid Accessories
- Assistive Listening Devices
- Amplified Telephones
- Complete Hearing Help Care for Hearing Aids
- Quarterly Cleanings and Hearing Aid Checks
- Hearing Aid Repair, Loss/Damage and Loaner Services
- Yearly Evaluations
- Computerized Expert Fitting of Hearing Aids

If you are missing the sounds of your life call to schedule a **FREE** hearing screening.
TOLL FREE: 1-800-924-7413

LOCATIONS

Nassau University Medical Center 2201 Hempstead Turnpike, East Meadow, NY 11554 Phone: 516-296-2704 Fax: 516-572-8885	30 Roosevelt Street, Glen Cove, NY 11542 Phone: 516-759-0008 Fax: 516-759-0013	680 Broadway, Massapequa, NY 11758 Phone: 516-541-4353
--	--	--

OFFICE HOURS BY APPOINTMENT / WALK INS WELCOME

ATLAS ROLL OFF CORP.

DISPOSAL SITE

OPEN Monday - Friday 6.30 AM to 4.00 PM
Saturday 6.30 AM to 1.00 PM

For construction Debris,
Demolition & Cleanouts



Located at 895 Essex Street, Brooklyn, NY 11208
Just 5 minutes from JFK

Roll Off Dumpster Service

10, 15, 20, 30 & 40 Yards

Serving all the five boroughs of New York Since 1983
NYC BIC LIC #711

Reasonable low rates ** All major credit cards accepted

718-345-6451



A World without Childhood Blindness



Only by doing good can one benefit
-Rig Veda

An Eye Institute in Rajahmundry, Andhra Pradesh to prevent avoidable childhood blindness

Vision of Dr. V.K. Raju, the Eye Foundation of America and Goutami Eye Institute

- * 3.5 million + served
- * 350 thousand + surgeries
- * 30 thousand + on children



Message from Peter J. McDonnell, M.D. Director Wilmer Eye Institute, Johns Hopkins University, USA on the occasion of laying the foundation stone on December 10, 2020



"On behalf of all my colleagues of the Wilmer Eye Institute in Baltimore, MO, I send my best wishes and congratulations to our friends in Goutami on this extremely important occasion. This beautiful facility will match the wonderful world class work of your doctors, nurses and staff in preserving and restoring the vision of so many patients. We in the United States are inspired by your dedication and admire your tireless efforts to serve so many who need your skills and compassion. Best wishes, Peter"



POST SURGERY



PRE SURGERY

Triplets Prasanth, Susanth and Nisanth, who were treated by Goutami Eye Institute three years ago and gifted vision for life, as ROP babies under GEMROP (Goutami Eye tele Medicine Retinopathy Of Prematurity).

- Treating disease and vision problems
- Performing free cataract surgeries
- Screening infants and children
- Distributing glasses and visual aids
- Conducting Research
- Providing Education

Be a part of the movement. Donate now at www.eyefoundationofamerica.org
Tax Exempt # 55-0621735

The work by the Eye Foundation of America team started in 1977 and has spread from India to 21 different countries. Additionally, EFA Focuses on teaching and training of health professionals who receive the Foundation's support at every level.
<https://youtube/B23VvUaloN4> <https://youtube/KiCzqLQe2VE>

"There can be no keener revelation of a society's soul than the way in which it treats its children". - Nelson Mandela

To know more about the work of Eye Foundation of America or to donate, visit www.eyefoundationofamerica.org

ॐ सर्वे भवन्तु सुखिनः Sarve Bhavantu Sukhinah,
सर्वे सन्तु नरिमायाः । Sarve Santu Niramayah
May all be prosperous and happy!
May all be healthy!

The Eye Foundation of America
695, West View Avenue, Morgantown, WV 26505
Phone: 304-599-0705
www.eyefoundationofamerica.org