



"Those who have long enjoyed such privileges as we enjoy forget in time that men have died to win them."
FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT

INDIA'S EXTERNAL AFFAIRS MINISTER MEETS U.S. OFFICIALS, LAWMAKERS IN WASHINGTON

"Conveyed appreciation for U.S. solidarity in addressing the Covid challenge", the Minister says.



External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar with US Trade Representative ambassador Katherine Tai and other officials in Washington on May 27, 2021.

Photo / Courtesy Twitter@DrSJaishankar

WASHINGTON (TIP): External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar has had a hectic day and a half in Washington DC, where he met government officials, including National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan and the U.S. Trade Representative (USTR) ambassador Katherine Tai, lawmakers, and the private sector. Mr. Jaishankar, who is on his first visit to the U.S. during the Biden administration, met with Mr. Sullivan on Thursday, May 27. Both sides indicated that there was a discussion on regional (Indo-Pacific) or global issues, with Mr Jaishankar specifying, via a tweet, that Afghanistan came up.

"Conveyed appreciation for US solidarity in addressing the Covid challenge. India-US vaccine partnership can make a real difference," the tweet said.

CONTD ON PAGE 38

Biden Orders Intelligence Investigation into Origins of Coronavirus

Ravi Batra Applauds Biden for the Initiative

WASHINGTON (TIP): New York based attorney Ravi Batra appeared to feel vindicated after President Biden called for a 90-day sprint to understand the origins of the coronavirus pandemic which came after intelligence officials told the White House that they had a raft of still-unexamined evidence that required additional computer analysis that might shed light on the mystery, according to senior administration officials.

Ravi Batra smelt a rat long ago and wrote an open letter to President Trump pointing an accusing finger at China being responsible for the leak of Coronavirus from Wuhan Laboratory, and asking for an investigation.

After Biden took over, Ravi Batra wrote him an open letter repeating his accusation.

When The Indian Panorama called Ravi Batra for his reaction to the investigation news, he said: "I heartily welcome and celebrate President Biden's command to our intelligence community to investigate the origin of Covid-19. Roots are important not only to Alex Haley, but to biochemists and epidemiologists the world over to understand the nooks and crannies of this pandemic virus so as to more perfectly vaccinate against it and to



President Biden answers questions from the media

ultimately disarm it. This is a deadly Virus-ICBM, and a crime against humanity."

Read Ravi Batra's comment in full on Page 11.

CONTD ON PAGE 38

PAUL RYAN SLAMS TRUMP IN SPEECH ABOUT FUTURE OF REPUBLICAN PARTY



Ryan spoke to conservatives gathered at the Reagan Library, in Simi Valley California, Thursday, May 27 night that they were at a crossroads.- File photo

LOS ANGELES(TIP): Paul Ryan, a former speaker of the House, sounded a pointed warning to the GOP in a speech about its future, arguing that voters will have little patience for a party built on fealty to former President Trump. He told conservatives gathered at the Reagan Library, in Simi Valley California, Thursday, May 27 night that they were at a

crossroads.

"If the conservative cause depends on the populist appeal of one personality, or on second-rate imitations, then we're not going anywhere. Voters looking for Republican leaders want to see independence and mettle," he said. And leaving no doubt about who he was talking about, though he did not name Mr. Trump, Ryan continued,

CONTD ON PAGE 38

INDIAN ECONOMIST AMARTYA SEN GETS SPAIN'S TOP AWARD

LONDON (TIP): Indian economist and Nobel Laureate Amartya Kumar Sen has been conferred with Spain's top Princess of Asturias Award in the social sciences category, the Spanish prize foundation announced on Wednesday, May 26.



Amartya Sen - File photo

Sen, 87, was selected out of 41 candidates from 20 nationalities, the Princess of Asturias Foundation said. "His research on famines and his theory of human development, welfare economics and the underlying mechanisms of poverty have contributed to the fight against injustice, inequality, disease and ignorance," it said. The award comprises a Joan Miro sculpture representing and symbolizing the award, a diploma, an insignia and a cash prize of 50,000 Euros. The award was announced via videoconference. (Source: PTI)

ISRAELI STRIKES IN GAZA MAY BE WAR CRIMES: UN HUMAN RIGHTS CHIEF



UN Human Rights Chief Michelle Bachelet File Photo

GENEVA (TIP): UN Human Rights Chief Michelle Bachelet said that Hamas' indiscriminate rocketing during the conflict was also a clear violation of the rules of war.

The UN rights chief said on Thursday, May 27, that Israeli forces may have committed war crimes in the latest, 11-day war with the militant group Hamas that rules the Gaza Strip.

The remarks by Michelle Bachelet came as the UN's top human rights body opened a one-day special session to discuss

CONTD ON PAGE 38



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

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

Lovllien 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.

-: GUEST COMMENTS:-

Rules and rulers: On social media curbs

The Govt. must hear out the social media industry, and shed its arbitrary rule-making

It does seem that most if not all global social media giants will miss complying with the new IT rules of intermediaries, which come into effect today. It would be unfortunate if this non-compliance were to trigger a further worsening of the already poor relationship between some social media players and the Government. The new rules were introduced in February. Among other things, they require the bigger social media platforms, which the rules referred to as significant social media intermediaries, to adhere to a vastly tighter set of rules within three months, which ended on May 25. They require these platforms to appoint chief compliance officers, in order to make sure the rules are followed, nodal officers, to coordinate with law enforcement agencies, and grievance officers. Another rule requires messaging platforms such as WhatsApp to trace problematic messages to its originators, raising uneasy questions about how services that are end-to-end encrypted can adhere to this. There are indeed many problems with the new rules, not the least of which is the manner in which they were introduced without much public consultation. There has also been criticism about bringing in a plethora of new rules that ought to be normally triggered only via legislative action.

But non-compliance can only make things worse, especially in a situation in which the relationship between some



platforms such as Twitter and the Government seems to have broken down. The latest stand-off between them, over Twitter tagging certain posts by BJP spokespeople as 'manipulated media', has even resulted in the Delhi Police visiting the company's offices. Separately, the Government has been fighting WhatsApp over its new privacy rules. Whatever the back-story,

it is important that social media companies fight the new rules in a court of law if they find them to be problematic. The other option, that of engaging with the Government, may not work in these strained times. But stonewalling on the question of compliance can never be justified, even if it is to be assumed that the U.S. Government has their back. Facebook, on its part, has made all the right noises. It has said that it aims to comply with the new rules but also needs to engage with the Government on a few issues. What is important is that the genuine concerns of social media companies are taken on board. Apart from issues about the rules, there have been problems about creating conditions for compliance during the pandemic. As reported by The Hindu, five industry bodies, including the CII, FICCI and the U.S.-India Business Council have sought an extension of 6-12 months for compliance. This is an opportunity for the Government to hear out the industry, and also shed its high-handed way of rulemaking.

(Tribune, India)

-: LETTER TO EDITOR :-

Nassau Must Use Federal Action on Hate Crimes as Catalyst for Local Action



ARNOLD W. DRUCKER
Nassau County
Legislator, LD 16

DEAR EDITOR:

I applaud President Biden for signing the COVID-19 Hate Crimes Act into law - an important, timely, and refreshingly bipartisan piece of legislation that will provide federal law enforcement agencies robust tools to push back against the alarming increase in senseless bias and violence that the Asian American/Pacific Islander (AAPI) community has endured throughout the COVID-19 pandemic.

Furthermore, Senate Majority Leader Schumer - who spoke recently on the front steps of this Legislature about the importance of fighting this scourge - deserves our thanks for leading the Senate to a nearly unanimous vote in favor of the measure.

Here in Nassau County, we have an obligation and a responsibility to add to that toolkit so that members of our local AAPI communities can once again regain the sense of security they deserve.

Last month, I filed a proposed local law that

would update the County's Human Rights Law to specifically outlaw discrimination based on an actual or perceived relationship to the COVID-19 pandemic. This bill would empower victims of discrimination and the County Attorney to sue for compensatory and punitive damages, attorney's fees and other relief deemed appropriate by the court. Individuals who violate the statute would furthermore face penalties of \$5,000 to \$25,000 per incident, which would be recoverable and payable to the aggrieved victim, as well as thousands of dollars in additional fines.

I urge my colleagues in the Majority to bring this measure to the floor of the Legislature so that it can be debated and adopted unanimously. By doing so, we would send a clear message that we will aggressively defend the rights of all Nassau County residents to live lives free of fear, hatred, and bigotry.

ARNOLD W. DRUCKER



FREE
RUPEE
REMITTANCE
TO INDIA

CREATING HISTORY AND FORGING THE FUTURE

Celebrating 75 Years of India's Independence

HAPPY

Memorial



remember and honor



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

INDIAN-ORIGIN UK MINISTER PRITI PATEL UNVEILS US-STYLE DIGITAL VISAS TO COUNT MIGRANTS



UK Home Secretary Priti Patel confirmed the so-called "sweeping changes" to the UK's immigration policy to "streamline" how people come into the country on Monday, May 24.

LONDON (TIP); UK Home Secretary Priti Patel unveiled a new US-style digital visa regime at the country's borders to measure immigration levels in and out of the country, according to UK media reports on Monday, May 24.

The senior Indian-origin Cabinet minister confirmed the so-called "sweeping changes" to the UK's immigration policy to "streamline" how people come into the country on Monday, May 24.

The post-Brexit changes included the border being managed digitally, which the government says will be easier to navigate for businesses and allow for the first time to accurately count people in and out of the UK.

"Our new fully digital border will provide the ability to count people in and out of the country, giving us control over who comes to the UK," Patel was quoted as saying in the 'Observer'.

"Our new approach will make it easier to identify potential threats before they reach the border. The British people will have confidence that the strongest controls are in place to keep them safe," she said.

The UK Home Office hopes to make entry to the UK fully digital by the end of 2025.

It means people wanting to come into the UK without a visa or immigration status will have to apply for an Electronic Travel Authorization (ETA), similar to the US system, with 30 million applications expected to be processed every year.

The British government has said that in the past 10 days, more than 140 foreign criminals have been removed from the UK, totaling more than 700 so far this year.

Indian-origin Mumbai-born Reuben brothers second richest in UK, Hinduja third in 2021 Rich List

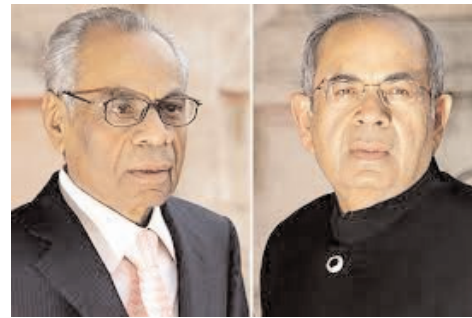
LONDON (TIP): Indian-origin Mumbai-born brothers David and Simon Reuben held on to their rank as the second richest in the UK with an estimated net worth of GBP 21.465 billion in the annual 'Sunday Times Rich List', topped by Russian-origin UK-US dual national Sir Leonard Blavatnik with an estimated fortune of GBP 23 billion.

In a preview to the rankings in 'The Times' on Friday, the Hinduja brothers - who had shared the second spot with the Reubens last year - slipped to third place with an estimated net worth of GBP 17 billion.

They are followed by British inventor-entrepreneur Sir James Dyson and family, who dropped from the top spot in 2020 to number four with a fortune estimated at GBP 16.3 billion.

In fifth place is steel tycoon Lakshmi N Mittal, who added GBP 7.899 billion to his fortunes over the past year to climb several spots from his 19th rank in 2020.

"He is spending nearly GBP 290 million on a pilot project to slash its [ArcelorMittal Group] carbon footprint,



David and Simon Reuben held on to their rank as the second richest in the UK with an estimated net worth of GBP 21.465 billion

no small endeavor for a company that mined 58 million tons of iron ore and made 71.5 million tons of crude steel during 2020," noted the listing for Rajasthan-born Mittal.

"The Mittals' stake in the business is worth GBP 10.5 billion, up more than GBP 7.5 billion in a year. 'The first quarter of this year has been our strongest in a decade,' Aditya Mittal said this month. Aditya, 45, Lakshmi's son, became chief executive of ArcelorMittal in February," it adds.

The second richest Reubens have been

found to have embarked on a buying spree during the pandemic, snapping up undervalued hotels and other properties.

"The Reubens have been buying US buildings to upmarket brands that are unlikely to be damaged by the pandemic, such as Tiffany, Armani and Alexander McQueen. There have also been significant investments in Mallorca and Spain, where the brothers plan to build hundreds of luxury retreats," notes the Rich List.

The other Indian-origin entries in this year's top five, Sri and Gopichand Hinduja, of the Hinduja Group of companies, are listed together in the ranking but a family rift has also been flagged in the wake of a legal battle that emerged last year.

"Cracks have appeared in the Hinduja's business empire, which has interests ranging from van manufacturing and luxury hotels to banking and healthcare," notes the report.

(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)

Indian-Origin Student Anvee Bhutani Elected Oxford Student Union President in Byelection



Indian origin Anvee Bhutani has won the Oxford students union election

LONDON (TIP): An Indian-origin Human Sciences student from Magdalen College at the University of Oxford has been declared the winner at the end of a Student Union (SU) byelection.

Anvee Bhutani, Co-Chair Campaign for Racial Awareness and Equality (CRAE) at Oxford SU and President of the Oxford India Society, was in the fray for the 2021-22 academic year, which attracted a record turnout.

She was declared the winner on Thursday, May 2nd night.

According to the 'Cherwell' student newspaper, Anvee Bhutani had used her manifesto to detail priorities of campaigning for the implementation of the Oxford living wage, delinking welfare services and disciplinary action, and diversifying the curriculum.

"Use suggestions from student campaigns to work with initiatives like the Oxford and Colonialism hub to push for a more diverse curriculum," reads her winning manifesto.

"Lobby for more funding towards existing mental health support programs including for graduate students; work towards more access and lower wait times for university counselling services," it notes.

According to the student newspaper, the voting had the highest-ever turnout for a byelection and has also beaten the overall turnout for several past annual leadership elections as 2,506 people turned out to vote, a 146 per cent increase from the last byelection in 2019.

The leadership contest also had the highest number of candidates ever in an Oxford SU President election, with 11 students running for the spot.

The byelection followed the resignation of Indian student Rashmi Samant, who was forced to step down soon after her election to the post in February amid a row over her past social media posts.

INDIAN-ORIGIN MAN ASKED TO 'MOVE' HOUSE BY 1-METRE OR PAY RS 1.6 CRORE DAMAGES IN AUCKLAND

AUCKLAND (TIP): An Indian-origin man who also owns a place in Auckland has been sued by the developer and asked to pay NZ\$ 315,000 (over 1 crore in Indian rupees) for constructing his house "in the wrong place".



Deepak Lal has built his home right on the neighbor's boundary. The one-meter difference between the boundary of his and his neighbor's house has become a nightmare for Deepak.

The mistake was reportedly committed by the builder, but still, Deepak has to clear the payment for faulty construction. Back in 2020, Deepak had contacted 'Pinnacle Homes' constructions to design and build his home in the Papakura area in Auckland of New Zealand's North Island.

According to nzherald.co.nz, despite the work completing in mid-2020, the finishing work on the three-bedroom house came to a halt in August after the construction company called to tell him about the boundary mix-up. Deepak's three-bedroom home is located right on the boundary of his neighboring property.

That property is owned by the company C94 Development. The company wants Deepak to move his little house or pay \$315,000 in damages, reported nzherald.co.nz.

The situation has become a "nightmare" for Lal. "I wake up in the middle of the night and think 'how am I going to solve this?'," said Lal.

According to Deepak, the Auckland Council approved the building consent for the house. Lal's lawyer Matt Taylor said that the issue has arisen as a "result of an error made at the design stage."

Indian American engineer Ravinder Singh Shergill who helped create USB specifications Honored by US Lawmaker

WASHINGTON (TIP): A US lawmaker has honored Indian-American electrical engineer Ravinder Singh Shergill who held several patents related to disk storage and helped create the USB specifications.

Shergill died on April 22 aged 64.

"Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to join me in honoring the life of Mr. Ravinder Singh Shergill. Our thoughts and prayers are with his family and friends during this difficult time," Congressman David Valadao said in his remarks at the House of Representatives earlier this week.

Born on September 12, 1956 in Punjab, Shergill migrated to the US for higher studies at the age of 17.

"At the age of 17, he immigrated to the United States and later graduated from UC Berkeley with a Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering. He went on to work for National Semiconductor for



As an engineer, Mr Shergill held patents involving disk storage and helped create the USB specifications

more than three decades," Valadao said.

"As an engineer, Mr Shergill held patents involving disk storage and helped create the USB specifications. As

a manager, he was admired and respected as a mentor to his colleagues. His story is truly an embodiment of the American dream," he said.

Universal Serial Bus (USB) is an industry standard that establishes specifications for cables and connectors and protocols for connection, communication and power supply between computers, peripherals and other computers.

Valadao said Shergill had a great appreciation for America, but he never forgot his roots.

"He was committed to bridging the Sikh and American communities together and was a founding member of the Sikh Youth of California and America. Shergill is remembered as a caring husband, father, and grandfather with a love for books, history, music, and film," he said.

Shergill is survived by his wife of 39 years, Grace Rosa; two daughters, one son and four grandchildren.

INDIAN AMERICAN ARUN VENKATARAMAN APPOINTED TO KEY ADMINISTRATION POST



Arun Venkataraman is the nominee for Director-General of the United States and Foreign Commercial Service and Assistant Secretary for Global Markets, Department of Commerce, the White House said on Wednesday, May 26

WASHINGTON (TIP): US President Joe Biden has announced his intent to nominate Indian-American trade expert Arun Venkataraman to a key position in his administration related to foreign commercial service.

Arun Venkataraman is the nominee for Director-General of the United States and Foreign Commercial Service and Assistant Secretary for Global Markets, Department of Commerce, the White House said on Wednesday, May 26.

With over 20 years of experience in advising companies, international organizations, and the US government on international trade issues, Arun Venkataraman is currently the Counselor to the Secretary of Commerce, advising the department on trade and other international economic matters.

(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)

Indian American Sikh man among 8 killed in shooting in San Jose

SAN JOSE (TIP): A 36-year-old Indian-origin Sikh man was among eight people killed in the horrific rail yard shooting in San Jose, according to media reports on Thursday, May 27.

Taptejdeep Singh, born in India and raised in Union City, California, has left behind his wife, three-year-old son, one-year-old daughter, and a grieving Sikh community in the San Francisco Bay Area, which described him as a "helpful and caring" man, The Mercury News reported.

Co-workers at the Valley Transportation Authority (VTA) hailed Singh as a hero, saying he left the safety of an office room, where some colleagues were hiding, to help others escape the line of fire.

Samuel Cassidy, 57, a maintenance worker of the VTA, San Jose, on Wednesday gunned down eight of his co-workers and critically injured another in a one of the deadliest shootings in California state this year.

As police arrived at the scene, the killer died of a self-inflicted gunshot.

Singh was a light rail operator at the VTA for nine years now. He worked at a separate building from where most of the other victims were found, giving the impression that Cassidy had selected his victims. Singh was fatally shot in the stairwell of a VTA building, the report said.

Singh's brother-in-law, P.J. Bath, another light rail operator at the VTA, confirmed that the shooter and Singh were in different buildings initially but



Taptejdeep Singh was among eight people killed in the horrific rail yard shooting in San Jose

said nothing on the victims being pre-decided by the killer.

"He just happened to be in the way, I guess. He was always helpful to everyone and caring," Bath said.

"We are in very deep grief," Singh's uncle Sakhwant Dhillon told the San Jose-based newspaper.

"He told people, 'be careful, hide.' He was running around the building to save others' lives. He was a good person. He helped everybody," Dhillon said.

Singh's brother Bagga Singh said he was told that his brother had saved a lady when he "rushed down the stairway," where he was eventually shot.

Singh may be considered a hero, but "he should have saved his life, too. We lost a good person," Bagga said.

Emotional scenes were seen at the Red Cross Center in the city where families of the victims gathered after the incident was reported.

(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)

INDIAN-ORIGIN FAMILY RETURNS \$1 MILLION TICKET TO WOMAN WHO DISCARDED IT



"If I had kept that million, I wouldn't have been this famous. So, I'm glad I gave it back," Mr Abhi said.

NEW YORK (TIP): A woman in the US state of Massachusetts threw away her shot at USD 1 million, but as luck would it, she got a second chance at the fortune, thanks to an Indian-origin family who returned the discarded lottery ticket to their long-time customer, earning appreciation for their honesty.

Lea Rose Fiega bought a Diamond Millions scratch-off ticket in March at Lucky Stop, a store owned by the Indian-origin family in Southwick, where she was a regular customer.

"I was in a hurry, on lunch break, and just scratched it real quick, and looked at it, and it didn't look like a winner, so I handed it over to them to throw away," Ms Fiega said on Monday, May 24.

But the ticket was not fully scratched off and it sat in a pile in the store for 10 days until Abhi Shah, son of the store owners, noticed the unfinished USD 30 ticket in the trash, the New York Post reported.

Mr Abhi said the winning ticket was sold by his mother Aruna Shah to one of their regular customers.

"One evening, I was going through the tickets from the trash and [noticed] that she didn't scratch the number. I scratched the number and it was USD 1 million underneath the ticket," Mr Abhi was quoted as saying by the local TV station WWLP.

"I was a millionaire for a night," he joked.

Mr Abhi said he initially thought of buying a Tesla car, but later decided to return the winning ticket.

"I mean I had USD 1 million in my hand and on the other hand I wanted to do something good," he said.

The family said it was not an easy decision to return the ticket.

"We didn't sleep two nights," said Maunish Shah, owner of Lucky Spot.

"He called my mom, grandparents in India, they said, 'Give it back, we don't want that money,'" Mr Maunish said.

The family then decided to return the ticket. Since the customer visited the store often, they knew where to find her.

(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)

ALERT INDIAN-ORIGIN DRIVER STOPS TRAIN FROM HITTING ASIAN MAN PUSHED ONTO TRACKS IN NEWYORK



Tobin Madathil, 29 stopped his train and saved an Asian man who was pushed onto the tracks in an apparent hate crime incident

NEW YORK (TIP): An alert Indian-origin driver stopped his train and saved an Asian man who was pushed onto the tracks in an apparent hate crime incident, according to media reports.

Tobin Madathil, 29, noticed a commotion as he was pulling into a station on Monday, May 24, and immediately took action. The quick-thinking subway operator was able to stop the train about 30 feet from the man.

"Right when I was coming into the station people were waving at me, and that's when I immediately placed the train into emergency mode," Madathil told the New York Post.

"I'm glad I was able to stop on time and didn't hit the guy, thank God!" he said.

Moments earlier, a crazed suspect had shoved the Asian male onto the tracks - the latest in a spate of attacks in the city's subway system, the report said.

Madathil, who has been a train operator for two years, said he "exited the train" and went to the bleeding victim before calling the subway control center for medical attention.

The victim was treated for a cut on his forehead at Mount Sinai Medical Centre, and police are investigating the incident for possible bias.

"I just try to stay focused at all times when I operate, just watch the tracks and platform, just be alert," Madathil explained how he always tries to be ready for the unexpected.

The suspected subway shover remained on the loose on Monday. During the attack, he said something to the victim, who did not understand him, the report quoted the New York Police as saying.

The Hill website described Madathi as "heroic".

New York City has seen an uptick in hate crime incidents against Asians.

Last week, US President Joe Biden signed legislation to address the sudden increase in hate crime against Asian-Americans in the aftermath of the Covid-19 pandemic and expressed hope that such crimes would now be more accurately counted and reported so that they can be ended.

MAYOR DE BLASIO ANNOUNCES PARTNERS AGAINST THE HATE (P.A.T.H.) FORWARD, PROVIDING \$3M TO COMBAT HATE CRIMES IN NEW YORK CITY

The de Blasio Administration and the Office for the Prevention of Hate Crimes (OPHC) to partner with six anchor organizations, launching an innovative, community-based approach to hate crime prevention.

NEW YORK (TIP): Mayor Bill de Blasio and Office for the Prevention of Hate Crimes (OPHC) Executive Director Deborah Lauter, on Thursday, May 27, announced the launch of the Partners Against the Hate (P.A.T.H.) FORWARD initiative to help combat bias-motivated incidents and hate crimes in New York City. P.A.T.H. FORWARD will provide

funding and programmatic support to six anchor organizations selected by the City to promote community-based approaches to reduce hate crimes and to expand hate crime reporting and services for victims.

"In New York City, we do not tolerate hate, violence, or bigotry in any form," said Mayor Bill de Blasio. "As we drive a

recovery for all of us, we must lift up the community leaders standing up against America's hate epidemic. We are taking action to make sure the hate in our beloved city is eliminated-once and for all."

Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news

The New York City Elections 2021

The 2021 New York City election will consist of Democratic and Republican primaries on June 22, 2021, followed by a general election on November 2, 2021. Our vote is our voice, and it is critical that we be heard on

What do you want your local elected officials to pay attention to? Let us know, and we'll ask them.

New York voters have a lot of decisions to make this year. A bunch of local offices are up for grabs in 2021, due to term limits. And elections are coming up fast: The primaries are set for June 22.

We want to make sure the candidates are held accountable to voters. So, we're asking for your questions. What do you want the candidates to pay attention to and take action about in your neighborhood? What questions do you have for them? What do you want them to know?

We're collecting questions from across New York to take directly to the candidates, get answers and send them back to you. Also, if you have other questions about voting and the elections, please let us know that, too.

If you have any issues with the form, email civicnewsroom@thecity.nyc.

If you're viewing this on mobile, go here: <https://forms.gle/FbY5PXkYh6n7BFxz6>

Q. What do you want the candidates to pay attention to and take action about in your neighborhood? If you have a question for a specific candidate, please let us know who that candidate is in the space below, too. You can be as detailed or as brief as you want to be.

Your answer

Q. Do you have any other questions you'd like to ask about the elections or voting in general?

Your answer

Q. Can you tell us where you are viewing this questionnaire?

This project is part of a collaboration among many news organizations throughout the city. Please let us know what publication are you reading this questionnaire. For example: "THE CITY"

Your answer

Thank you!

Below we ask for some contact information. This information is never shared publicly. We ask so we can send your answer back to you and also in case a reporter needs to get in touch. Leaving this information is optional, but if you don't

issues that impact our communities and our daily lives.

Here is a questionnaire. Take a few minutes to answer. Be a vigilant New Yorker.

share your email, we won't be able to send you your answer.

What is your email address?

Your answer

What's your zip code?

We ask for your zip code because it helps us better understand who we are reaching across New York City.

Your answer

Submit

Never submit passwords through Google Forms.

This form was created inside of City Report, Inc d/b/a THE CITY. Report Abuse

Google Forms

Primary Election - June 22nd, 2021

Registration Dates	Dates
Last day to register in person or postmark an application to be eligible to vote in the June 2021 Primary	Friday, May 28th, 2021
Change of Address	Dates
Deadline to receive a change of address form for the June 22, 2021 Primary	Wednesday, June 2nd, 2021
Absentee Ballot Application	Dates
Last day to apply for an absentee ballot for the June Primary	Tuesday, June 15th, 2021
Last day to apply in person for an absentee ballot for the June Primary	Monday, June 21st, 2021
Election Days	Dates
Early voting	Saturday, June 12 - Sunday, June 20th, 2021
Election Day	Tuesday, June 22nd, 2021 - Polls are open 6am to 9pm

Ashley Sharpton Endorses Eric Adams For Mayor

NEW YORK (TIP): Prominent activist and community leader Ashley Sharpton, on May 27, endorsed Eric Adams for mayor outside the historic National Action Network headquarters in Harlem.

"Eric Adams has been consistent in showing up and taking action against injustice no matter who it is. We are electing a mayor at a very crucial time in this city and in this country where we are coming out of a pandemic where so many New Yorkers are broken mentally, spiritually, financially, and physically. We need a visionary who is not afraid to take the necessary steps to revive New York back into the thriving city it can be," said civil rights activist Ashley Sharpton. "From education, public safety, homelessness, mental health reform, and health and wellness, Eric Adams is the transformative leader who can execute his vision and implement change Borough by Borough. He has the courage, the work ethic, the strategy, the honesty, the record, the reach, the voice, and the heart to lead New York back to better, and he is the candidate who



Ashley Sharpton, on May 27, endorsed Eric Adams for mayor

doesn't just talk the talk, he walks the walk."

"Ashley is here endorsing me today because she knows that I am the only candidate in this race with the experience to keep New York safe and fight for justice--because I have been there and done it before," Brooklyn Borough President Adams said. "As

mayor I will continue this fight and uplift every New Yorker by looking out for their civil rights, their city, and their future."

Adams has also been endorsed by 32BJ SEIU; ATU Locals 726, 1056, 1179, and 1181; CSEA Local 1000; DC37; the Hotel Trades Council; OPEIU Local 153; PEF; TWU Local 100; the Uniform Fire

Officers Association, and UNITE HERE Local 100, as well as more than 50 current and former elected officials, including Borough Presidents Ruben Diaz Jr. and Donovan Richards; Representatives Adriano Espaillat and Tom Suozzi; State Senators Joe Addabbo, Jr., Andrew Gounardes, Roxanne Persaud, James Sanders, and Diane Savino; Assembly Members Peter Abbate, Rodneyse Bichotte Hermelyn, Carmen de la Rosa, Inez Dickens, Erik Dilan, Charles Fall, Alicia Hyndman, Stacey Pheffer Amato, Jenifer Rajkumar, José Rivera, Clyde Vanel, and Jaime Williams; City Council Members Adrienne Adams, Alicka Ampry-Samuel, Diana Ayala, Justin Brannan, Selvena Brooks-Powers, Laurie Cumbo, Darma Diaz, Oswald Feliz, Peter Koo, Farah Louis, Alan Maisel, I. Daneek Miller, Francisco Moya, and Ydanis Rodriguez; former State Comptroller Carl McCall; former Representatives Charlie Rangel and Ed Towns; former Bronx Borough President Fernando Ferrer, as well as former Assembly Members Karim Camara and the late Aurelia Greene.

Congressman Adriano Espaillat Endorses Eric Adams For Mayor

Assembly Member De La Rosa, Council Members Ayala & Feliz also endorse Adams

NEW YORK (TIP): Rep. Adriano Espaillat endorsed, May 23, Eric Adams for mayor of New York City, outside the historic United Palace in Washington Heights, calling Adams "the leader for this moment."

Adams was also endorsed by a number of other elected officials and local leaders representing a diverse population of Dominican and Puerto Rican New Yorkers from Manhattan and the Bronx, including Assembly member Carmen De La Rosa, Council Members Diana Ayala and Oswald Feliz, six District Leaders, and State Committeewoman Maria Luna. Adams endorsed De La Rosa, Ayala, Feliz and Council candidate Shaun Abreu in their elections as well.

"New Yorkers need a mayor who truly understands what they are going through-and can guide us through this recovery while repairing the inequalities that existed before COVID," Congressman Espaillat said. "Eric Adams has lived the life of the people who need help right now and is the leader for this moment. Eric will unite this city and deliver the safer, healthier, more prosperous city all New Yorkers deserve."

"I am honored and moved that Congressman Espaillat believes I am the



A jubilant Eric Adams at being endorsed by Congressman Adriano

right candidate for this moment and the right person to lead this city forward," Brooklyn Borough President Adams said. "Areas like Washington Heights were hit hard by COVID-19--and so many people of color and immigrants who were struggling are now struggling even more. I grew up facing the hunger, eviction and poverty that so many New Yorkers are facing now. Every day as

mayor I will honor the trust Congressman Espaillat has placed in me to stand up for those struggling New Yorkers and provide them with what they need to thrive."

In addition to Rep. Espaillat, Assm. de la Rosa and Council Members Ayala and Feliz, Adams was endorsed by District Leaders Maria Morillo, Manny de los Santos, Norma Campusano,

Peggy Morales, John Ruiz and Edward Gibbs.

In addition to the elected officials endorsing today, Adams has also been endorsed by DC37, the Hotel Trades Council, 32BJ SEIU, UNITE HERE Local 100, the Uniform Fire Officers Association, CSEA Local 1000, OPEIU Local 153, TWU Local 100 and ATU Locals 1181, 726, 1056 and 1179, as well as more than 50 current and former elected officials, including Borough Presidents Ruben Diaz Jr. and Donovan Richards; Rep. Tom Suozzi; state Sens. Andrew Gounardes, Roxanne Persaud, James Sanders, and Diane Savino; Assemblymembers Peter Abbate, Rodneyse Bichotte Hermelyn, Inez Dickens, Erik Dilan, Alicia Hyndman, Jenifer Rajkumar, José Rivera, Clyde Vanel, and Jaime Williams; New York City Council Members Adrienne Adams, Alicka Ampry-Samuel, Justin Brannan, Selvena Brooks-Powers, Laurie Cumbo, Darma Diaz, Peter Koo, Farah Louis, Alan Maisel, I. Daneek Miller, Francisco Moya, and Ydanis Rodriguez; former State Comptroller Carl McCall; Reps. Charlie Rangel and Ed Towns; former Bronx Borough President Fernando Ferrer; and former Assembly Members Karim Camara and the late Aurelia Greene.

AS I SEE IT

What a proven coronavirus lab leak theory would mean



BY AARON BLAKE

The mainstream media is engaged in some very warranted soul-searching when it comes to the possibility that the coronavirus leaked from a lab in Wuhan, China, rather than occurring naturally. Reporters often wrote about the theory dismissively, citing scientists who backed that up. There is still no real proof the theory is true, but scientists now regard it as increasingly plausible, as The Post's Glenn Kessler detailed this week. And the Biden administration says it's redoubling efforts to get to the truth.

But beyond media accountability, it's valid to ask: What's really at stake here? If the theory were somehow proved, what would it change, including for the U.S. government, its top officials, including the current and former presidents, and China?

A big part of the appeal of the theory right now - beyond the chance to apply egg to the face of the popular boogeyman (particularly on the right) that is the media - lies in how intriguing it is. A deadly worldwide pandemic originating from a lab accident - or worse - is basically a Hollywood script. That it would involve a nefarious and powerful foreign government that also happens to be communist is almost a bit too over the top.

As for what it would mean for China's culpability? We already know the virus came from China and that the Chinese government has been anything but transparent. This began on its watch, and its lack of transparency cost the world valuable time in preparing for and combating the spread of the virus.

If the virus came from one of its labs, that would mean China was even more negligent (at best) than previously known and that its coverup was even worse. It's possible that even the Chinese government might not truly know what happened. But regardless, it has balked at admitting outside scientists who might be able to shed light on this and many other subjects.

Some have wagered that if such a theory proves true, it might turn China into something of a pariah state, given how angry other countries would be. There would be calls for extensive sanctions, particularly from the United States. But much of the world, including this country, relies upon trade with China, making such efforts fraught.

It would also raise questions about just how it leaked from the lab. We know scientists engage in sometimes-controversial "gain of function" experiments on viruses, but the most severe theories go quite a bit further: They involve the idea that China was engaging in even more dangerous conduct and possibly experimenting with a deliberate bioweapon. Proving such a thing would be even more difficult than proving a lab leak, and there are many more reasons to doubt the bioweapon theory than the lab leak theory. But it would force some very tough conversations - and pressure - to determine just how it leaked from the lab and how negligent or potentially nefarious China's actions were.

The prospect of even greater Chinese culpability, of course, is a big reason this idea initially caught on in many parts of the American right. President Donald Trump's and his party's efforts to shift blame away from their own response and toward China was politically



President Biden visits the Viral Pathogenesis Laboratory at the National Institutes of Health in Bethesda on Feb. 11
Photo / Courtesy Evan Vucci/AP

convenient, which led to too much initial skepticism of the lab leak theory. Trump also, as I noted earlier this week, engaged in plenty of conspiracy theorizing with little or no evidence to back it up. When you combine that with what scientists were saying at the time, it was easy - too easy, it turns out - to be overly dismissive of the lab leak theory.

But is the increasing prominence of the lab leak theory suddenly proving Trump right? He certainly says so and has plenty of backup from his allies. In a statement earlier this week, he claimed: "Now everybody is agreeing that I was right when I very early on called Wuhan as the source of COVID-19, sometimes referred to as the China Virus. To me it was obvious from the beginning, but I was badly criticized, as usual. Now they are all saying, 'He was right.' Thank you!"

The statement doesn't actually cite the lab leak theory - everyone agrees the virus launched in Wuhan - but Trump's meaning seems clear. As for whether he's vindicated, that's far less clear.

For one, despite latching on to the lab leak theory in late April 2020, Trump actually initially vouched for China and its coronavirus response, including its transparency. This was despite other parts of his White House and his administration believing quite the opposite. Trump's evolution on this particular issue came at an entirely convenient time, when the virus was emerging as a big liability for both his efforts to reopen the economy and his 2020 reelection bid.

Trump also spoke with much more certainty about the issue than virtually anyone is professing even today. He said in late April that he had a "high degree of confidence" that the virus came from a Wuhan lab, contradicting an on-the-record statement from his own intelligence community which was more circumspect. The same week, then-Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said that "there's enormous evidence that [the Wuhan lab] is where this began."

The problem is that evidence was never actually produced, nor was the "high confidence" label applied elsewhere - even though Trump had every incentive to produce it and generally showed little compunction about making such information public. Even in the administration's final week, Pompeo's State Department released a report raising the lab leak as a valid theory but not really leaning hard into it.

It's possible the media was too dismissive of the lab leak; it's also possible that Trump and Pompeo had plenty of reasons to play this up beyond the evidence. And they also had months to try to back up their statements and/or push for a fuller accounting. That never arrived. Given the full year during which it could

SOME DEGREE OF SKEPTICISM OF THE THEORY IS STILL VERY MUCH WARRANTED, BUT IF THE THEORY WERE SOMEHOW PROVEN, THERE WOULD BE A MASSIVE RECKONING WHEN IT COMES TO JUST HOW MUCH THE SCIENTIFIC COMMUNITY KNOWS WHAT IT'S DOING - AND HOW MUCH IT'S LETTING EXTERNAL FACTORS SUCH AS POLITICS CLOUD THE CERTAINTY OF ITS JUDGMENTS.

have taken place, that certainly raises questions about just how much they were going on, beyond wishful thinking and innuendo.

This also has huge implications for two other players who are more relevant right now: President Biden and the scientific community.

While such a revelation would surely reflect poorly on China, it would also create some very difficult decisions for Biden. Sanctions would be fraught for economic reasons, but a proven lab leak theory would be virtually impossible to ignore. It would also create the challenge of a potential worldwide response, a process that would consume much of the administration's energy.

Biden has very notably tried to talk tough about China, conspicuously raising it repeatedly as a very capable and determined, autocratic competitor in his speech to Congress last month. Imagine a situation in which China isn't just responsible for the launch of the virus, but responsible for it through its own negligence - or worse. Nearly 600,000 dead Americans would seem to call for a much more serious response, and dealing with that situation would be a massive challenge for the administration.

Perhaps the entity with the most at stake in all of this, though, is the scientific community. The media coverage of the lab leak theory was very skeptical in large part because the scientists who spoke to reporters expressed deep doubts. Many utterly dismissed the idea, pointing to the genome sequence of the virus as essential proof that it wasn't something humans contributed to. Among those who dismissed the lab leak theories early on was Anthony S. Fauci, the government's lead coronavirus expert. But he was hardly alone. Voices validating the lab leak theory were very few and far between around this time last year.

Some degree of skepticism of the theory is still very much warranted, but if the theory were somehow proven, there would be a massive reckoning when it comes to just how much the scientific community knows what it's doing - and how much it's letting external factors such as politics cloud the certainty of its judgments.

And that reckoning would probably involve more gusto from the conservative movement and others even than the campaign to question the media. Scientists such as Fauci, after all, have been turned into totems of all that is wrong with the scientific community guiding public policy on things like coronavirus mitigation and climate change. It would also have serious implications for what kind of research the United States chooses to fund and how much money would be sent to places like the Wuhan Institute of Virology, likely drawing many who aren't currently so critical of the scientific community into the fight.

The most frustrating aspect of all this is that the increasing focus on this theory doesn't necessarily increase the likelihood that we will ever know the truth. At best, it's creating pressure to get to the truth and to create much-needed accountability for plenty of those involved (including those currently covering this story). At worst, it's fueling still-unproven theories that might well be false but won't ever be disproven - and thus will live on as a political football for years to come.

(Aaron Blake is a Senior reporter with The Washington Post. Republished courtesy The Washington Post)

India in need of viable political alternative



BY YOGENDRA YADAV

"In the seven years since he took oath, Modi's government has never looked as shaky as it does today. Its aura of power is melting. For Modi sceptics, the botched-up handling of the second wave of the Covid pandemic - under-testing the patients and under-reporting the dead, lack of preparedness, unavailability of oxygen, and vaccine mismanagement - has confirmed its callousness bordering on cruelty. For many die-hard Modi believers, the absence of the government during this crucial period has punctured the myth of omnipotence built around the Prime Minister. They have begun to entertain a suspicion that the PM is not quite in control of things, and not as powerful as he appears."

The black flag protest by the farmers' movement on the occasion of the seventh anniversary of the Narendra Modi government on Wednesday told us something about the need for political alternatives. It also offered a hint as to how such an alternative might come about.

In the seven years since he took oath, Modi's government has never looked as shaky as it does today. Its aura of power is melting. For Modi sceptics, the botched-up handling of the second wave of the Covid pandemic - under-testing the patients and under-reporting the dead, lack of preparedness, unavailability of oxygen, and vaccine mismanagement - has confirmed its callousness bordering on cruelty. For many die-hard Modi believers, the absence of the government during this crucial period has punctured the myth of omnipotence built around the Prime Minister. They have begun to entertain a suspicion that the PM is not quite in control of things, and not as powerful as



Sign of the times: The protest over the farm laws hints at the need to look for a political substitute to the present BJP-led dispensation. - Photo / Courtesy PTI

he appears.

The carefully designed image of the all-powerful PM is coming unstuck in the political arena too. The anti-CAA protests showed that a small but determined group could stand up to this government. The farmers' movement has already demonstrated that this government can be pushed on the back foot. West Bengal has called the bluff of the electoral prowess of the PM and his party. After seven years of untrammled exercise of power, the Modi government has to contend with a truth that troubles all authoritarian rulers: power corrodes, absolute power corrodes absolutely.

Momentarily, the Modi government resembles the second innings of the Manmohan Singh government, whose countdown had begun in 2012. It might seem that the PM has lost his charm, that the government would collapse under the weight of the mountain of lies that it has spun to cover up its misgovernance and misdeeds. The Opposition has to just wait and watch, and possibly unite.

Here lies the danger. The danger is in assuming that the Modi government's countdown has begun, in believing that democracy's self-correcting mechanisms will control the excesses of this government, that history will do the job for us.

Nothing can be farther from the truth. At this moment, we are liable to over-read popular anger with the Modi government and under-estimate its reserve of popular support. There is certainly widespread discontent, disappointment and disaffection with the Modi government today, but it need not result in its popular rejection. There is a fairly large section that might back the incumbent irrespective of its governance record. For the rest, disappointment may not turn into disgust that leads voters to throw out the incumbent at all costs. In any case, the sight of all Opposition leaders holding hands together may not enthuse the voters; it might only reinforce the impression of one man against a gang.

Besides, the Modi government is bound to come up with a counter-offensive. At this moment, we are liable

to underestimate the sheer power of propaganda at the command of the ruling establishment. Its spin-doctors are waiting for the storm to blow over before they launch the usual games of deflecting the blame, distracting the public and delaying the encounter with the public. They are waiting for an opportune moment to launch a vicious attack on the challengers. Its stories would be amplified with the help of money, media and organizational machinery. One thing is for sure: Unlike Dr Manmohan Singh, PM Modi will not fade away without fighting to the finish, without exhausting all the vast means at his command, fair and foul.

Let us be clear: Despite all his blunders, mere Modi-bashing won't lead to his defeat; the people look for an alternative before they can discard what they have. And let us face it: such an alternative does not exist, at least not on the menu that an ordinary person gets to see. This is not to discount the existing Opposition parties, nor to dismiss the need for their unity. Opposition unity is necessary, but not sufficient. The Opposition needs a glue that holds it together and a glow to radiate hope among the people. As of now, it doesn't seem to have either. This is why we need an alternative to supplement the existing Opposition.

Such an alternative to Modi would need, first of all, a positive and believable message about India's future. Beyond a point, people do not want to hear what has gone wrong in the past; they want to know how things can get better in the future. This time it cannot be fake dreams and jumlas. Having fallen for it once, the people now need something solid, something believable. The message must be universal, simple and inspire confidence. That message does not exist in the public domain today. It cannot be conjured up from the ideologies of the 20th century. The language of the old ideologies of the bygone era does not work with today's India. A fresh message must involve a coming together of fresh ideas, a fresh combination of policies and positions.

Once we have a positive and believable

"MERE MODI-BASHING WON'T LEAD TO HIS DEFEAT; THE PEOPLE LOOK FOR AN ALTERNATIVE BEFORE THEY CAN DISCARD WHAT THEY HAVE. AND LET US FACE IT: SUCH AN ALTERNATIVE DOES NOT EXIST, AT LEAST NOT ON THE MENU THAT AN ORDINARY PERSON GETS TO SEE. OPPOSITION UNITY IS NECESSARY, BUT NOT SUFFICIENT. THE OPPOSITION NEEDS A GLUE THAT HOLDS IT TOGETHER AND A GLOW TO RADIATE HOPE AMONG THE PEOPLE. THE CREATION OF SUCH A POSITIVE AND VIABLE ALTERNATIVE IS THE MOST PRESSING POLITICAL TASK FOR THOSE WHO BELIEVE IN THE IDEA OF INDIA, THOSE WHO RESPECT OUR CONSTITUTIONAL VALUES, THOSE WHO DESPAIR AT THE EROSION OF DEMOCRACY, AND THOSE WHO ARE COMMITTED TO RECLAIMING OUR REPUBLIC."

message, we need credible messengers. Their words must carry more weight than run-of-the-mill politicians. The Opposition is deficient in this respect too. We do not have a Jayaprakash Narayan with us today. At the same time, Indian public life is not bereft of leaders with proven track record of selfless public service, integrity and intelligence. Some of them must step forward to respond to this historic need.

Finally, we need a powerful machine to carry this message across the country. This machine needs two parts: Organization and communication. Today, there is nothing in the oppositional space that can match the BJP on both these counts. Many of the Opposition parties have their cadre, no doubt. Therefore, bringing the existing Opposition parties on board is necessary for building an alternative. But it is not sufficient. A new alternative must involve a large-scale mobilization of citizens, mainly younger citizens, who have hitherto remained outside the political domain. Bringing this fresh energy into political life is a must to meet the current challenge. A powerful communication machine, with an IT team to match the BJP's, must supplement the organization on the ground. India needs a Truth Army to take on the troll army of RSS-BJP.

The creation of such a positive and viable alternative is the most pressing political task for those who believe in the idea of India, those who respect our constitutional values, those who despair at the erosion of democracy, and those who are committed to reclaiming our Republic.

Would someone respond to this call of our times? If yes, how would this process unfold? We do not have answers. But Wednesday's protest offers us a clue: the farmers' movement took the lead, followed by trade unions and other organizations, before the political parties extended their support. Is that a model for the future?

(The author is National president, Swaraj India)

The Maharashtra Model



BY AADITYA THACKERAY



Mumbai lock down - Photo / courtesy PTI

The Mumbai Model has been praised by the honorable Supreme Court and many more people for which we are grateful. But my message to all the citizens of Maharashtra, stay home, step out only if need be, mask up, the battle isn't over.

The praise is only a sign for us to be brave and fight harder, and that is our ethos!

As the first case of Covid hit Maharashtra in Pune, around March 9 last year, a containment zone was immediately formed around the home of the index case and the patient was traced, tested and isolated. At the Vidhan Sabha we had just presented our first budget as the MVA government. I remember walking into the conference hall where Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray, Deputy Chief Minister (and Guardian Minister of Pune) Ajit Pawar, and Revenue Minister Balasaheb Thorat were on an emergency video call with the administration of Pune. They were joined by a group of senior ministers and bureaucrats.

Covid-19 was then too new to be fully comprehended. There had been varying opinions of its strength against the Indian climatic conditions, our so called innate-immunity and other such misleading information.

As Pune was being sealed, the conference ended, and we knew that these cases weren't the last we'd see of Covid in Maharashtra. There were many more. Estimates ranged from 700 to mind-boggling figures. It was a pandemic as officially declared by the World Health Organisation.

We are very far from declaring any victory in this battle; we are still braving the second wave; we are preparing for the possibility of a third wave. Such battles respect no declaration of any win, only preparation, pro-activeness and continuous improvement.

Here, I enlist some measures undertaken by the Government of Maharashtra against Covid-19.

1) The Medical Task Force

The first thing Chief Minister Thackeray put together was a medical task force consisting of 11 doctors. They interact and problem-solve with many others within Maharashtra and around the world, guide the state's policy on the medical response to Covid-19. The administration swears by the advice of the Task Force and all administrative decisions pertaining to Covid-19, especially those taken during the peak, are based on it. The Task Force meets once a week, but is available to every doctor and administrator 24/7.

2) Jumbo Centers and Triage Areas

In what came to be known as "Jumbo Centers",

makeshift hospitals sprung up across Maharashtra in less than a month. The first was at NSCI, Dome: a dearth of space for beds in an environment of ever-increasing patients led us to place beds here. This center, coupled with a couple of volunteer doctors, gave us a new prototype and then the BKC Centre came up with rapid speed.

The Jumbo Centre for Mumbai was initiated, as I remember, by MMRDA Commissioner RA Rajiv, on the request of Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray on the day that the first case in Pune was isolated. The Chief Minister's logic was simple: looking at the inflow of international passengers into Mumbai, the cases wouldn't stop, we would have to learn from around the world and prepare for more cases.

Each Jumbo Centre has a triage area, a concept institutionalized by the Task Force for most private hospitals as well. This serves as the holding space for all those patients who have Covid-like symptoms and are waiting for their reports from a lab. This is also where patients that come as emergencies can be kept overnight to stabilize before they are ascertained to be either Covid positive or negative. Nobody can turn away a patient before stabilizing her/him.

Jumbo Centers also have special areas to put on and take off PPEs. Every frontline worker's safety is paramount. Similarly, there are passages for patient inflow and outflow as also escalation beds and step-down beds for recovery. The wards are further divided into non-oxygenated beds (30%) and oxygenated beds (70%) as the first ward for primary treatment. An escalation of the infection would lead a patient to either an HDU or an ICU, depending on the severity of the case. Most Jumbo Centers have labs to handle RT-PCR tests and to carry out blood work, making them self-sufficient.

Among the early and important experiments at the Jumbo Centers was the introduction of oxygen concentrators. This came about in my conversation with the Deputy Mayor of London, Rajesh Agarwal, while seeking his opinion on ventilators and their operations to handle Covid-19, in the last week of March last year. We called for one the next week and it worked magic for us in Worli; then we straight away pushed for more across the state.

The Chief Minister's instructions to create Jumbo Centers turned out to be a boon as in no time we increased from 400 isolation beds in Mumbai and Pune together, to more than 4,50,000 beds across the state.

Along with Jumbo Centers across Maharashtra, we now have thousands of private nursing homes, and halls and schools manned and run by private organizations, with bed capacity from 10 to 150 in various localities. Covid treatment at government and civic/local self-government hospitals and Jumbo Centers has been free from Day One. And the administration has taken precautions to ensure medicines are procured and available to patients at the right time.

3) Ward helplines and hospitals

One of the most successful models is that of the Mumbai ward helplines. At a certain time in Mumbai, we had a few people in the central command center test positive and in isolation, which caused a mini collapse in the system for a few hours. So evolved the protocol in Mumbai to decentralize ward war rooms in early June 2020. Municipal Commissioner Iqbal Singh Chahal decided to distribute the workload of a central helpline to each ward war room.

Each war room is managed by adequate staff with the ability to address people's concerns, calm them down, convey bed allocation or escalate any emergency. These war rooms have helped us avoid chaos and collapse, and an active bed dashboard of their ward, and across Mumbai, have been very useful.

We saw that hospitals were getting booked for beds

that the patients did not require, and ICUs were falling short. Some beds were being booked in advance by people not infected by Covid in the anticipation that one may need it. In the protocol of open/self-booking by people, there was no clarity over the bed status and patients occupied beds for longer than needed. It was then that the BMC swung into action and mandated that no public or private hospital could allocate beds by themselves to pre-booked or walk-in patients. Even today, the bed allocations in Mumbai are done only through the ward war room helplines, irrespective of who calls: a politician, a corporate executive or anyone else, we serve all equally and the best we can.

However, just like a bed cannot be allocated directly to anybody, no hospital can refuse a patient in an emergency, and has to stabilize the patient immediately in their triage area.

There are also helplines that track the health of covid positive patients in isolation and home isolation every day and some helplines that monitor the health of those passengers in institutional quarantine across Mumbai.

4) Tests



A BMC health worker takes swab sample of a passenger for COVID-19 test at a railway station in Mumbai
Photo / courtesy PTI

With the inflow of the first cases of Covid-19, there was still confusion over the type of tests and who should do it and why. Initially, it was meant only for symptomatic cases with a doctor's prescription. In no time, we realized that the tests had to be increased. In July 2020, RT-PCR tests were liberalized, and citizens were urged to get themselves tested at the first sign of a symptom or upon being in close contact of a Covid positive patient. No prescriptions or self-declarations were needed for RT-PCR tests.

Private labs sprung up and the tests kept increasing day by day, so did cases. Doctors in local clinics and mobile clinics also started temperature checks and tests for other symptoms. The members of the cabinet give importance to testing, transparent reporting and accountability in our data points, as this isn't a game of perception management. It is about pandemic management. Clean data helps us to have computed models and lets data analysts predict the next peak/fall and our response to it.

5) Contact Tracing and Quarantine

This was one of the most effective mechanisms used early, however, it is largely possible only in a hard lockdown. For every Covid case, the administration traced almost 20 high-risk contacts that may have come in contact with the case in the past seven days. It was natural for many of them to turn positive. Today, many homes, buildings are sealed for quarantine measures for the safety of all when a Covid positive case is found. Even today, testing and quarantining is considered to be the single-highest priority for the state, including for international passengers quarantined at various hotels across Mumbai.

COTND ON PAGE 36

'Hansel and Gretel breadcrumbs for the Intel Investigation on Covid Origins'



BY RAVI BATRA

Applaud POTUS Biden - now a Bipartisan Investigation.

"I heartily welcome and celebrate President Biden's command to our intelligence community to investigate the origin of Covid19. Roots are important not only to Alex Haley, but to biochemists and epidemiologists the world over to understand the nooks and crannies of this pandemic virus so as to more perfectly vaccinate against it and to ultimately disarm it. This is a deadly Virus-ICBM, and a crime against humanity.

Open Letter No. 1 to President Trump.

A little more than a year ago, unaware how Covid19 would ravage humanity across the globe, as a lawyer seeking justice I thought only in terms of crime and punishment and wrote my first of three Open Letters to then-president Trump on April 14, 2020, via Deputy National Security Advisor Matt Pottinger and included therein my science I had identified to crack this case and determine that it was a lab-created Frankenstein of a virus. Indeed, I

identified more than Spike Glycoprotein (s) as the transplanted "master key" to get past our immune system as a Trojan Horse; I also identified that the protein string of the earlier virus - including Patient Zero who was admitted on December 1, 2019, at the Wuhan Hospital - from the Fall of 2019 was different than the cover-up virus released at the Wuhan Wet Market on or about December 30, 2019. President Trump launched his preliminary investigation the next day on April 15, 2020. My thoughts were of us being Pearl Harbored by this Virus many times over.

Open Letter No. 2 to President Biden.

On April 13, 2021, the one-year anniversary, I wrote my second Open Letter to President Joe Biden. By this time, I knew that Sweden had experienced Covid19 cases in the Fall of 2019 - well before Patient Zero was admitted in Wuhan Hospital. And given the vaccines everyone was taking, to know the genome of all virus variants was critical to public health.

Open Letter No. 3 to P. M. Modi - Embrace President Xi and Desmond Tutu's TRC.

Then Covid19 made a reappearance in India as a double mutation-variant and killed people as a lawn mower cuts grass: effortlessly. The

mutations were getting more lethal, not harmless as normal viruses do. This was more evidence of its clear origin of being created in the Wuhan Lab doing biowarfare gain-of-function research. This forced me to abandon the simple principles of tort law and crime and punishment as I foresee an out-of-control biowarfare agent self-perpetuating and become more lethal and vaccine-proof. So, my third and last Covid19 Open Letter of May 6, 2021, to PM Modi was to urge him to embrace China's President Xi and get him to join in a Desmond Tutu's Truth and Reconciliation Commission paradigm to get the Covid19-origin's whole truth, the raw truth, the actual truth, so humanity may survive. Otherwise, President Xi who wants to rejuvenate the Ming Dynasty's Tribute System and dominate the world would merely inherit the wind with no one to dominate.

Edgar Allen Poe to assist DNI Avril Haines bypass Compromised Scientists, and how our Crispr gene-editing technology was used in Wuhan to create Covid19 biowarfare agents.

Finally, I have the highest respect for our Intel community, especially Director of National Intelligence Avril Haines, to ferret out the truth. But, here, we have an Edgar Allen Poe problem well documented in the "Purloined Letter" - hiding in plain

sight and still invisible. There is absolutely zero evidence of any zoonotic transmission - from animal to human - despite the forceful attempts by the WHO, China and even some of our own compromised scientists, who get federal tax dollars to play the Devil and create uncontrollable biowarfare agents, to mislead us all into believing Mother Nature did it. She didn't. Bats biting humans don't as a result transfer their Spike Glycoprotein to humans. This was done by using our Crispr gene-editing technology. Even Charles Darwin's evolution bars such corrupt pandering by compromised scientists to policymakers who know not what they are being told. Mumbo jumbo is being sold by corrupt scientists.

Hope Humans Live

Covid19 is lab created. We need to disarm it. Humanity's future may depend on it. Let greed take a brief holiday and give safe passage to the whole raw truth of this Frankenstein that has exceeded its designed lethality. I trust President Xi will embrace the TRC paradigm to restore CCP's China's more-loved status globally."

(The author is an eminent attorney. Twitter @ravibatra)

OPEN LETTER

A Summer of Renewal for our Students



BY NEW YORK CITY SCHOOLS
CHANCELLOR MEISHA PORTER

This year has demanded that all New York City families and students do so many things differently-they've had to think differently, learn differently, and connect differently with teachers, peers, and the whole school community. At the Department of Education, we know we also have to think differently as we look towards the summer. For the first time ever, we are inviting all students to join us for a free, fun-filled, enriching summer program: Summer Rising.

This year, we will serve any student in grades K-12 in July and August who wants to participate, and I am excited to be partnered with the Department of Youth & Community Development to reimagine what summer can be. Our children's days will be filled with innovative academic support, social-emotional learning, and engaging enrichment activities. These programs will be designed by school teams in partnership with local community-based organizations and offered in hundreds of sites across all five

boroughs.

After all the trauma and disruptions caused by the pandemic over the past 15 months, our children need a chance to reboot their education in fun and supportive ways as we approach the full reopening of our schools in September. It is time to begin regaining what the pandemic took away. Summer Rising is an opportunity to do just that, creating spaces for students to learn, grow, play, and explore the City around them - from field trips to Central Park and museums to dance and art classes.

Summer Rising will also provide an enormous relief to families by keeping children safe, supported, and productive this summer. After enduring months when so many of our students were isolated from their teachers and peers, the opportunity to rebuild those face-to-face relationships will do so much to support their healing process and prepare them for returning to school in the fall.

All K-8 students participating in programs will have access to academic classes and enrichment programming, including field trips, arts activities and outdoor recreation. Students will also engage in daily community building and social emotional learning activities. We know some students with disabilities may require additional supports to participate in

Summer Rising, and those supports will be provided as needed.

In addition, Summer Rising is a chance for high school students to complete courses in progress, make up credits to march towards graduation, and participate in academic acceleration opportunities. They will also be able to engage in important work experience and internship opportunities, like the Summer Youth Employment Program.

As always, health and safety remain a top priority. Summer Rising will follow the rigorous health protocols that succeeded in keeping our schools among the safest places in the city this school year. To support these efforts, parents will need to complete a testing consent form for their child so we can keep everyone healthy and safe!

Summer Rising will be the start of revitalizing the powerful joy of learning together as we head toward a strong reopening of our schools and warm homecoming for our students in the fall. I strongly urge the families of every child who can join us over the summer to sign up now.

To learn more about the options available for your child or to sign up, go to nyc.gov/summerrising. All programs are free, in-person, and have something to offer for everyone.

A STORY CELEBRATING MENTAL HEALTH MONTH

Indian Americans Founded "Pure Hearts of Georgia" is a support group for families with special needs children

ATLANTA, GA, (TIP): Anandhi Jambunathan watched with much joy as her firstborn Krishiv met his first-year milestones such crawling, walking, and smiling at people. But around 17 months, Anandhi noticed that Krishiv maintained minimal eye contact and kept distancing himself from his parents and cried at the sight of friends and neighbors. Based in California at the time, her plans to engage Krishiv at her sister's engagement in India did not help.

When Anandhi noticed that Krishiv got more distant, spinning wheels of a toy car for hours, she began a web search. That was the first time she came across the word "Autism". Most of the symptoms mentioned in the article matched Krishiv's behavior.

Autism spectrum disorder (ASD) is a developmental condition that affects a person's ability to socialize and communicate with others. People with ASD can also present with restricted and/or repetitive patterns of behavior, interests, or activities. The term "spectrum" refers to the degree in which the symptoms, behaviors and severity vary within and between individuals.

Based on CDC surveillance, an average of 1 in every 59 8-year-old children in the U.S. have ASD. Boys are four times more likely than girls to develop symptoms of ASD.

1 in 5 people will experience mental illness over the course of their lifetimes. May, Mental Health Awareness Month is a time to raise awareness of those living with mental or behavioral health issues and to help reduce the stigma, provide support, educate the public and advocate for policies that support people with mental illness and their families.

Mental Health Month was established in 1949 to increase awareness of the importance of mental health and wellness in Americans' lives, and to celebrate recovery from mental illness. On April 30, 2021, the Biden administration released "A Proclamation on National Mental Health Awareness Month," recognizing May as National Mental Health Awareness Month. In addition, 32 states, including Georgia have released similar proclamations, recognizing May as Mental Health Awareness Month statewide.

"He looks normal," the psychologist in India had told Krishiv's parents. Anandhi however made an appointment with the pediatrician who referred her to a neurologist and a regional center where Krishiv was diagnosed with severe autism.

Life, as they knew it, had changed for the Jambunathan family. Embarking on the rugged terrain of uncertainties and denial, the family forged ahead with countless therapies and interventions. Therapies such as ABA, speech and OT brought about significant difference in his awareness and understanding.



"Pure Hearts of Georgia" was cofounded by Anandhi Jambunathan, with her best friends Chelvi Sivalingam and Annapoorna Kudikamaldi.

"The first battle we faced was accepting the situation and getting out of denial," says Anandhi. Challenges were many and from various avenues. "Why did you get a diagnosis?" "He doesn't need one." "He will speak soon; my brother's child spoke late." "Maybe you shouldn't have eaten bananas during your pregnancy," Such "Helpful" suggestions and curious questions only alleviated the family's distress. Some even referred them to priests thinking Krishiv was possessed and needed exorcism! The Jambunathans were left with no choice but to keep away from such insanity. But it also isolated them socially.

As Krishiv turned three, his dad's job brought them to Georgia. Anandhi joined a Yahoo support group for special needs parents based out of north Fulton and found Indian names and sent them a personal email requesting information.

Having personally met Indian families with special needs kids, Anandhi initiated one of her own, Georgia Indian Special needs Support Group, in which they shared information, references, opinions and held get togethers. With the advent of technology, the group moved over to WhatsApp. A modest beginning of five families has now enrolled over hundred families and counting. Apart from digital interactions, Anandhi and her husband have been hosting regular lunch / dinner gatherings for the past 10 years for parents with a recent diagnosis and have a few of the existing parents, "creating a welcoming network for the new parents", as Anandhi puts it. They also hold P2P seminars and discussion groups for the parents. Anandhi discovered a private school and more therapies for Krishiv through many sources and kept continuing his interventions.

"Imagine talking about bed wetting issues of 11-year-old or self-help skills of 14-year-old or sensory issues of kids with anyone outside the special needs group," says Anandhi, highlighting the challenges of interacting with parents of neuro-typical children and necessity for

parents of special needs kids to mingle with and share their stressful and typical days and sometimes find humor, even. "Having a group helps to share ideas, suggestions and information about teachers, schools, therapies, approaches etc.," she adds.

With larger numbers, Anandhi realized a formal organization could be more impactful in helping these kids. Acting upon her instincts, Anandhi, with her best friends Chelvi Sivalingam and Annapoorna Kudikamaldi co-founded Pure Hearts of Georgia.

"Our main goal is to spread awareness and acceptance of such individuals in the community," says Anandhi, adding they also plan on training them with certain skills and provide a platform to showcase and opportunities to progress. "We also have been serving as a bridge between typical volunteers who want to help us and our special families."

Various activities for the kids include yoga during weekends, exercise sessions 3 days a week, music therapy, creative fun, and Bollywood dance, among others. Most activities currently being digital, Anandhi says volunteers make activity folders for the kids as part of their summer or scout projects. For in person activities, they have parents of the kids along with volunteers. They usually explain to the volunteers about ways of working with the kids. While most kids are on the autism spectrum, they do have kids with challenges such as Cerebral Palsy and Downs syndrome in the group.

"We here at Paramount Software strongly support Pure Hearts of Georgia. It is one of its kind organization that not only supports kids who have different needs but also guide, enrich and provide a strong support system to their respective families," said donor and supporter, Pratima Sajja.

Anandhi's efforts to showcase the kids' talents bore fruition with the Dream Show 2019, which featured a total of 54 kids who took to stage to perform dance, music, and fashion shows. "This was the most rewarding moment for us was when

all our families and other audiences were in tears to see our kids performing on stage."

"Acceptance continues to be a major issue - first within the family and then in the community," ruminates Anandhi, adding that expectation of a successful career poses a huge challenge and even impacts opportunities made available to the child to interact with the community. Having met a lot of families who are willing to help, awareness, she notes is also an issue. Saving significant one for the last, Anandhi observes, "Having an engaging meaningful life, not being isolated - having some friends and getting included in the community. After all, our children look for the same thing all of us look forward to - INCLUSION and LOVE."

"From being a mother who was looking for support to being a pillar of support to those who need, Anandhi has always remained positive," compliments friend Sunita Nadella.

Anandhi shares some of her experiences that have helped with Krishiv. Dance, she notes did not come naturally due to motor coordination. Introducing small steps and starting with a 2-minute dance, the tenacious mother had him perform Karagaatam, a folk dance from Tamil Nadu that requires a vessel with decorations to be balanced on the head while dancing, after yearlong practice. Exercise, Anandhi believes is key regulating mind and body and helps improve focus. Krishiv is now able to work out for close to 2 hours with an instructor, enjoys biking and skateboarding, tennis, table tennis, basketball and baseball. While he may not completely comprehend the rules, Anandhi is happy he knows how to use the bat and the ball. Her weekly zoom exercises are quite popular with the kids, as one parent, Harini Senapathy commented, "Pure Hearts of Georgia has been a true blessing that it has given me lot of friends including Anandhi. Having a group that understands what you are going through without being judgmental is a luxury and I am really lucky to be part of such a group. I have been able to get my son to exercise with me, which is really huge!"

Anandhi also draws attention to Special needs Will & Trust, which she believes needs 3-4 families or individuals who can take care of the child after you. Underlining on the need to do it earlier than waiting till child turns 16, she stresses the need for the child to be comfortable with them. "Few of us have become tight knit support to a point, where we have written these friends as guardians in our will for Krishiv."

Cracking a myth around autistic kids that they are extremely talented in one area and parents need to discover it, Anandhi says that is hardly the truth.

Senate Republicans block Jan. 6 commission in victory for Trump

WASHINGTON (TIP): Senate Republicans blocked legislation Friday, May 28, that would have launched a 9/11-style commission on the Jan. 6 attack at the U.S. Capitol, affirming they want to turn the page on the dark chapter in American history despite pleas for action from family members of a police officer killed in the riot, a Daily News report, May 28 said.

The bill, which passed the House earlier this month with unusually broad bipartisan support, was derailed in a 54-35 procedural vote that would have cleared the way for the Senate to begin debate on the measure.

Even though a majority of senators voted for the bill - including six Republicans - the chamber's filibuster rule requires that most legislation receive the support of at least 60 members to succeed. The failed Jan. 6 commission vote marks the first GOP filibuster of Joe Biden's presidency and is certain to ignite a debate over the need to abolish or reform the arcane rule.

New York Sen. Chuck Schumer, the Senate's Democratic majority leader, charged that the commission quashing makes the Republicans complicit in former President Donald Trump's false insistence that Biden's election was illegitimate - the same lie that

spurred a far-right mob to storm the Capitol on Jan. 6.

"What are you afraid of? The truth? Are you afraid Donald Trump's big lie will be dispelled? Are you afraid that all of the misinformation that has poured out will be rebutted by a bipartisan, down-the-middle commission?" Schumer said on Senate floor before the vote. "This is about a democracy. This is about the future of our democracy. The big lie has eroded that democracy, and we must do everything we can to rebut it."

Kentucky Sen. Mitch McConnell, Schumer's Republican counterpart, pushed his members to block the bill because he claimed Democrats would use the commission to trash talk his party ahead of the 2022 midterm elections.

Despite McConnell's criticism, the commission would have consisted of 10 members, evenly appointed by both parties, with the stated goal of making sure a tragedy like Jan. 6 could never happen again.

The now-blocked bill was the product of bipartisan negotiations in the House between New York Rep. John Katko and Mississippi Rep. Bennie Thompson, respectively the top Republican and Democrat on the House Homeland Security Committee.



Pro-Trump protesters gather in front of the U.S. Capitol Building on January 6, 2021, in Washington, DC. - File photo

To ensure its bipartisan nature, Thompson agreed to let the commission's subpoena power be shared between the parties, which is unusual.

Family members of Brian Sicknick, the U.S. Capitol Police officer who died after being attacked by Trump supporters on Jan. 6, pleaded with McConnell and his caucus this week to reconsider, even meeting with several Republican senators on Thursday, May 27.

"It's very disturbing that anyone would not want to support this. Why would they not want to get to the bottom of such horrific violence?" Sandra Garza, Sicknick's partner, told reporters in between meetings Thursday. "Just boggles my mind." (Source: Daily News)

AAPI and Heartfulness Institute collaborate with Medcover to launch Virtual Covid Education Series for medical professionals, caregivers, and COVID volunteers

CHICAGO (TIP): Continuing its initiatives under COVID-19 care, American Association of Physicians of Indian Origin (AAPI) and Heartfulness Wellness team invites all healthcare and medical professionals, caregivers, and covid care volunteers across the world for a series of webinars titled, "Virtual Covid Education Series". These virtual sessions can be accessed without any fee at <https://hfn.link/covideducation>. The education series is presented in collaboration with Medcover Hospitals and the American Association of Physicians of Indian Origin (AAPI). The sessions will be conducted by specialist doctors from India and the US with several years of experience in hospitals of international repute. The sessions will be broadcast over Heartfulness Wellness YouTube channel at <http://hfn.link/covideducation> at 6pm IST as per the schedule given here.

This virtual education series commences on Wednesday 26th May 2021. The first topic in the series is, Steroids in Covid: Using Without Abuse by Dr. Nanda Kishore, Consultant - Critical Care, Medcover Hospitals.

The topic will delve into critical points including, the phase of illness when steroids are initiated, the types of steroids, form, dosage, duration, time of steroid initiation, the effective use of a combination of steroids and immunomodulators and also minimizing the side effects.

The eminent international panel of experts from various parts of the worlds for the session include Dr. Jayaram Thimmapuram, MD, MRCP, Internal Medicine, Wellspan York Hospital, USA,

SCHEDULE OF VIRTUAL EDUCATION SERIES:		
Date	Topic	Speaker
26th May 2021	Steroids in Covid:	Using Without Abuse Dr. Nanda Kishore, Consultant - Critical Care, Medcover Hospitals
29th May 2021	Immunomodulators in COVID: Where are we now?	Dr. Shrikanth Sahasrabudhe Director and HOD - Pulmonology and Critical Care, Medcover Hospital, Aurangabad
2nd June 2021	Role of Antivirals / Antibiotics in COVID	Dr. Rahul Agrawal, Sr. Consultant General Physician and Diabetologist, Medcover Hospitals
5th June 2021	Anti-thrombotic in COVID: What evidence says?	Dr. M S Mukherjee, Sr. Consultant Interventional Cardiologist, Medcover Hospitals
9th June 2021	Oxygen Therapy in COVID: Using by Preserving	To be finalized
12th June 2021	Stem Cells and Other New Therapies in COVID	Dr. Ganshyam M Jagathkar, Director Critical Care, Medcover Hospitals
16th June 2021	Epidemic following pandemic:	To be Finalized
19th June 2021	Mucormycosis Stress management for health care professionals using Heartfulness meditation	Dr. Jayaram Thimmapuram MD, MRCP, Internal Medicine Wellspan York Hospital

Dr. Manish Bharti, Consultant and Intensivist Incharge, Prince Sultan Cardiac and Research Centre, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Dr. Jose Chacko, Consultant Intensivist, Narayana Hrudayalaya, Dr. Chanra Sekhar Koneru, MD Internal Medicine, Athens, Alabama, USA.

Dr. Sharath Reddy, Executive Director,

Sr. Consultant Interventional Cardiologist, Director - CTO & Complex PCI Director - TAVR and Structural Heart Disease, Dr. Ganshyam M Jagathkar, Director Critical Care, Medcover Hospitals, Dr. Ravi Kolli, MD, President elect AAPI, Psychiatric Medical Director - SPSHS, Director of a OP MH/DA PROGRAM covering 60,000 patients in



multiple locations, Board Certified Psychiatrist with additional qualifications in Addiction, Forensic and Geriatric Psychiatry Past Clinical Assistant professor, University of Pittsburgh and West Virginia University and Past President of ATMGUSA & RMCANA are the moderators for these sessions.

Heartfulness, is a Raja Yoga system of meditation, which is also known as 'Sahaj Marg', or the 'Natural Path'. It originated at the turn of the twentieth century and was formalized with the founding of the Shri Ram Chandra Mission in 1945 in India. With several million practitioners worldwide, Heartfulness meditation is a set of practices for self-development that help us find inner calm and stillness in our fast-paced world. The easily adopted practices are appropriate for people from all walks of life, cultures, religious beliefs and economic status, over the age of fifteen. Ongoing Heartfulness meditation training can be found at thousands of schools and colleges, and over 100,000 professionals are meditating in corporations, non-governmental and government bodies worldwide. More than 5000 Heartfulness Centers, known as HeartSpots, are supported by many thousands of certified volunteer trainers in 160 countries.

Revive MPLAD scheme in its true spirit and release funds, Om Birla urged

NEW DELHI (TIP): Congress leader in the Lok Sabha Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury on Thursday, May 27, wrote to Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla to restart the Member of Parliament Local Area Development (MPLAD) scheme and make MPLAD funds available to MPs.

Chowdhury said it is critical to have access to MPLAD funds because of the second wave of Covid-19 and the devastation caused by the cyclonic storm Yaas that made its landfall in Odisha and impacted neighboring Bengal.

The MP from Bengal said the funds are the "only way" by which "the Members of Parliament can truly come to the aid of their constituents in their hour of grief and extreme need".

"While the second wave of the pandemic has brought unimaginable miseries, the people of Odisha and West Bengal are on the verge of facing the devastating affects of Yaas. The critical impact the cyclonic storm would have on the intensity of the pandemic in West Bengal and Odisha in particular remains to be seen in the coming days. There is a distinct possibility of a significant increase in the Covid-19 infection rate in the region in the coming days," Chowdhury wrote.

He said the funds should be made available without any restrictions so that the "amounts are rightly channeled to address the health care needs of the people in these uncertain and extremely sad times".

States responsible for vaccine shortfall, claims govt, but silent on delay in procurement

NEW DELHI (TIP): India's top Covid-19 adviser Dr. V.K. Paul has said the states had coerced the Centre into expanding the availability of vaccines despite being aware of being inadequately prepared. The Centre has been facing heavy flak lately for falling vaccination rates - primarily caused by vaccine shortage - when the need of the hour is rapid vaccination of the populations at risk.

Dr. Paul, Chairman, National Empowered Group on Vaccine Administration, in a press statement on Thursday, May 27, said that vaccine supply, which was managed by the Centre from January-April, was "well administered" but wasn't up to the mark in May.

The Centre did all the "heavy-lifting", which included funding vaccine manufacturers, accelerating approvals, ramping up production and bringing foreign vaccines to India.

A municipal staff administering Covid vaccination at Selaiyur in Tambaram on Wednesday, May 26, during the complete lockdown.

"The vaccine procured by the Centre is supplied wholly to the States for free administration to people. All this is very much in the knowledge of the States. The Government of India has merely enabled the States to try procuring vaccines on their own, on their explicit requests. The States very well knew the production capacity in the country and what the difficulties are in procuring vaccines directly from abroad," said his note, which was released by the PIB (Press Information Bureau) in the form of a 'Myths Vs Facts' questionnaire.

"States, who had not even achieved good coverage of healthcare workers and frontline workers in three months wanted to open up the process of vaccination and wanted more decentralization. Health is a state subject and the liberalized vaccine



policy was a result of the incessant requests being made by the States to give states more power.

The fact that global tenders have not given any results only reaffirm what we have been telling the States from day one: that vaccines are in short supply in the world and it is not easy to procure them at short notice," the note said.

The note, however, had no answer to the question, raised by many critics of its vaccination policy, as to why it delayed placing vaccine orders till January 2021, when so many other countries had placed procurement orders by mid-2020 itself. Also, there was no response as to why no foreign vaccines were given emergency use authorization in India until well into 2021.

7 non-BJP-ruled states seek GST loss compensation

NEW DELHI (TIP): Seven States ruled by the Congress and other Opposition parties have demanded that the Centre compensate tax losses to the States under the provisions of the Central Goods and Services Tax (GST) Act at the earliest and enhance the additional borrowing limit to 5% of the Gross State Domestic Product.

The Finance Ministers of non-BJP-ruled States raised the demands at a virtual meeting hosted by Rajasthan Urban Development and Housing Minister Shanti Dhariwal ahead of the GST Council's meeting scheduled for May 28. The States also sought waiving of all taxes on the goods purchased for fighting the Covid-19 pandemic.

Dhariwal, who represents the Rajasthan government in the GST Council, said on Thursday that the Finance Ministers of all States would "remain united" on these issues and raise them effectively before Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman at the GST Council's meeting.



TARUN TEJPAL CASE

HC directs sessions court to remove anything that reveals identity of woman

MUMBAI (TIP): Referring to the Goa court judgment acquitting journalist Tarun Tejpal, the Bombay High Court on Thursday, May 27, directed the sessions court judge to redact the email ID of the survivor and the name of her husband and mother from the judgment before uploading it on the court website.

Solicitor General Tushar Mehta appeared before a single Bench of justice S.C. Gupte through videoconferencing and said the judgment in the case of sexual assault and rape was to be pronounced on May 19 which got postponed to May 21 when it was only revealed that Tejpal was acquitted.

The State of Goa immediately filed for an appeal before the High Court challenging the acquittal. He went on to say that the physical copy of the judgment was made available only on



May 25. He pointed out the paragraphs in which the email ID of the survivor, the names of her partner, now husband, and her mother had been revealed.

He, therefore, urged the High Court to pass a direction to the sessions court to delete all the details that may reveal the identity of the survivor before uploading the judgment on the court website.

In its order, the HC said, "considering the law against

disclosure of identity of victim, the sessions court is directed to redact the email ID of the prosecutrix (victim), her husband and mother's name."

The court said it would adjourn the matter to be heard once vacation was over and regular court started on June 7. Mehta, however, requested the court to hear the matter before that and said, "The system expects sensitivity over jurisprudence. We owe it to our girls." The court agreed and posted the matter to be heard on June 2.

On May 21, special judge Kshama Joshi at the Mapusa District and Sessions Court, Goa, acquitted Tejpal from all charges of rape by a person in position of control, rape by a person in position of authority, assault with the intent of outraging modesty, assault with intent to disrobe and sexual harassment.

Bajaj Healthcare launches drug to treat black fungus infection in COVID-19 patients

NEW DELHI (TIP): Bajaj Healthcare on Friday, May 28, launched Posaconazole API, used in treating Mucormycosis (black fungus) infection in COVID-19 patients.

The company has received approval from FDA (Food and Drugs Administration) Gandhi Nagar, Gujarat (India), to manufacture and market Posaconazole API as approved medication for treating Mucormycosis in India, Bajaj Healthcare said in a regulatory filing.

Bajaj Healthcare said it will commence its commercial production from the first week of June 2021. Posaconazole is a triazole antifungal agent indicated for treating Mucormycosis patients. More than 11,000 cases of black fungal infection have been reported from different parts, forcing state governments to declare it an epidemic.

Anil Jain, Joint Managing Director, Bajaj Healthcare said we hope the availability of an effective treatment such as Posaconazole will considerably ease the pressure and offer patients much-needed and timely therapy option.

The company said FDA Gandhi Nagar, Gujarat (India) has granted permission to manufacture and market the Posaconazole API in the domestic as well as overseas market. *Source: PTI*

Concerned by 'intimidation tactics', threat to free speech of its users: Twitter

BENGALURU (TIP): Micro-blogging platform Twitter on May 27 said it planned to advocate changes in core elements of India's new IT Rules that inhibit free and open public conversation, while also expressing concern over "intimidation tactics" used by the Delhi Police against it recently in the 'Congress toolkit' case.

A spokesperson said that Twitter was at present concerned by recent events regarding its employees in India and the potential threat to freedom of expression for its users.

"We, alongside many in civil society in India and around the world, have concerns with regards to the use of intimidation tactics by the police in response to enforcement of our global Terms of Service, as well as with core elements of the new IT Rules," the company spokesperson added.

According to Twitter, it is particularly concerned about the requirement to make an individual (the compliance officer) criminally liable for content on the platform, the requirements for proactive monitoring, and the blanket authority to seek information about its customers. It believes this represents dangerous overreach that is inconsistent with open and democratic principles.

The company has also said that the Ministry of Electronic and IT should publish the Standard Operating Protocols on procedural aspects of compliance for public consultation. "We also would like to reaffirm that Twitter continues to accept grievances from users and law enforcement via our existing



grievance redressal channel available here under the new Rules," it said.

As per Twitter, it was recently served with a non-compliance notice and has withheld a portion of the content identified in the blocking order under its 'Country Withheld Content' policy. Twitter maintains that the escalated content constitutes legitimate free speech. However, it has been compelled to withhold in response to a non-compliance notice due to the law's limited scope under Section 69A, which gives limited room to an intermediary to defend the content. Not doing so poses penal consequences with many risks for Twitter employees.

Twitter not cooperating, say Delhi Police

Responding to Twitter's statement, the Delhi Police on Thursday said the micro-blogging website is neither police nor judiciary and that it was refusing to cooperate with the law enforcement agency. "Twitter Inc. is purporting to be both an investigating authority as well as an adjudicating judicial authority. It has no legal sanction to be either. The only legal entity, so empowered by the duly laid down law, to investigate is the police and to adjudicate is the Courts," Delhi Police spokesperson said.

Terming the statement issued by Twitter "mendacious", the police said Twitter was trying to "adjudicate the truth". The Delhi Police said the website claims to have material information basis "which it not only 'investigated' but arrived at a 'conclusion'" and it must share that information with the law enforcement agency. "There should not be any confusion about this logical course," the spokesperson said.

The Delhi Police called Twitter's conduct "obfuscatory, diversionary and tendentious", adding that "there is one simple thing to do which Twitter refuses to do. That is, cooperate with the law enforcement and reveal to the legal authority the information it has".

According to police, they have registered a preliminary inquiry based on a complaint by the representative of the Indian National Congress. "Hence, the efforts by Twitter Inc. that portray that this as an FIR filed at the behest of the Government of India is wholly and completely incorrect," the statement read.

Govt orders continuation of Covid guidelines till June-end

NEW DELHI (TIP): The Centre on Thursday, May 27, directed states and union territories to continue the ongoing Covid-19 guidelines till June 30 and asked them to go for intensive and local containment measures in districts with a high number of cases to check the spread of the deadly disease.

In a fresh order, Union Home Secretary Ajay Bhalla said strict implementation of containment and other measures has led to a declining trend in the number of new and active cases, across states and union territories, barring some areas in the southern and northeastern regions.

"I would like to highlight that in spite of the declining trend, the number of active cases presently is still very high. It is, therefore, important that containment measures may continue to be implemented strictly.

"Any relaxation by states and UTs, may be considered at an appropriate time, in a graded manner, after assessing the local situation, requirements and resources," Bhalla said in his order issued to chief secretaries of the states and union territories.

He said the guidelines issued on April 29 for the month of May will continue till June 30.

According to the guidelines, the home ministry told the states to take necessary action to ensure sufficient oxygen-supported beds, ICU beds, ventilators, ambulances, including creation of makeshift hospitals, oxygen, as needed, besides sufficient quarantine facilities.

The home ministry, however, did not mention anything about the imposition of lockdown anywhere in the country in the fresh guidelines issued in view of the pandemic.

The fresh guidelines for COVID-19 management came amid some decline in the daily count of the coronavirus cases and improvements in the situation of the availability of the beds, ICU and oxygen in some parts of the country like Delhi.



Withdraw new rules in Lakshadweep, Rahul urges PM

NEW DELHI (TIP): Former Congress president Rahul Gandhi has written to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, asking him to intervene and withdraw the new orders and regulations introduced by Lakshadweep Administrator Praful Khoda Patel.

In the letter, written on Wednesday and released by the Congress on Thursday, Gandhi alleged that the new regulations and orders threaten the heritage of the archipelago.

"Lakshadweep's pristine natural beauty and its unique confluence of cultures have drawn people for generations. The custodians of its heritage seek to safeguard the archipelago for posterity. However, their future is threatened by the anti-people policies announced by the administrator of Lakshadweep, Shri. Praful Khoda Patel," he wrote.

The Congress leader said the Administrator had unilaterally proposed sweeping changes without consulting elected representatives or the people of Lakshadweep who were protesting against 'arbitrary' actions.

"The administrator's attempt to undermine ecological sanctity of the island is evident in the draft Lakshadweep Development Authority Regulation issued recently. The provisions undermine safeguards pertaining to land ownership, dilute environmental regulations for certain activities, and severely limit legal recourse available to affected persons. Livelihood security and sustainable development are being sacrificed for short-term commercial gains," Gandhi said.

The Congress leader said that the proposed rule in the draft panchayat regulation to disqualify members with more than two children was "blatantly anti-democratic". "Furthermore, proposed changes to regulations like Prevention of Anti-Social Activities (PASA)



Regulation, the Lakshadweep Animals Preservation Regulation, and lifting of restrictions on sale of alcohol are a deliberate assault on the cultural and religious fabric of the local community. The attempt to cut ties with Beypore port strikes at the close historical and cultural ties with Kerala," added Gandhi who is a Lok Sabha member from Kerala.

The Congress leader also said that the administration demolished structures used by the fisher folk, fired contractual workers in various government departments, and "relaxed quarantine norms", causing a spike in Covid-19 cases.

Arguing that "draconian" regulations had been brought in to penalise dissent and undermine grassroots democracy in the guise of development and maintaining law and order, Gandhi's letter to Modi read, "I request you to intervene in this matter and ensure that the above mentioned orders are withdrawn. The people of Lakshadweep deserve a developmental vision that respects their way of life and reflects their aspirations".

Meanwhile, Lakshadweep BJP Chief Mohammad Kasim has also joined the protests against Patel.

India's daily Covid-19 cases fall to 186,364; death toll reaches 318,895

NEW DELHI (TIP): India recorded 186,364 fresh cases of Covid-19 on Friday May 28, lowest in last 44 days since the March last year. The death toll was increased to 315,235 as 3,660 people succumbed to the viral disease over the last 24 hours, according to the Union health ministry's dashboard on Friday, May 28. After Friday's additions, the overall nationwide tally now stands at 27,555,457.

For the fifteenth consecutive day, recoveries continued to outnumber the daily new cases as 259,459 people were recuperated from Covid-19 over the last 24 hours, it also showed.

The recovery rate has increased to 90.34 per cent, while the weekly positivity rate currently at 10.42 per cent, as per the health ministry figures.

The number of active cases has dropped to 2,343,152.

On August 7 last year, India's Covid-19 tally crossed the 20 lakh mark. It breached the 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 last year.



India crossed the grim milestone of 20 million infections on May 4 this year.

The second Covid-19 wave in India is now on the "downswing," the Centre said on Thursday, highlighting that the current number of active cases is still "very high" and advised states and Union

territories (UTs) to not let down their guards. The Centre also stressed that any relaxation of curbs by the states and the union territories (UTs) may be considered at an appropriate time in a graded manner.

In a fresh directive from the Union

ministry of home affairs, the Centre directed the states and UTs to continue the ongoing Covid-19 guidelines till June 30. It also asked them to go for intensive and local containment measures in districts with a high number of cases to check the spread of disease.

Meanwhile, India is considering Pfizer's request to grant it indemnity from costs relating to severe vaccine side-effects, adding that the company had signalled the availability of its Covid-19 shot, possibly from July. "We are engaged with Pfizer because they have indicated availability of ... certain volume of vaccines, in the coming months, possibly starting in July," V K Paul said in a press briefing.

The government is also in discussions with Johnson & Johnson and Moderna.

Centre scrapped local trials for "well-established" foreign vaccines on to fast-track imports after the country faced a severe shortage of vaccines leading to many states halting vaccination drive for people in the age group of 18-44.

The cumulative number of Covid-19 vaccine doses is 205,451,902, according to the provisional report by the health ministry on Thursday. *Source: HT*

IMA lodges police complaint against Ramdev for spreading 'misinformation about allopathic treatments'

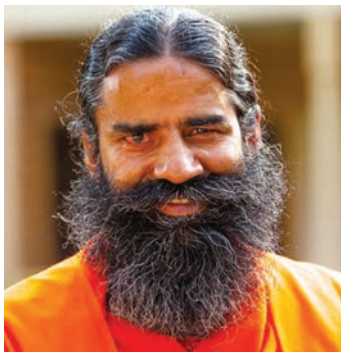
NEW DELHI (TIP):

The Indian Medical Association (IMA) on Thursday, May 27, lodged a police complaint against yoga exponent Ramdev, seeking an FIR against him under the Epidemic Diseases Act, the Disaster Management Act, and other provisions of the Indian Penal Code, for allegedly casting doubts and spreading misinformation about allopathic treatments deliberately in order to sell "unapproved drugs".

"It is stated that the accused being a businessman, in order to take advantage of the present situation and his large public following, is wilfully and deliberately advancing dishonest representations... about allopathy and modern medicine ... and to swindle them into parting with their monies by taking Swami Ramdev's unapproved and dubious drugs," the IMA said in a 14-page complaint to the IP Estate police station.

Earlier, the IMA demanded an apology from Ramdev over his remarks on allopathic medicine, calling it a "stupid science". He withdrew his statements after receiving a strong-worded letter from Union health minister Dr Harsh Vardhan, who called his remarks "inappropriate". The IMA also served a defamation notice on Ramdev.

Ramdev's aide Acharya Balkrishna later took to Twitter, saying the he and ayurveda were being targeted by allopathic practitioners.



Shortfall of 190 million doses by June as Covid surge in India affected supply: Covax

UNITED NATIONS (TIP): The "terrible" surge of the coronavirus cases in India has severely impacted Covax's vaccine supply in the second quarter of this year to the extent that there will be a shortfall of 190 million doses by the end of June, according to a joint statement by the WHO, UNICEF, GAVI and CEPI.

The joint statement was issued on Thursday by Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI) CEO Dr Richard Hatchett, Gavi, Vaccine Alliance CEO Dr Seth Berkley, World Health Organisation (WHO) Director-General Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus and UNICEF Executive Director Henrietta Fore.

"Countries that are advanced in their vaccination programmes are seeing cases of Covid decline, hospitalisations decrease and early signs of some kind of normality resume. However, the global picture is far more concerning," the statement said.

Giving a call to action to equip Covax to deliver 2 billion doses in 2021, the statement said, "We are seeing the traumatic effects of the terrible surge of Covid in South Asia – a surge which has also severely impacted global vaccine supplies."

It added that Covax has proven it works as the global mechanism for equitable access to Covid vaccines, having delivered over 70 million doses to 126 countries and economies around the world since February – from remote islands to conflict settings – managing the largest and most complex rollout of vaccines in history. Over 35 countries received their first Covid vaccine doses thanks to Covax.

"However, the terrible surge of the virus in India has had a severe impact on Covax's supply in the second quarter of this year, to the point where, by the end of June we will face a shortfall of 190 million doses," the joint statement said.

It said even though Covax will have larger volumes available later in the year through the deals it has already secured with several manufacturers, it warned



that "if we do not address the current, urgent shortfall, the consequences could be catastrophic."

It said the pandemic has just taken a frightening new turn, as a deadly surge of cases rages across South Asia and other hotspots.

The global agencies called on nations to share doses "now", saying the United States and Europe have collectively pledged to share 180 million doses.

Govt expects speedy India launch of single-dose Sputnik Light

The government is hopeful of a speedy launch of single-dose Covid-19 vaccine Sputnik Light in India and all stakeholders, including the Russian manufacturer and its Indian partners, have been directed to fast-track the application and regulatory approval procedures for the jab to boost the country's vaccination drive.

An application seeking regulatory approval for Sputnik Light is expected to be filed in the next couple of weeks and it could become the first single-dose vaccine to be launched in India, sources said citing high-level discussions held among top government officials in the recent days to boost domestic availability of Covid-19 vaccines. *Source: PTI*

Pakistan Hindu lawmaker submits bill seeking religious minorities to be referred to as 'non-Muslims'

ISLAMABAD (TIP): A Hindu lawmaker in Pakistan has submitted a bill in the lower house of Parliament seeking that religious minorities in the country be constitutionally referred to as 'non-Muslims' to end the discrimination and establish equality and justice for every citizen.

Keeso Mal Kheal Das, a member of the National Assembly from the Opposition Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) party, approached the National Assembly with a private member bill under rule 118 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the National Assembly, 2007.

Called as the Constitution Amendment Act, 2021, the bill aims to end discrimination against Pakistani non-Muslims who have been also referred in the constitution as minorities.

He suggested that the bill should be adopted and brought into effect immediately.

The government has not opposed the bill so far and the matter has been referred to the relevant standing committee. After it is vetted by a



bipartisan committee of the house, it will be presented for voting.

Das is of the view that the inaccurate reference as minorities gives the impression of being second-class citizens.

"It is against the spirit of the Constitution, 1973, to discriminate against a large number of population by declaring them a minority, when the sacrifices of that population are remarkable in every sphere of life for the prosperity, growth and bright future of the country," Das said in the bill.

"The word 'Minority' is used four times (in the constitution) while the word 'non-Muslims' is used 15 times,

which reflects the intent of the makers of the Constitution. Therefore, the anomaly shall be omitted by substituting the word minority with the word non-Muslims," he said.

He said that the constitutional amendment will be a constructive effort to establish equality and justice for every citizen to build Pakistan as a home for everyone.

Pakistan is a predominantly a Muslim country but non-Muslims make more than 3.5 per cent of its about 220 million population.

Hindus form the biggest minority community in Pakistan.

According to official estimates, 75 lakh Hindus live in Pakistan. However, according to the community, over 90 lakh Hindus are living in the country.

The majority of Pakistan's Hindu population is settled in Sindh province where they share culture, traditions and language with Muslim residents. They often complain of harassment by the extremists.

Other minority communities include Christians, Ahmadis, Baha'is, Sikhs, Parsis and Buddhists. — PTI

PAKISTAN MARKS 23RD ANNIVERSARY OF 1998 NUCLEAR TESTS; SAYS CREDIBLE MINIMUM DETERRENCE ESTABLISHED

ISLAMABAD (TIP): The Pakistan Army on Friday said that the country restored balance of power in the region on this day more than two decades ago by carrying out nuclear tests in response to India's Pokhran tests and establishing a "credible minimum nuclear deterrence".

Both the Army and Foreign Office issued statements to mark the 23rd anniversary of the May 28, 1998 nuclear tests by Pakistan, codenamed 'Yaum-e-Takbeer' (The day of greatness).

Pakistan carried out the tests after India conducted a series of five nuclear bomb test explosions at the Pokhran in May, 1998.

"Twenty-three years ago on this day, Pakistan restored balance of power in the region by successfully establishing credible minimum nuclear deterrence," the Army spokesperson said.

He said the Armed Forces and the nation pay tribute to all those involved in making this dream come true.

"On the occasion of Yaum-e-Takbeer, the nation reaffirms its resolve to safeguard its sovereignty, territorial integrity and independence against any form of aggression," the Foreign Office said.

It also added that Pakistan was committed to continue working towards the promotion of an environment of peace and stability at the regional and global levels.

"Pakistan has been actively contributing to international efforts for strengthening global norms on arms control, non-proliferation and disarmament and follows latest international standards on export controls, nuclear safety and security at the national level," it said.

The FO said that this year, Yaum-e-Takbeer has been marked by the inauguration of 1100 MW Nuclear Power Plant in Karachi which adds much valuable, cleaner, reliable and affordable electricity to the national energy mix. The nuclear power plant is being built with assistance from China, Pakistan's all-weather ally.

This underscores the role of nuclear science and technology in the socio-economic development of the country and the welfare of its people.

Besides nuclear power generation, Pakistan has harnessed nuclear technology for public service in diverse areas including cancer diagnosis and treatment, public health, agriculture, environment protection and industry, it said. PTI

Nepal PM Oli calls upon political parties to form all-party govt and hold elections

KATHMANDU (TIP): Embattled Nepal Prime Minister K P Sharma Oli on Friday urged all political parties to form an all-party government and hold fresh elections, as he tried to justify the controversial dissolution of the House of Representatives twice by the President, saying a "functionless" Parliament turned out to be the main source of instability in the country.

"Going for an election can never be a regressive act," Oli said in a televised address to the nation, a week after the House was dissolved by President Bidya Devi Bhandari.

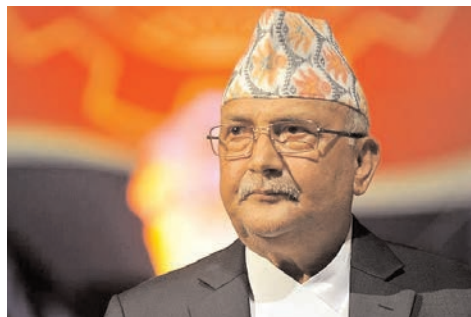
The president dissolved the 275-member House of Representatives on Saturday for the second time in five months and announced snap elections on November 12 and November 19 on the advice of Prime Minister Oli, who is heading a minority government.

Oli, 69, called upon the political parties to form an all-party government and hold elections, My Republica.com portal quoted him as saying.

Addressing the nation as the chief executive of the country, Oli took most of his time to criticise the moves taken by the Opposition parties and his fellow party leaders.

He blamed the Opposition parties and dissident faction of the ruling CPN-UML for the dissolution of Parliament.

He blamed his party's rival group for



blocking his attempts to consolidate democracy and to take the nation to the path of socio-economic transformation.

Oli said Parliament could not ensure stability in the country even after it was restored on February 23 through judicial intervention.

"Though it was reinstated through the Supreme Court's verdict, it turned out to be functionless and the main source of instability in the country," said Oli.

He claimed that he tried to prevent the lower house of Parliament from being dissolved.

"I made my last ditch effort to form an alternative government as per Article 76 (5) after being assured of support from the Janata Samajbadi Party (JSP). However, Opposition parties, who played a dirty game of politics, forced the president to dismiss their claim for a new government," he said.

"Due to their erroneous claim, I was the victim and Parliament was dissolved

as per the constitutional provisions," he said.

Hinting at the support extended to Nepali Congress President Sher Bahadur Deuba by more than two dozen lawmakers of UML and a dozen others belonging to the JSP, he warned of not accepting partyless character in the multiparty system adopted by Nepal.

President Bhandari dissolved the House and rejected the bids of both Prime Minister Oli and the Opposition alliance's claims to form a government, saying the "claims were insufficient." Nepal's Opposition alliance on Monday filed a writ petition in the Supreme Court demanding restoration of the House of Representatives and appointment of Deuba as the Prime Minister. Others had also filed petitions against the dissolution of the House of Representatives. The next hearing in the case will be held on Sunday, the government-run Rising Nepal newspaper reported.

Earlier on December 20, the President had dissolved the Parliament and called snap polls on April 30 and May 10. However, two months later, the Rana-led Constitutional Bench on February 23 overturned the decision and reinstated the House.

Constitutional experts have criticised Oli and Bhandari for their complicity in trampling upon the Constitution. PTI

Memorial Day: Remembering the fallen heroes



Memorial Day, May 31, for many Americans, conjures up images of hamburgers, hot dogs, swimming pools, and summertime. But the last Monday in May serves, most importantly, as a time to honor those who died while fighting in the U.S. Armed Forces. It's a holiday steeped in somber American history and tradition. The day actually began as "Decoration Day," following the Civil War, when mourners placed flowers on the graves of Union and Confederate soldiers. Yes, Memorial Day has also come to signify the "unofficial" start of summer, but let's remember the heroes who made it all possible.

HISTORY OF MEMORIAL DAY

The Civil War ended in the spring of 1865 when Robert E. Lee surrendered the last major Confederate army to Ulysses S. Grant at the Appomattox Courthouse on April 9. Over 620,000 soldiers died in the four-year conflict. Gen. John A. Logan of the Grand Army of the Republic (an organization of Union veterans) would eventually select May 30, 1868, as a day to pay tribute to the fallen: "The 30th of May, 1868, is designated for the purpose of strewing with flowers, or otherwise decorating the graves of comrades who died in defense of their country during the late rebellion, and whose bodies now lie in almost every city, village and hamlet churchyard in the land..."

Logan apparently chose May 30 because flowers would be in bloom all

over the country. By the end of the 19th century, Memorial Day ceremonies were being held on May 30 throughout the nation. States passed proclamations, and the Army and Navy adopted rules for proper observance at their facilities.

The crowd attending the first Memorial Day ceremony at Arlington National Cemetery was approximately the same size as those that attend today's observance, about 5,000 people. Then, as now, small American flags were placed on each grave — a tradition followed at many national cemeteries today. In recent years, the custom has grown in many families to decorate the graves of all departed loved ones.

By 1890 each Northern state had made Decoration Day an official holiday. Not so for the South, where states continued to honor their dead on separate days until after the first World War.

The May 30 date held for decades. But in 1968 Congress passed the Uniform Monday Holiday Act, which established Memorial Day as the last Monday in May in order to create a three-day weekend for federal employees. The change took place in 1971. The same law also declared Memorial Day a federal holiday.

TRADITIONS OF THE DAY

Many Americans observe Memorial Day by visiting cemeteries or memorials, holding family gatherings, and participating in parades. It's the three-day weekend that kicks off the summer season and the time for hanging at the beach and lakes, and barbecuing with



friends and family. But Memorial Day is also the most solemn American holiday — a day to remember those who made the ultimate sacrifice while defending their nation.

Towns and cities across the country

host grand Memorial Day parades every year, often featuring senior veterans and military personnel. Some of the biggest parades take place in New York, Chicago,

Continued on page 19

From page 18

and Washington, D.C. Cemeteries and memorials are also visited by Americans, with some citizens wearing or holding red poppies to symbolize those who have fallen in war. This tradition has been around since World War I. Weekend trips and parties are also arranged to balance out the somberness of the day and welcome the summer.

HOW TO OBSERVE THE DAY?**Pay your respects**

Lay flowers on the grave of a family member or friend who died while serving. If you don't personally know any fallen soldiers, visit a local cemetery anyway. After all, you would not be here if it weren't for their sacrifice.

Participate in the National Moment of Remembrance

By doing so, you'll be joining millions of Americans in national unity to honor Memorial Day for what it truly is — a day for those who made the ultimate sacrifice.

Fly the flag

If you have an American flag at home, be sure to fly it at half-mast until noon, then raise it to full mast for the rest of the day. The practice of lowering and then raising the flag has been observed for over 100 years to symbolize America's persistence in the face of loss.

CREATIVE WAYS TO DECORATE FOR MEMORIAL DAY**Unfurl those flags**

Often people store their American flags and raise them only during patriotic holidays. This is definitely one of those days.

Line your walkway with mini flags

Nothing honors our deceased veterans like dozens (or even hundreds) of flags in your front lawn and entryway.

- Red, white, and blue layered cake
- It's a decoration you can eat.
- Stars and Stripes windsocks
- It's festive, fun, and patriotic.

Symbolic flowers

Even if you haven't lost a loved one who served in the military, you can still honor the fallen with flowers at home. Red, navy, and blue dahlias combined with white rose silk flowers can make a stunning visual combination.

WHY MEMORIAL DAY IS IMPORTANT?**Reflection**

While the outdoor grilling, parades, and beautiful summer weather are some of our favorite perks of Memorial Day, the last Monday in May is the best time of year to quietly reflect on the men and women who made the ultimate sacrifice for our country. They make us feel inspired and challenged to be better—and that's a wonderful feeling!

Summer — almost

We know, we know — summer officially begins on June 21. But in the minds of all Americans, summer actually begins on Memorial Day. That means it's totally okay to dust off the grill, fill up the pool, and unplug.

Family

Since Memorial Day is a federal holiday with a built-in three-day weekend, we have an extra day to catch up on quality time with family members. For those of us with relatives who died while serving in the military, Memorial Day is sacred.

From its Civil War origins to its modern-day traditions

While the first commemorative Memorial Day events weren't held in the United States until the late 19th century, the practice of honoring those who have fallen in battle dates back thousands of years. The ancient Greeks and Romans held annual days of remembrance for loved ones (including soldiers) each year, festooning their graves with flowers and holding public festivals and feasts in their honor. In Athens, public funerals for fallen soldiers were held after each battle, with the remains of the dead on display for public mourning before a funeral procession took them to their internment in the Kerameikos, one of the city's most prestigious cemeteries. One of the first known public tributes to war dead was in 431 B.C., when the Athenian general and statesman Pericles delivered a funeral oration praising the sacrifice and valor of those killed in the Peloponnesian War—a speech that some have compared in tone to Abraham Lincoln's Gettysburg Address.

As the Civil War neared its end, thousands of Union soldiers, held as prisoners of war, were herded into a series of hastily assembled camps in Charleston, South Carolina. Conditions at one camp, a former racetrack near the city's Citadel, were so bad that more than 250 prisoners died from disease or exposure, and were buried in a mass grave behind the track's grandstand.

Three weeks after the Confederate

surrender, an unusual procession entered the former camp: On May 1, 1865, more than 1,000 people recently freed from enslavement, accompanied by regiments of the U.S. Colored Troops (including the Massachusetts 54th Infantry) and a handful of white Charlestonians, gathered in the camp to consecrate a new, proper burial site for the Union dead. The group sang hymns, gave readings and distributed flowers around the cemetery, which they dedicated to the "Martyrs of the Race Course."

It didn't become a federal holiday until 1971

Americans embraced the notion of "Decoration Day" immediately. That first year, more than 27 states held some sort of ceremony, with more than 5,000 people in attendance at a ceremony at Arlington National Cemetery. By 1890, every former state of the Union had adopted it as an official holiday. But for more than 50 years, the holiday was used to commemorate those killed just in the Civil War, not in any other American conflict. It wasn't until America's entry into World War I that the tradition was expanded to include those killed in all wars, and Memorial Day was not officially recognized nationwide until the 1970s, with America deeply embroiled in the Vietnam War.

long road from Decoration Day to an official Memorial Day

Although the term Memorial Day was used beginning in the 1880s, the holiday was officially known as Decoration Day for more than a century, when it was changed by federal law. Four years later, the Uniform Monday Holiday Act of 1968 finally went into effect, moving

Memorial Day from its traditional observance on May 30 (regardless of the day of the week), to a set day—the last Monday in May. The move has not been without controversy, though. Veterans groups, concerned that more Americans associate the holiday with first long weekend of the summer and not its intended purpose to honor the nation's war dead, continue to lobby for a return to the May 30 observances. For more than 20 years, their cause was championed by Hawaiian Senator—and decorated World War II veteran—Daniel Inouye, who until his 2012 death reintroduced legislation in support of the change at the start of every Congressional term.

More than 20 towns claim to be the holiday's 'birthplace'—but only one has federal recognition.

For almost as long as there's been a holiday, there's been a rivalry about who celebrated it first. Boalsburg, Pennsylvania, bases its claim on an 1864 gathering of women to mourn those recently killed at Gettysburg. In Carbondale, Illinois, they're certain that they were first, thanks to an 1866 parade led, in part, by John Logan who two years later would lead the charge for an official holiday. There are even two dueling Columbus challengers (one in Mississippi, the other in Georgia) who have battled it out for Memorial Day supremacy for decades. Only one town, however, has received the official seal of approval from the U.S. government. In 1966, 100 years after the town of Waterloo, New York, shuttered its businesses and took to the streets for the first of many continuous, community-wide celebrations, President Lyndon Johnson signed legislation, recently passed by the U.S. Congress, declaring the tiny upstate village the "official" birthplace of Memorial Day.



Singer Shreya Ghoshal welcomes baby boy

It's celebration time for Shreya Ghoshal and her husband Shiladitya as the couple welcomed their first child, a baby boy, on Saturday, May 22. Shreya took to Instagram to share the happy news and also thanked fans for their blessings. The singer wrote that the couple along with the family is 'absolutely overjoyed'.

Taking to Instagram, Shreya Ghoshal wrote, "God has blessed us with a precious baby boy this afternoon. It's an emotion never felt before. @shiladitya and I along with our families are absolutely overjoyed. Thank you for your countless blessings for our little bundle of joy (sic)."

On March 4, Shreya Ghoshal announced that she and her husband Shiladitya were expecting their first baby together. The singer took to Instagram to share a picture cradling her baby bump and smiling. Posing in her balcony, she shared the good news and wrote, "Baby #Shreyaditya is on its way! @shiladitya and me are thrilled to share this news with you all. Need all your love and blessings as we prepare ourselves for this new chapter in our lives (sic)."

At 45, Sushmita Sen 'still makes big blunders in choices'

Actress Sushmita Sen, in her latest post on Instagram, shared that even at the age of 45, she "still makes big blunders in choices." Sushmita didn't write about the "big blunders" she has made in her post and shared it as one of her "life lessons." The actress also wrote about the "coldness in being used and the disappointment of being lied to for it" in her post. The actress posted a stunning photo of herself and captioned it: "You guys often ask me, if I have off days...of course I do! Do I stay positive all the time? Nope, I don't!" She added: "And even at 45, I still make big blunders in choices, feel deeply hurt, recognise the calculated coldness in being used and the disappointment of being lied to for it...No, none of it escapes me!"

However, Sushmita Sen believes in karma. "What I've learned though, is that no matter how difficult it is, I must look at it as a karmic debt, hopefully repaid in full!" she wrote and added: "As for the ones causing it, their karma has only just begun!"

The actress also added hashtags like #stateofmind #lifelessons #acceptance #karma and #faith to her caption.

In terms of work, Sushmita Sen was last seen in Disney+Hotstar's web-series *Aarya*, which marks her first Hindi project after the 2010 film *No Problem*. The actress, who is also a former Miss Universe, has featured in a number of Bollywood films such as *Biwi No 1*, *Zor*, *Ram Gopal Varma Ki Aag*, *Filhaal*, *Main Hoon Na*, *Main Aisa Hi Hoon*, *Dulha Mil Gaya* and *Maine Pyaar Kyun Kiya?*



Shilpa Shetty, Paresh Rawal-starrer Hungama 2 to release on an OTT

The sequel to the hit 2003 comedy movie *Hungama*, *Hungama 2* will release on a major streaming platform, the makers shared on Monday. *Hungama 2* features Shilpa Shetty, Paresh Rawal, Meezaan and Pranitha Subhash in the lead roles.

Although the film was made for theatres, the makers have decided to go the digital way because cinema halls are shut due to the ongoing second wave of Covid-19. With no guarantee when theatres would finally reopen, producer Ratan Jain shared in a statement that he wanted the audience to enjoy the comedy caper from the comfort of their home.

"Hungama 2 is a lighthearted film meant to be enjoyed across all age groups, and we feel it will entertain the audiences and bring some cheer in these trying times. We will release the film on a digital platform this year and movie lovers can enjoy the laugh riot at the comfort of their homes. We have made *Hungama 2* with utmost love and we are confident that our film will bring a smile to people's faces," said Jain.

The team had finished shooting the movie earlier this year. Directed by Priyadarshan, *Hungama 2* also features Rajpal Yadav, Johnny Lever, Manoj Joshi and Ashutosh Rana in significant parts. The film has been co-produced by Ratan Jain, Ganesh Jain, Chetan Jain, and Armaan Ventures. The release date of the Priyadarshan directorial is yet to be announced.



KRK says 'not here to destroy Salman's career' after being sued for defamation

Actor and self-proclaimed critic Kamaal R Khan aka KRK said that he has been slapped with a defamation notice by actor Salman Khan. KRK claimed that it is a result of his unfavourable review of Salman's latest release, *Radhe: Your Most Wanted Bhai*.

Earlier this month, KRK shared a video after watching the first half of *Radhe: Your Most Wanted Bhai* at a theatre in Dubai and dramatically cried in mock fear of having to return inside after the interval. "Mera dimaag totally ghoom gaya hai (My head is spinning)," he said. He also tweeted after watching the entire film that he would need to 'take medicine and rest for 2-3 hours' before reviewing it.

On Tuesday night, KRK took to Twitter to share a picture of the legal notice sent to him by Salman and wrote, "Dear #Salmankhan Ye defamation case Aapki Hataasha Aur Niraasha Ka Saboot Hai (this defamation case is proof of your despair). I am giving review for my followers and doing my job. You should make better films instead of stopping me from reviewing your films. Main Sacchi Ke Liye Ladta Rahunga (I will keep fighting for the truth)! Thank you for the case."





Henry Cavill to star in fantasy action drama Highlander reboot

British star Henry Cavill is adding Highlander to the list of his big-budget fantasy projects. The actor, who plays Superman in DC movies, essays the titular character in Netflix series The Witcher and a gentle version of Sherlock Holmes in film franchise Enola Holmes, has been cast in one of the lead roles in Lionsgate's reboot of fantasy action-adventure film Highlander.

According to Deadline, John Wick director Chad Stahelski will be helming the film from a script by Kerry Williamson. Neal H Moritz and Josh Davis are producing the project. Executive producers are Amanda Lewis, Patrick Wachsberger and Gregory Widen. The 1986 original movie featured actors Christopher Lambert, Sean Connery and Clancy Brown as immortal beings, hunting down each other to become more powerful.

Jennifer Lopez 'impressed' as Ben Affleck makes 'huge effort' to rekindle romance?

Pop star Jennifer Lopez is said to be "impressed" with the way actor Ben Affleck has "stepped up his game" ever since they reportedly started dating again. This, even as Affleck was recently seen wearing a chain-link watch that Hollywood watchers insist is the same one that he used to wear when he was dating J.Lo 17 years ago.

News of the two reuniting had started doing the rounds shortly after J.Lo split with her partner, former baseball star Alex Rodriguez, a while back, and was spotted with ex-lover Affleck in Montana, 17 years after she and the actor had broken up.

Now, according to dailymail.co.uk, sources close to Lopez say she loves the way Affleck is "making a huge effort", giving priority to their relationship above everything. Sources added J.Lo "loves this version of him".

J.Lo, 51, and Affleck, 48, were recently seen gymming together, the website said, even as sources claimed that Affleck was recently seen wearing a watch he used to wear back in the day in 2004, when he dated J.Lo.

"They were always in contact over the years and he never missed a chance to praise her publicly," the website quoted The Sun as reporting.



Robert Pattinson signs first-look overall deal with Warner Bros

English actor Robert Pattinson has signed a first-look overall production deal that encompasses the whole spectrum of Warner divisions, including Warner Bros. Pictures, New Line Cinema, Warner Bros. Television and HBO Max. According to Variety, the deal, which represents the 'Twilight' actor's first foray into producing, also takes into account a range of releasing platforms, among them theatrical, SVOD and television.

"Warner Bros Pictures and HBO have always been synonymous with groundbreaking filmmaking, "I'm thrilled to be working with them to discover the most exciting new voices in film and television and help bring their visions to life. I have loved working with the studio over the years and have so much respect for their dedication, their willingness to take chances and their desire to push the envelope creatively," Pattinson said in a statement.

After becoming a worldwide name thanks to the 'Twilight' movies, the 35-year-old actor dug into the world of indie movies, working with auteur filmmakers such as Robert Eggers ('The Lighthouse') and Benny and Josh Safdie ('Good Time').

As reported by Variety, the actor has recently returned to the world of big-budget filmmaking - though still with directors with a singular vision. He starred with John David Washington in Christopher Nolan's 'Tenet', which was released last year. The Batman, in which Pattinson plays Bruce Wayne, aka Batman, is being directed by Matt Reeves.



Lindsay Lohan to make acting comeback with Netflix's Christmas romantic comedy

American actor and TV personality Lindsay Lohan, who has largely foregone acting in recent years, will soon be starring in an upcoming yet-to-be-titled Netflix holiday rom-com.

According to Variety, Lohan will play a "newly engaged, spoiled hotel heiress", who gets amnesia after a skiing accident and finds herself in the care of a handsome, blue-collar lodge owner and his precocious daughter in the days leading up to Christmas. The rest of the cast has not been announced yet.

The streamer has made a robust business out of Christmas fare, and its original movies such as 'Jingle Jangle', 'A Christmas Prince', 'The Christmas Chronicles' and 'The Princess Switch', which was inspired by Lohan's 'The Parent Trap', have become instant and repeatable holiday classics.

Lohan had skyrocketed to fame as an 11-year-old actor, starring in a 1998 reboot of 'The Parent Trap'. She followed that with a remake of 'Freaky Friday' and 'Mean Girls', both roles cemented her status as an A-list star.



TRIBECA @ 20

BY MABEL PAIS

IT'S HAPPENING, AND YOU'RE INVITED!

TRIBECA CELEBRATES 20TH ANNIVERSARY RETURN OF LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

MAJOR NORTH AMERICAN FILM FESTIVAL IN PERSON

JUNE 9 - JUNE 20, 2021

LIN-MANUEL MIRANDA AND JON M. CHU'S "IN THE HEIGHTS"

OPENS FESTIVAL ON JUNE 9

THE 12-DAY MULTI-SCREEN OUTDOOR FESTIVAL SPANS ALL BOROUGHS FROM BATTERY PARK TO BRONX; EAST SIDE TO WEST SIDE; DOWNTOWN TO UPTOWN; BROOKLYN TO STATEN ISLAND

"The Tribeca Film Festival was born out of our mission to bring people together in the aftermath of 9/11. We're still doing it. And as New York emerges from the shadow of Covid-19, it seems just right to bring people together again in-person for our 20th anniversary festival." - Robert De Niro, Co-Founder of Tribeca Festival

"Tribeca is a community of the most resilient and talented storytellers on the planet. In 20 years, our community of creators and partners have become a family. This summer we are excited to reunite as Tribeca becomes a centerpiece of live entertainment in neighborhoods across New York City." - Jane Rosenthal, Co-Founder & CEO, Tribeca Enterprises & Tribeca Festival



"In The Heights" - Photo / courtesy Macall Polay



"Juneteenth" Poster - Photo / TFF 2021



"No Sudden Move" - Photo / courtesy Claudette Barius



"The Battery" screening location - Photo / courtesy TFF 2021

The Tribeca Festival™, presents Borough to Borough screening series, which will bring the Festival directly to neighborhoods around New York City. Free community screenings in the Bronx, Queens, and Brooklyn, will use traveling 40-foot state-of-the-art LED cinemas, the first mobile HD screens in the country, to connect local residents to the festival experience in their own backyard. With the addition of the Borough to Borough program, Tribeca is extending its 20th anniversary Festival celebration to all five boroughs of NYC. The Festival takes place June 9-20, 2021.

In a historic culmination of New York State's statewide initiative, NY PopsUp, to bring live entertainment back, the Tribeca Festival™, transforms prominent locations into an expansive 12-day multi-screen outdoor celebration. The event takes place June 9-20 as the major film festival held in person bringing filmmakers, artists, storytellers and audiences together under the New York skyline.

Reminiscent of summertime block parties, the in-person screenings of new premieres, family-friendly films, Black classic retrospectives, and more are designed for people to safely gather picnic-style and experience great movies with family and friends. The Festival is working in concert with the New York State Department of Health to ensure all public gatherings are in full compliance with following required COVID-19 protocols.

"The Tribeca Film Festival was born out of tragedy, helping our city recover from the attacks of 9/11," said Michael R. Bloomberg, founder of Bloomberg LP and Bloomberg Philanthropies and 108th mayor of New York City. "This year, the Festival is once again sharing the joy and creativity of the movies as we rebound from a difficult time. At Bloomberg Philanthropies, we're excited to help bring the Festival to even more people through a series of free movie screenings in neighborhoods across New York. We hope you'll join us - and enjoy the show!"

TRIBECA OFFICIAL SELECTIONS

The Tribeca Festival premieres programming including feature narratives, documentaries, shorts and series from the 2020 and 2021 lineups.

Animated Shorts Curated by Whoopi G (2020)

Choose Your Battles Shorts Program (2020)

The Conductor (2021)

In the Heights (2021)

Indeed: Rising Voices (2021)

Kiss the Ground (2020)

Landfall (2020)

La Madrina (2020)

NOW Showcase B: Lost & Found (2020)

NOW Special Screening: Incarceration Nations: A Global Docuseries (2021)

The Outside Story (2020)

Pacified (2020)

Perfume de Gardenias (2021)

Rita Moreno: Just a Girl Who Decided to Go For It (2021)

Stateless (2020)

Takeover (2021)

Update Required Shorts Program (2020)

Puerto Rican Cinema (Five films): The featured Puerto Rican films explore themes ranging from community resilience and social activism to embracing an artistic-driven sense of purpose and creative fulfillment - no matter what stage in life.

Black Cinema Revival (Seven films): The Black Cinema revival features popular and well-loved favorites spanning the spectrum of the Black American experience.

Family & Community themes (Twelve films): Fan-favorites and modern classics with an emphasis on family programming, crowd pleasers, and films directed by Tribeca's 2021 Directors Series participants.

BOROUGH TO BOROUGH LOCATIONS & PROGRAMMING:

The locations in the boroughs are Flushing Meadows, Queens; Rockaway Beach 30th Street Playground, Queens; Van Cortlandt Park, Bronx; Soundview, Bronx; Marine Park, Brooklyn; Astoria Park, Queens; and Walter Gladwin Park, Bronx.

Flushing Meadows, Queens hosts one film on June 9 and two on June 18.

Rockaway Beach 30th Street Playground, Queens screens two films on June 10, 11 and 13 and three on June 12.

Van Cortlandt Park, Bronx hosts one film on June 9, two on June 10 & two on June 11.

Soundview, Bronx presents two on June 12 and two on June 13.

Marine Park, Brooklyn screens two on June 17 and two on June 18.

Astoria Park, Queens hosts three on June 19 and two on June 20.

Walter Gladwin Park, Bronx presents three on June 19 and four on June 20.

"In the Heights," by director Jon M. Chu Opens the Festival on Wednesday, June 9 and is hosted at The United Palace in Washington Heights and multiple live in-person outdoor locations; the Festival's Centerpiece, Steven Soderbergh's "No Sudden Move," has its outdoor premiere at The Battery on Friday, June 18. Tribeca's "Juneteenth" programming takes place throughout the Festival, June 9-20. The program will roll out in-person across the Festival's outdoor venues and will span all five New York City boroughs. The Juneteenth holiday (June 19) is commemorated on Closing Night for the first time.

TICKETS

Tickets to in-person screenings and events are available for advance reservation at tribecafilm.com/festival #Tribeca2021. For updates and the complete list of programming for the 2021 Tribeca Festival, follow @Tribeca on Twitter, Instagram, Facebook, YouTube, LinkedIn and at tribecafilm.com/festival #Tribeca2021.

TRIBECA FILM FESTIVAL

The Tribeca Festival brings artists and diverse audiences together to celebrate storytelling in all its forms, including film, TV, VR, gaming, music, and online work. With strong roots in independent film, Tribeca is a platform for creative expression and immersive entertainment. Tribeca champions emerging and established voices; discovers award-winning filmmakers and creators; curates innovative experiences; and introduces new technology and ideas through premieres, exhibitions, talks, and live performances. The Festival was founded by Robert De Niro, Jane Rosenthal, and Craig Hatkoff in 2001 to spur the economic and cultural revitalization of lower Manhattan following the attacks on the World Trade Center. Tribeca celebrates its 20th year June 9 - 20, 2021. Learn more at tribecafilm.com/festival

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

NYIFF CELEBRATES 21

BY MABEL PAIS

Message from the Festival Director, Aseem Chhabra:

"The Covid-19 situation in India is heartbreaking and our thoughts and prayers are with those who have lost their loved ones." said Aseem Chhabra, NYIFF Festival Director. "But we made a promise to our audience in the United States and elsewhere. The show must go on. We present the best of Indian cinema from 2020 and 2021."

"NYIFF's mission is to provide filmmakers, actors and industry professionals a platform to showcase their work, as well as foster an environment where filmmakers exchange ideas and interact with discerning and diverse audiences, journalists and aficionados," - Aseem Chhabra, NYIFF Director

"The caliber of films on the 2021 lineup includes notable works by award-winning filmmakers, which aim to capture stories that have a truly profound message about our world today. These films have received exceptional praise from critics and audiences around the globe." - Suman Gollamudi, IAAC Exec. Director

THE NEW YORK INDIAN FILM FESTIVAL (NYIFF)

**CELEBRATES BIRTH ANNIVERSARIES OF INDIA'S ICONS MAHATMA GANDHI, S RAY & SC BOSE
58 FILMS, 15 LANGUAGES, Q&A WITH FILMMAKERS
VIRTUAL EVENT, JUNE 4-13, 2021**

AWARD NOMINATIONS ANNOUNCED

The New York Indian Film Festival (NYIFF), North America's oldest and most prestigious annual film festival, features cinema from India and the Indian Diaspora. The festival runs June 4-13, 2021. Films are available for pre-order.

NYIFF celebrates its 21st year of independent, art house, alternate cinema from India and brings this rich collection of films to audiences in the U.S. and North America. Some films will also stream globally. Twenty-four-hour online support will be provided by MovieSaints to ensure audiences across three continents have a seamless experience throughout the duration of the festival.

Presented virtually for the second year in a row, the festival features 58 screenings (23 narrative features, 8 documentary features and 27 short films). The lineup will include worldwide, globally outside of India, the U.S. and NY premieres. Screenings will be followed by post-screening discussions with the filmmakers and acclaimed personalities from the film industry. The films cover 15 languages spoken in India: Assamese, Bengali, English, Hindi, Kannada, Kashmiri, Malayalam, Manipuri, Marathi, Nepali, Oriya, Punjabi, Tamil, Telugu and Urdu. All films have English subtitles.

"This year, we will feature films in 15 languages spoken in India: Assamese, Bengali, English, Hindi, Kannada, Kashmiri, Malayalam, Manipuri, Marathi, Nepali, Oriya, Punjabi, Tamil, Telugu and Urdu. All films will have English subtitles," Aseem Chhabra said.

Films screened at NYIFF 2020 won six National Awards, the most prominent film awards ceremony in India. This year, NYIFF 2021 is delighted to bring to the audience National Awards-winning films:

"Khisa" for "Best Debut Non-Feature Film of a Director"

"Sonsi" for "Best Cinematography Non-Feature Film"

"Biryaani" which received "Special Mention"

Each of these films along with the complete

collection of NYIFF-recognized titles will be available for viewing starting June 4, 2021 at nyiff.us and nyiff.moviesaints.com

TICKETS

Ticket prices (in local currencies, except India) differ for Feature Films (narrative and documentaries) and for Shorts. Individual tickets and discount packages are available. For more information, visit nyiff.us/ticket

Watch the trailer: youtu.be/UjWdNtov6U8

OPENING FILM

"Where is Pinki" / Pinki Elli (Kannada) | dir. Prithvi Konanur

A hard-hitting social commentary on contemporary Indian society and female identity.

"Where Is Pinki," the social thriller praised at the IFF in Goa, is a complex tale of everyday people. Bindu and Girish, whose eight-month-old baby goes missing, becomes a frantic effort of search that forces the couple to confront strange places, people and situations that require each of them to reconcile their past, present and future. The entire film was shot using a handheld camera.

CENTERPIECE 1

"Ahimsa Gandhi: The Power of the Powerless" (English), dir. Ramesh Sharma



"Ahimsa" - Photo / Courtesy NYIFF

"AHIMSA GANDHI: The Power of the Powerless," by award-winning filmmaker, Ramesh Sharma. On October 2, 2019, the world commemorated the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi. This inspired the filmmaker to revisit the icon's life and philosophy that still endures today. Shot in India, South Africa, the U.S. and Europe, the film tracks the influence of Gandhi's non-violence approach on world leaders from Martin Luther King Jr. to the late Congressman John Lewis, Lech Walesa, Nelson Mandela, Vaclav Havel and His Holiness the Dalai Lama. With new voices joining the global dialogue about injustice and systemic racism and the resurgence of nationalism in cities like Hong Kong, the documentary has been hailed as a timely reminder about non-violence movement.

CENTERPIECE 2

"WOMB: Women of my Billion" (English, Hindi, Tamil, Telugu), dir. Ajitesh Sharma, features Srishti Bakshi

"WOMB: Women of My Billion" is a heart-wrenching and heart-warming narrative of the plight, dreams, rights and fight against all forms of violence, that unify the women of today's India. The film sees through the lens of a UN Women Champion of Change and Commonwealth Points of Light award winner and activist, Srishti Bakshi, at the fore of her on-foot journey of 3800km over 240 days, from Kanyakumari (South India) to Kashmir (North India) in 2018. The film stands



"WOMB" - Photo / Courtesy NYIFF

as a crucial testament to the crisis which has only aggravated in these unprecedented times of COVID.

CLOSING FILM

"...like 'Pather Panchali' in the age of Airbnb and TikTok, 'Fire in the Mountains' empathetically dramatizes the struggles that locals face in a place where tourists come to play." - IndieWire

"Fire in the Mountains" (Hindi), dir. Ajitpal Singh

"Fire in the Mountains," the debut narrative film from writer-director Ajitpal Singh, tells the striking tale of Chandra and her husband, Dharam, who run an inn that hovers high above the only road in a small Himalayan village. The terrain poses a problem for the family, who must transport their son, Prakash, down the mountain in his wheelchair for doctors and school. The film is a searing portrait of the power dynamics at play between tradition and modernity. For the complete lineup of films and more information, visit nyiff.us

Asian Pacific American celebrations

By Mabel Pais

From FTH - CTAAP: Animation Shorts

"Crazy Talented Asians & Friends: An Evening of Animation Shorts," showcasing a wide range of animated short films by Asian and Asian American artists, returns on Saturday, May 29 at 6:00 PM (ET), Flushing Town Hall (FTH) to celebrate APA Heritage Month. The films present a wide range of stories and experiences, as diverse as the APA community itself, through masterful storytelling, art direction, animation, production, and sound design. There will be a live Q&A with artists following the screenings. To learn more and RSVP, visit flushingtownhall.org/crazy-talented-asians-friends-animation-shorts

From NJPAC - PORTRAITS: Asian-American Allyship



Asian American Performers - Photo / Courtesy NJPAC

Through song and poetry, through jazz and modern dance, Asian Americans and their allies in the struggle for social justice confront the history of racism in America and summon the unity necessary to move us all forward. Hear their call for justice, see their passion for the fight for equality, and witness their vision of a more inclusive future. For more information and tune in, visit njpac.org/event/portraits-asian-american-allyship-through-the-arts

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

EU CHALLENGES TIKTOK OVER CONSUMER RIGHTS BREACHES CLAIM

BRUSSELS (TIP): The European Commission said on Friday it has given one month to the Chinese-owned video app TikTok to answer complaints from an European consumers group over its commercial practices.

The EU's executive arm said it has started discussions involving the platform and the national consumer authorities following an alert launched earlier this year by the European Consumer Organisation (BEUC) about alleged breaches of consumers' rights.

The Commission said some contractual terms in TikTok's policies could be considered misleading and confusing for consumers, adding that concerns relating to issues including hidden marketing and advertising strategies targeting children were raised.

In February, the BEUC filed a complaint with the European Commission and the network of consumer protection authorities against TikTok. It argued that several terms in TikTok's Terms of Service are unfair and said the platform, which is particularly popular with youngsters, failed to protect children and teenagers from hidden advertising and potentially harmful content.

"The current pandemic has further accelerated digitalisation," said Didier Reynders, the Commissioner for Justice.

"This has brought new opportunities but it has also created new risks, in particular for vulnerable consumers. In the European Union, it is prohibited to target children and minors with disguised advertising such as banners in videos. The dialogue we are launching today should support TikTok in complying with EU rules to protect consumers." — AP

CHINA KEEPS DIPLOMATS OUT OF ESPIONAGE TRIAL OF AUSTRALIAN BLOGGER YANG HENGJUN

BEIJING (TIP): Australia's ambassador to China was denied entry to a heavily guarded Beijing court on Thursday that is hearing an espionage case against Australian blogger Yang Hengjun, at a time of worsening ties between the two nations.

Graham Fletcher, Australia's ambassador to China, attempted to enter the Beijing No. 2 Intermediate People's Court in line with a two-way consular pact. "Unfortunately we have just been denied entry to the court.

The reason given was because of the pandemic situation but the foreign ministry has also told us it is because it is a national security case therefore we are not permitted to attend it," Fletcher told reporters outside the court. Reuters

Shoot-out after policewoman stabbed in attack in western France

CHAPELLE-SUR-ERDRE (FRANCE) (TIP): A man stabbed and badly wounded a policewoman in the town of La Chapelle-sur-Erdre in western France on Friday before he was arrested in a shoot-out, the national gendarmerie force.

The assailant had been caught after a manhunt that involved two police helicopters and more than 200 officers.

There was a shoot-out during the arrest and two officers were shot and wounded. The stabbed policewoman was in a critical state, BFM TV reported.

"The police have neutralised the suspect behind the knife attack against a municipal policewoman in Chapelle-sur-Erdre. Thank you and my thoughts for those officers wounded making the arrest," Interior Minister Gerald Darmanin tweeted. Darmanin said he would be travelling to the scene of the attack. The assailant's motive was not immediately clear. The office of France's anti-terrorism prosecutor said it was monitoring the situation but was for now not leading the investigation.

The incident comes a month after a female police administrative worker was knifed to death near Paris by a Tunisian national who had watched religious videos glorifying acts of jihad just before launching his attack.



The man, who police said stole his victim's weapon, initially fled in a car before a crash forced him to continue on foot.

Schools in the area were under police protection while police conducted a manhunt in an area to the north of the city of Nantes.

The suspect was tracked down and surrounded in a forest near Chapelle-sur-Erdre, the regional newspaper Ouest

France reported. He opened fire on officers, a police source said.

Tackling domestic security is likely to be at the centre of the campaign ahead of next year's presidential election.

Marine Le Pen, leader of the far-right and the strongest challenger to Emmanuel Macron's expected re-election bid, paints the president as weak on security and says the police need more protection. Reuters

Plague of ravenous, destructive mice tormenting Australians

BOGAN GATE (AUSTRALIA) (TIP): At night, the floors of sheds vanish beneath carpets of scampering mice. Ceilings come alive with the sounds of scratching. One family blamed mice chewing electrical wires for their house burning down.

Vast tracts of land in Australia's New South Wales state are being threatened by a mouse plague that the state government describes as "absolutely unprecedented." Just how many millions of rodents have infested the agricultural plains across the state is guesswork.

"We're at a critical point now where if we don't significantly reduce the number of mice that are in plague proportions by spring, we are facing an absolute economic and social crisis in rural and regional New South Wales," Agriculture Minister Adam Marshall said this month.

Bruce Barnes said he is taking a gamble by planting crops on his family farm near the central New South Wales town of Bogan Gate.

"We just sow and hope," he said.

The risk is that the mice will maintain their numbers through the Southern



Hemisphere winter and devour the wheat, barley and canola before it can be harvested.

NSW Farmers, the state's top agricultural association, predicts the plague will wipe more than 1 billion Australian dollars (USD 775 million) from the value of the winter crop.

The state government has ordered 5,000 liters (1,320 gallons) of the banned poison Bromadiolone from India.

The federal government regulator has yet to approve emergency applications to use the poison on the perimeters of crops. Critics fear the poison will kill not only mice but also animals that feed on them, including wedge-tail eagles and family pets.

"We're having to go down this path because we need something that is super strength, the equivalent of napalm to just blast these mice into oblivion," Marshall said.

The plague is a cruel blow to farmers in Australia's most populous state who have been battered by fires, floods and pandemic disruptions in recent years, only to face the new scourge of the introduced house mouse, or *Mus musculus*.

The same government-commissioned advisers who have helped farmers cope with the drought, fire and floods are returning to help people deal with the stresses of mice.

The worst comes after dark, when millions of mice that had been hiding and dormant during the day become active.

By day, the crisis is less apparent. Patches of road are dotted with squashed mice from the previous night, but birds soon take the carcasses away. Haystacks are disintegrating due to ravenous rodents that have burrowed deep inside. Upending a sheet of scrap metal lying in a paddock will send a dozen mice scurrying. AP

Germany recognizes colonial killings in Namibia as genocide

BERLIN (TIP): Germany has reached an agreement with Namibia that will see it officially recognise as genocide the colonial-era killings of tens of thousands of people and commit to spending a total of 1.1 billion euros (USD 1.3 billion), largely on development projects.

The accord announced Friday is the result of more than five years of talks with Namibia on the events of 1904-1908, when Germany was the southern African country's colonial ruler.

Historians say German Gen. Lothar von Trotha, who was sent to what was then German South West Africa to put down an uprising by the Herero people in 1904, instructed his troops to wipe out the entire tribe. They say that about 65,000 Herero were killed and at least 10,000 Nama.

"In the light of Germany's historical and moral responsibility, we will ask Namibia and the descendants of the victims for forgiveness," German Foreign Minister Heiko Maas said in a statement.

"Our aim was and is to find a joint path to genuine reconciliation in remembrance of the victims," he said.

"That includes our naming the events



of the German colonial era in today's Namibia, and particularly the atrocities between 1904 and 1908, unsparingly and without euphemisms."

"We will now officially call these events what they were from today's perspective: a genocide."

Talks between Germany and Namibia opened in 2015, more than a decade after a 2004 visit to Namibia in which then-Development Minister Heidemarie Wieczorek-Zeul offered Germany's first apology for the killings, which she said were "what today would be labeled as genocide." Maas said that, "as a gesture of recognition of the incalculable suffering," Germany plans to support Namibia and the descendants of the

victims with a 1.1 billion-euro "rebuilding and development" program in whose design and implementation "the communities affected by the genocide will take a decisive role." At the same time, he said that "legal claims to compensation cannot be derived from this." That reflects Germany's position that the Genocide Convention of 1948 can't be applied retroactively, and that its liability is political and moral rather than legal.

The projects Germany will now fund are expected to stretch over a 30-year period and will cover areas such as land reform, including land purchases, agriculture, rural infrastructure, water supply and vocational training. They will be separate from continuing development aid to Namibia.

Germany says that representatives of the Herero and Nama were involved in the negotiations, though Berlin's direct dealings have been with the Namibian government.

Germany gained control of the desert country in the 1880s and surrendered the territory to South Africa in 1915. Namibia gained independence in 1990. (AP)

Maradona death probe: Judge issues travel ban for seven suspects

BUENOS AIRES (TIP): An Argentine judge on Thursday imposed an international travel ban on seven health professionals who cared for Diego Maradona in the days before his death.

Judge Orlando Diaz issued the order after prosecutors deemed the defendants posed a flight risk, Argentina's state-run Telam news service reported.

NEUROSURGEON LEOPOLDO LUQUE, PSYCHIATRIST AGUSTINA COSACHOV, PSYCHOLOGISTS CARLOS DIAZ, DAHIANA MADRID, AND RICARDO ALMIRON, DOCTOR NANCY FORLINI AND NURSE COORDINATOR MARIANO PERRONI WERE LAST WEEK CHARGED WITH INVOLUNTARY MANSLAUGHTER.

They have been summoned to provide



testimony to prosecutors next week and face up to 25 years in prison if found guilty. "The public prosecutor's office considers these restrictive measures to be sufficient and adequate in order to neutralize any ... threat to the natural course of the investigation," the news agency quoted Diaz as saying.

Maradona died of a heart attack aged 60 last November, less than a month after undergoing surgery to remove a blood clot on his brain. Investigators have said they are trying to determine whether there was negligence on the part of doctors and medical staff.

An initial autopsy found that Maradona had died from "acute

pulmonary edema secondary to exacerbated chronic heart failure with dilated cardiomyopathy".

Results of a second autopsy, published in late December by the San Isidro public prosecutor, revealed Maradona was suffering from problems related to his kidneys, heart, and lungs. Following his brain surgery on November 3, the former attacking playmaker received treatment for "abstinence", Luque told reporters at the time. He did not provide details of the condition, but Maradona previously admitted to battling drug and alcohol addiction.

Luque and Cosachov both had their homes and workplaces raided by police in the initial days of the investigation. A panel of doctors appointed by prosecutors to probe the circumstances of Maradona's death described his medical team as "deficient", "reckless" and "indifferent", according to Telam.

Maradona, widely regarded as one of the greatest footballers of all time, shared the award for FIFA's Best Player of the 20th Century with Brazilian legend Pele. The Argentine's passing prompted mourning worldwide, particularly in his homeland, where he was revered for orchestrating the national team's 1986 World Cup triumph in Mexico. (ANI/Xinhua)

HONG KONG TYCOON GETS 14-MONTH JAIL TERM OVER 2019 PROTEST

HONG KONG (TIP): Hong Kong media tycoon and outspoken pro-democracy activist Jimmy Lai was sentenced to more jail time Friday over his role in an anti-government protest in 2019, as authorities crackdown on dissent in the city.

Lai and nine others were charged with incitement to take part in an unauthorised assembly, for their roles in a protest on October 1, 2019, when they walked down a road with thousands of others.

Lai, 73, was sentenced to 14 months in prison. He is currently serving a separate 14-month jail term for other convictions earlier this year also related to unauthorised rallies in 2019, when Hong Kong residents took to the streets in the biggest challenge to Beijing since the city was handed from British to Chinese control in 1997.

With the two sentences combined, Lai will serve a total of 20 months behind bars.

He is also being investigated under the city's sweeping national security law, imposed last year, for colluding with foreign powers to intervene in Hong Kong affairs.

Authorities have arrested and charged most of the city's pro-democracy advocates, who also include Joshua Wong, a student leader during the 2014 protests.

U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken in a statement called on Hong Kong authorities to drop charges filed against people "merely for standing for election or for expressing dissenting views." AP

RUSSIAN OPPOSITION GROUP SHUTS DOWN UNDER OFFICIAL PRESSURE

MOSCOW (TIP): An opposition group in Russia announced on Thursday that it is shutting down after authorities listed the organisation as "undesirable" as part of a multi-pronged crackdown on dissent.

The leader of Open Russia, Andrei Pivovarov, said the group funded by a self-exiled Russian tycoon was ceasing operation to protect its members from prosecution. A 2015 Russian law made membership in "undesirable" organisations a criminal offence. The government has used the law to ban about 30 groups. "It's awfully sad" to close Pivovarov tweeted, adding that "an increasing number of people in the country want changes" and "Russia will be free, and it will happen very soon". Open Russia was funded by tycoon Mikhail Khodorkovsky, who moved to London after spending 10 years in prison in Russia on charges widely seen as political revenge for challenging President Vladimir Putin's rule. AP

World's first man to get Covid-19 vaccine dies of unrelated illness in UK

William Shakespeare hit global headlines on December 8 last year when he became the first man to have the jab to fight against the coronavirus at the University Hospital Coventry and Warwickshire

An 81-year-old pensioner in the UK who made history when he became the first man in the world to have the COVID-19 vaccination has died of an unrelated illness, the British media reported on Tuesday, May 25.

William Shakespeare hit global headlines on December 8 last year when he became the first man to have the jab to fight against the coronavirus at the University Hospital Coventry and Warwickshire. Shakespeare received his first Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine at the same hospital shortly after 91-year-old Margaret Keenan, who became the world's first person to get the jab.

Coventry councillor Jayne Innes, a friend of Shakespeare, said he had died on Thursday (May 20) and added the "best tribute to Bill is to have the jab".

Bill, as he was fondly known, passed away after a period of illness at the same hospital where he famously received his vaccine, CoventryLive reported. Shakespeare had worked at Rolls Royce and was a parish councillor.

Shakespeare had served his local community in Allesley for more than three decades and was an inpatient on the hospital's frailty ward at the time of his first jab, said it had been "wonderful".

Global Covid-19 caseload tops 169.6mn

WASHINGTON (TIP): The overall global Covid-19 caseload has topped 168.7 million, while the deaths have surged to more than 3.52 million, according to the Johns Hopkins University.

In its latest update on Friday, May 28, morning, the University's Center for Systems Science and Engineering (CSSE) revealed that the current global caseload and death toll stood at 169,623,439 and 3,525,023, respectively.

The US continues to be the worst-hit country with the world's highest number of cases and deaths at 33,999,680 and 607,726, respectively, according to the CSSE.

In terms of infections, India follows in the second place with 27,547,705 cases.

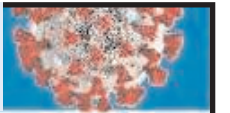
The other worst countries with over 3 million cases are Brazil (16,342,162), France (5,635,629), Turkey (5,220,549), Russia (5,035,207), the UK (4,473,677), Italy (4,205,970), Germany (3,673,969), Spain (3,663,215), Argentina (3,663,176) and Colombia (3,319,193), the CSSE figures showed.

In terms of deaths, Brazil comes second with 456,753 fatalities.

Nations with a death toll of over 100,000 are India (318,821), Mexico (221,963), the UK (127,758), Italy (125,793), Russia (120,002) and France (109,165).

The US continues to be the worst-hit country with the world's highest number of cases and deaths at 33,999,680 and 607,726, respectively

TRACKING THE VIRUS



GLOBAL

Cases **169,623,439** | Deaths **3,525,023**

INDIA

Cases **27,555,457** | Deaths **315,235**



Why men are more likely to die of Covid — US study shows testosterone levels are key

A new US study could finally help answer why men are more likely to die from Covid-19 than women.

The study, by researchers from the Washington University School of Medicine in St Louis, Missouri, revealed that men with low testosterone levels are more likely to require intensive care.

However, the study, published in the journal JAMA Network Open Tuesday, does not prove that severe Covid is caused by low testosterone. Instead, the researchers establish a link between severity of the disease and low levels of the sex hormone, and urge caution against ongoing clinical trials that are investigating hormonal therapies — which block or lower testosterone or increase oestrogen — as a treatment for men with Covid.

"During the pandemic, there has been a prevailing notion that testosterone is bad," Abhinav Diwan, a professor of medicine at the university, said in a statement.

"But we found the opposite in men. If a man had low testosterone when he first came to the hospital, his risk of having severe Covid-19 — meaning his risk of



requiring intensive care or dying — was much higher compared with men who had more circulating testosterone. And if testosterone levels dropped further during hospitalisation, the risk increased," Diwan added.

For the study, researchers measured several hormones in blood samples from 90 men and 62 women, who came to Barnes-Jewish Hospital in St Louis with

symptoms of Covid-19 or confirmed cases of the illness. Of these, 143 were hospitalised.

The researchers measured hormone levels after three, seven, 14 and 28 days — depending on how long the patient was hospitalised.

In addition to testosterone, the researchers also measured levels of oestradiol, a form of oestrogen produced

by the body, and IGF-1 — an important growth hormone that is similar to insulin and plays a role in maintaining muscle mass.

Among men, only testosterone levels were linked to Covid-19 severity. At hospital admission, men with severe Covid had average testosterone levels of 53 nanograms per decilitre, and men with less severe disease had average levels of 151 nanograms per decilitre.

A blood testosterone level of 250 nanograms per decilitre or less is considered low testosterone in adult men.

By day three, the average testosterone level of the most severely ill men was only 19 nanograms per decilitre.

The researchers also found that those with the lowest levels of testosterone in the blood were at highest risk of going on a ventilator, needed intensive care or were dying.

Thirty-seven patients, 25 of whom were men, died over the course of the study.

Meanwhile, no such link between levels of any hormone and disease severity was found among women.

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



Overnight masks to wake up with glossy and rejuvenated skin



Did you wake up with panda eye bags or looking as beautiful as ever? This is when you can rely on overnight sleeping masks to work their magic. They literally do what their name implies: they pamper your skin overnight while you sleep, resulting in hydrated, soft, and cushiony skin when you wake up. Your skincare regimen is a collection of products that are applied to your skin in a step-by-step fashion. Each caters to what it is intended to do; in this case, sleeping masks will ensure your glowing skin dreams come true.

From delivering deep moisturization, repairing skin damage, to fading age spots, overnight sleeping masks can

effectively treat skin problems.

Tomato face mask

Ingredients

- 1 tbsp of tomato pulp
- 1 tsp aloe vera gel

Method

- Make it a paste and apply it to your face.
- Let it stay overnight and rinse it off the next morning with cold water.

Oats face mask

Ingredients

- 1 tbsp ground oats
- 1 tbsp honey
- 1 tsp turmeric

Method

- Whip oats, honey, and turmeric in a bowl.
- Apply the paste all over your face.
- Leave it on overnight.
- Cleanse your skin with cold water once you wake up in the morning.
- Orange face mask

Ingredients

- 1 tbsp orange peel powder
- 1 tbsp aloe vera gel

Method

- Blend it and spread this paste on your skin.
- Wash it off in the morning.
- Pat dry.

Source: Pinkvilla

Tips to make your lipstick last longer

- Make sure you thoroughly exfoliate your lips — this is not only for smoother application but also to make the colour last longer. Flaky lips rarely provide any colour payoff and we often tend to peel or bite on them (which isn't the best sight). Make sure you follow your lip care routine (read: exfoliating twice in a week and applying a lip balm daily).
- Use a lip liner. Not only does it enhance the colour of the lip shade, it also prevents the lipstick from bleeding. Opt for a liner similar to the shade of your lips, and line the outer corners with it and then fill in the gap.
- Carefully choose the formula. Lipsticks come in a variety of formulas ranging from a lip and cheek tint to satin, velvet finish, matte and glossy. When you are applying a lipstick under the mask, it is best to go for a matte texture since they don't budge, dry quickly and are transfer-proof.
- If you don't have a matte lipstick, make sure you



set your lipstick with a loose powder. All you have to do is lightly dab some loose translucent powder on your lips. This way you not only remove any excess product but also seal the deal with the powder locking in the moisture of the lips, preventing it from bleeding.



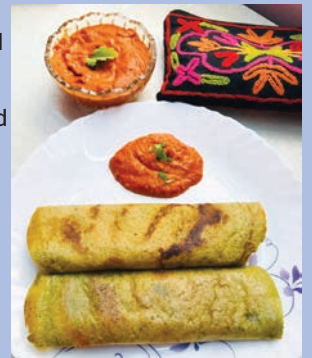
By Tript Arora

CONNOISSEUR'S CHOICE



Pesarattu Dosa & Allam Chutney

Green gram dal is packed with healthy nutrients and is rich in potassium, magnesium and fiber. Moreover moong beans are low on fats and high in protein So it keeps you fuller for a longer time which helps in weight loss. So let us begin our day with crispy & healthy crepes made of green gram bean and are known as Pesarattu Dosas. This is the specialty of Andhrapradesh. Green gram is soaked overnight and in the morning it is ground



to fine paste along with ginger and green chillies. To make these dosas crispy, soak two tbsp of rice along with the green gram. This batter needs no fermentation. You can make it right away. The filling of Pesarattu is of two types. One is to fill it with Upma and the other filling is of grated carrot, finely chopped onion and Tomatoes. To add to its taste, serve Pesarattu Dosas with Allam Chutney which is made of ginger and Gram dal or chana dal.

We Need

FOR GREEN GRAM DOSA: 1 Cup Green gram beans or Moong Dal, 2 Tbsp Rice, 2 green Chillies, 2" Inch Piece of Ginger, Salt to taste, 2 Cups of water for soaking the dal.

FOR FILLING: 1 Carrot grated, 1 onion Chopped, 1 Tomato Chopped, ½ Cup Chopped Coriander Leaves

FOR ALLAM CHUTNEY: 1 Onion Roughly Chopped, 2 medium Tomato roughly Chopped, 2 Green chillies roughly chopped, 2 Tbsp Chana dal, 3" Ginger Piece, 2 Tbsp seedless tamarind, 2 " Piece of Jaggery, 2 Tbsp Kashmiri Red Chilli powder, A pinch of Asafoetida(optional), 2 Tbsp Oil, Salt to taste.

Here We Go

Wash Green gram thoroughly. Soak it overnight in water with 1 Tsp of salt.

Drain it in the morning. Grind it in a mixer jar along with green chillies and ginger to a smooth paste. Take the batter out in a bowl and check the salt. Add if needed. The batter should be of pouring consistency. If thicker, add a little water.

Heat a nonstick pan.Lower the flame and Pour a ladleful of batter on the pan and spread it like a dosa.(pan cake) Keep the flame on low. Spread some oil on the surface of the cake and let it cook. Spread the chopped vegetables on it and fold it in the shape of Dosa. Take it out on a plate and serve it hot with allam chutney.

For Allam chutney, heat a pan and add 2 tbsp of oil to it. Add Asafoetida and chana dal and roast a bit. Add onions, green chillies and ginger pieces to it. Add chopped tomatoes to it. Roast them till tomatoes are soft. Add kashmiri red chilli powder. Add salt, tamarind and jaggery to it. Add ½ Cup water and cover the pan. Let it simmer for 10 minutes on low flame till the liquid has almost evaporated.

Let it cool. Add this chutney to the grinder jar. Also Add 4 ice cubes to the jar. Grind it to a fine paste. Your Allam chutney is ready to serve.

Soaking Time : 7 to 8 hours

Preparation Time : 20 minutes

Cooking time : 5 to 7 minutes per Dosa

Pro Tips: Soak Green Gram Dal overnight for better results, Adding rice is optional but it gives a crispy texture to the Dosa. You can store Allam Chutney for about a week in the refrigerator. Adding ice cubes to chutney while grinding helps to retain the colour of the chutney.

You Can reach me at: www.triptasfoodtunnel.com
Email : triptasfoodtunnel@gmail.com
Instagram: [@triptasfoodtunnel](https://www.instagram.com/triptasfoodtunnel)

Coronasomnia: All about Covid-induced sleeplessness

Coronasomnia is the latest medical term given to high-end insomnia that chiefly stems from sleep deprivation due to stress and anxiety over the ongoing pandemic. Unlike other mild to moderate symptoms, this insomnia doesn't occur due to the infectious virus but happens primarily due to social isolation, disrupted routines, job losses, and ongoing uncertainty.

Some of the factors of Coronasomnia are:

Stress

Fear of getting infected, spreading infection, watching too much news, feeling helpless, unable to meet covid-infected family members etc.

Change in daily routine

Lack of physical activity, online work, excess work at home with no breaks and outings, sometimes excessive daytime sleeping leading to insomnia, increased screen time

Financial stress

Loss of jobs, less earning, career insecurity, rising expenditures and no income. Apart from these, the disease itself may be causing insomnia "due to various symptoms like shortness of breath, body aches, anxiety, depression, psychosis, nightmares, feeling of doom". "Fever and lack of taste might keep a person awake," mentioned Dr Anamika Rathore, consultant ENT/endoscopic sinus and sleep



apnea surgeon. Overall lack of sleep reduces the immunity levels, enhances the inflammation leading to more symptoms and insomnia, making it a vicious cycle, she added.

Another major factor contributing to this is self-isolation and long periods of quarantine and not being able to talk to family members or friends in person. Staying connected can prevent it to a large extent.

Cause for concern

Insomnia not only causes fatigue and sleep deprivation, but it also makes one prone to hypertension, diabetes, and stroke. These, along with low immunity induced by lack of sleep make one more susceptible to covid-19. This can lead to more anxiety and stress.

What can be done?

"The most basic advice here is to stay away from news and too many online updates. Concentrate more on recovered patients, follow a daily routine with exercises and a healthy diet and watch one's sleep schedule by avoiding excess daytime sleep. Reduce screen time and nurture some hobbies like music, art, reading etc. Eat healthy," she said.

Once insomnia sets in, there's an added stress of inability to sleep and one anticipates disrupted, fragmented sleep, thereby further aggravating the situation. "To combat it, if medications are taken, they alter normal sleep cycle and there is not much relief," said Dr Rathore.

Source: Indian Express



Two metres social distancing not enough as Covid airborne

Maintaining social distance of two metres is not enough as coronavirus, that spreads via aerosol, can be carried up to 10 metres through the air, experts warned on Tuesday, adding that double masks, coupled with hand hygiene and proper ventilation could be the key to curb the spread.

Coronavirus was earlier deemed to be spread via droplets. But a new assessment published in the medical journal *The Lancet* last month revealed that there is consistent, and strong evidence to prove that the SARS-CoV-2 virus, which causes Covid-19, is predominantly transmitted through the air.

On the other hand, evidence supporting large droplet transmission was almost non-existent. Earlier this month, the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) said that coronavirus is airborne.

The Indian government also, in a recent advisory, said that aerosols can travel up to 10 metres from the infected person, and that aerosols, through the infected person, can fall within two metres but can be carried up to 10 metres through the air.

"Obviously, a distance of two metres is not enough. That the virus is aerosol-borne probably explains why the disease is spreading more rapidly. What we must stress more on is Covid-appropriate behaviour," HS Chhabra, Medical Director of Indian Spinal Injuries Centre, told IANS.

"The virus can sustain in the air for six hours and it can travel 10 metres of distance. One should wear double masks and when someone is wearing double masks, then two metres distance is enough," added Vikas Maurya, Director and HOD, Pulmonology, Fortis Hospital, Shalimar Bagh.

The Union government's Principal Scientific Advisor, Prof K Vijay Raghavan, recently released an advisory "Stop the Transmission, Crush the Pandemic - Masks, distance, sanitation and ventilation, to prevent the spread of SARS-CoV-2 virus", which highlights the important role well-ventilated spaces play in diluting the viral load of infected air in poorly-ventilated houses, offices etc.

Ventilation can decrease the risk of transmission from one infected person to the other.

UK study finds long-term lung damage after COVID-19

Researchers in the UK have identified persistent damage to lungs in COVID-19 patients at least three months after they were discharged from hospital, and in some cases the duration is even longer.

The study, conducted by Sheffield and Oxford researchers using a cutting-edge method of imaging, said the damage was not detected by routine CT scans and clinical tests, and the patients would consequently normally be told their lungs are normal.

Early research by the team has shown that patients who have not been hospitalised with COVID-19 but who are experiencing long-term breathlessness may have similar damage in their lungs, and a larger study is needed to confirm this, a release by the Sheffield University said on May 26.

In a paper published in *Radiology*, the world's leading radiology journal, the researchers from the University of Sheffield and the University of Oxford said that hyperpolarised xenon MRI (XeMRI) scans had found abnormalities in the lungs of some COVID-19 patients more than three months and in some cases, nine months - after leaving hospital, when other clinical measurements were normal.

Lead author of the study, Professor Jim Wild, Head of Imaging and NIHR Research Professor of Magnetic Resonance at the University of Sheffield, said, "the findings of the study are very interesting.



The ¹²⁹Xe MRI is pinpointing the parts of the lung where the physiology of oxygen uptake is impaired due to long standing effects of COVID-19 on the lungs, even though they often look normal on CT scans.

"It is great to see the imaging technology we have developed rolled out in other clinical centres, working with our collaborators in Oxford on such a timely and clinically important study sets a real precedent for multi-centre research and NHS diagnostic scanning with ¹²⁹Xe MRI in the UK," the release quoted him as saying.

Source: PTI

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

FB to take actions against those who repeatedly share false content

Facebook will now send a notification if you are interacting with content that has been rated by the company's fact-checker system. Social media apps like Facebook play a big role in spreading false news, so the company is launching new ways to inform people about false or misleading content. Users will see a pop up if they go to like one of the Pages that share false information.

The pop-up window will inform you about the false content shared by the Page, and then it will ask you whether you want to follow the Page or Go back. Facebook is also expanding penalties for individual Facebook accounts that spread false information.

"We're launching new ways to inform people if they're interacting with content that's been rated by a fact-checker. We've taken stronger action against Pages, Groups, Instagram accounts and domains sharing misinformation and now, we're expanding some of these efforts to include penalties for individual Facebook accounts too," the company said in a blog post.

It will reduce the distribution of all posts in News Feed from an individual's Facebook account if they repeatedly share content that has been rated by one of the fact-checking partners. "We already reduce a single post's reach in News Feed if it has been debunked," Facebook said.

Gmail storage full? Here's how you can clean up and save some space

Gmail is the most popular service for emails with more than a billion users. But Gmail can get cluttered pretty quickly, given all the promotional emails that might be finding their way into your inbox. With Google's deadline for Photos looming (June 1), it is important to clear up Gmail and delete all those thousands of unread emails. That's because Gmail storage is counted toward the free 15GB of storage one gets with every Google account.

This 15GB free storage is allotted across Gmail, Google Photos, Google Drive, and other Google services. So, if you clean up your Gmail storage, then you will automatically get more space for Google Photos. Keep reading to know more about how to free up some Gmail storage space.

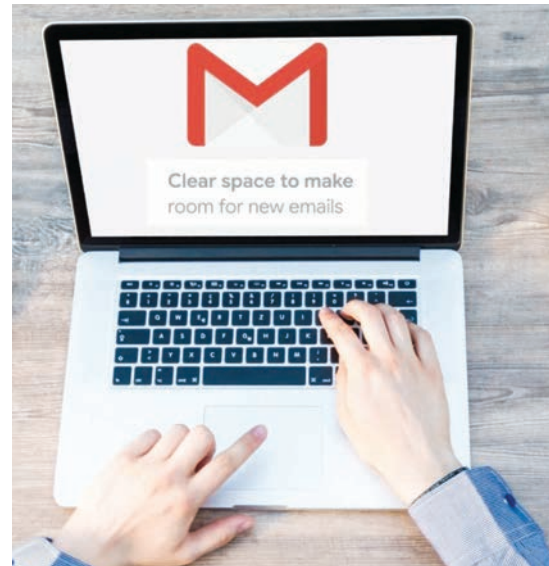
Method 1: Delete emails

Open Gmail and type "has:attachment larger:10M" in the search bar. This will bring up all emails with attachments of over 10MB in size. If you want to delete larger files, then you can replace "10" with a higher number. After Gmail displays the search results, select all the emails you do not need and tap on the delete button.

After this, head over to the Trash section and tap on the empty trash button. This is one of the easiest and best ways to quickly clean up the storage space.

Method 2: How to avoid 'Gmail storage full' issue in the future

You first need to unsubscribe all the unnecessary emails, and then delete all the old ones. If you signed up on a website that sends a lot of emails, such as promotions or newsletters, you can use the unsubscribe link to stop getting these emails. Notably, it could take a few days for the mailing list to stop sending you messages after you have unsubscribed, as per Google.



- Open Gmail on your PC or laptop.
- Open any email from the sender that you want to unsubscribe.
- Tap on the Unsubscribe button, which is located near the sender's name.
- A pop-up window will appear. Click on "Unsubscribe" again to confirm that you want to stop receiving the emails. You are all set now. In some cases, you will be redirected to the sender's site, where you can disable the email option. For example, when you unsubscribe to emails from Twitter, you are redirected to the official page, where you can immediately turn off the email option.

In order to delete all the old emails, you can just type the name of the sender in the search bar and all the emails will appear in your inbox. You can then easily delete all of them without reading any one of them. For example, type Twitter in the search bar and Gmail will display all the Twitter-related emails. You can then click on select all button to delete emails all at once.

Source: Indian Express

Microsoft Xbox Game Pass gets support for Surface Duo

Microsoft has announced that the Xbox Game Pass app for Android now officially supports the Surface Duo and its unique dual-screen setup.

The company has been testing this with the Game Pass Beta app on Android for a handful of weeks, but now the feature is ready for prime, reports Windows Central. Xbox Game Pass support on Surface Duo allows gamers to play over 50 games on their Surface Duo with dedicated touch controls.

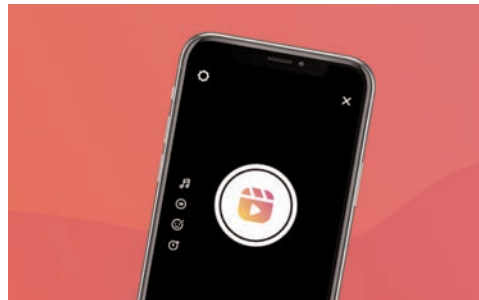
However, unlike on a normal smartphone, these touch controls will appear on the bottom display. According to the PCMag, the feature certainly adds some much-needed appeal to the Surface Duo, which arrived last year to underwhelming reviews.

Second-screen support can essentially turn the product into a handheld gaming device similar to Nintendo's 3DS. The company also said that Xbox Game Cloud (xCloud) developers can adapt their games even further to take advantage of Surface Duo's other unique form factor choices, including support for the wider 3:2 aspect ratio, columned layouts, and more.

Instagram updating 'insights' for video formats 'Reels' and 'Live' for creators

Instagram creators have a reason to rejoice! The Facebook-owned photo-sharing platform on Monday announced that it is carrying out a few updates to the 'insights' feature of its video formats- 'Reels' and 'Live' that will help its content creators and businesses better comprehend and evaluate their performance on the platform.

With the new update, Instagram will show the metrics including how many times the reels have been played, what is its reach, likes, comments and saves, just like it does for photos and normal video clips that users post on the platform. This will eventually help the creators evaluate what kind of content is famous and being appreciated by the common social media users. On its official blog post Instagram noted, "For Reels, we will be showing new metrics including Plays, Accounts Reached, Likes, Comments, Saves, and Shares. For Live, we will be showing Accounts Reached, Peak Concurrent



Viewers, Comments, and Shares. We will also be including these metrics in Account Insights to provide a broader picture into how Reels and Live shape an account's performance."

Additionally, Instagram launched new detailed information about reach in 'Account Insights'. The platform has built new breakdowns that provide transparency into which types of accounts a creator is reaching and which content formats are the most effective at driving reach.

Google to count high-quality photos, videos in free 15 GB quota

Google has announced that from June 1, any new high-quality photos and videos you back up will count toward the free 15 GB of free storage that comes with every Google account, or the additional storage you've purchased as a Google One member.

The company said that you're existing high-quality photos and videos are exempt from this change.

"Any photos or videos backed up in high quality before June 1, 2021, will not count toward your Google Account storage. These photos and videos will remain free and exempt from the storage limit," Andy Abramson, Director, Product Management, Google Photos, said in a statement late on Monday.

The company estimates that more than 80 percent of the users should still be able to store roughly three more years of memories in high quality with your free 15 GB of storage.

As your storage nears 15 GB, Google will notify you in the app and follow up by email.



Cost of equity declined in India

The India Cost of Capital Survey 2021 concludes that in line with the falling interest rates, the cost of equity in India has declined since EY's last cost of capital survey in 2017.

The EY-NSE report encapsulates views of around 200 respondents from the corporate India, spread across different sectors and company sizes. The survey concludes that in line with the falling interest rates, the average cost of equity in India has decreased since EY's last cost of capital survey in 2017.

While largely a measure of risk, the cost of equity is also a proxy for return expectation, and its decline with falling interest rates can be interpreted as signs of conservatism in return expectations from prospective investments. The survey findings say that India's average cost of equity is 14 per cent; declined by 100 basis points since EY's last cost of capital survey in 2017.

Real estate, healthcare (including pharmaceuticals and life sciences) and renewables command the highest cost of equity, whereas chemicals, media and entertainment and FMCG, are at the lowest. The survey also found that start-ups or internet-age companies recorded higher cost of equity on an average.

The Discounted Cash Flow (DCF) methodology is one of the key approaches for valuation analysis used and most companies typically consider a horizon of five years under this approach.



Amazon buys MGM for \$8.45 bn

Amazon is going Hollywood. The online shopping giant is buying MGM, the movie and TV studio behind James Bond, 'Legally Blonde' and 'Shark Tank', with the hopes of filling its video streaming service with more stuff to watch.

Amazon is paying \$8.45 billion for MGM, making it the company's second-largest acquisition after it bought grocer Whole Foods for nearly \$14 billion in 2017.

The deal is the latest in the media industry that's aimed at boosting streaming services to compete against Netflix and Disney+. AT&T and Discovery announced on May 17 that they would combine media companies, creating a powerhouse that includes HGTV, CNN, Food Network and HBO.

PNB scam: Choksi's immediate repatriation stayed by Dominica court

A Dominica court has put a stay on the repatriation of fugitive Mehul Choksi after Choksi's legal team in Dominica filed a habeas corpus petition and highlighted that he was denied legal rights and was not allowed to meet his lawyers initially, local media reported. The matter is expected to be heard again on May 28 at 9am local time. This comes after the acting police chief of Dominica Lincoln Corbette told Hindustan Times that the fugitive businessman, wanted in India in multicore PNB scam, will be repatriated to Antigua and not to India.

Currently, Choksi is in the custody of Dominica Police and is being investigated, police said.

Under a habeas corpus petition, an arrested person has to be brought before a judge, especially to secure the person's release "unless lawful grounds are shown for their detention". Choksi's Dominica lawyer Wayne Marshe said it is a "travesty of justice" as Choksi is entitled to legal representation — be it in



The court ruled that Mehul Choksi should be granted full access to the attorneys, who filed a habeas corpus petition before the court amid speculations of his repatriation to India.

Antigua or Dominica.

Choksi's lawyer in India Vijay Aggarwal said his client was picked up by various people from Jolly Harbour, where his car was found after his sudden disappearance, and then he was taken to Dominica.

"I noticed that he was severely beaten, his eyes were swollen and had several burnt marks on his body. He reported

to me that he was abducted at Jolly Harbour in Antigua and brought to Dominica by persons whom he believed to be Indian and Antiguan police on a vessel he described to be about 60-70 feet in length," Choksi's lawyer in Dominica Wayne Marshe told ANI.

After Choksi was apprehended in Dominica, Antiguan Prime Minister Gaston Browne said he asked Dominica to hand Choksi over to India directly. But the legality of that in the absence of an extradition arrangement between India and Dominica was questioned.

"Ultimately, it is the sovereign decision of the government of Dominica as to which country they repatriate Mehul Choksi unless the Court states otherwise," Browne told ANI.

Dominica is not among the 58 countries with which India has either extradition treaties or arrangements, while it has the same with Antigua and Barbuda. In such cases, the decision of where a fugitive will be repatriated depends on local authorities.

Jeff Bezos to step down as Amazon CEO on July 5

Amazon founder Jeff Bezos has picked a date to step down as CEO. Bezos, who grew Amazon from an internet bookstore to an online shopping behemoth, said Wednesday that Amazon executive Andy Jassy will take over the CEO role on July 5.

We chose that date because its sentimental for me," Bezos said during an Amazon shareholder meeting Wednesday. He explained that it was exactly 27 years ago on that date in 1994 that Amazon was incorporated.

Seattle-based Amazon.com Inc. announced that Bezos was stepping down as CEO in February, but didn't provide a specific date. Jassy, his replacement, currently runs the company's cloud-computing business.

Bezos, 57 and with a personal fortune of \$167 billion, won't be going far. He will become executive chair at Amazon and focus on new products and initiatives.

Iran bans cryptocurrency mining for 4 months after blackouts

Iran's President Hassan Rouhani on Wednesday announced a four-month ban on all cryptocurrency mining, a day after his energy minister apologised for unplanned power cuts in major cities.

Iranian officials have regularly blamed unlicensed cryptocurrency miners for using vast amounts of electricity.

"Cryptocurrency activities and mining cryptocurrencies must be stopped" until September 22, Rouhani said in televised remarks.

Power cuts in the peak summer months are not uncommon in Iran, but Tehran and several other major cities were hit by unplanned blackouts late last week, sparking complaints from consumers and businesses.

Iran started rolling blackouts from Sunday to reduce the pressure on the national grid.

Rouhani said "illegal" miners who usually have access to subsidised electricity consume between six and seven times more power than those with permits.

Energy Minister Reza Ardakanian apologised to Iranians on Tuesday for "shortcomings and pressures" over the surprise blackouts. He said the national grid was overburdened due to a drought impacting hydropower generation and unexpectedly warm weather causing a surge in demand for air conditioning.

National electricity company spokesman Mostafa Rajabi Mashhadi said on Saturday that licensed cryptocurrency-mining farms had already voluntarily shut down operations to ease the burden.

Profitably creating, or mining, bitcoin and other cryptocurrencies requires masses of computers dedicated to solving deliberately complicated equations -- an endeavour that globally consumes more electricity than entire nations.

According to consultant and expert on cryptocurrencies Michel Rauchs, about five to 10 percent of world bitcoin mining can be traced to Iran.

Koo raises USD 30 million funding led by Tiger Global

NEW DELHI (TIP): Twitter-rival Koo has raised USD 30 million (about Rs 218 crore) in a funding round led by Tiger Global, according to a statement.

Existing investors Accel Partners, Kalaari Capital, 3one4 Capital, Blume Ventures and Dream Incubator also took part in the latest funding round, Koo said in a statement.

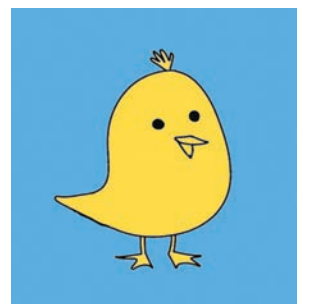
IIFL and Mirae Assets are other new investors who have come on board the cap table with this round.

Notably, the fund-raising comes at a time when the new IT intermediary rules are taking effect, making large digital platforms including Twitter and Facebook more accountable and responsible for the content hosted by them.

Homegrown microblogging platform Koo has close to 60 lakh users, making it a major social media intermediary under the new guidelines. Last week, Koo said it has complied with the requirements of the new rules and its privacy policy, terms of use and community guidelines now reflect the changes.

"Koo, India's own microblogging app, has raised USD 30 million in Series B funding," it said in a statement on Wednesday, adding that Tiger Global led the investment round.

The funds from the latest round would be used mainly to strengthen engineering, product and community efforts across all Indian languages at Koo.



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 by
Astro Friend Chirag - Blessed Son of Astrologer Bejan Daruwalla**

ARIES: You will look at the world with a unique new insight this week. You will notice that if you look out for the little good things that keep happening throughout this week you won't be bothered by all the negativity you face this week. Your business will make you really happy this week. This week you have the time to improve yourself and work on the things you've been meaning to do to improve your skilket. Updating your knowledge during this time will help you a lot in the future. Trust the timing and practice patience. Do not waste this week worrying about the lack of new opportunities.

TAURUS: You will need to focus on eating healthier and exercising more often now. New habits have to be incorporated into your lifestyle, especially if you are not feeling motivated to work out this week. It's imperative to take care of your eating, drinking. Stay cautious about anything and everything you consume. Your health seems to be gradually regressing without you noticing it this week hence you need to be extra careful this week regarding everything that you do this week.

GEMINI: As you notice that your well being improves over the past few days, challenges and changes arrive in your relationships. It's nothing that you can't handle if you chose to remain calm and peaceful. Focus on being kind caring and gentle and make way for a very long-lasting relationship. Relaxation methods are very important for you to do this week. You can keep things smooth by keeping control over your eating habits. Hence, avoid any kind of stress, your health is totally in your hands and you will need to make this weekend count by making the correct choices.

CANCER: Everything will work out quite well for you this week. You will enjoy it a lot this week because you have been working hard the past couple of days. Make sure you take time out to have fun this week. You will be pampered a lot by your partner this week. You feel appreciated for your efforts. You won't face any major problems in your love life this week end it will only keep getting better. Do not rush into things and take the next step. Your business will require more employees and more dedication which is a good thing as it means that your business is growing to new heights; you need to stay focused and not get lost in the fame and fortune this week.

LEO: You need to focus on being healthy and leave behind your bad and irregular eating habits. Your body is getting tired quickly because of the food that you eat. If you are not responsible this weekand take the necessary steps, be ready for ill health in the near future.Remember to slowly increase the amount of exercise you get, and to introduce new activities gently. Try to adjust your eating habits by making small changes. You will have to adopt a practical and sensible approach to handle business matters. Otherwise, you will be stuck wasting a lot of time worrying about how people perceive you.

VIRGO: Expect some arguments with colleagues who are jealous of you due to the fame you gain this week. It is because you have been oversharing in the past, you need to focus more on your work and not on the people who drag you down in life, at the same time you need to be extremely careful about the information you publicly share at yourworkplace as it might be used against you to pull you down from the position that you are currently at. You will need to push through these people by making a conscious effort to not let them ruin your week.

LIBRA: Your partner is very likely to be away at work for the most part this week which works out perfectly for you. Although this week is not a very loving and affectionate kind of week. Your partner will be very supportive of you whether it's your health or your business. They will take care of things that bother you and this will facilitate a lot of thoughts in your mind about moving forward with this relationship. If you're single, an exciting new potential partner could have your senses activated. If you're currently involved, recent events may have created such a powerful bond between you and your partner that at this point you may think it'll never end. Consider what led up to this feeling and discern ways to continually re-create it.

SCORPIO: This week you will feel elated and happy because the stars are perfectly aligned when it comes to your mental and physical well-being. This could be taken positively or negatively by you because if you see the good part about this week, it would be that you won't face any negative events or outcomes this week but you won't experience any excessive gains or extraordinary events that give you an adrenaline rush hence this week is a calm week for you which you can enjoy if you're able to control your constant need to compare yourself with those around you and feel insecure about your future.

SAGITTARIUS: You will experience a great amount of luck and love this week. As you spend your time in new adventures and exploring new places throughout the week. You will have a great time with your loved one this week. You will get to know each other better and it will bring you more closely to each other. You will feel extremely happy this week. Your happiness is due to a successful accomplishment of your partner. Now that they have achieved what you wanted this week the time for both of you to relax.

CAPRICORN: You will be annoyed with the lack of attention and support you are getting from your partner. Your love life will feel very upset earlier this week. Your leadership skills will help you move past any hurdles without much effort. This will be a good week to retrospect and think about your progress.Don't forget to continue with your hard work and efforts you need not spend the whole week sulking just because you feel a little insecure. Take rest breaks when you feel they're needed and continue with your work otherwise.

AQUARIUS: This week is a very beautiful week for you. You seem to be going on a positive streak this week. Relish the positive energy you have been experiencing and use it to be as productive as you can be. You will feel at a very safe place in your relationship this week and it will progressively get better. Although things will go way too fast for you this week, it will all feel like a fairytale for you. Your health will not bother you this week; at the same time, you should try to maintain this state for a long time. If you try to accommodate some health care routines like exercise or yoga and start eating more nutrients foods,you will feel even better.

PISCES: Your love life will be better than it's ever been this week. If you have been trying to get a specific someone's attention for a while now, luck will be your cupid this week. Live in the moment and try not to rush things. You have ample amount of time. Your partner may have a good attitude towards you which will lead to solutions of misunderstandings this week. You will do your best when it comes to your love life and show your patient approach to maintain a tranquil life this week. Things will be easier for you this week as your luck will be lending you strength and creating a niche of favorable opportunities for you. These opportunities will take your life far and you will realize that this week itself.

**WEEKLY HOROSCOPE
May 31 - June 6, 2021**

BIRTHDAY HOROSCOPE May 31 - June 6, 2021

By Astro Friend Chirag - Blessed Son of Astrologer Bejan Daruwalla

CONTD FROM PAGE 32

May 31

You will earn a lot of respect and appreciation from a new prospect and all of your colleagues today. The stars are really making you be the best you can be today. You'll be really happy today, thinking about the deal you closed today. You need to work on not being overwhelmed by the work so much so that you cannot plan a way out of it. Your confidence will rescue you in all the difficult circumstances today.

June 1

You have been on a downward spiral for quite a while now so today will be a big relief. Your competitors will give you a break today and you will be able to enjoy solitary bliss today. You will be very motivated today as your luck will push you to do a lot of work. Being able to fulfill today's task might increase your self-confidence today which will last much longer than just a day. You will go through emotional changes within you which will affect your behavior with your partner today, but nothing will go significantly wrong in your relationship, today.

June 2

Your business will require more employees and more dedication which is a good thing as it means that your business is growing to new heights; you need to stay focused and not get lost in the fame and fortune today. You will have a very positive day today. You will

get what you're trying to accomplish today. Today could bring you some financial gain in your business. Deals that have been pending are likely to get settled today as well. You will see yourself growing in all perspectives. Although luck is on your side you will have to work hard throughout the day today.

June 3

Luck will provide you with a lot of positive outcomes that you deserve today. If you do not let the stress and anxiety of the busy life get to you, you will have the best day today. You're enjoying your time with your partner so much today that you won't have any negative feeling about moving forward whatsoever. Taking professional help rather than neglecting the issues that you have been having for a while now is the only way your health will improve today. Make it an immediate priority. You should remain extra cautious and careful about any ill-health symptoms you experience today. Make sure to consult a doctor if you feel sick today.

June 4

Your love life will be better than it's ever been. If you have been trying to get a specific someone's attention for a while now, luck will be with you today. Live in the moment and try not to rush things. Your partner may have a good attitude towards you which will lead to solutions of misunderstandings. You need to work on calming your negative thoughts today especially

regarding your relationship. A lot of unexpected obstacles will also arise due to silly mistakes of your employees hence today your temper will be tested as well. Being angry at your employees will ruin the work even more hence no matter how hard it.

June 5

Your day will start with the rotation of Saturn bringing you mental peace as well as a lot of prosperity but will end with a little bit of workload. Income from unexpected sources is likely to find its way to you today. Your health will be pretty stagnant and will only keep getting better from today onwards, now is the time to work hard towards achieving your health goals. Nurture the love and care you receive today and the people you receive them from.

June 6

Today is just a relatively easy day for you as you work with your team with ease and also have a lot of fun at work today. Your work life will be the most positive part of your day. A very productive day is on its way for you today. You will have a lot of work to do, which you will thoroughly enjoy. You tend to stop working on your health if you get busy at work, which is one practice you need to change. Make time for your health every day. If you try to accommodate some health care routines like exercise or yoga and start eating more nutritious foods, you will feel even better.

|| SHREE GANESHAY NAMA ||



Know/Buy your Lucky Gemstones

From the House of Astrologer Bejan Daruwalla

To buy any Gemstone, visit www.BejanDaruwalla.com

Contact us for all kind of Astrology Services

Call/ Whatsapp +91 8141234275

Email: info@bejandaruwala.com



World Famous Astrologer Bejan Daruwalla



Nastur Bejan Daruwalla

Tridevi, or three goddesses, is a term used in Hinduism to describe the three main female deities. These are Saraswati (who is linked to Brahma), Lakshmi (who is linked to Vishnu) and Parvati (who is linked to Shiva).

Mahalakshmi - The Goddess of Wealth

Sri Mahalakshmi or Lakshmi, as the Goddess is also referred to, is the Hindu Goddess of Wealth, auspiciousness, purity, prosperity and generosity. She also embodies charm, beauty and grace. Lakshmi is a very popular and powerful Goddess in Indian mythology. In fact, representations of Lakshmi, or Shri, are found also in Buddhist and Jain monuments. The earliest archeological representations of Devi Shri were found in Buddhist monuments.

The name "Lakshmi" is derived from the Sanskrit elemental form "lakS," meaning to observe or perceive. This is also synonymous with "lakSyā," meaning aim, goal or objective. Lakshmi is thus a Goddess who is regarded as the means to achieving several goals, importantly, becoming prosperous.

Lakshmi, the Consort of Sri Maha Vishnu, also incarnates as Sita (during Vishnu's avatar as Rama) and Rukmini and Radha (during Vishnu's manifestation as Krishna). As Lakshmi, She is often depicted as an indescribably beautiful woman, seated on a full-bloomed lotus, holding lotus buds in two of her hands, a pot of gold in the third and benignly blessing all those who come to her for succour. She is flanked by elephants, which symbolizes her royal status. Lakshmi, being the Goddess of Wealth, is also depicted as dressed in rich red silk, fully ornamented from head to toe in gold and precious stones.

Lakshmi's four hands represent four spiritual virtues. The fully bloomed lotus she is seated on, represents the seat of Divine Truth. The aura of joy surrounding her depicts mental and spiritual balance. Peace and prosperity always exist around her.

Sri Mahalakshmi is also depicted as being seated on the Adishesha (bed of snakes), along with her Consort, Vishnu. Vishnu lies in the Ananta Shayan (reclining) position and Lakshmi is seen pressing his feet.

Parvati - The Goddess of Power

Parvati devi, in Hindu mythology, is a representation of the ultimate female divinity, the Shakti. In spite of her being a gentle mother goddess, she is known for unleashing her true power and strength in times of crisis. The Shaktas consider her the ultimate Divine Shakti, the embodiment of the total energy in the universe. Parvati, the daughter of Himavan, the king of the Himalayas, is an incarnation of Sati, the first consort of Lord Shiva, and is the mother of Ganesha, the Elephant-Headed Lord and Kartikeya (Muruga or Skanda). The Devi is usually portrayed with two arms, seated on a lion or tiger. Generally benign, this goddess is also known to take on more powerful and fearful aspects such as Kali, Durga, Chandi and the Mahavidyas.

Her other names include Lalita, Gauri, Girija, Girirajaputri and Shailaja. Yet other names include Shyamala (the dark one), Amba, Ambika, Bhairavi, Aparna and Uma. Legend has it that when Shiva teased her about her dark complexion, Parvati took offense and left him to undergo severe penance to acquire Brahma's boon for a fairer skin color.

Though Parvati does not make an appearance in Vedic literature, the Kena Upanishad talks about Uma-Haimavati, who manifests as Shakti, the feminine energy of the Supreme Brahman. She reveals the knowledge of Brahman to the Vedic trinity of Agni, Vayu, and Indra. The Ramayana and the Mahabharata talk of Parvati as Shiva's consort. Kalidasa (5th century) and the Puranas (4th through the 13th centuries) relate in detail stories of Sati-Parvati and Shiva with comprehensive details.

Parvati's earlier incarnation, Sati, self-immolates at her father, Daksha's, Yagna (sacrificial ritual). Daksha not only refuses to accept Shiva as his son-in-law, but also insults Sati when she goes to visit the Yagna against her husband's wishes. Shiva is furious when he learns about Sati's death. Grief-stricken, he loses interest in worldly affairs and undertakes severe penance in the Himalayas. Sati is reborn as Parvati.

Parvati falls for Shiva and wishes to reunite with him. She regularly visits the cave where he sits deep in

Tridevi – the three supreme Goddesses



penance, cleans up the place and offers puja to him everyday. When he does not even open his eyes to glance at her, however, she is terribly saddened and decides to undergo severe penance herself, in order to please him. She sheds her clothes, refuses food and water and proceeds to do penance in the harsh climate of the Himalayas. Shiva is pleased by her devotion to him and agrees to marry her. They move on from there to mount Kailas, Shiva's abode.

Saraswati - the Goddess of Learning and Knowledge

Saraswati is the Hindu goddess of learning, knowledge, music and the Arts. Saraswati has also been identified with and likened to the Vedic Saraswati River. She is the consort of Brahma, the Hindu god of creation. Thus, with the goddesses Parvati and Lakshmi, she completes the set of the divine Tridevi (the three goddesses, just like the divine Trinity).

According to Hinduism, Saraswati's offspring are the Vedas. Saraswati is a very popular Indian goddess and is propitiated to attain knowledge and wisdom. Saraswati also prominently features in Mahayana Buddhism, where she initially manifests in the Golden Radiance Sutra of the late 4th or early 5th Century, in a Mahayana Sutra.

Devi Saraswati is often portrayed as a beautiful, white-skinned woman, attired in pure white, seated on a white Nelumbo nucifera lotus. Her vahana or vehicle is the swan, which symbolizes that she is founded in the experience of the Absolute Truth. Thus, she not only has the knowledge but also the experience of the Highest Reality. Saraswati is mostly associated with the color white, which signifies purity of true knowledge. Occasionally, however, she is also associated with the colour yellow, the colour of the flowers of the mustard plant, that bloom at the time of her festival in the spring. Unlike the goddess Lakshmi, Saraswati is not adorned heavily with jewels, gold and heavy silks, but is shown as attired very modestly, maybe symbolizing her preference of knowledge over worldly material pursuits.

Saraswati is generally shown having four arms, which represent the four aspects of human personality in learning: mind, intellect, alertness, and ego. Alternatively, these four arms also represent the 4 vedas, the primary sacred books for Hindus. The vedas, in

turn, represent the 3 forms of literature: Poetry - the Rigveda containing hymns and representing poetry; Prose - the Yajurveda containing prose; Music - the Samaveda representing music. Prose is represented by the book in one hand, poetry by the rosary of crystals, music by the veena. The pot of sacred water represents purity in all of these three, or their power to purify human thought.

A white swan is often located next to her feet. The sacred swan, if offered a mixture of milk and water, is said to be able to drink the milk alone. The swan thus symbolizes discrimination between the good and the bad or the eternal and the evanescent. Due to her association with the swan, Goddess Saraswati is also referred to as Hamsa-vahini, which means "she who has a swan as her vehicle".

Sometimes a peacock is shown beside the goddess. The peacock represents arrogance and pride over its beauty, and by having a peacock as her mount, the Goddess teaches Hindus not to be concerned with external appearance and to be wise regarding the eternal truth.

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."

Kovalam: Beach lovers' paradise

Kovalam is an internationally renowned beach with three adjacent crescent beaches. It has been a favourite haunt of tourists since the 1930s. A massive rocky promontory on the beach has created a beautiful bay of calm waters ideal for sea bathing.

The leisure options at this beach are plenty and diverse. Sunbathing, swimming, herbal body toning massages, special cultural programmes and catamaran cruising are some of them. The tropical sun acts so fast that one can see the faint blush of coppery tan on the skin in a matter of minutes. Life on the beach begins late in the day and carries on well into the night. The beach complex includes a string of budget cottages, Ayurvedic health resorts, convention facilities, shopping zones, swimming pools, Yoga and Ayurvedic massage centres.

LIGHTHOUSE BEACH

So named because of the lighthouse perched on top of Kurumkal Hill, the southernmost beach of Kovalam—Lighthouse Beach—is one of the most stunning beaches in India. You'll be tempted to spend a laidback afternoon at the beach but do make the effort of climbing up the spiral staircase of the red and white watchtower which will offer you the most spectacular views of the pristine waters and vast sandy stretch. The lifeguards here are quite alert and will give you pointers on which parts of the beach are safe to swim in on that particular day, as well as high-tide timings. The line of restaurants and shacks on the beach serve up fresh seafood, and there are a number of hotels (to suit every budget) on Lighthouse Road that leads up to the beach.

VIZHINJAM ROCK CUT CAVE TEMPLE

A small, 8th century rock cut temple, Vizhinjam Rock Cut Caves may not be grand enough, but patrons of ancient Indian architecture may appreciate the one-celled shrine with a loose sculpture of Vinandhara Dakshinamurthi in this granite sculpture. Located about 17 kilometres from the city of Thiruvananthapuram, the cave remained nondescript for many years. It features Tripurantaka (Shiva) carrying a bow and arrow in two of his four hands and HIS divine consort Parvati. Visit it only if you have a serious thing for ancient temple architecture.

VIZHINJAM MARINE AQUARIUM

This gem of an aquarium is actually full of marine wealth such as fishes, corals and other aquatic fauna. Vizhinjam Marine Aquarium also boasts unique technique of Image Pearl production which involves embedding a pearl oyster into a mould of any shape, made of shell cement. After a couple of months, what you get is a lovely pearl shaped like the mould in which it was set. Find this spot at the busiest fishing harbours in Vizhinjam, near Theatre Junction.

NAPIER ART MUSEUM & GALLERY

Kovalam is a friendly city with a rich history. And, the Napier Art Museum, in Thiruvananthapuram,



named after the erstwhile Governor of Madras, Lord Napier, has documented that for posterity very well. There's plenty for all types of visitors to see, from ivory carvings, traditional ornaments, zoological garden etc. Make sure to hit the Shri Chitra Art Gallery, in the vicinity, to appreciate the works dating back to the Mughal and Rajputana times.

PADMANABHAPURAM PALACE

The Padmanabhapuram Palace, located near Thuckalay in Kanyakumari, continues to attract history buffs and connoisseurs of antiquity. Currently maintained for posterity by the Govt. of Kerala Archaeology Department, this palace was erected around 1601 AD by the ruler Iravi Varma Kulasekhara Perumal, and was rebuilt in 1750 by the founder of modern Travancore, King Anizham Thirunal Marthanda Varma (1706–1758). King Marthanda Varma dedicated the kingdom to his family deity Sri Padmanabha, a form of Lord Vishnu and ruled the kingdom as Padmanabha dasa or servant of Lord Padmanabha.

The features of this palace are especially noteworthy. The clock tower in the palace complex has a 300-year-old clock, which still keeps time. There's large hall with a capacity to accommodate around 1000 guests, and it was once upon a time a space for holding ceremonial feasts on auspicious occasions. Interestingly, the palace has a secret passage, now blocked, through which the king, his immediate family members, and their entourage could escape to another palace, located several miles away in case of a serious threat. The palace complex also has old Chinese jars, all gifts by Chinese merchants, weapons, brass lamps,

wood and stone sculpture, a variety of furniture, large mirrors made of polished metal, paintings portraying the history of Travancore and a wooden cot made of up to 64 wooden pieces of a variety of medicinal tree trunks.

KARAMANA RIVER

Karamana River, with its starting point near the southern point of the Western Ghats at Agastyar Koodam, flows westward to merge with the Arabian Sea at Panathura near Kovalam. In between, the river passes through a small, namesake suburb in Thiruvananthapuram called Karamana. You've got to appreciate the expansive green patches of tropical flora dotting the gorgeous lake. Karamana River has its own unique charm and ways to entertain tourists. Visit the Thiruvallam Boat Club located on the river bank, and buy a ticket or two for canoe rides, houseboat cruises, kayaking etc.

VELLAYANI LAKE

You've got to visit the lake that came into being due to the divine intervention of a holy sage. According to the local lore, once upon a time, a thirsty beggar visited a meditating saint in search of water. When the saint, however, saw that his vessel has only a few drops of water, not enough to quench the thirst of the humble seeker, he took the drops in his palm and threw them as far as he could with sacred intentions. Wherever the drops of water fell, turned into a vast lake and thus served the sage's purpose. Vellayani Lake is located about 7 kms from Kovalam, and is a celebrated venue for holding the annual boat race event during Onam. Tourists always drop by here to enjoy a boat ride.



contd from page 12

Indian Americans Founded "Pure Hearts of Georgia" is a support group for families with special needs children

Are these kids able to work within public school system? Yes! Plenty of public schools have good programs, with most offering an Individualized Education Plan (IEP), that gives them specific goals that would be worked upon at school. In high school they even have programs to help them with supported employment, but that may not be applicable to all. But, as Anandhi notes, once they are out of high school, there aren't many options for these kids.

So, what happens when the yellow bus stops coming home? "There are also a lot of employers willing to employ individuals with autism as once trained, these individuals simply go about their work without much of a fuss," says Anandhi. While that beneficial for some, kids like Krishiv, she notes, will find it very difficult to hold on to a job even for a couple of hours a day without supervision, and some who have no or minimal language.

What lies ahead of public schools? Anandhi says there are very few daycare-like options and not enough to cater to

this every increasing population. "I would like for my son and children like him to be mentally and physically engaged in a safe place and have some friends around too." This, Anandhi says keep her awake in the night, "not out of worry but the drive to make it worthy for them." Quoting Kalam, she adds, "Dream is not that which you see while sleeping, it is something that does not let you sleep. So, this is my dream for Krishiv and for children like him."

Now 16, Krishiv is a student at Johns creek high school special classroom and continues his therapies. But what the family draws strength from the support they found in the community and friends for Krish to play, dance and have sleepovers with.

Recently Krishiv thought he got lost in PETCO, since he couldn't find the person he came with. He decided to walk to Anandhi's friend's home (4 miles away) and was at her doorstep when JC cops found him. That the traffic noises, the heat from sun, and the long walk didn't faze him, and had managed to use problem solving without panicking bears testament to the unwavering love and support Krishiv receives from family and friends.

"Inspiration, mentoring, enabling and self-sustainable learning for others made a package; you are one of the greatest and best role models for the special need kids and their parents," says friend Franklin Harris.



MAKE YOUR BRAND ROAR IN THIS FEROCIOUS MARKET

Advertise for as little as \$10.00.

Call 646-247-9458



The Indian Panorama FOR FREE AT

www.theindianpanorama.news

CONTD FORM PAGE 10

The Maharashtra Model

6) Lockdown

The Maharashtra Model implemented by Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray has been that of giving adequate signals before actually heading into a lockdown. A mindset has to be created. After the very first case in Maharashtra in 2020, the state went into a calibrated lockdown, first closing schools, colleges, theatres and malls. Then, non-essential service private offices, and so on, escalating the nature of the lockdown till the day of the 'Janta Curfew' and when the national lockdown that was announced. This meant people were not in shock, they had been given time to adjust to the new restrictions. In lifting the lockdown by the end of 2020, a similar staggered pattern was used.

Even during lockdowns, agriculture and manufacturing industries, export import activities, financial offices, essential services and offices have been kept open, along with restaurants being allowed home delivery. The idea is to keep citizens safe at home, and thus break the chain of transmission, while helping the state to also advance its medical infrastructure.

There may be debates on lockdowns and curbs, but even today, with the inadequate vaccine supply, uncontrolled mingling and non-symptomatic cases being super-spreaders, it is the only way to control the infection. The transmission drops immediately. Our first job at hand is to safeguard citizens, this is tough call but protects them.

7) Disinfection drives

We asked each urban local body and rural local body to carry out mass disinfection drives in public places at least once a week. Internationally proven disinfectants are used, and, in many cities, public transport used by essential service providers, is sanitized at regular intervals.

Many elected representatives started disinfecting housing societies, colonies, slum societies, so all this

became decentralized with each one taking up the responsibility of their own vicinity. However, even today, in cities like Mumbai, the BMC sanitizes the home and the floor of the person that has tested positive and seals the floor.

8) "Majhe Kutumb, Majhi Jababdari"

In September 2020, the state launched a massive data collection and analysis drive called "Majhe Kutumb, Majhi Jababdari" (My Family, My Responsibility) which led to most households being visited by state representatives who collected and collated health data. It also included a check on Covid symptoms, along with the data of any other health issue faced by the person. This gave us real-time insights into the true health of the state.

9) Vaccination



Covid vaccination - Photo / courtesy PTI

The State Cabinet decided to vaccinate all citizens from 18-44, which was mandated by the Union Government to be the responsibility of the state, without anyone having to compulsorily pay for it.

The Chief Minister and his cabinet had requested the Centre to allow universal vaccination, and thus the below 45 age group was deregulated and mandated to the State.

It is a matter of pride for the state that the citizens responded to the vaccination drive positively, making

Maharashtra the leading state in the vaccination campaign. The state set a record of 500,000 persons vaccinated in a single day and we are ready to set new benchmarks soon.

Another innovative move for vaccinations has been to start drive-in centers for senior citizens and differently abled citizens. They can be driven to a vaccination center, given the jab without stepping out of the car or an autorickshaw and park near the observation areas, seated in the vehicle all the while.

The non-availability of vaccines remains a matter of worry and thus we scramble for more vaccines each day.

However, we believe this shall be resolved as we continue to work with the union government and vaccine manufacturers who are permitted to supply directly to states.

The Way Ahead

While we focus on the vaccination drive, we must prepare for a possible third wave. Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray indicated these preparations around mid-April, even as we were handling the second wave.

The state has begun to work on a medical response, civic response and a corporate response to the possible third wave.

The medical response includes creating more facilities with beds, ICUs, medicine and oxygen, but also focusing on the demography that hasn't been affected by Covid as yet - children.

Civic response draws us to a calibrated reopening and what would Covid-appropriate behavior would mean for vaccinated people and the arrival of new strains or mutations.

Corporate response considers appropriate behavior in offices and industries to ensure that transmission, if at all, is at its bare minimal and the company doesn't have to come to a halt each time a case is found in its staff.

(The author is a cabinet minister in the Maharashtra government. He holds the environment, tourism and protocol portfolios. He's also the president of Yuva Sena, the Shiv Sena's youth wing.)

EUROPA LEAGUE FINAL

Villarreal beat Manchester United in epic penalty shootout

Manchester United have now clocked four years without a trophy, and that's the worst ever stumble for the club in 31 years.

Villarreal punctured Ole Gunnar Solskjaer's last hope of winning his maiden silverware as United manager, by beating the Red Devils 11-10 on penalties in the Europa League final last night in Gdansk. United goalkeeper David De Gea missed the decisive spot-kick in the shootout, handing Unai Emery's Villarreal their first ever major title.

After Gerard Moreno put Villarreal ahead in the 29th minute, Edinson Cavani equalised soon after the second half went underway. But it was not United's day, and their manager thinks they could've done better. "We didn't play as well as we can do. We started alright and they scored from their only shot on target but it was disappointing to concede a goal on a set play. We pushed and pressed and got the goal. But after we scored we couldn't control the game and dominate the way which we wanted," Solskjaer told BT Sport after the game.

This victory is Unai Emery's fourth Europa League title. United ended their Premier League campaign at number two, 12 points behind derby rivals and champions Manchester City.

Marcus Rashford faces racial abuse

Things went from bad to worse for United forward Marcus Rashford last



Villarreal players won 11-10 on penalties in the final of Europa League on Wednesday, May 26.

night. After losing the Europa League title to Villarreal, Rashford was at the receiving end of a slew of racial slurs. He immediately brought it to everyone's notice.

"At least 70 racial slurs on my social accounts counted so far. For those working to make me feel any worse than I already do, good luck trying. I'm more outraged that one of the abusers that left a mountain of monkey emojis in my DM is a maths teacher with an open profile.

He teaches children!! And knows that he can freely racially abuse without consequence," Rashford wrote on Twitter.

After Rashford spoke up about his unpleasant experience, United backed him by issuing a statement on social media. The club took to Twitter to say, "Following the final, our players were subjected to disgraceful racist abuse. If you see any form of abuse or discrimination, act and report it."

Source: The Telegraph

ASIAN BOXING C'SHIPS

Mary Kom reaches final; Simranjit gets bronze

DUBAI (TIP): Six-time world champion MC Mary Kom (51kg) and Sakshi (54kg) stormed into the Asian Boxing Championships finals after notching up gruelling victories in their last-four stage bouts on May 27.

While Mary Kom prevailed 4-1 over Mongolia's Lutsaikhan Altantsetseg, two-time youth world champion Sakshi upstaged top seed Dina Zholaman of Kazakhstan 3-2.

However, Simranjit Kaur (60kg), Monika (48kg) and debutant Jasmine (57kg) settled for bronze medals after losing 5-0 to Kazakhstan boxers in their semifinal bouts.

Simranjit, who recently recovered from Covid-19, lost to Rimma Volossenko, Monika went down to second seed Alua Balkibekova and Jasmine was bested by Vladislava Kukhta.

Top seed Mary Kom dug from her huge reservoir of experience to outwit the sprightly Altantsetseg. "It has taken a lot to adjust to the humid weather here," Mary Kom said. "Today, I was a bit slow in the first round but got my rhythm from the second round onwards. I had already fought her once so it didn't take much to understand



her gameplan," she added.

The veteran's right hooks were particularly impressive in a compelling performance. She fought with a perilously low guard despite the aggressive intent shown by her rival and relied on her sharp reflexes to score on counterattacks. "The guard wasn't needed, I knew her quite well," Mary Kom said.

The 38-year-old will be gunning for her sixth gold medal at the continental showpiece. She will be up against Kazakhstan's Nazym Kyzaibay, a two-time world champion. Source: PTI

Real Madrid says Zidane stepping down as team's coach

MADRID (TIP): Zinedine Zidane is stepping down as Real Madrid coach, again.

The club said on Thursday, May 27, the Frenchman is leaving his job, a few days after a season in which Madrid failed to win a title for the first time in more than a decade.

The club said Zidane "decided to bring an end to his current spell" as Madrid's coach.

"We must now respect his decision and express our gratitude for his professionalism, dedication and passion over the years and what he means to Real Madrid," the club said in a statement.

Zidane had a contract through June 2022.

"Zidane is one of Real Madrid's great icons and his legacy extends beyond what he has achieved as a coach and player at our club," Madrid said.

"He is aware that he has a place in the hearts of the Real Madrid fans and that he will always have a home at Real Madrid."

Zidane left the club for the first time after leading Madrid to one of its most successful runs from 2016-2018, with three consecutive Champions League titles. In his two years and five months in charge, Madrid won a total of nine trophies, including two Club World Cups, two UEFA Super Cups, one Spanish league and one Spanish Super Cup.



Citing mental health concerns, Naomi Osaka to boycott media at French Open

Four-time Grand Slam champion Naomi Osaka on Wednesday said she will not take questions from the press at this year's French Open, saying the nature of news conferences puts an undue burden on players' mental health.

"I'm writing this to say I'm not going to do any press during Roland Garros," the Japanese player wrote on Twitter.

"I've often felt that people have no regard for athletes mental health and this rings true whenever I see a press conference or partake in one.

"We're often sat there and asked questions that we've been asked multiple times before or asked questions that bring doubt into our minds and I'm just not going to subject myself to people that doubt me." Expecting players to answer questions after losses amounted to "kicking a person while they're down", Osaka added.

Djokovic, Nadal, Federer in same half of French Open draw

Novak Djokovic, Rafael Nadal and Roger Federer all ended up in the same half of the French Open men's field in the draw Thursday, meaning no more than one of them can reach the final.

The Big Three top the leaderboard for Grand Slam men's singles titles: Federer and Nadal head to Roland Garros, where play begins Sunday, tied with 20, while Djokovic has 18. Nadal beat Djokovic in straight sets in the 2020 final for his record-extending 13th championship on the red clay of Paris, but if they meet again this time, it would be in the semifinals. Nadal is ranked and seeded No. 3 now and so he could have wound up on either side of the bracket; as luck would have it, he was placed in No. 1 Djokovic's half.

So was Federer, whose record for most weeks atop the ATP rankings recently was broken by Djokovic and is currently at No. 8 after playing only three matches over the past 15 months because of two operations on his right knee. Federer could meet Djokovic in the quarterfinals.

contd from page 1

Biden Orders Intelligence...

The New York Times which broke the story said that the officials declined to describe the new evidence. But the revelation that they are hoping to apply an extraordinary amount of computer power to the question of whether the virus accidentally leaked from a Chinese laboratory suggests that the government may not have exhausted its databases of Chinese communications, the movement of lab workers and the pattern of the outbreak of the disease around the city of Wuhan.

In addition to marshaling scientific resources, Mr. Biden's push is intended to prod American allies and intelligence agencies to mine existing information - like intercepts, witnesses or biological evidence - as well as hunt for new intelligence to determine whether the Chinese government covered up an accidental leak.

Mr. Biden committed on Thursday, May 27, to making the results of the review public, but added a caveat: "unless there's something I'm unaware of."

His call for the study has both domestic and international political ramifications. It prompted his critics to argue that the president had dismissed the possibility that the lab was the origin until the Chinese government this week rejected allowing further investigation by the World Health Organization. And, administration officials said, the White House hopes American allies will contribute more vigorously to a serious exploration of a theory that, until now, they considered at best unlikely, and at worst a conspiracy theory.

The White House is hoping that allies and partners can tap their networks of human sources to find additional information about what happened inside the laboratory. While the United States has been rebuilding its own sources in China, it has still not fully recovered from the elimination of its network inside the country a decade ago. As a result, having allies press their informants about what went on inside the Wuhan Institute of Virology will be a key part of the intelligence push ahead.

The inquiry has not reached a dead end, a senior Biden administration official said. Officials would not describe the kind of computational analysis they want to do.

Administration and intelligence officials say it will be as much the work of scientists as spies in trying to unravel how the pandemic was unleashed. The Biden administration has been working to improve its scientific expertise on the National Intelligence Council. Senior officials have told the spy agencies that their science-oriented divisions, which have been working on the issue for months, will play a prominent role in the revitalized inquiry.

The new inquiry will also tap the national labs and other scientific resources of the federal government that previously have not been directly involved in the intelligence effort, the senior administration official said.

Like scientists and the broader public, the intelligence community remains uncertain about the origins of the coronavirus. No definitive intelligence has emerged, and some current and former officials expressed caution that much more can be gathered in 90 days. While the Office of the Director of National Intelligence will deliver a report before summer's end, the inquiry will most likely have to be extended.

Current officials say the central goal of the new intelligence push is to improve preparations for future pandemics. As a result, Mr. Biden's message this week was calibrated to leave open the possibility of future cooperation with China.

The White House's frustration with China has risen after its announcement this week that Beijing would not participate in additional investigations by the World Health Organization. A Biden administration official said if the new inquiry failed to yield an answer, it would be because China had not been transparent.

But the administration is not trying to isolate China, and instead attempting to walk a careful line between pressuring Beijing to cooperate and demonstrating that in its absence, the United States will intensify its own investigation.

Administration officials also believe the new inquiry and Chinese obstruction of the World Health Organization will create the opportunity for stepped-up intelligence cooperation with allies.

Allies have been providing information since the beginning of the pandemic, one official said. But some, including British intelligence services, have been skeptical of the lab leak theory. Others, including Australia, have been more open to it.

In a statement on Thursday, Amanda J. Schoch, the spokeswoman for the Office of the Director of National Intelligence, said the intelligence agencies had come together around the two likely scenarios, but there were so far no high-confidence assessments of the virus's origins.

"The U.S. intelligence community does not know exactly where, when or how the Covid-19 virus was transmitted initially," Ms. Schoch said.

The intelligence community "continues to examine all available evidence, consider different perspectives, and aggressively collect and analyze new information to identify the virus's origins," Ms. Schoch said. (With

excerpts from The New York Times)

India's External Affairs Minister...

The U.S. readout said Mr. Jaishankar and Mr. Sullivan "welcomed" cooperation that has resulted in the delivery of over \$ 500 million in relief materials (state, federal and private sector sources) from the U.S. to India.

"They agreed that people-to-people ties, and shared values are the foundation of the U.S.-India strategic partnership that is helping to end the pandemic, supporting a free and open Indo-Pacific, and providing global leadership on climate change," it said.

Mr. Jaishankar said he had "good discussions" with Ms. Tai, who recently announced that the Biden administration would support an India-South Africa initiative at the World Trade Organisation (WTO) to waive intellectual property protections for COVID-19 vaccines.

"Our trade, technology & business cooperation are at the core of our strategic partnership. Enhancing them is vital to post-Covid economic recovery. Welcomed her positive stance on IPR issues & support for efficient & robust supply chains," Mr. Jaishankar said on Twitter.

The Hindu had reported that procuring vaccines and sorting out issues around this, such as early Emergency Use Authorization and liability are central to Mr. Jaishankar's trip agenda, though officials have been keen to stress that this is not the focus of the visit and that discussions would cover a more comprehensive list of topics pertinent to the strategic relationship between the two countries.

Mr. Jaishankar had breakfast and lunch meetings on Thursday, May 27, organized by advocacy and industry groups, the U.S. India Business Council (USIBC) and the U.S. India Strategic Partnership Forum (USISPF).

The USIBC meeting included a discussion on how the private sector, working via a consortium of 40 companies called the 'Global Task Force for Pandemic Response', could "support India's health infrastructure and further ways to continue relief efforts," said Priyanka Sethi, a spokesperson for the group.

Pfizer and Johnson and Johnson - both companies that manufacture COVID-19 vaccines of interest to India - are part of the Task Force. The group has sent 1,000 ventilators, 4,850 oxygen concentrators to India and convened the chief HR officers of close to 200 companies to help their employees and their families, Ms Sethi said.

Representatives of pharmaceutical firm Abbot and courier and shipping firm FedEx were among the companies present at the USISPF meeting, industry sources told The Hindu.

Mr. Jaishankar also spoke on the phone with the (Democratic) Chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, Gregory Meeks and its ranking member (Republican) Michael McCaul. He also had a phone call with House India Co-Chairs Steve Chabot (Republican).

Brad Sherman, the other co-chair, was among those present at a dinner for Mr. Jaishankar on Wednesday, at the house of Indian Ambassador Taranjit Singh Sandhu. Others present there, according to US official sources, included Virginia Senator Tim Kaine, Senator Michael Bennet from Colorado and Jon Ossoff, the new Senator from Georgia.

On Friday, May 28, the Minister is scheduled to meet with Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin and Secretary of State Antony Blinken who has been on a trip to Egypt and West Asia since Monday.

According to sources, the high-level (Minister level) meetings with the Treasury, Commerce and Energy Departments, US Agency for International Aid (USAID) and the National Science Foundation are likely to take place during Mr Jaishankar's visit to Washington. (With inputs from PTI)

Paul Ryan slams Trump in speech...

"They will not be impressed by the sight of yes-men and flatterers flocking to Mar-a-Lago."

Among the Republican politicians who have spent time with Mr. Trump at his Florida resort and publicly stood by him is House Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy, who succeeded Ryan as the top House Republican when Ryan retired from the House in 2018.

Ryan, who had his disagreements with Mr. Trump, also expressed deep dismay at the way his presidency concluded. "It was horrifying to see a presidency come to such a dishonorable and disgraceful end," he said.

But he did mention the former president by name in praising economic growth that took place during his presidency, prior to the pandemic and said, "To his credit, Donald Trump brought many new voters into our party."

Israeli strikes in Gaza may be war...

the plight faced by Palestinians in the fighting this month. She said that Hamas' indiscriminate rocketing during the conflict was also a clear violation of the rules of war.

The UN High Commissioner for human rights spoke to the Human Rights Council, chronicling the "most significant escalation of hostilities since 2014" that left devastation and death in the Gaza Strip before a cease-fire last week.

"Air strikes in such densely populated areas resulted in a high level of civilian fatalities and injuries, as well as the widespread destruction of civilian infrastructure," she said. "Such strikes raise serious concerns of Israel's compliance with distinction and proportionality under international humanitarian law." "Such attacks may constitute war crimes," she added, if deemed to be indiscriminate and disproportionate in their impact on civilians.

In an apparent allusion to tactics of Hamas, she said it was a violation of international humanitarian law to locate military assets in densely populated civilian areas, or to launch attacks from them.

Hamas "rockets are indiscriminate and fail to distinguish between military and civilian objects, and their use, thereby, constitutes a clear violation of international humanitarian law," she added. "However, the actions of one party do not absolve the other from its obligations under international law." "Unless the root causes of the violence are addressed, it will certainly be a matter of time until the next round of violence commences with further pain and suffering for civilians on all sides", she said.

The day-long debate involved personal accounts from Palestinians - such as that of a young woman journalist from the Sheikh Jarrah neighborhood in east Jerusalem, an early flashpoint that led to the violence - as well as statements from the council's 47 member states and also observer states. (Agencies)

Now the number 1 News Publication for Indian Americans
Opinio's technology helped increase interaction, engagement and monetization for The Indian Panorama



Source - Alexa
* Comparison between web visibility - NY NJ Newspapers



**BUSINESS GROWTH
THROUGH
DIGITAL MARKETING**

Time Is Money, What's your time Really Worth?

- WEB DESIGN
- ORGANIC SEO
- DIGITAL MARKETING
- TECHNOLOGY SOLUTIONS

Got questions? We have answers! 
opiniomedia.com  just great, simple tech!

care@opiniomedia.com

Simplify your marketing with Opinio Media™

IT'S NOT WHAT BRANDS SAY, IT'S WHAT PEOPLE UNDERSTAND THAT MATTERS

INTELLIGENCE FOR TOMORROW

OPINION DEVELOPMENT

DIGITAL EVOLUTION

PLANS STARTING \$49/MONTH

THE SCIENCE OF SOCIAL PR & BRANDING

Starter

Premium

Pro

\$49
per month

\$99
per month

\$199
per month



Let's Talk.

Call us now @ 646-431-4064

OPINIO MEDIA, INC | 124 DEAN STREET, HICKSVILLE, NY 11801

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

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

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

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



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



**The Indian Panorama
FOR FREE AT**

www.theindianpanorama.news

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



Eye Foundation of America

A World Without Childhood Blindness
Service | Teaching | Research

Presents

EFA

FRIEND/FUND RAISER

Join us for some uplifting music, recognize distinguished ophthalmologists from around the world, and learn how EFA and Goutami Eye Institute have continued to aid the community during COVID.

CHIEF GUEST

Senator Joe Manchin of West Virginia



Join us at

Eye Foundation of America, AAPI,
GAPIO, and Rotary on 5th June,
2021 at 9 AM EST (USA)

