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INDIAN



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Articles and advertisements for the edition may please be e-mailed by June 25, 2021 to salujaindra@gmail.com For any question, please call 646-247-9458.

US TO ACCEPT STUDENT VISA APPLICATIONS FROM JUNE 14

These appointments will be for the period of July and August

STUDY IN USA

Photo for representational purpose only

NEW DELHI / NEW YORK (TIP): Almost six weeks after the US restricted travel from India, it has decided to start taking appointments for students seeking visas from June 14. These appointments will be for the period of July and August, the US Embassy in India posted on its website. "The US we will open limited July and August student visa appointments across India.

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G7 to provide 1 billion vaccine doses 'to world': United Kingdom

THE ANNOUNCEMENT CAME AFTER THE UNITED STATES SAID IT WOULD DONATE 500 MILLION JABS TO 92 POOR AND LOWER-MIDDLE-INCOME NATIONS.



LONDON (TIP): G7 leaders will agree to expand global COVID vaccine manufacturing to provide at least one billion doses to the world through sharing and financing schemes, Britain said Thursday, June 10.

The announcement came after the United States said it would donate 500 million jabs to 92 poor and lower-middle-income nations.

The UK, which is hosting the big powers' gathering in southwest England, added it would donate at least 100 million surplus doses within the next year, including five million beginning in the coming weeks.

CONTD ON PAGE 36

"As a result of the success of the UK's vaccine programme we are now in a position to share some of our surplus doses with those who need them," British Prime Minister Boris Johnson said.

5 Eminent Ophthalmologists from across the World Honored by Eye Foundation of America



Founder and President of Eye Foundation of America introduced the Foundation and Robert Murphy Award

NEW YORK (TIP): Eye Foundation of America held a friend/ fundraiser on June 5, 2021 to confer the Robert Murphy Visionary Award on 5 eminent ophthalmologists from across the world.

The meticulously crafted one hour virtual event was co-sponsored by Eye Foundation of America, GAPIO, Rotary, QUASOURCE, FIPA, Goutami Eye Institute, Bank's Apothecary, The Indian Panorama, KLM Properties and AlconCares.

CONTD ON PAGE 3

UNGA PRESIDENT-ELECT APPOINTS INDIA'S NAIDU AS CHEF DE CABINET



UN Ambassador K Nagaraj Naidu

Photo/ Twitter/@NagNaidu08

UNITED NATIONS (TIP): Maldivian Foreign Minister Abdulla Shahid, President-elect of the 76th session of the UN General Assembly, has appointed India's Deputy Permanent Representative to the UN

Ambassador, K Nagaraj Naidu, as his Chef de Cabinet.

Shahid was overwhelmingly elected on June 7 as President of the next session of the UN General Assembly that will commence in September. He garnered 143 votes out of the 191 ballots cast in the 193-member General Assembly, winning against Afghanistan former Foreign Minister Dr Zalmay Rassoul, who got 48 votes. "Today, I have appointed Ambassador Thilmeeza Hussain as Special Envoy of the PGA, and Ambassador Nagaraj Naidu Kumar as my Chef de Cabinet.

CONTD ON PAGE 36

Extending a helping hand to India, AIA sends \$150K for COVID Relief



AIA presented a check for \$50,000.00 for India Covid 19 Fund to Northwell Health Chief Operating Officer Mark Solazzo, June 8.

Seen in the picture, from L to R: Dr. Shashi Shah, Mark Solazzo, Executive Vice president & Chief Operating Officer of Northwell, and Harish Thakkar, President AIA- NY

NEW YORK(TIP): AIA -NY Chapter raised funds for different projects. Most of those funds now are being diverted for

Covid Relief and Saving Lives, said AIA President Harish Thakkar. Giving details of the funds utilized for COVID

relief, he said. \$50,000 was sent to Oxygen Mission in India and \$10,000 to a Gurudwara in New Delhi for food supplies. Another \$50,000 for Oxygen Concentrators and Medical Supplies to different Hospitals in India was sent through Northwell Health Consul

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-: COMMENT :-

Probing Covid origin

WORLD SHOULDN'T LET CHINA'S WILD THEORIES POSE A HINDRANCE

Covid-19 has claimed over 37 lakh lives worldwide in the past year and a half, leaving global economy in a shambles, yet the origin of the lethal virus continues to be shrouded in mystery. China's lack of transparency has been a major stumbling block. An investigation by an expert team of the World Health Organisation (WHO) in January-February this year virtually ruled out the hypothesis that the virus accidentally leaked from a maximum-security biological lab at the Wuhan Institute of Virology. The probe was deemed inconclusive and unsatisfactory amid allegations that China did not give unrestricted access to the team, which was allowed to visit Wuhan a whole year after the outbreak

of the pandemic. Of late, the lab leak theory has gained ground with the emergence of new evidence, prompting the US, the UK, India and other badly hit countries to raise the pitch for an in-depth probe into the matter.

With US President Joe Biden giving the American intelligence authorities 90 days to get 'information that could bring us closer to a definitive conclusion' on the virus' origin, China has harked back to the 2003 war on Iraq to counter the US. China fears that American agencies, which allegedly fabricated evidence about Iraq possessing weapons of mass destruction to justify the launch of the war, could do something similar in the case of the Covid investigation. This is a preposterous apprehension as there is

no doubt that the virus originated from Wuhan - whether from a seafood market or a lab is yet to be ascertained. The two situations are simply not comparable. It's apparent that Beijing is resorting to diversionary tactics to stall attempts to find out the truth.

The entire world wants answers, not just America. What's needed is an unbiased scientific study by an international panel, not a political blame game aimed at scoring brownie points. The WHO must show a sense of urgency to wade through the sinister web of lies and half-truths. The sooner China's accountability is fixed, the better prepared we would be to face or even prevent any future pandemic.

(Tribune India)

-: GUEST COMMENT :-

Conflict in Punjab Congress

WITH ELECTIONS IN SIGHT, AMBITIONS BEGIN TO SOAR

With just nine months to go before the term of the Punjab legislature ends, the conflict in the ruling Congress tells a story about ambition and hunger for power. Dissidents have been firing salvos at Chief Minister Capt Amarinder Singh for much of his current term, causing embarrassment to their own government over alleged corruption, the inconclusive probe into sacrilege cases and last year's horrible spurious liquor tragedy. Now, the knives have been sharpened - there is an insistent demand for a change of guard in the state leadership. There is strong sentiment in Punjab against the BJP-ruled Centre over the three contentious farm laws, the Akali Dal is still suspect in the eyes of the voters due to past association with the BJP, the Aam Aadmi Party is also affected by factionalism and seems to have lost steam - the Congress leaders believe, thus, that power would be theirs for the taking when the elections are held early next year.

Over the past few days, Congress leaders have vigorously washed their dirty linen in public. The dissidents have accused the CM of being distant and autocratic; they have pointed to the

criminal syndicates operating in the state, especially the land, sand, drug and illicit liquor mafias. Former minister Navjot Singh Sidhu has been vocal on the sacrilege cases of 2015, alleging that the chief minister is protecting the culprits. Capt Amarinder Singh and the loyalists have countered the allegations, accusing Sidhu of trying to undermine his own party's government over political ambitions. As the party's central leadership tries to douse the fire, an unfavorable picture of the leaders' priorities emerges before the populace, struck by loss, sorrow and economic deprivation amid the pandemic. There are no reports that these issues were discussed with the central leadership - an indication of flawed priorities.

Currently, only three states in India have Congress chief ministers. In spite of the despair prevailing in Punjab - and indeed, all over the country - due to the pandemic, the party would have hopes of overcoming the anti-incumbency factor in the 2022 elections. Dissidence and ambition, however, have the potential to hurt its chances - as has happened in several other states.

(Tribune India)

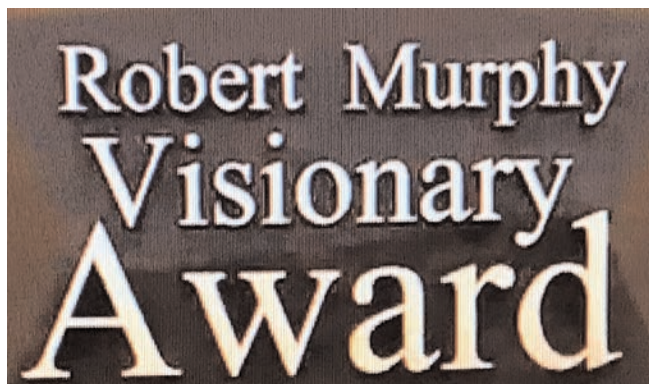


5 Eminent Ophthalmologists from across the World Honored by Eye Foundation of America

CONTD FROM PAGE 1

Welcoming and introducing the event, Secretary of Eye Foundation of America, Dr. Leela Raju said that Eye Foundation of America and Goutami Eye Institute provided services during the harrowing pandemic. She turned over to Dr. VK Raju, founder and president of Eye Foundation of America to introduce the Foundation to participants.

Dr. VK Raju pointed out that in spite of "tremendous progress in science, technology and resources, 500,000 children go blind each year across the world". Eye Foundation of America, founded in 1977, is working to prevent avoidable blindness in children all across the globe. The visuals of the work of the Foundation and Goutami Eye Institute under Dr. Raju's watch were exhibited during the program.



Speaking about the Robert Murphy Visionary Award, Dr. Raju said the award was instituted to honor a great visionary who was a founding member of Eye Foundation of America. About the honorees, he said they all were eminent ophthalmologists and in honoring them the Foundation was honoring Robert Murphy.



Senator Joe Manchin applauded the work of Eye Foundation of America

U.S. Senator Joe Manchin who was the chief guest recalled his long association with Dr. VK Raju and said, "Since 1979, Eye Foundation of America and Dr. VK Raju have made a tremendous impact

both in West Virginia and across the world".

"Childhood blindness is a curse", he said. Eye Foundation of America has performed hundreds and thousands of surgeries which have brought eyesight to thousands of children.

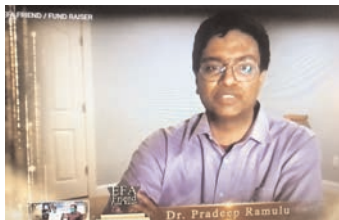
Senator Manchin extended his best wishes to Dr. Raju and the Eye Foundation of America.



Srinu Maddula, born nearly blind, speaks about his experiences with EFA. Srinu is now the Chief Patron of the Foundation

SRINU MADDULA, the chief patron of EFA narrated how he was born nearly blind and got his eyesight restored after 2 corneal surgeries performed by Dr. VK. Raju. Srinu, today holds a doctorate in pharmacy, and is CEO of a multi million dollar pharmaceutical company.

The Robert Murphy Visionary Award was conferred on 5 eminent ophthalmologists from across the world. Each was introduced by a board member of EFA. The honorees included Dr. Gullapalli N. Rao, Dr. R. D. Ravindran, Joel S. Schuman, Dr. Pradeep Y Ramulu and Dr. Peter J. McDonnell,



Dr. Pradeep Y Ramulu

Dr. Pradeep Y Ramulu

Dr. Pradeep Y Ramulu MD, PhD is a glaucoma specialist and the director of Glaucoma division, Wilmer Eye Institute, Johns Hopkins University. He is well

known for his exceptional basic and clinical research in glaucoma. He received awards from American academy of ophthalmology, American Glaucoma Society, and most recently Pisart Award from Lighthouse Guild.

He is fluent in English, Spanish and Telugu languages. He vast expertise in cataract surgery, glaucoma surgery and pediatric glaucoma. He has varied research interests in Visual disability and Rehabilitation, Aging and Vision. He has numerous publications in peer reviewed scientific journals.

Srinu Maddula, chief patron of Eye Foundation of America introduced Dr. Ramulu.



Dr. Peter J. McDonnell

Dr. Peter J. McDonnell

Dr. Peter J. McDonnell is the director of Wilmer Eye Institute at the Johns Hopkins School of Medicine, Baltimore. He received numerous

national and International awards for teaching, research, and leadership. He belongs to the society of Heeds Fellows, Doheny Society of scholars, Hall of Fame, ARCS Foundation.

He is editor of the Ophthalmology Times. He is President of National Alliance of Eye and Vision research. He is specialist in Corneal diseases and surgery, Dr. McDonnell is an International Leader in Corneal Transplantation, Laser refractive surgery and treatment of Dry Eye.

Dr. McDonnell was introduced by Board Member Sekhar Vempala.



Dr. Joel S. Schuman

Dr. Joel S. Schuman

Joel S. Schuman, MD, FACS is the Elaine Langone Professor and Vice Chair for

Research in the Department of Ophthalmology and Professor of Neuroscience & Physiology at NYU Langone Health, NYU Grossman School of Medicine.

He is Professor of Biomedical Engineering and Electrical & Computer Engineering at NYU Tandon School of Engineering and Professor of Neural Science in the Center for Neural Science at NYU College of Arts and Sciences.

He chaired the ophthalmology department at NYU Langone Health, NYU Grossman School of Medicine 2016-2020 and at University of Pittsburgh/UPMC 2003-2016. At Tufts University 1991-2003 he was Residency Director and Glaucoma and Cataract Service Chief. Dr. Schuman and his colleagues were first to identify a molecular marker for human glaucoma, published in Nature Medicine in 2001. Continuously funded by the National Eye Institute as a principal investigator since 1995, he is an inventor of optical coherence tomography (OCT), used world-wide for ocular diagnostics.

Dr. Schuman has published more than 400 peer-reviewed scientific journal articles. Dr. Schuman has received numerous awards and is a 2012 Champalimaud Award Laureate.

Samuel Stone, Eye Foundation Board Member introduced Dr. Schuman.



Dr. Gullapalli N. Rao

Dr. Gullapalli N. Rao

Dr. Gullapalli N. Rao is the founder - Chair of L.V. Prasad Eye Institute, Hyderabad, and Former President of Academi a

Ophthalmologica Internationalis" and former Chair and President of the "International Agency for the prevention of Blindness "

Among his numerous accolades, he received Doctor of Science, university of Melbourne and International Blindness Prevention award from American academy of ophthalmology. He is a Padma Shri and was elected in 2017 to the Ophthalmology Hall of Fame by American Society of cataract and refractive surgery and in 2020 honored by the All-India Ophthalmological Society by the institution of "Gullapalli N Rao -AIOS Annual Lecture " (one among the first five honorees). He published over 200 scientific articles in peer reviewed journals. Dr. Rao was introduced by Kathy Martin, EFA Board Member.



Dr. R. D. Ravindran

Dr. R. D. Ravindran

Dr. R. D. Ravindran is the chairman of Aravind Eye Care System, Madurai. He is an outstanding surgeon and leader with numerous accolades. In

2015, he was one among the "100 Compassionate leaders" of SALT magazine.

Dr. Ravindran started his practice under G. Venkata Swamy the founder of Aravind Eye care system in 1987. Every time Aravind opens a new center he was identified to be the chief and thus has vast hands-on experience in science of building and replicating hospitals. He served as a regional co-chair of the International Association for prevention of blindness, and the Board member of Vision2020: The right to sight-India since 2008. He has numerous scientific publications and reviewer of many Ophthalmic journals. He has numerous leadership positions in International prevention of Blindness organizations.

Dr. Rajeev Rai, EFA Board member introduced Dr. Ravindran.



Trio Solace

New York based famous music band Trio Solace gave a great musical performance.



Dr. Leela Raju, Secretary, Eye Foundation of America

Eye Foundation of America Secretary Dr. Leela Raju, an ophthalmologist based in New York is credited with having crafted the entire program. She thanked all for their support to the Foundation.

For further information, visit www.EyeFoundationofAmerica.org

**INDIAN AMERICAN
TEENAGER MEGHA GANNE
POISED TO BECOME A
FUTURE GOLF
'MEGHA-STAR'**



Megha Ganne is poised to be a megastar of Golf

NEW JERSEY (TIP): Indian American high school junior Megha Ganne may have finished only as the low amateur at the 2021 US Women's Open Golf tournament, but she has become a new idol to hundreds of young girls.

The 17-year-old from New Jersey played in the final group but shot 77 and finished 3 over as the low amateur as Yuka Saso became the first Filipino to win the tournament at Olympic Club, San Francisco.

"I'm going to remember this for the rest of my life," said Ganne, who is poised to become a future 'Megha-star,' as the Golf Channel put it. "It's everything I've wanted since I was little, so it's just the best feeling."

"It's my favorite part of the whole week," said Ganne at Saturday's press conference following her 1-over 72. "I love spending time with them and saying hello and just seeing their smiles."

On Saturday, Ganne was counting down the hours until her final round paring with the American favorite Lexi Thompson and 19-year-old Yuka Saso.

Ganne knew there was a chance she could hoist that trophy and she was going to give it all she could on Sunday to make it happen, the Golf Channel said.

"I guarantee you all 156 people in this field have thought about winning this championship and they just don't say it because they want to seem humble. But, yeah, it's been down there and hopefully I have a chance tomorrow," she was quoted as saying.

On Sunday morning at 10:35 PT, the hours were up, and Ganne teed off first out of the three players. It was a little bit of a rocky start. Ganne's tee shot landed into heavy rough, and she began the day with a double bogey.

**Indian-origin Industrialist
Swraj Paul's company to build
large steel pipe mill In Texas**

HOUSTON (TIP): Bull Moose Tube, a subsidiary of the London-headquartered Caparo group owned by Indian-origin industrialist Lord Swraj Paul, has announced plans to build a 3,50,000 ton per year high speed steel and sprinkler pipe mill in Texas.

The company plans to set up the plant at Sinton and it is expected to go into production by early 2023.

Caparo chairman Swraj Paul told PTI over phone from London that the proposed Texas plant would be its seventh in the US and the eighth in North America.

The plant will be set up in partnership with Germany-based SMS Group for design, automation and implementation of the mill.

"There is likely to be a USD 200-250 million investment in the plant," the 90-year-old UK-based entrepreneur said.

The formal announcement of the plant was made on June 4 and it coincided with the birthday of Swraj Paul's son Angad Paul, who passed away in 2015 at 45 years of age. He ran Caparo industries from 1996 as its chief executive officer.

"The construction of the new plant is an excellent project for BMT (Bull Moose



Caparo chairman Swraj Paul said that the proposed Texas plant would be its seventh in the US and the eighth in North America

Tube) and is a tribute to my late son who was born June 4," Swraj Paul said.

He added that Angad Paul's energy and enthusiasm would never be forgotten in taking forward Caparo's business in North America.

"I look forward to the future growth and success of BMT at our new Texas location and planning to be there for the ground-breaking, depending on the travel during (Covid) pandemic by that time," Swraj Paul said.

Typical applications for Bull Moose Tube include construction,

transportation, fire protection, lawn and garden equipment, and many other engineering and household products.

Caparo, which has close to USD 1 billion turnover, has a strong presence in India as well where the group operates several companies as original equipment manufacturer to auto makers.

It was one of the many ancillary companies that had proposed to set up a plant at Singur in West Bengal in eastern India with the Tata Nano plant.

Swraj Paul said he continued to believe in the India growth story and will expand business in the future.

He said that his grandchildren spend considerable time in India too.

President and CEO of BMT, Tom Modrowski, said the new mill will be transformational and "will expand our geographic footprint and allow us to better serve customers not only in the Southwest, West Coast and Mexico markets, but across the entire business".

"Expanding our capacity, capabilities, and flexibility will increase BMT's market share in large HSS (high speed steel) sizes and ensure our continued and expanded leadership position in the sprinkler pipe market," he said. (Source: PTI)

**Indian sentenced to 14 months in prison for
US\$ 8,00,000 fraud**

WASHINGTON (TIP): A court in Seattle has sentenced an Indian national to 14 months in prison for defrauding his employer of nearly US\$ 800,000 in used equipment sales, according to Acting US Attorney Tessa M Gorman.

Arunkumar Singal, 42, pleaded guilty to wire fraud on January 3 and faces deportation after the completion of sentence.

"You put everything at risk for one thing: to add to your wealth... You stopped because you were caught by law enforcement, but you continued to lie and deceive," US District Judge Richard A Jones told Singal during the sentencing hearing on June 4.

According to records filed in the case, in 2014 Singal was the director of Global Product Support at Spacelabs Healthcare Inc.

The company was established in the 1950s to make medical monitoring devices for astronauts and then expanded its business to include medical monitoring devices for hospitals and clinics.

Singal was put in-charge of a new initiative to resell used equipment.

Federal prosecutors alleged that instead of selling the equipment to the highest bidder as he was supposed to do, Singal devised a scheme to have a Texas



Arunkumar Singal, 42, pleaded guilty to wire fraud on January 3 and faces deportation after the completion of sentence.

Photo for representation only

company bid on the equipment at a very low price, and then used a shell company, created by him, to purchase the equipment for a 10 per cent increase in profit from the Texas company.

He then turned around and sold the equipment at a much higher price to a Minnesota company. Through this fraudulent scheme Singal made a profit of more than US\$ 780,000, court documents said.

Singal used the ill-gotten gain to pay down the mortgage on his luxury Mercer Island home and to buy a Tesla, among other expenditures.

The scheme unraveled when tech support workers doing regular maintenance on Singal's company cell

phone reported messages that appeared to indicate side deals not authorized by the company.

The company fired Singal and reported potential fraud to the Snoqualmie Police Department who alerted the FBI.

As part of the plea deal, Singal sold the Mercer Island home and paid restitution to Spacelabs of US\$ 780,163.

"However, the harm to the company went beyond the lost income on the sales of the equipment. At the time Singal was stealing from the company, Spacelabs was having to tighten its spending and lay-off staffers. Had it received the true value of the used equipment, the financial constraints would not have been so severe," the Department of Justice said.

In asking for a three-year prison sentence, prosecutors wrote to the court, "Singal abused his position of trust and responsibility".

When he was placed in a position of increased responsibility, he promptly abused the trust he had been given, devising the scheme to resell Spacelabs' property for his own personal gain. Singal literally lost no opportunity to wring every ounce of profit from his criminal scheme, they said.

(Source:PTI)

Indian Americans among 40 Asian American Pacific Islander writers on USA Today's Best-Selling Books list

NEW YORK (TIP): From Vice President Kamala Harris to Pulitzer Prize winning physician Siddhartha Mukherjee, a dozen Indian American authors have found a place among 40 Asian American Pacific Islander writers on USA Today's Best-Selling Books list.

From memoirs and fiction to romances and humor, their works are as diverse and dynamic as the authors themselves, noted USA Today saying they "represent an important part of the ever-expanding and evolving American literary canon."

Authors range from debut to stalwarts and write in a variety of genres, the publication noted hoping its list "leads readers to explore more of the wellspring of books and literature by Asian American and Pacific Islanders."

Indian American writers on the list are Kiran Desai, Dr. Sanjay Gupta, Kamala Harris, Meena Harris, Mira Jacob, Mindy Kaling, Jhumpa Lahiri, Fatima Farheen Mirza, Siddhartha Mukherjee, Aimee Nezhukumatathil, Reshma Saujani and Thrity Umrigar.

KIRAN DESAI: The Indian-born author relocated to the US as a teen with her writer mother, Anita Desai. Her first novel, "Hullabaloo in the Guava Orchard," garnered good reviews but it was her second novel, The Booker Prize-winning "The Inheritance of Loss," that made USA Today's bestseller list.

SANJAY GUPTA: The neurosurgeon, reporter and writer first hit the bestseller list in 2007 with his book "Chasing Life: New Discoveries in the Search for Immortality to Help You Age Less Today." He returned in 2012 with novel "Monday Mornings" and in 2021 with "Keep Sharp: Build a Better Brain at Any Age."

KAMALA HARRIS: The vice president makes the bestselling list with two books. The first, "The Truths We Hold: An American Journey," explores her life as the daughter of immigrants. Her parents emigrated from India and Jamaica and raised Harris and her sister Maya in California. Her second bestseller, "Superheroes Are Everywhere," is a children's book that tells kids heroes can be found anywhere and they too can be one.

MEENA HARRIS: A lawyer, entrepreneur and author, Harris is also the niece of Kamala Harris. She made the list with two children's books: "Kamala and Maya's Big Idea," inspired by a true story of sisters Kamala and



From Vice President Kamala Harris to Pulitzer Prize winning physician Siddhartha Mukherjee, a dozen Indian American authors have found a place among 40 Asian American Pacific Islander writers on USA Today's Best-Selling Books list.

Maya Harris as children working with their community to effect change; and "Ambitious Girl," about a young girl who sees the challenges faced by women when she sees a strong woman labeled as "too assertive" and "too ambitious."

MIRA JACOB: The author's debut novel, "The Sleepwalker's Guide to Dancing," which follows the Epen family's journey from India in the 1970s to new lives in America in the 1990s, made the list back in 2016.

Jacob's latest book is the memoir "Good Talk: A Memoir in Conversations," which was shortlisted for the National Book Critics Circle Award and, according to the author's website, is currently in development as a TV series.

MINDY KALING: The actress, humorist and writer wrote two bestselling collections of essays: "Is Everyone Hanging Out Without Me? (And Other Concerns)" and "Why Not Me?" Both books include her observations on life, romance, friendship and Hollywood.

JHUMPA LAHIRI: The daughter of Indian immigrants who immigrated to the UK, Lahiri moved to the US with her family when she was 3 and was raised in Rhode Island.

Most of Lahiri's notable works have been USA Today bestsellers, beginning with her Pulitzer Prize-winning debut collection of short stories, "Interpreter of Maladies."

Other bestsellers include "The Namesake,"

"Unaccustomed Earth," "The Lowland" and this year's "Whereabouts," an English translation of a story she originally wrote and published in Italian.

FATIMA FARHEEN MIRZA: The author's debut novel, "A Place for Us," hit the bestseller list in 2018. It follows the story of an Indian Muslim family in California on the eve of their eldest daughter's wedding.

The novel was also the inaugural novel in Sarah Jessica Parker's imprint SJP for Hogarth. In an interview on the "Today" show, Mirza shared that "growing up I never saw a life like mine reflected in fiction and so to me to write this novel was a way to honor the place that I'd come from."

SIDDHARTHA MUKHERJEE: The Indian American physician, who is also an assistant professor of medicine at Columbia and a cancer researcher, won the Pulitzer Prize for his bestselling nonfiction work, 2010's "The Emperor of All Maladies: A Biography of Cancer."

Ken Burns later made it into a documentary of the same name. He followed "Emperor" with another USA Today bestseller, 2016's "The Gene: An Intimate History."

AIMEE NEZHUKUMATATHIL: The daughter of a Filipina mother and South Indian father, the prize-winning poet and Guggenheim fellow published her nonfiction debut "World of Wonders: In Praise of Fireflies, Whale Sharks and Other Astonishment" in 2020.

The collection of essays about the natural world was a Kirkus Prize finalist and named 2020's Barnes & Noble's book of the year.

RESHMA SAUJANI: An attorney, activist and founder/CEO of Girls Who Code, Saujani published "Brave, Not Perfect: Fear Less, Fail More, and Live Bolder," which landed on the bestsellers list in 2019.

An extension of her 2016 Ted Talk, Saujani's "Brave, Not Perfect" message is also the subject of an online community and podcast.

THRITY UMRIGAR: The author's "The Space Between Us" was released in 2006 and hit our list in 2018.

In the novel, which was a finalist for a PEN/Beyond Margins Award, two women discover an emotional rapport as they struggle against the confines of a rigid caste system in modern-day India. Her next novel, "Honor," is set for publication in 2022.

INDIAN AMERICAN STUDENT AT TEXAS WINS PRESTIGIOUS AWARD FOR DEVELOPING ECO-FRIENDLY FOAM ALTERNATIVE

DALLAS (TIP): An Indian-American student has won a prestigious award for developing an eco-friendly foam alternative, which was motivated by the impact of the 1984 Bhopal gas tragedy.

Sohi Sanjay Patel, a sophomore at a Texas high school, was declared the winner of the Patrick H Hurd Sustainability Award at the 2021 virtual Regeneron International Science and Engineering Fair (ISEF).

The US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) gave the award.

Her project proposes to provide a plant-derived, flame-retardant polyurethane foam that could be used for housing insulation and other applications, the EPA said.

Patel's work was motivated by the impact of the 1984 Bhopal gas tragedy in India when over 40 tons of methyl isocyanate (MIC) gas leaked from a pesticide plant, it said in a statement.

MIC gas is a main raw material for



Sohi Sanjay Patel, a sophomore at a Texas high school, was declared the winner of the Patrick H Hurd Sustainability Award at the 2021 virtual Regeneron International Science and Engineering Fair (ISEF).

manufacturing polyurethane foam, which is used for insulation and as a cushioning material in a wide variety of products.

Her work titled "Scalable and Sustainable Synthesis of a Novel, Bio-Based Polyurethane Foam System Incorporating Industrial Byproducts and Waste" focuses on replacing MIC with greener components for making polyurethane.

In particular, she developed two novel biochemical, using nontoxic waste products, to create a polyurethane foam more sustainably.

"The student finalists in this year's ISEF are applying Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) concepts in remarkable ways to help protect human health and the environment, and their projects are truly inspiring," said EPA Science Advisor Dr. Jennifer Orme-Zavaleta.

(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)

INDIAN-ORIGIN UK MINISTER PRITI PATEL ATTACKED WITH RACIAL SOCIAL MEDIA POST

LONDON (TIP): Two men were charged on Wednesday, June 9, with sending a grossly offensive message related to a racist social media video targeting UK Home Secretary Priti Patel.

The UK's Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) said the charges against Jake Henderson, 28, and Robert Cumming, 26, followed complaints about the video directed at the senior 49-year-old Indian-origin Cabinet minister in January this year. The duo was summonsed to court on May 29 and is next due to appear at Mansfield Magistrates' Court in Nottinghamshire, East Midlands region of England, on June 29. "Following complaints in relation to a video targeted at Home Secretary Priti Patel and posted on social media in January 2021, the CPS has authorized Nottinghamshire Police to charge Jake Henderson and Robert Cumming with sending a grossly offensive message by a public communication network," said Janine Smith, Chief Crown Prosecutor for CPS East Midlands.

"The function of the CPS is not to decide whether a person is guilty of a criminal offence, but to make fair, independent and objective assessments about whether it is appropriate to present charges to a court to consider," Janine Smith said. She said the proceedings against Henderson and Cumming are active and nothing should be published or shared online that could in any way jeopardize the defendants' right to a fair trial.

The pair has been charged under Section 127 of the UK's Communications Act. No further details of the video or the case can now be reported on ahead of the court hearing.



UK Home Secretary Priti Patel

Indian Americans have arrived on the US Political Horizon

BY **INDRAJIT S SALUJA**

- Indian Americans, according to the latest US Census are the highest family income earners, with \$120,000 average income for a family of four.
- Indian Americans are the highest educated consistently since the 2010 census. They have the highest percentage of Bachelors, Masters and Doctoral degrees.
- They are brilliant students, researchers, scientists, scholars, teachers, authors, artists. They are everywhere- in business, professions, politics, entertainment, media and in many other fields.

Of late, there has been a growing realization among the Indian American community that the real empowerment for the community can flow only when the community has political power. This new realization has resulted in an increase in the number of Indian Americans going in for politics, and actively participating in political processes.

Whereas, one can see scores of Indian Americans picked up for important positions in Biden administration (there were many in Trump's administration, too, and in the administrations of many former Presidents) , and many are elected members of the US House of representatives, and many in State and City legislatures, one can see clearly an increased interest among Indian Americans to run for elections from the numbers who have thrown their hats in the electoral ring in the 2021 New York City elections .

There are at least 8 Indian Americans in political fray for the 2021 New York City Council elections. Their concerns are primarily the concerns of all immigrant communities, from education to housing, to safety and security to jobs and economic prosperity.

I will introduce here these contestants, and what they stand for.

CITY COUNCIL DISTRICT 23.

There is a total of 7 candidates. 4 of them are Indian American. Among them, there are 2 Sikhs, one Christian and one Hindu.

The other three candidates are: Steve Behar, Linda Lee, Debra Markell

Going by the alphabetical order, the first Indian American I will pick up is Harpreet Singh Toor



Harpreet Singh Toor

HARPREET S TOOR City Council District 23

The three top issues Harpreet has listed are:

- Pandemic relief
- Safe streets
- Health Care

This is how Harpreet introduces himself.

"Harpreet Singh Toor has been an advocate for working- and middle-class families his entire adult life. Now he's bringing his unique set of skills, experience, and successful record of improving the quality of life for all who live and work in Queens, to City Council District 23. His number one priority will be on resolving the problems resulting from the Pandemic crises.

"In more than 25 years of community service I have earned a reputation as someone who gets things done. Whether it's getting the Religious Garb bill signed, co-naming Queens' streets, or helping constituents navigate schools, hospitals and the PD, I have earned

the respect of the people I serve, acting with integrity and full transparency."

For more information, please visit <https://www.toorforcitycouncil.com/contact>
E-mail: harpreet@toorforcitycouncil.com; donald@toorforcitycouncil.com



Jaslin Kaur

JASLIN KAUR City Council District 23

The three top issues Jaslin has listed are:

- Security for workers/small business
- Reliable public transit
- Housing stability and senior care

This is how Jaslin introduces herself.

"As a lifelong district resident, I would be the first woman and person of color to represent my home. Raised by a taxi driver and union grocery store worker, I was spurred upon public service by the taxi medallion debt crisis. Having dedicated my life to education equity and immigrant justice, I am running to fight for worker and small business relief, world-class public transit, fully funded public schools, and affordable housing for all.

"Backed by key unions and progressive organizations such as CWA D1, PSC-CUNY, The Jewish Vote, Sunrise, Working Families Party, and Democratic Socialists of America, I will build a city that works for all of us."

For more about Jaslin, visit www.jaslinkaur.nyc
Email: info@jaslinkaur.nyc



Koshy Thomas

KOSHY THOMAS City council District 23

The three top issues Koshy has listed are:

- Stimulate Economy
- Health Care for all
- Promote Peace and Prosperity

This is how Koshy introduces himself.

"Exited to be a candidate for the Democratic party will united various ethnical groups, assimilate them to the community to promote peace property. This will stimulate the economy and also promote tax rebate.

"Worked with almost all associations and groups in the District."

For more about Koshy:
<https://electkoshythomas.com>
Email: koshy@electkoshythomas.com



Sanjeev Jindal

SANJEEV JINDAL City Council District 23

The three top issues Sanjeev has listed are:

- Small Business Empowerment
- Improving Public Safety
- Ensuring Access to Healthcare

This is how Sanjeev introduces himself.

I am ready to fight for the people: the individuals, and the communities that make New York special. I will create a better environment for small business, increase public safety, and expand equitable health

care. Through empowering individuals with resources, assistance, and knowledge, we can create job stability which will allow people to pursue a career path that motivates and inspires them. Now's the time to put power back into the hands of the people, and I am committed to exactly that.

"India Association of Long Island; South Asians for Strong America; South Asians for Empowerment; India Day Parade".

For more information:www.sanjeevkjindal.com
Email: sanjeevjindalfornyc@gmail.com

CITY COUNCIL DISTRICT 25

There is a total of 8 candidates. The only Indian American Shekar Krishnan is pitted against 7 candidates, including South Asian and Asian, among others.

The other 7 candidates are: Xi Chen, Liliana Melo, Manuel Perez, Alfonso Quiroz, William Salgado, Carolyn Tran



Shekar Krishnan

SHEKAR KRISHNAN City Council District 25

The three top issues Shekar has mentioned are:

- Dignified, permanent housing for all
- Defend immigrant New Yorkers
- Invest in community-based safety

This is how Shekar introduces himself.

"Our city is facing a crisis of affordability, racial justice, and public health. We need a fighter representing us who will be fearless in standing up to powerful interests when our community's needs are at stake. I am a civil rights lawyer fighting for housing justice and preventing displacement. I'm also a longtime activist in my community of Elmhurst and Jackson Heights, the son of immigrants from India, and the father of two small children. Together, we can rebuild our city, so it works for everyone.

For more information: www.voteshekar.com
Email:contact@voteshekar.com

CITY COUNCIL DISTRICT 26

There is a total of 15 candidates. One is a Sikh American of Indian origin. Amit Singh Bagga is pitted against 14 candidates, including South Asian and Asian, among other.

The other 14 candidates are: Jonathan Bailey, Lorenzo Brea, Julia Forman, Glennis Gonez, Dennis-Keehan Smith, Badrun Khan, Heajin Kim, Jesse Laymon, Sultan Maruf, Brent O'Leary, Steven Raga, Emily Sharpe, Julie Won, Ebony Young.



Amit Bagga

AMIT BAGGA City Council District 26

The top three issues Amit has listed are:

- Racial justice through economic justice
- Deeply & permanently affordable housing
- Immigrant, health, & environmental justice

This is how Amit introduces himself.

We need bold, progressive vision and real experience to deliver justice for NYC. Over 14 years, I've reunited hundreds of immigrant families, implemented paid

Ranked Choice Voting Explained



BY INDRAJIT S SALUJA

When New York City voters go to the polls on June 22 to select their party's nominees in City elections, they will fill out a new kind of ballot that allows them to pick up to five candidates in order of preference in a system known as Ranked Choice Voting.

Is Ranked Choice voting complicated? Well, yes and no. If you think it's a new thing which you cannot understand, you will not try to understand it and it will be complicated for you. But, if you think it is something new and you should try to understand, you will find it not so complicated.

Let us know, in very simple words, what Ranked Choice Voting is.

In primary and special elections for New York city offices, you can now rank up to five candidates in order of preference instead of choosing just one.

Ballots are tabulated in what may best be described as a series of instant runoffs. In the first round, if any candidate receives 50% or the vote, he or she is declared the winner, and the election is over.

If not, the candidate who finished in last place is eliminated, and any ballots that had him or her as the top choice are reallocated to the No. 2 candidate on each ballot. The votes are counted once again. If no candidate has yet reached 50%, the candidate in last place is eliminated, and his or her ballots reallocated, and so on, until someone exceeds 50%.

I asked my friend Mr. George Abraham, a voter in Queens, to share with our readers what he thinks of the Ranked Choice system.

This is what he said, "Ranked-choice works by having you rank your top five candidates. If no candidate receives 50% of the vote, then the person with the least number of votes will be eliminated. Those who had listed the eliminated candidate as their first choice will then have their vote go to their second choice. This process will continue until a candidate reaches 50% of the vote."

The system has been used for years in places like San Francisco, Minneapolis, and Oakland. Since most voters in the City are Democrats, the ranked-choice vote is almost certain to play a crucial role in the NYC elections. In the past, close contests were decided by run-offs if none of the candidates received at least 40% of the vote."

Please keep in mind that you are under no compulsion to indicate all 5 choices. You can still vote for just your 1st-choice candidate. However, ranking other candidates does not harm your 1st choice. If your 1st and only choice is eliminated, your vote will have no influence on the outcome of the election.

Remember, you cannot rank your preferred candidate more than once (for example as your 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, and 5th choice), then only your first ranking will count. There is no strategic benefit to giving the same candidate multiple rankings.

Let us have a look at the benefits of Ranked Choice Voting.

There are several ways that Ranked Choice Voting could benefit voters.

One, it gives you more say in who gets elected. Even if your top choice candidate does not win, you can still help choose who does.

Two, it gives you more choices. You can rank up to five candidates, allowing you to support your favorite candidate without worrying about whether they're likely to win.

Candidate	1st choice	2nd choice	3rd choice	4th choice	5th choice
A	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
B	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
C	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
D	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
E	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Write in candidate:	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Three, more diverse candidates win elections. Cities that have implemented Ranked Choice Voting have elected more women and more women of color, making their elected officials more representative of their communities.

However, city voters have expressed concerns, too.

Mr. George Abraham says, "One of the concerns expressed by many is that when the actual results will be made available. It is believed that there is a tabulation software that will be counting the votes, and the officials are expected to release the unofficial first-round results quickly. However, results may not be known for weeks due to delay in counting the absentee ballots. With the ranked-choice voting, the first-round winner may take little comfort knowing fully well that second choice accumulation of votes for another candidate could spell trouble for his/her real chances".

NYC will only use Ranked Choice Voting in primary and special elections for the following city offices:

- Mayor
- Public Advocate
- Comptroller
- Borough President
- City Council

Remember the following key dates.

- Early Voting: Sat, June 12, 2021 - Sun, June 20, 2021
- Absentee ballot request deadline: Tue, June 15, 2021
- Primary Election Day: Tue, June 22, 2021
- Deadline to return absentee ballot: Tue, June 22, 2021

(Author is chief editor of The Indian Panorama)

CONTD FROM PAGE 6

Indian Americans have arrived on the US Political Horizon

sick leave & protections for freelancers & low-wage workers, fought predatory lending, and secured our political & economic future through NYC's first-ever census campaign. My plan treats employment with dignity for all, housing, healthcare, & a thriving environment as human rights, and replaces our police state with a peace state.

For more information: www.amitforcouncil.com

Twitter: @amitsinghbagga

CITY COUNCIL DISTRICT 28

There is a total of 3 candidates. One is a Sikh American of Indian origin. The two others are Adrienne Adams (the sitting Council Member) and Ruben Wills.



JAPNEET SINGH
City Council District 28

The three top issues Japneet has listed are:

- Government Transparency
- Education & Social Services
- Infrastructure

Japneet Singh

Here is how Japneet introduces himself.

"This campaign's primary goal is to unite the communities that live in Southern Queens. For far too long, due to the lack of leadership that truly understands our community, we have been divided. It is time, we come together in order to advocate for better schools and infrastructure as well as social services that will help to revitalize our community."

"Japneet Singh has been an active member of the community for years. He is one of the youngest members of Community Board 10 and also served as the Student Body President of Queens College from 2016-2018. He has played a vital role in numerous initiatives and with your support, hopes to continue his work on the City Council level."

Email: japneetsinghfornewyork@gmail.com

CITY COUNCIL DISTRICT 32

There is a total of 6 candidates. One is a Sikh American of Indian origin. Felicia Singh is pitted against 5 others who include Kaled Alamarie, Bella Matias, Michael Scala, Shaleigh Severino, Helal Sheikh.

FELICIA SINGH
City Council District 32

The three top issues Felicia has listed are:

- Fully Fund Public Schools



Felicia Singh

- Climate & Environmental Resilience
- Safe & Equitable Transportation

This is how Felicia introduces herself.

"I'm an educator and daughter of working-class immigrants. As a lifelong resident of Ozone Park, graduate of NYC Public schools, and teacher, I've experienced systems that do not work for the working-class and that pushed me to run for office. My life's work is serving and empowering those around me - identifying the structural barriers preventing communities like mine from thriving and bringing people and resources together to create lasting change. As your council member, trust that I'll fight for you and your family in City Hall."

For more information: www.felicia2021.com

Email: info@felicia2021.com

The June 22 primaries will test the acumen of the Indian American contestants for New York City Council which needs the long-awaited presence of the Indian American community.

(Author is the chief editor of The Indian Panorama)

AS I SEE IT

China must be held Responsible for COVID-19 Origin and Spread

Must be asked to pay Reparations to the World



BY VEN
PARAMESWARAN

"Many scientists in the USA, UK, Western Europe, India and other parts of the world have been unanimous in speculating that the Covid-19 virus originated in Wuhan lab. Let us hope that President Biden is able to discover the findings of his investigation within 90 days as he stipulated. Once there is a conclusion that the virus was created in a lab in Wuhan, we should prepare an estimate of all damages inflicted on the humanity of the world and the world economy, analyzing country by country. If so, China must be fully held responsible, and it must pay reparations."

China had a total of 91,316 cases and 4636 deaths. Hubei province where Wuhan is located had 68,159 cases and 4512 deaths. The rest of the entire China had only 29 deaths. Does this not reveal that China knew the origin and nature of the virus, and how to protect its population from the virus? China made sure it did not spread. Going by the lowest number of deaths for the largest populated country China's performance is superb. If so, why China was not careful to take steps to make sure it did not spread globally?

So far, nobody is challenging the following facts.

1. The Covid19 virus originated in China in 2019.
2. It originated in Wuhan, China.

How it originated in China? Did it originate from a seafood market? Or, did it originate from a lab in Wuhan?

DISCOVERY BY TWO INDIAN SCIENTISTS IN PUNE, MAHARASHTRA

It has been reported that an Indian scientist couple is working with netizens globally and has discovered some



Wuhan Institute of Virology

compelling evidence to support the hypothesis that the SARS-CoV-2 virus (Covid19) originated from a lab in Wuhan rather than a seafood market as China has widely informed.

The Pune-based scientist couple, Dr. Rahul Bahulikar and Dr. Monali Rahalkar, said their theory that was initially dismissed as a conspiracy has again grabbed global attention after President Joe Biden ordered a probe into it.

Discussing their research, Rahalkar said they do not know exactly if the virus had leaked but it is a strong hypothesis as their research points towards possible lab leak.

"We started our research in April 2020. We found that a relative of SARS-CoV-2, RATG13, a coronavirus, was collected from a mineshaft in Mojiang of Yunnan province in South China by the Wuhan Institute of Virology. We also found out that the mineshaft was infested with bats and six miners hired to clean the fecal matter were infected with pneumonia-like illness," said Rahalkar.

"Wuhan Institute of Virology and other labs in Wuhan are experimenting on the virus, and there is a suspicion that they did some changes in the genome of the virus, and it may be possible that the current virus was invented in the process," she added.

Bahulikar informed that after they published their first pre-print, they were contacted by Twitter user SEEKER, who is part of a group called DRASTIC, who is working on a common goal to discover evidence to support the hypothesis of the lab leak theory.

"SEEKER specialize in finding hidden research material. He shared a thesis in the Chinese language that described in detail the severe illness in miners. Their symptoms were very similar to that of COVID-19 infection. Their CT scans

were also compared with the COVID patients, and it was discovered that they were almost similar," said Bahulikar.

Following Bahulikar's statement, Rahalkar said the theory about COVID-19 spread from the Yunnan mineshaft does not stand because there are no cases in Yunnan.

"Other theory that virus was transmitted to someone from a bat and later spread through a market also does not have any proof. Also, the structure of the virus is such that it was ready to infect humans, and that indicates that it might have come from a lab," she said.

The scientists also alleged that W.H.O. has not done enough research to probe the possible lab leak theory.

SCIENTISTS ARE FRUSTRATED AND DEMANDING INVESTIGATION

"We are demanding a proper probe into the theory. We have written three letters to W.H.O., that were published in international publications. W.H.O. has done very limited research on the theory that the virus may have leaked from a lab. Now, U.S. President is also saying that the matter should be investigated within 90 days, and India has also supported the notion," Rahalkar added.

President Trump had speculated very early in 2020 that he suspected that the virus was manufactured or originated in Wuhan Institute of Virology. He had applied pressure on W.H.O. to investigate. But, when the WHO resisted investigation and was trying to support China politically, President Trump was more suspicious. This resulted in the USA withdrawing from the W.H.O. President Biden has rejoined it.

It is a matter of commonsense that though the virus originated in Wuhan, it did not spread much in China. Instead, the virus spread across the world like fire. China should have on its own

IT IS A MATTER OF COMMONSENSE THAT THOUGH THE VIRUS ORIGINATED IN WUHAN, IT DID NOT SPREAD MUCH IN CHINA. INSTEAD, THE VIRUS SPREAD ACROSS THE WORLD LIKE FIRE. CHINA SHOULD HAVE ON ITS OWN FORBIDDEN ANYONE FROM WUHAN TO TRAVEL ABROAD. APPARENTLY, CHINA WAS ABLE TO CONTAIN THE VIRUS IN WUHAN WITHIN CHINA.

forbidden anyone from Wuhan to travel abroad. Apparently, China was able to contain the virus in Wuhan within China.

VEHEMENT SUPPORT OF ATTORNEY RAVI BATRA'S PROPOSAL TO PRESIDENT OF THE USA: TRUMP AND BIDEN

I wish to applaud the foresight and initiative of Ravi Batra, a highly reputed and experienced attorney specializing in Personal Injury. It did not take much time for Ravi Batra to suspect China based on the facts and developments. He himself was a victim of Covid-19, thank God he survived. The effect of Covid-19 is several times of World War II. More people have died on account of Covid-19 in the world than all the wars put together, according to one source.

The W.H.O. has the resources and the mandate to investigate thoroughly. It is a mystery why the W.H.O. has not made any progress? China had increased its contribution to W.H.O. President Trump thought that W.H.O. chief was obeying China's secret requests.

Many scientists in the USA, UK, Western Europe, India and other parts of the world have been unanimous in speculating that the Covid-19 virus originated in Wuhan lab. Let us hope that President Biden is able to discover the findings of his investigation within 90 days as he stipulated. Once there is a conclusion that the virus was created in a lab in Wuhan, we should prepare an estimate of all damages inflicted on the humanity of the world and the world economy, analyzing country by country. If so, China must be fully held responsible, and it must pay reparations.

(Ven Parameswaran, Chairman, Asian American Republican Committee (founded 1988) and Senior Adviser, Imagindia Institute, a think tank in New Delhi, lives in Scarsdale, NY. He can be reached at vpwaren@gmail.com)

Modi putting gag order against retired officials to manage the public narrative for political interests



BY LT GEN H S PANAG (RETD)

"All major democracies make optimum use of the experience of their retired government officials. While some become part of the government, others contribute by educating the public and throwing up new ideas/suggestions for the consideration of the government. The domain expert keeps a check on a majoritarian government facing a weak opposition by publicly speaking and writing. All governments try to hide failures and scrutiny for inefficiency. With a weak opposition and government-friendly media, the Bharatiya Janata Party dispensation is more worried about the perceived threat from the retired officials with domain expertise than an ill-informed opposition."

On 31 May 2021, the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions, which is headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, issued a gazette notification amending Rule 8 - "Pension subject to future good conduct" - of the Central Civil Services (Pension) Rules 1972. The amendment prohibits retired personnel who have worked in any intelligence or security-related organization included in the Second Schedule of the Right to Information Act 2005 from publication "of any material relating to and including domain of the organization, including any reference or information about any personnel and his designation, and expertise or knowledge gained by virtue of working in that organization", without prior clearance from the "Head of the Organization". An undertaking is also supposed to be signed to the effect that any violation of this rule can lead to withholding of pension in full or in part.

There are 26 organizations included in the Second Schedule of the RTI Act, including the Intelligence Bureau, Research & Analysis Wing, Directorate of Revenue Intelligence, Central Bureau of Investigation, Narcotics Control Bureau, Border Security Force, Central Reserve Police Force, Indo-Tibetan Border Police and Central Industrial Security Force. These organizations are excluded from the RTI Act. Ironically, the armed forces, which are responsible for the external and at times internal security, are covered by the Act.

In 2008, Rule 8 was first amended to make more explicit the existing restrictions under the Official Secrets Act by barring retired officials from publishing without prior permission from Head of the Department any sensitive information, the disclosure of which would "prejudicially affect the sovereignty and integrity of India, the security, strategic, scientific or economic interests of the State or relation with a foreign State or which would lead to incitement of an offence." An undertaking similar to the present amendment was also required to be signed.

The scope of the 31 May amendment is all-encompassing, and its ambiguity leaves it open for vested interpretation and virtually bars retired officers who have served in the above-mentioned organizations from writing or speaking, based on their experience in service or even using the knowledge and expertise acquired after retirement. There is an apprehension that in future, the rules of other government organizations, including the armed forces, may also be amended to incorporate similar provisions.

The motive behind the amendment

The 'Pension subject to future good conduct' rule must be challenged in the courts and in the interim disregarded with contempt.

All governments are legitimately concerned with safeguarding national security. Almost all countries have laws for the same. However, political dispensations often use these provisions to stifle criticism of the government, particularly by retired government officials who, based on their domain knowledge and experience, enjoy immense credibility with the public.

Originally, Rule 8 allowed withholding/withdrawal of pension or part thereof, permanently/for a specified period if the pensioner was convicted of a serious crime or was found guilty of grave misconduct. "Serious crime" included crime under Official Secrets Act 1923 and "grave misconduct" also covered communication/disclosure of information mentioned in Section 5 of the Act.

There was no requirement of prior permission before publication of any book or article, and prosecution under Official Secrets Act was necessary before any action could be taken. No undertaking was required to be given by the retiree officials. There is no noteworthy case in which this provision was invoked. The motive behind the 2008 amendment by the UPA and the present amendment by the NDA, was/is to crack down on dissent by retired officials without the due process of law. This, when despite recommendations of the Law Commission and Second Administrative Reforms Commission, no effort has been made to amend the 98-year-old Official Secrets Act to cater for current requirements of national security. The only difference between the two amendments is that the latter makes the rule more absolute by adding the ambiguous rider regarding publication without permission "of any material relating to and including 'domain of the organization', including any reference or information about any personnel and his designation, and expertise or knowledge gained by virtue of working in that organization."

The amendment to Rule 8 is unlikely to withstand the scrutiny of law. The Supreme Court and the high courts have repeatedly upheld the principle that "pension is not a bounty, charity or a gratuitous payment but an indefeasible right of every employee". The government cannot take away the right merely by giving a show cause notice to a retired official for having used "domain knowledge or expertise" while writing an article/book or speaking at any forum. Any application of this amendment will be thrown out by the courts. No wonder that there has been no known application of the amended rule since 2008. There has been no alarming increase in cases under the Official Secrets Act. Between 2014 and 2019, 50 cases have been filed in the country and none against a government official. And if a government official is actually guilty of violating national security, then is withdrawal of pension an adequate punishment?

What does the government then gain by this amendment? Simple, the new amendment acts as deterrent against criticism by retired officials. Which self-respecting retired government official would like to seek permission from her/his former junior or fight a prolonged legal battle to get his pension restored? The government's will, thus, prevails not by the wisdom of its decision but by default.

Loss to the nation

All major democracies make optimum use of the experience of their retired government officials. While some become part of the government, others contribute by educating the public and throwing up new ideas/suggestions for the consideration of the government. The domain expert keeps a check on a majoritarian government facing a weak opposition by



India's Prime minister Narendra Modi interacting with doctors and officials of Varanasi through video conferencing in New Delhi, on 21 May 2021 File photo / PTI

publicly speaking and writing. All governments try to hide failures and scrutiny for inefficiency. With a weak opposition and government-friendly media, the Bharatiya Janata Party dispensation is more worried about the perceived threat from the retired officials with domain expertise than an ill-informed opposition.

Given the Modi government's obsession with respect to national security and its lackadaisical performance in its management, it is my view that in the near future, the government will incorporate similar provision in the pension rules of other government departments and the armed forces.

A case in point is the attempt by the Modi government to deny/obfuscate the intelligence failure and the preemptive Chinese intrusions. To date no formal briefing has been given about the actual situation in Eastern Ladakh. Doctored information has been fed to the media through leaks by government/military officials. Three retired defense officers, including the author, brought the real picture before the public through articles and media interviews. All were careful to safeguard operational security. A concerted campaign was launched to discredit these retired officers through government-friendly media and pliant defense analysts until the events overtook their detractors to prove them right. The author extensively used his knowledge of the terrain in Eastern Ladakh to bring the truth before the public. In a similar situation in future, these officers may well be battling in courts to safeguard their pensions.

Imagine a situation that in future when no historical accounts of our wars, counter insurgency/terrorism campaigns and communal riots can be written by retired government and armed forces officers. No retired official will be eligible to head our security related think tanks or speak in international forums about our experience. Despite provision of Section 8(3) of the RTI Act to declassify documents after 20 years, the government never does so except to score political points as in the case of Netaji Files.

The amendment to Rule 8 of Central Civil Services (Pension) Rules 1972 is nothing more than a blatant, overarching and draconian gag order against retired officials to manage the public narrative for political interests under the garb of safeguarding national security. It safeguards the interests of the political dispensation and not the nation. It must be challenged in the courts and in the interim disregarded with contempt.

(Lt Gen H S Panag PVSM, AVSM (R) served in the Indian Army for 40 years. He was GOC in C Northern Command and Central Command. Post retirement, he was Member of Armed Forces Tribunal) (Edited by Anurag Chaubey)

(Source: The Print). Note: Except for the heading edited by The Indian Panorama, the body, as edited by Anurag Chaubey stays intact. Heading suggestion comes from one of our regular contributors Dave Makkar.

A 'crucial' colloquy at the G7 Summit



BY PRABHU DAYAL

Besides addressing issues like global vaccination, vaccine passport, counterterrorism and economy, the G7 Summit could take a stern stance towards China

"The likely "Policy Priorities" that could be discussed at the Summit include leading the global recovery from coronavirus while strengthening resilience against future pandemics, promoting future prosperity by championing free and fair trade, tackling climate change and preserving the planet's biodiversity, and championing globally shared values. Some issues will flow from the G7 ministerial meeting which are important from India's point of view."

The G7 Summit between June 11-13 in Cornwall is set to discuss major world issues. As the world's most influential leaderships prepare to meet at the first in-person meet in two years, a question remains whether the Summit will send a tough message to China.

The Group of Seven (G7) is an informal club of wealthy democracies consisting of the United States, the United Kingdom, France, Germany, Japan, Italy and Canada. It represents 62 per cent of the global net wealth, more than 46 per cent of the global nominal GDP and more than 32 per cent of the global GDP based on purchasing power parity.

The UK, which currently holds the G7 Presidency, has invited representatives from India, Australia, South Korea and South Africa as guest members, indicating that it is serious about pivoting the Indo-Pacific. Prime Minister Narendra Modi will attend the Summit virtually given the Covid situation in India.

The likely "Policy Priorities" that could be discussed at the Summit include leading the global recovery from coronavirus while strengthening resilience against future pandemics, promoting future prosperity by championing free and fair trade, tackling climate change and preserving the planet's biodiversity, and championing globally shared values. Some issues will flow from the G7 ministerial meeting which are important from India's point of view.

UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson could call on fellow G7 leaders to make concrete commitments to vaccinate the



The Group of Seven (G7) is an informal club of wealthy democracies consisting of the United States, the United Kingdom, France, Germany, Japan, Italy and Canada.

entire world against coronavirus by the end of 2022. He is expected to call for stepping up the manufacture of vaccines, lowering barriers to the international distribution of vaccines and sharing surplus doses with developing countries. Another issue is that of "vaccine passports". Earlier this week, UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson had indicated that he would like to push the G7 to look at the possibility of agreeing on the issue of "vaccine passports". The proposal is intended to ease international travel and would involve recording immunity, vaccination or test in the "vaccine passport". However, there have been concerns that this could create hurdles for citizens from countries that are unable to increase the pace of vaccination due to manufacturing limitations. India's Health Minister, Harsh Vardhan, had also expressed his opposition to this idea. He pointed out that there are lower levels of vaccination in developing countries in contrast to the developed countries, and vaccine passport will be hugely discriminatory and disadvantageous for the developing countries. He suggested that implementation of the same be made only after duly addressing the concerns.

The taxation of multinational companies will be yet another important issue. Speaking at the recent meeting of the G7 Finance Ministers, Rishi Sunak, UK Chancellor of the Exchequer said that the world cannot "continue to rely on a tax system that was largely designed in the 1920s". The G7 Finance Ministers reached an important deal to close cross-border tax loopholes used by some of the world's biggest companies. This landmark deal aims to squeeze more

money out of multinational companies and reduce their incentive to shift profits to low-tax offshore havens. The deal would be discussed at the G7 Summit and later put up before the G20 Finance Ministers meeting on July 9-10, 2021. It could form the basis of a global pact aimed at ending a prevailing trend in which 'tax haven' countries have competed to attract corporate giants by offering ultra-low tax rates and exemptions. Rich nations like the G7 have struggled for years to agree on a way to raise more revenue from large multinationals that often book profits in jurisdictions where they pay little or no tax. In terms of this deal, the G7 said it would back a minimum global corporation tax rate of at least 15 per cent, and put in place the measures to ensure that taxes were paid in the countries where businesses operate.

On the issue of counterterrorism, the communique issued after the recent G7 Finance Ministers meeting stated: "Global implementation of the FATF standards for combating money laundering, terror-financing and proliferation financing remains uneven. We recognize the role of the nine FATF-Style Regional Bodies (FSRBs) in assessing and supporting the implementation of the FATF standards around the world." The G7 Finance Ministers have committed to providing additional expertise and funding to support the FSRB's assessment programs by at least USD 17 million during 2021-24. From India's viewpoint, it is a welcome sign that the G7 is devoting attention to terror financing because the abetment and financing of terrorist outfits by Pakistan has shown no signs of abating. An influential grouping like G7

can do much more to rein in the scourge of terrorism.

China is likely to figure prominently in the discussions at the Summit in Cornwall. The communique issued after the Foreign Ministers meeting called on China to participate constructively in the rules-based international system, guided by the principles such as respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, in context of Xinjiang, Tibet and especially the Uyghurs. Moreover, the PRC was reminded that it is obliged to respect the high degree of autonomy, rights and freedoms of Hong Kong, 'including those set out in the Sino-British Joint Declaration and the Basic Law'. In terms of economic matters, G7 Foreign Ministers had noted that, as nations that support free and open trade, they expect the fair economic system, trade, investment and capital growth not to be undermined. The PRC was urged to assume and fulfil obligations and responsibilities commensurate with its global economic role. Beijing was also asked to refrain from conducting or supporting intellectual property theft by exploiting cyberspace. Besides, they expressed support for Taiwan's participation in the WHO and World Health Assembly WHA. They also expressed concern about the situation in the East and South China Seas. India will watch with interest what transpires at the Summit concerning all these important issues.

(Prabhu Dayal is a retired Indian diplomat. He is an author and a commentator, particularly on foreign affairs. A regular panelist at TV channels, he also contributes articles regularly to many publications, including New York based The Indian Panorama. He can be reached at prabhu_dayal70@hotmail.com)

NYC Parks To Reopen 13 Recreation Centers To Members Monday, June 14

NEW HEALTH AND SAFETY GUIDELINES TO BE IN PLACE

NEW YORK (TIP): Mayor Bill de Blasio and NYC Parks Commissioner Mitchell J. Silver, FAICP announced on June 10 that on Monday, June 14, the first phase of recreation center reopenings will begin with the opening of 13 centers to existing members; two additional recreation centers will reopen to members on Wednesday, June 23. To ensure proper social distancing and prevent overcrowding, initially, recreation centers will only be open to members who were active as of March of 2020.

"Recreation centers sit at the heart of so many communities, providing New Yorkers of all ages the chance to participate in athletics and a variety of other programming," said Mayor Bill de Blasio. "As we take these steps to reopen safely, I encourage everyone who isn't vaccinated already to get their shot

today."

"As our city continues to take great strides in recovering and reopening, we are thrilled to begin the process of reopening our recreation centers for New Yorkers to enjoy," said NYC Parks Commissioner Mitchell J. Silver, FAICP. "While we are excited to begin reopening our centers, we urge everyone to get vaccinated and continue to follow mask and social distancing guidance, so that we may fully emerge, together, from this pandemic."

NYC PARKS RECREATION CENTER REOPENINGS:

June 14, 2021: Hunts Point (BX), Brownsville (BK), Hansborough (MN), Alfred E. Smith (MN), Highbridge (MN), Rec Center 54 (MN), Thomas Jefferson (MN), Tony Dapolito (MN), Al Oerter (QN), Lost Battalion Hall (QN), Greenbelt

(SI), Lyons (SI), Faber (SI),

June 23, 2021: McCarren (BK), and Ocean Breeze (SI).

As a precaution due to COVID-19, several new policies are being implemented to keep recreation members safe. The reopened centers will operate at reduced capacity, and mask wearing is required for all. Recreation center equipment has been arranged to promote social distancing and shared equipment will be cleaned frequently. Indoor pools remain closed to the public at this time.

Parks recreation centers were closed in March 2020 as a result of the pandemic. Throughout the pandemic, recreation centers were repurposed in support of COVID-19 related services including youth education and childcare services, COVID-19 testing, vaccinations, and mask and food distribution hubs.



NYC Parks

Since 1910, the NYC Parks has provided the most affordable and extensive network of recreational services throughout New York City. Parks' 36 recreation centers offer facilities such as indoor pools, weight rooms, basketball courts, and dance studios, art studios, game rooms, and libraries. All recreation centers also offer a range of programs for people of all ages.

Hours of operation vary - please visit Parks' Recreation Center page for more information: nycgovparks.org/facilities/recreationcenters.

Joyce Smith sworn in as acting Nassau DA



Joyce Smith became acting Nassau district attorney on Wednesday, June 9. Photo / Courtesy NCSA

MINEOLA, NY (TIP): Joyce Smith made history Wednesday as she took an oath as Nassau County's acting district attorney, becoming the first Black person to fill the role.

Madeline Singas swore Smith in, just a day after the former Nassau district attorney ascended to a judgeship in the state's highest court during what had been her second elected term as the county's top law enforcement official.

"I wasn't elected to this position but I promise ... to continue to serve the people of Nassau County with humility and integrity," Smith said as she took the oath.

A Queens native, Smith joined the Nassau district attorney's office in 2018 and was executive assistant district attorney for the Community Relations Division when Singas named her as her interim successor under state and county law.

Smith, 51, a Hempstead resident whom voter rolls list as an Independent, has prior experience leading the Special Prosecutions Division of the Queens district attorney's office - where she worked for 15 years, concentrating on domestic violence cases.

A biography her office released also said Smith spent four years as a staff attorney in the office of general counsel for the U.S.

Commission on Civil Rights, investigating and recommending best practices for relations between police and communities.

Smith, who is single and has no children, also served previously as executive director for the Bronx Family Justice Center and as assistant commissioner and deputy chief of staff for the NYC Mayor's Office to Combat Domestic Violence.

Smith is a graduate of Adelphi University and Howard University School of Law and teaches as an adjunct professor at Hofstra Law School and at Nassau Community College.

If Gov. Andrew M. Cuomo takes no action, Smith will continue to serve as district attorney until a special election to fill the job. Election law experts have said that because Singas resigned as district attorney more than 90 days before the next general Election Day, the county will have to hold a such an election to replace her.

In the meantime, Cuomo also could choose to appoint Smith or a different lawyer as district attorney

Smith, while heading Community Relations, created several advisory councils comprised of leaders in Nassau's African American, Hispanic, South Asian and Asian communities to facilitate opportunities for collaboration among

those residents, prosecutors and police, according to the district attorney's office.

Her other responsibilities included overseeing Immigrant Affairs, Victim

Services and employee recruitment, along with the district attorney's Community Partnership Program Office in Hempstead, according to her biography.



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Indian Americans find themselves being tested over religion, generation and politics: Study

52 percent Indian Americans believe other minority groups discriminated against more than them.

NEW YORK (TIP): Portrayed as the poster child of America's historic opening to new immigrants, the Indian American community today finds itself tested over religious cleavages, generational divides and political polarization, according to a new survey.

More than half a century after the historic 1965 Immigration and Nationality Act brought a new wave of Indian migration to the United States, the Indian American community has come of age, notes the Indian American Attitudes Survey (IAAS).

"Its rapidly growing size, economic success, and growing political visibility have given it greater salience in American life," says the survey done by Carnegie Endowment for International Peace with the research and analytics firm YouGov.

The study released Wednesday is based on a poll of 1,200 Indian Americans - including citizens, Green Card holders and Non-Resident Indians - in September 2020, in the run up to the November presidential election.

"In many ways, the community is often portrayed as the poster child of America's historic opening to new immigrants who in ways big and small have transformed the country," it notes.

However, the paper argues that while there is much that binds the community, there are also nascent signs that these common bonds are being tested as religious cleavages, generational divides, and political polarization invite fragmentation.

"In that sense, the currents coursing their way through the Indian diaspora are perhaps reflective not only of broader developments in American society but also-and perhaps even to a greater extent-the turbulence afflicting India," the study concludes.

"With India reeling under a devastating resurgence of the coronavirus, members of the Indian American community-both individually and collectively-are mobilizing in response," the study noted.

"Motivated by their emotional ties to India, as well as their rights and responsibilities as American citizens, Indian Americans have pushed the US government to mount a large-scale humanitarian response," it said.

"For Indian Americans, the past is not just a distant country," it says. "On the contrary, India continues to exist in the present as it influences the lives of the diaspora-even as its members



chart a new path in their adopted home."

The study is third in a series on the social, political, and foreign policy attitudes of Indian Americans, who have emerged as the second-largest immigrant group in the US with a population of over four million.

Apart from tensions within the community, the survey also looks at how discrimination against Indian Americans compares to discrimination directed toward other minority communities in the United States.

Asked if they think discrimination against people of Indian origin is a major problem, 31 percent responded that it is a major problem, 53 percent believe it is a minor problem, and a small minority (17 percent) believes it is not a problem at all.

Placing discrimination against Indian Americans in a comparative context, the survey asked respondents whether they believe other minorities experience a greater degree of discrimination relative to Indian Americans.

Narrow majorities-52 percent-of respondents believe that people in the United States discriminate more against all of the other minority groups listed than they do against Indian Americans, it found.

"That means just less than half of all respondents believe that Indian Americans face a greater degree of discrimination than at least one other minority group," the survey concluded.

Seventy-three percent of respondents believe that Asian Americans who are not of Indian origin face more discrimination than Indian Americans.

Much larger shares believe that other minority groups face greater discrimination than Indian Americans, including Latino Americans (90 percent), LGBTQ Americans (89 percent), African Americans (86 percent), and women (86 percent).

The survey also asked respondents whether, in the last twelve months,

they have personally felt discriminated against along several dimensions beyond country of origin: skin color, gender, religion, and caste.

One in two Indian Americans reports being subject to some form of discrimination in the past year, the survey noted with data suggesting that discrimination based on skin color is the most common form of bias

As many as 30 percent of respondents reported feeling discriminated against due to the color of their skin. An equal percentage of respondents-18 percent apiece-reported that they have been discriminated against due to their gender or religion.

Muslims reported the greatest degree of religious discrimination by far (39 percent), followed by Hindus (18 percent), Christians (15 percent), and believers of other faiths (9 percent).

Sixteen percent of Indian Americans reported being discriminated against by virtue of their Indian heritage. And, finally, 5 percent of all respondents reported having encountered discrimination due to their caste identity.

When it comes to discrimination experienced by Indian Americans, a significantly larger share of foreign-born Indian Americans (59 percent) state that they have not been discriminated against on any grounds in the past year, compared to just 36 percent of US-born Indian Americans.

Both US- and foreign-born Indian Americans report significant discrimination based on skin color-35 percent and 27 percent, respectively.

"Interestingly, respondents born in the United States report twice as much discrimination along gender and religious lines than those born outside of the United States," the survey noted.

Reported discrimination based on country of origin and caste is roughly similar for both groups (around 15-16 and 5-6 percent, respectively).

The heightened levels of discrimination that US-born respondents report compared to

immigrants hold true across categories-whether skin color, gender, religion, or even caste.

"Although the latter difference in perceptions of caste discrimination is tiny, it is nonetheless interesting given the lower degree of caste consciousness among US-born Indian Americans," the study noted.

One might expect that foreign-born respondents might face greater discrimination given that they are more likely to bear obvious markers that tie them to India (such as accents or dress), it said.

However, the results point in the opposite direction, the study said. "There are a host of plausible reasons why US-born Indian Americans might report greater discrimination, including differences in social norms, greater awareness of discriminatory practices, or less fear of retaliation."

With half of all Indian Americans reporting some form of discrimination, the survey asked whether the perpetrators of discrimination were Indian, non-Indian, or both.

Respondents overwhelmingly blamed non-Indians when it comes to discrimination on the basis of country of origin or skin color.

In both instances, roughly three-quarters of perpetrators were identified as non-Indians. In about one-fifth of instances, both Indians and non-Indians were perceived to be jointly responsible.

Second, while respondents suggest Indians hold somewhat greater responsibility for engaging in discriminatory practices along religion and gender lines, here too they point mainly to non-Indians or a combination of Indians and non-Indians as primary sources of discrimination.

Third, caste discrimination is a surprisingly equal opportunity offense. Responses are divided neatly into thirds when it comes to who is doing the discriminating: Indians, non-Indians, and people of both categories are almost equally to blame.

The study is authored by Sumitra Badrinathan, a postdoctoral research fellow at the Reuters Institute for the Study of Journalism at Oxford University, Devesh Kapur, the Starr Foundation Professor of South Asian Studies and director of Asia Programs at the Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS), Jonathan Kay, a James C. Gaither junior fellow in the South Asia Program at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace and Milan Vaishnav, a senior fellow and director of the South Asia Program at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace.

Donating 500 million Covid vaccine doses not enough, US should do more: Congressman Krishnamoorthi

'THIS MUST BE ONLY THE FIRST STEP IN A LARGER EFFORT TO EXPAND AND ACCELERATE PRODUCTION AND DELIVERY OF THE BILLIONS OF DOSES'

WASHINGTON (TIP): Indian-American Congressman Raja Krishnamoorthi has said that donating 500 million doses of anti-coronavirus vaccine to the world, as promised by President Joe Biden, was not enough and the United States should do more in the global fight against the pandemic.

Before attending a G-7 summit in England, Biden on Thursday, June 10, promised to donate 500 million doses of vaccine to bolster the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic across the world.

Later, British Prime Minister Boris Johnson announced that the G7 nations are set to commit to providing at least 1 billion coronavirus shots to the rest of the world.

"While I'm glad the US will purchase 500 million doses to support global inoculation efforts with 200 million doses to be given by the end of 2021, that is not enough. This must be only the first step in a larger effort to expand and accelerate production and delivery of the billions of doses we need to end the pandemic," Krishnamoorthi said.

"Expanding global vaccination efforts is imperative for national security when the greatest threat to the success of our pandemic recovery is the emergence of new COVID-19 variants in countries facing outbreaks. Fighting that threat requires that we produce and administer as many jabs as possible as quickly as possible to limit the time and opportunities for the virus to mutate into more dangerous and even vaccine-resistant forms," he said.

Biden has announced that the US is taking a major



Indian-American Congressman Raja Krishnamoorthi has said that donating 500 million doses of anti-coronavirus vaccine to the world is not enough. United States should do more in the global fight against the pandemic.

step that will supercharge the global fight against the COVID-19 pandemic.

"The United States will purchase a half a billion doses of Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine to donate to nearly 100 nations that are in dire need of it in the fight against this pandemic. That's a historic step. The largest single purchase and donation of COVID-19 vaccines by any single country ever," he said.

These half a billion vaccines will be shipped starting from August. Two hundred million of these doses will be delivered this year, and 300 million more will be

delivered in the first half of 2022, the US president said.

He claimed the US has contributed more than any nation to COVAX -- a collective global effort that is delivering COVID-19 vaccines across the world.

"We have supported manufacturing efforts abroad through our partnerships with Japan, India, and Australia -- known as the 'Quad'. We've shared (vaccine) doses with our neighbors Canada and Mexico," Biden said.

However, Krishnamoorthi said to fully meet the global need for vaccines and to safeguard the United States as well, not only does it need to dramatically expand production but also ensure distribution and end-to-end delivery to vaccinate at least 60 per cent of the population of the countries struggling most in this regard, as quickly as possible.

"This week, I introduced the Nullifying Opportunities for Variants to Infect and Decimate Act to do precisely that through a USD 34 billion programme that would produce and deliver the eight billion vaccine doses we need while building the infrastructure to monitor and prevent new future strains and pandemics.

"Protecting our country from new coronavirus variants means producing and distributing billions of vaccines where they are needed and the NOVID Act would do precisely that," he said.

The Congressman also said that he was glad that President Biden has taken the first step forward.

"But it must be the beginning of a far larger and far faster global vaccination effort on a much faster timetable in order to protect our country from the threat of new variants and to end this pandemic for good," he said.

(SOURCE: PTI)

Indian Americans regularly encounter discrimination and polarization: Survey by YouGov



WASHINGTON (TIP): Indian-Americans, who constitute the second-largest immigrant group in the US, regularly encounter discrimination and polarization, according to a survey released on Wednesday.

The report, 'Social Realities of Indian Americans: Results from the 2020 Indian American Attitudes Survey' draws on the Indian-American Attitudes Survey (IAAS) -- a collaboration between the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, Johns Hopkins-SAIS, and the University of Pennsylvania.

The findings of the report are based on a nationally representative online survey of 1,200 Indian-American residents in the US -- the 2020 IAAS -- conducted between September 1 and September 20, 2020, in partnership with the research and analytics firm YouGov, it said in a statement.

"Indian-Americans regularly encounter discrimination. One in two Indian Americans reports being discriminated against in the past one year, with discrimination based on skin color identified as the most common form of bias. "Somewhat surprisingly, Indian-

Americans born in the United States are much more likely to report being victims of discrimination than their foreign-born counterparts," said the report. According to the report, Indian-Americans exhibit very high rates of marriage within their community. While eight out of 10 respondents have a spouse or partner of Indian-origin, US-born Indian-Americans are four times more likely to have a spouse or partner who is of Indian-origin but was born in the United States. The survey found that religion plays a central role in the lives of Indian-Americans but religious practice varies.

While nearly three-quarters of Indian-Americans state that religion plays an important role in their lives, religious practice is less pronounced.

Forty per cent of respondents pray at least once a day and 27 per cent attend religious services at least once a week.

The report notes that roughly half of all Hindu Indian-Americans identify with a caste group. Foreign-born respondents are significantly more likely than US-born respondents to espouse a caste identity. The overwhelming majority of Hindus with a caste identity -- more than eight in 10 -- self-

identify as belonging to the category of General or upper caste. "Indian-American" itself is a contested identity. While Indian-American is commonly used shorthand to describe people of Indian-origin, it is not universally embraced. Only four in 10 respondents believe that "Indian-American" is the term that best captures their background, the report said.

Civic and political engagement varies considerably by one's citizenship status. Across nearly all metrics of civic and political participation, US-born citizens report the highest levels of engagement, followed by foreign-born US citizens, with non-citizens trailing behind.

Other people of Indian-origin heavily populate Indian-Americans' social communities. Indian-Americans -- especially members of the first generation -- tend to socialize with other Indian-Americans.

Internally, the social networks of Indian-Americans are more homogenous in terms of religion than either Indian region (state) of origin or caste.

The report says that polarization among Indian-Americans reflects broader trends in the American society.

"While religious polarization is less pronounced at an individual level, partisan polarization -- linked to political preferences both in India and the United States -- is rife. However, this polarization is asymmetric: Democrats are much less comfortable having close friends who are Republicans than the converse," it said.

The same is true of Congress Party supporters' as compared to the supporters of the BJP.

"To some extent, divisions in India are being reproduced within the Indian-American community. While only a minority of respondents are concerned about the importation of political divisions from India to the United States, those who identify religion, political leadership and political parties in India as the most common factors," the report added. Indian-Americans comprise slightly more than 1 per cent of the total US population and less than 1 per cent of all registered voters.

Indian Americans are the second-largest immigrant group in the United States. There are 4.2 million people of Indian origin residing in the United States, according to 2018 data.

Delhi High Court refuses to stay film on SSR

NEW DELHI (TIP): Delhi High Court on Thursday, June 10, refused to stay the release of film 'Nyay: The Justice', which is based on the death of Bollywood actor Sushant Singh Rajput observing that "artistic freedom to create fictional works cannot be controlled."

Justice Sanjeev Narula dismissed the plea filed by Rajput's father, KK Singh, who sought a stay on several films slated to be made on the late actor's life.

"The artistic freedom to create fictional works cannot be controlled, limited, or confined within set boundaries. An artist's inspiration can come from any source, and the court cannot filter real-life events. This Court finds merit in the submission of the Defendants that details of the demise of SSR received widespread and protracted news coverage in all media, which are available in the public domain, and form a part of the public record," the Delhi High Court said.

Some of the upcoming or proposed movie projects, based on Rajput's life, mentioned in the plea, are - 'Nyay: The Justice', 'Suicide or Murder: A star was lost', 'Shashank' and an unnamed crowd-funded film.

According to the suit, filed through advocates Akshay Dev, Varun Singh, Abhijeet Pandey and Samruddhi Bendbhar, 'Nyay' is scheduled to be released in June, while shooting has commenced with regard to 'Suicide or Murder: A star was lost' and 'Shashank'.

Source: Express News Service

India files affidavit in court proving Mehul Choksi's Indian citizenship, CBI team already in Dominica

NEW DELHI (TIP): Making matters worse for fugitive economic offender, Mehul Choksi, India has filed an affidavit proving the businessman's citizenship in the Dominica High Court.

The Indian investigation team consisting of ED and CBI have prepared the affidavit, which was filed by Ministry of External Affairs' official on behalf of Union of India.

Apart from stating that Choksi is an Indian citizen, the affidavit says that he is wanted in Rs 13,000 crore bank scam for which the investigating teams want to take him back to India.

"Indian agencies are investigating him. His entry to Antigua should be considered illegal," said sources noted the affidavit.

Indian investigating teams under CBI SP Sharda Raut have already reached Dominica.

Top Indian government sources have revealed that the Centre has taken help of ex-solicitor general Harish Salve in preparing the final draft of the affidavit. "He has given his services free of cost for the country," revealed sources.

Top officials in the Intelligence Bureau said that Choksi is paying huge money to lawyers to handle his case. "He has hired lawyers from Dominica, India and UK to handle the case. Money he is using is same he looted from Indian banks. His wife is doing PR on his behalf. She is giving wrong direction to the case that he is not an Indian citizen," said sources.

They further asserted that Choksi is very much an Indian citizen and needs to be arrested for the scam he has committed and the case is filed in India.

"Indian Investigation teams are in Dominica and he should surrender himself and join the investigation," they said. "My husband is not an Indian citizen, he must



Mehul Choksi

be returned to his family, and to his home in Antigua and Barbuda. My husband has categorically said in the Indian courts that he is available to be interviewed for Indian agencies, But if you don't want to interview him. How will you ever investigate this case." said Choksi's wife, Priti.

Four UK nationals, 3 of Indian origin, behind abduction: Mehul Choksi team

Fugitive jeweller Mehul Choksi's legal team in London claimed Thursday that he was kidnapped on May 23 by four UK nationals — three of them reportedly of Indian origin — and taken to Dominica from Antigua and Barbuda, where he enjoyed protection as a citizen of the country.

The legal team led by lawyer Michael Polak said the four had travelled from London to Antigua and Dominica, giving a detailed account of one-and-a-half months of their alleged movement. Polak, who

represents an organisation called Justice Abroad that offers legal services to "those detained abroad", said they had also lodged a complaint with the Scotland Yard in the UK.

Claiming that Choksi's family had approached them, Justice Abroad said in a statement, "The aim of this action (alleged abduction) was to remove the protection that Mr Choksi enjoys in Antigua, by way of his right to appeal... to the Privy Council in London."

Addressing a press conference, Polak said that back in early April, a UK national called Barabara Jarabic alias Barbara Jose flew from London to Antigua with another individual. Jarabic reportedly then flew to Dominica on a private aircraft with the same individual and stayed there for a few days before coming back to Antigua. The next day both, along with two other individuals, Gurmit Singh and Gurjit Bhandal, flew to London, Polak claimed.

While Choksi has claimed a woman by the name Barbara had struck a friendship with him and aided his abduction, his wife has named "Gurmit" and "Gurjit" as having kidnapped him.

Polak said that during their time in the Caribbean in April, Singh and Bhandal had tried to dock a yacht at Dominica port. According to him, the April trip might have been "a reconnaissance or failed attempt to kidnap Choksi".

He showed a Customs document mentioning Bhandal and Singh's names as cleared for entry into Dominica on May 25. He also showed a picture of two men at the port, claiming they were Singh and Bhandal.

Polak added that on May 8, Jarabic had booked two adjacent villas in Antigua, specifically asking for premises with a jetty.

For 2nd year in a row, Lord Jagannath's Rath Yatra in Puri to be held without devotees

BHUBANESWAR (TIP): For the second year in a row, the Rath Yatra of Lord Jagannath and his siblings will be held in Puri next month without the presence of any devotees due to Covid-19 fears.

Special Relief Commissioner Pradeep Jena on Thursday said the Rath Yatra will be held on July 11 in accordance with the guidelines issued by the Supreme Court last year. After refusing to allow it, the apex court last year had permitted the Rath Yatra to happen on the condition that there is no public attendance and all entry points into Puri will remain closed. It also said each of the 3 chariots, would be pulled by not more than 500 people who test negative for coronavirus.

"Pulling of chariots maybe performed by Sevayats, police personnel and any other officials permitted by the SJTA. Only temple servitors who have either been fully vaccinated or have RT-PCR negative reports from 48 hours prior to the event will be allowed to carry out the Rath Yatra rituals. There would be sufficient interval between pulling of two chariots. Each Rath would be pulled by not more than 500 people and social distancing be maintained as far as practicable," said Jena.

Considered as part and parcel of the social, religious and cultural ethos of the people of Odisha, Rath Yatra is one of the main festivals of Odisha that commemorates the annual journey of Lord Jagannath and his siblings



from the 12th century Jagannath Temple to their aunt's abode in Gundicha Temple, 2.5 km away in Puri town. During Rath Yatra, a million devotees converge in Puri town believing that they would attain salvation by touching the ropes attached to the chariots. After staying in Gundicha Temple for 9 days, the three deities come back to Jagannath Temple on the 10th day in a return journey called "Bahuda Yatra".

Rumblings in Punjab Cong

Amarinder in charge, key role for Sidhu: Cong panel

NEW DELHI (TIP): A Congress panel seeking to resolve factionalism in the party's Punjab unit recommended that chief minister Captain Amarinder Singh retain charge and former minister Navjot Singh Sidhu be accommodated in a key role, as part of proposals to boost the party's prospects in next year's assembly polls, senior leaders aware of the developments said on Thursday, June 10.

The three-member committee, comprising Rajya Sabha member Mallikarjun Kharge, party in-charge of Punjab Harish Rawat, and former Delhi MP Jai Prakash Agarwal, submitted its report to party chief Sonia Gandhi on Thursday.

Over the past two weeks, the panel spoke to 150 party lawmakers and functionaries. Singh and Sidhu, who have been locked in a bitter verbal war, also met the panel. Gandhi will now take the final call. The committee made five major recommendations, said a panel member on condition of anonymity.

This included keeping Singh in charge, accommodating Sidhu either in the party or as a top minister, revamping the party organisation, reaching out to marginalised castes and give key positions to Dalits, and filling up vacancies in boards and corporations to fit in party leaders. Source: HT

India's domestic challenges due to Covid threaten its regional, global ambitions: US think-tank

India's domestic challenges due to COVID-19 crisis have become a threat to its regional and global ambitions, a US think-tank has observed and warned that unless it recovers with the help of allies like the United States, the pandemic could impact the geopolitical balance in the Indo-Pacific.

As such, it is in the United States' best interests to help India retain its status as a pre-eminent power in South Asia, particularly in view of China's efforts to bolster its position at the expense of the US and India, it said.

The Hudson Institute think-tank said that at the start of the pandemic, India offered medical assistance to its immediate neighbours and followed vaccine diplomacy in the first three months of 2021 which helped India to project itself as a regional leader, advancing its claim of being a global power in waiting.

"There was optimism that India would be able to counter China's soft power with its own. Now, however, at least over the short term, India's domestic challenges have become a threat to its regional and global ambitions," wrote Husain Haqqani, a former Pakistani Ambassador to Sri Lanka and the US, and Hudson research scholar Aparna Pande.

Haqqani is currently the director of South and Central Asia at the Hudson Institute. Pande is director, Initiative on the Future of India and South Asia at the think-tank.

"The recent surge of COVID-19 in South Asia challenges India's traditional ability to aid its smaller neighbours, a change that could, in turn, affect India's influence in its competition with China.



"Unless India can recover from this surge with the help of allies like the United States, the pandemic could impact the Indo-Pacific's geopolitical balance," the joint policy memo released by Hudson stated.

In the first phase of the COVID-19 pandemic, India succeeded in occupying the role of a regional leader. But official complacency, disinclination on the part of government leaders to accept the advice of scientific advisors and reluctance to ramp up vaccine production and distribution has seriously damaged India's standing, the think-tank report said.

Haqqani and Pande wrote that a year-and-a-half after the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, China's footprint in South Asia is larger than it was before. Both Pakistan and Sri Lanka are deeply in debt to China, having

borrowed heavily from it due to the pandemic.

"Unless India, the United States, and the financial institutions led by the democracies provide support, the Maldives and Nepal may also turn towards China for assistance," they warned.

Bipartisan support within the US policy community for India has already mobilised Americans to help India. The Joe Biden administration has sent oxygen concentrators, medicines testing kits, ventilators, and personal protective equipment to India, and many US companies and the Indian-American community have rallied to India's support, the think-tank report stated.

The Hudson Institute recommended the Biden Administration offers Covid vaccine doses to India and other countries in need of them. In the short term, one way to help India's economy recover from the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic would be to reinstate India's Generalized Scheme of Preferences Plus status, which the Donald Trump administration removed.

"A mini-trade deal could be offered to signal American support for India's economic recovery," the policy memo said.

Noting that India's economy underwent its first recession in 2020, contracting by 10 per cent, it said encouragement for American companies and those of other countries such as Japan, South Korea, and Taiwan, that are moving out of China, to invest in India would also aid the country in restoring its economic growth.

It recommended the Indian government enforces smart lockdowns, engage in vaccine diplomacy and also bolster 'Quad' diplomacy. *Source: PTI*

Jaishankar, Kuwait FM discuss business, bilateral cooperation

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar held "productive discussions" with his Kuwaiti counterpart Sheikh Ahmed Nasser Al-Mohammad Al-Sabah on Thursday during which the two sides discussed a range of issues including health, food, education, energy, digital and business cooperation.



External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar with Kuwait Prime Minister Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah on Thursday, June 10. PTI

Jaishankar, who arrived in Kuwait on his first bilateral visit to the oil-rich Gulf nation early on Thursday, also appreciated Commerce Minister Dr Abdullah Issa Al-Salman who was present during the talks.

"Productive discussions with FM @anmas71 of Kuwait. Aimed at taking forward our traditional friendship. Appreciate the presence of Commerce Minister Dr Abdullah Issa Al-Salman in the talks," Jaishankar tweeted.

He said the agenda of talks included health, food, education, energy, digital and business cooperation. "Agreed to review progress with early meeting of our joint commission," he tweeted.

The two sides also signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) that will give Indian workers greater legal protection in Kuwait.

"Welcomed the openness to address the issues of Indian community in Kuwait. Witnessed signing of a MoU that will give our workers greater legal protection. Launched the celebration of 60th anniversary of our ties," Jaishankar tweeted.

Jaishankar, who is carrying a personal letter from PM Narendra Modi to Kuwait's Emir Sheikh Nawaf al-Ahmad al-Jaber al-Sabah, earlier called on Prime Minister Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah.

Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Sheikh Ahmed visited India in March during which both sides decided to set up the joint commission. *Source: PTI*

Uttar Pradesh CM Yogi Adityanath meets PM Modi amid reports of dissent

NEW DELHI (TIP): Uttar Pradesh CM Yogi Adityanath reached Prime Minister Narendra Modi's official residence on Friday amid concerns over the UP government's handling of the Covid-19 crisis and reports of friction within the BJP's state unit. A day before, Adityanath met Union home minister Amit Shah.

Yogi Adityanath's two-day visit to the national capital also comes amid speculations of expansion of the UP cabinet ahead of the assembly elections to be held in the politically crucial state early next year.

As reports of the friction within the state unit of the Bharatiya Janata Party trickled in, BJP general secretary organisation BL Santhosh visited Uttar Pradesh earlier this week along with national vice president Radha Mohan Singh. They meet party leaders and ministers to hear their concerns ahead of the 2022 UP assembly elections.

Many of these leaders are said to have flagged issues like handling of the Covid-19 pandemic, disenchantment among people and lack of coordination between government and party leaders, among others.

Santhosh praised the Yogi Adityanath-led UP government's efforts during the coronavirus pandemic. He said on Twitter the UP administration reduced the daily Covid-19 case count by 93% within five weeks. He also praised the decision to vaccinate parents of children below 12 years of age and said it a wise move amid apprehension that children may be affected more in the probable third wave of the pandemic.

However, the central leadership has ruled out any change in state leadership, throwing their weight behind the Yogi Adityanath administration. It has also ruled out any change in the BJP's organisational structure and said any change to the council of ministers would be



carried out following consultation with the chief minister.

The Uttar Pradesh assembly elections are scheduled to take place in 2022. The BJP stormed back to power in the state in the 2017 assembly polls. Among the major parties, the BJP has 309 legislators, Samajwadi Party (SP) 49, Bahujan Samal Party (BSP) 18 and Congress 7 in the 403-member Uttar Pradesh assembly. *Source: HT*

India logs 91,702 cases, 3,403 deaths

NEW DELHI (TIP): The daily Covid-19 count in India remained below the one-lakh mark for the fourth consecutive day with the country reporting 91,702 fresh cases, while the daily positivity rate dropped to 4.49 per cent, according to the Union Health Ministry data updated on Friday, June 11.

With the fresh cases, the total tally of cases has climbed to 2,92,74,823.

The Covid-19 death toll climbed to 3,63,079 with 3,403 fresh deaths, the data updated at 8 am showed.

The active cases further declined to 11,21,671 comprising 3.83 per cent of the total infections, while the national Covid-19 recovery rate has improved to 94.93 per cent.

A net decline of 46,281 cases has been recorded in the Covid-19 caseload in a span of 24 hours.

Also, 20,44,131 tests were conducted on Thursday taking the total cumulative tests conducted so far for detection of Covid-19 in the country to 37,42,42,384.

The daily positivity rate was recorded at 4.49 per cent. It has been less than 10 per cent for the 18th consecutive day, the ministry said, adding the weekly positivity rate has also declined to 5.14 per cent.

Recoveries continue to outnumber daily new cases for 29th consecutive day. The number of people who have



recuperated from the disease surged to 2,77,90,073, while the case fatality rate has increased to 1.24 per cent, the data stated.

Cumulatively, 24,60,85,649 Covid-19 vaccine doses have been administered so far under the nationwide

vaccination drive.

India's Covid-19 tally had crossed the 20-lakh mark on August 7, 30 lakh on August 23, 40 lakh on September 5 and 50 lakh on September 16. It went past 60 lakh on September 28, 70 lakh on October 11,

Tally climbs to 2,92,74,823; death toll mounts to 3,63,079

crossed 80 lakh on October 29, 90 lakh on November 20 and surpassed the one-crore mark on December 19. India crossed the grim milestone of 2 crore on May 4.

The 3,403 new fatalities include 1,915 from Maharashtra, 358 from Tamil Nadu, 194 each from Karnataka and Kerala.

A total of 3,63,079 deaths have been reported so far in the country including 1,03,748 from Maharashtra, 32,485 from Karnataka, 28,528 from Tamil Nadu, 24,748 from Delhi, 21,597 from Uttar Pradesh, 16,642 from West Bengal, 15,367 from Punjab and 13,285 from Chhattisgarh.

The ministry stressed that more than 70 per cent of the deaths occurred due to comorbidities.

"Our figures are being reconciled with the Indian Council of Medical Research," the ministry said on its website, adding that state-wise distribution of figures is subject to further verification and reconciliation. *Source: PTI*

Covaxin's US approval delayed as FDA asks for more data

In a setback to Bharat Biotech's Covid-19 vaccine Covaxin, the US Food and Drug Administration has "recommended" Ocugen Inc, the US partner of the Indian vaccine maker, to go for Biologics Licence Application (BLA) route with additional data, nixing hopes of Emergency Use Authorisation.

Ocugen in a statement on Thursday announced that as recommended by the FDA, it will pursue submission of a biologics licence application (BLA) for Covaxin.

BLA is a "full approval" mechanism by the FDA for drugs and vaccines.

"The company will no longer pursue an Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) for Covaxin. The FDA provided feedback to Ocugen regarding the Master File. The company had previously submitted and recommended that Ocugen pursue a BLA submission instead of an EUA application for its vaccine candidate and requested additional information and data," Ocugen said.

The development may delay the Covaxin launch in the US, Ocugen said.

Ocugen is in discussions with the FDA to understand the additional information required to support a BLA submission. The company anticipates that data from an additional clinical trial will be required to support the submission.

"Although we were close to finalising our EUA application for submission, we received a recommendation from the FDA to pursue a BLA path. While this will extend our timelines, we are committed to bringing Covaxin to the US," Dr. Shankar Musunuri, Chairman of the Board, Chief Executive Officer and co-founder of Ocugen said.

"This differentiated vaccine is a critical tool to include in our national arsenal given its potential to address the SARS-CoV-2 variants, including the delta variant, and given the unknowns about what will be needed to protect US population in the long term," he added.

Source: PTI

No need to vaccinate people once infected by Covid? Why experts suggest this

NEW DELHI (TIP): The Indian health ministry's latest guideline said those who tested Covid positive should wait for three months after recovery to get vaccinated, as they have natural antibodies present. However, a group of public health experts, which includes doctors from AIIMS and the members of Covid-19 national task force, has suggested that there is no need to vaccinate people who had documented Covid-19 infection.

- In the second wave of the Covid-19 pandemic, there have been instances of reinfections. AIIMS Delhi has conducted a study on breakthrough infection — infections after partial or full vaccination — which reveals that vaccination stops the reinfection to become severe, but it does not guarantee protection from reinfection.
- A Lancet study has said the risk of reinfection gets reduced for up to 10 months following the first infection. The study conducted by the researchers from the University College London is based on antibody testing of people who are previously infected and those who are not. The study was conducted in the UK
- According to the Indian experts' report, there is not enough evidence that vaccine is beneficial after natural infection. "There is no need to vaccinate people who had documented Covid-19 infection. These people may be vaccinated after generating evidence that vaccine is beneficial after natural infection," the report said.
- As the objective of the vaccination drive should be to control the disease, those who have been already infected should not be the priority, as they are naturally protected, the report suggested.
- Is the suggestion of keeping once-infected people out of vaccination for now influenced by vaccine crunch? Yes, the report clarified that the present situation of the pandemic in the country demands that prioritisation instead of opening it to all.



"Moreover, we can conserve considerable resources if we exclude adults who have recovered from natural infection," it said.

Here are the other suggestions of the expert group

- Vaccination strategy should be guided by repeated, local, real-time serosurveys to map the vulnerability at the district level.
- More research on reinfection, infection among vaccinated and non-vaccinated people. Such cohorts should be followed up for a long period for better findings.
- Unplanned vaccination can trigger mutant strains, the experts said, referring to vaccination of age groups, which are not yet supported by evidence. *Source: HT*



GOPIO INTERNATIONAL FOUNDATION

(A DIVISION OF GLOBAL ORGANIZATION OF PEOPLE OF INDIAN ORIGIN (GOPIO), INC.)

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Dear Friend,

As COVID-19 continues to spread, the future has never felt so unpredictable. These are challenging times for us all, and we hope you're in good spirits and health! Right now, we're doing everything possible to keep up our mission and provide services to our motherland. We need to realise that India needs our support more than ever and should extend our helping hand to the suffering people.

I am contacting you on behalf of **GOPIO INTERNATIONAL FOUNDATION** and my fund raising team to request your support for the newly floated **COVID-19 HELP INDIA FUND** in order to help the dire needs of the Covid patients in India. We have tied up with a few trusted social organisations working at grass root level, so that every penny contributed by you will reach the most deserving people.



Thank you for reading about our latest mission, and please reach out if you'd like to learn more and get involved with our fundraising efforts. We would also appreciate if you can advocate for us by sharing our mission with a family member or friend would mean the world to us.

Please know that all contributions you make will positively impact our COVID affected fellow countrymen. Thank you for your thoughtful consideration of our request.

In times like this, we're reminded of how interconnected we all are. Thank you for being part of our great Indian diaspora. Without you, none of it is possible.

Stay safe and well,
With gratitude,

Lal Motwani
Executive Trustee
GOPIO INTERNATIONAL FOUNDATION



Please consider extending a generous gift towards COVID-19 HELP INDIA FUND by clicking on the link below:

http://www.gopio.net/India_Covid_2021_Donations.htm

Cheque should be issued in favour of:

GLOBAL ORGANIZATION OF PEOPLE OF INDIAN ORIGIN

For more information, you may contact :

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NJSO CELEBRATES PRIDE MONTH

BY MABEL PAIS

Virtual, June 13-18

The New Jersey Symphony Orchestra (NJSO) celebrates a weeklong Pride Month, June 13-18. The celebration features works by LGBTQ+ composers, an interview with Laura Kaminsky about her chamber opera "As One," a performance of Rent's "I'll Cover You" in collaboration with Paper Mill Playhouse and a free Zoom event presented in partnership with SAGE, a national advocacy and services organization for LGBT elders.

Harmonica Sunbeam, renowned for her Hudson County non-profit Drag Queen Story Hour, hosts the celebration. For more information, visit njsymphony.org/pride



NJSO-PRIDE graphic. - Photo / Courtesy NJSO

PROGRAM

NJSO PRIDE CELEBRATION
HARMONICA SUNBEAM - host
Sun, June 13, at 5 pm
NJSO Family Members
"What Pride Means to Me"
Mon, June 14, at 5 pm
Composer-in-Conversation



NJSO flutist Kathleen Nester interviews composer Laura Kaminsky. - Photo / Courtesy NJSO

NJSO flutist and piccolo player Kathleen Nester talks with her friend and neighbor, composer Laura Kaminsky, about her pathbreaking opera exploring a gender transition, "As One."



Violinist James Tsao. - Photo / Courtesy NJSO

Tue, June 15, at 5 pm
NJSO Chamber Players Performance
TCHAIKOVSKY Andante cantabile
Bart Feller, flute

James Tsao, violin
David Blinn, viola
Sarah Seiver, cello
Wed, June 16, at 5 pm
NJSO Chamber Players

Performance
JENNIFER HIGDON "A Gentle Notion"

Pascal Archer, clarinet
Spencer Meyer, piano
Thu, June 17, at 7 pm
NJSO Pride Celebration: A Conversation
Free Zoom Event

Join NJSO President & CEO Gabriel van Aalst, Edie Windsor SAGE Center Arts & Culture Program Coordinator Christian Appel and NJSO violist David Blinn for a lively conversation and insight into the NJSO's Pride celebrations, followed by musical performances featuring notable LGBTQ+ composers and artists. Register at njsymphony.org/pride.

Fri, June 18, at 5 pm
Collaboration with Paper Mill Playhouse

LARSON/arr. Robert Wagner "I'll Cover You" from "Rent"
Kyle Taylor Parker, vocalist
Jay Donnell, vocalist
Héctor Falcón, violin
Ted Ackerman, cello
Alexander Bickard, electric bass
Pascal Archer, clarinet
James Musto, drums

New Jersey Symphony Orchestra
The New Jersey Symphony Orchestra connects with the people and diverse communities of New Jersey through the power of live symphonic music to inspire, entertain and educate. Internationally renowned Music Director Xian Zhang has garnered critical acclaim on the podium and has deepened the NJSO's commitment to presenting diverse voices that reflect the communities the Orchestra serves.

Since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, the NJSO has made virtual performances and educational online programs available for free, reaching more than 10 million people across the Orchestra's digital channels. The Orchestra's online hub for free musical content is njsymphony.org/virtual.

Connect with NJSO:
Website: njsymphony.org
Facebook, Twitter and Instagram: @NJSymphony
YouTube: @NewJerseySymphony
Email: information@njsymphony.org

SAGE

SAGE is the world's largest and oldest organization dedicated to improving the lives of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) older people. Founded in 1978 and headquartered in New York City, SAGE is a national organization that offers supportive services and consumer resources to LGBT older people and their caregivers. Learn more about SAGE advocacy and its affiliates at sageusa.org.

PAPER MILL PLAYHOUSE : Paper Mill Playhouse, recipient of the 2016

Regional Theatre Tony Award, is a nationally renowned not-for-profit theater under the direction of Mark S. Hoebee (Producing Artistic Director) and Michael Stotts (Managing Director). A beloved NJ arts institution since 1938, Paper Mill creates and produces groundbreaking new musicals and reimagined classics. Several productions have gone on to Broadway and launched national tours, including Disney's "Newsies," "Les Misérables," "Honeymoon in Vegas," "A Bronx Tale" and "Bandstand." Learn more at papermill.org.

NJSO with NEWARK MUSEUM RESTORES IN-PERSON CONCERTS

By Mabel Pais

"I am incredibly excited for this partnership with our friends at The Newark Museum of Art. This is such a joyful moment for our NJSO community-we are thrilled to begin to perform for our audiences in person again, and we are eager to experience Daniel's first programs in his new role at the NJSO." - Gabriel van Aalst, NJSO President & CEO

"The sounds of live chamber music in our beautiful Alice Ransom Dreyfuss Memorial Garden will make this an incredibly special series as we welcome audiences back to the museum." -- Linda C. Harrison, The Newark Museum of Art Director & CEO



'Newark Museum of Arts' Garden. - Photo / Courtesy NJSO

The New Jersey Symphony Orchestra (NJSO) welcomes in-person outdoor chamber music series in The Newark Museum of Art's (newarkmuseumart.org) Alice Ransom Dreyfuss Memorial Garden this summer. In nine performances from June through August, the NJSO Chamber Players perform a three-concert series curated by Resident Artistic Catalyst Daniel Bernard Roumain (DBR), a three-concert series curated by Concertmaster Eric Wyrick and a three-concert family series for music lovers of all ages.



Resident Artistic Director, Daniel Bernard Roumain. Photo/ CourtesyNJSO

DB Roumain curates "NJSO & DBR: Now, Next," a series that looks towards a more inclusive and innovative future, with performances on June 9, June 16 and August 11 at 7 pm. His programs will feature impactful new works from compelling new voices - including Gabriela Lena Frank, Roumain and New Jersey's Allison

Loggins-Hill - alongside under-represented voices from the past and classics of the chamber music repertoire. These immersive experiences will include special collaborations with dancers, actors and guest artists.

Wyrick leads the Chamber Players for three performances that highlight both unsung composers and classical favorites on June 23, July 7 and July 21.

The three-concert family series features a musical trip around the world (June 26), Prokofiev's "Peter and the Wolf" (July 31) and a storytelling program (August 14). Concerts for this Saturday series begin at 10 am.

TICKETS, SAFETY : Health and safety procedures will include seating with chairs set six feet apart; masking for audiences, staff, volunteers and contractors; and temperature checks. Tickets must be purchased in advance. For more information, visit njsymphony.org/museum.

PROGRAM: ARTS IN THE GARDEN : With the New Jersey Symphony Orchestra Chamber Players, in collaboration with The Newark Museum of Art

DBR CURATIONS
Togetherness with DBR
Wed, June 9, at 7 pm
DANIEL BERNARD ROUMAIN curator

Hearing and Healing with DBR
Wed, June 16, at 7 pm
DANIEL BERNARD ROUMAIN curator

Who We Are with DBR
Wed, Aug 11, at 7 pm
DANIEL BERNARD ROUMAIN curator

In each curation, Resident Artistic Catalyst Daniel Bernard Roumain takes audiences on a journey through classical music's past, present and future, juxtaposing works by Bach, Brahms and Florence Price with compelling new voices including Gabriela Lena Frank, Roumain and NJ's own Allison Loggins-Hill. Special collaborations with dancers, actors and guest artists are part of these immersive and imagine a brighter, more inclusive and innovative future.

Program Information on the second three-concert series: June 23, July 7 and July 21 and the third three-concert family series: June 26, July 31 and August 14, will appear in a subsequent issue.

New Jersey Symphony Orchestra (NJSO)

To learn about NJSO, visit njsymphony.org

The Newark Museum of Art

Founded in 1909, The Newark Museum of Art is the largest art and education institution in New Jersey and one of the most influential museums in the United States. Its renowned global art collections, supported by significant holdings of science, technology and natural history, rank 12th among North America's art museums. To learn more, visit newarkmuseumart.org

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

ISRAEL FILM FEST: BEYOND HEADLINES

BY MABEL PAIS

9TH EDITION, IN-PERSON & VIRTUAL, JUNE 15-29

"Israeli productions have become a leading export and one of the most intriguing industries in the international scene. These films give a nuanced picture with a focus on the human experience in the region and allow us to see the day-to-day life beyond the headlines." - Isaac Zablocki, Director-Founder, Israel Film Center Festival

New York's leading Israeli film festival celebrates its 9th edition with a powerful lineup of award-winning and cutting-edge films from Israel. Featuring in-person rooftop and virtual screenings and showcasing the best new films from Israel's booming film industry, the festival runs June 15-29, 2021.

OPENING NIGHT

The festival's Opening Night selection is "Sublet," directed by Eytan Fox ("Yossi & Jagger," "Walk on Water"), which follows Michael (played by Tony



Opening Night, "SUBLET." - Photo / MMJCCM

Award winner John Benjamin Hickey), a 'New York Times' travel writer who journeys to Tel Aviv after suffering a tragedy. When he sublets an apartment from Tomer, a young film student, he finds himself drawn into the life of the city. "Sublet" screens Tuesday, June 15 at 8 p.m. on the JCC's Meyerson Family Roof Terrace.

For the complete film lineup, events and more information, visit israelfilmcenter.org/festival.

TICKETS : To purchase tickets, visit israelfilmcenter.org/festival.

ABOUT THE ISRAEL FILM CENTER : The Israel Film Center of the Marlene Meyerson JCC Manhattan is the leading resource for Israeli films in America, with the goal of expanding Israel's emerging film industry and promoting Israeli culture in America. The center, a program of The Carole Zabar Center for Film, serves as an exhibitor, promoter, educator, funder, distributor, network organizer, advisor, and festival producer, and includes a viewing library and online database of Israeli cinema and the leading Israeli film streaming site.

ABOUT THE MARLENE MEYERSON JCC MANHATTAN : The cornerstone of progressive programming in Manhattan, the JCC serves over 55,000 people annually through 1,200 programs each season that educate, inspire, and transform participants' minds, bodies, and spirits. Since its inception, the JCC has been committed to serving the community by offering programs, classes, and events that reach beyond neighborhood boundaries, reaching people at all stages of their lives. Learn more at mmjccm.org

CINE LAS AMERICAS (CLAIFF) HONORS JUNE PRIDE

BY MABEL PAIS

23rd EDITION, IN PERSON, JUNE 9-13
Mariem Pérez Riera's OPENING NIGHT documentary
"RITA MORENO: JUST A GIRL WHO DECIDED TO GO FOR IT"



RITA MORENO in Opening Night film. Photo / Wildworks PR

Cine Las Americas, based in Austin, Texas, in its 23rd edition will once again provide a rare showcase of films and videos from Latin America (North, Central, South America, and the Caribbean) and the Iberian Peninsula. The film festival celebrates films and videos made by or about Latinx in the U.S. or the rest of the world; also featured

are films and videos by or about indigenous groups of the Americas. This year's edition of CLAIFF will also continue their efforts to feature inclusiveness in the programming among the films representing over 15 countries throughout Ibero-America. Just over 50% of all films were directed

and/or produced by female filmmakers, with the majority of filmmakers people of color, including Indigenous and Afro-Latino filmmakers. The CLAIFF directors and programmers are also proud to continue its dedication to have solid representation within the LGBTQIA+ community.

Cine Las Americas Executive Director Gabriel Ornelas, said, "In format, this year will serve as a bridge from our virtual showcase during the pandemic last year to returning to the in-person screenings and events we have all been looking forward to enjoying once again."

The Opening Night film, which premiered at this year's Sundance Film Festival, focuses on the legendary actor's 70+ year career, as she overcame a humble upbringing and relentless racism to become one of the rare EGOT (Emmy,

Grammy, Oscar, Tony) Award Winners of our time. For the complete film lineup, events and more information about the Festival, visit cinelasamericas.org

TICKETS : To purchase passes and tickets, visit www.cinelasamericas.org

ABOUT CINE LAS AMERICAS : Cine Las Americas, a multicultural organization based in Austin, Texas, offers theatrical screenings of films made by and/or about Latinos or Indigenous peoples of the Americas. Films from Spain and Portugal are also included, enhancing a truly Pan-American cinematic experience. The mission of Cine Las Americas is to promote cross-cultural understanding and growth by educating, entertaining and challenging the diverse Central Texas community through film and media arts.

LAKE TRAVIS FILM FEST (LTFF) BEARS INTERNATIONAL FLAVOR

By Mabel Pais

DEDICATED TO FEMALE FILMMAKERS AMONG OTHERS

2ND EDITION, IN-PERSON, JUNE 10-13

The Lake Travis Film Festival's (LTFF) 2nd edition, the experiential festival celebrating independent cinema in beautiful Hill Country, just west of Austin, takes place June 10-13. The Festival is in-person.

The Festival will kick off with an ambitious "Space Out" Opening Night Showcase with Sevgi Hirschhäuser's Toprak, Matt Richmond's Brauhaus: A German-American Fairytale, multiple short film programs and a special screenwriting workshop with noted screenwriter/producer J. V. Hart (Hook, Contact, Bram Stoker's Dracula).

The four-day in-person film festival will present a film lineup with a decidedly international flavor that will showcase films featuring a wide assortment of genres, styles, and topics. LTFF firmly confirms itself as an event dedicated to female filmmakers, young filmmaker showcases, a music video showcase, a special animation

presentation, and more screenings, fun events, and after parties in various popup locations throughout the cities of Bee Cave and Lakeway, Texas.

"We were fortunate to have seemingly dodged the pandemic's course to a great extent from our debut last year to this year's second edition, but that also makes us want to return in the best way we can both for our filmmakers and our film fans," said Kat Albert, LTFF's Founder-Exec. Director.

For a complete film lineup, events and more information, visit laketravisfilmfestival.com

TICKETS : To purchase passes, tickets, and updates, visit laketravisfilmfestival.com.

LAKE TRAVIS FILM FESTIVAL (LTFF) : Lake Travis Film Festival (LTFF) is a vibrant experiential festival with an eye to showcasing filmmakers around the globe with authenticity, vision, and purpose. The festival connects independent filmmakers and industry professionals with an eager community audience. Featuring intimate discussions, exhilarating after parties, and unparalleled access to some of the most exciting venues in the Lake Travis area make The Lake Travis Film Festival a destination for filmmakers and a cultural enhancement for the community. In addition to an annual slate of films in juried competition, the festival offers a showcase for young filmmakers to screen their work.

BIG BEAR FILM SUMMIT

By Mabel Pais

2ND EDITION, HYBRID, JUNE 11-27

Sri Charan's "HALF & HALF" makes World Premiere

The 2nd Annual Big Bear Film Summit's (June 11-27) theme "A New Hope" for this year's hybrid presentation leads into the festival's highly anticipated in-person screenings at the Big Bear Lake Performing Arts Center (39707 Big Bear Blvd.) the weekend of June 25-27.

In addition to the film screenings and events presented both in-person and virtually, the Big Bear Film Summit will also bring back its screenwriting competition, as the film festival builds on its efforts to promote new filmmakers and call attention to new talent. For a complete film lineup, events and more information, visit bigbearfilmsummit.com

TICKETS : To purchase passes and tickets, visit bigbearfilmsummit.com.

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



Half" director SRI CHARAN

Credit for 2 & 3: Wildworks PR.



With 3 films, Katrina all set for a grand show

With Sooryavanshi, Phone Bhoot and the third film in the Tiger franchise, Katrina Kaif might be eagerly looking at the cinema halls to open. These big budget Bollywood films are either complete or in the final leg of completion, and might be waiting for the situation induced due to the coronavirus to return to normalcy.

Not only these, there are films like '83, Prithviraj and Laal Singh Chadda, which would want to avoid the OTT route because of their canvas and potential reach through theatres.

Coming back to Katrina, she hasn't had a release since Bharat in June, 2019. Prior to that she had six releases—Fitoor, Baar Baar Dekho, Jagga Jasoos, Tiger Zinda Hai, Thugs of Hindostan and Zero—in nearly three years. These films were mounted on a big budget and also gained sizeable return on investment.

Now, with her upcoming films, the producers would expect a similar result. But it all depends when the theatres would be allowed to operate with full capacity. The makers can also opt for the sharing deal between theatres and the OTTs.

Shanaya Kapoor to make Bollywood debut with Karan Johar's Rom-Com

There have been discussions for a long time now for the launch of Shanaya Kapoor, Bollywood actor Sanjay Kapoor's daughter. Ever since filmmaker Karan Johar got her on board his talent management agency in January this year, there have been many speculations about her debut in Bollywood.

Earlier, there were unconfirmed reports that she will make her acting debut with Student Of The Year 3. Shanaya, who is quite active on social media, has also hinted several times about her debut and the audience is eagerly awaiting its release.

Now, it seems the buzz is over regarding the start of her film innings. There have been reports that the star kid will enter the Hindi film industry with a romantic comedy that will be a love triangle. The movie will be produced by Karan with Shashank Khaitan under the banner of Dharma Productions. Shashank is famous for directing Dulhania Franchise and Dhadak. The upcoming flick will feature Laksh Lalwani and Gurfateh Pirzada in the lead. A source close to the film's development told Pinkvilla that the three actors have been taking part in several acting workshops over the past six months as earlier the movie was planned to go on floors in July this year. However, because of the restrictions imposed in several states owing to the second wave of Covid-19, the shooting plans were delayed. Now the makers are planning a new schedule. A major chunk of the project will be shot abroad and a team from the production house will go on a recce once lockdown restrictions are lifted.



Yami Gautam feels like she's turning into her mother, as she shares post-wedding pic

Actor Yami Gautam has shared a new post-wedding picture, on the occasion of her mother's birthday. She tied the knot with her Uri: The Surgical Strike director Aditya Dhar last week, in an intimate wedding ceremony.

On Wednesday, June 9, Yami took to Instagram to share a picture of herself with her mother and sister, Surilie. She wrote in the caption, "Everyday we become a little bit more like our mother & we couldn't be prouder! Happy birthday mummy." While Yami wore a red saree, her mother wore a golden salwar suit, and her sister wore a pink ensemble.

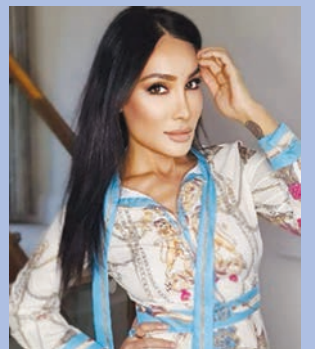
Yami and Aditya announced their marriage on Friday, and in social media posts quoting the poet Rumi, wrote, "In your light, I learn to love - Rumi. With the blessings of our family, we have tied the knot in an intimate wedding ceremony today. Being very private people, we celebrated this joyous occasion with our immediate family."

They continued, "As we embark on the journey of love and friendship, we seek all your blessings and good wishes. Love, Yami and Aditya." *Source: HT*



Sofia slams Salman, says she deliberately didn't share Bigg Boss stage with him

Former Bigg Boss contestant Sofia Hayat has slammed actor Salman Khan, revealing that she chose not to appear on stage at the Bigg Boss finale with Salman because '(her) morality and truth is stronger than (her) ego'. Sofia was one of the contestants on Bigg Boss 7 in 2013. Taking to Instagram, Sofia shared several pictures of herself and wrote a long note on Salman 'using the same tricks' before releasing a film. In her note, she also asked, "Isn't it about time you cast a girl your own age to star opposite you?" She wrote, "Salman Khan has been using the same tricks every time he releases a movie. He releases on Eid, using the religious festivity as a promotional day, profiting from a spiritual day. He also releases the same clichéd story lines, same cheesy looks to camera, same clichéd girl meets boy story, (always using a younger model each time, isn't it about time you cast a girl your own age to star opposite you?), and same clichéd cheesy lines. What he has not done is to grow. His audiences have clearly grown and are fed up with the same regurgitated story lines that are quite clearly brain numbing, even watching the trailer of Radhe, I thought, haven't I seen all of this before?"





Carey Mulligan to play journalist in film on Harvey Weinstein scandal

The first Hollywood feature film to focus directly on the Harvey Weinstein scandal is due to start production in the summer, Universal Pictures said.

She Said is based on the 2019 book of the same name about the New York Times investigation into claims of sexual misconduct by Weinstein.

Carey Mulligan and Zoe Kazan are in final negotiations to play the two journalists – Megan Twohey and Jodi Kantor – who wrote the book and who won Pulitzer Prizes for their reporting in October 2017 on the story.

Some 100 women came forward with accusations of sexual misconduct by Weinstein, then one of the most powerful figures in Hollywood, after the initial stories broke in the New York Times and the New Yorker.

Christina Ricci joins Keanu Reeves, Priyanka Chopra in The Matrix 4

Actor Christina Ricci is the latest addition to the star-studded cast of the much-anticipated fourth installment in the Matrix franchise.

Warner Bros, the studio behind the Keanu Reeves-led sci-fi movie series, shared Ricci's casting in a press kit issued to Variety.

The Matrix 4, directed by Lana Wachowski, also features Carrie-Anne Moss, Jada Pinkett Smith, Yahya Abdul-Mateen II, Priyanka Chopra Jonas, Jonathan Groff and Neil Patrick Harris. Actors Jessica Henwick, Telma Hopkins, Erendira Ibarra, Toby Onwumere, Max Riemelt, and Brian J Smith round out the cast. Christina has previously collaborated with Lana on 2008 movie Speed Racer.

The Warner Bros and Village Roadshow co-production, The Matrix 4 is written by Lana, David Mitchell and Aleksander Hemon, based on characters created by Lana and her sister, Lilly. The film is set to premiere on December 22, 2021 in theatres and on streaming platform HBO Max.



Issa Rae joins cast of Spider-Man: Into The Spider-Verse sequel

Issa Rae, who is an actor, writer, producer and director, can now add 'superhero' to her already impressive resume. The 36-year-old star is entering the Spider-Verse.

As per Variety, the Insecure star has joined the voice cast of the sequel to 2018's Oscar-winning animated feature Spider-Man: Into the Spider-Verse as Jessica Drew, better known as Spider-Woman.

Issa has joined returning voice actors Shameik Moore (as main hero Miles Morales) and Hailee Steinfeld (as Gwen Stacy, a.k.a. Spider-Gwen).

In April, Variety reported that Joaquim Dos Santos, Kemp Powers and Justin K Thompson will be directing the feature, with producers Phil Lord and Christopher Miller also credited as writers on the screenplay, along with David Callahan.

Amy Pascal, Avi Arad and Christina Steinberg are also producing, and original Spider-Verse director Peter Ramsey is returning as an executive producer, with Lord Miller's Aditya Sood.

While plot details are being kept under wraps, casting Issa as Jessica does open up the possibility of exploring a region of the Marvel comics landscape that has been virtually ignored in the Marvel feature and TV series adaptations of the last 20 years: Wundagore Mountain.



Jennifer Lopez signs multi-year deal with Netflix for her production banner



Hollywood actor and singer Jennifer Lopez recently inked a multi-year, first-look deal with Netflix for her production banner, Nuyorican Productions.

According to Variety, Jennifer will produce a slate of film and TV content, both scripted and unscripted, that will showcase diverse female actors, writers and filmmakers.

Two Netflix features starring Jennifer, The Mother, directed by Niki Caro, and The Cipher, based on the novel of the same name by Isabel Ojeda Maldonado had been previously announced by the streamer.

"Throughout every aspect of her career, Jennifer Lopez has been a force in entertainment. In partnering with her and Nuyorican, we know she will continue to bring impactful stories, joy and inspiration to audiences around the world," Scott Stuber, Netflix's head of global films, said in a prepared statement.

Bela Bajaria, Netflix's head of global TV, praised Jennifer as "a singular talent whose creativity and vision have captivated audiences and inspired the next generation around the world. For years, she and the team at Nuyorican have brought a distinctive voice to entertainment, and I'm looking forward to working with her and the team to create new series for our members to love."

TIKTOK BAN REVOCATION 'POSITIVE STEP': CHINA

BEIJING (TIP): A relieved China on June 10 welcomed the US move to drop the Trump-era executive orders to ban its popular apps TikTok and WeChat, saying it was a "positive step in the right direction". The US should treat Chinese companies fairly and refrain from politicising trade issues, state-run CGTN quoted commerce ministry spokesperson Gao Feng as saying.

Asked for his reaction to the US move to lift the ban orders, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Wang Wenbin told a media briefing here on Thursday that the US should stop abusing state power to suppress Chinese firms. — PTI

ROCKET ON PAD, CHINA READY TO SEND 1ST CREW TO SPACE STATION

BEIJING (TIP): The rocket that will send the first crew members to live on China's new orbiting space station has been moved onto the launchpad ahead of its planned blastoff next week.

The three astronauts plan to spend three months on the space station doing spacewalks, construction and maintenance work and science experiments.

The main section of the Tianhe, or Heavenly Harmony, station was launched into orbit on April 29, and a cargo spacecraft sent up last month carried fuel, food and equipment to the station in preparation for the crewed mission.

The Long March-2F Y12 rocket carrying the Shenzhou-12 spaceship was transferred to the launch pad at the Jiuquan Satellite Launch Center in northwest China on Wednesday, the China Manned Space Engineering Office said in a brief statement. Its tentative launch date is next Wednesday. AP

Ex-Mossad chief Yossi Cohen signals Israel behind Iran nuclear attacks

Dubai (TIP): The outgoing chief of Israel's Mossad intelligence service has offered the closest acknowledgment yet his country was behind recent attacks targeting Iran's nuclear programme and a military scientist.

The comments by Yossi Cohen, speaking to Israel's Channel 12 investigative programme "Uvda" in a segment aired on June 10 night, offered an extraordinary debriefing by the head of the typically secretive agency in what appears to be the final days of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's rule.

It also gave a clear warning to other scientists in Iran's nuclear programme that they too could become targets for assassination even as diplomats in Vienna try to negotiate terms to try to salvage its atomic accord with world powers.

"If the scientist is willing to change career and will not hurt us anymore, than yes, sometimes we offer them" a way out, Cohen said.

Among the major attacks to target Iran, none have struck deeper than two explosions over the last year at its Natanz nuclear facility. There, centrifuges enrich uranium from an underground hall designed to protect them from airstrikes.

In July 2020, a mysterious explosion tore apart Natanz's advanced centrifuge assembly, which Iran later blamed on Israel. Then in April of this year, another blast tore apart one of its underground enrichment halls.

Asked about Natanz, the interviewer asked Cohen where he'd take them if they could travel there, he said "to the cellar" where "the centrifuges used to spin."

"It doesn't look like it used to look," he



added.

Cohen did not directly claim the attacks, but his specificity offered the closest acknowledgement yet of an Israeli hand in the attacks. The interviewer, journalist Ilan Dayan, also seemingly offered a detailed description of how Israel snuck the explosives into Natanz's underground halls that went unchallenged by Cohen.

"The man who was responsible for these explosions, it becomes clear, made sure to supply to the Iranians the marble foundation on which the centrifuges are placed," Dayan said. "As they install this table within the Natanz facility, they have no idea that it already includes an enormous amount of explosives."

He also brought up the November killing of Mohsen Fakhrizadeh, an Iranian scientist who began Tehran's military nuclear program decades ago. US intelligence agencies and the International Atomic Energy Agency believe Iran abandoned that organized effort at seeking a nuclear weapon in 2003. Iran long has maintained its program is peaceful.

While Cohen on camera doesn't claim the killing, Dayan in the segment described Cohen as having "personally signed off on the entire campaign."

Cohen described an Israeli effort to dissuade Iranian scientists from taking part in the program, which had seen some abandoned their work after being warned, even indirect, by Israel. Asked by the interviewer if the scientists understood the implications of if they didn't, Cohen said: "They see their friends."

Iran has repeatedly complained about Israel's attacks, with Iran's ambassador to the IAEA Kazem Gharibabadi warning as recently as Thursday that the incidents "not only will be responded decisively, but also certainly leave no option for Iran but to reconsider its transparency measures and cooperation policy."

Iran's mission to the United Nations did not immediately respond to a request for comment over the comments by Cohen, who was replaced by former operative David Barnea. — AP

UK man murders sisters for 'sacrificial lottery'



LONDON (TIP): A 19-year-old man brutally stabbed two sisters to death and hid their bodies in UK's Wembley Park last year to win a demonic lottery, a court here has heard.

Danyal Hussein killed Nicole Smallman, 27, and Bibaa Henry, 46, in a "frenzied and relentless" attack in London Borough on June 6 last year, the prosecution told the Central Criminal Court of England and Wales on

Wednesday, The Guardian newspaper reported.

The police found a note in Hussein's living quarters which proves that he "planned to sacrifice women so that he could make money" from a "demon" delivering a lottery win to him, the prosecution said.

The victims were celebrating Henry's birthday when they were attacked. Henry was stabbed eight times, and Smallman was stabbed 28 times.

Representing the prosecution Oliver Glasgow said: "It would appear that the defendant had confidence that his plan would work since following the fatal attacks upon Bibaa Henry and Nicole Smallman, the defendant purchased several lottery tickets and there were three lottery tickets folded up inside the note [found in his room].

"As it turned out, the demon did not come good on the bargain, since not only did the defendant not win the lottery but the police identified all the evidence that links him to these two murders."

Henry's birthday party was attended by a few more guests but only the two victims had stayed back. In last seen footage, they are seen dancing to music around fairy lights when they are distracted by some approaching person or object, the BBC reported. There are no visuals of the attack.

"Whether this was the defendant who had crept up on them is unclear, but there is no doubt that he (Hussein) was in the park that evening and that he attacked them," he added.

"Once the two sisters had been brutally murdered, their killer dragged their bodies across the grass and

concealed them in a hedgerow," the report quoting the prosecution as saying.

Hussein's DNA was at the scene of crime, on the bodies and on a bloodstained knife found at the scene, the jury was told.

If this evidence "was not damning enough", the police found out that the defendant purchased a set of knives that matched the exact knife from the scene, Glasgow said.

Hussein also visited a hospital on June 7 with injuries on his hand. Hussein, of Blackheath, south-east London, has denied the murder charges and possessing a knife, according to British media reports.

The prosecution expects Hussein to claim that he was attacked by someone and that he is the victim of a conspiracy. PTI

European Union vows a firm response as Brexit tensions rise anew

BRUSSELS (TIP): Top European Union officials vowed on June 10 to use all measures available to ensure that the United Kingdom respects the terms of its Brexit agreement with the bloc as tensions rise over trade involving Northern Ireland.

"It is paramount to implement what we have decided. This is a question of rule of law," European Council President Charles Michel said.

"We will use all the tools we have in order to make sure that we defend our interests and to protect the integrity of the single market." In an effort to defuse the row, Michel and European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen are set to hold talks with UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson on the sidelines of a summit of the Group of Seven major powers in England.

The row centres on provisions of the Brexit deal that essentially created a regulatory border between Northern Ireland and the rest of the United Kingdom.

That angered many pro-British residents of the territory who reject anything that threatens their status as part of the UK.

The "Northern Ireland protocol" was designed to keep the peace there by ensuring that trade with the Republic of Ireland, an EU member country, continued to flow freely after Britain left the bloc.



The protocol requires Britain to check certain goods shipped to the region from elsewhere in the UK.

Earlier this year, Britain unilaterally delayed some of those inspections, saying it needed more time to put the right systems in place.

The EU threatened legal action over what it saw as a breach of Britain's international obligations. Now the UK government is considering further delays.

Von der Leyen told reporters that the EU has "shown flexibility, we will show flexibility, but the protocol and the

(Brexit) Withdrawal Agreement has to be implemented completely." She said the EU is "determined to do everything to keep peace and stability on the island of Ireland. It is important that there is deep respect for the protocol, that we protect it." Von der Leyen said the bloc would not hesitate to use remedies laid out in the Brexit agreement, including referring the dispute to an arbitration panel, which could hit the U.K. with financial sanctions, or by the EU imposing punitive tariffs on imports of goods from Britain. AP

French man gets 4-month prison sentence for slapping Macron

VALENCE (FRANCE) (TIP): A 28-year-old Frenchman who described himself as a right-wing or extreme-right "patriot" was sentenced to four months in prison on June 10 for slapping President Emmanuel Macron in the face.

Damien Tarel was also banned from ever holding public office in France and from owning weapons for five years over the swipe on Tuesday, which caught Macron's left cheek with an audible thwack as the French leader was greeting a crowd.

During Thursday's trial, Tarel testified that the attack was impulsive and unplanned, and prompted by anger at France's "decline".

He sat straight and showed no emotion as the court in the south-eastern city of Valence convicted him on a charge of violence against a person invested with public authority.

He was sentenced to four months in prison and handed an additional 14-month suspended sentence. His girlfriend broke down in tears.

Tarel, who shouted a centuries-old



royalist war cry as he hit the president, described himself as a right-wing or extreme-right "patriot" and member of the yellow vest economic protest movement that shook Macron's presidency in 2018 and 2019.

Poised and calm, he firmly defended his action and his views on Macron, without providing details of what policies he wants France to change.

Tarel acknowledged hitting the president with a "rather violent" slap. "When I saw his friendly, lying look, I felt disgust, and I had a violent reaction," he told the court. "It was an impulsive reaction... I was surprised myself by the

violence."

While he said he and his friends had considered bringing an egg or a cream pie to throw at the president, he said they dropped the idea — and insisted that the slap wasn't premeditated.

"I think that Emmanuel Macron represents the decline of our country," he said, without explaining what he meant. He told investigators that he held right- or ultra-right political convictions without being a member of a party or group, according to the prosecutor's office. The slap called attention to an assortment of ultra-right groups bubbling beneath France's political landscape, which are considered increasingly dangerous despite their small following. Macron wouldn't comment on Thursday on the trial, but insisted that "nothing justifies violence in a democratic society, ever".

"It's not such a big deal to get a slap when you go toward a crowd to say hello to some people who were waiting for a long time," he said in an interview with broadcaster BFM-TV. Reuters

CHINA PASSES NEW LAW TO COUNTER FOREIGN SANCTIONS AGAINST ITS OFFICIALS, ENTITIES

BEIJING (TIP): China's Parliament on June 10 passed the Anti-foreign Sanctions Law, providing a comprehensive legal cover for blocking foreign sanctions against Chinese officials and entities and protecting them against the long-arm jurisdiction, especially from the US.

The law was passed by the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress (NPC), China's national legislature.

The law was passed in the backdrop of the US and EU countries slapping sanctions against a number of Chinese entities and officials over allegations of human rights violations against Muslim Uyghurs in Xinjiang and the imposition of China's national security law in Hong Kong. The sanctions were introduced as a coordinated effort by the European Union, UK, US and Canada. China responded with its own sanctions on European officials.

For some time, out of political manipulation needs and ideological bias, some Western countries have used Xinjiang and Hong Kong-related issues as part of their pretexts to spread rumours on and smear, contain and suppress China, the office of the Legislative Affairs Commission of the NPC said.

Defending the law, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Wang Wenbin told a media briefing here on Thursday that to safeguard China's national sovereignty, dignity, and core interests and oppose western hegemonism and power politics, the Chinese government has announced counter measures against relevant individuals and entities of certain countries.

"Meanwhile, we believe it is necessary for the country to have specific laws to counter foreign sanctions so that we have legal basis and guarantee for such countermeasures," he said, ruling out that the law will affect China's relations with other countries.

China's legal experts say the Anti-foreign Sanctions Law, the first of its kind in China, will provide strong legal support and guarantees for the country against unilateral and discriminatory measures imposed by foreign countries.

The US government has been imposing sanctions on a growing number of Chinese entities such as high-tech firms Huawei and ZTE over the so-called national security risks, and sanctioned a number of senior Chinese officials under the United States Xinjiang and Hong Kong bills last year.

China has speeded up plans for an anti-sanctions law after US President Joe Biden dashed Beijing's hopes that he would adopt a softer policy stance towards Beijing in contrast to his predecessor Donald Trump's hardline push against the Communist giant, the Hong Kong based South Morning Post reported. PTI

High risk of autumn Covid surge in Europe

Covid-19 infections, hospitalisations and deaths are falling fast across Europe, but the risk of a deadly autumn resurgence remains high as societies open up and the more transmissible Delta variant advances, the World Health Organization (WHO) has said.

The warning came as new case numbers continued to plunge in most of the continent, falling in some areas to their lowest levels since August, and multiple governments, including France and Germany, relaxed restrictions further.

Urging people and governments to exercise "caution and common sense" over the summer, the WHO Europe's regional director, Hans Kluge, said on Thursday that community transmission was still widespread and would continue as travel and social gatherings increased.

"We've been here before," Kluge said. "Last summer, cases gradually rose in younger age groups, then moved into older age groups, leading to a devastating ... loss of life in the autumn and winter of 2020. Let's not make that mistake again."

Katy Smallwood, a senior emergency officer, said the Delta variant first detected in India was of particular concern. "It is not yet prevalent in the European region but in some countries has already displaced the dominant Alpha variant," she said.

Global Covid-19 caseload tops 174.7 mn

WASHINGTON (TIP): The overall global Covid-19 caseload has topped 174.7 million, while the deaths have surged to more than 3.76 million, according to the Johns Hopkins University.

In its latest update on Friday, June 11, morning, the University's Center for Systems Science and Engineering (CSSE) revealed that the current global caseload and death toll stood at 174,759,974 and 3,769,088, respectively.

The US continues to be the worst-hit country with the world's highest number of cases and deaths at 33,427,481 and 598,728, respectively, according to the CSSE.

In terms of infections, India follows in the second place with 29,183,121 cases.

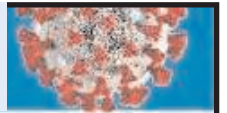
The other worst countries with over 3 million cases are Brazil (17,210,969), France (5,791,608), Turkey (5,313,098), Russia (5,108,217), the UK (4,558,926), Italy (4,239,868), Argentina (4,066,156), Spain (3,729,458), Germany (3,718,617) and Colombia (3,665,137), the CSSE figures showed.

In terms of deaths, Brazil comes second with 482,019 fatalities.

Nations with a death toll of over 100,000 are India (359,676), Mexico (229,580), the UK (128,131), Italy (126,855), Russia (123,178) and France (110,432).

The overall global Covid-19 caseload has topped 174.7 million, while the deaths have surged to more than 3.76 million

TRACKING THE VIRUS



GLOBAL

Cases | Deaths
174,759,974 | **3,769,088**

INDIA

Cases | Deaths
2,92,74,823 | **3,63,079**



WHO says 47 African countries could miss vax target

NAIROBI (TIP): Nine out of ten African countries could miss the target of vaccinating 10 per cent of their population against Covid-19 by September, dimming hopes of containing the pandemic in the continent, a World Health Organization (WHO) official said on Thursday, June 10.

Matshidiso Moeti, WHO regional director for Africa, said that nearly 90 per cent or 47 out of 54 African countries are off-track in terms of inoculating 10 per cent of their population against the virus in the next three months even as they grapple with surging infections, Xinhua reported.

"As we close in on five million cases and the third wave in Africa looms, many of our most vulnerable people remain dangerously exposed to COVID-19," Moeti said in a statement.

Statistics from African Center for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC) indicate the continent had acquired 54.9 million vaccine doses and administered 35.9 million as of June 7.

According to Africa CDC, the top five African countries that have led in COVID-19 vaccination include Morocco, Egypt, Nigeria, Ethiopia and South Africa.



Moeti said that Africa required 225 million doses to achieve the 10 percent vaccination target, adding that the continent is banking on donations and replenishing the COVAX facility to ramp up inoculation targeting high-risk groups.

According to WHO, 20 countries in Africa have used less than 50 percent of vaccine doses they received under the COVAX facility while 12 have more than 10 percent of AstraZeneca doses at risk of expiry by the end of August.

"We need to ensure that the vaccines that we have are not wasted because every dose is precious," said Moeti, adding that some African countries have registered success in vaccine roll-out amid sound planning. *Source: IANS*

FDA extends the shelf life of single-shot J&J vaccine

Johnson & Johnson said on Thursday the U.S. Food and Drug Administration has extended the shelf life of its single-shot COVID-19 vaccine from three months to four-and-a-half months, as millions of unused doses nationwide near expiration.

Safety concerns about J&J's shot and flagging demand for vaccinations have left close to half of the 21 million doses the company has produced for the United States sitting unused.

The health regulator's decision was based on data from ongoing studies, which demonstrated that the vaccine is stable at 4.5 months when refrigerated at temperatures of 36 to 46 degrees Fahrenheit (2 to 8 degrees Celsius), the drugmaker said.

Reuters reported on Monday that at least 13 lots of J&J shots have expiration dates of June 27 or earlier. It is not clear how many doses that reflects. J&J has another 100 million doses on hand but shipment timing is uncertain.

A top White House official on Tuesday urged state governors to work with the FDA to extend the shelf life of J&J's COVID-19 vaccine.

J&J said vaccine providers should visit its website to check expiration dates of vaccines currently available in the country. *Source: Reuters*



Pak cleric threatens Nobel Laureate Malala, arrested

PESHAWAR (TIP): A Muslim cleric in northwest Pakistan has been arrested under the anti-terrorism act for threatening Malala Yousafzai and instigating people to attack the Nobel Laureate for her recent comments on marriage, police said.

Mufti Sardar Ali Haqqani, a cleric in Marwat district of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province was arrested on Wednesday after the police raided his house, Dawn newspaper reported on Thursday, quoting Lakki Marwat District Police Office.

An FIR under the Anti-Terrorism Act was registered against him on the complaint of SHO Wasim Sajjad, it said.

According to the FIR, a video went viral on social media showing Mufti Sardar instigating people at a gathering in Peshawar to take the law into their own hands and attack Malala. He was armed when the incident took place, the report said.

"When Malala comes to Pakistan, I will be the first to attempt a suicide attack on her," the FIR quoted him as saying.

The complaint further said that the speech had threatened peace and incited lawlessness, according to the news report.

In an interview to the Vogue magazine in its latest edition, 23-year-old Yousafzai, an Oxford graduate and a Pakistani activist for girls education who miraculously survived a bullet to



the head from the militant Taliban in October 2012, revealed that she is not sure if she will ever marry.

"I still don't understand why people have to get married. If you want to have a person in your life, why do you have to sign marriage papers, why can't it just be a partnership?" she told the magazine.

Yousafzai's interview with Vogue has been circulating on the mainstream and social media.

Recently, her views on marriage also echoed in the provincial assembly with Opposition Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) lawmaker Sahibzada Sanaullah

demanding the government to probe whether she really made those remarks on marriage remarks as life partnership was not allowed in any religion and if she favoured it, then the stand was condemnable.

The PPP and Muttahida Majlis-i-Amal, an alliance of religious-political parties, also urged her family to clarify their position on the issue, the report said.

In February, a Pakistani Taliban militant, who had allegedly shot Yousafzai, had threatened her, saying that next time, "there would be no mistake." PTI

10 HALO Trust staff killed northern Afghanistan: Official

KABUL (TIP): Gunmen killed 10 people and wounded 14 others in an attack on the HALO Trust de-mining organisation in Afghanistan, an Afghan interior ministry official said on June 09.

Spokesman Tariq Arian blamed the Taliban for the Tuesday night attack on the group's camp in the Baghlan Markazi district of northern Baghlan province.

The Taliban immediately denied any connection to the attack, in response to an Associated Press query.

The HALO Trust Global Media Manager, Louise Vaughan, in response to the AP, said that 110 de-mining local personnel of the organisation were on camp after finishing their work on a minefield nearby when the "unknown armed group" opened fire at them.

The statement says that 16 of their personnel are wounded. Immediately the



controversy was not cleared.

The United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs called the attack "heinous" in a statement, adding that "aid workers and humanitarian organisations are protected under international humanitarian law." The United Nations has warned that the use of improvised explosive devices in the country is increasing, as conflicts become more urbanized and armed groups proliferate.

Afghanistan is one of several countries where large swathes of its territory are littered with bombs and land mines. Many were planted by

insurgents to target government military convoys. But civilian casualties are frequent.

The United Nations has repeatedly demanded both government forces and the Taliban take more precautions to protect civilians. In the first three months of this year, the U.N. mission in Afghanistan said that 1,783 civilians had been killed or wounded in Afghanistan, an increase of 29 per cent over the same period last year.

The HALO Trust is one of several de-mining organisations in Afghanistan that clear unexploded mines.

Meanwhile, Afghanistan's defence ministry in a statement says that an MI-17 helicopter has crashed, due to technical problems. The crash in the eastern Maidan Wardak province killed three crew members and wounded one.

But the Taliban in a separate statement claimed the downing of the helicopter in the Jaghatu district of Maidan Wardak as it was delivering help to the security forces on the battlefield. The defence ministry rejected the Taliban's claim. (AP)

PAKISTAN TO HOLD POK ELECTIONS ON JULY 25

ISLAMABAD (TIP): Pakistan-occupied Kashmir's top election official announced on June 10 to hold the general election for the Legislative Assembly on July 25, despite appeals to postpone the polls for two months due to the threat of resurgence of the Covid.

Last year, Pakistan conducted the Legislative Assembly election in Gilgit-Baltistan. India had slammed Pakistan for its decision to hold elections in Gilgit-Baltistan, saying any action to alter the status of the militarily-occupied region had no legal basis.

India has also clearly conveyed to Pakistan that the entire Union Territories of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh, including the areas of Gilgit and Baltistan, are an integral part of the country. Chief Election Commissioner Justice (retd) Abdul Rashid Sulehria said candidates could submit their nomination papers till June 21 and the final list would be released on July 3. The elections will be held to elect 45 representatives of the Legislative Assembly. — PTI

NEW GRAFT CASES AGAINST SUU KYI

YANGON (TIP): New corruption cases have been opened against Myanmar's deposed leader Aung San Suu Kyi and other former officials from her government, the state-run Global New Light of Myanmar said on June 10.

The cases are the latest of a series brought against elected leader Suu Kyi, 75, who was overthrown by the army on Feb. 1 in a coup.

The state newspaper quoted the Anti-Corruption Commission saying the accusations related to the misuse of land for the charitable Daw Khin Kyi Foundation, which she chaired, as well as earlier accusations of accepting money and gold. It said case files had been opened against Suu Kyi and several other officials. —Reuters

NEPAL PM OLI AGAIN EXPANDS CABINET



KATHMANDU (TIP): Nepal's embattled PM KP Sharma Oli on June 10 expanded his Cabinet for the second time in a week amid widespread criticism and the ongoing political crisis in the Himalayan nation. PTI

Tips to say goodbye to oily skin woes

The hot and humid summer weather can have a severe impact on the skin and even cause acne, blemishes, and tans. Additionally, the sweat also clogs the pores with impurities. While each skin type faces issues during this time of the year, it can get worse for those with oily skin.

Sebaceous glands produce sebum to keep the skin soft and moisturised. But when excess sebum is produced, it makes the skin feel oily and can also lead to acne and other problems. "Sebaceous glands mature with age, which leads to an increase in sebum production on the skin layer, and the higher the androgens present in the body, the more sebum is funnelled through the pores," said Dr Ajay Rana, dermatologist and aesthetic physician, and founder, and director of ILAMED.

Follow these skincare tips to treat oily skin during the humid weather:

- Cleanse your skin twice or thrice daily to get rid of all the dirt, pollution, and oil build-up which leads to clogged pores, acne, and other problems.
- Use serums to tackle different skin problems. Go for a hydrating serum to treat dehydrated skin; for brightening and anti-ageing effect, use a serum with brightening and anti-ageing properties.
- Exfoliate oily skin once or twice a week. Exfoliation rescues the production of excess sebum that leads to dead skin cells on the skin's surface,



- which results in pimples, acne, whiteheads, and blackheads.
- Oily skin needs regular moisturising and hydration. Extreme exposure to moisture encourages the sebaceous glands to produce more oil to compensate. Use an oil-free, non-comedogenic, water-based moisturiser regularly.
- Always use a primer while applying makeup. It aids in keeping sebum under control.
- Use an alcohol-free toner almost every day. It can help to eliminate excess oil and banish dirt from the skin.
- Apply a sheet mask or a peel mask once a week. Go for a face mask that contains charcoal or Moroccan clay. It keeps the skin calm and clear.
- Applying a good SPF sunscreen is the most important part of the oily skin care routine in this weather. Use a mineral-based sunscreen that contains zinc or titanium dioxide that absorbs oil from the skin.
- Never sleep with your makeup on. It can clog the pores and lead to other skin problems.
- Apply a face mask at least two or three times a week. A good face mask is one that contains Kaolin and Bentonite clay, sandalwood, multani mitti. These are considered best for oily skin as they gently absorb excess oil from the skin.

Source: Indian Express

Signs your job is ruining your relationship

You put work priorities ahead of your relationship

If you find yourself opting out of activities you would normally engage in with your spouse — such as going to a movie, visiting friends or just enjoying time together — you could be placing undue pressure on the relationship.

Your spouse has become your career therapist

If you find yourself constantly seeking advice from your spouse on your next 'move' at work, you could be hurting your marriage.

You have nothing to talk to them about except work

If you literally have nothing to talk about with your spouse other than work, then this is a bad sign. If you have trouble compartmentalising work and personal life, you likely will go into discussions about people and projects without even realising.

You arrive late to important -personal events

This can create a slow build-up of resentment from your spouse and create the impression you are choosing your work intentionally over your personal commitments.

Your partner clams up when you ask them about their day

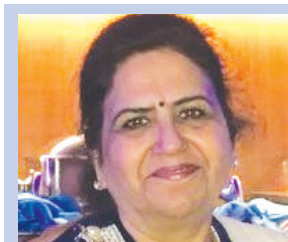
If your spouse feels that they're taking the brunt of your office worries, then they may withdraw and seem



unusually quiet, not wanting to add to the drama. "Or, they may feel that sharing their own struggles is futile, because the topic will ultimately bounce back to your office dilemmas.

You argue more with your spouse

If you are carrying home stress with you from the office, then you may become more irritable and end up taking it out on your partner in totally unrelated areas.



By Tript Arora

CONNOISSEUR'S CHOICE



Paneer Makhani

Paneer Makhani is a favorite dish of Indians. Paneer (Cottage Cheese) cooked in silky smooth sweet Buttery gravy made of onion, tomatoes, ginger garlic and cashew. It is served with roti, naan, paratha or any type of bread . Paneer Makhani is amongst the top five frequently ordered dishes in all hotels, restaurant and eating joints in India.



This restaurant style Paneer makhani is delicious and easy to cook . It can be made under 30 minutes from a scratch.No previous preparation is required. When you can't order from outside let us create the magic inside our home.

So what are we waiting for, let us get started with this super creamy Panner Makhani and enjoy our dinner tonight with this sumptuous Paneer Makhani.

We Need

200 gm Cottage Cheese, 2 medium onions, 4 Large Tomatoes, 1" Piece of Ginger, 8 Garlic Cloves, 12 pieces of Cashew, 2 Green Chillies, 2 Cloves, 2 Green Cardamoms, 1" Piece of Cinnamon, 4 Pepper Corns or Kaali mirchi whole. Or ¼ Tsp of Black pepper powder, 1 Tbsp of Kashmiri Red Chilli powder, ½ Tsp of Turmeric Powder, 1 Tbsp Coriander Powder, 1 Tbsp Kasoori Methi, 2 Tbsp Butter, 2 Tbsp Cooking Oil, 1 Tsp Sugar, 50 ml Cream, 1 Tsp Salt Or to taste.

Here We Go

- Chop onion & tomatoes in Long slices. Peel ginger and garlic and roughly chop them.
- Heat a pan. Add 1Tbsp butter & 1 Tbsp oil to it. When butter starts melting add Green Cardamoms and Cinnamon to the pan. Roast for 5 sec and add onions to the pan. Saute till translucent. Add ginger , green chillies and garlic and saute for 1 minute.
- Add Cashew and black peppercorn to the pan and roast a while. When Cashews are coated with oil, add chopped tomatoes to the pan. Also add salt, turmeric powder , coriander powder and Kashmiri red chilli powder.
- Saute till tomatoes are mushy and well cooked. Raw tomatoes spoil the taste of gravy. So always cook them well. Add 250ml or 1 cup of water and cook it covered on low flame for 10 to 12 minutes or till the water has fully evaporated.
- Let it cool and then grind it to a fine paste.
- Heat the pan and add oil and butter to the pan. Add ground paste to the pan and saute till the paste thickens and leaves some oil. Add water to adjust it's consistency. Add sugar. Cover it with a lid and further cook on low flame for ten minutes or till the gravy leaves oil.
- Add Paneer pieces to the gravy. Add cream . Mix gently so as not to break the cheese pieces. Crush kasoori methi in your palm and add to the paneer makhni. Mix well and switch off the flame.
- Serve hot with roti, parantha and zeera rice.
- Preparation Time : 10 min
- Cooking time : 20 minutes.

Pro Tips

- Always add oil before adding butter. This will prevent butter from burning.
- Add fresh raw paneer to the dish. Don't fry it.
- If you dry roast kasuri methi on tawa. It will enhance the taste and smell of kasuri methi.

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High caffeine consumption linked to increased risk of blinding eye disease: Study

You might want to keep a check on your daily intake of caffeine as a new study has found that consuming large amounts of daily caffeine may increase the risk of glaucoma more than three-fold for those with a genetic predisposition to higher eye pressure.

The findings of the study were published in the journal 'Ophthalmology'.

The research led by the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai is the first to demonstrate a dietary - genetic interaction in glaucoma. The study results may suggest patients with a strong family history of glaucoma should cut down on caffeine intake.

The study is important because glaucoma is the leading cause of blindness in the United States. It looks at the impact of caffeine intake on glaucoma, and intraocular pressure (IOP) which is pressure inside the eye.

Elevated IOP is an integral risk factor for glaucoma, although other factors do contribute to this condition. With glaucoma, patients typically experience few or no symptoms until the disease progresses, and they have vision loss.

"We previously published work suggesting that high caffeine intake



increased the risk of the high-tension open angle glaucoma among people with a family history of disease. In this study we show that an adverse relation between high caffeine intake and glaucoma was evident only among those with the highest genetic risk score for elevated eye pressure," said lead/corresponding author Louis R. Pasquale, MD, FARVO, Deputy Chair for Ophthalmology Research for the Mount Sinai Health System.

A team of researchers used the UK Biobank, a large-scale population-based biomedical database supported by various health and governmental agencies. They

analysed records of more than 120,000 participants between 2006 and 2010. Participants were between 39 and 73 years old and provided their health records along with DNA samples, collected to generate data.

They answered repeated dietary questionnaires focusing on how many caffeinated beverages they drink daily, how much caffeine-containing food they eat, the specific types, and portion size. They also answered questions about their vision, including specifics on if they have glaucoma or a family history of glaucoma. Three years into the study later they had their IOP checked and eye measurements.



No health worries for kids born to mothers given seasonal flu vaccine: Study

A population-based study, published in the Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA), has found flu vaccination during pregnancy does not lead to an increased risk of adverse early childhood health outcomes.

Although pregnant people are not more susceptible to acquiring influenza infection, they are at an increased risk of severe illness and complications if they get the flu during pregnancy.

For this reason, all pregnant people are advised to receive a flu shot each year, yet only 36 per cent received it according to a study monitoring four flu seasons in Nova Scotia. Safety concerns are reportedly a leading reason people may not receive influenza vaccination in pregnancy.

Dr Deshayne Fell, an Associate Professor of Epidemiology in the Faculty of Medicine at the University of Ottawa and a Scientist at the CHEO Research Institute, a paediatric healthcare and research centre, led the study along with researchers in Ontario and at Dalhousie University in Nova Scotia. The study followed over 28,000 children from birth up to an average age of 3.5 years, with the results suggesting that maternal influenza vaccination during pregnancy was not associated with:

- Immune-related health conditions, such as asthma, ear infections or other types of infection.
- Non-immune-related health problems like neoplasms, sensory impairment.
- Nonspecific health needs such as Emergency Department visits and hospitalizations did not increase.

"This study adds to what we know from other recent studies showing no harmful effects of flu vaccination during pregnancy on the longer-term health of children," says Dr Fell, whose other recent work includes studying the effectiveness and safety of Covid-19 vaccines during pregnancy.

She added, "This is important because we know that getting the flu shot during pregnancy not only protects the pregnant person but has the added bonus of protecting newborn babies from getting the flu during their first few months of life, which is when they are most susceptible to respiratory infections but still too young to get the flu shot themselves."

Study observes why overweight people shouldn't consume alcohol

A recent study led by the University of Sydney's Charles Perkins Centre observed medical data from nearly half a million people and found that people who are obese and overweight worsens liver-damaging effects of alcohol.

"People in the overweight or obese range who drank were found to be at greater risk of liver diseases compared with participants within a healthy weight range who consumed alcohol at the same level," said senior author and research program director Professor Emmanuel Stamatakis from the Charles Perkins Centre and the Faculty of Medicine and Health.

"Even for people who drank within alcohol guidelines, participants classified as obese were at over 50 per cent greater risk of liver disease."

The researchers drew upon data from the UK Biobank - a large-scale biomedical cohort study containing in-depth biological, behavioural, and health information from participants in the United Kingdom (UK).

According to the researchers, this is one of the first and largest studies looking at increased adiposity (overweight or obesity) and level of alcohol consumption together, in relation to future liver disease.

Information was examined from 465,437 people aged 40 to 69 years, with medical and health details collected over an average of 10.5 years.

The findings were published in the European



Journal of Clinical Nutrition.

Lead author Dr Elif Inan-Eroglu, a postdoctoral research fellow with the Charles Perkins Centre, said the results suggest people carrying excess weight may need to be more aware of risks around alcohol consumption.

"With the most recent data suggesting two in three people - or 67 percent of the Australian population are in the overweight or obesity range, this is obviously a very topical issue." *Source: ANI*

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Mumbai innovator develops 3 robots to assist healthcare workers, patients

A Mumbai-based innovator Santosh Hulawale has developed three robots to assist healthcare workers and patients amid the ongoing pandemic.

Santosh, with the help of his eight-member team, has developed a Multiple Service Robot (MSR), a Service Humanoid Robot (SHR), and a Disaster Management robot (DMR).

According to the innovator, the robots have been developed completely in India.

Santosh claimed that the MSR can be custom pre-programmed for any kind of health facility.

"If we want the robot to deliver a particular type of food or medicine to particular patients, we can feed the same in its program. In fact, the robot does not need human intervention," he said.

Regarding the SHR, he said, "Basically, it is a humanoid robot, which can be used to give a more human-like experience to the patients. Apart from delivering food, water and medicines it can interact with patients not only vocally but also physically. The robot can dance, shake hands, give a high-five, wave goodbye and can help in entertaining the people in quarantine."

The DMR can carry a weight of up to 200 kgs.

"It can also carry patients from ambulances to the hospitals or quarantine centres and back, and those with physical disabilities to the restroom and back," Santosh said.

Santosh has been working in the field of robotics for the last 20 years. "I have designed 48 robots and have developed 18 such robots," he said.

Source: ANI

WhatsApp might soon allow users to verify log-in with new 'Flash Calls' feature

It has recently come to light that WhatsApp is working on a 'Flash Call' feature that will verify user log-in on WhatsApp via a 'flash call' instead of the usual 6-digit verification code. This will let users log in to their WhatsApp account quickly and safely.

According to Mashable, new reports state that WhatsApp is working on a new feature in the WhatsApp beta for the Android 2.21.11.7 update. This feature will be available in a future update and is currently under development.

The 'flash calls' feature, however, will not be implemented on WhatsApp for iOS as Apple does not offer any public API to read the call history.

The feature will act as an alternative to the regular 6-digit code that is sent to users on their phone for verification. As part of this automatic call verification method, WhatsApp will call the user's phone number and then automatically end the call.

The last phone number in the phone's log is equal to the number that gives the 6-digit code, helping WhatsApp verify the user's identity. Given that this phone number is always unique, hackers will not be able to trick users, making it a safer alternative.

The report stated that WhatsApp will need the user's permission to manage calls and access to your phone's call log to enable the feature. Keep in mind that the 'flash call' feature is optional, so users can continue logging into WhatsApp via the 6-digit code received via SMS or call.

Also, as per Mashable, WhatsApp will not use user call history for any other purposes and will only check the last entry, i.e. WhatsApp's automatic call, from the user's call history. Source: ANI



'Mind' app in watchOS 8 to offer mental health help

With an aim to offer mental health support, Apple is likely to introduce a "Mind" app during its WWDC keynote address.

Found by developer Khaos Tian and posted to Twitter, an image showing an App Store profile lists several bundle identifiers, largely associated with watchOS 8. Among the list are some items that may hint at what could be arriving at the Apple Watch very soon. The key finding in the list is "com.apple.Mind," which is a new addition as there are no apps from Apple bearing the title. It is plausible that Mind could be a new app included within watchOS 8, which could provide some form of mental health-related functionality, the report said.



NASA's Juno sends 1st images of Jupiter's largest moon

After flying closer to Jupiter's largest moon than any other in more than two decades, NASA's Juno spacecraft has sent back two images offering dramatic glimpses of the icy orb.

During the flyby on June 7, Juno came within 645 miles (1,038 kilometres) of the surface of Jupiter's largest moon Ganymede and took two images from the Jupiter orbiter's JunoCam imager and from its Stellar Reference Unit star camera.

The photos show the surface of Ganymede in remarkable detail, including craters, clearly distinct dark and bright terrain, and long structural features possibly linked to tectonic faults.

"This is the closest any spacecraft has come to this mammoth moon in a generation," said Juno Principal Investigator Scott Bolton of the Southwest Research Institute in San Antonio, in a statement.

"We are going to take our time before



we draw any scientific conclusions, but until then we can simply marvel at this celestial wonder," he added.

SpaceX's Starlink wants to provide your in-flight WiFi

There's no faster way to win the hearts and minds of the people than by bringing them fast, reliable internet on an airplane. Elon Musk knows this, and that's maybe why his space company, SpaceX, is reportedly in talks with "several" airlines in a bid to provide their crafts with WiFi via the company's growing internet satellite network, Starlink.

On Wednesday, June 9, Jonathan Hofeller — SpaceX's VP of Starlink and commercial sales — told a panel at the Connected Aviation Intelligence Summit that the company is forging ahead with its plans to shift its satellite-linked broadband network from servicing predominantly rural homes to more commercial interests by the end of 2021.

"We're in talks with several of the airlines," Hofeller told the panel. "We have our own aviation product in development ... we've already done some demonstrations to date, and looking to get that product finalized to be put on



aircraft in the very near future."

SpaceX began a beta rollout of its Starlink satellites in 2018 in order to cover a global dearth of broadband internet connections, particularly in rural areas where fiber connections generally aren't readily available. Under the beta plan, most Starlink customers pay a one-time fee of \$499 for a bundle that includes a self-aligning Starlink dish and Wi-Fi router, and then \$99 per month for monthly internet services after that.

Google Meet rolls out video backgrounds on web

After default and custom wallpapers, Google Meet is now rolling out support for video backgrounds that are first coming to the web this month and then to mobile "in the coming months".

This capability was first announced with the revamped Google Meet web UI that's now widely rolled out, 9To5Google reported.

In addition to static backgrounds, you can now select videos—custom backgrounds can help you show more of your personality, as well help hide your surroundings to maintain privacy.

With the option of replacing your background with video, we hope this makes your video calls more fun.

There are three options at launch—a classroom, party and forest. The company said that more Meet video backgrounds are coming.

In terms of availability, it will first launch on the web starting June 7.

From June 30, both video and image backgrounds will require at least version 87 (released in November 2020) of Google Chrome.

Source: IANS



Tata Digital to acquire majority stake in 1MG

Tata Digital Ltd, a wholly-owned arm of Tata Sons, on Thursday said it will acquire a majority stake in 1MG Technologies Ltd, an online healthcare marketplace.

The company, however, did not disclose the financial details of the transaction.

Just days after the company said it will invest USD 75 million (around Rs 550 crore) in fitness-focused Curefit Healthcare for an undisclosed stake, Tata Digital said its investment in 1MG is in line with Tata Group's vision of creating a digital ecosystem which addresses the consumer needs across categories in a unified manner.

Tata Digital said e-pharmacy, e-diagnostics and tele-consultation are critical segments in this ecosystem and have been among the fastest growing segments in this space, as this sector enabled access to healthcare through the pandemic.

BharatPe acquires Payback India

Merchant payment and lending service provider BharatPe on Thursday, June 10, said it has acquired Payback India from American Express and ICICI Investments Strategic Fund.

The company, however, did not disclose the financial details of the transaction.

This is the first-ever acquisition by BharatPe and will make Payback India a wholly-owned subsidiary of BharatPe, a statement said.

Payback India – launched in 2010 – is a multi-brand loyalty programme with over 100 million members in the country. It has a network of more than 100 offline and online partners and allows its customers to earn and redeem points on every transaction at its partner merchant outlets.

The acquisition of Payback India is in line with BharatPe's strategy to build a robust and engaged network of over 20 million small merchants by 2023, the statement said.

With Payback India, BharatPe will be able to enhance its value proposition for the merchant partners, it added.

Additionally, it will enable BharatPe to build a lucrative set of offerings for end customers, that will enhance footfalls at merchants and accelerate the growth of their businesses.

After El Salvador, India may move to classify Bitcoin as an asset class

BENGALURU (TIP): After El Salvador's historic move to adopt Bitcoin as legal tender (rendering it full currency status), things are looking brighter back home in India for crypto-enthusiasts.

Top sources tracking the industry told this publication that the government has moved away from its earlier hostile stance towards virtual currencies and will most likely classify Bitcoin as an asset class in India soon.

Market regulator Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) will oversee regulations for the cryptocurrency sector after Bitcoin's classification as an asset class, sources added.

India's crypto industry is also in talks with the finance ministry regarding the formulation of a new set of regulations and industry sources point out that an expert panel at the ministry is studying the matter. A Cryptocurrency Regulation bill is likely to be tabled in the Parliament during the Monsoon session, the added.

The development comes days after the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), in a circular, directed banks to stop avoiding transactions involving virtual tokens citing its earlier 2018 circular, since it had been quashed by the Supreme Court.

RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das, however, reiterated that there were still major concerns that have been communicated to the government on digital currencies. "We can definitely say that the new committee which is working on cryptocurrencies is very optimistic on cryptocurrency regulation and legislation... A new draft proposal will soon be in the Cabinet, which will look into the overall scenario and take the best step forward. We are very hopeful that the



government will embrace cryptocurrencies and blockchain technologies," Ketan Surana, Director and chief financial officer, Coinsbit, and Member, Internet and Mobile Association of India said. A white paper by Indiatech.org suggests that India's adoption of Bitcoin as an alternative asset class is more realistic. Due to the volatile nature of digital currencies (prices fluctuate widely on a daily basis), it pointed, they cannot be regularly used as a payment instrument. The paper also recommended taxing investments in cryptocurrencies, making them subject to the capital gains tax under the Income Tax Act.

Hitesh Malviya, blockchain and crypto investment expert, said, "In my opinion, the Indian government will explore a way to regularise Bitcoin. I don't think India will consider accepting Bitcoin as a legal tender in the near future because it will affect the position of the Indian rupee. Accepting bitcoin as a legal tender is a good idea for those nations who don't have their own currency or are dependent on the US dollar".

Source: Express News Service

Govt to auction major ONGC, OIL gas fields

The government has decided to auction unmonetized oil and gas fields of state-run Oil and Natural Gas Corp. (ONGC) and Oil India Ltd (OIL) to raise hydrocarbon production and improve energy security.

Speaking at the launch of the third bidding round of discovered small fields (DSF), petroleum and natural gas minister Dharmendra Pradhan on Thursday said, "There will be no DSF next time. Next time, it will be a 'major' round."

The National Democratic Alliance government introduced the DSF policy by leveraging the small fields of ONGC and OIL.

Pradhan said companies that have been awarded hydrocarbon blocks can't indefinitely sit on discovered resources, and asked the director general of hydrocarbons and oil ministry officials "to devise innovative ways for early resource monetization, including expediting production timelines under DSF I & II".

'Pandemic curbs hit labour market; jobless rate at 13%

NEW DELHI (TIP): The labour market is in its worst condition since the nationwide lockdown months of April and May 2020, the Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy said in a report. As per CMIE data, the unemployment rate that reached 11.9 per cent in May, continued to rise into early June.

The 30-day moving average unemployment rate, as of June 6, was 13 per cent.

Separately, in the Consumer Pyramids Households Survey released by CMIE for January-April 2021, it noted that office workers have been relatively safer than non-office workers during the pandemic, while the agricultural sector is overheated.

The non-office workers' employment rose to 36 million during January-April after falling to 32 million (September-December 2020) and 31 million (May-August 2020) from 41 million (January-April 2020). Agricultural sector's employment stood at 153 million each in January-April and September-December 2020, and at 157 million in May-August 2020, much higher than 144 million level seen a year ago in January-April 2020.

Consumption demand, picked up in September-December 2020, but then dropped again in January-April 2021, with demand for heavy appliances the worst hit.

Last four weeks have seen a particularly sharp deterioration in labour market conditions. "The downturn began in the week ended May 16. During this week, the labour participation rate was at 40.5 per cent, which was higher by a whisker than the average 40.4 per cent rate around which this ratio has been hovering for several months since the 2020 lockdown," CMIE's CEO Mahesh Vyas said in the report.



World Bank slashes growth forecast to 8.3%

NEW DELHI (TIP): The World Bank has slashed its FY22 growth forecast for India to 8.3% from the 10.1% pace it estimated in April, as an economic rebound in the early part of this year collapsed amid a devastating resurgence of coronavirus infections in Asia's third-largest economy.

"In India, the second Covid-19 wave is undermining the sharper-than-expected rebound in activity seen during the second half of FY2020/21, especially in services. With surging cases, foot traffic around work and retail spaces has again slowed to more than one-third below pre-pandemic levels since March, in part due to greater restrictions on mobility," World Bank said in its latest Global Economic Prospects report.

Economic activity in FY22 will benefit from policy support, including higher spending on infrastructure, rural development, and health, and a stronger-than-expected recovery in services and manufacturing, the World Bank said. "Activity is expected to follow the same, yet less pronounced. The pandemic will undermine consumption and investment as confidence remains depressed and balance sheets damaged. Growth in FY2022/23 is expected to slow to 7.5% reflecting lingering impacts on households, corporate and bank balance sheets; possibly low levels of consumer confidence; and heightened uncertainty on job and income prospects," it added.



Shree Ganeshaya Namah



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**WEEKLY HOROSCOPE
June 14-20, 2021**

Aries

Ganesha says this is the week of recovery for you. You need to focus on your health, happiness and career this week. You have been slacking off because you have been sick recently but this week you're doing great. You will have to work as hard as you can this week but make sure you're not stressing out about working as it will only hinder your productivity during the week. Live a balanced lifestyle, sleep well and help your fellow colleagues this week.

Taurus

You are likely to follow your passion this week which might make a lot of people angry and upset from you. Make sure you think a thousand times before you make a decision this week because you will be walking alone on this path. You have to understand the tactics of not getting into confrontations and arguments with you family members that do not lead anywhere this week. Try to stay as isolated as you can this week.

Gemini

You have been the number one support system of your family since a long time and this week won't be any different. You need to focus on how you will have to make some time for your partner and self-improvement while also fulfilling the responsibilities you have towards your family. Your goal this week should be to make as many family members independent as you can so you can work on yourself.

Cancer

You'll feel a vague restlessness that will move you to consider new career options this week. You won't be tempted to chuck it all away, but you'll definitely want to make a move of some kind in a completely different direction. Your business will work out great for you this week. You will take a lot of pride in your decisions and hard work. Your loved ones will shower you with praises and appreciation for all that you have done to get to this point.

Leo

Luck is not on your side this week when it comes to your finances hence taking any decisions this week won't turn out to be lucrative. Nothing significantly negative will happen if you lay low and don't make important decisions. You will feel hurt throughout the week from your loved ones selfish behavior towards you. Indulge yourself in physical activities, as much as you can this week as it seems that laziness will overpower you in many situations this week.

Virgo

Your health will keep bothering you this week and will leave you with little to no amount of energy. You have a lot of work to do this week, but you won't feel like even getting out of bed. Don't allow stress or tension to influence your health and life. Seasonal allergies or an infection like cold will keep on affecting you this week. But, there is no need to worry much regarding your health. This is the week for change hence it will feel highly uncomfortable to you.

Libra

A tough week discussing difficult topics with your loved one will turn out to be very fruitful and productive for as you will be at a whole new level of trust and understanding with each other. You will also come to the realization that you and your partner are very alike hence making you both very compatible. You will have to make some really tough decisions regarding your work this week.

Scorpio

While you're at a new high due to your success in your work this week, your health will quickly take that away from you making you feel drained after minor activities and demanding that you rest. Your long hours spent at work won't be appreciated by your partner as well. You need to handle your work with care.

Sagittarius

You may be attracting partners this week who are more concerned with freedom than with pairing, or who seem to be quite extravagant. Make sure that these partners are actually useful to your company before making a decision. Your mind will be at its creative best this week. New ideas, opportunities, solutions developed by you will be appreciated at your work place this week.

Capricorn

Due to your unstable working routine this week, you will feel deprived of energy and stamina. Keep your diet rich with nutrition and proteins to improve your stamina. You might feel vulnerable in a negative way in your relationship in the beginning of the week but you'll soon realize that this was for the best as your relationship has been stuck at the same stage since a while now and it will move forward this week.

Aquarius

You will achieve a lot of compliments from your coworkers as you have been the best team mate this week. You will be in the pink of your health as well this week. You will enjoy the company of people around you. Your good health and great energy level will make you popular at workplace and a center of attraction everywhere throughout the week.

Pisces

Promotion and salary increments are on your card this week. Your business will get profitable offers for new ventures and projects. Your colleagues and partners will be very cooperative and help you in your quest for success this week. You will experience a positive shift in your finances which will light up your entire week. This success will be well earned by you. Hence, enjoy to the fullest this week.

BIRTHDAY HOROSCOPE (JUNE 14-20, 2021)

By Astro Friend Chirag - Blessed Son of Astrologer Bejan Daruwalla

CONTD FROM PAGE 30

JUNE 14

Ganesha says you will have a great celebration today. You will have a fun time doing what you usually do. You need to focus on the good in your life today if you want to enjoy your life to the fullest. You must take care of your family and not forget all your responsibilities today.

JUNE 15

You would want to elope with your partner on a road trip today, but you won't be able to come with a plausible excuse to your family to get out of social events. You will be frustrated today because of being forced into attending social events that you absolutely dislike. Take care of the language you use today and try not to be too rude.

JUNE 16

A wonderful day ahead for you today. You must

focus on your life and how you're able to move ahead in your life with everything that has been recently going on. You often have the habit of undermining yourself and not giving yourself enough credit for working hard and not giving up despite the obstacles and the challenges that you face in your daily life.

JUNE 17

You must focus on your life instead of trying to keep other people happy, as you might face the same mistake again. You need to stop living life so casually and spend your time introspecting yourself and knowing what you want. Make yourself a priority today instead of socializing for other people's happiness.

JUNE 18

Today is a great day for new beginnings for you. You will have to go through the day figuring out a new venture that you have been passionate about and planning since a long time now but you need some courage to forth ahead in life. You will have the best

time if you take the leap of faith today. Luck is definitely in your favor today.

JUNE 19

You should start the habit of writing a gratitude journal from today itself. Today is a day of reflection for you and you should take care of your future and plan it out today itself. Your gratitude journal will help you find out your passion today. Enjoy each moment of your day today.

JUNE 20

Your love life today is better than it's ever been. You will spend the day feeling content and grateful. Things where you were stuck at before will start clearing up. You will realize how fulfilling and beautiful today was for you as the day goes on. You will experience love in abundance today.

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Ashta Vinayaka: Eight forms of Lord Ganesha



Ashta Vinayaka means "Eight Ganeshas" in Sanskrit. Ashtavinayaka is the eight forms of Lord Ganesh, the Hindu god of prosperity and he is often regarded as one who removes obstacles. Lord Ganesha is one of the most worshipped Hindu gods. Son of Shiva and Parvati, Ganesha is an elephant-faced God who is believed to be the carrier of good luck and is worshipped before every new beginning by devotees. The ritual of worshipping Lord Ganesha before every important event is called Ganesh Vandana. Lord Ganesha has many names and we bring to you some of them and their meanings:

Vakratunda

Ganesha's first avatara is of Vakratunda (twisted trunk) an embodiment of the Absolute Impersonal aspect of Godhood called Brahman in the form of Ganesha. A demon named Matsara was born out of the Pramaada (Heedlessness) of Indra, the king of Gods. This demon performed severe penance and invoked the grace of Lord Shiva and obtained the boon of fearlessness from Him.

Having obtained the boon he went about conquering all the three worlds," He was coronated as the king of Asuras by their preceptor Sukracharya. The defeated gods went to Kailasa and prayed to Lord Shiva for protection. On hearing the mission of gods, Matsara went to Kailas and vanquished Lord Shiva also. When the gods were at their wit's end to know what to do next. Lord Dattatreya came there. He advised the gods to invoke the grace of Lord Vakratunda and imparted to them the secret of the monosyllable mantra Gam. All the gods including Shiva did penance accordingly and at last Lord Vakratunda appeared and assured them that he would subdue the demon. The demon was so terrified at the sight of Vakratunda that he surrendered to Him and sought refuge at His feet. The Lord forgave him, and restored the lost glory and kingdoms to the gods, and to the various kings on earth.

Ekadanta

The next incarnation was in the form of Ekadanta (single tusked) who defeated the demon Madasura. The famous sage Chyavana created Madasura. The Asura sought his father's permission and went to Sukracharya, who was Chyavana's brother as well as the preceptor of the Asuras. He prostrated to the Guru and expressed his desire to become the ruler of the whole universe. Sukracharya was pleased with his nephew's submission and initiated him into the Shakti Mantra Hrim. Madasura did penance on this mantra for thousands of years. At last the deity of Shakti, appeared, before him and blessed him with the fulfillment of all his desires. Thereafter the demon went about raging battles against all the kings and the gods, and was victorious everywhere. He thus became the ruler of all the three worlds. In his reign, all virtues and righteousness disappeared from the world. He married Saalasa the daughter of Pramada Asura and begot three children in her, viz. Vilasi, Lolupa and Dhanapriya. The worried gods approached Sanat Kumara and sought his advice to overcome their plight Sanat Kumara instructed them to propitiate Lord Ekadanta and seek his protection.

Mahodara

The third incarnation was of Mahodara who vanquished Mohasura, the demon of Delusion and Confusion. Once again the mouse was the mount of Ganesha. The confused nature of this tale makes it difficult to understand exactly what was going on. It seems that once Shiva was sunk in meditation for ages and showing no signs of coming out of it. Meanwhile, the gods were in need of help. Parvati therefore assumed an alluring form and wandered round his meditating spot. Shiva was brought back to normal wakeful consciousness by this act and she abandoned the alluring 'cover' so as to speak. This abandoned energy form became a demon in its own right over the ages and Ganesha subdued it.

Gajanana

Equally perplexing in the tangled web of intergenerational sexuality is the next tale, of the avatar of Gajanana or Gajavakra who defeated the demon Lobhasura (Greed or Covetousness). Gajanana means "the Lord with an elephant face", and Lobha was the demon of greed. Kubera, the Treasurer of the heavens, once visited Kailasa, the abode of Lord Shiva. There he was blessed with the vision of the Lord and Goddess Parvati. Parvati was so beautiful that Kubera looked at Her with lustful

eyes. The Mother became angry at this, and Kubera shivered with fear. From the fear of Kubera, there manifested a demon named Lobhasura. Lobhasura descended to the world of Asuras, where he received his education from Sukracharya, the guru of Asuras.

Lambhodara

Once upon a time Lord Vishnu had assumed the form of Mohini, the enchantress, to delude the demons. When Lord Shiva beheld this seductive form. He was struck with passion. Vishnu immediately gave up the Mohini form and assumed His usual form. Shiva became sad and angry. Out of the seeds of His disappointment was born a terrible demon Krodhasura. This demon invoked the grace of the Lord Sun and became a powerful king. He married "Preeti" the beautiful daughter of Sambara and begot two sons in her— Harsha and Soka. The gods undertook penance to invoke the grace of Lord Ganesha in the form of Lambodara. The Lord appeared before them and for the sake of the world, subdued Krodhasura.

Vikata

His next incarnation was of Vikata ("The mishappen"), who subdued Kama, the demon of desire. The demon named Kamasura, i.e. the embodiment of lust, was born out of the seeds of Lord Vishnu. Like all other demons he was accepted by the preceptor Sukracharya as his disciple. Kamasura performed penance on Lord Shiva and after long and arduous austerities he was blessed by the Lord. He became the supreme ruler of the three worlds. He was ceremoniously married to Trishna, the daughter of Mahishasura, and begot two sons in her, viz. Soshana and Dushpoora. The Devas, tormented by his rule, approached Mudgala Rishi for showing them a way out. The teacher advised them to meditate on the mantra OM at a place called Mayuresa Kshetra. Pleased by their devotion. Lord Ganesha appeared to them in the form of Vikata, and brought about their salvation.

Vighnaraja

The 7th incarnation of Ganesha Vighnaraja had a very unusual mode of conveyance - a Sheshnaag or Shasha. In this lifetime Ganesha managed to subdue the demon Mamasur (also known as Mamtasur or Mama), the demon of the ego. This is His (Ganesha's) most popular incarnation, known as The Remover of Obstacles. Riding his vehicle called Sheshnag, a serpent, he strode into battle with Mamtasur, and overcame him." Parvati Devi, the daughter of Himavan, was married to Lord Shiva.

After the marriage, one day when She was relaxing in the company of Her friends. She burst out in laughter in a playful mood, and out of Her laughter was born a handsome male form He prostrated to the Mother She was surprised at this manifestation of the form and asked him

who he was and what he wanted. He said that he was born from Her laughter and asked Her as to how he could serve Her. She named him Mama, as he was born out of her outburst, when She was swayed by "Maan", the sense of I-ness, Ego. She then instructed him to remember Lord Ganesha always, who would fulfill all his desires.

Dhoomravarna

Ganesha has a mouse as his mount here. His life mission this time around was to defeat the demon Ahamkarasur, the demon of self-infatuation. Once, Brahmaji, the grandsire, bestowed on the Sun deity, the lordship over the 'world of activities'. One day, a thought dawned in the mind of Sun: "All the worlds are governed by Karma—activities; and by virtue of my being the Lord of Karma Rajya, I can consider myself to be the supreme governor of all the worlds. As this thought passed his mind, he happened to sneeze and out of the sneeze there arose a demon. He went down to the world of Asuras and Sukracharya gave him the name "Aham" on account of his birth from the ego of Sun. He meditated on Lord Ganesha, who appeared before him in the form of Dhoomravarna and blessed him to be the sovereign ruler of all the three worlds. Aham married "Mamata", daughter of Pramadasura, and begot two sons in her named Garva and Sreshtha. Tired of the demonic rule of Aham, the Devas meditated upon Lord Ganesha for salvation, and the Lord descended to their rescue- Ere long, Lord Ganesha in the form of Dhoomravarna subdued the demon Aham.

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LEH PALACE

Quite an impressive replica of Lhasa's Potala Palace, the Leh Palace is a major attraction in Leh. A nine storey structure in dun colour, it was the erstwhile home to the royals of Ladakh, built at the behest of King Sengge Namgyal in the 17th century. The Leh Palace rises up against the backdrop of the lofty Himalayas, looking more like a painter's muse. Built mostly of mud, rocks and wood, it is grand in its simplicity. The palace also houses a rich collection of traditional dresses and crowns, thanka paintings and some impressive traditional ornaments. The best part about Leh Palace is its terrace for you can pore over Leh, Stok Kangri and the Zaskar range from it. This one cannot be missed for it looms high in the skyline of Leh, standing guard over this Himalayan kingdom.

STOK PALACE

Stok Palace is the less majestic yet more famous of the palaces in Ladakh. At some 14 km from Leh, it was the once summer palace of Ladakh's royal family. Built over 200 years ago, Stok Palace houses some rare ancient paintings of Buddhist deities Shakyamuni, Avalokiteshwara, Vajrapani, Tara, Amchi etc. The palace museum also houses some 100 plus volumes of Buddhist teachings and a giant statue of Avalokiteshwara. Some interesting artifacts like the jewel-studded crown of Ladakh's erstwhile queen are also housed in the palace. The palace also has a cafe on its terrace and some rooms open for visitors. Prior booking has to be made in case you wish to stay here. Stok Palace is a major pit-stop if you are eager to hit some impressive treks in the Himalayas around.

PANGONG TSO

While no words can be apt enough to describe Pangong Tso, words like 'magic' and 'surreal' can be put to good use here. This astonishing, blue-water body at 14,270 ft is guarded by looming mountains. One of the most stunning lakes of the world, Pangong Tso covers 134 km and touches India and Tibet. Also important as a major wetland, it sees flocks of migratory birds in summers. Visiting it in winters is, of course, an out of this world experience for it is completely frozen at that time. The lake lies in the Changthang region of Ladakh at some 170 km from Leh, and has just one cemented stay facility nearby. Foreign nationals need Inner Line Permit to visit the lake; thus it's advisable to check for visitor's guidelines beforehand.

Ladakh: The land of high passes



LAMAYURU MONASTERY

Lamayuru, fondly referred to as the Moon Land, is a major stopover on the Leh-Kargil Road. Hidden in the folds of the mountains of this mystical land is the Lamayuru Monastery. One of the oldest gompas in Ladakh and Spiti, this monastery is perched atop a cliff. Going by the legends, this region was once under a lake that was made to dry up by a holy man. The main sanctum of the monastery has a cave where Mahasiddha Naropa meditated for years. The entire region is considered sacred owing to the monastery's presence and a visit is believed to liberate people from all their sins. Other than its religious significance, the place looks like a picture postcard that has turned real.

TSEMO FORT

This fort cum monastery stands guard over the city of Leh and is a major landmark, visible from everywhere in the city. Built by King Tashi Namgyal, it sees elaborate Buddhist ceremonies in morning and evening. Take the trail leading to the monastery from Leh to witness the interesting rituals. It also houses a three-storey tall statue of Maitreya Buddha, its face made out of solid gold. Also a vantage point for photographers, its terrace gives a bird's eye view of the whole city. Visit it early in the morning to escape the scorching heat, witness the rituals as well as click great shots in the almost golden light that lights it up.

STOK KANGRI

Stok Kangri is the highest mountain peak in the Stok range of the Himalayas. At 20,500 ft, it is also the highest trekkable summit in India. It has always been a great lure for trekkers from all over the world and is quite popular since it requires relatively less trekking skills. Ideally done between 6-10 days, it is one of the must have Ladakh experiences. You need to be properly acclimatised to the high altitude conditions before attempting this one. It is advisable to make a summit attempt if you have prior experience of scaling some 14,000 ft peaks. A lot of mental fitness also goes into this one, for weather can take sudden turns on the trek to Stok Kangri. Still, it is a must do if adventure is your calling and you harbour a secret wish to scale a world-famous Indian peak.

SHANTI STUPA

Another one for the shutterbugs and the ones interested in culture and Buddhism. A starkly white stupa (chorten) standing tall (4276 m) against a backdrop of the barren brown mountains, the Shanti Stupa is nothing less than fascinating. It was built by monks from Ladakh and Japan in 1983 to mark 2500 years of Buddhism in the region and promote world peace. The stupa houses Buddhist relics, placed here by the 14th Dalai Lama. A popular meditation site, it also has a simple cafe which makes up for the hard 15-minute climb up the stairs. Photographers must mark it in bold on their itinerary, for it's a perfect place to shoot time lapse sequences.



contd from page 1

G7 to provide 1 billion vaccine doses 'to world': United Kingdom

The commitments follow growing calls for richer countries to step up their efforts to share COVID-19 shots with less developed nations, with charities warning the current situation is leading to "vaccine apartheid".

Britain, which has orders for more than 400 million doses, has faced criticism for failing to begin making donations to poorer countries.

But on the eve of welcoming world leaders from the group of seven wealthy nations to their first summit in almost two years, British Prime Minister Boris Johnson vowed that would soon change.

"As a result of the success of the UK's vaccine programme we are now in a position to share some of our surplus doses with those who need them," he said.

"At the G7 Summit I hope my fellow leaders will make similar pledges".

A Downing Street statement said: "At the Summit world leaders are expected to announce they will provide at least one billion coronavirus vaccine doses to the world.. and set out a plan to expand vaccine manufacturing in order to achieve that goal."

'HUMANITARIAN OBLIGATION': Meanwhile EU members have agreed to donate at least 100 million doses by the end of 2021 -- with France and Germany each committing to providing 30 million.

French President Emmanuel Macron issued his own call for pharma groups producing vaccines to donate 10 percent of their production to poor nations.

US President Joe Biden on Thursday saluted a "historic" moment in the fight against the pandemic after Washington announced its donation.

"This is about our responsibility, our humanitarian obligation to save as many lives as we can," Biden told reporters at the start of his first overseas trip as president.

Biden said the move was also in the US interest because of the risk of variants while the White House said the decision would "supercharge the global fight against the pandemic".

The enduring challenge to defeat the virus was earlier laid bare by the World Health Organization which warned Europeans not to drop their guard because vaccination levels remain too low to stop another wave of infections.

Although pockets of the rich world have scored successes against the disease, the gains are fragile and billions of mostly poor people remain unprotected.

Over 100 million people in the 27-nation European Union, or 22.6 percent of its population, have been fully vaccinated against Covid-19, according to an AFP count.

The contrast with developing nations was further evidenced Thursday when South Africa's National Institute For Communicable Diseases announced his country had technically entered a third wave with more than 9,000 cases over the past 24 hours.

On Thursday, India reported a global record of more

than 6,000 Covid-19 deaths in a day after one state dramatically revised its data upwards, fueling concerns that the official tally of almost 360,000 deaths, the world's third-highest toll, is woefully understated.

WHO WARNS AGAINST COMPLACENCY : The United States has also faced criticism for sitting on huge stocks of unused vaccines.

But with more than 60 percent of Americans having received at least one shot, Washington has moved to reclaim global leadership with its huge donation which will be channeled through the Covax program which aims to ensure equitable global vaccine distribution.

The White House said the doses will start shipping in August.

Dismissing suggestions that it is in a so-called vaccine diplomacy contest with Russia and China, Washington has described its initiatives as a return to multilateral action after the nationalist isolationism under Biden's predecessor Donald Trump.

In Europe, some lockdown restrictions have been eased of late notably ahead of the Euro football competition starting Friday.

But Hans Kluge, the WHO's regional director, said he feared complacency.

"Vaccination coverage is far from sufficient to protect the region from a resurgence," Kluge told reporters, warning against repeating the "mistake" of last summer by easing protective measures prematurely.

Iran's government meanwhile warned that recent success in containing the Middle East's deadliest coronavirus outbreak risks being reversed should the public cease being diligent in their precautions amid a shortage of vaccines.

The country saw total infections pass the three million mark on Thursday, adding to the global total of almost 174,350,990. The pandemic has claimed more than 3.7 million lives worldwide. (Agencies)

Extending a helping hand to India, AIA sends \$150K for COVID Relief



Master of Ceremonies Heeta Thakkaris a 14-year science high school student. She won American debate league champion award in 2019

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General of India, Randhir Jaiswal, Chief Guest, Northwell Health Chief Operating Officer Mark Solazzo, Deputy Consul General Shatrughna Sinha and many community leaders attended the event.

With a view to coordinating and providing information on AIA Covid relief, AIA on the occasion launched a new website - www.HelpIndiaForCovid.com

US to accept student visa applications from June 14

Students may visit our website, <https://ustraveldocs.com/in>, to view availability and schedule an appointment," the statement said.

Student visas was a top priority for the US, the embassy said.

Students beginning a new education programme with a programme start date on or after August 1 may travel to the United States up to 30 days prior to the programme start date.

Existing students may also resume their programs on or after August 1, and travel 30 days before their programme resumption date.

On April 30, the US suspended most non-immigrant travel from India. Some 2-lakh students from India study in the US. Meanwhile, the spokesperson of Ministry of External Affairs Arindam Bagchi while replying to queries on Indian students facing problems said the government was aware of the challenges faced by students who have not been able to join or return to courses in foreign countries. The MEA has been taking up the issue with all countries concerned. Details are on MEA website and social media handles.

UNGA President-elect appoints India's Naidu as Chef de Cabinet

They will be instrumental in delivering my vision for the #PresidencyOfHope," Shahid tweeted.

Naidu described his appointment as a privilege and said he looked forward to a "presidency of hope", which Shahid has set as a cornerstone of his upcoming year-long tenure at the world organization.

"The General Assembly is the main deliberative, policymaking and representative organ of the United Nations. Comprising all 193 Member States of the UN, it provides a unique forum for multilateral discussion of international issues including peace and security," Naidu said. (Source: PTI)

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Deferred due to Covid, Euro 2020 begins with Italy-Turkey clash

Somehow it seems appropriate that Italy, the first country in Europe that was overwhelmed by the coronavirus pandemic, is hosting the opening game of the European Championship. Even if Euro 2020 is kicking off in 2021.

The biggest crowd to gather in Italy for a year and a half will witness an Azzurri squad aiming for the title play a Turkey team aiming to spring a surprise at Stadio Olimpico. "We've been waiting a year for this European Championship and we can't wait to experience hearing 15,000 people singing the national anthem," veteran Italy defender Leonardo Bonucci said. "Soccer with fans inside the stadium is a different sport."

After embarrassingly failing to qualify for the 2018 World Cup, Italy won all 10 of their qualifying matches for Euro 2020 and enter on a 27-match unbeaten run.

"We want to go all the way," Bonucci said. "Other national teams have more experience but we can play with anyone. We don't have a (Romelu) Lukaku or a Cristiano Ronaldo. Our strength is the team."

Ngidi, Nortje skittle West Indies for 97

Fast bowlers Lungi Ngidi took 5/19 and Anrich Nortje 4/35 as South Africa bowled out the West Indies for 97 Thursday on the opening day of the first cricket Test. Ngidi claimed his second five-wicket bag in Tests and his first since his debut against India in 2018 as South Africa ended the West Indies' first innings in just 40.5 overs after the home side had chosen to bat on winning the toss.

At stumps South Africa was 128-4, a lead of 31 runs, and was able to celebrate a strong start to its first tour of the Caribbean in 11 years. Ngidi describes his bowling as a "work in progress." It looked considerably more than that on Thursday as he tore through the South Africa middle and lower order after Nortje had knocked the top of the West Indies innings.

Former captain Jason Holder top-scored with 20 for West Indies, which was 24-0 before wickets started to fall rapidly. At one point the West Indies lost 5-11 in the space of seven overs and Ngidi, who went wicketless in his first spell, took 5-7 when he switched ends.

"It's not very often you bowl a team out for 97," Ngidi said. "There was a bit in the wicket so we exploited that as much as we could and we've got a bit of a lead. We really wanted to execute, we wanted to be ruthless in terms of our lines and lengths."

French Open 2021

Djokovic fights off Berrettini to set up Nadal semi-final

PARIS (TIP): A fired-up Novak Djokovic repelled a stirring fightback by Italian Matteo Berrettini to claim a 6-3 6-2 6-7(5) 7-5 victory on Wednesday to set up a mouth-watering semi-final showdown with defending champion Rafael Nadal.

The 34-year-old bellowed a series of frightening roars after completing a victory that at one stage looked like a formality but became increasingly fraught as Berrettini threw the kitchen sink at the Serb who becomes only the second man to reach 40 Grand Slam semi-finals after Roger Federer.

It was a spectacular conclusion to a match that was watched by 5,000 fans until midway through the fourth set when Paris's Covid-19 curfew meant the crowd were obliged to leave. Djokovic led 3-2 at the time and when battle resumed he suffered a nasty fall, grazing his hand, but sensed his chance when Berrettini served at 5-6.

The Italian ninth seed, saved a couple of match points, the second with a sizzling forehand winner, after which Djokovic screamed angrily at his entourage and kicked an advertising board in disgust. He got the job done at the third time of asking when Berrettini netted at the end of another high-octane baseline exchange. Djokovic, eyes bulging, then roared again towards his box, the sound echoing around an empty Court Philippe Chatrier.

It was a manic ending and showed exactly how much Djokovic wants a second French Open title, having claimed his first in 2016 to complete his career Slam. Since then, Nadal has been unbeatable on the Parisian dirt, extending his record total to 13 titles and counting, the last coming last October when he thrashed Djokovic in the final.

Djokovic said booking another clash with Nadal had not been behind his extraordinary reaction at the end. "This match had it all: falls, crowd, break," he told reporters. "It was a lot of intensity. I just felt under tension the entire time and missed



some chances to end it in three. "It was just super, super stressful to constantly be under pressure... the reaction in the end was just me liberating that tension that was building up for the entire match."

Top seed Djokovic was given a mighty scare against Italian teenager Lorenzo Musetti on Monday, losing the first two sets, before steamrolling to victory. It was much more straightforward, initially, against Berrettini as he broke for a 3-1 lead in the first set.

Dhawan to lead second-string India on Sri Lanka tour

NEW DELHI (TIP): Opener Shikhar Dhawan was on Thursday, June 10, named as captain of the Indian team that will travel to Sri Lanka for a limited-overs tour next month while pacer Bhuvneshwar Kumar will be his deputy.

India are scheduled to clash with Sri Lanka in three One-day Internationals and as many Twenty20 matches on the tour that will begin on July 13 and conclude on July 25 at the R Premadasa International Cricket Stadium, Colombo.

The Indian cricket Board named a 20-member squad that has all-rounder Hardik Pandya and spin duo of Kuldeep Yadav and Yuzvendra Chahal.

Young guns like Devdutt Padikkal and Prithvi Shaw expectedly feature in the squad that also has two wicket-keeper batsmen in young Ishan Kishan and Sanju Samson.

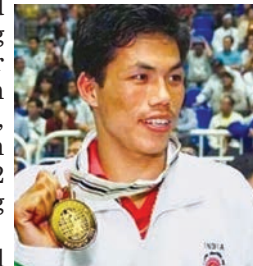
India's squad: Shikhar Dhawan (Captain), Prithvi Shaw, Devdutt Padikkal, Ruturaj Gaikwad, Suryakumar Yadav, Manish Pandey, Hardik Pandya, Nitish Rana, Ishan Kishan (Wicket-keeper), Sanju Samson (Wicket-keeper), Yuzvendra Chahal, Rahul Chahar, K Gowtham, Krunal Pandya, Kuldeep Yadav, Varun



Chakravarthy, Bhuvneshwar Kumar (Vice-captain), Deepak Chahar, Navdeep Saini, Chetan Sakariya Net Bowlers: Ishan Porel, Sandeep Warrier, Arshdeep Singh, Sai Kishore, Simarjeet Singh. *Source: PTI*

Asian Games gold-winning boxer Dingko Singh dies after long battle with cancer

Asian Games gold medal-winning former boxer Dingko Singh died on Thursday, June 10, after a long battle with liver cancer. He was 42 and had been fighting the disease since 2017.



"I'm deeply saddened by the demise of Shri Dingko Singh. One of the finest boxers India has ever produced, Dinko's gold medal at 1998 Bangkok Asian Games sparked the Boxing chain reaction in India. I extend my sincere condolences to the bereaved family. RIP Dinko," Sports Minister Kiren Rijiju tweeted.

The Manipur-based former boxer endured a long battle with cancer and even fought Covid-19 last year. "My sincerest condolences on this loss May his life's journey & struggle forever remain a source inspiration for the upcoming generations. I pray that the bereaved family finds the strength to overcome this period of grief & mourning #dinkosingh," tweeted India's first Olympic-medallist in boxing Vijender Singh.

Dingko won the Asian Games gold in 1998 and was bestowed the Arjuna award the same year. In 2013, he was honoured with the Padma Shri for his contribution to the sport. Dingko, who was employed with Navy, had taken to coaching after hanging up his gloves.

ZEE5, the World's largest streaming platform for South Asian content, to launch in the U.S. on June 22



ZEE5 to launch in the U.S. on June 22

NEW YORK (TIP): After having won the hearts of millions of South Asians across the globe, ZEE5, the world's largest streaming platform for South Asian content, has announced its launch in the United States on June 22. The platform is currently under beta testing in the market.

The U.S. is the final and largest launch for ZEE5, setting the stage for its rapid growth in a market with a ready 5.4 million diaspora audience that has a deep cultural and language connect to this content.

This direct-to-consumer service launch is especially significant at a time when Indians in the U.S., many of whom remain deeply connected to their roots, are unable to travel home.

ZEE5 will officially announce its launch in the U.S. on 22nd June at a virtual event where its platform and content will be unveiled. The company will share key details about its plans for the market and its local partnerships, launch the brand campaign and more.

With this launch, the streaming platform will open up access to the largest catalogue of South Asian i.e., Indian, Pakistani and Bangladeshi content to diaspora and even mainstream content consumers in the U.S. who have been eagerly waiting to access ZEE5's massive content library.

With 130,000 hours of content across 18 languages, ZEE5 will offer a premium, highly accessible, and affordable option for viewers to engage with the best of South Asian stories.

ZEE5's catalogue aggregates classics as well as modern stories across the widest range of categories and genres.

3,500+ movies - including 120+ World Digital

Premieres like Radhe: Your Most Wanted Bhai, Simmba, Uri: The Surgical Strike, Dream Girl, Operation Java (Malayalam), Ka Pae Rannasingham (Tamil), Switzerland (Bengali) etc.

1,600+ TV shows including Kundali Bhagya, Mithai (Bangla), Sembaruti (Tamil), Sa Re Ga Ma Pa (various languages) etc.

200+ Originals - including The Final Call, Kaafir, Mentalhood, Churails, and more.

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100 Hours of fresh content added daily.

With "language of your comfort" being a key promise across Content, Navigation and even Voice Search, ZEE5's content library is tailor-made for the diverse cultures and languages of Indian and South Asian communities in the U.S. The languages include Hindi, Bengali, Malayalam, Tamil, Telugu, Kannada, Marathi, Oriya, Bhojpuri, Gujarati, Punjabi, as well as Malay, Thai, Bahasa, Arabic, Urdu and Bangla (Bangladeshi). Key titles are also subtitled or dubbed in English.



Amit Goenka, President, Digital Businesses & Platforms, ZEE Entertainment



Archana Anand, Chief Business Officer, ZEE5 Global

"The United States represents our most significant market and the last bastion in our global journey as we launch an ad-free subscription service. As a Global Media Conglomerate, we have had a very deep connection with our diaspora audiences here, so it is a rather happy moment for me to now be bringing this audience the largest aggregation of South Asian content on a single platform through ZEE5," said Amit Goenka, President, Digital Businesses & Platforms, ZEE Entertainment.

"The United States is home to millions of people whose families have strong connects with South Asia, and we are glad to bring them the largest and most diverse catalogue of

culturally relevant entertainment across Indian, Pakistani and Bangladeshi stories. These stories have the power to engage deeply and go well beyond the South Asian audience to entertain and delight even mainstream audiences with their authenticity and allure. I am confident that ZEE5 will become the go to platform for all Americans who love great storytelling," said Archana Anand, Chief Business Officer, ZEE5 Global.

ZEE5's Annual pack, priced at \$84 USD will be available across all major devices at a limited launch offer price of \$49.99.

ZEE5 subscribers in the U.S. will also be the first to stream Salman Khan's Radhe: Your Most Wanted Bhai

Key initiatives and outreach plans to support the relief efforts for the fight against Covid-19 will also be shared at the launch event.

Users can download the ZEE5 app from Google Play Store / iOS App Store, on Roku devices, Samsung Smart TVs, Apple TVs, Android TVs, and Amazon Fire Stick. ZEE5 is also available on www.ZEE5.com.

About ZEE5 Global

ZEE5 is the digital entertainment destination launched by Zee Entertainment Enterprises Limited (ZEEL), a global Media and Entertainment powerhouse. The platform launched across 190+ countries in October 2018 and has content across 18 languages; Hindi, English, Bengali, Malayalam, Tamil, Telugu, Kannada, Marathi, Oriya, Bhojpuri, Gujarati, Punjabi, including six international languages - Malay, Thai, Bahasa, Urdu, Bangla. and Arabic. ZEE5 is home to 130,000+ hours of On Demand Content. The platform brings together the best of Originals, Movies and TV Shows, Music, Cineplays and Health and Lifestyle content all in one single destination. ZEE5 offers ground-breaking features like 15 navigational languages, content download option, seamless video playback and Voice Search.

Users can download the ZEE5 app from Google Play Store / iOS App Store, on Roku devices, Samsung Smart TVs, Apple TVs, Android TVs, and Amazon Fire Stick. ZEE5 is also available on www.ZEE5.com.

ZEE5 Global Twitter: twitter.com/ZEE5Global
ZEE5 Global LinkedIn: linkedin.com/company/zee5global

Koshy Thomas urges voters to request absentee ballot if they are unable to go to the polling station on June 22nd



NEW YORK (TIP): Koshy Thomas, a candidate running for New York City Council from District 23, requests voters who would be unable to go to the polling booth on election day to request an absentee ballot now so that they could participate in the upcoming election on June 22nd, 2021. It is also quite possible that a request form for the absentee ballot may be already in one's inbox at home if one is a registered voter. "Our community is somewhat lackadaisical in going to the polling booths on election day, and an absentee ballot is a convenient tool to avoid the hassle of travel and waiting in the queue,"

said Mr. Koshy Thomas, who is running to represent District 23 for New York City Council that includes, Floral Park, Bellerose, Queens Village, Hollis and Oakland Gardens. "Our participation in the democratic process is vital to the community in terms of bringing out the issues of our concerns and advancing our interests," Mr. Thomas added.

You may also go to the website: Find Record | NYC Absentee or call Mr. Koshy Thomas @ 347-867-1200 for any assistance.

« Koshy Thomas is speaking at a campaign meeting



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