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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.

U.S. ALLOWS SOME H-1B VISA SEEKERS TO RE-SUBMIT THEIR APPLICATIONS

WASHINGTON (TIP): Some foreign guest workers in the U.S. will be able to re-submit their applications for the H1-B visa, the most sought-after non-immigrant visa among Indian IT professionals, if their petition was solely rejected because it was based on the initial registration period, according to a federal agency.

According to the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS), such re-submission of applications is for those whose applications have been rejected or administratively closed solely because the requested start date was after October 1, 2020.

The H-1B visa allows the U.S. companies to employ foreign workers in specialty occupations that require theoretical or technical expertise. Technology companies depend on it to hire tens of thousands of employees each year from countries such as India and China. "If your FY 2021 petition was rejected or administratively closed solely because your petition was based on a registration submitted during the initial registration period, but you requested a start date after October 1, 2020, you may re-submit that previously filed petition, with all applicable fees," USCIS said on Wednesday.

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J&K parties find common ground on deepening democracy, early polls

RESTORE THE SPECIAL STATUS OF J&K: GUPKAR LEADERS



Prime Minister Narendra Modi greets Farooq Abdullah and other leaders from Jammu and Kashmir in New Delhi on June 24, 2021 - Photo / PTI

NEW DELHI (TIP): Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday, June 24, told a group of leaders from Jammu and Kashmir that the Assembly elections there will be held after the completion of the ongoing delimitation exercise, People's Conference leader Muzaffar Hussain Baig said after a crucial meeting to chalk out the future course of action in the Union Territory

This is the first interaction between the Central leadership and the mainstream parties since August 5, 2019, when the Centre revoked Jammu and Kashmir's special status under Article 370 of the Constitution and bifurcated it into union territories, Jammu and Kashmir, and Ladakh.

Modi stressed that holding Assembly elections, just like the successful conduct of the District Development Council polls, is a priority and that the

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BIDEN ACCEPTS A DEAL ON INFRASTRUCTURE BROKERED BY BIPARTISAN GROUP OF SENATORS



President Joe Biden told reporters he wouldn't sign the bipartisan infrastructure bill unless key provisions that are not in the plan are addressed through the reconciliation process. - Photo / Courtesy CNN

WASHINGTON (TIP): President Joe Biden said Thursday, June 24, he has agreed to a deal on infrastructure with a bipartisan group of senators after White House officials and the senators had a massive breakthrough the night before in their infrastructure negotiations.

Both Republican and Democratic senators said Wednesday, June 23 evening there was an agreement reached with White House officials and 10 senators on a bipartisan infrastructure deal. And on Thursday afternoon, Biden said he had signed off on the agreement. Though hurdles remain -- it's unclear if the proposal will have enough support from GOP senators or progressive lawmakers to end up as law -- the announced agreement is a significant development that could pave the way for passage of a chunk of Biden's domestic agenda.

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RUDY GIULIANI'S NY LAW LICENSE SUSPENDED OVER ELECTION CLAIMS

Attorney Ravi Batra Tweets "Expected and needed. Law abhors lies, and yearns for Truth."

NEW YORK CITY (TIP): Former Mayor Rudy Giuliani is suspended from practicing law in New York after court officials found he made numerous "demonstrably false and misleading" claims about the 2020 election.

A blistering 33-page decision released Thursday, June 24, bars Giuliani from practicing law "immediately." It details a trail of outlandish and completely refuted claims Giuliani made on behalf of former President Donald Trump, who sought to overturn his loss in the presidential election.

"For the reasons that follow, we conclude that there is uncontroverted evidence that respondent communicated demonstrably false and misleading statements to courts, lawmakers and the public at large in his capacity as

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The Trump attorney and former mayor made "false and misleading" claims about the 2020 election, according to court officials.

YET ANOTHER BANK FRAUD IN INDIA: GAUTAM THAPAR, OTHERS BOOKED IN USD3.3 BILLION BANK FRAUD CASE



Gautam Thapar and others allegedly cheated a consortium of banks of Rs 2,435 crore (USD3.3 billion)

Accused borrowed funds by misrepresentation, falsified books of accounts'

NEW DELHI (TIP): The CBI on Thursday, June 24, conducted searches in connection with a case registered against C.G. Power and Industrial Solution Limited, its former chairman-cum-managing director Gautam Thapar and others for allegedly cheating a consortium of banks of Rs 2,435 crore (USD 3.3 billion).

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--: GUEST COMMENT :-

Restore J&K statehood

Will refurbish democratic credentials of Indian State

The two-year-long hiatus, the sad interregnum in democracy in Jammu and Kashmir, seems to be getting over finally, with the People's Alliance for the Gupkar Declaration (PAGD), the Congress and others deciding to attend the Prime Minister's all-party meeting today. The Home Ministry, the Prime Minister's Office and the Lieutenant Governor have, obviously, put in an effort to restart the democratic process in the troubled state. They deserve to be applauded for appreciating the ground reality, albeit late, and for identifying the real leadership of the people of J&K. The District Development Council elections in December last year were no substitute for political activity, though they proved yet again the extent of the grassroots

connect of the mainstream parties.

The PAGD could have won more than its tally of 110 seats had the parties contested separately, particularly the National Conference. Just as it did for New Delhi, the abrogation of Article 370 and the bifurcation of the state gave an opportunity to the people of J&K to understand who their real representatives are. The mainstream leaders suffered stoically long incarceration and seemingly interminable indignities for a cause and the people could see an octogenarian - always ridiculed by the separatists - holding up and not giving in. When so-called separatists got tamed overnight and even began talking of health and civic issues, the much-maligned politicians stuck to their demands.

The vindication of mainstream politicians - who have braved the militants' bullets, agencies' shenanigans, intellectuals' vilification and the ignominy of electoral reverses - is the validation of Indian democracy. These are the people who had held the Indian flag high in the Valley and the hills, who stood against the Islamist theocratic enterprise founded and funded by the neighbor's army. Now, when they meet the Prime Minister, he should patiently listen to them and offer them statehood. The restoration of statehood would only refurbish the credentials of the Indian State. The Centre should also offer concessions. All political prisoners who have not indulged in violence or terrorist activities should be released immediately. *(Tribune, India)*

--: READERS WRITE :-

NYC District 23 Elections: Identity politics at its best



GEORGE ABRAHAM

I had a front seat view of the recently concluded NYC council elections and have witnessed how much these contests have changed over the years. The district that includes Bellerose, Floral Park, Queens Village, Hollis, and Oakland Gardens has seen a very spirited campaign by a diverse group of candidates. The demographic shift is evident everywhere one looks as Queens has been a favorite destination for new immigrants over the past five decades. It is estimated that about 45% of the population in District 23 is foreign-born. Some of the major boulevards in District 23, such as Hillside Avenue, are dotted with South Asian businesses selling Masala Dosa and Shish Kabab, replacing Italian Ice and Irish Whisky.

Considering these changes, the South Asians who live in the district have been trying for quite some time to have a representative of their own. The powerful democratic machine in Queens had a stranglehold on decision-making in that regard, and the disunity within the south Asian community always played into their hands. This election cycle was no different in that regard as four candidates of Indian origin decided to contest. This time around too, the machine politics favored Linda Lee, a candidate of Southeast Asian dissent.

Harpreet Toor, Jaslin Kaur, and Sanjeev Jindal from the Punjabi community and Mr. Koshy Thomas from the Kerala community threw their hats into the ring. They appeared to have



employed all the resources at their disposal to reach the voters in the district and convince them of their plans and proposals on how to improve the services to the community while assuring them of safety and security. In addition, there were three other candidates Steve Behar, Debra Merkel, and Linda Lee, who were also in the running.

To this observer, the campaign of Jaslin Kaur was distinct from all others. She was able to put together a coalition of young people from across the community who became foot soldiers on her behalf. She was endorsed by the progressive wing of the Democratic party led by Alexandria-Ocasio Cortez (AOC) and Bernie Sanders, along with many unions and the working family party. It is believed that she might also be the second or third choice of many voters from the Indian community, which might bode well for her in the final tally.

The three other Asian Indian

candidates focused their efforts primarily on their own communities. Sanjeev Jindal appeared to have garnered more support from the Hindu community, while Toor has benefited from the Sikh community support and Koshy Thomas from the Kerala Christian community.

Jaslin Kaur still may have a chance to pull off a surprise victory. If all four candidates fail again, there is only one explanation that we have not learned much from history, and our inability to create a consensus will continue to haunt us! If one adds up all the votes of the Asian Indian candidates, it becomes abundantly clear to everyone.

Sadly, race, ethnicity, and gender issues have become the driving force in the American political arena today, and the eventual winner undoubtedly will be indebted to one or more groups for their hard-earned victory.

George Abraham
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Governor Cuomo announces end of Pandemic Emergency in New York State

NEW YORK (TIP): Announcing the end of pandemic emergency on June 24, Governor Cuomo said, "Today we close out the emergency chapter in the pandemic-effective today, New York's COVID-19 State of Emergency has ended. Federal CDC guidance will remain in place, meaning if you're unvaccinated, you should still wear a mask in public indoors. Masks will also still be required on public transit and certain other settings, like health care facilities. Fighting COVID and vaccinating New Yorkers are still our top priorities but the emergency is over".

Federal CDC guidelines will remain in effect, which include masks for

unvaccinated individuals, as well as all riders on public transit and in certain settings, such as health care, nursing homes, correctional facilities, and homeless shelters. State and local government health departments will still be able to ensure mask rules and other health precautions are adhered to in those settings.

Since March of 2020, a variety of actions had been taken by executive order to assist in the rapid response to the pandemic by state agencies, local governments, hospitals, and businesses by both temporarily suspending or modifying laws as well as utilizing temporary directives.

Hospitals were able to add space and staffing, meetings were authorized to occur virtually, and various deadlines were extended to accommodate a changed landscape.

"New York went from one of the worst infection rates to the lowest infection rate in the country, and it was all because of the efforts of New Yorkers who were smart, united and did what they needed to do throughout this entire pandemic," Governor Cuomo said. "Now we're starting to write a new chapter for a post-COVID New York—the state disaster emergency is ending and we can focus on reimaging, rebuilding and renewing our state. This



"We are getting back on track and starting to live life once again," Cuomo said.
Photo / Courtesy Governor's Office

doesn't mean COVID is gone, we still have to get more New Yorkers vaccinated, but we are getting back on track and starting to live life once again."

NEW YORK CITY MAYORAL PRIMARY: ERIC ADAMS TAKES THE LEAD; YANG BOWS OUT



As the voting ended and the vote count poured in, Eric Adams told a roomful of supporters "New York City said our first choice is Eric Adams".
File photo

NEW YORK (TIP): With first-place votes tallied from the first 900,000 ballots, Brooklyn Borough President Eric Adams has emerged as the clear favorite.

Maya Wiley and Kathryn Garcia are running neck-and-neck, while Andrew Yang, trailing a distant fourth, conceded last night and vowed to support whoever wins.

Turnout in June 22 Democratic primary for mayor has already surpassed the total in the last competitive primary in the city back in 2013 - and at least 90,000 absentee ballots still need to be counted.

In the Republican mayoral primary, Guardian Angels founder Curtis Sliwa cruised to a decisive victory over Fernando Mateo, with over 70 percent of the vote.

Just who Sliwa will face in the general election may be unknown for weeks, because of how ranked choice voting works.

Ranked Choice Voting data will be released by the NYC Board of Elections on June 29.

Andrew Yang concedes

Andrew Yang has conceded in the race for NYC mayor. He said he vows to continue working alongside with whoever ends up winning the race. He said he and his wife will continue to find a way to contribute to life in NYC in whatever way they can.

"And I'm just so grateful to everyone who has given us the chance to make this campaign as impactful as it's been and something that I am so proud to have led over the last number of months," Yang told his supporters. "Thank you, everyone."

Andrew Yang, trailing a distant fourth, conceded and vowed to support whoever wins. And Republican Guardian Angels founder Curtis Sliwa cruised to a decisive victory.

Other key races

The mayoral race is getting the majority of the attention on primary day, but virtually every major city office is up for grabs.

But with ranked choice voting, the outcome is far from guaranteed. Andrew Yang cautioned New Yorkers against expecting an immediate result, as he campaigned in The Bronx.

Absentee ballots

More than 87,000 absentee ballots had been received by the city as of Monday, with more expected to arrive in the mail over the next few days.

When will we know who wins NYC's mayoral primary?

New York City has instituted ranked choice voting for Tuesday's primary vote to determine the candidates in the race for mayor. But how long will it take for the results to be tabulated? It might take until July.

Who are the leading candidates for mayor?

The leading Democrats are Eric Adams, Kathryn Garcia, Andrew Yang, Maya Wiley, Shaun Donovan, Raymond McGuire, Dianne Morales and Scott Stringer.

The two leading Republicans are Fernando Mateo and Curtis Sliwa.

Most recent polls have suggested that Brooklyn Borough President Eric Adams is the favorite, getting ranked first by a little less than a quarter of likely voters. Other top contenders include civil rights lawyer Maya Wiley, former city sanitation commissioner Kathryn Garcia and former presidential candidate Andrew Yang, who have been polling between 6 and 12 points behind.

Indian American civil rights lawyer Shekar Krishnan likely to win NYC council primary

NEW YORK (TIP): Indian American civil rights lawyer Shekar Krishnan took a big step toward securing the New York City Council District 25 seat in Queens taking the most first choice votes in June 22 Democratic primary.

Krishnan generated 30.8 percent of first

place ballot votes in the race to replace term-limited council member Daniel Dromm in the district spanning parts of Jackson Heights and Elmhurst, according to local Sunny Side Post.

If Krishnan, who is backed by Dromm, finally wins Tuesday's primary he is all but certain to win the November election, because of the district's heavy Democrat leanings. In that case, he could also become the first South Asian elected to New York City Council.

Carolyn Tran, the former chief of staff of Dromm, accounted for 17.7 percent of first rank votes, followed by medical supply store owner Yi (Andy) Chen with 17.58 percent of first place votes.

Candidates Alfonso Quiroz, Fatima Baryab and Liliana Melo each brought in about 10 percent of first choice votes, with 89.13 percent of scanners reported.

The results, which are unofficial, are based on in-person votes counted from early voting and Election Day, according to the NYC Board of Elections. They do not include absentee and affidavit ballots.

Krishnan has not declared victory, although he is confident that the results will hold, the Post said.

"We have come to the end of this



If Krishnan wins the primary, he will be the first Indian American ever to be elected to New York City Council

remarkable Election Day, and we are feeling very confident in the results," Krishnan said in a statement Tuesday night.

"Thank you to everyone who supported me. Thank you to those who spoke with their neighbors, who petitioned, canvassed and phone banked, and who help spread the

word in any way they could."

Krishnan entered the race as a favorite, having garnered the endorsements of a number of elected officials, including Assembly members Catalina Cruz and Emily Gallagher, as well as State Senators John Liu and Julia Salazar, plus Council Members Justin Brannan and Carlina Rivera.

Chen had narrowly outspent the other candidates in the race, spending \$135,267, according to the last campaign finance disclosure report on June 11. That was followed by Krishnan at \$134,452, and Tran at \$133,467, the Post said.

One of the most diverse districts in the country, District 25 has a population of 162,560 42% of whom are Hispanic, 15.2% are white, 5.8% are Black and 34.5% are Asian American, according to 2010 Census Data.

The district is also known for having many first- and second-generation immigrants, including large Ecuadorian, Colombian, Nepali, Indian and Bangladeshi populations.

Borough-wide, more languages are spoken in Queens than in any other place on Earth, and about 47% of the population is foreign-born.

Indian-Origin filmmaker Suman Sen's 'Eka' selected for Cannes Film Festival

NEW YORK (TIP): Indian-origin Filmmaker Suman Sen's debut feature as a writer director, 'Eka' (Solo), a gritty socio-political feature film, has been selected in the La Fabrique Cinéma de l'Institut français 2021

'Eka' has made it to the esteemed program tailored for young filmmakers across emerging countries as part of the Festival de Cannes, with nine other projects from around the world, made by first and second-time feature filmmakers.

The film, which is only the fourth from India to secure a spot as part of the celebrated program, is produced by Arifur Rahman and Bijon from Bangladesh and renowned producer Dominique Welinski of DW Productions from France, lending it an international character.

Solo was also selected by Torino Film Lab Next (TFL) in 2020. Writer-director Sen offers us an immersive narrative of today's world from the perspective of a vulnerable and fragile common man.

The film, set in Kolkata, lays bare the decaying social, economic and cultural conditions of our society. The story takes us into a week of our main protagonist, Biplab's life, a 56-year-old long-term diabetic insurance agent.

Every morning, on his way to his office in a crowded bus, he witnesses a huge human toe of a massive under-construction statue in the middle of the main city square.

Fully covered in blue tarpaulin, the statue is supposed to represent the common man. The city is keenly waiting for the president to inaugurate the monumental statue.

Along the week we spend with him, Biplab goes deeper and deeper into a state of frustration and hopelessness. When everything starts going wrong in his life, the feeling that he failed his loved ones the same way the society is failing him grows stronger.

His guilt transforms into anger. One morning, Biplab gets down from the crowded bus and stands speechless and motionless in front of the statue.

In the events that follow, Biplab finds himself giving birth to a mass revolt in his own city. His resistance gives rise to a powerful worldwide movement.

"I believe that the reason our society is failing today, comes from the burden of our past," says Sen, who is also the founder of Fickle Formula, a content studio based in Mumbai.

"I see the world through my father's eyes. Their



Suman Sen's debut feature as a writer director, 'Eka' (Solo), a gritty socio-political feature film, has been selected in the La Fabrique Cinéma de l'Institut français 2021

generation failed us entirely, in every sense. We have become intellectually bankrupt, emotionally isolated and politically paralyzed because of their indifference to society, to our nation."

"The film reflects and documents the kind of time I am living in for the last couple of years. A time of hatred, intolerance, violence," he says.

"We are currently in the process of auditioning and finalizing the cast and crew and are in conversation with some of the finest actors and crews from all across the World. The shooting is likely to commence in mid-2022 in Kolkata," says Arifur Rahman, producer of Goopy Bagha Productions.

Two Indo-Canadian Politicians Join Cabinet in Canada's Ontario Province

TORONTO (TIP): Two more Indo-Canadian politicians have been appointed as ministers in a Cabinet reshuffle in Canada's Ontario province, taking the representation of the community members in the Executive Council to three.

Ontario Premier Doug Ford on Friday, June 18, reshuffled his Cabinet, with former finance minister Rod Phillips - who resigned from his post following a Caribbean vacation during the COVID-19 pandemic - returning as the new minister of long-term care.

The reshuffle comes just under a year before next June's provincial election.

In the previous ministry, there was one Indo-Canadian - Prabhmeet Sarkariya, who was the associate minister of small business and red tape reduction.

Mr Sarkariya, 30, has now been promoted to take over as president of the Treasury Board.

He is the first turban-wearing Sikh Cabinet minister in Ontario.

"It is an honor to be sworn in as #Ontario's President of the Treasury Board. I am dedicated to working hard with Premier @fordnation and my colleagues to support Ontarians as we continue to tackle the #COVID19 pandemic & work towards our recovery!," Mr Sarkariya tweeted taking over the new role.

Mr Sarkaria's parents immigrated from Punjab, India in the 1980s.

Parm Gill, 47, took on the new portfolio of citizenship and multiculturalism.

Mr Gill was born in Moga, Punjab. He



Parm Gill, 47, took over the new portfolio of citizenship and multiculturalism. The other appointee is Nina Tangri, associate minister of small business and red tape.

moved to Canada at a young age.

"Thank you Premier @fordnation for this great honor and thank you to my community of Milton for allowing me to represent you each and every day as part of this Provincial Government," he tweeted after his appointment.

"Who would have thought a young boy who immigrated from India to Canada at a young age, raised by a single mother, would today be sworn in as Minister of Citizenship and Multiculturalism for the Province of Ontario," Mr Gill added.

Nina Tangri was appointed associate minister of small business and red tape.

"Excited to be sworn in as the Associate Minister of Small Business & Red Tape Reduction. Thank you to Premier @fordnation for his confidence in me and to my family and staff for their continuous support," she tweeted.

Indian American Sikh activist and lawyer mom launches research initiative for rare disease

NEW YORK (TIP): When New York City based Sikh American activist and lawyer, Gurjot 'Jo' Kaur and her husband Richie found out that their baby boy Riaan had been diagnosed with a severe condition giving him an average life expectancy of five years, their world came apart. Their son suffers from Cockayne Syndrome. An extremely rare condition, it's part of a family of progeria-like diseases, and includes a phenomenon known as premature aging.

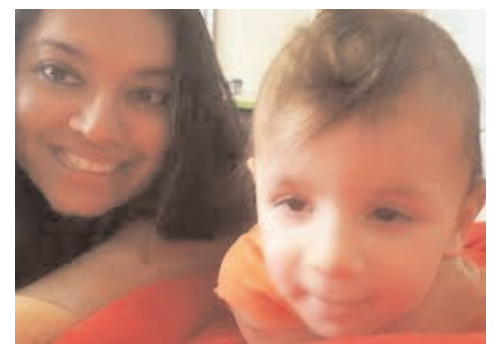
Children typically die of respiratory distress or kidney failure. There are only a few hundred cases reported in medical literature. Currently there exists no cure for the disease.

However, amid this life-altering crisis, Kaur who is well-known for her community-based activism decided not to buckle down. In a few months, Kaur with her unrelenting attitude has been able to launch the Riaan Research Initiative.

The initiative is a research advocacy organization directed at accelerating the development of a treatment for this ultra-rare and fatal neurodegenerative condition.

Riaan Research Initiative is one of the few women of color-led patient organizations and one of the first known Sikh-led rare disease patient advocacy organizations.

Talking about this initiative Kaur said, "We're organizing to fight this disease with everything we've got. While significant advancements have been made regarding identifying disease-causing genetic mutations, older rare diseases like Cockayne Syndrome



Riaan Research Initiative is working with the University of Massachusetts Medical School, and the lab of Dr. Miguel Sena Esteves on a multi-year, multi-million-dollar project to treat children with Cockayne Syndrome

continue to silently lurk, wreaking havoc on families and killing children across generations."

"Any possible treatments for ultra-rare diseases like Cockayne Syndrome often remain neglected in the dustbins of laboratories and/or sit comfortably for decades as conceptual subjects of stale science papers. We're going to change that," she said.

In March this year, the parents received the devastating news that there were no treatments or cures, and that all they could do was manage their child's symptoms.

The symptoms of this lethal disease include vision and hearing problems, failure to thrive, microcephaly, an impaired ability to sit, walk, eat, or speak/communicate, as well as failures in multiple body systems, including pulmonary function, liver, kidney, and cardiovascular systems.

(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)

Indian American Lawyer and Activist Kiran Ahuja to Lead US Office of Personnel Management

WASHINGTON (TIP) JUNE 23: US Vice President Kamala Harris has cast her tie-breaking vote in the bitterly divided Senate to confirm the nomination of Indian American Kiran Ahuja as the head of the Office of Personnel Management, a federal agency that manages the country's more than two million civil servants.

An American lawyer and activist, Kiran Ahuja, 49, is the first Indian-American to serve in this top position in the US government. Kamala Harris announced to cast her vote in favor of Kiran Ahuja on Tuesday after the Senate vote on this resulted in 50-50 votes on party lines.

"The Senate being evenly divided, the Vice President votes in affirmative," Kamala Harris said. With this, she has so far cast the 6th tie-breaking vote as the Vice President this year.

Senator Dianne Feinstein said Kiran Ahuja has more than two decades of experience in public service and the philanthropic sector, including a senior role in OPM under former president Barack Obama.

"She has a breadth of knowledge and experience that will serve her well in the role," she said.

"In particular I'm looking forward to working with her to resolve a critical pay disparity issue between state and federal wildland firefighters. State firefighter salaries can be as much as double that of their federal



Kiran Ahuja, 49, is the first Indian-American to serve as head of US Office of Personnel Management

counterparts, making it difficult to hire and retain skilled federal wildland firefighters," she added.

Representing the view of the opposition Republicans, Senator James Lankford said he did not believe the head of HR of the federal government should be so outspoken in favor of abortion and pushing the need for critical race theory training.

"OPM has been plagued with paperwork backlogs, survivor benefit delays, cyber-security issues, and more. The leader of OPM should focus on addressing those issues, not divisive social justice policies and abortion," he said.

Kiran Ahuja served as the Chief of Staff to the Director of the US Office of Personnel Management from 2015 to 2017. She currently serves as the CEO of Philanthropy Northwest, a regional network of philanthropic institutions.

She began her career as a civil rights lawyer at the US Department of Justice, litigating school desegregation cases, and filing the department's first student racial harassment case. From 2003 to 2008, Kiran Ahuja served as the founding executive director of the National Asian Pacific American Women's Forum, an advocacy and membership organization.

During the Obama-Biden Administration, she spent six years as executive director of the White House Initiative on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders, leading efforts to increase access to federal services, resources, and programs for underserved Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders (AAPIs).

Kiran Ahuja grew up in Savannah, Georgia, as a young Indian immigrant in the wake of the civil rights era and earned a bachelor's degree in political science from Spelman College and a law degree from the University of Georgia.

"Throughout her career, Kiran Ahuja has built a tremendous record of championing federal personnel matters & remains a strong advocate for women of color," said Senator Raphael Warnock.

Indian American Tara Srinivas wins Fulbright fellowship

NEW YORK (TIP): Indian American Tara Srinivas, a class of 2020 graduate of Brown University, has won a 2021-22 Fulbright award to conduct neurodevelopment research at the Josep Carreras Leukemia Research Institute in Spain.

She is among 27 Brown University students who have received Fulbright awards to teach English or conduct independent research projects in 17 countries around the world.

For the native of Broomfield, Colorado, the second time was the charm, Providence, Rhode Island based institution noted.

Srinivas first applied to the flagship international fellowship program during her senior year, with the hope of conducting neurodevelopment research at the cutting-edge research center located outside of Barcelona, Spain.

She was successful, but the Covid-19 pandemic put a wrench in her plans: Because of international travel restrictions and public health protocols, her fellowship period would be cut from the typical year to just five months.

"I just knew that I wouldn't be able to get my research project done in that time," Srinivas was quoted as saying.

Without the option to defer, Srinivas took a gamble. She turned down the award, proposed the same project for the 2021-22 cycle, and crossed her fingers



Tara is among 27 Brown University students who have received Fulbright awards to teach English or conduct independent research projects in 17 countries around the world.

while embarking upon a master's in physiology, development and neuroscience at the University of Cambridge in the UK.

The wait was nerve-racking, but Srinivas's risk paid off when she was named a winner, once again, this spring. "It's surreal that it's finally happening," she said. "I'm beyond happy."

At the institute, Srinivas will use patient-derived stem cells to study the role that epigenetic factors - elements (in this case, RNA molecules) that influence the expression of genes without altering their DNA sequences - play in Rett syndrome, a rare neurodevelopmental condition that affects brain development.

"There's so much left to explore in epigenetics," Srinivas said. "My hope is that using it to study Rett syndrome will contribute to our understanding of the condition and help researchers develop new therapies, if needed and desired by patients."

The project will build upon her studies at Brown, where she concentrated in neuroscience and served as an undergraduate researcher in the laboratory of Dr. Eric Morrow, whose work seeks to better understand the genetic factors that contribute to conditions on the autism spectrum.

(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)

Indian American Raj Echambadi named as the 10th President of Illinois Tech

ILLINOIS (TIP) JUNE 24: Illinois Institute of Technology has named Indian American Rajagopal "Raj" Echambadi as its 10th president "to lead its efforts to empower students from different backgrounds to achieve their potential."

Echambadi, currently Dunton Family Dean at D'Amore-McKim School of Business at Northeastern University, will take over the top administrative spot at the university on Aug. 16.

"Under Echambadi's leadership, Illinois Tech will further its legacy of excellence by educating the next generation of innovators and creators who will fuel Chicago's rise as a global destination for technology and entrepreneurship," it said announcing his selection on June 16.

After an extensive nationwide search, the Illinois Tech Board of Trustees voted unanimously to approve Echambadi on June 14.

He would replace President Alan W. Cramb, who announced his retirement from the post in December 2020.

"One of the most meaningful parts of the Illinois Tech ethos to me is the commitment to accessible and affordable technology education," Echambadi stated.

"My career has been dedicated to inclusive and collaborative innovation, and Illinois Tech's commitment to creating pathways and infinite



Echambadi, currently Dunton Family Dean at D'Amore-McKim School of Business at Northeastern University, will take over the top administrative spot at the university on Aug. 16.

possibilities for a vast diversity of students not only brings greater representation to technology but also drives the greatest innovation."

"We have tremendous opportunities to serve Bronzeville, Chicago, and the world," says Echambadi.

"Illinois Tech has the requisite capabilities-intellectual, cultural, and social capital-and the

right values embodied by our entire community to build upon our historic strengths, to chart a vibrant future, and to strengthen our role as a leading technological institution. My family and I are delighted to be part of this exciting journey and to be calling Illinois home again."

Prior to joining Northeastern, Echambadi served as the Alan J. and Joyce D. Baltz Professor and the senior associate dean of strategic innovation at Gies College of Business at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

As a driving force behind the University of Illinois's scaled online MBA (iMBA) program, Echambadi has been instrumental in helping to provide increased access to an innovative education to students across the globe.

The iMBA program has been lauded as a breakthrough in graduate education and one of the best disruptive innovations of the past decade.

(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)



Consulate General of India with community organizations celebrated the 7th International Day of Yoga

NEW YORK CITY (TIP): The 7th International Day of Yoga was celebrated by Consulate General of India in partnership with a number of community organizations. There was excitement in the build-up to the International Day of Yoga (IDY) as a number of curtain raiser events were organized in the month of June.

Celebrations started on June 1st with the World Yoga Festival organized by the World Yoga Community. The Indian Cultural Association of North America organized IDY community awareness programs on June 5 and June 12th at the Consulate General of India.

GOPIO Manhattan in partnership with the Indian Panorama, Indian American Forum and Happy Life Yoga celebrated the International day of Yoga through a digital event on June 19th.

The Town of Greenburgh (NY) and the Indian Cultural Association of North America organized a Yoga session on June 19th. The Hindu Temple Society of North America, Queens celebrated International Yoga Day through a virtual event on June 20th.

The main celebration of the 7th International Day of Yoga (IDY) by the Consulate General of India in New York was held on Sunday, June 20, 2021 at the iconic location of Times Square. The Consulate partnered with the Times Square Alliance for this grand celebration. Leading Yoga teacher Ms. Ruchika Lal from the Art of Living Foundation conducted Yoga and meditation session.

The day-long yoga festival with the theme of 'Solstice in Times Square 2021' was attended by more than 3,000 people where yogis, with their yoga mats and flexible bodies, filled Times Square to mark the start of summer.

"As we celebrate yoga at the iconic Times Square - at the crossroads of the world, let us remind ourselves of the truly global embrace of yoga. Yoga was born in India but is part of global heritage today. Yoga is about health, well-being and about living in harmony with nature. Yoga is a way of life, and we must try to practice it in its entirety, for a peaceful society and for a greener planet," Randhir Jaiswal, Consul General told ANI.

"It was an incredible experience leading yoga, pranayama and meditation at Times Square NYC. Seeing thousands of yogis experience stillness amidst the chaos of the city that never stops," said Ruchika Lal who participated in the event.

In keeping with this year's global theme



A view of the Yoga session at Times Square, June 20, 2021. An estimated 3000 persons participated



Consul General of India at New York Randhir Kumar Jaiswal addressed the gathering.

- Yoga for Wellness - as coined by the United Nations (UN), the event showcased holistic health, Ayurvedic and nature-based wellness products from Tribes India (TRIFED) and other Indian companies. The stalls attracted a large number of visitors, eager to learn about the uniqueness of Indian Tribal, Ayurvedic and natural products.

The day-long yoga celebration offered experienced yogis and first-timers alike the chance to bring a yoga mat to the iconic public space and participate in a free yoga class. The Consulate General handed a bag of products from TRIFED and some wellness products produced in India as well.

"I love to practice Yoga at Times Square every year on Solstice. I want to thank the Consulate for this gift," a participant said.

There were several other yoga sessions held throughout the day. These sessions were very well received by the

participants. The day-long event was attended by more than 3000 people. In keeping with this year's theme, Yoga for Wellness, the Times Square event showcased holistic health, Ayurvedic and nature-based wellness products from Tribes India (TRIFED) and other Indian companies. The stalls attracted a large number of visitors, eager to learn about the uniqueness of Indian Tribal, Ayurvedic and natural products. A large variety of traditional knowledge-based products from Aspirational Districts in India such as the Araku Valley Coffee, Millets, Bamboo craft and Handloom Textiles were showcased. These products generated a lot of excitement amongst the visitors.

On the same day, another major celebration of IDY was organized at the Liberty State Park in New Jersey with the Statue of Liberty in the background. This celebration was led by Federation of

Indian Associations (FIA). Famous Yoga instructor Thara Natalie led the Yoga Session. Noted Singer Jay Sean and Public Speaker Nina Davuluri participated in the event to support the cause of yoga and wellbeing.

On June 21st, the Consulate in partnership with the Council of Indian Organization in Greater Philadelphia celebrated IDY at Dilworth Park, Philadelphia. Four Yoga teachers conducted the Yoga sessions which was attended by a number of young people. Along with Consul General Randhir Jaiswal, Congressman Brian Fitzpatrick and Congressman Dwight Evans also attended the event. Both Congressmen appreciated the efforts of promoting Yoga for Wellness. On the occasion, Governor Tom Wolf extended his good wishes. The event was also attended by representatives from City Council and the Mayor's office. In keeping with our efforts to take Yoga to different communities, the Consulate partnered with Sanskriti of NJ, a noted community organization, to celebrate IDY in Livingston, NJ. The event was attended by Congresswoman Mikie Sherrill and the Mayor of Livingston. During the event a number of Yoga workshops were organized, and a range of healthy and sustainable lifestyle products were showcased.

In his remarks on the occasion, Consul General referred to Yoga as a universal practice. He highlighted the unifying force of Yoga and its immense benefits. He also said that Yoga was born in India but is a part of our global heritage today. Yoga is about health, about well-being and about living in harmony with nature, he stated. He also noted that Yoga was not just a set of physical exercises but a way of life that fosters a peaceful society and a greener planet.

On the occasion of 7th International Day of Yoga, mYoga App, jointly developed by World Health Organisation (WHO) in collaboration with the Ministry of AYUSH has been launched. The app is available on Google Play store as well as on Apple app store. It provides authentic information on yoga in multiple languages.

In December 2014, United Nations had unanimously adopted a resolution to mark June 21st as the International Day of Yoga (IDY). June 21st is the Summer Solstice, the longest day of the year in the Northern Hemisphere and has special significance in many parts of the world. Since then IDY has been celebrated as a major event in hundreds of cities enhancing awareness about multifaceted benefits of yoga to individuals, families and societies.

State Bank of India, ICICI Bank, Bank of India, Bank of Baroda, India Tourist Office, TATA Sons, Aromazeia Essential Oils and Forest Essentials also contributed to this year's IDY.

(Based on a press release)

Federation of Indian Associations and the Consulate General of India organize 7th International Yoga Day

THE HOUR-LONG EVENT WAS HELD AT LIBERTY STATE PARK ON SUNDAY, JUNE 20 MORNING

JERSEY CITY (TIP): The Federation of Indian Associations NY-NJ-CT, in partnership with the Consulate General of India-New York, organized a group yoga event on Sunday, June 20, to mark the 7th International Day of Yoga.

Nearly 200 participants joined the hybrid event, with over 120 joining online. The Liberty State Park, with the backdrop of the majestic Statue of Liberty and the Manhattan skyline, provided the perfect venue for the event.



Consul General of India at New York addresses the participants in the Yoga session

Consul General of India NY Randhir Jaiswal, who briefly attended the event with DCG NY Shatrughna Sinha, appreciated and encouraged the participants.

Celebrity yoga instructor, Reiki healer, and health coach Thara Natalie gave yoga lessons for all ages. She also shared health tips during the one-hour session. Singer and song writer Jay Sean was the guest of honor



Participants in the Yoga session

while former Miss America and American public speaker and actress Nina Davuluri, also a yoga practitioner, compered the event.

Lauding the efforts of event chair Parveen Bansal and his team in putting together the event, FIA president Anil Bansal said, "It is heartening to see people giving due importance to yoga. It is an ancient Indian discipline that purifies the mind and body with regular practice. Just like this morning, I hope everyone here continues to find time to invest in their health and well-being."

"Last year was tough for everyone. Now, the community is slowly reeling out of the pandemic. The benefits of yoga are known to the entire world. We hope this event can give a positive push to our attempts to get back to the pre-pandemic days," said FIA chairman Ankur Vaidya. He expressed his gratitude to CGI NY Jaiswal and DCG Sinha for their continued support in making the Yoga Day celebration a success.

FIA provided complimentary coffee, munchkins, water, T-shirt, and yoga mat to all participants in attendance and held an attendee raffle in which 5 Google home devices were raffled as thank-you giveaways to the attendees.

FIA has been hosting Yoga Day event since 2015

The United Nations had, in December 2014, proclaimed June 21 every year as the International Day of Yoga. The FIA has been organizing yoga events to mark the day since 2015 when it was celebrated globally for the first time.

Last year, with the Covid-19 pandemic raging across the world, the entire event was held online.

(Based on a press release)

CITY COUNCIL PASSES LEGISLATION TO CREATE THE NYC MAYOR'S OFFICE OF ETHNIC AND COMMUNITY MEDIA

The legislation, approved by a majority of 45 votes, will include spending advertising resources on ethnic television and radio as well as print and digital

NEW YORK CITY (TIP): The City Council approved on Thursday, June 24, the legislation to create the NYC Mayor's Office of Ethnic and Community Media making it the first Mayor's Office in the country dedicated to strengthening the relationship between city government and ethnic and community outlets.

The legislation, known as Intro. 2313, was sponsored by Speaker Corey Johnson, Councilmember Ydanis Rodriguez, Councilmember Oswald Feliz, and Brooklyn Borough President Eric Adams.

"The diversity of our city is represented well in our ethnic and community media outlets throughout the five boroughs," said Brooklyn Borough President Eric Adams. "I truly appreciate the critical role these outlets play in empowering our communities, and I will continue working to expand the resources they need to continue bringing vital information to New Yorkers."

The new Mayor's Office of Ethnic and Community Media will be responsible,



among other things, for overseeing the distribution of advertising resources by agencies, developing a list of approved ethnic and community media outlets, and conducting training for city officials and employees responsible for purchasing advertising.

In May 2019, Mayor Bill de Blasio issued Executive Order 47 (EO 47), which requires all Mayor's agencies to direct at least 50 percent of their annual print and digital advertising budgets toward community media and ethnic. And now, with Int. 2313-A, EO 47 will be codified and expanded, by requiring by law that all municipal agencies seek to direct at least 50 percent of their annual print, digital, television, and radio advertising budgets towards community and ethnic media.

The approved legislation has been sent to the Mayor's Office to be signed into law.



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AS I SEE IT

Biden resets ties with allies to check China



BY YOGESH GUPTA

"The US and Europe have fundamental contradictions with regard to China and Russia. While the US faces an immediate threat from China, many European countries have extensive economic ties with China and no security concerns. For Europe, the more immediate threat is from Russia, a perception not fully shared by the US. Several European countries weren't happy that the US (and NATO) resources would be drawn away from Moscow to a more distant China."

President Biden's first foreign visit to Europe from June 9-16 will be remembered for how he tamed dissenting and doubting allies and rejuvenated the transatlantic alliance to convey a message of strong unity and resolve to an aggressive China (and a combative Russia), which is trying to challenge the international order for unilateral gains. China was the dominant theme during his discussions with G-7 leaders at Cornwall, UK (June 11-13) and EU and NATO leaders (June 14-16) at Brussels and Geneva and the underlying theme in his discussions with President Putin on July 16.

The final G-7 communiqué is dominated by the US with several paras aimed directly and indirectly against China (and some against Russia), such as eradicating the use of forced labor in global supply chains (reference to Xinjiang and Tibet), collective approaches to challenge unfair trade policies, use of technologies to promote democratic values and fundamental freedoms.

The G-7 supported President Biden's initiative of "a timely, transparent, expert-led and science-based WHO-convened phase-2 Covid-19 origins study in China". It is going to rile China as its senior diplomat Yang Jiechi had urged the US Secretary of State Anthony Blinken in his phone conversation on June 11 to "not politicize the source of the virus and focus on global cooperation in the fight against the disease".

PRESIDENT BIDEN'S INITIATIVES WOULD STRENGTHEN TRANSATLANTIC UNITY AND BUILD ON RESETTling RELATIONS WITH RUSSIA, ISOLATING CHINA. IT MAY EVEN EMBOLDEN SOME OF XI'S CRITICS AT HOME TO QUESTION WHETHER HIS WOLF WARRIOR DIPLOMACY HAD YIELDED ANY POSITIVE RESULTS FOR THE COUNTRY.



Rallying support: President Biden's meetings with NATO leaders were aimed at addressing mutual concerns.

The group's formulation on China's human rights abuse in Xinjiang, respect for fundamental freedoms and a high degree of autonomy for Hong Kong is a compromise as the mention of genocide which the US wanted was dropped to accommodate the concerns of Germany, France and Italy.

The US and Europe have fundamental contradictions with regard to China and Russia. While the US faces an immediate threat from China, many European countries have extensive economic ties with Beijing and no security concerns. For Europe, the more immediate threat is from Russia, a perception not fully shared by the US. Several European countries were not happy that the resources of US (and NATO) would be drawn away from Moscow, their primary threat, to a more distant China.

They were also worried that taking a hard line on China would make her less receptive to cooperate on more pressing multilateral issues such as climate change, control of pandemics and trade.

For the first time, the G-7 took a united stand against China on an issue of core interest to her, i.e., Taiwan, and in support of the US by agreeing on the "importance of peace and stability across the Taiwan Strait and peaceful resolution of cross-strait disputes".

The G-7 unveiled a new initiative known as "Build Back Better World" (B3W) to give an alternative choice to the developing countries in building infrastructure to spare themselves from China's debt trap projects. The group has agreed to provide one billion doses of coronavirus vaccines in 2021-22 and more later.

At Cornwall G-7 meetings, India was more deeply engaged at the ministerial

and PM's level. PM Modi spoke of the need for democratic societies to strengthen each other's hands to respond to new challenges, India's efforts to share its development partnership with other developing countries, its readiness to work with B3W partners and its engagement with WHO, G-20 and G-7 countries for dealing with the current pandemic and preparing for future pandemics.

NATO leaders' 79-point statement devoted three paragraphs with 10 mentions castigating China's behavior. It said: "China's stated ambitions and assertive behavior present systematic challenges to the rules-based international order". China is investing heavily in new disruptive technologies such as autonomous systems, facial recognition and artificial intelligence and putting these into new weapon systems, which are changing the nature of warfare never seen before. China should act responsibly in the international system, including in space, cyber and maritime domains, in keeping with its role as a major power.

President Biden's meeting with President Putin at Geneva (June 16) was another high point of this visit. It reflected his desire to focus on the escalating rivalry between the US and China by reducing tensions with Moscow. He improved the atmospherics by calling Russia as one of the two Great Powers (other being the US and not China) and President Putin a worthy adversary, which would have been music to Putin's ears. Though the results of the meeting were modest (establishment of bilateral strategic stability dialogue for control of new and dangerous weapons, limitation on the use of cyber weapons

and return of Ambassadors) it is expected to promote a dialogue between the two countries on other issues of mutual concern, reducing current hostility and tensions.

China would be disappointed as it had always thought that the huge dependence of the US's European and Asian allies on her would never allow emergence of a unified transatlantic bloc aimed against Beijing. Though some differences remain on the economic issues, President Biden has been able to rally his disparate allies together. The EU has frozen the Comprehensive Agreement on Investment hurriedly concluded by Beijing in December 2020 before President Biden's takeover.

President Xi Jinping had tried to forge a united front with Russia by deputing his senior diplomat Yang Jiechi to Moscow but that ploy has not worked. Chinese official media has grudgingly admitted that the "Geneva meeting shows that both sides have the will to stop the worsening US-Russia relationship. President Biden wants to ease the tensions with Russia to focus on dealing with China now".

President Biden's initiatives would strengthen transatlantic unity and build on resetting relations with Russia, isolating China. It may even embolden some of Xi's critics at home to question whether his wolf warrior diplomacy had yielded any positive results for the country. It would add increasing pressure on Xi to defend himself as he rallies the Chinese Communist Party to celebrate 100 years of its foundation in July 2021 and is likely to temper China's aggressive behavior toward its neighbors.

(The author is a former Ambassador)

The Kashmir Outreach and the Afghan Storm

INDIAN GOVERNMENT'S J&K MOVES MAY BE PART OF A MORE COMPLEX REGIONAL GAME INVOLVING INDIA'S SECURITY INTERESTS



BY SUHASINI
HAIDER

THE GOVERNMENT'S REPEATED ASSERTION THAT ITS AUGUST 5 DECISION ON J&K WAS AN "INTERNAL ONE" HAS ALSO BEEN PUT TO A RIGOROUS TEST. DESPITE CONSIDERABLE EXERTIONS BY THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND ITS MISSIONS WORLDWIDE, J&K HAS NOW BEEN DISCUSSED IN MORE CAPITALS, INCLUDING THE U.S. CONGRESS, PARLIAMENTS IN THE UNITED KINGDOM, THE EUROPEAN UNION (EU) AND THE NORDIC COUNTRIES, THAN EVER BEFORE.

Two years after its dramatic decision to reorganize Jammu and Kashmir (J&K), the Government appears to be rethinking some of the objectives it announced then as Prime Minister Narendra Modi engages the erstwhile State's former leadership to discuss the future of the political process there. Mr. Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah had spoken of three specific objectives in the move to amend Article 370 on August 5, 2019, apart from ending terrorism and violence in J&K: flooding the region with development initiatives and investment from other parts of the country; reclaiming those parts of the territory now occupied by Pakistan and China (Pakistan Occupied Kashmir, or PoK, and Aksai Chin), and ending the rule of political "dynasties" in J&K - that they claimed had held the progress of the State hostage - in favor of a "Naya Kashmir" polity. Above all, the Government underlined, as External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar undertook a series of visits abroad to explain its nuances, the decision was purely an "internal" one, and did not affect India's ties with any other country.

Objectives and reality

While two years may not be long enough to truly judge the success of its intentions, particularly given the impact of the novel coronavirus pandemic, it is certainly fair to say the Government has failed to make headway with most of those objectives. Incidents of terrorism and violence have no doubt decreased since 2019, but that has come at the cost of massive privations to the people in the name of security. More than 5,000 people were arrested, the longest Internet shutdown in any democracy was instituted for 213 days, and the deployment of troops still remains at peacetime highs. The plight of the ordinary Kashmiri, battling daily intimidations from security forces, the closure of schools and online education for their children, and diminishing sources of income, can only be imagined. Attempts to convince investors that this is a lasting peace have floundered thus far, and while the Government claims it has more than 400 memoranda of understanding from businesses nationwide promising to invest in the Union Territory, this can only be tested once the money actually comes in, given the state of the national economy, even prior to the pandemic.

Border situation

Mr. Shah's claim in Parliament that his government was willing to "sacrifice lives" to ensure the return of Pakistan Occupied Kashmir and Aksai Chin, appears a much more difficult proposition in the face of the Chinese aggression at the Line of Actual Control (LAC) since April 2020. Chinese actions, and the failure of military and diplomatic talks to ensure the restoration of status quo ante have been coupled with the growing threat perception, articulated by the Indian Army Chief, that any future conflict at the LAC would need to account for a two-front "situation" with Pakistan at the Line of Control as well, and vice versa. Even the United States is unlikely to countenance any military maneuver involving PoK now, given its proximity to the Afghanistan theatre, and the U.S.'s pullout and the increasing strength of the Taliban will add to the risk calculus in Delhi against such actions.

Finally, the outreach to 14 leaders from J&K, many of whom were arrested for months, indicates that the



Prime Minister Narendra Modi with J & K political leaders in New Delhi on June 24

Government's plan for a "Naya Kashmir" polity is not drastically different from the previous polity - that the Home Minister referred to derisively as the "Gupkar Gang" - despite intervening attempts at building a new party (Apni Party), sidelining the main parties during consultations and even promoting "District Development Councillors" as the new Kashmiri leadership during meetings with foreign diplomats.

Hardly an 'internal' issue

The Government's repeated assertion that its August 5 decision on J&K was an "internal one" has also been put to a rigorous test. Despite considerable exertions by the Ministry of External Affairs and its missions worldwide, J&K has now been discussed in more capitals, including the U.S. Congress, Parliaments in the United Kingdom, the European Union (EU) and the Nordic countries, than ever before, while several delegations of EU parliamentarians, Ambassadors and United Nations diplomats have been escorted to the valley to elicit their approval for the situation there. It is ironic that countries which were openly supportive of the Modi government's military action in PoK in 2016 after the Uri attack, and of the Balakot strikes by the Indian Air Force in Pakistan after the Pulwama attack in 2019, have even so, chosen to be so critical of a political and internal move. In addition, the J&K dispute has been discussed at least three times at the UN Security Council, which had not touched the issue since 1971.

Dialogue with Pakistan

What is more galling is the notion that the decision to engage the previous leadership, to discuss the restart of a political process and the reversal of the August 5 decision to downgrade the State to a Union Territory, comes not from domestic considerations alone. In the past few months, it has been made clear that a backchannel dialogue between India and Pakistan is discussing assurances on J&K that would enable a broader bilateral dialogue. Pakistan too has climbed down considerably from its previous demands of plebiscite and UN resolutions to Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan's more recent statements that he

would be willing to talk if there was a reversal in some of the August 5 steps, or if the Modi government proffers a "roadmap" on J&K. Even Pakistan's insistence on the restoration of Article 370 was a turnaround from the days when it rejected the Article's validity. Both the downturn in Pakistan-backed violence in Jammu-Kashmir as well the softening of rhetoric suggest a flexibility borne out of international pressure as well as the sustained threat of a (Pakistan) blacklisting by the Financial Action Task Force.

Such compromises by hawkish establishments in Delhi and Islamabad (and Rawalpindi) do not come from an internal rethink by themselves, and it would seem obvious that external prompting from the U.S., keen to complete its Afghanistan pullout and its negotiations with the Taliban, as well as nudges from Saudi Arabia, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates, of the kind publicly referred to by the UAE envoy as "mediation", have been at work as well. The recent disclosure by the Qatari special envoy that Indian officials have engaged the Taliban leadership in Doha is also part of that matrix. The Government's decision to shut down operations at two of its Afghanistan consulates, in Jalalabad and Herat, which was earlier described as a temporary move due to the novel coronavirus pandemic, is clearly linked to safety concerns in the phase after the U.S. pullout.

The U.S. factor

In the broader geopolitical context, as the drumbeats to a U.S.-China confrontation grow louder, India's global strategies will be further put to test. The U.S.'s expectations of cooperation from India to its East, on China and the Indo-Pacific, have clearly not been commensurate with New Delhi's expectations that America would reduce India's threats to its west, from Afghanistan and Pakistan. Instead, it would seem, the Government's attempts to sever the Gordian knot in Jammu and Kashmir with its moves two years ago, are being drawn into a more complex game of regional dominoes, where India's security interests are increasingly in play.

(The author is a columnist with The Hindu)

A Long Tale of Failures: Modi Government has Lost Sense of Direction



BY RAJENDER
DICHPALLY

THE CALLOUS, INSENSITIVE AND PREJUDICED MODI GOVERNMENT HAS MADE A MOCKERY OF GOVERNANCE AND EXPOSED THE INDIAN NATION AND ITS PEOPLE TO THE HYDRA OF INFLATION, UNEMPLOYMENT, CRIPPLING ECONOMY, A DEBILITATING TRADE DEFICIT AND FAILING AND A SINKING HEALTH CARE SYSTEM.

The Modi government's seven-year tenure is riddled with abject failures, both short term as well as long term. The most glaring and the most recent being his catastrophic mishandling of the COVID Pandemic.

A quick comparison of COVID related deaths in India versus the USA makes it clear that our leadership has entirely failed us in our collective battle against the disease.

According to the latest statistics from New York Times, India's COVID related deaths have been significantly higher when compared to other regions of the world and neighboring countries. At the peak of the pandemic, the number of weekly average deaths was 4454. On June 12, it was 3303.

In the United States, the average was 370 deaths on June 12. Since the population of India is roughly 4 times of the USA, the death rate in India should have been 4x370 or around 1600. This means the death rate in India has been twice that of the USA, despite aid pouring from all over the world to save Indian lives.

A quick look around the neighborhood and put Indians to shame. On June 12, the weekly average death rate in Bangladesh has been 30. India's population is about 8.7 times larger than Bangladesh, which implies that India's weekly average death rate should have been just 330 by this metric. At the peak death rate in Bangladesh on April 23, the average figure was just 981 which implies that the peak weekly average death rate in India should have been 850. For Pakistan, the peak weekly death rate was 140 on April 28 and on June 12 it was 61 deaths. Since the population of India is 6 times that of Pakistan it implies that as per Pakistan's standard, the peak weekly deaths in India should have been 850 and on June 12 it should have been 360. It is clear that India, with its far larger economy, has been performing ten times worse than its immediate neighbors in handling Covid deaths.

The GDP Debacle

On the economic front too, India's performance has been dismal. As per the latest data, the growth rate of India has been -7.3% for the fiscal year 2021 (. The US and China are much bigger economies than India and suffered the pandemic at an equal scale. However, their economies grew at the rate of 2.6% and 8.4% respectively. It is clearly the total failure of the Modi government and his regressive economic policies that this difference exists.

Another issue of major concern is the



Mass cremation as India faced Covid deaths

alarming Balance of Trade deficit with China as a cause of sluggish GDP growth of India. According to Chinese customs data, it is being touted that, "trade between China and India soared 70.1% in US dollar terms in the first five months of this year to \$48.16 billion." Specifically, Chinese exports to India grew 64.1% year-on-year from January to May, while imports surged 90.2%, the tabloid Global Times reported. The trade deficit during the same first five months of 2021 has been \$45 billion, which is 1.5% of India's GDP. Since $GDP = Consumption + Investment + Government Expenditure + Balance of Trade$, India's GDP is down by 1.5% in just five months of trade with China. Taken annually, at this rate of trade deficit with China, 3.6% of India's GDP would be taken away by China.

It is very surprising that the Modi Government seems oblivious to this drain on India's economy. President Trump imposed heavy import duties on China in the year 2018 and that has been continued under the Biden administration, but the Indian Government is not even realizing this problem. Where is the competence of our finance and commerce ministries? Under Modi's rule, with India-China trade volume being \$87.6 billion in 2020, China overtook the US to become India's largest trading partner, despite a bloody conflict along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) and the rising anti-China sentiment among Indians. All the Asian tigers, including both China and Japan have achieved miracles because of trade

surpluses, but Modi's government does not even realize that India's wealth is being drained by the Chinese. Even the richest and the most powerful country, the United States, could not survive the economic drain on US GDP caused by trade deficit with China. This issue must be looked at urgently and discussed openly and vigorously in parliament.

Inflation and Unemployment

Not just GDP setbacks, India's inflation for the year 2020 was 6.2% -- far above the stated goal of 4%. The Government's failure on unemployment reduction too is stark. Over 10 million (1 crore) Indians have lost their jobs because of the second wave of Covid-19, and around 97 per cent of individual household income has declined since the beginning of the pandemic last year. The total figure of unemployed workforce has risen to 3.5 crores.

Besides this, the abysmally short-sighted policies of the government have accentuated the problem of stagflation. India has experienced the worst of both the worlds because of the current regime. The relationship between inflation and unemployment has historically been inverse in many parts of the world, including in India under Dr. Manmohan Singh's government. But India under Modi has seen higher inflation and higher unemployment. This means stagflation is a special gift of this government to us because of its disastrous economic policies.

The Inequality Monster

Inequality is on the rise. Only two business families in the country - the Adanis and Ambanis have been accumulating wealth by exploiting the rest of India. As already discussed, 97% of Indians have become poorer while the wealth of Mukesh Ambani has tripled since Modi was elected in 2014. Gautam Adani's wealth has increased by about 30 times. As per Forbes records, Gautam Adani's wealth was just \$3.5 billion in March 2016, and jumped to \$75 Billion on June 13, 2021.

The callous, insensitive and prejudiced Modi government has made a mockery of governance and exposed the Indian nation and its people to the hydra of inflation, unemployment, crippling economy, a debilitating trade deficit and failing and a sinking health care system.

The present Government still has three more years to go before it faces the people in a general election. It is time for some serious course-correction by the Modi Government, for the sake of its own survival and but more importantly, for the people of India. Let us hope that the Modi Government shakes off the ignorance and arrogance that it is becoming known for and strategizes by putting the people of India first to perform with heart, mind and muscle in the second half of their thus far catastrophic tenure.

(The author, holder of 3 masters - MBA (Marketing), MBA (Finance) and MS Computer Science, has worked extensively in the financial industry in New York. He is a veteran community leader associated with many Indian Organizations)

GOPIO Manhattan and Happy Life Yoga Organize International Yoga Day Event 2021



NEW YORK CITY (TIP): The GOPIO-Manhattan (NYC) and Happy Life Yoga in cooperation with The Indian Panorama and Indian American Forum (Long Island) organized an International Yoga Event to raise awareness of Yoga and raise funds for "The Covid-19 Relief in India".

Mr. Siddharth Deoraj Jain, Founding Life Member GOPIO Manhattan; introduced Mr. Tirlok Malik, an Emmy-nominated filmmaker and Happy Life Yoga speaker and invited him to start The International Yoga Day-2021.

Mr. Malik hosted a highly interactive and informative Yoga session featuring experts and speakers across various walks of life. He explained his vision, "A way of living inspired by the wisdom of Ayurveda, Yoga and Indian Philosophy is beneficial for everyone. In the aftermath of COVID, the world has realized that it is of paramount importance to have a good health, physically and emotionally, and the Happy Life Yoga platform can show how to achieve it."

Ambassador Randhir Kumar Jaiswal, the Chief Guest, commented "Yoga is a way of life. The idea of Yoga is truly universal and it must be heard, celebrated and promoted in each and every part of our society and community. The key is to not just celebrate Yoga as a health practice, for it needs to be celebrated in its entirety," asserted Jaiswal. He highlighted how the International Yoga Day has evolved into in major annual event that's celebrated across the globe ever since Prime Minister



Ambassador Randhir Kumar Jaiswal, Consul General of India in New York inaugurating the event.

Narendra Modi proposed the idea during his speech at the United Nations General Assembly back in September 2014.

Dr. Bhuvan Lal, the award-winning filmmaker, international entrepreneur, motivational speaker and author, touched upon the importance of Yoga in our day-to-day life and advised "Everybody wants to be happy. Everybody wants to have a long life and Yoga provides the answer by teaching us how to deal with unhappy situations that we come across. So, Yoga is really the way forward."

Prof. Indrajit Saluja, Chief Editor/Publisher, The Indian Panorama said, "The key is to love yourself and love the world around you. When you are trying to achieve equilibrium among the various faculties in your life that's where Yoga comes into play."

Ms. Sangeeta Agrawal, CEO and Founder, Helpsy added "The first step

involves preparing oneself as that equips one to deal with the situation. Further one must reach out to experts for their advice and guidance allowing one to make and execute plans aimed at recovery from the ailment."

Ms. Deborah Fishman Shelby, Founder & Executive Director, FED talked about teachings of Judaism while sharing examples from Torah and exploring the idea of happiness.

Ms. Ranju Narang emphasized upon the need to inhaling and exhaling out all the negativity and toxicity.

Ms. Indu Jaiswal, Chairperson, Indian American Forum, an accomplished dietician and nutritionist spoke about the importance of balance diet for happy life.

Neil and Andrea Garvey, Publishers/Editors of the Creations Magazine, who have been vegans for over three decades emphasized about the need

for communication between partners.

Mr. Anil Narang, Vegan activist, talked about the benefits of vegan diet for a healthy living. While talking about the importance of harmony between mind, body and spirit, he stressed upon the need to go vegan during the COVID-19 times in order to boost immunity and health.

Dr. Renee Mehrra talked about meditation and the need to control thoughts as a means to calm down the brain.

Ms. Pallavi Verma Belwariar, Founding Life Member GOPIO Manhattan; entertained the viewers with her melodious voice with Malik egging on the viewers to dance in their chairs.

Mr. Shivender Sofat, President GOPIO-Manhattan; spoke about importance of Yoga in daily life, discussed chapter activities and motivated everyone to donate generously towards the GOPIO Manhattan Fund Raising for The Covid-19 Relief in India.

Dr. Thomas Abraham, GOPIO Chairman; complimented GOPIO-Manhattan, NYC for taking this initiative and organizing several other programs during the last one year. Dr. Abraham also appealed the audience to support the Covid Indian Relief Fund and GOPIO-Manhattan's Community Feeding conducted every last Monday of the month. Mr. Chitranjan Sahay Belwariar, Founding Life Member GOPIO Manhattan; concluded with the Vote of Thanks to all Speakers at the event and provided technical support with Zoom streaming and recording.

The event ended with a thunderous applause even as Malik promised to bring more Happy Life Yoga events in the near future.

Happy Life Yoga is the creation of Mr. Tirlok Malik and the Ayurveda Cafe team. It is essentially an educational platform that offers a unique holistic approach to health and happiness using tools from Ayurveda, Indian Philosophy, and Yoga to help better manage modern-day challenges such as work, finances, relationships, family and other social pressures. It was launched in June 2019 in New York.

In accordance with its mission to serve the larger society and those in need, GOPIO-Manhattan Chapter has taken several initiatives in the recent past. A Community Feeding is organized by the Chapter providing vegan or vegetarian lunch for the homeless and needy at Tomkins Square Park in Manhattan on the last Monday of every month. The chapter appeals to the community to support the initiative by being a volunteer and/or a sponsor.

For more info on GOPIO Manhattan, call President Shivender Sofat at 731-988-6969, e-mail: info@gopiomanchattan.org or visit here: <https://gopiomanchattan.org/>

Facebook Link: GOPIO Manhattan NYC



Speakers and organizers at the Virtual Yoga Day Celebration.

From L to R: Top Row: Ambassador Randhir Kumar Jaiswal, Host Tirlok Malik, GOPIO Chairman Dr. Thomas Abraham, Speaker Anil Narang. 2nd Row: Singer Pallavi Belwariar, Speaker Prof. Indrajit Saluja, GOPIO-Manhattan President Shivender Sofat, Program Coordinator and Board member Sid Jain. 3rd Row: Speakers Dr. Bhuvan Lal, Sangeeta Agrawal, Andrea and Neil, Board Members and Zoom Coordinator Chitranjan Belwariar. 4th Row: Speakers Renee Mehrra, Ranju Narang, Deborah Fishman and Indu Jaiswal

Pelosi announces the House will establish a select committee to investigate Capitol riot



"The select committee will investigate and report on the facts and the causes of the attack and it will report recommendations for the prevention of any future attack", said Pelosi

WASHINGTON (TIP): House Speaker Nancy Pelosi announced Thursday, June 24, she will create a select committee to investigate the January 6 attack on the Capitol after Republicans blocked the formation of an independent commission.

The select committee will corral the various House Democratic investigations into the events surrounding the deadly insurrection into a single effort to examine what led to pro-Donald Trump supporters breaching the Capitol and disrupting the certification of President Joe Biden's November 2020 election win.

Pelosi said that it had been four weeks since Senate Republicans blocked the commission, and it did not appear they would change their minds, so she was now moving forward with a select committee.

"This morning, with great solemnity and sadness, I'm announcing that the House will be establishing a select committee on the January 6 insurrection," Pelosi said. "The select committee will investigate and report on the facts and the causes of the attack and it will report recommendations for the prevention of any future attack."

CNN reported on Tuesday that Pelosi was moving forward with the select committee, though she denied at the time that she had made a decision yet. But two days later, Pelosi announced the committee would be formed.

The select committee is sure to set off a political battle over the investigation into the January 6 insurrection with Republicans, who have accused Democrats of continuing to investigate the events for political reasons.

"I'm sure it will be political because

that's the whole way that she's handled it," House Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy said Wednesday following reports Pelosi would move forward with the select committee.

But Democrats have insisted that a definitive investigation needs to be undertaken, particularly as some Republicans have tried to downplay the violence that occurred or spread conspiracy theories about who carried out the attack.

Pelosi's decision to move forward with a select committee led by House Democrats comes after her initial effort to create an independent panel modeled after the 9/11 Commission was blocked by Senate Republicans.

In the House, 35 Republicans voted to create the independent commission after a bipartisan deal had been struck for a panel with equal representation and subpoena power. But McCarthy and Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell opposed the commission, and Senate Republicans filibustered the measure in a 54-35 vote, short of the 60 needed.

Pelosi said it would have been "preferable" to have an outside commission investigate the January 6 attack but that she was not worried that the select committee would be dismissed as a political effort.

"I don't worry about that at all," Pelosi said. "I have no intention of walking away from our responsibility."

Pelosi said that the select committee was likely to take up two investigative threads: into how White supremacy and anti-Semitism fueled the rioters, and into the security at the Capitol that day.

The commission legislation would have set an end date for the panel's investigation of December 31, which Republicans had pushed for in an effort to wrap up the commission ahead of the 2022 midterm campaign. But Pelosi said Thursday that the select committee's timetable would be "as long as it takes" to complete the investigation.

"We were doing it in a time frame that Republicans were comfortable with, but now another month has gone by, so we'll just have to make the plan and see how long that takes," she said (Source: CNN)

All-Black flight crew commemorates Juneteenth

CHICAGO (TIP): Water cannons blasted over United Airlines flight 1258 as it left its gate, celebrating that every person on the flight crew, from pilots to gate agents and ramp staff, was Black. The all-Black crew flew from Houston to Chicago on Saturday morning, commemorating Juneteenth, now a federal holiday celebrating the end of slavery. Before takeoff, a celebration of the crew included a speech from Houston Mayor Sylvester Turner, a saxophone performance from one of the pilots, Sal Crocker, and water cannons on the tarmac.

Turner said the flight crew was a symbol for how far the Black community has come over the past 150 years.

"Now, we're soaring amongst the stars," Turner said to CNN affiliate KTRK. "Let me tell you, for our ancestors, my parents, if they were still alive, they would just be amazed."

Just 2.47% of United States aircraft pilots and flight engineers are Black, according to Data USA.

But for flight 1258, even the flight dispatchers, both in Houston and Chicago, celebrated their Black heritage.

"It is very difficult being a Black person, a Black woman, in the aviation industry," said Deon Byrne, one of the pilots, in an interview with CNN. "There's not a lot of encouragement, and there's absolutely mentorship for the future generation, but when I came in, it was very difficult to find the funding, the resources, and the connections to get started in the industry."

Byrne said in the 25 years she's been in the aviation industry, she's never worked with a crew that has even been half Black, which made this experience incredibly unique.

"A lot of people say, 'Oh, what's the big deal, a bunch of Black people are just flying from here to



Deon Byrne (second from left), one of the pilots of the Juneteenth flight, said in the 25 years she's been in the aviation industry, she's never worked with a crew that has even been half Black, which made this experience incredibly unique. - Photo / Courtesy United Airlines

there,' but it is a big deal," Byrne said. "In the aviation industry, people have always questioned if we were as safe or as competent. And we are careful. We're very competent."

Flight attendant Nathan Pickney said he's a native of Houston, site of the oldest Juneteenth celebration, so celebrating this year was even more special.

"This is something that was happening for the first time, that can never be erased or taken away," Pickney said. "My children are so proud that they can share this with their friends and children. I was just very honored to be a part of it."

Byrne praised United for having its own flight school with scholarships to assist the next generation of Black students trying to become pilots. "I was in the cockpit, mission-oriented, and I was just thinking of getting the flight off the ground on time," Byrne said. "But once my checklist was done, and I saw the water cannons, I teared up. It was very emotional." (Source: CNN)

MANY FEARED DEAD IN FLORIDA BEACH FRONT CONDO COLLAPSE

PRESIDENT JOE BIDEN PROMISED TO PROVIDE FEDERAL AID IF REQUESTED.

SURFSIDE, FLA. (TIP):

A beachfront condo building partially collapsed Thursday, June 24 outside Miami, killing at least one person and trapping others in the tower that resembled a giant fractured dollhouse, with one side sheared away. Dozens of survivors were pulled out, and rescuers kept up a desperate search for more, according to an Associated Press report.

A wing of the 12-story building in the community of Surfside came down with a roar around 1:30 a.m. By late evening, nearly 100 people were still unaccounted for, authorities said, raising fears that the death toll could climb sharply. Officials did not know how many were in the tower when it fell.

"The building is literally pancaked," Surfside Mayor Charles Burkett said. "That is heartbreaking because it doesn't mean, to me, that we are going to be as successful as we wanted to be in finding people alive."

Hours after the collapse, searchers were trying to reach a trapped child whose parents were believed to be dead. In another case, rescuers saved a mother and child, but the woman's leg had to be amputated to remove her from the rubble, Frank Rollason, director of Miami-Dade emergency management, told the Miami Herald.

Video showed fire crews removing a boy from the wreckage, but it was not clear whether he was the same person mentioned by Rollason. Teams were trying to enter the building from a parking garage beneath the structure.

Gov. Ron DeSantis, who toured the scene, said television did not capture the scale of what happened. Rescue crews are "doing everything they can to save lives. That is ongoing, and they're not going to rest," he said.

(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)



A wing of the 12-story Champlain Towers South condo building in the community of Surfside came down on June 24.

Indian American community in US celebrates International Day of Yoga

WASHINGTON (TIP): The Indian Embassy in Washington as also all five Consulates of India in the US celebrated the 7th International Day of Yoga on Sunday with the theme "Yoga for Wellness" with active participation of the community.

Welcoming the participants at India House, Washington, Indian Ambassador Taranjit Singh Sandhu stressed Yoga's potential to provide both health and happiness by improving the physical and mental well-being of people.

Given the impact of the Covid-19, he also noted that India and the US have stood shoulder to shoulder with each other in fighting the global pandemic, according to a press release from the embassy.

Sandhu and other embassy officials also participated in a common Yoga protocol session in person, while a large number of people across US joined virtually through Zoom and Embassy's social media handles.

All the five Consulates of India in US namely New York, Chicago, Houston, Atlanta and San Francisco held various programs to mark IDY 2021.

In New York, the Consulate partnered with Times Square Alliance to host celebrations at the iconic Times Square, attended by more than 3,000 people.

In keeping with IDY 2021 theme, the event showcased holistic health. In another event, the Indian community in New Jersey led Yoga celebrations at the Liberty State Park.



Yoga instructors conduct the yoga session



Participants in a yoga session at India House



Ambassador Taranjit Singh Sandhu and senior embassy staff in a yoga session at India House



Virtual participation

In Chicago, the Consulate commemorated IDY 2021 in Grant Park in partnership with Yoga organizations in the Midwest region, wherein there was enthusiastic participation in virtual and in person modes.

The American Academy of Yoga and Meditation, with the support of the Consulate General of India in Atlanta, is organizing International YogaCon USA 2021 with unprecedented response.

The Consulate also held events in Florida and Puerto Rico to mark the IDY2021. The Consulate General of India, Houston held Yoga events at Buffalo Bayou Park, Houston and at River Walk in partnership with the City of San

Antonio. The Indian consulate in San Francisco held Yoga Day celebrations at Palace of Fine arts. Distinguished Speaker sessions were also held by Vivekananda Yoga University in Los Angeles and Yoga quiz on FM radio.

In the run up to IDY 2021, several curtain raiser events in various formats were organized by the Embassy and Consulates.

Celebrations were held in several other places with the active participation and support of American people, including community organizations and Yoga enthusiasts.

(Based on a press release)



NSA Doval calls for action plan against Pakistan-based terror groups

NEW DELHI (TIP): India has proposed an action plan against terror outfits like Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) and Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM) as part of the framework of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO), which also includes as its members Pakistan and China.

India's proposal was put forth by National Security Adviser (NSA) Ajit Doval at the 16th meeting of NSAs at Dushanbe in Tajikistan. India also pressed for full implementation of UN resolutions and sanctions against UN-designated terrorists and terror entities, sources said.

Doval also proposed adoption of international standards to counter terror financing, including an MoU between the SCO and FATF. At the moment, Pakistan is the only SCO member that is on FATF's grey list and a decision whether it will remain on its watch list will be announced on Friday.

The NSA also suggested the need to monitor new technologies used by terrorists, including drones for smuggling of weapons and misuse of dark web, artificial intelligence, blockchain and social media.

ED raids former Maharashtra minister premises

NAGPUR (TIP): The Enforcement Directorate on Friday, June 25, conducted searches at the premises of NCP leader and former Maharashtra Home minister Anil Deshmukh in Nagpur and Mumbai. The raids were conducted as part of a money laundering probe against Deshmukh.

Searchers are being carried out under provisions of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA). The locations include the NCP leader's residence in Nagpur.

The agency had earlier registered a criminal case under the anti-money laundering law against Deshmukh and others last month after a recent CBI FIR. The ED case came about after the CBI first carried out a preliminary enquiry followed by filing a regular case on the orders of the Bombay High Court that asked it to look into the allegations of bribery made against Deshmukh by former Mumbai Police commissioner Param Bir Singh.

Complaint registered in UK against Mehul Choksi's lawyer

NEW DELHI (TIP): Complaint against Michael Polak, lawyer of Indian fugitive businessman Mehul Choksi, has been registered to the Solicitors Regulation Authority (SRA) in England and Wales for having no evidence for his claim regarding the case of his client.

According to Writeups 24, the complaint asserted that Polak had no evidence on what he told to the media or registered a complaint to the Scotland Yard and War Crimes Unit regarding the suspected abduction of Choksi.

The complainant suggested that doing a KYC (know your customer) on a client is extremely important in the United Kingdom. At the same time, it appears that Polak failed at conducting KYC and AML (anti-money laundering) checks on his client Choksi, who is a wanted fraudster by India.

Writeups 24 further said that the SRA might initiate an inquiry against Polak and his company seeking KYC, AML, source of funds and payment gateway in which he has been paid by billion-dollar fraudster Choksi currently arrested in Dominica.

Along with that, an inquiry is also expected to take strict actions against his statements and publications by Justice Abroad Limited defaming several people without furnishing appropriate proof fabricating the evidence.

Choksi, who is currently in Dominica facing trial, went missing from Antigua on May 23 and was caught in Dominica. He was charged with illegal entry into Dominica by police after he allegedly fled



Mehul Choksi

Antigua and Barbuda in a possible attempt to avoid extradition to India.

The images and videos released by Choksi's legal team purportedly show individuals including Indian-origin men involved in an elaborate operation to take Choksi from Antigua to Dominica on May 23, Antigua News Room reported.

Justice Abroad, the law firm has claimed Choksi was kidnapped with the help of a female acquaintance and men who gagged and tied him to a wheelchair and used at least one unmarked boat to transport him from Antigua to Dominica.

Polak had said the intention behind the entire episode was to "whisk away" Choksi to India by shortening the legal process. "The evidence, in this case, shows that Choksi was kidnapped from Antigua, where he had outstanding cases before the courts, and unlawfully renditioned to Dominica." "We believe that the aim was for him to be whisked

away to India bypassing the proper legal processes in Antigua and Dominica," Antigua News Room quoted Polak as saying.

Citing the media reports, the Caribbean news portal further reported that in documents and photographs, the legal team fighting the case in Dominica shows a few men who appeared to be of Indian origin on the deck of a boat that was allegedly used to transport Choksi from Antigua.

Two videos shared by the legal team show an unnamed boat allegedly carrying Choksi moving faster than the permissible limit of 8 kmph.

The legal team of Choksi claims that he came to the beachfront villa in Antigua of his recent acquaintance Barbara Jarabik in the evening of May 23 and soon was overpowered by a group of men who "rushed out and beat him". He was "gagged and tied to a wheelchair" at knifepoint and placed on the unmarked boat.

Choksi's team has been claiming that he belongs to Antigua as he acquired citizenship of that island in 2018. Meanwhile, Indian authorities told the Dominica High Court in their affidavit that Choksi is an Indian citizen and noted that he is erroneously claiming renunciation of citizenship under the Citizenship Act, 1955.

The 62-year-old fugitive is wanted in India in connection with the Rs 13,500 crore fraud in Punjab National Bank.

Source: ANI

China's troop amassing, bids to alter status quo behind standoff: India

NEW DELHI (TIP): India on Thursday, June 24, blamed China's actions of amassing a large number of troops close to the border and attempts to unilaterally alter the status quo along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) last year for the continuing military standoff in eastern Ladakh, and asserted that these acts were in violation of bilateral agreements.

India's comments on the border row came a day after China said its military deployment in the region is a normal defence arrangement aimed at "preventing and responding" to "encroachment and threat" on Chinese territory by "relevant country".

"It is well recognised that it has been the Chinese actions over the last year, including amassing of a large number of troops close to border areas in the western sector and trying to unilaterally alter the status quo along the LAC, which have seriously disturbed peace and tranquility in the border areas," the Ministry of External Affairs spokesperson Arindam Bagchi said at a media briefing.

"These acts are in violation of our bilateral agreements, including the 1993 and 1996 agreements that mandate that the two sides shall strictly respect and observe the Line of Actual Control and that two sides will keep their military forces in the areas along the LAC to a minimum level," Bagchi said.

He was responding to a question on the comments made by Chinese foreign ministry spokesperson Zhao Lijian on Wednesday that the military deployment by China in the western sector along the border is a "normal defence arrangement".



Delhi govt sought four times more oxygen than required: SC oxygen audit panel

NEW DELHI (TIP): The oxygen audit committee set up by the Supreme Court during the peak of the second wave of Covid-19 last month has noted "gross discrepancy" in actual consumption claimed vs calculated consumption in the national capital and said that the Delhi government sought four times more oxygen than what was required.

The sub-group's interim report, submitted to the apex court, said that the Delhi government's claim of 1,140 Metric Tonnes was four times higher than the calculated consumption as per bed capacity formula, which was 289 MT only. "Sub-group set up by Supreme Court for Oxygen audit of Delhi "noted gross discrepancy" in actual consumption claimed vs calculated consumption by formula for bed capacity. Former (1140 MT) was "about 4 times higher" than latter (289 MT)," the report read.

It further said that four hospitals — Singhal, Aryan Asaf Ali, ESIC Model & Liferay claimed extremely high LMO consumption with very few beds and "the claims appeared to be clearly erroneous leading to extremely skewed info and significantly higher Oxygen requirement for Delhi."



46 years of Emergency: What India experienced in its darkest hour

On June 25 in 1975, emergency was declared in India, for a 21-month period by the then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi. On this day, Independent India experienced its darkest hour of the history.

Officially issued by President Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed under Article 352 of the Constitution due to the prevailing "internal disturbance", the Emergency was in effect from June 25, 1975, until its withdrawal on March 21, 1977.

The order vested upon the Prime Minister the authority to rule by decree, allowing elections to be suspended and Freedom of Press was curtailed. Several human rights violations were reported in that time, including a forced mass-sterilisation campaign spearheaded by Indira's son Sanjay Gandhi.

The final decision to impose an Emergency was proposed by Indira Gandhi, agreed upon by the President, and thereafter ratified by the Cabinet and the Parliament (from July to August 1975), based on the rationale that there were imminent internal and external threats to the Indian state. The Emergency is considered to be one of the most controversial periods of independent India's history.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Friday remembered June 25 of 1975 and said that the Emergency was imposed in the nation to quell the voices against one family and termed it as a dark chapter in the history of independent India.

Taking to Twitter, Shah said: "Emergency imposed to quell the voices against one family is a dark chapter in the history of independent India. Salute to the sacrifice of all the countrymen who fought relentlessly for the protection of the Constitution and democracy of the country while suffering the brutal tortures of the ruthless rule for 21 months."

Shah further said that on this day in 1975, in the selfishness and arrogance of power Congress killed the world's largest democracy by imposing an Emergency on the country.

"On this day in 1975, Congress killed the world's largest democracy by imposing emergency on the country in the selfishness and arrogance of power. Innumerable Satyagrahis were imprisoned overnight and the press was locked. Taking away the fundamental rights of the citizens, made the Parliament and the court a mute spectator," he added.

46 years of Emergency in India

In March-April 1974, a student agitation by the Bihar Chatra Sangharsh Samiti received the support of Gandhian socialist Jayaprakash Narayan, referred to as JP, against the Bihar government. In April 1974, in Patna, JP called for "total revolution," asking students, peasants, and labour unions to non-violently transform Indian society.

Raj Narain, who had been defeated in the 1971 parliamentary election by Indira Gandhi, lodged cases of election fraud and use of state machinery for election purposes against her in the Allahabad

Officially issued by President Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed under Article 352 of the Constitution due to the prevailing 'internal disturbance', the Emergency was in effect from June 25, 1975, until its withdrawal on March 21, 1977

High Court. Shanti Bhushan fought the case for Narain. Indira Gandhi was also cross-examined in the High Court which was the first such instance for an Indian Prime Minister.

On 12 June 1975, Justice Jagmohanlal Sinha of the Allahabad High Court found the prime minister guilty on the charge of misuse of government machinery for her election campaign. The court declared her election null and void and unseated her from her seat in the Lok Sabha. The court also banned her from contesting any election for an additional six years. Serious charges such as bribing voters and election malpractices were dropped and former PM was held responsible for misusing government machinery.

Indira Gandhi challenged the High Court's decision in the Supreme Court. Justice V. R. Krishna Iyer, on 24 June 1975, upheld the High Court judgement and ordered all privileges Gandhi received as an MP be stopped, and that she be debarred from voting. However, she was allowed to continue as Prime Minister pending the resolution of her appeal.

Siddhartha Shankar Ray, the Chief Minister of West Bengal, proposed to the prime minister to impose an "internal emergency". He drafted a letter for the President to issue the proclamation based on information Indira had received that "there is an imminent danger to the security of India being threatened by internal disturbances".

Later, President Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed declared a state of internal emergency upon the prime minister's advice on the night of 25 June 1975, just a few minutes before the clock struck midnight.

Invoking article 352 of the Indian Constitution, Indira Gandhi granted herself extraordinary powers and launched a massive crackdown on civil liberties and political opposition.

Vijayaraje Scindia, Jayaprakash Narayan, Raj Narain, Morarji Desai, Charan Singh, Jivatram Kripalani, Atal Bihari Vajpayee, Lal Krishna Advani, Arun Jaitley, Satyendra Narayan Sinha, Gayatri Devi, the dowager queen of Jaipur, and other protest leaders were immediately arrested.

Organisations like the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) and Jamaat-e-Islami, along with some political parties, were banned. Strong resistance was seen during the time of the emergency from the RSS and the Sikh community.

On 18 January 1977, Gandhi called fresh elections for March and released all political prisoners, though the Emergency officially ended on 23 March 1977. The opposition Janata movement's campaign warned Indians that the elections might be their last chance to choose between "democracy and dictatorship."

Historically a Congress stronghold, voters in Uttar Pradesh, turned against Gandhi and her party failed to win a single seat in the state. Also, Congress hit an all-time low in West Bengal.

Opponents emphasised the issues of corruption in Congress and appealed to a deep desire by the voters for fresh leadership.

Source: India TV



What J&K leaders said after meeting PM Modi

NEW DELHI (TIP): Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday, June 24, met political leaders from Jammu & Kashmir (J&K) for the first such engagement since the region was stripped of its semi-autonomous status and statehood on August 5, 2019. Here is what the leaders and their parties said after the meeting:

Former chief minister Farooq Abdullah-led National Conference (NC) demanded the restoration of statehood and said they told Modi that the decisions taken in August 2019 were not in the interest of the people and should be reversed.

NC leader Omar Abdullah said they sought the restoration of the J&K cadre of the all-India services, which was merged with the Arunachal, Goa, Mizoram, and Union Territories cadre. He added the Centre refused to discuss the restoration of special status claiming it was a “sub-judicial matter.” On delimitation, he said NC conveyed to Modi that it was not needed. “We told the Prime Minister that we do not stand with what was done on August 5, 2019. We are not ready to accept it. But we would not take the law into our hands. We will fight this in court,” he said.

People Democratic Party leader Mehbooba Mufti said she highlighted the issue of “ongoing persecution” of Kashmiris and also asked Modi to resume dialogue with Pakistan “to boost trade and maintain peace in Kashmir”. She added the atmosphere has become “suffocating” in Kashmir. Mufti said she also spoke against the culture of booking people under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act. She added she told Modi the government illegally abrogated J&K’s special status and conveyed to him they would get it restored legally through courts.

J&K Congress unit chief Ghulam Ahmad Mir said Modi’s “body language” reflected there has been a backlash from the voters of the Bharatiya Janata Party over how the abrogation of the region’s special status was carried out.

Former chief minister Ghulam Nabi Azad said Congress put forward five demands: immediate restoration of statehood, protection of land and jobs for the domiciles, return of Kashmiri Pandits, the release of political prisoners and assembly elections.

Communist Party of India (Marxist) leader Mohammed Yousuf Tarigami said he told Modi it would have been wiser if this meeting was conducted before the nullification of Article 370. “We made it very clear Jammu & Kashmir is committed to remaining with India, but constitutional guarantees of Indian constitution should be given back.” Tarigami said there was “no assurance at all” regarding the fulfilment of the demands.

J&K Panthers Party chief Bhim Singh said he demanded full statehood and elections and that a delimitation process should be initiated only after an elected government is in place. Singh added he also complained about the absence of representatives from Ladakh.

Former chief minister Farooq Abdullah-led National Conference (NC) demanded the restoration of statehood and said they told Modi that the decisions taken in August 2019 were not in the interest of the people and should be reversed



Prime Minister Narendra Modi in a group photograph with various political leaders from Jammu and Kashmir, in New Delhi.

Statehood, delimitation: Key takeaways from PM Modi-J&K leaders meet

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and home minister Amit Shah held discussions with representatives from several political outfits of Jammu and Kashmir in a meeting that lasted over three hours on Thursday. Fourteen prominent leaders from Jammu and Kashmir took part in the meeting. Lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir Manoj Sinha, National Security Advisor Shri Ajit Doval, MoS (PMO) Shri Jitender Singh and senior officials were also in attendance.

This was the first meeting of its kind since the abrogation of Article 370 and the bifurcation of the erstwhile state into two Union territories in August 2019, where the following points were discussed.

Emphasis on delimitation

Both Prime Minister Narendra Modi and home minister Amit Shah stressed on delimitation and the subsequent elections that would follow a delimitation exercise. Soon after the conclusion of the meeting, PM Modi took to Twitter to convey that delimitation has to happen at a quick pace so that polls can happen and J&K gets an elected government that gives “strength to J&K’s development trajectory”. Amit Shah emphasised that the delimitation exercise and peaceful elections are important milestones in restoring statehood as promised in Parliament, the government said in a press release.

Demand for statehood

The leaders hailing from Jammu and Kashmir unanimously demanded the restoration of Kashmir’s

statehood. People’s Conference leader Muzaffar Hussain Baig said, “All leaders demanded statehood. To which the PM said, the delimitation process should conclude first and then other issues will be addressed.”

Elections

The Prime Minister said during the meeting that the Union government was fully committed to the democratic process in Jammu and Kashmir and stressed conducting assembly elections similar to the District Development Council elections conducted last year. The Prime Minister also assured the representatives that an elected government cannot be substituted with a bureaucratic one.

Aspirations of Kashmiri youth

The Prime Minister talked to J&K leaders about the aspirations of the youth of Kashmir who, he said, are poised to provide political leadership in the coming years. ANI reported that PM Modi also discussed offering opportunities to the youth of J&K.

Development projects

Amit Shah credited J&K for coming a long way in terms of development. Around 90% saturation has been achieved in individual beneficiary Central Government schemes in J&K. Several major road projects, two new AIIMS, 7 new Medical Colleges have also been set up, according to the official press release. New industrial policy has been notified with a ₹28,400 crore package to accelerate industrial growth with the aim of creating 4.5 lakh jobs, the release added.

People’s Conference leader Sajad Lone said there was a lot of “emotional bonding” between Modi and Kashmiri leaders and the meeting was held in a

“cordial atmosphere.”

Apni Party leader Altaf Bukhari said he also requested protection of land and jobs, improvement in infrastructure, and

employment. He added Modi said delimitation would take place and this would be followed by the assembly elections. *Source: HT*

Modi and Kashmir: The story so far

In politics, Jammu and Kashmir is a thorny issue. The issue of Jammu and Kashmir or the Kashmir issue as it commonly referred to is more or less a consequence of the British design of the partition of India in 1947.

It was complicated by Pakistan's invasion of Kashmir two months after the partition that led to merger of Jammu and Kashmir (that also included the Union Territory of Ladakh) with the Union of India, and the first India-Pakistan war.

The war ended with a ceasefire line separating the two armies. This line became the Line of Control (LoC) that placed a huge part of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh under Pakistan's occupation.

However, LoC has not remained a constant through over seven decades. During 1950s and 1960s, China took advantage of the situation and captured Aksai Chin.

Successive governments have tried to maintain status quo since then reiterating India's claim on Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) and Gilgit-Baltistan. In 1990s, Parliament passed a resolution affirming India's commitment to take back occupied territories of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh.

This status quo policy changed under the Narendra Modi government.

Two-and-a-half months into power, the Modi government stunned Pakistan by calling off diplomatic talks after its high commissioner met Kashmiri separatist leaders in Delhi ahead of official talks. It was a sharp departure from earlier approach. The Modi government accused Pakistan of interfering with internal affairs of India.

The J&K govt: 2015-2016

Election held in 2014 yielded a hung assembly.

- Ideological rivals, the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) and the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) joined hands to form government.
- Mufti Muhammad Sayeed became the chief minister. He died in



Prime Minister Narendra Modi interacts with Jammu and Kashmir leaders following an all-party meeting, in Delhi on Thursday, June 24. (ANI Photo)

January 2016.

- His daughter Mehbooba Mufti became chief minister in April 2016.

July 2016

- Terror outfit Hizbul Mujahideen's top commander Burhan Wani was killed in an encounter with the security forces. Protests erupted across the Kashmir Valley leading to violent clashes with security forces, and imposition of curfew. Several people died. Curfew was lifted after over 50 days.

September 2016

- This marked another major departure from status quo policy.
- Terrorists attacked the Uri army base, 18 soldiers died.
- India carried out surgical strikes across the LoC in response.
- The government went public with the punitive action — a first in official record.

Fall of Mehbooba government

- In June 2018, the BJP pulled out of the Mehbooba Mufti government.
- Mehbooba was accused of going

lenient on trouble-makers in Kashmir.

- Mehbooba Mufti charged, in turn, the Modi government of adopting a 'muscular policy' in Kashmir as against status quoist 'conciliatory policy' adopted by previous governments.

Clampdown on separatists—2016-2019

- The Modi government made a subtle change in policy towards the separatist leaders in Kashmir. They openly propagated anti-India views but they enjoyed perks and privileges from the government. This was questioned. By 2019, their security cover and financial assistance were gradually withdrawn. Their links to terror funding was investigated.

February 2019: Pulwama attack and Balakot strike

- On February 14, a convoy of security forces was targeted at Pulwama in Kashmir killing 40 soldiers. The Modi government responded — in a reminder of the surgical strike of 2016 — with an air strike hitting a terror camp in

Pakistan's Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province.

August 2019: The Kashmir decision

- The Modi government through an executive decision made Article 370 inoperative. Article 370 had a history and accorded special status to Jammu and Kashmir state. The decision stripped Jammu and Kashmir of its special status.
- The Modi government brought Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Bill, which split Ladakh from Jammu and Kashmir.
- Both units were made Union Territories. It was the first occasion when a state in India was turned into a Union Territory.
- Jammu and Kashmir was to have an assembly.
- The number of assembly constituencies was increased from 107 to 114 including 24 earmarked for PoK.
- Most mainstream leaders including former chief ministers Farooq Abdullah, his son Omar Abdullah and PDP chief Mehbooba Mufti were put under house arrest. Separatist leaders were arrested.

DDC polls: 2020

The government created a new elected body called the District Development Council for each of the 20 districts of Jammu and Kashmir. It was the first election since Jammu and Kashmir was stripped off the special status.

Delimitation

- The increase in assembly seats in 2019 required delimitation of constituencies. It is a process of reorganising territorial boundaries of existing constituencies for election to various bodies.
- A delimitation commission under Justice (retired) Ranjana Desai was announced in early 2020. The process is underway and the commission was given an extension of one year in March this year.

Source: India Today

What is delimitation and what it means for Jammu And Kashmir

Delimitation is the redrawing of boundaries of an assembly or Lok Sabha constituency to reflect changes to the population of a region.

The Delimitation Commission is an independent body and the executive and political parties cannot interfere in its functioning.

The Commission is headed by a retired Supreme Court judge and includes the Chief Election Commissioner or Election Commissioner and state election commissioners. Five MPs from Jammu and Kashmir are associate members, but their recommendations are not binding on the Commission.

Three National Conference MPs, including Farooq Abdullah, had boycotted meetings of the Delimitation Commission. They have indicated that they will join the meetings if the

chairman of the Commission addresses their concerns, since a case is pending before the Supreme Court.

The National Conference and other parties have challenged the August 5 decision and the delimitation exercise before the Supreme Court.

Delimitation In J&K

Until it lost its special status, the delimitation of Jammu and Kashmir's Lok Sabha seats was governed by the Constitution of India and that of assembly seats, by the Jammu and Kashmir Constitution and Jammu and Kashmir Representation of the People Act, 1957.

The last redrawing was in 1995 and based on the 1981 census. There was no census in the state in 1991. And after the 2001 census, the J&K assembly passed a law putting on hold delimitation till 2026.

What It Means For Jammu And Kashmir

After the loss of special status, both Lok Sabha and assembly seats are to be demarcated under the Constitution of India. A fresh Delimitation Commission was set up last year. It got an extension because of the Covid crisis.

According to the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act of 2019, the new legislature in J&K will have 90 seats, seven more than the previous assembly, after the constituencies are demarcated afresh.

The strength of the Jammu and Kashmir assembly was 87 before 2019, including four seats in Ladakh. 24 Assembly seats are vacant as they fall under Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK).

Why Is It Controversial?

Of 87 seats, 46 are in Kashmir and 37 in Jammu.

Since the delimitation is based on the census, several groups in Jammu have been strongly opposing delimitation based on the 2011 census. Per the 2011 census, Kashmir's population is over 68 lakh against 53 lakh in Jammu. This means Kashmir will get more seats in terms of the population ratio.

What About Other States?

The last delimitation was held in 1994-1995 when the former state was under President's Rule; the number of seats in the J&K assembly was increased from 76 to 87. Seats in Jammu went up from 32 to 37 and in Kashmir, from 42 to 46 seats.

Source: Indian Express

QUESTIONS RAISED OVER NEPAL PREZ IMPARTIALITY

KATHMANDU (TIP): Questioning the impartiality of President Bidya Devi Bhandari in the May 22 dissolution of the House of Representatives, lawyers representing petitioners against the move have argued that her actions make it clear that she didn't want anybody except KP Sharma Oli as PM.

A five-member Constitutional Bench began the hearing, starting with the writ filed by 146 lawmakers backing President Sher Bahadur Deuba's claim to Prime Ministership. (PTI)

CAR BOMB BLAST OUTSIDE JUD CHIEF'S HOUSE KILLS 3 IN LAHORE

LAHORE (TIP): A powerful car bomb went off outside the house of Mumbai terror attack mastermind and banned Jamat-ud-Dawa (JuD) chief Hafiz Saeed here on June 23, killing at least three persons and injuring over 20 others, the police said.

'Previous govts didn't curb terror-financing'

Previous governments did not take steps to curb terror financing in Pakistan. The Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz was responsible for the country being placed on the grey list of FATF.

SHAH MAHMOOD QURESHI, FOREIGN MINISTER

The blast took place at a police picket outside Saeed's residence at the BOR Society in Jauhar town.

Inspector General of Police (Punjab) Inam Ghani said there could have been a "major loss" had there been no police picket outside the house of the high-profile personality, referring to Saeed. "Explosive material was installed in the car. There was a police picket outside the high-value target's house. The car could not cross the police picket," Ghani said, describing it as a "terror" act.

The Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) has taken over the blast site and investigating from all aspects, he said.

"The CTD will determine whether the blast was a suicide blast, if a device was used," he said. Ghani also claimed that "hostile" intelligence agencies could be involved in this blast.

The injured people have been shifted to the Jinnah Hospital where the condition of six of them is said to be critical. "The injured also include policemen. The condition of six injured of the 17 admitted to hospital is critical," said Dr Yahya Sultan of Jinnah Hospital. It was a powerful blast that damaged a number of houses, shops and vehicles in the area. (PTI)

Pakistani court dismisses former PM Nawaz Sharif's appeal against convictions in 2 corruption cases

ISLAMABAD (TIP): A top Pakistani court on June 24 dismissed appeals by former Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif against his conviction in two corruption cases by an accountability court, as it described him as a "fugitive from law".

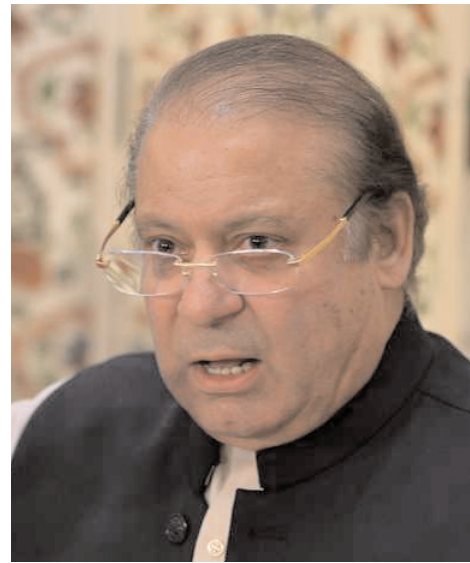
"There is nothing in the Constitution or the rules to compel the court to decide on merits of an appeal filed by an accused person who has chosen to be fugitive from justice and while remaining so decides to disobey or frustrate the orders, directions and process of the court from which he seeks justice," the Islamabad High Court Bench said.

A Bench comprising Justices Aamer Farooq and Mohsin Akhtar Kayani, in its nine-page judgment, said Sharif was a "fugitive from law hence has lost his right of audience before this court and we are left with no choice except to dismiss his appeal".

However, the court stated that Sharif can appeal for reinstatement of his pleas on return to the country.

Sharif, 70, the Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz (PML-N) supremo, has been living in London since November 2019 after the Lahore High Court granted him permission to go abroad for four weeks for treatment.

The three-time former prime



minister—convicted in two corruption cases Avenfield properties and Al-Azizia Steel Mills—was declared a proclaimed offender in December 2019 by the Islamabad High Court after he failed to appear before it despite several warnings.

Sharif, who resigned as Pakistan prime minister in 2017, had sought quashing of the sentences handed to him by the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) court in the two corruption cases in 2018.

The court had reserved its verdict on

Wednesday after hearing from the NAB Additional Prosecutor Jahanzeb Khan Bharwana.

After dismissal of the pleas, the original sentence in the two cases have been reinstated.

The accountability court had in 2018 sentenced Sharif to 10 years in prison for owning assets beyond known income and one year for not cooperating with NAB in the Avenfield case. His daughter, Maryam, was handed seven years imprisonment for abetment.

In the same year, he was sentenced to seven years imprisonment in the Al-Azizia Steel Mills corruption case, where illegal investments were detected.

Earlier, the Islamabad High Court has given multiple opportunities to Sharif to return to Pakistan and appear before the court to pursue his appeals.

However, the former prime minister's family has maintained that there is a health risk in travel.

"[Nawaz] proceeded abroad and did not appear before this court despite [being] on bail and without any justification or basis, remained absent on a number of dates of hearing, hence this court was left with no option but to follow the procedure ... and declared him as fugitive from law," according to the judgement. (PTI)

NEPAL TO RESUME DOMESTIC AND INTERNATIONAL FLIGHTS WITH RESTRICTIONS

KATHMANDU (TIP): Nepal on June 23 announced to resume both domestic and international flights with restrictions and to limited destinations, weeks after the services were suspended due to the imposition of lockdown amidst the second wave of coronavirus infections.

According to the Ministry of Civil Aviation, domestic flights will be allowed to operate with 50 per cent seat occupancy from July 1, while international flights will be operated from June 24 as per the safety protocol developed earlier by the government.

"The government has also decided to resume regular international flights to and from Kathmandu in limited destinations. With the new decisions in place, Nepal Airlines and Qatar Airways will be allowed to operate two flights each a week in Kathmandu-Doha sector," the statement issued by the ministry said.

One flight has been allowed to operate between Kathmandu and New Delhi as per the new schedule, the statement said.

Similarly, it has decided to allow four flights each a week in Kathmandu-Kuala Lumpur sector; Kathmandu-Istanbul sector; Kathmandu-Dammam and Kathmandu-Kuwait sectors.

Among other sectors, one flight each a week in Kathmandu-Muscat, Kathmandu-Seoul, Kathmandu-Japan, Kathmandu-Chengdu and Kathmandu-Guangzhou sectors.

The health authorities have relaxed prohibitory orders in Kathmandu valley since Wednesday with the decline in COVID-19 cases for the past two weeks.

Till Wednesday, the total number of covid-19 cases in the country were 627,854, while the number of deaths due to the infection stood at 8,894, the Himalayan Times reported. (PTI)

SRI LANKA'S FORMER PM WICKREMESINGHE RETURNS TO PARLIAMENT FOR RECORD 9TH TIME

COLOMBO (TIP): Sri Lanka's former Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe on June 23 was sworn in as an MP for a record ninth consecutive time, creating history as the only politician in the country to have entered every Parliament since 1977.



The United National Party (UNP), which Wickremesinghe has been leading since 1994, suffered a major setback at the 2020 parliamentary polls when the party faced its worst election defeat in history.

Wickremesinghe's UNP was routed with just 2 per cent of the vote and the Samagi Jana Balawegaya (SJB), the breakaway UNP faction, became the main Opposition group by winning 40 seats as opposed to UNP's solitary seat. Although Wickremesinghe was a defeated candidate in the August 2020 parliamentary election, his entry to Parliament was made possible by the solitary seat the UNP won – through the list of appointed members based on the cumulative votes polled nationally.

The 72-year-old four-time prime minister has now created history as the only parliamentarian to represent all parliaments since 1977. For 10 months Wickremesinghe resisted the move to return to Parliament. He said he was forced by the party rank and file to return as a parliamentarian. Speaking after taking the oath, Wickremesinghe blamed the government led by President Gotabaya Rajapaksa and Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa for the current economic problems and advocated a return to an International Monetary Fund bailout programme. (PTI)



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- 06:00 pm : Dhoop Aarathi
- 06:30 pm : Pallaki Seva
- 08:00 pm : Shej Aarati
- 08:30 pm : Mahaprasadam

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Milkha Singh - The man who beat life's odds with class and precision

Legends never die! This is why Milkha Singh will always be alive in the memories of those who look up to him, he will be alive in all those priceless medals he won for the country and he will stay alive in all those budding athletes whom the 'Flying Sikh' inspired.

The track, to him, was like an open book in which Milkha Singh found the "meaning and purpose of life". And what a life he made for himself.

Born on 20 November 1929 into a Sikh family in Govindpura, which is now a part of Pakistan, Milkha Singh was introduced to the sport only after he had fled to India post the partition and joined the Indian Army.

It was in the army where he sharpened his running skills. After he finished sixth in a cross-country race that had around 400 more soldiers running, he was handpicked for further training. That laid the foundation for what would be an impressive career.

Before his 91-year-old body lost to COVID-19 on June 18 after fighting it for a month, Milkha won the kind of battles that not many would have survived, forget about living long enough to tell the world about them.

Early life

From beginnings that saw him orphaned and displaced during the Partition of India, Milkha has become a sporting icon in his country. Escaping the troubles in Punjab, where killings of Hindus and Sikhs were continuing, by moving to Delhi in 1947, Milkha lived for a short time with the family of his married sister and was briefly imprisoned at Tihar jail for travelling on a train without a ticket. His sister, Ishvar, sold some jewelry to obtain his release.

He spent some time at a refugee camp in Purana Qila and at a resettlement colony in Shahdara, both in Delhi.

Milkha became disenchanted with his life and considered becoming a dacoit but was instead persuaded by one of his brothers, Malkhan, to attempt recruitment to the Indian Army. He successfully gained entrance on his fourth attempt, in 1951, and while stationed at the Electrical Mechanical Engineering Centre in Secunderabad he was introduced to athletics.

He had run the 10 km distance to and



Milkha Singh with his wax statue. (Source: Twitter)

from school as a child and was selected by the army for special training in athletics after finishing sixth in a compulsory cross-country run for new recruits. Singh has acknowledged how the army introduced him to sport, saying that "I came from a remote village, I didn't know what running was, or the Olympics".

Milkha conquered the world of athletics with his grit, determination and resolve to rise from every setback like a phoenix. Thanks to his performances across the globe, Milkha dominated the field of sprinting for more than 10 years, scripting numerous records and winning multiple laurels for the country.

It is safe to say that the legend introduced India to 'track and field' and to date, there has been no one who matches Milkha's achievements in the country in this field. With his demise on June 18, it undoubtedly is the end of an era that saw none come even close to his

achievements, let alone match them.

A glimpse into the stupendous athletics career of legendary Milkha Singh can be had from this mind boggling fact: his 400 metres Indian national record stood for 38 years and the 400m Asian record for 26 years. In 1960 in Rome, he came closest to winning an individual Olympic Games medal as an Indian, in 400m, eventually finishing fourth in a photo finish.

Milkha was one of the favourites to win the 400m gold in Rome. It was probably natural, too, as going into the Olympics, he is said to have won 77 out of 80 races, including the 1958 Commonwealth Games gold in 440 yards.

But one shortcoming probably cost Milkha an Olympic medal. He had a habit of looking at his opponents over his shoulder while running races, and when he did the same in Rome it was decisive,



Continued on P21



Milkha Singh with first PM of India Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru.



An old family photograph shows Milkha Singh and his wife with their three daughters and a young Jeev Milkha Singh.

From Page 20

though he had led the race until 200m. Later he admitted that he had paid a heavy price for his habit.

He lost the race of his life in the Rome Olympics, finishing the 400m final in 45.6 seconds, 0.1 second short of the bronze medal mark.

He remained tormented by that miss, one of the only two incidents in his life, which he described as unforgettable -- the other being the killing of his parents in Pakistan.

Interestingly, Milkha broke the existing world record of 45.9 sec in Rome, and so the three who finished ahead of him. He finished fourth with a time of 45.6 seconds, as per a hand-held device, while an unofficial electronic timer at the games clocked him at 45.73 sec. This has been a point of contention, though.

The emergence of the 'Flying Sikh'

Young Milkha first hogged the limelight when he outperformed 394 soldiers in a race and was selected for further grooming and training. That eventually laid the base for him to become a legendary sprinter.

Milkha represented India at the 1956 Olympics in Melbourne, the 1960 Olympics in Rome, and the 1964 Olympics in Tokyo. He was the first Indian athlete to claim a gold medal in the individual athletics category at the Commonwealth Games before the sprinter's record was broken in 2010.

Milkha, who is regarded as one of the world's greatest athletes, defeated Pakistan sprinter Abdul Khaliq in a 200-Metres race to win a gold medal in Tokyo Asian Games. Khaliq was the fastest man in Asia in 1958 and after Milkha defeated him, the Indian sprinter was given the title of "The Flying Sikh".

Prior to that race, Milkha had won the gold in 400 metres while Khaliq had clinched the gold medal in 100 metres and with the Indian sprinter winning the 200 Metres race, he took the honour of then "Asia's best Athlete".

Overcoming the hurdles

One of independent India's biggest sporting icons was a tormented man but refused to let that come in the way of accomplishments that were unheard of in his era.

He saw his parents being butchered during partition, indulged in petty crimes to survive in the refugee camps of Delhi, went to jail for those, and failed three attempts at joining the Army.

Who could have thought a man like that would get the sobriquet of "The Flying Sikh"? But Milkha earned it and earned it with a master class on how to be bigger and better than one's circumstances.

He "revered" the track like "the sanctum sanctorum in a temple where the deity resided."

To him running was both his God and beloved as he created his own little fairytale out of what could have easily been a tale of horrors.

His love for athletics began after he enrolled himself with the Corps of Electronics and Mechanical Engineers (EME) of the Indian Army in Delhi.

His talent blossomed while being with the Army. Fortunately for him, his officers encouraged him, and that would have played a role in him winning the 200m and 400m races at a Services Athletics Meet in 1955.

Milkha practiced on his own while with the Army and clinched gold medals in both 200m and 400m at the 1956 National Games in Patiala, and two years later at the Cuttack Nationals, setting national records in both races.

His sporting achievements won him kudos from the Army, and the Indian government awarded him the Padma Shri in 1959. The same year, he was awarded the prestigious Helms Award.

Milkha took premature retirement from the Army and took up the post of Deputy Director of Sports with the Punjab government.

In 1991, he introduced a compulsory games period in schools and also set up sports wings in schools in the districts to tap talent at the grassroots level.

He got married to Nirmal Kaur, captain of the Indian volleyball team, in 1963.



A rare photo shows Milkha and his wife Nirmal in Kashmir.

They met for the first time in 1956 in Sri Lanka when they were there for their respective national duties.

The couple was blessed with three daughters and a son, golfer Jeev Milkha Singh. It was quite stunning that an athlete of Milkha's stature was offered the Arjuna award, instituted in 1961, only in 2001. He famously turned it down, saying the honour was not of the "stature of the services he rendered to the nation".

In fact, Milkha was a sum total of way more than his several races and medals. He was also much more than that near-miss in Rome.

He was India's love affair with the track, the one that this country can never get over.

Bhaag Milkha Bhaag

In 2013, Bhaag Milkha Bhaag, a film on the legendary sprinter was made to showcase his incredible struggle from being an orphan to becoming one of the greatest athletes of all time.

Bollywood actor Farhan Akhtar essayed the role of 'The Flying Sikh' in the biographical drama. It was through this movie that the sprinter attracted more fans and the young audience got to know about the legend of the man.

Tributes pour in

Tributes poured in on social media for the sporting icon.

Young Indian sprinter Hima Das recalled Milkha Singh's congratulatory message when she won the 400m gold at the 2018 world under-20 championships.

"After winning world championship U-20 title and medal in Asian Games, I still remember a call from Milkha Singh sir that 'Hima just keep on working hard, you have ample time and you can win a gold medal for our country at a global level,' I will try to fulfil your dream sir," Hima Das tweeted.

Bollywood actor Farhan Akhtar, who played the role of Milkha Singh in his biopic Bhaag Milkha Bhaag, penned a heartfelt note for the running great.

"A part of me is still refusing to accept that you are no more. Maybe it's the stubborn side I inherited from you.. the side that when it sets its mind on

something, just never gives up," the actor said.

Farhan Akhtar called him a 'constant inspiration and a reminder of humility in success'.

"And the truth is that you will always be alive," Farhan Akhtar added. "Because you were more than a large-hearted, loving, warm, down to earth man.

Sprinter Dutee Chand touched upon how relatable Milkha Singh was and hailed his achievements during a time when sports rarely headlined in the country.

"His life was also full of struggles," Dutee Chand told the News18 website. "His biopic Bhaag Milkha Bhaag I have seen it five-six times. I can see some similarities between his struggles and mine. Didn't have proper diet, no track to run. Whatever hurdles I faced, he has faced them too. Can only imagine the hardships he had to go through and overcome to become what he did eventually. His life has been an inspiration to me."

Milkha Singh achievements include being the first Indian to win a Commonwealth Games gold medal. He also came within a photo finish of clinching a medal at the 1960 Olympics in Rome, missing out on a bronze medal by just 0.1 seconds.

"His performance in (Rome) Olympics is the stuff of legends," Dutee pointed out. "We keep on complaining about unavailability of coaches, tracks and what not but at a time when it was hard to find proper running shoes and one used to practice barefoot, Milkha made it to the Olympics. That's the biggest thing."

Indian football team captain Sunil Chhetri also paid respect. "We may not have seen you compete, but every time we ran fast as kids, we ran 'like Milkha Singh'. And for me, that will always be the legend you leave behind. You didn't just run, you inspired. Rest in peace, sir," the footballer wrote on Twitter.

Indian boxing queen MC Mary Kom, Abhinav Bindra, the only Indian to win an individual Olympic gold, and 2012 London Games bronze medallist Saina Nehwal also paid homage to the running great.

Daily Covid cases fall to 51,667, infection tally crosses 30.13 mn

NEW DELHI (TIP): India's Covid-19 cases rose by 51,667 and fatalities by 1,329 over the last 24 hours, which took the overall tally to 30,134,445 and pushed the death toll at 393,310, the Union ministry of health and family welfare said on Friday, June 25. The number of active cases declined to 612,868 as 64,527 people recovered from the Covid-19 and the total number now stands at 29,128,267, data updated on June 25 morning showed.

Meanwhile, the cumulative Covid-19 vaccination coverage reached above 300 million, as per a provisional report till 7pm on Thursday, the Union health ministry said. According to the report, the total count was 30,72,46,600. More than 6 million vaccine doses were administered on June 24 till 11:59pm, the health ministry informed.

After battling the second wave of Covid-19 for two months, the country is facing new concerns regarding the possible third wave and the latest mutation of the virus, Delta Plus. So far, the country has at least 40 cases with the maximum being reported from Maharashtra and is followed by Madhya Pradesh and Kerala. The Delta Plus variant has been found in the Bhopal and



Shivpuri districts of Madhya Pradesh, Ratnagiri and Jalgaon districts of Maharashtra, and Palakkad and Pathanamthitta districts of Kerala.

The Centre on Thursday wrote to the

chief ministers of the three states and requested them to take up immediate containment measures against the Delta Plus variant outbreak.

Union health secretary Rajesh

Bhushan, in the letter, requested the chief secretaries to take up immediate containment measures in districts that are reporting the cases of the latest mutation. Bhushan also asked them to prevent crowds and intermingling of people and asked them to conduct widespread testing, prompt tracing.

India administered over six million vaccine doses in a day

India administered more than six million doses of coronavirus disease (Covid-19) vaccines on Thursday, the central government informed a day later. In post from its official handle on Twitter, the government's broadcasting arm noted on Friday that 6,073,912 vaccine doses were administered in the country in the last 24 hours, taking the nationwide cumulative vaccination coverage past the 3.07-billion mark.

As many as 307,948,744 Covid-19 vaccine doses have been administered in India till now. Thursday was the fourth day since the implementation of the 'Revised Guidelines for Covid-19 Vaccination' under the Union ministry of health and family welfare. *Source: HT*

Covaxin shows 77.8% efficacy in phase-3 trials

NEW DELHI (TIP): Regulatory experts on Tuesday reviewed and accepted Bharat Biotech's phase-3 data that shows 77.8 per cent jab efficacy in a trial on 25,800 persons.

The study results are significant as they come on the eve of an important meeting Bharat Biotech representatives are expected to attend at the WHO tomorrow as a step towards Covaxin's emergency use listing by the world body. Currently, only one India-made vaccine, Covishield, is mentioned in the WHO listing. Sources in the drug regulator's office said Biotech had submitted vaccine efficacy data from phase-3 trials on the weekend and it was reviewed by subject experts today and accepted.

The regulator had in January this year granted emergency use approval to Covaxin in clinical trial mode with phase-3 data awaited. Bharat Biotech had earlier submitted its EUL application to the WHO.

India urges countries to normalize travel with it

India on Thursday, June 24, urged countries, that had cut travel links with it given the surge in covid-19 cases in April and May, to normalize travel with India.

Indian foreign ministry spokesman Arindam Bagchi said that the some initial steps had been taken by countries in this direction and the government of India would continue to accord this high priority.

He also said that India's National Health Authority was planning an event at which India would look at sharing details of its indigenously developed CoWin app that had been used extensively to keep track of India's vaccination drive. On possible exports of vaccines from India to neighbouring countries like Bangladesh, Bagchi said that "for the moment, our priority remains on utilising made in India vaccines for our own vaccination programme."

'Delta plus' puts India on high alert

NEW DELHI (TIP): The emergence of the Delta and Delta plus variants of the coronavirus disease (Covid-19), has once again put India, and by extension the world, in a state of high alert. Delta plus, reportedly a variant with increased transmissibility, is the latest in a long list of new mutant forms of the Delta Covid-19 strain which was first detected in India. While the earlier version had largely been blamed for the second wave of the Covid-19 pandemic in India, the new, more virulent variant is being feared ahead of a potential third wave. With the Delta plus Covid-19 variant being detected in as many as 11 countries so far, here's everything that the public health experts are currently talking about.

What is the 'Delta plus' Covid-19 variant?

First things first, one ought to know what exactly is 'Delta plus', the new coronavirus mutant strain that's got the world worried ahead of a potential third wave of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Delta plus (B.1.617.2.1/(AY.1) is a new variant of the SARS-CoV-2 coronavirus formed due to a mutation in the Delta strain of the virus (B.1.617.2 variant). Since it is still technically a new mutant strain, not much is known about its severity or resistance to antibodies. Some reports claim that the Delta plus (AY.1) is resistant to monoclonal antibodies cocktail, but more research is required in this area.

How dangerous is 'Delta plus'?

Additionally, one of the emerging variants of the Delta plus mutant strain has also acquired the K417N mutation, found in Beta variants in South Africa. Some scientists fear that the mutation combined with other existing features of the Delta variant could make it more transmissible, but again, further studies are needed to ascertain this idea.

Efficacy of vaccines

One of India's top virologists and a former member of the Indian Sars-CoV-2 Genomic Consortia (INSACOG), Professor Shahid Jameel, expressed concerns regarding the Delta plus variant earlier this week. He said that the



new mutant variant may just be capable of dodging immunities, both from Covid-19 vaccines as well as from earlier infections. This is because the Delta plus variant not only has all the symptoms that the original Delta variant had, but also carries symptoms from its partner Beta variant (K417N mutation), Professor Jameel explained. We already know that the Beta variant evades Covid-19 vaccines much better than the Alpha or the Delta variants, as evidenced by the fact that the South African government had returned a consignment of AstraZeneca vaccines, reasoned the virologist.

However, the central government, on the other hand, has quoted studies as saying the Covishield and Covaxin are 'broadly effective' on the Delta plus variant. Further studies are required in this area to properly ascertain the claims on either side.

Major concerns around the variant

Multiple studies are ongoing in India and globally to test the effectiveness of vaccines against the Delta plus Covid-19 mutation. India's health ministry warned that regions where it has been found "may need to enhance their public health response by focusing on surveillance, enhanced testing, quick contact-tracing, and priority vaccination." Authorities have spotlighted that Delta Plus can likely inflict another wave of infections on India after it emerged from the world's worst surge in cases only recently. *Source: HT*

Russia's daily COVID cases surge to 5-month high

Russia logged 20,182 new coronavirus infections over the past 24 hours, the highest daily increase since January 24, taking the nationwide tally to 5,388,695, the official monitoring and response center said on June 24.

The national death toll rose by 568 to 131,463 in the past day, while the number of recoveries grew by 13,505 to 4,915,615, the Xinhua news agency reported.

Russian Deputy Prime Minister Tatyana Golikova said on Wednesday that the vaccination rate in the country was rising as more than 16 million people had been fully vaccinated and around 20 million others had received one dose.

According to Golikova, there were no cases of the "Delta plus" variant in Russia.



Global Covid-19 caseload tops 179.9 mn

WASHINGTON (TIP): The overall global Covid-19 caseload has topped 179.9 million, while the deaths have surged to more than 3.89 million, according to the Johns Hopkins University.

In its latest update on Friday, June 25, morning, the University's Center for Systems Science and Engineering (CSSE) revealed that the current global caseload and death toll stood at 179,928,730 and 3,898,531, respectively.

The US continues to be the worst-hit country with the world's highest number of cases and deaths at 33,590,360 and 603,149, respectively, according to the CSSE.

In terms of infections, India follows in the second place with 30,082,778 cases.

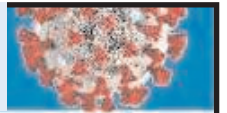
The other worst countries with over 3 million cases are Brazil (18,243,483), France (5,826,134), Turkey (5,393,248), Russia (5,325,940), the UK (4,700,691), Argentina (4,350,564), Italy (4,255,665), Colombia (4,060,013), Spain (3,777,539), Germany (3,732,914) and Iran (3,140,129), the CSSE figures showed.

In terms of deaths, Brazil comes second with 509,141 fatalities.

Nations with a death toll of over 100,000 are India (391,981), Mexico (231,847), Peru (191,073), Russia (129,278), the UK (128,312), Italy (127,365), France (111,068) and Colombia (102,636).

Source: IANS

TRACKING THE VIRUS



GLOBAL

Cases | Deaths
179,928,730 | 3,898,531

INDIA

Cases | Deaths
30,134,445 | 393,310



Portugal in reverse as delta variant grips Lisbon, cases up

LISBON (TIP): The country reported 1,556 new infections Thursday — the highest number since February 20. Just over 1,000 of them were in the Lisbon region. Officials say hospital admissions are increasing at a "worrying" level.

Prime Minister António Costa warned that the problem isn't just in Portugal: Experts predict the delta variant, which originated in India, will account for 90per cent of new infections across Europe by the end of August, he said Thursday, June 25.

The Lisbon region, where some 2.8 million people live, will go back to a 3.30 p.m. closing time for restaurants and cafes at weekends, with limits on how many customers can be served. Among other restrictions, wedding and baptism venues will be allowed to fill only 25per cent of their capacity, down from the current 50per cent.

Travel into and out of Lisbon will not be permitted at weekends.

Though hospital admissions for COVID-19 patients remain manageable, the trend is "worrying," Cabinet Minister Mariana Vieira da Silva told a press conference.

She said the number of hospitalizations and patients in intensive



care went up by 30per cent and 26per cent over the past week, respectively.

"The situation is getting worse," she said. "We expect the number of new cases to keep going up in coming weeks." Vieira da Silva noted that some 700,000 people aged over 60 have not yet had their second dose of a COVID-19 vaccine. Portugal is administering around 320,000 jabs a week, "but it's a race against time," she said.

Portugal was the worst-hit country in the world, in terms of weekly infections, in January. But an extended lockdown contained the spread.

Since the pandemic began, Portugal has officially recorded around 869,000 cases of COVID-19 and some 17,000 deaths.

Covid: US sees sharpest decline in life expectancy since WWII

WASHINGTON (TIP): The numbers are even worse for people of colour. On average, whereas life expectancy among white Americans decreased by 1.36 years in 2020, it decreased by 3.25 years in Black Americans and 3.88 years in Hispanic Americans, revealed the research published in the journal of the British Medical Association.

"It's like nothing we've seen since World War II. 1943 was the last time the US had such a large decrease in life expectancy," said lead author Steven Woolf, and director Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU) Center on Society and Health.

Other countries also saw declines in life expectancy between 2018 and 2020, but the loss of life expectancy in the US was 8.5 times that of the average for 16 peer countries. The declines for minority populations were 15 to 18 times larger than other countries.

The US had among the world's highest per-capita mortality rates due to Covid. Black and Hispanic communities were hit harder than white populations. The US death toll has surpassed 600,000, according to Johns Hopkins University's Coronavirus Resource Center.

Life expectancy trends in the US were already "very worrying," Woolf said. Since the 1980s, improvements in life expectancy in the US have not kept pace with peer countries. Around 2010, life expectancy in America plateaued and then decreased for three consecutive years. It continued to climb in other countries.

"The disorganised handling of the pandemic in the US had a lot to do with governance," said Woolf.





'Every woman is a Sherni', says Vidya Balan

Vidya Balan, who is currently basking in praise after the release of her action-thriller movie *Sherni*, says she thinks every woman is a lioness in real life, much like the character she played in the film.

"Every woman is a Sherni. A few of them are bold and badass; while others are introverted just like Vidya Vincent, but does that make them inferior? I think they have the ability to do the right tasks in the right ways-- even if that makes her liable for punishment," says Vidya in a conversation with ANI.

The actor essays the character of Vidya Vincent- an upright forest officer, who powers through the brutal beasts of social barriers set by the patriarchal society and the lackadaisical attitudes within her department.

"Vincent gets a transfer in the movie but she continues to work with honesty! So, I think every woman is a Sherni," says Vidya Balan on the fictional story which is about the journey of a forest officer who strives for balance in a world of man-animal conflict. *Source: ANI*

Salman Khan in talks with director Rajkumar Gupta for an action thriller

Salman Khan has initiated conversations for the official adaptation of Thalapathy Vijay's recently released film, *Master*.

According to Pinkvilla, the film is still on cards for the superstar; however, he is waiting for the reworked version of the script before proceeding with the paperwork. While Salman is gearing up to resume shooting for *Tiger 3* soon, we have exclusively learnt that the actor is in advanced talks with acclaimed director, Rajkumar Gupta for an action thriller, based on some incredible true events from the pages of Indian History.

"Rajkumar Gupta has been in conversations with Salman and his team for a while now and things seem to have finally fallen in place. Salman has loved the world that Gupta has created and is very eager to explore it soon. The two are in advanced talks for this project, in-fact, if everything goes as planned, the director will jump into the pre-production stage within the next 2 months," revealed a source close to the development. It is an original story, which is written too by Rajkumar Gupta himself.

All through the lockdown, the director has been researching, developing and fine tuning the screenplay with his team of writers and multiple meetings with Salman have already taken place.

"It's his pet project, essentially a thriller with bits of action in the narrative that stems from the screenplay. The story, centered around the protagonist, demands the presence of a superstar with a certain amount of aura, and there's no one better than Salman to pull off this flamboyant character. It marries content with action, drama and most importantly, thrills," the source added. While there is a lot of chatter in the trade about Salman's line up, with speculations about him kicking off *Master* by early next year, however, that's not the plan. *Source: Pinkvilla*



Arjun Rampal's new blonde hairstyle leaves fans in shock

Bollywood star Arjun Rampal left everyone amazed and shocked with his latest makeover. Though the actor is known for experimenting with his looks, the most recent was totally unexpected. The actor got his hair dyed as he stepped out of a hair salon. Industry's handsome hunk was looking unrecognisable in a bright platinum blonde-coloured hair. Rampal was spotted in a white shirt which was paired with black shorts, a black mask, and dark sunglasses. The video was shared by celebrity paparazzo Viral Bhayani on his Instagram handle.

On stepping out, he exchanged hugs with his hairstylist Aalim Hakim and headed to his car. Rampal's fans were in for a surprise as they could not believe it was their favourite actor. While several fans dropped heart and fire emoticons to support the actor's move, there were many who appeared disappointed. One of his fans wrote that Indian looks good in black hair, leave this blonde hair for Britishers. Another fan asked, "What's wrong with him?" Some of them were not able to spot the actor.



Kartik Aaryan to star in epic love saga *Satyanarayan Ki Katha*

Bollywood actor Kartik Aaryan on Wednesday announced his new film titled *Satyanarayan Ki Katha*. The movie is being touted as an epic love story. Sharing a promo of the film, the actor wrote on Instagram, "A story close to my heart #SatyanarayanKiKatha ?? A special film with special people ???". *Satyanarayan Ki Katha* marks the Bollywood debut of Sameer Vidwans who helmed the National Award-winning 2019 Marathi drama *Anandi Gopal*. The makers are yet to reveal the name of the female lead.

Excited to be collaborating with Sajid Nadiadwala and a few National Award-winning personalities, Kartik Aaryan said in a statement, "I have been wanting to work with Sajid sir for some time now. I couldn't have asked for better collaboration. *Satyanarayan Ki Katha* is a musical love saga which brings together a powerhouse of people who are National award-winning names. It's also a first for me with Sameer Vidwans sir who has an astute sense of making sensitive topics highly entertaining."





Nicolas Cage to star in Butcher's Crossing movie adaptation

American actor Nicolas Cage is set to play a buffalo hunter in a film adaptation of John Williams' novel Butcher's Crossing. As per Variety, the upcoming movie is being helmed by Gabe Polsky, who has directed documentaries like Red Army and Red Penguins. Shooting for the film will begin in the US in October.

The movie is also a reunion of sorts, as Gabe was a producer on Nicolas's 2009 movie Bad Lieutenant: Port of Call New Orleans.

The film is set in the 1870s and finds Nicolas Cage playing Kansas buffalo hunter Miller, who takes on a young Harvard dropout seeking his destiny out West.

The movie is based on the 1960 transcendentalist novel by John Williams, which explores man's relationship with the natural world and details a largely untold but significant chapter in American history. *Source: ANI*

Anne Hathaway to star in The Idea of You adaptation

Oscar winner Anne Hathaway is set to play the lead role in the film adaptation of author Robinne Lee's novel The Idea of You. The project is being jointly developed by Amazon Studios and Welle Entertainment, reported Deadline.

Tony-nominated actor and filmmaker Jennifer Westfeldt is adapting the screenplay based on the 2017 bestselling book.

The story is about Sophie, a 40-year-old divorced mother. Sophie's husband Dan leaves her for a younger woman, and now he has cancelled his Coachella trip with their 15-year old daughter.

Sophie picks up the pieces and braves the crowds and desert heat. There, she meets 24 year-old Hayes Campbell, the lead singer of the hottest boy band on the planet, August Moon.

The project will be backed by Cathy Schulman's Welle Entertainment shingle along with Gabrielle Union and her production banner I'll Have Another.

Anne Hathaway, who won an Oscar for best supporting actress for 2012 movie Les Miserables, most recently featured in HBO Max's heist comedy Locked Down and Amazon's anthology series Solos. The actor will next star in Apple TV Plus' miniseries We Crashed, based on the podcast WeCrashed: The Rise and Fall of WeWork by Wondery. *Source: PTI*



George Clooney to launch film academy for Los Angeles high school students from minority communities

Hollywood star George Clooney will launch an academy for Los Angeles high school students as part of a new scheme to teach movie industry skills to children from disadvantaged and minority communities.



Clooney and fellow A-listers Don Cheadle and Eva Longoria will spearhead the program initially available next fall for 14 to 16-year-olds at a downtown high school, with plans to expand to other ages and pilot locations throughout Los Angeles' public school system.

"Our aim is to better reflect the diversity of our country. That means starting early," Clooney said in a statement announcing the Roybal School of Film and Television Production.

"It means creating high school programs that teach young people about cameras, and editing and visual effects and sound and all the career opportunities that this industry has to offer."

The program follows similar star-backed collaborations with Los Angeles public schools, including an inner-city educational facility announced last week by music producers Dr Dre and Jimmy Iovine.

The Los Angeles Unified School District teaches some 650,000 students, who are mainly from low-income backgrounds and predominantly Latino or Black.

Hollywood's poor record on diversity both in front of and behind the camera has come under close scrutiny in recent years, including the #OscarsSoWhite campaign launched in 2015 on social media to denounce and draw attention to the overwhelming majority of white nominees honoured year after year. *Source: AFP*

Paris Hilton 'more interested' in babies than billions of dollars



Paris Hilton is "more interested" in having a baby than becoming a billionaire. The 40-year-old star insisted in her 'This Is Paris' documentary - which is available on YouTube and was filmed two years ago - that she was motivated by money, but now her stance has changed.

Explaining why she doesn't want to make one billion dollars anymore, she told the 'Just for Variety' podcast: "It was such a goal of mine before because I wasn't happy in my personal life.

"And also just going through what I went through, I always saw money as freedom and independence, and not being controlled.

"And I think that's why I just had that as my focus in life.

"And now that I am so incredibly happy and in love in my personal life I'm not really interested in billions anymore. I'm more interested in babies."

The heiress got engaged to Carter Reum earlier this year and not only will all their preparations for their big day feature in her new reality TV series, 'Paris in Love', she's also confirmed their nuptials will be part of the show too.

TRIBECA@20 AWARDS

BY MABEL PAIS

"It's been a challenging time for filmmakers, storytellers, and actors, and we're so proud to honor the perseverance and dedication many of them displayed while working through the many obstacles that arose as a result of COVID-19," said Cara Cusumano, Festival Director and Vice President of Programming. "Each of these recipients truly embody the spirit of our creative Community."



*Kusunda Shaman Lil Bahadur with granddaughter Hema
Photo / TFF2021*

GAYATRI PARAMESWARAN with others receives Storyscapes GRAND JURY PRIZE for "KUSUNDA"

The 20th annual Tribeca Festival on June 17, 2021 awarded the winning storytellers in its competition categories at this year's awards ceremony at Spring Studios. Awards were given in the following competition categories: U.S. Narrative, International Narrative, Documentary; Short Films, Immersive, the Nora Ephron Award, and the first-ever Podcast and Games categories.

The awards ceremony honored the most diverse line-up of creators in Tribeca's 20 year history and awarded \$165,000 in cash prizes. The Festival, which had the honor of welcoming back in-person audiences, concluded on June 20th.

The top honors in feature films went to "The Novice" in U.S. Narrative, "Brighton 4th" in International Narrative, and "Ascension" in Documentary Competition.

Chanel James and Taylor Garron won the Nora Ephron Award and a \$25,000 prize for "As of Yet." The award, created nine years ago, honors excellence in storytelling by a female writer or director embodying the spirit and boldness of the late filmmaker.

Tribeca honored innovation in storytelling with its Storyscapes Award for the Immersive section, which went to Felix Gaedtke and Gayatri Parameswaran for "Kusunda."

The inaugural Tribeca Podcast honors for the Non-Fiction Narrative Award went to "Guardians of the River," and the Fiction Narrative Award went to "Vermont Ave."

In the Games category, the first-ever Tribeca Games Award was given to "Norco," created by Geography of Robots and published by Raw Fury.

A special Virtual Award Winner Screenings series was available for U.S. audiences via Tribeca at Home on Saturday, June 19 and Sunday, June 20.

In addition to cash awards and in-kind services provided by sponsors, some award winners received the unique Tribeca Festival Art Award. World-class artists donated work to honored filmmakers.

The winners of the Audience Awards, determined by audience votes throughout the Festival, can be found at tribecafilm.com/festival

The winners, awards, and comments from the jury who selected the recipients are as follows:

U.S. NARRATIVE COMPETITION : The Founders Award for Best U.S. Narrative Feature Film: "The Novice," directed and written by Lauren Hadaway. Produced by Ryan Hawkins, Kari Hollend, Steven Sims, Zack Zucker.

Best Actress in a U.S. Narrative Feature Film: Isabelle Furman, "The Novice," directed and written by Lauren Hadaway. Produced by Ryan Hawkins, Kari Hollend, Steven Sims, Zack Zucker.

Best Actor in a U.S. Narrative Feature Film: Matthew

Leone, "God's Waiting Room," directed and written by Tyler Riggs. Produced by Tyler Riggs, Suvi Riggs.

Best Cinematography in a U.S. Narrative Feature Film: Todd Martin, "The Novice," directed and written by Lauren Hadaway. Produced by Ryan Hawkins, Kari Hollend, Steven Sims, Zack Zucker.

Best Screenplay in a U.S. Narrative Feature Film: Hannah Marks, "Mark, Mary, and Some Other People," directed and written by Hannah Marks. Produced by Hannah Marks, Pete Williams, Jon Lullo, Brendan Walter, Jonathan Duffy, Kelly Williams, Stephen Braun.

Special Jury Prize for Artistic Expression: Director Nana Mensah, "Queen of Glory," for opening audiences up to an intimate and personal story, exploring cultural identity and family, with delicate nuance and humor and heart.

INTERNATIONAL NARRATIVE COMPETITION

Best International Narrative Feature Film: "Brighton 4th," directed by Levan Koguashvili, written by Boris Frumin, Levan Koguashvili. Produced by Irakli Rodonaya, Olena Yershova, Michel Merkt, Kateryna Merkt.

Best Actress in an International Narrative Feature Film: Bassant Ahmed & Basmala Elghaiesh, "Souad," directed by Ayten Amin, written by Mahmoud Ezzat, Ayten Amin. Produced by Sameh Awad.

Best Actor in an International Narrative Feature Film: Levan Tediashvili, "Brighton 4th," directed by Levan Koguashvili, written by Boris Frumin, Levan Koguashvili. Produced by Irakli Rodonaya, Olena Yershova, Michel Merkt, Kateryna Merkt.

Best Cinematography in an International Narrative Feature Film: Elisabeth Vogler, "Roaring 20's," directed by Elisabeth Vogler, written by François Mark, Elisabeth Vogler, Noémie Schmidt, Joris Avodo. Produced by Laurent Rochette.

Best Screenplay in an International Narrative Feature Film: Boris Frumin, "Brighton 4th," directed by Levan Koguashvili, written by Boris Frumin, Levan Koguashvili. Produced by Irakli Rodonaya, Olena Yershova, Michel Merkt, Kateryna Merkt.

Best New Narrative Director: Nana Mensah, "Queen of Glory," directed and written by Nana Mensah. Produced by Jamund Washington, Kelley Robins Hicks, Baff Akoto, Nana Mensah, Anya Migdal.

DOCUMENTARY COMPETITION



Documentary Competition winner - Photo / TFF2021

Best Documentary Feature: "Ascension," directed by Jessica Kingdon. Produced by Kira Simon-Kennedy, Jessica Kingdon, Nathan Truesdell.

Best Editing, Documentary Feature: Shannon Swan, "The Kids," directed by Eddie Martin. Produced by Shannon Swan.

Best Cinematography, Documentary Feature: Bing Liu & Joshua Altman, "All These Sons," directed by Bing Liu, Joshua Altman. Produced by Zak Piper, Kelsey Carr, Bing Liu, Joshua Altman.

The 2021 Albert Maysles Award for Best New Documentary Director: Jessica Kingdon, "Ascension," directed by Jessica Kingdon. Produced by Kira Simon-Kennedy, Jessica Kingdon, Nathan Truesdell.

THE NORA EPHRON AWARD :

The 2021 Nora Ephron Award: Chanel James & Taylor Garron, "As of Yet," directed by Chanel James, Taylor Garron. Produced by Ashley Edouard, Taylor Garron.

SHORT CATEGORIES

Best Narrative Short Award: Rongfei Guo, "Girl With a Thermal Gun," directed and written by Rongfei Guo. Produced by Du Yating.

Best Animated Short Award: Reza Riahi, Navozande, "The Musician," directed and written by Reza Riahi. Produced by Eleanor Coleman, Stéphanie Carreras, Philippe Pujo.

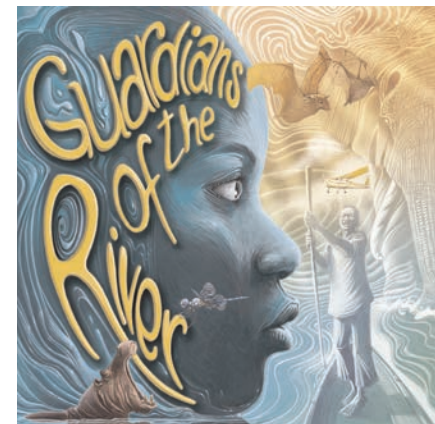
Short Documentary Award: Ryan White, "Coded," directed by Ryan White. Produced by Christopher Leggett, Jessica Hargrave, Conor Fetting-Smith, Rafael Marmor, Marc Gilbar.



Student Visionary Award winner - Photo / TFF2021

The 2021 Student Visionary Award: Robert Brogden, "Six Nights," directed and written by Robert Brogden. Produced by Robert Brogden, Kelley Zincone, Izrael Lopez.

PODCAST AWARD



*Inaugural Podcast winner
Photo / TFF2021*

Podcast Non-Fiction Award: House of Pod and Wild Bird Trust, "Guardians of the River"

Podcast Fiction Award: James Kim and Brooke Iskra, "Vermont Ave."

TRIBECA X AWARD Tribeca X Award: Best Feature: "Dear Santa," Director:

Dana Nachman; Brand: The United States Postal Service
Tribeca X Award: Best Episodic: "Black Owned," Director: Rodney Lucas; Brand: Square

Tribeca X Award: Best Short: "Chinese New Year-Nian," Director: Lulu Wang; Brand: Apple

Tribeca X Immersive Award: "Current," Creator: Annie Saunders; Brand: Brookfield Properties

GAMES : First-Ever Winners for New Award Categories: Geography of Robots Receives Tribeca Games Award; "Vermont Ave." and "Guardians of the River" Honored for Podcasts

IMMERSIVE COMPETITION CATEGORIES :

Best Immersive Narrative Competition Award: Michèle Stephenson, Joe Brewster, Yasmin Elayat, "The Changing Same: Episode 1"

Best Creative Nonfiction Competition: Annie Saunders, "Current"

Storyscapes Award: Felix Gaedtke, Gayatri Parameswaran, "Kusunda"

The Tribeca Festival :

Founded by Robert De Niro, Jane Rosenthal, and Craig Hatkoff in 2001 to spur the economic and cultural revitalization of lower Manhattan following the attacks on the World Trade Center, Tribeca celebrated its 20th year, June 9 - 20, 2021. For more information, visit tribecafilm.com/festival.

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

PAN ASIAN REP CELEBRATES PRIDE WEEK

BY MABEL PAIS

STREAMING JUNE 21-30, 2021

The Pan Asian Repertory Theatre (Tisa Chang, Founding Artistic Producing Director) presents a special virtual event: "NuWorks 2021," the annual experimental series of self-created work from innovative artists exploring an eclectic range of genres and techniques using poetry, text, dance and music. Featuring six new works by diverse artists Annie Ngar-Lai Cheung, Shebana Coelho, Tyler Dobies, M.J. Kang, Jo Shui and Shigeko Sara Suga.



Shebana Coelho
Photo/panasianrep.org

NuWORKS 2021* is curated by playwrights Damon Chua ("The Emperor's Nightingale"), Richard Chang ("Citizen Wong"), and Project Directors Ernest Abuba and Chongren Fan.

PROGRAM: NuWORKS 2021

All screenings available beginning Monday, June 21, 2021 at 5:00PM

Available on demand through Wednesday, June 30, 2021

"Once I was a Stone," "una piedra," "ek pathar"

Created and Performed by Shebana Coelho

A solo work about a stone lost at sea that finds its way home, only to face a new world that upends old notions of race, place and purpose. The play is a mixture of poetry, monologues, and dance drawn from flamenco, kutiyattam and bharatanatyam - in English with fragments of Hindi and Spanish. Running time: 45



Tyler Dobies
Photo/panasianrep.org

minutes. To learn about Shebana Coelho, visit shebanacoelho.com

"Shop In Peace"

Written and Directed by Jo Shui
Featuring Ariel Estrada, Emma Lipschutz, Trevor Swann and Jen Yip.

Dramaturg: Weldon Wong Powers

"Shop In Peace" is a compilation of scenes exposing the pervasive racism that Asian Americans face even while doing something as routine as shopping. Running time: 20 minutes

"We Must See These Things"

Created and Performed by Tyler Dobies

Videographer: John Quincy Lee

"We Must See These Things" is a conglomerate of stories made from existing in a world that doesn't see you (or sees you too much?) told through spoken word and verbatim performance. Running time: 34 minutes. To learn about Tyler Dobies, visit tylerdobies.com

"Asians Dating"

Written and Directed by M.J. Kang

Featuring Eva Ding, Barron Leung and M.J. Kang.

Stage Manager: Katie Scibelli

Dramaturg: Hayley Silvers

"Asians Dating" is a light-hearted portrayal of two recently divorced professionals who are trying to navigate love, life and cats while being Asian. Running time: 21 minutes

"DOTS"

Created and Performed by Annie Ngar-lai Cheung
Teetering dangerously between tragedy and comedy, Annie takes you into the high-achieving but insecure world of a lawyer turned actress.

"Une Saison en Enfer"

Selected poetry from "A Season in Hell" by Arthur Rimbaud

Performed in English with dialogue in French and songs in Spanish

Adopted and Directed by Shigeko Sara Suga
Featuring Dinh James Doan, Zach Lusk, and Shigeko Sara Suga

A love affair gone wrong - Arthur Rimbaud's agony after being shot by his lover Verlaine and to be ostracized by the whole literary society in France. To learn more about SS Suga, visit shigekosuga.com.

TICKETS

A one price pass ticket is available that will allow access to all six performances. Virtual performances begin Monday, June 21, 2021 at 5:00PM and will be available on demand through Wednesday, June 30, 2021. To make a reservation, visit panasiannuworks2021.eventbrite.com A link will be sent with confirmation of purchase. Additional information is available at panasianrep.org

NuWORKS 2021

NuWORKS 2021 is curated by playwrights Damon Chua ("The Emperor's Nightingale"), Richard Chang ("Citizen Wong"), and Project Directors Ernest Abuba and Chongren Fan. To learn more about the artists and for more information, visit panasianrep.org

PAN ASIAN REPERTORY THEATRE

Pan Asian Repertory Theatre, celebrating its 44th Milestone Season, is the most veteran Asian American theatre company on the East Coast. To learn more, visit panasianrep.org,

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FOOD FOR THOUGHT PRODUCTIONS

BY MABEL PAIS

SPRING 2021 WRAP UP

JUNE 28 @ 2 PM

REPEAT ZOOM PERFORMANCES ON JULY 10 & 11

FOOD FOR THOUGHT PRODUCTIONS (FFTP), now in its 21st year, continues celebrating the oft-neglected one-act play and theatre at its best with Award-winning actors, writers and directors, with two plays that revolve around...secrets.

Tennessee Williams' "Something Unspoken" is a brilliantly humorous vignette of the social maneuvers of a wealthy Southern Spinster.

Set in a hair salon, Susan Charlotte's "The Hairdresser" tackles such significant issues as mortality, aging, and loss, with much deeper secrets

revealed as the emotionally charged interchange progresses.

The shows will be directed by FFTP's resident director Antony Marsellis, and there will be a Q&A following with the cast and led by FFTP Founder/Playwright Susan Charlotte. Special 'Zoom' guests include Louise Lasser - who performed in a production of "The Hairdresser" with Stephen Schnetzer; and one of the most recognizable voices on NY and national airwaves, as well as an outspoken advocate in alerting and educating women on the perils of ovarian cancer, Valerie Smaldone.

The June 28th, 2:00pm performance will be available live via Zoom as well as a limited in-theatre 'audience' who will be part of a documentary being filmed on FFTP.

For those who can't make the performance on June 28, the program will be repeated on Saturday and Sunday July 10 & 11.

TICKETS

For more information on COVID health and safety precautions and tickets, contact FFTP at info@foodforthoughtproductions.com or call 646 366 9340.

HISPANIC YOUTH PAY HOMAGE TO WHITNEY HOUSTON

BY MABEL PAIS



Youth performer
Photo / Courtesy NJPAC

The New Jersey Performing Arts Center (NJPAC) hosts the 35th Anniversary Hispanic Youth Showcase on Tuesday, June 29, at 7:00 p.m. Recommended for viewers ages eight years old and up.

This year's showcase pays homage to Newark native, international superstar Whitney Houston. Get a glimpse of the best singers, actors, and dancers of tomorrow as children and young adults present show-stopping performances. This is a FREE Virtual event that can be seen LIVE on NJPAC's Facebook Page at facebook.com/NJPAC

The guest emcees are Arlene Ng Acosta, an actress, singer, and six-time Hispanic Youth Showcase winner, and Rafael Toro, Public Relations Director at Goya Foods.

This annual multi-disciplinary performance shines a spotlight on young performers and offers the audience a chance to vote for your favorite artists! Those selected as winners will receive scholarships and other prizes.

To learn more, visit NJPAC.org

751 BODIES FOUND AT INDIGENOUS SCHOOL IN CANADA

REGINA (CANADA) (TIP): The chief of an Indigenous nation in Canada said on June 24 investigators have found 751 unmarked graves at the site of a former residential school for Indigenous children — a discovery that follows last month's report of 215 at another school.

Chief Cadmusn Delmore of the Cowessess First Nation made the announcement at a news conference.

Chief Bobby Cameron of the Federation of Sovereign Indigenous First Nations said he expects more graves will be found on residential school grounds across Canada.

"This was a crime against humanity, an assault on First Nations," he said.

"We will not stop until we find all the bodies."

The bodies were discovered at the Marieval Indian Residential School, which operated from 1899 to 1997 where Cowessess is now located, about 87 miles east of Regina, the capital of Saskatchewan.

Delorme said at one time the graves were marked but those who operated the school removed the markers.

"We are treating this as a crime," he said.

The Cowessess and the Federation of Sovereign Indigenous First Nations, which represents Saskatchewan's First Nations, said a day earlier that "the number of unmarked graves will be the most significantly substantial to date in Canada."

Last month the remains of 215 children, some as young as 3 years old, were found buried on the site of what was once Canada's largest Indigenous residential school near Kamloops, British Columbia. (AP)

UK EXPERTS WARN OF MISERABLE WINTER

LONDON (TIP): British scientists have warned of a "pretty miserable winter" in the UK this year due to new respiratory viruses likely to emerge, with further lockdowns a possibility. Professor Calum Semple, member of the government's Scientific Advisory Group for Emergencies (SAGE), said that children and elderly people will be especially vulnerable to endemic viruses at the end of the year, Xinhua news agency reported.

Describing it as the "fourth wave winter", he said: "I suspect we'll have a pretty miserable winter because the other respiratory viruses are going to come back." (IANS)

Emotions run high as Hong Kong residents snap up final edition of Apple Daily

HONG KONG (TIP): Hong Kong residents rushed in the early hours of June 24 to snap up copies of the final edition of pro-democracy newspaper Apple Daily, forced to end a 26-year run after getting embroiled in a national security crackdown.

Emotions ran high as supporters of the paper, which has faced an unrelenting squeeze since its owner and staunch Beijing critic, Jimmy Lai, was arrested under the security law in August 2020, queued for their last copies just after midnight.

"I couldn't sleep well for the past few nights," said Tse, 60, a former medical worker, who leaned on a cart to support herself as she queued outside a newspaper vendor in the working class district of Mong Kok.

"I hope the reporters can stay true to their faith and keep working hard."

Queues stretched at newsstands across the city after an emotional final print run at the headquarters of the paper, which was forced to shut after authorities froze its assets in a national security investigation.

"Thank you to all readers, subscribers, ad clients and Hong Kongers for 26 years of immense love and support," the paper said in an online article.

"Here we say good-bye, take care of yourselves." Some staff expressed anger and frustration at the shutdown.

"(After) today, there is no press freedom in Hong Kong ... I cannot see any future in Hong Kong," said Dickson Ng, 51, a designer at the paper.

"I feel very disappointed and angry today. I don't understand why our limited group, company, and the newspapers were forced to stop operating under such circumstances."

In anticipation of robust demand for its final print run, Apple Daily, which mixes pro-democracy views with celebrity gossip and investigations of those in power, printed 1 million copies, or more than 10 times its usual print run.

The shutdown deals the most serious blow yet to Hong Kong's media freedoms



and could potentially destroy the city's reputation as an open and free media hub after Beijing imposed the security law on the global financial centre last year, media advocacy groups say.

Critics of the law say it is being used to crush dissent in the former British colony, an assertion authorities in Beijing and Hong Kong reject.

Officials in Hong Kong and China have repeatedly said media freedoms are respected but are not absolute.

Piling pressure on the beleaguered media group, broadcaster RTHK said the Science and Technology Park Corporation was reclaiming the land it leased to Apple Daily, citing multiple violations.

Apple Daily could not be reached for comment.

'EXTREME REGRET'

Taiwan's China policy-making Mainland Affairs Council issued a statement on Apple Daily's closure saying it felt "extreme regret and solemnly condemned" that Hong Kong media has been unable to operate because of "political oppression" brought about by the national security

law.

The Chinese foreign ministry said rights and freedoms could not jeopardise national security.

"I want to emphasise, Hong Kong is a society that has rule of law. Everyone is equal in front of the law, no one or no organisation is above the law," a spokesperson for the ministry said. "All rights and freedom, including media freedom, cannot go beyond the bottom line of national security." In Canada, Foreign Minister Marc Garneau said the forced closure of Apple Daily was a significant blow to freedom of press and speech in Hong Kong.

Last week, 500 officers raided the newspaper's headquarters, with live feeds showing authorities sifting through reporters' notes and other journalistic material in scenes that drew international condemnation.

Five executives were arrested and two - chief editor Ryan Law, 47, and Cheung Kim-hung, 59 - were charged with conspiracy to commit collusion with a foreign country and denied bail. On Wednesday, a 55-year-old columnist for the paper was also arrested under the national security law. (Reuters)

China to operationalise first electric train in Tibet, connecting Lhasa with Nyingchi

BEIJING (TIP): China is all set to operationalise the first electric train in the remote Himalayan region of Tibet, connecting the provincial capital Lhasa with Nyingchi—a strategically located Tibetan border town close to India's Arunachal Pradesh.

The 435.5-km Lhasa-Nyingchi section of the Sichuan-Tibet Railway is expected to be inaugurated ahead of the centenary celebrations of the ruling Communist Party of China (CPC) on July 1, according to official media reports. The electricity transmission process has been completed and tested, Liu Yuxiang, Chief Engineer of the Lhasa-Nyingchi Railway, was quoted as

saying by the state-run CCTV earlier. The Sichuan-Tibet Railway will be the second railway into Tibet after the Qinghai-Tibet Railway. It will go through the southeast of the Qinghai-Tibet Plateau, one of the world's most geologically active areas.

In November, Chinese President Xi Jinping had instructed officials to expedite construction of the new railway project, connecting Sichuan Province and Nyingchi in Tibet, saying the new rail line would play a key role in safeguarding the border stability. The Sichuan-Tibet Railway starts from Chengdu, capital of Sichuan Province, and travels through Ya'an and enters Tibet via Qamdo,

shortening the journey from Chengdu to Lhasa from 48 hours to 13 hours. Nyingchi is prefecture level city of Medog which is adjacent to the Arunachal Pradesh border.

China claims Arunachal Pradesh as part of South Tibet, which is firmly rejected by India. The India-China border dispute covers the 3,488-km-long Line of Actual Control (LAC). Qian Feng, director of the research department at the National Strategy Institute at Tsinghua University, told the official daily Global Times earlier that "If a scenario of a crisis happens at the China-India border, the railway will provide a great convenience for China's delivery of strategic materials."PTI

Do not provoke us again in Black Sea: Russia warns Britain

LONDON/MOSCOW (TIP): Russia accused Britain on June 24 of spreading lies over a warship confrontation in the Black Sea and warned London that it would respond resolutely to any further provocative actions by the British navy off the coast of Russia-annexed Crimea.

Russia summoned the British ambassador in Moscow for a formal diplomatic scolding after the warship breached what the Kremlin says are its territorial waters but which Britain and most of the world say belong to Ukraine.

Britain said Russia was sowing inaccuracies and disputed Russia's account, saying no warning shots had been fired and that no bombs had been dropped in the path of the Royal Navy destroyer Defender.

Russia's foreign ministry summoned Ambassador Deborah Bronnert to deliver a "tough demarche" - diplomatic jargon for a telling off - and spokeswoman Maria Zakharova accused London of "barefaced lies".

"We believe it was a deliberate and premeditated provocation," Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said of the incident, in which Moscow said it fired warning shots and dropped bombs in the path of the British destroyer.

"In the event of a repeat of unacceptable provocative action - if those actions go too far, no options can be ruled out in terms of legally defending Russia's borders," Peskov told reporters.

The Black Sea, which Russia uses to project its power in the Mediterranean, has for centuries been a flashpoint between Russia and its competitors such as Turkey, France, Britain and the United States.

Russia seized and annexed the Crimea peninsula from Ukraine in 2014 and considers areas around its coast to be



Russian waters. Western countries deem the Crimea to be part of Ukraine and reject Russia's claim to the seas around it.

British Prime Minister Boris Johnson said the warship was acting in accordance with the law and had been in international waters.

"The important point is that we don't recognise the Russian annexation of Crimea," he told reporters. "These are Ukrainian waters and it was entirely right to use them to go from A to B." He also disagreed with the suggestion that relations with Russia were at an historic low. "I can remember times in my own lifetime when things have been far worse," he said.

Britain has also disputed the Russian version of events, with Foreign Secretary Dominic Raab saying: "No shots were fired at HMS Defender."

"The Royal Navy ship was conducting innocent passage through Ukrainian territorial waters," he told reporters on a visit to Singapore: "We were doing so in accordance with international law and

the Russian characterisation is predictably inaccurate." Under international law of the sea, innocent passage permits a vessel to pass through another state's territorial waters so long as this does not affect its security.

BLACK SEA DISPUTE

During its 2008 war with Georgia, Russia bristled at U.S. warships operating in the Black Sea, and in April the United States cancelled the deployment of two warships to the area.

Both Russian President Vladimir Putin and U.S. President Joe Biden say relations between the two former Cold War foes are at a low point after disputes over spying, hacking, election meddling, Ukraine, Belarus and human rights.

Ties between London and Moscow have been on ice since the 2018 poisoning with a Soviet-developed nerve agent known as Novichok of ex-double agent Sergei Skripal, a mole who betrayed hundreds of Russian agents to Britain's MI6 foreign spy service. (Reuters)

McAfee antivirus software creator dead in Spanish prison

MADRID (TIP): John McAfee, the creator of the McAfee antivirus software, has been found dead in his cell in a jail near Barcelona, a government official has said.

Hours earlier, a Spanish court issued a preliminary ruling in favor of the 75-year-old tycoon's extradition to the United States to face tax-related criminal charges.

Security personnel at the Brians 2 penitentiary near the northeastern Spanish city tried to revive him, but the jail's medical team finally certified his death, a statement from the regional Catalan government said.

The statement didn't identify McAfee by name, but said he was a 75-year-old U.S. citizen awaiting extradition to his country. A Catalan government source familiar with the event who was not



authorised to be named in media reports confirmed to the AP on Wednesday that the dead man was McAfee.

Spain's National Court on Monday ruled in favour of extraditing McAfee, who had argued in a hearing earlier this month that the charges against him were politically motivated and that he would spend the rest of his life in prison if he

was returned to the U.S.

The court's ruling was made public on Wednesday and could be appealed. Any final extradition order would also need to get approval from the Spanish Cabinet.

Tennessee prosecutors charged McAfee with evading taxes after failing to report income made from promoting cryptocurrencies while he did consultancy work, as well as income from speaking engagements and selling the rights to his life story for a documentary. The criminal charges carry a prison sentence of up to 30 years.

The entrepreneur was arrested last October at Barcelona's international airport. A judge ordered at that time that McAfee should be held in jail while awaiting the outcome of a hearing on extradition. (AP)

BRITISH PM SUGGESTS UNRESTRICTED TRAVEL FOR THE FULLY VACCINATED IS COMING SOON

LONDON (TIP): British Prime Minister Boris Johnson hinted on June 24 that the UK was close to permitting unrestricted travel abroad for fully vaccinated people, in what would be a huge boost for airlines and holiday companies brought to their knees by Covid-19.

Johnson said he was not ruling out going abroad for his summer holiday and said there would be an announcement later on Thursday.

"I think that the whole double jab process is offering the real prospect of opening up to travel, and we'll be setting out a bit more later on," he told reporters.

The summer season, when airlines make almost all their profits, could be saved if the government decides to allow people who are fully vaccinated to avoid quarantining on their return to the UK - although it would also depend on popular destinations being easily accessible to British travelers.

The government has come under increasing pressure to ease restrictions as the peak July and August holiday season approaches.

Pilots, cabin crew, travel agents and other workers from the travel industry held protests on Wednesday, calling on the government to open up more routes, while British Airways, easyJet and TUI are backing a court case questioning the government's travel rules.

Britain has one of the fastest vaccination programmes in the world but so far the government has effectively prevented travel to most countries through quarantine and testing rules, prompting the industry to warn of multiple business failures and job losses.

GREEN LIST

Transport Secretary Grant Shapps is expected to announce later on Thursday changes to England's "green" list for quarantine-free travel amid speculation that restrictions could be eased for Spanish islands.

Currently there are just 11 "green" destinations. Malta and the Portuguese island of Madeira have also been touted as possible additions, and airlines have said they will be ready to go should new destinations open.

But any wider reopening of travel from the UK faces a new challenge as European destinations could start to restrict entry.

German chancellor Angela Merkel said on Wednesday she would like European countries to require people entering from Britain to go into quarantine, as is the case in Germany, citing the high prevalence of the more infectious Delta variant in the UK. (Reuters)

Nail art ideas to perk up your mood

While we do pay a lot of attention to the kind of clothes we wear and the kind of accessories we carry with us. But most of us tend to overlook our nails. The grooming of your nails is as important as anything else. While putting nail paint indeed does a good job of making your nails look glamorous, there is nothing that compares to the style that comes with getting nail art done on your nails.

Nail art, contrary to popular opinion, can be done at home. There are many designs that are pretty easy to follow and that you can give a shot at home. So check out 4 such nail art ideas that you can try on your nails while being stuck at home.

Use tape to create a unique design

Tape can be cut into different shapes. So take small pieces of tape and cut them into a diagonal shape. Stick these pieces on your nails and paint one half in a bright colour while leaving the other half blank, to create a unique and eye-catching nail art design.

Bobby pins to the rescue

Want to create fancy nail art at home? Then take out those bobby pins from your dressing table drawer and use the round part to



make small dots on your nails. You can paint your nail in a neutral colour and make dots on it in a contrasting colour with the help of bobby pins.

French manicure

A classic french manicure is something that never goes out of style. To do a french manicure at home, all you need to do is cut pieces of tape in a curved shape and stick them on the part of your nail

that is just below the tips. Paint the tips white and remove the tape. Finish with a top coat and you are done!

Rainbow nails

Rainbows look attractive, bright and colourful. They are very easy to do and only require 3-5 different shades of nail paint. Simple paint each of your nail in a different colour and you are good to go!

Source: Pinkvilla

Natural ways to make your hair grow faster

Who doesn't yearn for long lustrous hair? But often due to inadequate nourishment and damage, our natural hair growth is hindered. So what can we do so as to increase the pace of our hair growth? Just follow these simple tips and see the astounding results on your own.

Trimming to the rescue

Yes, you heard it right. Regular trimming of hairs every eight to ten weeks ensures fast hair growth. What happens is that due to excessive dirt and sun, the end of the hair usually gets damaged and rough, inducing split ends. When you regularly trim your hair, those split ends get cut off, leaving your hair to breathe and grow without any hurdle.

Make conditioner your friend

You might have noticed that often the ends of the hair are thinner and damaged when compared to the root end connecting to the scalp. This is because the lower end doesn't get nourished well. Conditioning after every hair wash helps seal the cuticle at the end and prevents the hair from further damage. This makes your hair healthier; and healthier hair grows faster.

Relaxing hot oil massages

A good hot oil massage can be a perfect stress buster for you. Massaging your hair with a good hot oil every week ensures that your hair is healthy and there are no more hair strands lying on your floor or brush. Try using coconut, olive or lavender oil so as to bring that beautiful luster to your hair and help you hair grow.



Regular brushing every night

You must have heard that excessive brushing can cause hair fall and physically harm your hair. Well, not always. It simply depends on the brush you use. Using synthetic bristles can create friction in hair and thus actually damage hair. Instead, using the right brush such as the boar bristle brush can actually increase the blood circulation of the scalp. Make sure that you are combing your hair for at least 50 times before you retire for the night.

Don't wrap your wet hairs in towel

Most of us have a habit of wrapping our wet hairs in a towel just after shampooing, little realizing about the drawbacks of this habit. Wet hair is prone to even more hair fall and wrapping them in a towel can make this even worse. Our hairs get rubbed with those massive towel fibers making those strands of hair to fall. Instead, go for a microfiber towel, if you simply can't resist this habit.

FOOD CORNER

Chicken Burritos



Burritos are filled with a savory filling, most often a meat such as chicken, beef, or pork, and often include a large array of other ingredients such as rice, cooked beans (either whole or refried), vegetables such as lettuce and tomatoes, cheese, and condiments such as salsa, pico de gallo, guacamole, or crema.

Chicken Burritos are favorite grab-and-go recipes because they're insanely easy to make, while being absolutely delicious every single time. They also keep really well in the freezer, so you can make a big batch at one time and pull them out anytime over the next two months.

Ingredients

- Chicken - 300 gms, cooked, shredded, skinless, boneless
- Sweet corn kernels - 150 gms, boiled, drained
- Black beans (or red kidney beans) - 150 gms, rinsed, boiled, drained
- Tomatoes - 150 gms, finely chopped
- Flour tortillas - 4
- Green chillies - 2 to 3, chopped
- Jalapenos - 1 tblsp, chopped
- Red chilli flakes as per taste
- Garam masala powder - 2 tsp
- Black pepper powder as per taste
- Salt as per taste
- Coriander leaves - handful, chopped
- Cheese - 100 gms, grated

Optional ingredients

- Sour cream lettuce - handful, shredded
- Tomatoes - 1/2 cup, chopped

Method

- In a large bowl, combine the corn, black beans, tomatoes, green chillies, coriander leaves and jalapenos.
- Add the cooked chicken and mix well.
- Add the red chilli flakes, garam masala powder, black pepper powder, salt and toss gently.
- Warm the tortillas and place them on a flat surface.
- Divide the chicken mixture equally among the 4 tortillas.
- Sprinkle some cheese on top.
- If desired, add some sour cream, lettuce and chopped tomatoes.
- Fold from the sides and roll tightly.
- Heat a nonstick pan over medium flame.
- Place the burritos on the pan and warm them up for 3 to 5 minutes, turning gently once or twice.
- Serve.

Sleep apnea worsens heart disease, ups death risk

Health care experts urge increased awareness of obstructive sleep apnea (OSA) among people with cardiovascular disease or risk factors such as high blood pressure, according to a new study.

OSA occurs in 40 per cent to 80 per cent of people with cardiovascular disease, yet it is under-recognised and undertreated, according to the study.

The findings of the study were published in 'Circulation', the Association's flagship journal.

OSA occurs when an upper airway obstruction causes repeated episodes of disrupted breathing during sleep. Symptoms include snoring, lapses in breathing, fragmented sleep and daytime sleepiness. In general, about 34 per cent of middle-aged men and 17 per cent of middle-aged women meet the criteria for OSA.

"Obstructive sleep apnea can negatively impact patients' health and increase the risk of cardiovascular events and death. This statement is to encourage increased awareness, screening and treatment as appropriate for sleep apnea," said Chair of the scientific statement writing group Yerem Yeghiazarians, M.D., FAHA, professor of medicine and the Leone-Perkins Family Endowed Chair in Cardiology at the University of California, San Francisco.



Risk factors for OSA include obesity, large neck circumference, craniofacial abnormalities, smoking, family history and nighttime nasal congestion. OSA is associated with several cardiovascular complications:

- High blood pressure - OSA is present in 30-50 per cent of people with high blood pressure, and up to 80 per cent of those who have resistant, or hard-to-treat high blood pressure
- Heart rhythm disorders such as atrial fibrillation and sudden cardiac death
- Stroke

- Worsening heart failure
- Worsening coronary artery disease and risk of heart attack
- Pulmonary hypertension (PH) - as many as 80 per cent of people with PH have OSA
- Metabolic syndrome and Type 2 diabetes

While there's no consensus that screening for OSA alters clinical outcomes, the high prevalence of OSA among people with cardiovascular disease, along with evidence that OSA treatment improves patient quality of life, are reasons to screen and provide treatment, according to the study.



Blood pressure-lowering medicines linked to less memory decline in older adults: Study

Older adults taking blood pressure-lowering medications known to cross the blood-brain barrier had better memory recall over time compared to those taking other types of medicines to treat high blood pressure, according to a new research.

The findings of the study were published in the American Heart Association journal 'Hypertension'.

High blood pressure, or hypertension, is a risk factor for cognitive decline and dementia in older adults. Nearly half of American adults have elevated blood pressure. Treating high blood pressure with blood pressure-lowering medicines reduced the cases of mild cognitive impairment by 19 per cent in one large trial.

ACE inhibitors, angiotensin II receptor blockers (ARBs), calcium channel blockers and diuretics are different classes of blood pressure-lowering medicines. Each class acts in a different way to reduce blood pressure, and some cross the blood-brain barrier, thereby impacting cognitive function.

"Research has been mixed on which medicines have the most benefit to cognition," said study author Daniel A. Nation, Ph.D., an associate professor of psychological science in the Institute for Memory Impairments and Neurological Disorders at the University of California, Irvine.

"Studies of angiotensin II receptor blockers and angiotensin-converting-enzyme (ACE) inhibitors have suggested these medicines may confer the greatest benefit to long-term cognition, while other studies have shown the benefits of calcium channel blockers and diuretics on reducing dementia risk," added A. Nation.

This is the first meta-analysis to compare the potential impact over time of blood pressure lowering medicines that do vs. those that do not cross the blood-brain barrier. The medicines were evaluated for their effects on several cognitive domains, including attention, language, verbal memory, learning and recall.

Source: ANI

Skipping morning meal can have ill-effects on health

A clinical survey conducted by Ohio State University on more than 30,000 American adults showed that skipping breakfast and missing out on the calcium, vitamin C, fibre, vitamins and minerals, likely left adults low on those nutrients for the entire day.

The study published in the journal-Proceedings of the Nutrition Society shows that adults who skip breakfast are likely to miss out on key nutrients that are most abundant in the foods that make up morning meals.

"What we're seeing is that if you don't eat the foods that are commonly consumed at breakfast, you have a tendency not to eat them the rest of the day. So those common breakfast nutrients become a nutritional gap," said Christopher Taylor, professor of medical dietetics in the College of Medicine at The Ohio State University and senior author of the study. According to the US Department of Agriculture's latest dietary guidelines, calcium, potassium, fibre and vitamin D are considered "dietary components of public health concern" for the general US population-- with iron added for pregnant women -- because shortages of those nutrients are associated with health problems.

Most research related to breakfast has focused on the effects of the missed morning meal on children in school, which includes difficulty focusing and behavioural problems.

"With adults, it's more like, 'You know how important breakfast is.' But now we see what the implications really are if they miss breakfast," Taylor said.

He completed the study with Ohio State School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences graduate students, Stephanie Fanelli and Christopher Walls. The research, which was supported by a regional dairy association.

The team used data from the National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey (NHANES), which collects health information on a nationally representative sample of about 5,000 people every year through interviews, laboratory tests and physical exams.



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Facebook launches podcasts, live audio service

Facebook is launching podcasts and live audio streams in the US on Monday to keep users engaged on its platform and to compete with emerging rivals.

Facebook says it is allowing public figures with verified accounts to start live audio rooms and invite anyone else to speak. A handful of podcasts will be available to people in the US at first and the company plans to add more down the line.

CEO Mark Zuckerberg, who has appeared on the video streaming app Clubhouse in the past, hosted his own live audio room on his Facebook page last week.

"Live Audio Rooms and podcasts rolling out in the US is just the beginning of our audio journey," wrote Fidji Simo, head of the Facebook app, in a blog post Monday.

"Looking ahead, we are working with creators who will use our audio tools to further develop and launch Soundbites — short-form, creative audio clips."

But podcasts and live audio have also been an outlet for racism, misinformation and extremist material. Live audio is particularly difficult to moderate, compared with traditional social media posts.

Facebook, which announced its audio plans to push into audio streams in April, says its rules apply to live audio and podcasts and anyone can report offending material.

"In addition, our broader integrity and safety work and the tools we have built for proactively and automatically identifying harmful content are great building blocks, but we plan to adapt tech and processes as we learn more," the company said in a prepared statement. *Source: AP*

Astronauts finish installing first solar arrays outside ISS

WASHINGTON (TIP): Two astronauts onboard the International Space Station (ISS) has successfully completed the deployment of solar arrays, which will soak up the sun's energy to provide electrical power for the numerous research and science investigations conducted every day, as well as the continued operations of the orbiting platform.

NASA astronaut Shane Kimbrough and ESA (European Space Agency) astronaut Thomas Pesquet in their eighth spacewalk of the year outside the ISS deployed the new ISS Roll-Out Solar Array (iROSA) on the far end of the left (port) side of the station's backbone truss structure.

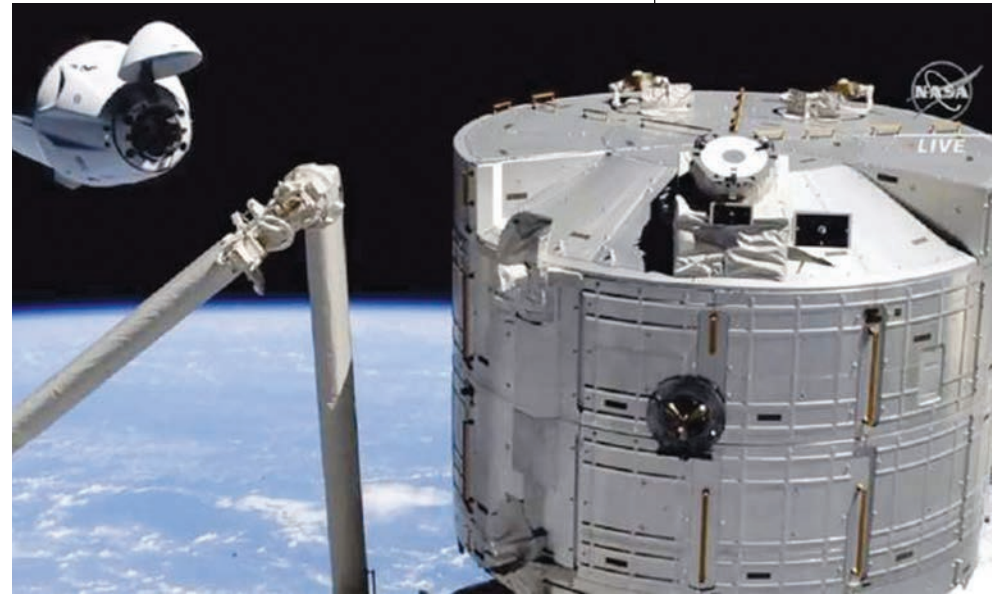
The new iROSA was delivered to the ISS by the SpaceX Dragon spacecraft early this month. A Kimbrough and Pesquet successfully unfolded the solar array, bolted it into place, and connected cables to the station's power supply to complete deployment.

In addition, the astronauts removed and stowed hardware in preparation for releasing the second iROSA from the flight support structure for installation.

The pair will work toward the second solar array upgrade, this one on the P6 truss' 4B power channel, during another spacewalk.

The first pair of solar arrays were deployed in December 2000, with additional array pairs delivered in September 2006, June 2007, and March 2009. The first pair of solar arrays have provided continuous electrical power to the station for more than 20 years and are now showing signs of degradation, NASA said.

Developed by space infrastructure company Redwire, the iROSA or "flex blanket" solar array, which is around 3,000 pounds, was loaded in Dragon's



unpressurised trunk.

Each of SpaceX Dragon's cargo launch missions will carry two arrays. Once installed, the six iROSA arrays will collectively produce over 120KW of power.

According to Redwire, the new iROSA arrays will improve the ISS's power generation by 20-30 per cent.

Hubble telescope on halt after trouble with payload computer: NASA

US Space agency NASA continues to work on the payload computer on the Hubble Space Telescope, which halted probably due to a degrading memory module.

Hubble, which has been watching the universe over the past 30 years, faced trouble with its payload computer on June 13. An attempt to restart the computer failed on June 14, NASA said.

"NASA continues to work on

resolving an issue with the payload computer on the Hubble Space Telescope. The operations team will be running tests and collecting more information on the system to further isolate the problem. The science instruments will remain in a safe mode state until the issue is resolved. The telescope itself and science instruments remain in good health," the space agency said in a statement.

The agency's initial findings pointed to a degrading computer memory module as the source of the computer halt. When the operations team attempted to switch to a back-up memory module, however, the command to initiate the back-up module failed to complete.

Another attempt was conducted on both modules to obtain more diagnostic information while again trying to bring those memory modules online. However, those attempts were not successful, NASA said.

Windows 11 now official, brings fresh interface, centrally-placed start menu

Windows 11 is now official. Microsoft's new Windows operating system has debuted nearly six years after the release of Windows 10 that took place in July 2015. The update, which is being called the "next generation" of Windows, comes with a massive redesign over its predecessor, starting from an all-new boot screen and startup sound to a centrally-placed Start menu and upgraded widgets. Windows 11 also removes elements including the annoying "Hi Cortana" welcome screen and Live Tiles. The Redmond, Washington-based company is essentially aiming to counter the likes of macOS and Chrome OS with its latest operating system.

One of the most notable changes, which we already saw in a recently leaked ISO, that Windows 11 brings to the users currently running Windows 10 is the new interface. It starts with a fresh setup screen and continues to give a fresh look and feel across all core Windows elements.



There are rounded corners on menus and windows that look similar to the recent iPadOS release. You'll also see the Start menu at the centre that is aimed at providing a modern experience.

It is for the first time, perhaps since the release of Windows NT 4.0 that was way back in 1996, when we are not seeing the Start menu on the left side — now located centrally. The transition of the Start menu also brings all the default icons such as Edge and File Explorer to the centre. This new positioning makes Windows 11 more familiar to people who use macOS or Chrome OS.

Online learning has changed the way students work

PALMERSTON NORTH (TIP): As university students wait on their mid-year exam results, some will no doubt be thinking about more than just passing. Since COVID-19 pushed teaching and testing online last year, the issue of cheating has come into sharper focus.

Recent reports of University of Auckland students allegedly cheating in online exams highlighted the potential for dishonesty in a trust-based system.

But the problem also highlights a tension between cultures: the increasingly online world of higher education, and the everyday world of students.

This has made "cheating" in exams a more complex and evolving question than it once was. It also has implications for the credibility and value of university education and how we perceive student learning.

Traditionally, entry to university exams was controlled using student identity card photo checks. Set in large



rooms, exams were invigilated to ensure students couldn't communicate with each other in order to cheat.

Everyone had their place, and what students could take into the room was described and restricted. Teachers set the exams, the students sat them, exams were marked and final grades are given — simple enough.

COVID-19 changed all that. For institutions where "blended" (face-to-face and online) learning had already been integrated, the digital switch was not so dramatic.

Competition Commission probes Google for alleged unfair biz ways

The Competition Commission of India (CCI) has ordered a detailed probe against Google for alleged anti-competitive practices in the smart television operating systems market in the country.

After assessing a complaint, the watchdog has reached the prima-facie view that Google is dominant in the relevant market for licensable smart TV device operating systems in India.

In the order, the CCI said that prima-facie mandatory pre-installation of all the Google applications under Television App Distribution Agreement (TADA) amounts to imposition of unfair conditions on the smart TV device manufacturers.

France sues Apple over developer contracts tied to App Store

France is suing Apple over allegedly abusive contractual terms imposed on developers and startups that seek to sell their apps on the tech giant's App Store, a spokesperson for the finance ministry's consumer fraud watchdog told Reuters.

France's leading startup lobby France Digitale has joined the case, according to a court document seen by Reuters.

The case will be heard at Paris' commercial court on Sept. 17, a spokesperson for the court said.

A spokesperson for Apple had no immediate comment.

Bitcoin drops below US\$30,000

Bitcoin fell below US\$30,000 for the first time since January, briefly erasing gains for the year and adding to losses sparked a day earlier when China's central bank deepened a crackdown on cryptocurrencies.

The world's largest cryptocurrency dropped to US\$28,600, its lowest since early January, after giving up gains made during Asian hours. Its fall also pressured smaller coins such as ether.

Bitcoin tumbled 11per cent on Monday, its largest one-day drop in over a month, with losses of nearly 30per cent in the last week alone almost wiping out gains for the year-to-date. It was last down 2.3per cent at US\$30,896.

The sell-off was sparked by the People's Bank of China urging China's largest banks and payment firms to crack down harder on cryptocurrency trading, the latest tightening of restrictions on the sector by Beijing.

40% of over Rs 22,000 cr 'defrauded' by Mallya, Nirav, Choksi recovered: ED

NEW DELHI (TIP): About 40 percent of the money lost by banks in alleged frauds perpetrated by fugitive businessmen Nirav Modi, Mehul Choksi and Vijay Mallya has been recovered so far, the Enforcement Directorate (ED) said after the sale of attached shares worth over Rs 5,800 crore on Wednesday, June 23.

According to the agency, the latest sale proceeds take the total value of recovery to Rs 9,041.5 crore, or 40 per cent of the over Rs 22,000 crore allegedly defrauded by the trio.

Commenting on the development, Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman tweeted, "Fugitives & economic offenders will be actively pursued; their properties attached & dues recovered."

The three, who fled overseas as probe against them gathered pace, are being investigated by central investigative agencies such as the ED and the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) after they were alleged to have cheated banks, and these frauds have been categorised as among the country's biggest criminal loan heist till date.

The central agency gave the



low-down on these two cases — the estimated Rs 13,000 crore fraud allegedly carried out by diamond trader Nirav Modi, his uncle Mehul Choksi and others in the Brady House branch of PNB in Mumbai and the about Rs 9,000 crore Kingfisher Airlines fraud triggered by Mallya — in a statement issued here.

It said the three "defrauded" public sector banks by siphoning off the funds through their companies which resulted in total loss of over Rs 22,000 crore (Rs 22,585.83 crore in definite numbers) to a clutch of banks.

The ED, empowered to probe such cases under criminal

sections of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), went on to attach and seize total assets worth Rs 18,170.02 crore in these two cases that included Rs 969 crore worth of properties "located" abroad.

"The quantum of the attached and seized assets represent 80.45 per cent of the total bank loss of Rs 22,585.83 crore," the ED said.

On Wednesday, out of these attached assets, the Debts Recovery Tribunal (DRT) on behalf of an SBI-led consortium that lent money to Mallya sold fresh shares worth Rs 5,824.50 crore of United Breweries Limited (UBL), the agency said.

Source: PTI

Heineken buys 14.98% more stake in UBL

NEW DELHI (TIP): Dutch brewing major Heineken on Wednesday, June 23, said it has acquired an additional 14.98% stake in United Breweries Ltd, taking its total shareholding to 61.50%. "Heineken NV today (on Wednesday) announces that it has acquired an additional 39,644,346 ordinary shares in United Breweries Ltd (UBL) taking its shareholding in UBL from 46.5% to 61.5%," Heineken said.

UBL, with its flagship brand 'Kingfisher', is the leading player in the beer market in India.

The move comes a day after markets regulator SEBI had exempted Heineken International BV from the obligation of making an open offer following its proposed acquisition of shares in UBL.

SEBI had on Tuesday granted waiver following an application from Heineken International seeking exemption from the applicability of SAST Regulations in its proposed acquisition of UBL's equity shares.

Microsoft 2nd US firm to pass \$2 trillion market cap

SAN FRANCISCO (TIP): Tech giant Microsoft reached a \$2 trillion market capitalisation in trading, joining a small group of global companies that have crossed that threshold -- including Apple.

Apple reached its own \$2 trillion market cap back in August 2020.

Despite hitting \$2 trillion in intraday trading on Tuesday, Microsoft's valuation was about \$300 million shy of the high-water mark by the time markets closed, AppleInsider reported.

Like Apple, Microsoft has benefitted from the work-from-home and remote education boom created as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic. Since March 2020, when lockdowns began, Microsoft's stock has surged 64 per cent.

Back in April, the company reported that its sales had risen 19 per cent year-over-year to \$41.7 billion in the first quarter of 2020.

As of writing, Apple's market valuation stands at \$2.24 trillion, the report said.

Some analysts believe the Cupertino tech giant could become the first to hit a \$3 trillion market cap within a few years.

Along with the technology giants, oil company Saudi Aramco also once surpassed the \$2 trillion mark. On Tuesday, its market valuation was \$1.88 trillion.

Source: IANS



S&P cuts India's FY22 growth forecast to 9.5%

NEW DELHI (TIP): S&P Global Ratings on Thursday, June 24, cut India's growth forecast for the current fiscal to 9.5 per cent, from 11 per cent earlier, and warned of risk to the outlook from further waves of Covid pandemic.

The agency lowered the growth outlook saying that a severe second Covid outbreak in April and May led to lockdowns imposed by states and sharp contraction in economic activity.

"We forecast growth of 9.5 per cent this fiscal year from our March forecast of 11 per cent," S&P said.

Stating that permanent damage to private and public sector balance sheets would constrain growth over the next couple of years, it projected India's growth at 7.8 per cent in the next fiscal ending March 31, 2023.

"Further pandemic waves are a risk to the outlook given that only about 15 per cent of the population has received at least one vaccine dose so far, although vaccine supplies are expected to ramp up," S&P said.

Indian economy contracted by 7.3 per cent in fiscal 2020-21 as the country battled the first wave of Covid, as against a 4 per cent growth in 2019-20.

GDP growth in the current fiscal was estimated to be in double digits initially, but a severe second wave of pandemic has led to various agencies cut growth projections.

Earlier this month, the RBI also cut India's growth forecast to 9.5 per cent for this fiscal, from 10.5 per cent estimated earlier.

It said manufacturing and exports were less severely affected compared with 2020, but services were acutely disrupted. Consumption indicators such as vehicle sales fell sharply in May 2021 and consumer confidence remains downbeat.

Source: PTI

Shree Ganeshaya Namah



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Chirag Bejan Daruwalla with his father late Bejan Daruwalla

**TIP brings you Weekly and Birthday Horoscope by
Astro Friend Chirag - Blessed Son of Astrologer Bejan Daruwalla**

**WEEKLY HOROSCOPE
June 28 to July 4, 2021**

Aries

Ganesha says you will feel appreciated this week for your efforts in making those around you happy. You won't face any major problems in your life this week. Your partner will be very supportive of you whether it's your health or your work, discuss with them the issues that you have been having with certain aspects of your professional life, your partner will be able to help you regarding that as well. Your health will be spectacular this week and you will have a lot of fun.

Taurus

You will be appreciated by your family, focus on that a lot this week. Your love life is taking a highly positive turn and you are about to discover new ways to express your sentiments towards the person you love this week. This is the week you will realize how to get your act together and finally stop being disappointed in yourself and get some work done this week.

Gemini

Just another beautiful week for you. You seem to be going on a positive streak these days. Relish the positive energy you have been experiencing and use it to be as productive as you can be. If you want to start a new venture now this week you have the perfect time. You will feel at a very safe place in your relationship this week and it will progressively get better. Although things will go way too fast for you this week, it will all feel like a fairytale for you.

Cancer

As you notice that your wellbeing improves over this week, challenges and changes arrive in your relationships. It's nothing that you can't handle if you chose to remain calm and peaceful. Focus on being kind caring and gentle and make way for a very long-lasting relationship this week. There is a possibility of financial gain through investments this week. You will also become very successful in accumulating money this week as your credibility will make your business look like it is on the verge of a successful breakthrough and will attract a lot of clients this week.

Leo

Negative energies are non-existent for you this week. Your stars are all aligned to help you be the happiest person this week. Apart from minor inconveniences, you will have a better week than you've had in a while. Your health is better this week because you have worked towards it. It will regress faster if you put yourself in stressful situations this week.

Virgo

You will have a lot of confidence this week that'll guide you to a lot of success and appreciation from your colleagues. Although this confidence won't be appreciated by your partner as till the end of the week your behavior might change into being quite egoistic and borderline rude. Your love life will be somewhat rocky this week due to your behavior. The fights and rifts this week can be avoided if you take time and reflect on your behavior this week. This week will be a significant day for your partner to determine how well you can handle success.

Libra

Your business will demand all of your time and attention this week. You will need to pull out all the stops to get out of the trouble that you're in this week. If you are not able to finish the task before the deadline it is very likely that you'll lose your client. Hence do everything you can to finish off the work this week. Your health will bother you a lot this week. Expect a headache or stomachache this week. Your health needs a little bit of your attention. Your health will be fine if you take time out to be physically active.

Scorpio

You will need to face financial responsibilities and you even will need to book some investments in this week itself. People in love should really take care and should avoid arguments or else it will lead you to ruining your good week. In mid of the week Saturn and moon will be at your doorstep. Things will slowly get under control. You will again be able to control your mind properly which will help you from zoning out at work. You will work hard, and hard work will reward you with very satisfying results.

Sagittarius

This week is going to be too exciting for you as a result of lots of fun and adventure. Your destiny has very great plans for you this week. You will be bound to take many decisions and accordingly you will achieve great success. Sooner you are going to increase your sources of happiness and that will allow you to gain better standard of living from within. Your past issues with your partner are going to get under control.

Capricorn

You will be able to make some great decisions of important business issues with the help of right guidance this week. Your cooperation and convincing skills will be appreciated this week. You will make some investments in the share market which will bring you good gains later. You will not be able to spend more time with your family due to less burden of work this week. Strictly prohibit yourself from funding into a very large venture and lending on the last day of the week. In the middle of the week, you will be able to execute your plans and gain effective results.

Aquarius

Your week will start with excitement and happiness as a result of transition of moon. You are likely to make lots of great memories and feel like a king. Your work productivity will also increase. Your love life will bloom. You will confess your feelings to your partner and they will accept your proposal. You may have some issues in your married life due to difference of opinion with your spouse but things will be totally alright. It's a good week to channelize your funds in construction business and share market.

Pisces

This is the week of redundant hard work for you which will definitely be difficult but will help you get through your life very easily. A lot of learning will happen this week, in your professional as well as personal life. This knowledge will take you very far in life and your career as well. Pay attention, take notes if you have to, but make sure to implement whatever advice you have been given today as it will work out a lot in your favor.

BIRTHDAY HOROSCOPE JUNE 28 TO JULY 4, 2021

By Astro Friend Chirag - Blessed Son of Astrologer Bejan Daruwalla

CONTD FROM PAGE 34

June 28

Ganesha says you will have to focus on becoming the best version of yourself today. You need to understand that today marks a pivotal change in your behavior and actions and you need to take into consideration that you've been very relaxed and complacent in the past few days and today you need to take it upon yourself to change.

June 29

You will spend a lot of time with your loved ones today. It won't be over the top fun or adventurous you're likely to stay home. But it'll be a nice warm and cozy day for you. You will have a lot of confidence today that'll guide you to a lot of success and appreciation from your colleagues. Although this confidence won't be appreciated by your partner as till the end of the day your behavior might change into being quite egoistic and borderline rude.

June 30

Your love life is progressing at a very great rate hence it might give you a lot of assurance and joy about whether this relationship will work out, rest assured that it will. Today is all about practicing calmness for you. Use today to express your gratitude towards your partner by planning a nice surprise for them.

July 1

Your optimistic nature and leadership skills will help you move past any hurdles without much effort. You will feel as if you're being tested in strength and character as well as patience by your partner. Use the tremendous energy you have today to focus entirely on yourself which is your health, spirituality, goals and aspirations. Although you will be annoyed by your partner, you have the will and strength today to ignore them and focus on yourself.

July 2

You need to work on calming your negative

thoughts today especially regarding your relationship. A lot of unexpected obstacles will also arise due to big mistakes of your employees hence today your temper will be tested as well. Being angry at your employees will ruin the work even more hence no matter how hard it is, learn to be kind.

July 3

You will have a lot of luck today that'll guide you towards achieving everything that you want which will lead you to receive appreciation from your colleagues as well as the higher authority. A great day for you simply because of your luck today.

July 4

Today is a great day for your love life because you will feel amazing and confident by yourself which has a positive effect on your health. You need to focus on your partner as well today even though you will only feel like being alone today; you will also enjoy spending time with your partner today.

|| SHREE GANESHAY NAMA ||



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Sant Kabirdas Jayanti

Kabirdas Jayanti falls on Thursday, June 24

Sant Kabirdas (1440-1518 circa) was a famous poet, saint and social reformer of India. His writings have greatly influenced the Bhakti movement. Kabir Panth which is a religious community recognizes him as its founder and its members are known as Kabir Panthis, the followers of Saint Kabirdas.

His writings include Bijak, Sakhi Granth, Kabir Granthawali and Anurag Sagar. The major part of Kabir's work was collected by the fifth Sikh Guru, Guru Arjan Dev, and incorporated into the Sikh scripture Guru Granth Sahib. The hallmark of Kabir's work consists of his two line couplets, known as Kabir Ke Dohes.

The birth anniversary of Sant Kabir is observed on Jyeshtha Purnima as per Hindu lunar calendar.

Sant Kabir is considered to be one of the greatest poets as well as mystics ever born in India. He believed that human beings are equal and being one with God is the ultimate aim of every individual. His love and devotion towards the Supreme One clearly reflects in his poetry. The Holy Guru Granth Sahib contains over 500 verses by the great saint, Kabir. The verses or dohas of Guru Kabir are still read by people with awe and admiration. Read on to explore the biography of Sant Kabir further.

Early Life

As per the life history of Saint Kabir, he was born in 1398 AD. It is said that he was found floating on a lotus leaf in a tank in Benaras by a Muslim weaver. The weaver took the vulnerable child under his care and following the traditional manner, gave him the name of 'Kabir', meaning 'the great one'. Even at a young age, Kabir displayed enormous spiritual talent.

Meeting his Guru

Kabir always wanted to become a disciple of Ramanand. However, since he was a Muslim, it was next to impossible for him to get initiation from a Hindu. So, he took recourse to a trick. Ramanand daily went to the bathing ghat for his pre-dawn ritual ablutions. Kabir lay on the steps of the ghat in such a way that Ramanand stepped on him. Shocked at this incident, he chanted 'Rama! Rama!'. Kabir said that since he had received teachings from him, in the form of the words 'Rama! Rama!', he was Ramanand's disciple. Impressed with the intelligence of Kabir, Ramanand took him as his disciple.

Guru Kabir ke Dohes

The hallmark of Kabir's works consists of his two line couplets, known as the 'Kabir ke Dohes'. The Dohes reflect the deep philosophical thinking of the poet saint.

Philosophy

Sant Kabir believed in the Vedantic concepts of atman. He always advocated the Impersonal Aspect of God (Nirguna) and therefore, was against idol worship. As per his view, all human beings are equal and the societal caste system that is so widely prevalent in our country is fallacious. He said that true guru is the one who can be attained through direct experience. The common ways of realizing God, like chanting, austerities, etc, are worthless.

Teachings

Kabir spent much of his time in the company of Hindu ascetics, saints and Muslim suffis. So he imbibed the tenets of both the religions and realized the best of both. Allah and Ram were but names of the same God. He was to be found neither in temples nor in mosques, neither in Benares nor in Mecca but only in the heart of a true devotee.

Kabir's philosophical tenets were extremely simple. He was known as the guiding spirit of the Bhakti Movement. He preached Bhakti or 'Devotion' through the medium of his 'Dohas'. Kabir's Dohas touched everybody's heart and he was endeared by all. Following are the aspects on which kabir has expressed his ideas;

Love

Love for all was Kabir's principal tenet. He emphasized that love was the only medium which could bind the entire human kind in an unbreakable bond of fraternity. Kabir detested the frivolities and rituals in Hinduism and



Islam for, these could never bind together mankind. Hence he advised all to give up hatred and perpetuate love for one and all.

God

God was the focal point of Kabir's religion and Kabir addressed him in different names. In his opinion God alone was Ram, Rahim, Govind, Allah, Khuda, Hari etc. But for Kabir, 'Saheb' was his favorite name. He said god was everywhere and His domain is unlimited. God was pure, sacred, existing, without form, light, endless and inseparable. Hence God was all powerful and he could only be worshipped through love and devotion. In whatever name one addresses Him, God is one and has no second. Hence Kabir preached Monotheism.

Teacher

In Kabir's dictum the Teacher or 'Guru' has been accorded the prime position. The teacher according to him was the incarnation of God. Kabir had this realization only when he came in contact with Ramananda. It was the guidance of a teacher that led man in the proper direction and helped him in developing the right insight.

The Path of Bhakti

Kabir stressed that the only way to attain God was through the path of Bhakti. Intense love and devotion would surely lead one to the ultimate attainment of Godhood. Total submission at His feet helps one to reach him and this should be the ultimate goal of all was what Kabir emphasized. For this no rituals or ceremonies were needed, only purity of heart and unflinching devotion were the two essentials. Hence Kabir advised his followers to attain Godhood through the path of Bhakti.

Soul

Matters relating the soul were an integral part of Kabir's spiritual messages. Soul according to him was life, breath and knowledge. It was a part of the 'ultimate knowledge'. The soul itself was the creation and it also was the creator. It was also the knowledge and the knowledgeable. The soul was the creator of all things, it also was the destroyer. In Kabir's opinion cows may be of different colours but milk was the same.

Hence, though different ideas and thoughts may be merging together, soul remained the same. Soul was one, inseparable and self-creating. It was the greatest creation of God. Kabir propounded many different views on soul.

Hence it became very difficult to have an exact defamation of the soul.

Impermanence of the world

Kabir asserted the impermanence of all things in the world. All living and non living things like insects, animals, trees, rivers, mountains and human beings are only temporary and all would cease to exist some day. He advised his followers not to lament the death of something which was bound to die. Hence he emphasized that in this impermanent world, the only truth and permanent reality was God, who could be attained through Bhakti.

Salvation

Liberation or salvation was another contention of Kabir. Liberation implied freedom from the pangs of life and death. Liberation according to him was a state of "fearlessness". By citing an example he said just as water flows out of a hole in a pot and mixes with the water outside, similarly, after death the individual soul moves out of the gross body to merge with the cosmic soul. This is liberation.

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

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

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

Hopes rise on location of GOPIO global headquarters

NEW YORK (TIP): GOPIO International, the Global Organization of People of Indian Origin (www.gopio.net), may soon realize its long-cherished dream of establishing its World Headquarters in the US. This will enable the organization to coordinate its activities and interact with the Indian Diaspora in an ideal manner. Talks are ongoing with the CEO and Chairman of the Redberri Corporation Dr. Deepak K. Vyas in this regard. If things work out according to the plan GOPIO hopes to inaugurate the headquarters coinciding with the 75th Indian Independence Day celebrations on August 15, 2021. United States Vice President Kamala Harris is being invited to inaugurate the opening ceremony. It is also expected that a life size statue of Mahatma Gandhi will be unveiled at this Convention center. State and local high dignitaries will be invited and are also expected to attend.

GOPIO officials discussed on June 5, 2021 at Sandwich, Illinois with Dr. Deepak K. Vyas by phone (due to his absence on account of an unforeseen personnel emergency) to explore the viability of establishing the GOPIO World Headquarters in Sandwich, Illinois at the Convention Center of the Redberri Corporation. Dr. Deepak Vyas, who was the Special Guest of GOPIO at Varanasi Governing General Body meeting in India on January 20, 2019, had graciously offered to accommodate GOPIO's International



GOPIO President Sunny Kulathakal, International Coordinator for N.A. Harbachan Singh, Treasurer Sohan Joshi and President of Chicago Chapter Gladson Varghese representing GOPIO, visited the premises

Headquarters at his Convention Center edifice in Sandwich, USA.

GOPIO President Sunny Kulathakal, International Coordinator for N.A. Harbachan Singh, Treasurer Sohan Joshi and President of Chicago Chapter Gladson Varghese representing GOPIO, visited the premises and had a preliminary discussion with Dr. Deepak Vyas. The broad perimeters of a cooperation agreement were discussed and Mr. Sunny Kulathakal decided to take back the offer to the GOPIO Executive Council for

consideration. He expressed his profound gratitude to Dr. Deepak Vyas for the offer.

Mr. Sunny Kulathakal stated that, "GOPIO International advocates for the people's rights, fights on their behalf and assists the Indian Diaspora around the globe on issues such as, immigration and visa, PIO card matters, social services for the Diaspora, inheritance and legacy issues and to facilitate the often-stranded Diaspora travelers to their home country, and scores of other issues related to family and property matters."

"Considering that GOPIO is a charitable organization, this offer was considered as a most valuable concession to GOPIO where it can establish an appropriate office and direct its activities and efficiently service all its Regional offices and Country Chapters in a most effective way", said Harbachan Singh. GOPIO has now matured and grown worldwide, and it was time that it changed its shell. GOPIO was established in USA in 1989 and has since expanded and spanned across the world where it has over 30 Chapters and several hundreds of Life members doing a phenomenal job. The overseas Indians are beginning to rely on GOPIO to help solve their problems.

GOPIO has conducted several programs in cooperation with the Consulate General of India in different parts of the world. This collaboration is leading to the ability to forge more partnerships. GOPIO International's collaboration with the Redberri Corporation will further enhance interaction between Mother India and the Indian population at a higher level both in terms of qualitative and quantitative endeavors, and in a professional way on a worldwide basis.

More details regarding this announcement will be available shortly at <http://www.gopio.net/> or contact: GOPIO International president Sunny Kulathakal at 314-926-6103.

(Based on a press release)

contd from page 1

Yet another bank fraud in India: Gautam Thapar, others booked in USD3.3 billion bank fraud case

"The searches were carried out in Delhi, Gurugram and Mumbai," said a CBI official. The case has been registered on a complaint lodged by the SBI on behalf of all the lenders, alleging fraud committed by the borrowers from 2015 to 2019.

Earlier this month, the agency had booked Avantha Realty Limited and its promoter, Mr. Thapar, for allegedly cheating the Yes Bank of ₹466.51 crore in 2017-19. He is under investigation in another CBI case instituted in March last year against former Yes Bank managing director Rana Kapoor and others.

In the latest case, among those named as accused are C.G. Power and Industrial Solution's then chief executive officer and managing director K. N. Neelkanth; executive director and chief financial officer Madhav Acharya; director B. Hariharan; non-executive director Omkar Goswami; and then chief financial officer Venkatesh Rammoorthy.

It is alleged that they indulged in diversion and siphoning of funds through sham transactions with related parties. The accused borrowed funds by misrepresentation, falsified books of accounts, entries, vouchers and financial statements, and furnished incorrect or misleading information.

According to the FIR, during August 2019, the company's board disclosed to the Securities and Exchange Board of India about several suspicious unauthorized transactions, including previously undisclosed debts. The liabilities of the company and

the group had apparently been understated.

Advances to the related/unrelated parties were also suspected to have been understated by ₹1,990.36 crore and ₹2,806.63 crore, respectively, as on March 31, 2018.

The FIR lists 19 major instances of suspected siphoning and diversion of funds, which include non-disclosure of unauthorized transactions in the nature of loans taken from banks/financial institutions and connected party aggregating to ₹635 crore.

As alleged, ₹634 crore written off in the prior years was misrepresented to the board, and post-dated cheques and comfort letters issued by the senior management in relation to certain borrowings from some related parties were not recorded. In the restated financial statement, ₹303.45 crore amount has wrongly restated in the name of Avantha Holdings Limited and Servomax Infratel Private Limited.

Some transactions with the Diwan Housing Finance Limited Pramerica Asset Managers Private Limited have also been mentioned in the FIR registered on Tuesday.

U.S. allows some H-1B visa seekers to re-submit their applications

"Such petitions must be re-submitted before October 1, 2021. If properly resubmitted, we will consider the petition to have been filed on the original receipt date," the USCIS said.

In 2020, USCIS implemented an electronic registration process for the H-1B cap.

Prospective petitioners seeking to file H-1B cap-subject petitions, including for beneficiaries eligible for the advanced degree exemption, must first electronically register and pay the USD 10 H-1B

registration fee for each beneficiary.

"The electronic registration process has streamlined processing by reducing paperwork and data exchange and provided overall cost savings to employers seeking to file H-1B cap-subject petitions," it said.

According to USCIS, for fiscal 2021, the number of petitions filed during the initial filing period was below the number projected as needed to reach the numerical allocations.

This discrepancy was likely related to multiple factors, including the economic, political and public health uncertainty created by the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as the fact that FY-2021 was the first year that we implemented the electronic registration process.

"Therefore, in August 2020, we selected additional registrations that were held in reserve. The filing period for registrations selected in August ended on November 16, 2020," it said.

"Some petitioners indicated a start date after October 1, 2020. We rejected or administratively closed those petitions because they were based on registrations submitted during the initial registration period but indicated a start date after October 1, 2020. Upon reconsideration, we no longer believe that the regulations required us to reject or administratively close those petitions," the USCIS said.

The move comes days after the powerful the U.S. Chambers of Commerce launched a massive campaign to address the acute shortage of skilled and professional workforce in America.

The demand to increase the H-1B quota, which currently is at 65,000 and another 20,000 for those who have higher studies from the U.S., is part of the America Works campaign launched by the U.S. Chambers of Commerce early this month. (Source: PTI)

Jaisalmer: The golden city



If geology interests you, then Jaisalmer is where you need to journey. The Wood Fossil Park or Aakal is located about 15 kilometres away from the city. Here, one can discover and trace geologic tragedies that occurred in the Thar Desert 180 million years ago. The city of Jaisalmer also acts as the guard to western Rajasthan (and India's) frontier. This 'Golden City' is located close to the Pakistan border and in close proximity to the Thar Desert. The city's most prominent landmark is the Jaisalmer Fort, also called Sonar Qila (Golden Fort). Unlike most other forts in India, Jaisalmer Fort is not just a tourist attraction. It houses shops, hotels and ancient havelis (homes) where generations continue to live.

Jaisalmer traces its inception to the 12th century. History tells us of Rawal Jaisal, the eldest heir of the Rawal of Deoraj, was passed over for the throne of Lodurva and a younger half-brother was crowned king. Rawal Jaisal went looking for a new location to set up his capital when he came across sage Eesul. The sage told him about Krishna's prophecy which said that a descendant of his Yaduvanshi clan would found a new kingdom at this same spot. It was in 1156 that Rawal Jaisal constructed a mud fort, named it Jaisalmer after himself and declared it his capital.

JAISALMER FORT

Perched on top of a small hill, this large fort makes for a mesmerising sight. Also known as the Golden Fort, it is surrounded by a 30 foot high wall, and has over 99 bastions and some imposing gateways or pols. It has been inhabited for centuries, and encloses houses, handicraft shops, palaces, temples, hotels and restaurants, connected by cobble stone paths.

The main square here is called the Dussehra Chowk, while the main palace is the Rajmahal. This seven-storey building was the residence of the former rulers. Its façade is embellished with stone carvings, while its interior houses the Jaisalmer Fort Palace Museum and Heritage Centre. The rooftop offers panoramic views of the city.

JAIN TEMPLES

This set of seven Jain temples lies inside the walls of the Jaisalmer Fort. They are connected to each other, and are all adorned with intricate carvings of mythological and dancing figures. These yellow sandstone temples were built between the 12th and the 16th centuries. They are dedicated to various tirthankaras. The largest of them, the Parsvanath Temple, is dedicated to the 22nd tirthankara.

PATWON-KI-HAVELI

This ornate haveli is among the most splendid in Jaisalmer. It consists of a set of five houses, which were built by five Jain merchant brothers in the 19th century. Their exterior is covered with intricate carvings. Inside, some of the walls are decorated with paintings and mirror work. The buildings comprise of a set of rooms, constructed around a central courtyard. There's also a shop selling embroidered textiles and brocades.

SAM SAND DUNES

These shifting white sand dunes, located close to the village Sam, are a great way to explore the Thar desert. They are located 45 kilometres from Jaisalmer. The best way to explore the desert is through camel rides. The dunes look especially picturesque at sunset and sunrise.

You can also stay here overnight to enjoy the campfires and folk music and dance performances held every evening. Rajasthan Tourism Development Corporation runs the Sam Dhani Resort on a hillock in front of the dunes. It has cottages and tents, which are perfect for a peaceful retreat.

SALIM SINGH-KI-HAVELI

This haveli was built by Salim Singh, the prime minister of Jaisalmer in the 19th century. Its most eye-catching feature is its beautiful arched roof with carved brackets shaped like peacocks, and pretty balconies below it. The haveli is also distinct because it's been constructed entirely of stone, without the use of cement or mortar. A part of the haveli is still occupied, but it's worth a visit primarily for its exquisitely designed exterior.

BADA BAGH

This garden, located on the outskirts of Jaisalmer, contains the cenotaphs of the Rajpur rulers. These are pyramidal and domed in shape, and have beautiful carved ceilings and equestrian statues of the rulers. Each chhatri also has inscribed tablets recording the death of the Maharawals. There's also a set of windmills nearby, which make for a picturesque sight. There are several other attractions close to Bada Bagh. Amar Sagar consists of a beautifully-carved Jain temple located on the banks of a water reservoir. Lodhurva, the former capital of the Bhatti Rajputs, is now in ruins but it still has magnificent Jain temples with a gorgeous gateway. The main temple contains several beautiful sculptures and a silver image of Parsvanath, the 23rd tirthankara.



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Bizarre own-goal helps Spain advance to last 16 at Euro 2020

A bizarre blunder by the goalkeeper helped Spain find its scoring touch at the European Championship.

And it also helped them advance to the round of 16.

An embarrassing own-goal by goalkeeper Martin Dúbravka in the first half put Spain on its way to a 5-0 victory Wednesday, coming only minutes after the hosts had missed another penalty kick and wasted more scoring chances.

Dúbravka saved that early penalty from Álvaro Morata but then clumsily knocked the ball into his own net after it ricocheted high into the air off a shot by Pablo Sarabia in the 30th minute.

Dúbravka stood just off his line and waited for the ball to descend. He jumped to swat it over for a corner, but the ball veered to his left and rolled off his right hand and into the net.

Desolate, he stood by the goal line as some of his teammates came over to support him.

Aymeric Laporte added to Spain's lead before halftime, and Sarabia, Ferran Torres and another own-goal in the second half made it five for "La Roja," which had been facing elimination in front of its own fans.

The victory allowed Spain to advance in second place in Group E with five points. The team will next play Croatia in Copenhagen on Monday. Sweden, which defeated Poland 3-2 in the other match, won the group.

Jadeja displaces Holder as top Test all-rounder

India's Ravindra Jadeja on Wednesday, June 23, dislodged West Indian Jason Holder as the world's top all-rounder in the latest ICC Test rankings.

Jadeja is two points ahead of Holder (384) while England all-rounder Ben Stokes is third with 377 points.

Another Indian, Ravichandran Ashwin is fourth with 353 points, followed by Shakib Al Hasan of Bangladesh (338).

Ashwin remained at second spot in the bowlers' rankings on 850 points, below Pat Cummins (908) of Australia. Tim Southee (830) of New Zealand is third.

Among the batsmen, there was no change in top-five with Indian captain Virat Kohli static at fourth on 814. Steve Smith of Australia continued to be the top batsman on 891 points, followed by Kane Williamson (886) of New Zealand and Marnus Labuschagne (878) of Australia.

England captain Joe Root (797) is at number five, followed by the Indian pair of Rishabh Pant and Rohit Sharma at joint at sixth on 747 points.

New Zealand beat India to win inaugural World Test Championship

SOUTHAMPTON (TIP): India's revered superstars failed to dazzle on the 'D-Day' as New Zealand's canny operators and their classy skipper Kane Williamson deservedly walked away with the inaugural World Test Championship title after a composed eight-wicket win in the final that exposed multiple frailties in Virat Kohli's team.

Just like that overcast morning at the Old Trafford two years back, India's batsmen fluffed their morning lines against a familiar opposition, albeit with the red Dukes, and were skittled out for 170 on the best day for batting in a game marred by inclement weather.

A target of 139 wasn't going to be difficult and Williamson (52 not out), after a brilliant match as captain, played sublime drives in a short chase on a balmy reserve day which was used to compensate for two days of cricket being lost to rain.

There was the trademark serene smile on his face which widened following a hug from his mate Ross Taylor (47 not out) in a very low-key celebration for a team that is high-profile in its own right.

Senior off-spinner Ravichandran Ashwin's two early wickets raised hopes of a twist in the tale but Williamson and Taylor doused them one patient stroke at a time. Perhaps the cricket Gods wanted a course correction for Williamson and his men, who were left high and dry during that evening at the Lord's where twist of cruel fate and horrible rules robbed them off deserving glory in the 2019 World Cup.

That was not to be the case on Wednesday when their bowlers choked India, who seemed to be in pursuit of a draw to lay their hands on the glittering mace.

Williamson's pacers completely rejected their idea and ensured that a World Cup had one winner and the deserving one at that.

For Kohli, this is the third failure in big ICC events after the 2017 Champions Trophy and the 2019 World Cup.

He might just have one more shot, which is the T20 World Cup this year; and failing to win that could warrant some changes in the team hierarchy. Mahendra Singh Dhoni is worshipped because of three ICC trophies and it was ironical that India's abject surrender happened on the same date on which the revered former skipper won the Champions Trophy in the same country eight summers back.

When India batted, it was only Rishabh Pant (41), who was ready to live and die by



Kane Williamson and his champion side.

the sword while his seniors found it difficult to play the game of survival against the canniest of pace attacks.

By tea, India had another batting disaster with only 170 runs in their second innings leaving New Zealand with a target that they were expected to chase.

It was one of the worst batting performances on a good track with sun beating down.

Williamson is probably one of the few captains who have now got the Indian team out for less than 250 in six consecutive innings, a testimony to his brilliant cricketing acumen and near the perfect execution of plans by his bowlers.

Tim Southee (4/48) did the early damage with his swing bowling, Neil Wagner (1/44) bowled those hard "rib cage" overs coming round the stumps and Trent Boult (3/44), with his ability to bring it back into the left-hander, made for a brilliant few hours of Test cricket.

And then there was India's nemesis Kyle Jamieson (2/30), who got his "bunny" Kohli third time in three Tests and twice in one to put the icing on the cake.

Pant fought for two and half hours for his 41 but it was more intent and less content as a cavalier devil may care approach didn't get him too many runs.

The catch that Henry Nicholls took while running backwards was as good as one would witness at this level.

Pant's dismissal did hamper India's

chances but before that an inspirational piece of captaincy from Williamson left an indelible mark. He got Wagner to come round the wicket to Jadeja and the left-arm "pounder" went wide enough to nearly cut the side crease and angled one for Jadeja to nick it behind the stumps.

Pant's approach of dealing with the New Zealand attack was better than just being in the shell, something that did more harm than good for Cheteshwar Pujara (15 off 80 balls).

Before Pujara, the extra bounce outside the off-stump had the Indian skipper falling for it and BJ Watling got the easiest of catches in his final game for the Black Caps. Pujara's abilities of grinding out bowlers have reached mythical proportions and once again he wasn't looking to score.

The pressure built and Jamieson fired one in with the angle. Pujara wanted to remove his bat but it seemed the ball tailed him and Taylor got a regulation catch.

Ajinkya Rahane (15 off 40 balls) also didn't last long and as it has happened with India often, their tail didn't wag save for Mohammed Shami (13), who slashed three fours before Williamson cleverly deployed a "fly third-man" (neither short third-man nor the traditional third man) for the shot, which promptly landed in the fielder's palms.

It was a day when everything went haywire for India and poor captaincy made matters worse.

Source: PTI

Ronaldo becomes joint top-scorer in men's international football



BUDAPEST (TIP): Portugal striker Cristiano Ronaldo has become the joint top-scorer in men's international football.

He achieved the feat in Portugal's Euro 2020 game against France on Wednesday (local time) here at the Puskas Arena in Budapest.

Ronaldo scored two goals

from the spot against France and as a result, he now has 109 goals from 176 matches for Portugal.

The striker is currently tied with Iran's legend Ali Daei, who also scored 109 goals from 149 matches.

Ronaldo has so far scored in Portugal's every Euro 2020

group stage game and if he scores one more goal, he will become the highest scorer in men's international football.

After scoring in every Euro 2020 game, Ronaldo has also become the first Portuguese striker to register goals in all three group stage matches in the competition.

contd from page 1

J&K parties find common ground on...

polls can happen soon after the delimitation exercise, the sources said, adding that by and large most participants expressed willingness for it.

The Prime Minister stressed that an atmosphere of safety and security needs to be ensured for all sections of society in Jammu and Kashmir and he wanted to remove 'Dilli ki Duri' as well as 'Dil Ki Duri' (distance from Delhi as well as distance of heart), according to the sources.

All the constituents of the Gupkar Alliance, including Dr. Abdullah and Ms. Mufti, reiterated their demand to restore the special status of J&K. In a freewheeling three-and-a-half-hour interaction with Prime Minister Narendra Modi, J&K parties, across the political divide, find the common ground on deepening democracy, early process and taking the PM's dialogue process forward.

"Building trust is very necessary. Restoration of full statehood will be the first trust building exercise from New Delhi," Dr. Abdullah, NC president and the Gupkar alliance chief, said. His son and former Chief Minister Omar Abdullah said there has been a breach of trust between Delhi and Srinagar and requires measures from the PM, as he described the August 5, 2019 move as "unacceptable" and "being contested in the court" by the party.

"People do not like J&K's status to be reduced to Union Territory (UT). They want the full State and J&K cadre restored," Mr. Abdullah said. All the constituents of the Gupkar Alliance, including Dr. Abdullah and Ms. Mufti, reiterated their demand to restore the special status of J&K, as it existed on August 4, 2019 and "rebuild the broken relation with people of J&K".

"People of J&K have been in pain since 5 August 2019. They are angry and feel humiliated. The people of J&K do not accept the unconstitutional, immoral and illegal abrogation of Article 370. My party and my party will fight peacefully and democratically for its restoration, even if it takes months or years. It's about our identity. Article 370 was not something granted by Pakistan to us," People's Democratic Party president Mehbooba Mufti said. Ms. Mufti said she complimented the PM for initiating dialogue with China and Pakistan and insisted that India should talk to Pakistan for peace in Kashmir. "We also sought security on land, jobs and minerals of J&K and an end to any kind of intimidation. We also demanded the release of political leaders," she added.

NO CONCRETE ASSURANCES : CPI(M) leader M.Y. Tarigami said both the Prime Minister and the Home Minister gave them a patient hearing as they expressed their concerns, demands and aspirations. "However, we did not get any concrete assurances from them," he added. Kashmir-based Peoples Conference (PC) and J&K Apni Party also sought special provisions on the issue of land and jobs during the meeting, while describing the meeting as "cordial and dignified". However, these two parties did not discuss Article 370, saying "it's sub judice".

"I did suggest to the PM to incorporate 35(A) (special provision to secure jobs and land for locals) under Article 371. There was a thrust on getting together in strengthening democracy in J&K and the majority of leaders demanded restoration of statehood. The PM did suggest elections after the delimitation process completes its process and also promised on the restoration of statehood. After that, other issues will be taken up," PC's Muzaffar Hussain Baigh said. J&K Apni Party chief Altaf Bukhari said the meeting is likely to herald a new dawn for J&K. "Our party's paramount demands have been restoration of Statehood, early assembly elections, delimitation on merit and constitutional mechanism that protects the rights of residents of J&K on their land, jobs and natural resources besides expediting the hearing of the Supreme Court on Article 370 and 35-A," Mr. Bukhari said. He said he was hopeful that J&K parties will be able to arrive at a sustainable and meaningful roadmap

keeping in view the best interests and the welfare of the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

Senior BJP leader Kavinder Gupta said the meeting was "meaningful". "All parties talked about the development of J&K and presented their opinions. In the time to come, the political process is going to begin. Assembly will be constituted in J&K once again," Mr. Gupta said. (With inputs from PTI)

Biden accepts a deal on infrastructure...

"We all agree that none of us got all we wanted. I clearly didn't get all I wanted, they gave more than I think maybe what they were planning to give in the first place," Biden said. "But this reminds me of the days when we used to get an awful lot done up in the United States Congress." The President said: "Bipartisan deals mean compromise."

Biden said later in the day that he would not sign the bipartisan infrastructure bill unless the investments he has proposed in his American Families Plan, which Democratic leadership plans on passing through the budget reconciliation process, also end up on his desk. "If this is the only thing that comes to me, I'm not signing it. It's in tandem," Biden said.

The President said: "The bipartisan bill from the very beginning was understood there's going to have to be the second part of it. I'm not just signing the bipartisan bill and forgetting about the rest that I proposed. I proposed a significant piece of legislation in three parts. And all, all three parts are equally important." "For me, investment in our physical and human infrastructure (are) inextricably intertwined. Both make us better off and stronger," Biden said.

And House Speaker Nancy Pelosi said Thursday, June 24, that the House won't take up the bipartisan bill until the Senate passes the larger, more sweeping infrastructure package through budget reconciliation. Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell later expressed deep pessimism on Fox News over Democrats' push to pass both the bipartisan deal and a reconciliation bill.

"What it does is put my members, including myself, who were optimistic about doing a bipartisan infrastructure bill in a position of our Democratic friends having to guarantee that the 2017 tax bill is unwound. That's our one red line," the Kentucky Republican said. Republicans are grappling with whether to support the bipartisan deal, knowing that Democrats can push through a reconciliation bill either way, or to oppose the bipartisan measure and let Democrats own everything. McConnell's rhetoric Thursday, June 24 evening indicated he may be leaning towards embracing the latter argument.

And Sen. Lindsey Graham, a South Carolina Republican who earlier had signed on to the framework deal with a few other GOP senators, tweeted: "If reports are accurate that President Biden is refusing to sign a bipartisan deal unless reconciliation is also passed, that would be the ultimate deal breaker for me." A lot of work remains on the policy and drafting side of the proposal. But Biden and his team have grown increasingly bullish on the pathway a bipartisan agreement lays out for moving the full scope of the President's \$4 trillion economic agenda.

Many details of the plan remain unclear. But the total cost of the plan is \$1.2 trillion over eight years, with \$559 billion in new spending, multiple sources familiar with the matter tell CNN. This proposal is significantly less than what Biden had initially proposed. The President initially put forward a \$2.25 trillion plan to rebuild the nation's infrastructure and shift to greener energy over the next eight years.

But after their late-night meeting on Wednesday with White House officials, Democratic leaders said they planned to move forward with a much larger Democratic-only approach to dramatically expand the social safety plan in addition to the bipartisan infrastructure plan. Romney and Manchin said the bipartisan proposal is fully paid for and offsets the new spending. How to pay for the proposal has been a major point of contention during the negotiations. (Source:

CNN)

Rudy Giuliani's NY Law License...

lawyer for former President Donald J. Trump and the Trump campaign in connection with Trump's failed effort at reelection in 2020," the decision states. "These false statements were made to improperly bolster respondent's narrative that due to widespread voter fraud, victory in the 2020 United States presidential election was stolen from his client." The decision reads as a refutation of the so-called "Big Lie" that Trump, not President Joe Biden, would have won the 2020 election if not for massive voter fraud.

Giuliani, in the days and weeks following the election, spread those false claims far and wide to cast doubt on the legitimacy of Biden's election, as detailed in the decision. In just one example, Giuliani claimed at various times "that 65,000 or 66,000 or 165,00 [sic] underage voters" illegally voted in the Georgia 2020 election, the decision states. This was debunked by Georgia officials who compared all people who voted in the election to their full birthdays, according to the decision.

"The audit revealed that there were zero (0) underage voters in the 2020 election," the decision states. "While a small number of voters (four) had requested a ballot prior to turning 18, they all turned 18 by the time the election was held in November 2020." Giuliani's claims over the election prompted a disciplinary review by the state's Attorney Grievance Committee that ultimately led to his suspension. Court officials found Giuliani presented an immediate threat to the public interest, especially as the country is "torn apart" by doubts over the legitimacy of Biden's election.

"One only has to look at the ongoing present public discord over the 2020 election, which erupted into violence, insurrection and death on January 6, 2021 at the U.S. Capitol, to understand the extent of the damage that can be done when the public is misled by false information about the elections," the decision states. "The AGC contends that respondent's misconduct directly inflamed tensions that bubbled over into the events of January 6, 2021 in this nation's Capitol. Respondent's response is that no causal nexus can be shown between his conduct and those events. We need not decide any issue of "causal nexus" to understand that the falsehoods themselves cause harm."

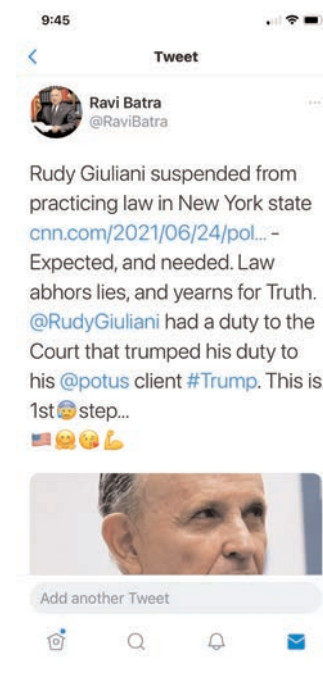
Giuliani's son Andrew Giuliani blasted the decision in a Twitter video. He didn't refute the judges' detailed debunking of his father's claims, but instead argued the decision itself was a partisan attack.

"This is going after one of President Trump's closest allies, that's exactly what this is," he said. "And any American that does not believe that they are just biased." By the end, the decision used one of Giuliani's own statements to justify his suspension.

"I don't know what's more serious than being denied your right to vote in a democracy," Giuliani said in an election court hearing, according to the decision.

"We agree," the court officials wrote. "It is the very reason why espousing false factual information to large segments of the public as a means of discrediting the rights of legitimate voters is so immediately harmful to it and warrants interim suspension from the practice of law."

The Indian Panorama reached out to the eminent attorney Ravi Batra for his comment on the suspension of Giuliani's NY Law license. Mr. Batra shared with the publication his Tweet.



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