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The INDIAN PANORAMA

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India's PM Narendra Modi in a major reshuffle drops 12 senior ministers and inducts a younger team



The new inductees in the council of ministers with India's President Ram Nath Kovind, 8th from left, and Prime Minister Narendra Modi, 6th from left. - Photo / Courtesy PIB

I.S. SALUJA

NEW DELHI (TIP): In a balancing act and to refurbish the image of the government, Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi, reshuffled his ministry,

dropping 12 ministers and inducting 15 cabinet ministers and 28 junior ministers.

The exercise is believed to have been necessitated by the upcoming elections

in a few States, the most important being Uttar Pradesh, a State which plays a decisive role in the fortunes of political parties and the federal government.

CONTD ON PAGE 38

INDIAN AMERICAN ASTRONAUT SIRISHA BANDLA SET TO FLY OFF INTO SPACE ON JULY 11

Third woman of Indian descent to fly into space will be a mission specialist on Virgin Galactic's 'Unity 22' flight.



Sirisha Bandla is all set to fly off into space on July 11 as a mission specialist on Virgin Galactic's next test flight

WASHINGTON (TIP) July 5: Indian American Sirisha Bandla is all set to fly off into space on July 11 as a mission specialist on Virgin Galactic's next test flight of its SpaceShipTwo Unity with Company's founder, Sir Richard Branson.

The "Unity 22" mission, the twenty-second flight test for VSS Unity, will be the first to carry a full crew of two pilots and four mission specialists in the cabin, according to a company announcement.

CONTD ON PAGE 38

Indian Ambassador to the US Taranjit Singh Sandhu interacts with White House fellows

WASHINGTON (TIP): Founded in 1964, the White House Fellowship is a non-partisan programme that brings young leaders into the federal government to provide first-hand experience working at the highest levels of government

India's Ambassador to the US Taranjit Singh Sandhu on Thursday, July 1, interacted with White House fellows and discussed with them the intricacies of diplomacy and the relationship between the world's oldest and largest democracies.

Sandhu, in a tweet, said "an enjoyable and substantial interaction" with the White House fellows at Eisenhower Executive Office Building, which is part of the White House complex.

"Covered wide areas ranging from diplomacy, India-US relations, regional developments, health care, energy, environment, IT and education with this group of young emerging American leaders in different fields!" he added.



Ambassador Sandhu is the first one to be invited under the Biden administration to this interaction

Founded in 1964, the White House Fellowship is a non-partisan programme that brings young leaders into the federal government to provide first-hand experience working at the highest levels of government.

A key element of this unique fellowship is the education programme in which prominent leaders from across society meet the fellows.

In the past, the fellows have heard from dignitaries like Colin Powell, the former secretary of state.

Sandhu was the first one to be invited under the Biden administration to this interaction. In the past, several Indian-Americans have been selected for the prestigious fellowship. Prominent among them include Dr Sanjay Gupta of CNN, Rajeev Venkayya, EVP Vaccines, Takeda Pharmaceuticals.

Indian-American Priya Dandiya from Florida is a White House fellow for the year 2020-21. (Source: PTI)

LEGENDARY INDIAN ACTOR DILIP KUMAR HAS DIED AT 98

I.S. SALUJA

MUMBAI (TIP): Dilip Kumar, the Bollywood icon, hailed as the "Tragedy King" and one of Hindi cinema's greatest actors, died Wednesday, July 7, in a Mumbai hospital after a prolonged illness. He was 98.

"Dilip Kumar will be remembered as a cinematic legend. He was blessed with unparalleled brilliance, due to which audiences across generations were enthralled. His passing away is a loss to our cultural world," Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi said in a tweet.

"An institution has gone," Bollywood superstar Amitabh Bachchan tweeted. "Whenever the history of Indian Cinema will be written, it shall always be 'before Dilip Kumar, and after Dilip Kumar'."

READ MORE ON PAGES 2,4,5



"Dilip Kumar will be remembered as a cinematic legend", tweeted Prime Minister Narendra Modi.



Dr. Anupama Gotimukula is the fourth woman President of AAPI, an association of more than 80000 practicing physicians of Indian origin in its 39 years long history

Dr. Anupama Gotimukula is the New President of AAPI

ATLANTA (TIP) July 5: Dr. Anupama Gotimukula assumed charge as the President of American Association of Physicians of Indian Origin (AAPI), during the 39th annual Convention of America's largest ethnic physician organization in Atlanta on July 4.

CONTD ON PAGE 38



Andy Singh

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:- GUEST COMMENT :-

Goodbye, Dilip Kumar

The passing of Dilip Kumar, the king of melancholia on the silver screen, signals the final break from the early days of Hindi film 'talkies', when actors were beginning to shed the exaggerated theatricality of stage drama and learning to love the camera. In the 1930s and 1940s, Ashok Kumar, Motilal Rajvansh and Balraj Sahni were among the handful of actors taking pioneering steps towards natural, realistic acting. They were eschewing the preceding style that — with its hand-waving, over the top gestures and facial expressions — seemed affected and artificial. Then came Dilip Kumar, the Pathan from Peshawar, who went a step further, deep into the skin of the character he was playing. He didn't make a mark in his earliest movies, but collaborating with Nitin Bose in 1946 proved a turning point. He began to develop the finer nuances of his craft and, in his own words, 'evolved a method' — a method actor without training.

Through the 1940s to 1960s, in a newly-independent country brimming with hope but grappling with new challenges,



The Finest actor of his time takes the final bow

Dilip Kumar played an impressive range

of characters — a dapper young man in Andaz, a farmer in Mela and Naya Daur, an unbounded adventurer in Azaad and Kohinoor, the prince in Mughal-e-Azam, a dacoit in Ganga Jamuna. But the role that epitomized his 'Tragedy King' persona was as Devdas in Bimal Roy's film of the same name in 1955. Deep-diving into tragic characters caused him to be depressed, and the light-hearted, swashbuckling roles he played in the mid-1950s were part of efforts to cheer his spirits.

By the 1970s, with Dilip Kumar in his 50s, his charm as the leading man began to fade and he made an impressive transition into character roles — the most memorable role of this phase was as a police officer in Shakti (1982), in which he is clearly the giant among Amitabh Bachchan, Smita Patil and Kulbhushan Kharbanda. His brooding style, however, began to seem dated by the time he did his final films. He long outlived his two foremost rivals and friends, Raj Kapoor and Dev Anand — but at 98, it is time for the finest actor of his time to take the final bow.

(Tribune India)

:- GUEST COMMENT :-

The death of Fr. Swamy

DENIAL OF BAIL TO UNDER-TRIALS MUST COME UP FOR NATIONAL DEBATE

Stanislaus LourduSwamy or Father Stan Swamy, a Jesuit priest, was born in Tiruchirappalli, worked in Ranchi for the rights of forest dwellers and died at the age of 84 in Mumbai as an under-trial prisoner, exemplifying the undying spirit of rebellion against the State power and life-giving kindness for the meek. The National Investigation Agency (NIA) claimed that he was a Maoist and a key conspirator in the Bhima-Koregaon case, but it did not, even for a day, seek his custodial interrogation after it arrested him on October 8, 2020. The NIA just wanted to keep him in jail. The FIR of the case goes back to 2018 when the NIA raided Fr. Swamy's residence first and he was questioned too, yet he was not arrested till 2020. Obviously, the NIA did not consider him a flight risk. Then, why did it keep a Parkinson's patient in jail during a raging pandemic?

Fr. Swamy's lawyer has sought a judicial probe into the incarceration of an ailing man leading to his death; and the least that the Bombay High Court can do now is to order one. After all, it failed in assessing the need for interim bail to Fr. Swamy when it agreed to shift the priest to a hospital of his choice. The conduct of the NIA and jail authorities, which denied him a sipper to drink,



Custodial death of Fr. Stan Swamy, a Parkinson's patient kept in jail during a raging pandemic and denied bail raises serious questions about the right to life and freedom

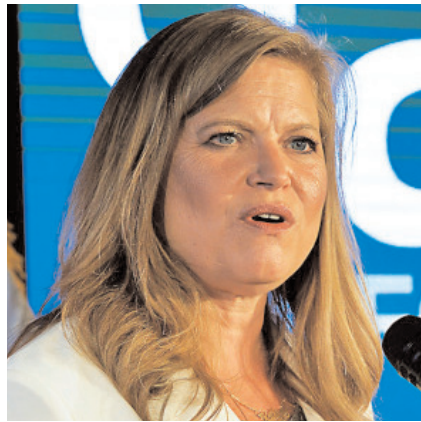
should be scrutinized to stop the misuse of the Unlawful Activities Prevention Act to deny bail to the accused. In Fr. Swamy's case, the NIA court invoked chapters IV and VI of the Act to detain him. These provisions pertaining to terrorist activities and organizations should not have been used in the case of a man who never picked up a weapon.

The greatest misfortune of our criminal justice system is its propensity to allow the misuse of the judicial process to punish the accused rather than awaiting verdicts dependent on evidentiary merit — be they enemies of the State or the moneyed. Fr. Swamy's death should trigger a national debate on the denial of bail to under-trials. Let his suffering not go in vain.

(Tribune India)



Eric Adams Wins Democratic Nomination for NYC Mayor; Garcia and Wiley Concede



The three top contenders: Eric Adams, Kathryn Garcia and Maya Wiley

NEW YORK CITY (TIP): The city's Board of Elections released updated preliminary numbers Tuesday, July 6, — now counting absentee ballots—which show the Brooklyn Borough President leading over former Sanitation Commissioner Kathryn Garcia with 50.5 percent of votes after eight elimination rounds of Ranked Choice Voting.

It may be mentioned here that The Indian Panorama was among the first to endorse Eric Adams.

The city's Board of Elections released an updated preliminary vote count Tuesday, July 6, in the city's primary election, showing Brooklyn Borough President Eric Adams leading over former Sanitation Commissioner Kathryn Garcia with 50.5 percent of votes after eight elimination rounds of Ranked Choice Voting. Garcia and Maya Wiley, who placed second and third respectively, both conceded to Adams on Wednesday.

The new tally, which included absentee ballots, put Adams ahead by 8,426 ballots over Garcia. While official election results won't be certified for another few days, Adams' lead was enough to prompt the Associated Press to declare him the winner and Democratic mayoral nominee.

Some affidavit and cured ballots still need to be tallied, but likely not enough to shift the outcome of the primary

race. BOE officials said Tuesday that 942 ballots are eligible to cure—a chance for voters who filled out their ballot incorrectly to fix and resubmit them—and are due back by July 14, at which points election results will be certified and an official winner declared.

“While there are still some very small amounts of votes to be counted, the results are clear: an historic, diverse, five-borough coalition led by working-class New Yorkers has led us to victory in the Democratic primary for Mayor of New York City,” Adams said in a statement Tuesday night. “Now we must focus on winning in November so that we can deliver on the promise of this great city for those who are struggling, who are underserved, and who are committed to a safe, fair, affordable future for all New Yorkers.”

Adams is expected to face off in the November general election against Guardian Angels founder Curtis Sliwa, the presumed Republican primary winner, who had 68.1 percent of his party's votes in Tuesday's preliminary count, beating out rival Fernando Mateo. Democratic voters greatly outnumber Republicans in New York City, meaning Sliwa will face an uphill battle in the race for City Hall this fall. Should Adams win as many anticipate, he'll become the second Black mayor in the city's history.

Garcia, who campaigned as a government-savvy fixer and who had 49.5 percent of votes in the BOE's most recent preliminary count, addressed supporters at a press conference in Manhattan Wednesday, where she congratulated Adams but noted that his win was “only by a razor-thin margin.”

“For 400 years, no woman has held the top seat at City Hall. This campaign has come closer than any other moment in history to breaking that glass ceiling,” Garcia said in her speech, in which she urged other women to run to elected office. “We cracked the hell out of it, and it's ready to be broken.”

Maya Wiley, a former de Blasio administration lawyer who positioned herself as the more progressive Democratic candidate in the race after Dianne Morales' left-leaning campaign was consumed by staff complaints about working conditions, also conceded the race during a press event outside the Lucerne Hotel in Manhattan, which has been the scene of a bitter fight over where and how the city should house New Yorkers experiencing homelessness.

“Though the City has continued its inhumane policy of moving men out of hotels back into congregate shelters, they aren't giving up their fight. And neither will I,” Wiley said in a statement following her concession speech. “I didn't run for Mayor because I wanted to be a politician and sit at a big desk. I ran because I have a mission—a mission to make the City we love more fair, more just and more affordable.” In an earlier statement, Wiley—who after Tuesday's updated preliminary count trailed Garcia by 12,367 votes in the seventh round of Ranked Choice Voting before being eliminated in the eight—criticized the BOE's handling of the initial primary count.

“It would be an understatement to express dismay at the BOE's administration of this election,” Wiley said in a statement, referring to last week's bungle when the board released its first batch of preliminary ranked choice primary votes, only to retract them hours later, saying they'd mistakenly included some 135,000 test ballots in the initial tally.

State Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins has pledged to hold hearings in the coming weeks to explore how to reform the beleaguered agency.

(Source: CityLimits)

SAI Temple Baldwin Celebrates 20 years

I.S. SALUJA

BALDWIN, NY (TIP): Sai Temple, Baldwin celebrated 20th anniversary July 4. Consul General of India at New York, Randhir Kumar Jaiswal was the chief guest. He was accompanied by his wife Dr. Abha Jaiswal.

Dr. Gaddam Reddy, Chairman, Hindu Temple was the guest of honor. He was accompanied by Mrs. Reddy.

On the occasion, special prayers were offered. An 8-page supplement on the institution was also released.

In his brief address, Consul General spoke of the huge following of Sai Baba. He took out of his pocket a memento from Shirdi Sai Baba while telling the gathering that he himself has great faith in Sai Baba who recommended simple living and having patience and faith in Sai Baba.

Mr. Jaiswal commended the services of Dr. Dattatreyyudu Nori and his wife Dr. Subhadra Nori, and wished them all success with their projects to come.

Dr. and Mrs. Nori honored the Consul General and his wife. The guest of honor Dr Reddy and Mrs. Reddy too were honored, as were some more for their association with and services to the temple.

Earlier, Dr. Nori spoke at length about the setting up of the Sai temple at Baldwin 20 years ago. He said since then 2 more Sai temples have been added. One in New Jersey and another, recently, in Hicksville. A short video was also screened.

ABOUT NORI FOUNDATION : Nori Foundation USA Inc. was started by Dr. Dattatreyyudu Nori and his wife Dr. Subhadra Nori in the year 1998, as a modest gesture in memory of his parents, Late Sri. Satyanarayana Nori and Late Smt. Kanaka Durgamba Nori. The charitable trust serves the needy in the fields of medical relief, education,



SAI Temple in Baldwin



Inner view of the temple with devotees in prayers



Consul General Randhir Kumar Jaiswal speaks. Seen in the picture, from L to R: Kamlesh Mehta, Publisher of The south Asian Times, Dr. Abha Jaiswal, Consul General, Dr. Dattatreyyudu Nori and Dr. Subhadra Nori

and community services. Nori Foundation has established Sai Mandir in Baldwin, New York in the year 2002. To fulfill the requests made by several Sai Baba devotees, Sai Mandir USA Hicksville NY was started in 2020

Since their inception, both the centers have been serving the community and standing as a source of inspiration and tranquility and peace to all the Sai devotees. The places have evolved into a sacred Shirdi for the USA East Coast region and facilitate worship services similar to that in Shri Shirdi Sai Baba Mandir in Shirdi, India. The main objective is to promote the gist of his teachings and philosophy of Sai Baba, Shradha (devotion) and Saburi (patience).

Nori Foundation Inc, in addition to community service, also promotes harmony among all cultures, promotes human values and provides sanctum for everyone. Nori Foundation stands as a model on how to accomplish collectively and with integrity.

DILIP KUMAR (1922-2021)

Dilip Kumar, movie icon and acting institution, passes away at 98

Murtaza Ali Khan

Cinema legend Dilip Kumar has passed away at the age of 98, following prolonged illness. He is survived by his wife, actor Saira Banu.

Immediately after the news broke out on Wednesday, July 7, morning, heartfelt tributes from all across the globe started pouring in, as Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray announced a state funeral for the Bollywood legend.

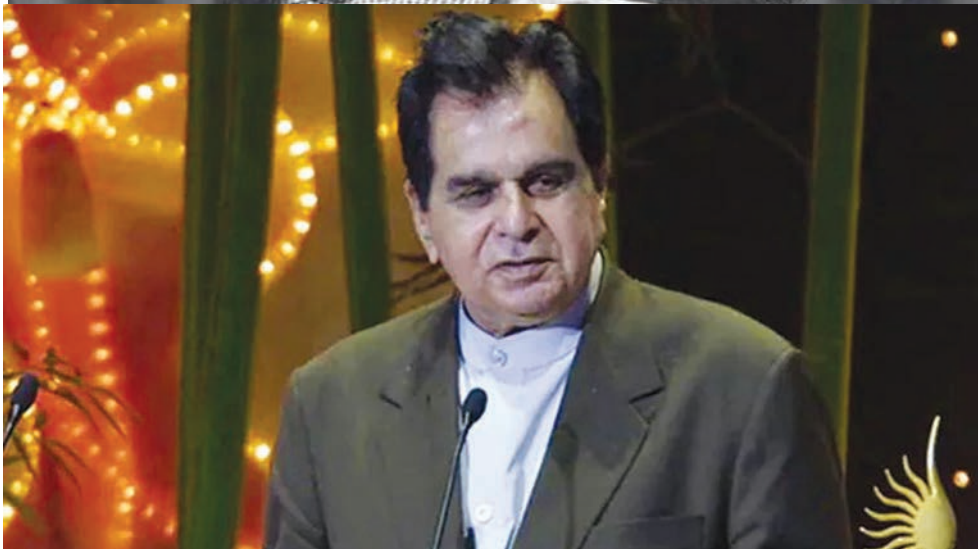
Born Mohammed Yusuf Khan in 1922 in Peshawar, now in Pakistan, he became known to the world by the screen name of Dilip Kumar once he joined the Hindi film industry in the 1940s. The original king of tragedy who's revered the world over for his iconic screen performances in films such as Devdas (1955), Naya Daur (1957), Mughal-e-Azam (1960), Ganga Jamuna (1961), Ram Aur Shayam (1967), Sagina Mahato (1970), Kranti (1981), Shakti (1982), Karma (1986), and Saudagar (1991) was laid to rest at the Juhu Qabristan in Santacruz Mumbai. Dilip Sahab was draped in the tricolor, given a gun salute after which band of police personnel paid him their tribute. The funeral was completed with COVID restrictions in place as only family and close friends were allowed to attend it. Bollywood megastar Amitabh Bachchan was among the few B-town celebs who attended the funeral.

There was a time when young people hailing from good families couldn't dream of taking up acting as a profession. For, the profession was looked down upon. But, Dilip Sahab not only brought dignity to the profession but also inspired numerous young men and women to follow his footsteps and become legendary figures in their own right. He was a method actor long before the movie stars in the West even knew what it actually meant to be a method actor. In fact, he was so deeply involved into his roles that he had to consult a psychologist who advised him to avoid doing serious roles to keep his sanity intact. That's precisely why he had to turn down *Pyaasa* (1957).

But, he was able to soon turn the tide by successfully playing rather light hearted characters which allowed him to further diversify himself as a performer. He famously turned down David Lean's offer to play Sherif Ali in *Lawrence of Arabia* (1962) in order to focus on his work in Hindi cinema. A truly consummate actor, Dilip Kumar took on Amitabh Bachchan at the height of his fame in 'Shakti' and yet again came out supreme, winning the Filmfare Award for Best Actor in 1983. He subsequently went on to play pivotal roles in films like *Mashaal* (1984), *Karma* (1986), and *Saudagar* (1991). The 1998 film *Qila* was his last film.

As a performer, Dilip Sahab was always ahead of his time and never backed down from new challenges. In the 1954 film titled 'Amar', he played the central character of a lawyer named Amarnath who is known for his sense of justice. Now, as per his father's wish Amarnath agrees to marry Anju (played by Madhubala) who is a Western educated

Bollywood's tragedy king Dilip Kumar breathed his last on Wednesday, July 7, at Mumbai's PD Hinduja Hospital. The 98-year-old actor passed away due to various age-related ailments. The multiple-award-winning actor's career spanned over more than five decades and during the golden era of Hindi cinema, Dilip Kumar charmed millions of hearts with his performance in more than 65 films. He was also popularly known as the First Khan of Bollywood. Born as Muhammad Yusuf Khan in Peshawar, Pakistan, he began his acting career with the screen name, Dilip Kumar.



girl and quite open minded. But on one rainy night he gets enticed by a milkwoman's beauty and is unable to stop himself from raping her. Try and imagine Dilip Kumar, a heartthrob of the nation, in a newly independent India of the early 1950s, raping a girl on the silver screen. Of course, the act of rape isn't shown but merely implied symbolically via the shattering of the window pane.

Now, any other actor in his place would have refused to do the scene. It was really too much for the '50s but Dilip Kumar seldom backed down from challenges. He went ahead with it once he was convinced that the story demanded it. Moreover, there would be repercussions for Amarnath which would ensure that the scene isn't misinterpreted by the audiences. Clearly, even as early as the '40s and '50s, Dilip Sahab was a trailblazer who was constantly pushing the boundaries of acting and setting up new standards with each new performance. By the '70s, he attained the stature of an acting

institution that has continued to inspire generations of artists. His death truly marks the end of an era. For, there will never be another Dilip Kumar. To quote Amitabh Bachchan: "An epic era has drawn curtains... Never to happen again."



(Murtaza Ali Khan is an Indian Film & TV Critic / Journalist who has been covering the world of entertainment for over 10 years. He tweets at @MurtazaCritic and can be mailed at: murtaza@apotpourriofvestiges.com. His video essays / commentaries can be watched on his YouTube Channel at: https://www.youtube.com/c/murtaza19alikhana).

Dilip Kumar only Indian actor to receive highest Pak honor

Dilip Kumar's ancestral home, where he was born and spent his early days, recently made it to the news, for the Pakistani Government wished to buy it and turn it into a museum, along with Raj Kapoor's ancestral property.

The house, located in the Qissa Khawani Bazaar of Peshawar, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, is more than 100 years old, and has been declared a national heritage of Pakistan. Raj Kapoor was not only Dilip Kumar's contemporary. Their association goes back to living in neighbouring "havelis", being schoolmates and studying in the same college (Khalsa College). And, evidently, it was Raj Kapoor who first told Dilip that he could be a star.

When Dilip's father, Lala Ghulam Sarwar Khan, came to know of his career switch from fruit trader to film actor, Raj, as a true friend, came to his rescue and made his father, Prithviraj Kapoor, reason with him.

The only Indian actor to receive Pakistan's highest civilian award, Nishan-e-Imtiaz in 1998, Dilip Kumar was later pressurised to return the honour during the 1999 Kargil war by then coalition government of Shiv Sena in Maharashtra.

He had thought that the protests outside his house would die down soon, but when they didn't, he met then Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee, who intervened.

"There's no doubt about Dilip's patriotism and commitment to the nation. He has proved that time and again during his film career. He has received the award at an individual level. It's his will to keep it or return it. No one can pressurise him," Vajpayee had said.

It was revealed later that in a letter that Dilip Kumar wrote to arrange a meeting with Vajpayee, he mentioned that if returning the award was in the best interests of the nation, he would gladly do so.

Former Foreign Minister of Pakistan, Khurshid Mahmud Kasuri described Dilip as the "one who could bring India and Pakistan together" in his book titled "Neither a Hawk nor a Dove".

Dilip's picture greeting Abdul Ghaffar Khan, the independence activist, advocate of Hindu-Muslim unity, who was against partition, on his visit to India at Meenambakkam Airport, Chennai, bears witness of him being the figure of peace throughout his life. *Source: TNS*

How Yusuf Khan became Dilip Kumar

Legend, thespian, tragedy king, god of acting... Dilip Kumar was given several monikers in his illustrious career but how he acquired his screen name is a story unto itself.

He was born Mohammed Yusuf Khan but Devika Rani, who was head of the Bombay Talkies where he joined as an actor, wasn't too happy with the name. Dilip Kumar, she thought, would be in tune with his "romantic image" which he was bound to acquire and would also have a "secular appeal".

And so Dilip Kumar it was. Kumar, who died at the age of 98, narrates in detail how he went from being Yusuf Khan to Dilip Kumar in his autobiography "The Substance and the Shadow". "One morning, as I entered the studio I was given the message that Devika Rani wanted to see me in her office. I wondered what it could be. I was certain it couldn't be for expressing any displeasure because she was always courteous and pleasant whenever she met me and enquired how I was doing. So what could it be?" Kumar writes. When he walked into Rani's office, she was seated at her desk, smiled warmly and asked him to sit down.

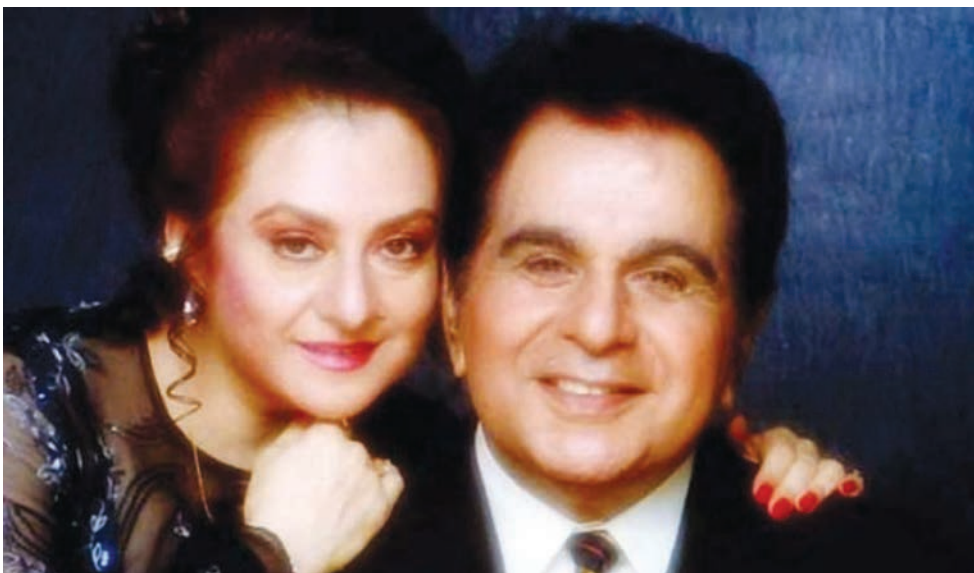
Devika Rani began the conversation with the usual courtesy of asking him whether he would care for some tea made specially for her from leaves she had purchased from an English store in the city, he recounts in great detail.

According to the autobiography, she soon came to the point and said quite matter-of-factly, "Yusuf, I was thinking about your launch soon as an actor and I felt it would not be a bad idea if you adopted a screen name".

"You know, a name you would be known by and which will be very appropriate for your audience to relate to and one that will be in tune with the romantic image you are bound to acquire through your screen presence. I thought Dilip Kumar was a nice name," she is quoted as saying. She told him the name just "popped up" in her



The trio: Dilip Kumar, Dev Anand and Raj Kapoor



Dilip Kumar with wife Saira Banu

mind when she was thinking about a suitable name for him. "How does it sound to you?" she asked.

"I was speechless for a moment, being totally unprepared for the new identity she was proposing to me. I said it sounded nice

but asked her whether it was really necessary," Kumar says in the book.

"She gave her sweet smile and told me that it would be prudent to do so. She added that it was after considerable thought that she came to the conclusion of giving me a screen name."

Rani told Kumar that she foresaw a long and successful career for him in films and it made good sense to have a screen identity that would "stand up by itself and have a secular appeal".

Kumar was quick to appreciate her concern, but added that he needed to think about it a bit.

She responded, "Fine... come back to me with your thoughts."

"We are now ready to begin preparations for your debut. So we must hurry up."

The actor recalls spending the rest of the day, going about his routine, but with the name 'Dilip Kumar' ringing in his mind's inner recesses.

S. Mukherjee, who was effectively the second in command at Bombay Talkies after Devika Rani, noticed that the actor was rather contemplative that afternoon.

After lunch, when work started on the shooting stage, Mukherjee asked him if there was something disturbing him and if he could share with him.

"I told S. Mukherjee Sahab about the suggestion that had come from Devika Rani. He reflected for a second and, looking me straight in the eye, said: "I think she has a point. It will be in your interest to take the name she has suggested for the screen. It is a very nice name, though I will always know you by the name Yusuf like all your brothers and sisters and your parents," says Kumar in the autobiography.

Kumar said he was touched by what Mukherjee said and it was a validation that cleared his thoughts then and there.

The rest as they say is history. Dilip Kumar went on to debut with Jwar Bhata in 1944, becoming one of the biggest names in Indian cinema history.

Source: PTI

1944-1960



Dilip Kumar's first film, Jwar Bhata (1944) went largely unnoticed; three years later, Jugnu was his first major box-office hit. Several hits followed: Mela (1948), Andaz (1949), Deedar (1951). After PC Barua, he was the second actor to play the role of Devdas in the 1955 film, an adaptation of a Saratchandra Chattopadhyay novella. The 50s anointed Kumar as the 'Tragedy King' of Bollywood, the only superstar who excelled in this form at the time of Raj Kapoor and Dev Anand. The tragic roles, however, took their toll. On the suggestion of his psychiatrist, Kumar decided to do light-hearted roles. And he did just that with films like Aan (1952), Azaad (1955) and Kohinoor (1960).

1960-1970

Illustrious films of the legend



In 1960, the historical film Mughal-e-Azam, where he played the role of Salim became a blockbuster, and up until 2008, it was the second highest grossing film in the history of Bollywood. In Ganga Jamuna (1961), his first and only production, for the first time Kumar and his brother Nasir Khan appeared together and played the title roles. Kumar, in fact was also one of the few actors of that time to have been offered an international project: he was offered the role of Sherif Ali by British director David Lean for the film Lawrence of Arabia (1962). Kumar, however, declined the offer. In 1967 with Ram Aur Shyam, Kumar for the first time played a double role. It was a major hit.

1970-1980



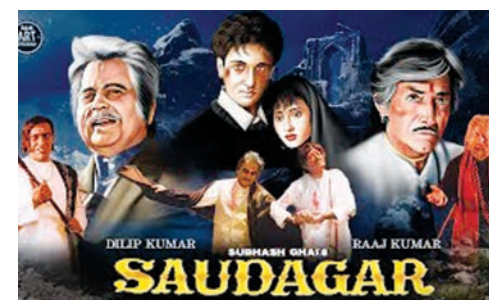
The '70s wasn't a particularly good time for Kumar with several new and young actors entering the film industry. His career was at an all time low. He tried his hand at experimenting with his roles in films such as Dastaan (1970) and Bairaag (1976), even playing a triple role, but neither film did well. From 1976 to 1981, he decided to take a hiatus from acting.

1980-1990

After five years, in 1981, Kumar returned to the big screen with the superhit, Kranti, proving once again that a superstar of his caliber would always

score big. He then moved on to playing only quality roles in films such as Shakti (1982), Vidhaata (1982), Mashaal (1984) and Karma (1986)- all of which were hits.

1990-2000



With Saudagar (1991), Kumar, alongside veteran actor Raj Kumar delivered a hit film at the box-office. At that time, both actors were reportedly not on good terms with each other. Two years later, Kumar won his first Lifetime Achievement Award after having completed almost 50 years in the industry. In 1996, Kumar wanted to try his hand at direction with the film, Kalinga. Unfortunately, the film was shelved. Kumar made his last film appearance in the movie Qila (1998).

Indian man wins top prize in govt-initiated competition for migrant workers

He performed a sequence of Silambam - a traditional martial art form practiced in India since the 4th century BC

SINGAPORE (TIP): An Indian man in Singapore has won the top prize in a government-initiated competition for migrant workers for choreographing and performing a sequence of Silambam - a traditional martial art form practiced in India since the 4th century BC.

Ganesan Sandhirakasan, 33, who hails from Tamil Nadu, secured first place with the most number of likes and views for his video on the @sg4mw (SG 4 Migrant Workers) TikTok account, beating 19 other shortlisted individuals. He took home the prize money of SGD 1,000 (USD 743).

The series was made for migrant workers in Singapore and the final episode was aired on Monday night.

The competition is part of the Tamil variety series Chill Pannu Maappi!, commissioned by the Ministry of Communication and Information and produced by Cosmic Ultima Pictures for migrant workers.

Migrant workers were invited to send in video submissions of their talents and the show received more than 600 entries, said executive producer of the show S.S. Vikneshwaran.

Ganeasan started practicing martial arts at the age of 12 and won a silver medal for India at the first Silambam World Championship in 2010.

"(I decided to take part) after seeing the advertisement (for the competition) on the website. My workplace was closed during the COVID period," he said of the first talent competition held in Singapore.

"I wanted to use the time on something. Therefore, I



Ganesan Sandhirakasan in Singapore has won the top prize in a government-initiated competition for migrant workers. 'Chill Pannu Maappi' Talent - Photo /Ganesan-YouTube screen grab

choreographed (a demonstration of) the Indian martial art Silambam," the Channel New Asia quoted Ganesan as saying.

Ganesan said he submitted his video with the intention of making the martial art form known to more people, and to encourage others to keep fit.

"It takes concentration, fitness, and practice to perform a continuous sequence of Silambam. Learners benefit from both physical, health and mental health," he added.

Ganesan has been living in Singapore for the past seven years, and teaching Taekwondo here for the past five years.

The second place in the competition went to Vignesh Sathish, whose video of him performing a traditional

dance form known as the Karagattam in costume won him SGD 500 (USD 372).

The winner of the third position - with prize money of SGD 300 (USD 223) - was Saran Raj, an assistant supervisor with a cleaning company who submitted a video of himself singing.

Ganesan said he was "happy and excited" to win the first position. He plans to keep half of the prize money for his use and donate the other half to a foundation in his hometown in Mayiladuthurai in Tamil Nadu to provide at least 500 meals for the elderly.

Ganesan said he hopes the money will help individuals who are facing "challenging times" due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The reception for the show and the competition segment has been "pretty good" so far, Vikneshwaran said, adding that both migrant workers and Singaporeans enjoy the series.

"They seem to love the idea of being able to connect with familiar faces that they know from back home. They enjoy the dance, the songs, their favorite so far has been the stand-up comedy segment, which features some sensational comedians from Tamil Nadu," he said.

The competition saw submissions including those of singing, dancing, playing instruments, said Soffy Hariyanti, director of the Ministry's campaigns and production department.

There were also some unique entries featuring martial art forms and folk dances, she added. (Source: PTI)

Indian origin Gupta Brothers of South Africa on Interpol red notices

Eight suspects on Interpol notice are wanted to answer to allegations that they looted over 25 million rands



Police raid the home of the Gupta family, friends of President Jacob Zuma, in Johannesburg, South Africa, February 14, 2018. - File photo / Reuters

JOHANNESBURG (TIP): Two of the three Indian-origin Gupta brothers, who fled South Africa with their families amidst investigations into their alleged looting of billions of rands from state and parastatal organizations, are now officially wanted fugitives after Interpol has issued red notices against them.

A red notice is an alert to all Interpol member states that an individual is a wanted fugitive but is not equivalent to an arrest warrant. However, it strengthens the case of a country negotiating the extradition of wanted

criminals from another state.

Interpol has issued a "red notice" against two of the brothers, Atul and Rajesh, said the National Prosecuting Authority's Investigating Directorate head, Hermione Cronje, in a statement on Monday.

The move would help the prosecution to bring Atul and Rajesh along with their elder brother Ajay to South Africa so that they stand trial for their alleged role in a fraud and money laundering case worth 25-million rand linked to the failed Estina Dairy Farm project in Free State province.

The wives and several associates of the Gupta brothers are also on the Interpol list.

"Interpol has issued red notices against Atul Gupta and his wife, Chetali; Rajesh Gupta and his wife, Arti; Ankit Jain, former Nulane Investment Bank of Baroda account signatory; Ravindra Nath, director of Wone Management; (as well as) Ramesh Bhat and Jagdish Parekh, the directors of Pragat Investments," the National Prosecuting Authority's Investigating Directorate head, Hermione Cronje, said on Monday.

The eight suspects on the Interpol notice are wanted in South Africa to answer to allegations that they looted over 25 million rands. **(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)**

Indian workers to be brought in Singapore on 'small scale' and in a 'calibrated manner'

Since the coronavirus outbreak, the CMP sectors have been severely affected by restrictions on the inflow of migrant workers

SINGAPORE (TIP): Migrant workers from India will be brought into Singapore on a "small scale" and in a "calibrated manner" this month through a pilot programme led by the construction, marine and process (CMP) sectors, according to a media report here on Wednesday, July 7.

If successful, this method will be used to facilitate a steady inflow of migrant workers in a safe and secure manner, The Straits Times reported, quoting a joint statement by the Singapore Contractors Association, Association of Singapore Marine Industries and Association of Process Industry.

The move comes after zero incidences of Covid-19 in the first few batches of workers entering from Malaysia under the pilot project, according to the statement.

"We will continue to carry this (the pilot) out on a small scale and in a calibrated manner to better manage the risks involved and validate the robustness of the tightened end-to-end process," the trade bodies said.



Photo for representational purpose only

Since the coronavirus outbreak, the CMP sectors have been severely affected by restrictions on the inflow of migrant workers.

Currently, those who have recent travel history to Bangladesh, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and India are not allowed to enter Singapore under enhanced border restrictions.

In May, the Ministry of Manpower stopped accepting new entry applications for work pass holders from higher-risk countries or regions due to Covid-19, except for workers needed in key strategic projects and infrastructural works.

(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)

Indian American Neha Parikh appointed new CEO of crowd-sourced navigation app Waze

HOUSTON (TIP): Neha Parikh, the Indian American former president of the travel website Hotwire, has been appointed as the new CEO of Waze, a crowd-sourced navigation app and a subsidiary of tech giant Google.

Neha, 41, a board member of the online used car retailer Carvana, replaced Noam Bardin, who stepped down in November as the CEO after leading the Israeli company for 12 years.

Parikh, who joined Waze as the CEO in late June, is a veteran of online hospitality brand Expedia, and has served in a variety of positions at two of the corporation's subsidiaries: Hotels.com and as Hotwire's youngest and first female president.

"As Neha leads Waze into the future, she will remain hyper-focused on our passionate community, beloved brand, and best-in-class products," said a



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spokesperson of the company.

Waze currently has over 140 million active monthly users in more than 185 countries that drive more than 24 billion miles (40 billion kilometers) every month.

The app can give out directions in 56

different languages and employs over 500 people, a significant number of which are based out of Israel.

"On my first visit to the Carvana offices, I took a picture of their prominently displayed values, one of which is 'Your next customer may be your mom,' which I love," Parikh said in a statement.

"Relentless customer focus has been central to my career, so I'm thrilled to align with a company that puts their customers first," she said.

Founded in Israel in 2008, Waze quickly emerged as a top choice between Uber and Lyft drivers. Google acquired the company in 2013 for a reported USD 1.1 billion (110 crore). It continued to flourish as Google refrained from absorbing it into its Maps division and allowed it to stay independent.

INDIAN ORIGIN SIKHS IN SINGAPORE THRILLED AS SINGAPORE PM WEARS TURBAN, GREETES AUDIENCE WITH 'SAT SRI AKAL' WHILE INAUGURATING GURDWARA



The picture top right shows PM Loong wearing a white turban and a black mask.

SINGAPORE (TIP): Singapore Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong wore a turban and greeted an audience with 'Sat Sri Akaal' while inaugurating a Gurdwara at Silat Road in Singapore.

Parminder Singh, CXO-Mediacorp, shared a clip of the incident on Twitter saying: "Singapore Prime Minister, @leehsienloong inaugurated a newly renovated Gurudwara wearing an immaculate turban and greeting everyone with a perfect Sat Sri Akaal!"

INDIAN-ORIGIN VETERAN ANTI-APARTHEID ACTIVIST MANIBEN SITA DIES IN SOUTH AFRICA DUE TO COVID-19



Indian-origin South African Veteran anti-apartheid activist Maniben Sita died on Wednesday, July 7 due to Covid-19.

JOHANNESBURG (TIP) Indian-origin South African Veteran anti-apartheid activist Maniben Sita died on Wednesday, July 7 due to Covid-19.

Maniben, 94, was hospitalized last week in Pretoria after contracting the virus. Inspired by her father Nana Sita, who in turn was influenced by Mahatma Gandhi, Maniben devoted her entire life to fighting apartheid in all its forms. Maniben was born in 1926 into a family that was actively involved in political resistance in both her father's native India and then in South Africa. Like her father, she was also jailed many times in the prisons.

Nana Sita, who had spent several months living with Mahatma Gandhi, became a part of his Satyagraha and continued the resistance even after Gandhi returned to India.

Indian American Diaspora Saddened at death in detention of Stan Swamy

WASHINGTON (TIP): Indian American diaspora on Tuesday, July 6, expressed grief over the death of Father Stan Swamy and described him as a social worker who dedicated his life to serving poor tribals in India.

Eighty-four-year-old Swamy, who was arrested last year under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) in connection with the Elgar Parishad case, died in detention on Monday, July 5.

The Federation of Indian American Christian Organizations of NA (FIACONA), in a statement, said he was a brave man who tirelessly worked to protect and help tribals in India.

"A simple and an unassuming man, Fr Swamy stood his ground against a system that is bent on exploiting the poor tribals and their sovereign rights to



Eighty-four-year-old Swamy, who was arrested last year under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) in connection with the Elgar Parishad case, died in detention on Monday, July 5.

their resources," FIACONA said.

Swamy suffered from Parkinson's disease and several other ailments. During his custody, Swamy had also

tested positive for COVID-19.

"It is a dark day for democracy in India, and the national leadership and members of the judiciary should hang their heads in shame," said George Abraham, vice-chairman of the Indian Overseas Congress, in another statement.

"Father Swamy's detention and treatment in prison that led to his death is a blot on the consciousness of the nation and a travesty of justice," said Abraham.

The INOC said it is also time to remember many other human rights warriors who are still in prison.

"We can only hope the passing of Father Stan Swamy may reopen the mindset of those in power to release those on bail while awaiting charges," it added.

Indian-origin student dies in road accident in UAE

DUBAI (TIP) A 19-year-old Indian-origin student died after he crashed his car into a tree in the UAE, according to a media report on Thursday, July 8.

Ibad Ajmal was driving the car when the accident occurred on Wednesday, July 7 on Abu Dhabi's Yas Island, local news reported.

Last month, he flew down to Abu Dhabi to spend time with his parents. The family hails from Kannur district of Kerala.

"Ibad was alone in the car and must have dozed off while driving," said a close family friend after the funeral held on Wednesday, July 7 evening.

A former student of the Abu Dhabi



Photo for representational purpose only

Indian School, Ibad was pursuing aircraft engineering and maintenance systems at the University of South Wales Cardiff campus in the UK.



AS I SEE IT

Darkness at noon, felled by the judiciary



BY AJIT PRAKASH
SHAH

It has been 81 years since Arthur Koestler's *Darkness at Noon* was first published. The novel is set in the backdrop of the Great Purge of the late 1930s in the Soviet Union under Stalin. This period was marked by, among other things, political repression, police surveillance, general suspicion of the opposition, imprisonment, and executions. Decades on, thousands of miles away, darkness fell at noon in India too, when Father Stan Swamy passed away at a private hospital in Mumbai on July 5. Ominously reminiscent of the macabre world Koestler had drawn, Fr. Swamy's death is much more than the death of an activist accused of terrorist activities. It is the result of a systemic abuse of majoritarian authority and disregard for the rule of law.

His life in a nutshell

For many, Fr. Swamy will be remembered as an inspiration. A Jesuit priest, he chose to make the upliftment of marginalized communities in Jharkhand his life's work. He lived and worked in a single room, prolifically writing (over 70 books are credited to him) on dispossessed people. He was an activist for most of his life, and used the legal system to fight for the rights of those who were being unfairly targeted, and thought that the Constitution would help in securing justice, even moving the Jharkhand High Court in a public interest litigation on undertrials. When doing all of this, surely, he would never have imagined that his fate would be decided by the very system he used and believed in.

It started in August 2018, when the Pune police raided Fr. Swamy's single-room home, seized his computer, cell phone, books and some classical music cassettes. Another raid took place in June 2019. Finally, on October 8, 2020, Fr. Swamy was arrested by the National Investigation Agency (NIA), under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA), the 16th to join a roster of professors, activists, writers, and public intellectuals, as a suspect in the Bhima-Koregaon case. Fr. Swamy, aged over 80, remained an accused, in the custody of the state, till his death. Besides being arrested for what many believe to be improbable causes, and being possibly the oldest person ever accused of terrorism in India, the most tragic story is how his detention was handled by the state, by the police and worst of all, by the courts.

Fr. Swamy was arrested on flimsy evidence of some propaganda material

and communication with other activists in the field, such as Sudha Bharadwaj and Varavara Rao, who were also arrested for similar charges. The authenticity of some of the allegedly indicting documentation, including a key report, has been questioned by international forensic data experts. But the state defended its arrest arguing that these issues must be gone into only during trial, and that the accused — i.e., Fr. Swamy — should remain in jail until then.

Pointer to judicial decline

This is the outcome also of the problematic Watali judgment, which I discuss in subsequent paragraphs. Repeated pleas for medical assistance by Fr. Swamy were consistently ignored or dismissed. Medical reports taken on record clearly showed that Fr. Swamy had the degenerative Parkinson's disease, and could not even do basic tasks, such as holding a spoon, writing, walking or bathing. Indeed, the court noted that he had a severe hearing problem, and was physically very weak. But even that did not move them. Every regular bail application that was filed by his lawyers was unequivocally rejected. When he applied for medical bail, the court kept adjourning the matter, and merely offered him the services of a private hospital. In my opinion, this demonstrates a lack of sensitivity on the part of the judges, which is deeply saddening.

The series of events that led to Fr. Swamy's eventual and tragic passing is testimony to the judicial decline that we have seen in recent years, which coincidentally or not, appears to be coterminous with the current political regime in India.

Why is the political establishment, and the police, so emboldened to pursue cases under UAPA against individuals like Fr. Swamy? A key reason, undoubtedly, is the weak judiciary we have today. Indeed, our judiciary today suffers from a great many flaws besides mere weakness. In Fr. Swamy's case, the judges displayed apathy of a shocking order. It is perplexing when, on the one hand, the Chief Justice of India grandiloquently states that personal liberties and fundamental rights must be protected, and courts do precisely the opposite.

A weakened central principle

It would not be too bold to suggest that the idea of the "presumption of innocence" — a central principle of criminal law and procedure — is on a terribly weak footing these days in our country, and this should worry all of us greatly.

The source of this worry is the Supreme Court of India itself. Its April 2019 decision in *National Investigation Agency vs Zahoor Ahmad Shah Watali* on the



Posterity will blame the judiciary for the incarceration and unfortunate death of Father Stan Swamy

interpretation of the UAPA has affected all downstream decisions involving the statute. This decision has created a new doctrine, which is that effectively, an accused must remain in custody throughout the period of the trial, even if it is eventually proven that the evidence against the person was inadmissible, and the accused is finally acquitted. The illogic of this veers on the absurd: Why must an accused remain in jail only to be eventually acquitted?

According to the decision, in considering bail applications under the UAPA, courts must presume every allegation made in the First Information Report to be correct. Further, bail can now be obtained only if the accused produces material to contradict the prosecution. In other words, the burden rests on the accused to disprove the allegations, which is virtually impossible in most cases. The decision has essentially excluded the admissibility of evidence at the stage of bail. By doing so, it has effectively excluded the Evidence Act itself, which arguably makes the decision unconstitutional. Bail hearings under the UAPA are now nothing more than mere farce. With such high barriers of proof, it is now impossible for an accused to obtain bail, and is in fact a convenient tool to put a person behind bars indefinitely. It is nothing short of a nightmare come true for arrestees.

This is being abused by the government, police and prosecution liberally: now, all dissenters are routinely implicated under (wild and improbable) charges of sedition or criminal conspiracy and under the UAPA. Due to the Supreme Court judgment, High Courts have their hands tied, and must perforce refuse bail, as disproving the case is virtually impossible. As a result of this decision, for instance, a High Court judge can no longer really adjudicate and assess the evidence in a case. All cases must now follow this straitjacketed formula of refusing bail. The effect is nearly identical to the draconian preventive detention laws that existed during the Emergency, where courts deprived people access to judicial remedy. If we want to prevent the disasters of that era, this decision must be urgently reversed or diluted, otherwise we run the risk of personal liberties being compromised very easily.

The most flagrant abuse of the UAPA, and constant rejection of bail applications of those accused as a means of silencing opposing voices, can be seen in the Bhima Koregaon cases, including Fr. Swamy's case, as well as the cases pertaining to protests against the Citizenship (Amendment) Act (CAA), where mere thought is elevated to a crime. In multiple instances, evidence is untenable, sometimes even arguably planted, and generally weak overall. But as a consequence of UAPA being applied, the accused cannot even get bail. Courts cannot go into the merits of the case due to the Supreme Court judgment.

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An issue for the judiciary

When courts do go into such matters, as in the instance of the Delhi High Court granting bail to three young activists accused in a conspiracy relating to the 2020 riots in Delhi, the Supreme Court uncharacteristically decides to weigh in. The Supreme Court reportedly expressed "surprise" and dissatisfaction at the High Court's decision, giving the direction that the decision will "not to be treated as precedent by any court" to give similar reliefs. Specifically, the Supreme Court reportedly said that "in a bail application, a 100-page judgment discussing all laws is surprising us", perhaps forgetting that the case that started it all, i.e., the Watali judgment of the Supreme Court, was itself a judgment in a bail matter! This seems to imply that only the Supreme Court can hold forth on matters of statutory interpretation, and that High Courts — which are constitutional courts in their own right — may not? By extension, if statutes ought not to be examined at all by High Courts, does this mean that individual arrestees must languish in jail till, say, the constitutional validity of the statutes under which they are arrested are decided? Surely, this would be completely irrational.

Posterity will blame the judiciary for the incarceration and unfortunate death of Fr. Swamy, and the continued imprisonment of so many others like him. But voices will continue to rise in protest. As Fr. Swamy himself said, though, "we will still sing in the chorus. A caged bird can still sing."

(The author is Former Chief Justice, Delhi High Court and Former Chairperson, Law Commission of India)

Troubling prospects in Afghanistan



BY RAKESH SOOD

As the reality of the U.S. withdrawal takes hold, the future will depend on Taliban-Kabul dynamics and Pakistan's role

Last week, on Friday, the United States handed over the Bagram airbase to the Afghan authorities, marking a symbolic end to its military presence, as U.S. forces complete their withdrawal well ahead of the September 11 deadline, announced by American President Joe Biden on April 14. A familiar air of uncertainty surrounds Kabul as the Afghans ponder over the future of their land, ravaged by conflict for nearly 50 years. Afghanistan's immediate neighbors are now faced with a new challenge — how to persuade the Taliban against overplaying their military hand?

A costly misadventure

Could anyone have predicted when the U.S. commenced its military intervention in Afghanistan in October 2001 that it would get embroiled in an endless war for 20 years and to exit safely, it would have to negotiate with the Taliban, the same entity that it went in to punish?

It has been a costly lesson. The war effort has cost \$980 billion, over 2,400 U.S. soldiers (plus 1,144 allied troops) and 388 private military contractors have lost their lives. It also spent \$143 billion on reconstruction; about \$90 billion went for the Afghan army, police and other security forces, \$36 billion for governance and economic development activities (the rest of the international community contributed an equivalent amount) and the balance on counter-narcotics and humanitarian relief works.

Yet, the real price has been paid by the Afghans. The 20-year war has claimed the lives of nearly 50,000 Afghan civilians and nearly 70,000 Afghan security forces (a majority during the last seven years); add to it another 60,000 Afghan Taliban, and the scale of the Afghan human loss becomes evident.

There have been gains too. In 2001, there were 9,00,000 boys in school. Today, eight million children attend school and a third are girls. Literacy is up from 12% in 2002 to 35%; life expectancy from 40 to 63 years. Urbanization is 26% and 70% of the population watch TV. From 320 miles of paved roads in 2002, today, tarred roads cover 10,000 miles. Infant mortality rates are down from 20% by over half. With a median age of 18.5 years, a majority of Afghans have grown up in a post-Taliban era. Today, they bear the brunt of 130 daily Taliban/IS Khorasan (IS-K) attacks, the highest since the U.S. ended combat operations in end-2014. Tomorrow, even these limited gains are at risk.

Taliban gains legitimacy

For U.S. President Bush, the objective was “to build a stable, strong, effectively governed Afghanistan that won't degenerate into chaos”. As the U.S. shifted from counterterrorism to



President Biden on July 8 announced that the U.S. military mission in Afghanistan will end on August 31, nearly 20 years after it began.

counterinsurgency, shades of Vietnam began to emerge. To Hamid Karzai's credit, he saw the writing on the wall when he protested about the night-raids and warned the Americans “to either take the fight to the safe havens and sanctuaries across the Durand Line or make peace with the Taliban” but it only soured his relations with the U.S.

Eventually, U.S. President Barack Obama diluted the objective to “preventing Afghanistan from becoming a safe haven for global terrorism”. He oversaw a successful operation to eliminate Osama bin Laden in 2011, implemented an unsuccessful military surge concluding with an end to combat operations in end-2014 and Taliban opened the Doha office in 2013.

U.S. President Donald Trump saw himself as a dealmaker and in 2018, initiated direct negotiations with the Taliban. Ambassador Zalmay Khalilzad (U.S. Special Representative for Afghanistan Reconciliation) began by setting out four elements — a ceasefire, cutting ties with al Qaeda and other terrorist groups, intra-Afghan peace talks, and a withdrawal of all foreign military forces, declaring that “nothing is agreed till everything is agreed”. Within months, the Taliban had whittled down the U.S. demands till it got what it wanted — a withdrawal timeline not linked to the other factors. In addition, the Taliban managed to get the U.S. to push the Kabul government to release over 5,000 Taliban cadres in custody. In short, the U.S. ended up legitimizing the Taliban at the expense of the government in Kabul that they had worked to create and support.

U.S. President Joe Biden was no stranger to the Afghan dossier. He was convinced that the U.S. had to exit from its quagmire of “forever wars”. The U.S. may have decided that it had no military

options but the Taliban are still pushing ahead militarily.

From less than a fifth, today, over a third of Afghanistan's over 400 districts are under Taliban control. The day after the exit from Bagram, 13 districts, in Badakhshan, Takhar, Paktia and Kandahar fell to the Taliban, adding to the 50 that have fallen since May. In many cases, the locals manning the security posts and checkpoints have just surrendered. From villages and towns, there is already a move towards the cities. Intra-Afghan talks in Doha have been in limbo for months.

Questions about the future

Gen. Austin S. Miller, the U.S. commander in Afghanistan, indicated in a recent press conference, “Civil war is certainly a path that can be visualized if it continues on this trajectory.” Dr. Abdullah Abdullah, Chairman of the High Council for National Reconciliation, warned on June 30, “The truth is, today the survival, security and unity of Afghanistan is in danger...”

Ironically, the most vocal critics of the U.S. overstaying in Afghanistan and hinting that the U.S. would never leave are the ones now blaming the U.S. for a hasty and irresponsible withdrawal.

In coming months, as uncertainties mount, there will be increasing Taliban presence in the countryside as the Kabul government concentrates on ensuring security in urban areas and of the road networks. The Taliban military strategy has been to target districts that enable them to surround provincial capitals. The clutch in the northeast including Badakhshan, Takhar, Kunduz and Baghlan enable them to control the Afghanistan-Tajikistan border and the Wakhan corridor that links to China. In the east, they exert control in Ghazni, Zabul and Paktia while the Haqqani

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network is active in Khost and Paktika, and the IS-K in Nangarhar, Kunar and Laghman. Further south, the Taliban control large parts of Kandahar, Helmand and Farah (bordering Iran).

As the reality of the U.S. withdrawal takes hold, how events unfold by end-2021 depends on three factors. First, have the Taliban changed their ideological colors? The U.S. in recent years, and Pakistan for much longer, have been pushing this line but the Taliban leadership have given no clues about it. Related to this is the question of Taliban unity. Distances have grown between the Quetta shura, the Doha negotiators and the fighters who want to guard their individual preserves. This works as long as everyone is pursuing the military option, but when it comes to power sharing, who calls the shots? Or, does it lead to no power sharing?

Second, can the Kabul regime present a unified front? If the leaders in Kabul and the government continue sniping at each other, it will adversely impact the integrity of the chain of command of the Afghan security forces. If opportunistic leaders are tempted to strike their own deals with the Taliban, it will only hasten the collapse, and even western funding will dry up.

The Pakistan factor

Finally, is Pakistan still seeking strategic depth in Afghanistan or has it realized that a Taliban-dominated Kabul will be a magnet for its own home-grown extremists as well as those from the neighborhood? Can it persuade the Taliban that its legitimacy will be at risk unless it shares power? Pakistan's influence will weaken once the Rehbari Shura decides to move back from Quetta to Afghanistan.

History tells us that in Afghanistan, there have only been winners and losers, seldom any lasting compromises.

(The author is a former diplomat and presently, Distinguished Fellow at the Observer Research Foundation)

BJP does balancing act to check dissidence



BY RADHIKA
RAMASESHAN

“BARRING STRAY INDIVIDUALS, THE CORE TEAM REMAINED UNQUESTIONINGLY LOYAL TO THE BJP THROUGH THICK AND THIN. BUT THE BJP’S RECENT ENLARGEMENT AND THE INDUCTION OF DEFECTORS FROM THE CONGRESS AND REGIONAL PARTIES ETCHED THEIR OWN FAULT LINES. ADDED TO THIS TREND IS THE OVER-CENTRALIZATION OF AUTHORITY IN IDENTIFIABLE POWER CENTERS ENSCONCED IN DELHI WHICH RIDE ROUGHSHOD OVER THE REGIONS AND THE PROVINCIAL SATRAPS WHO WERE LAW UNTO THEMSELVES IN THE YEARS WHEN THE NUCLEUS WAS LESS STRONG.”

The BJP has reasons to applaud and raise a toast to the success that came its way over the past seven years. The party’s website commemorates every milestone there is to celebrate. The BJP is the world’s largest party with 11 crore members, it rules at the Centre and over 18 states and union territories autonomously or in conjunction with allies, and has an unassailable grip over Parliament with 301 MPs in the 543-member Lok Sabha and 95 in the 245-member Rajya Sabha. With its rapid spread in the east and the north-east, the BJP has shed the tag of a party confined to the north and west of India. The south stands like a parapet against the unbridled expansion and the core beliefs enshrined in the BJP’s



Tightrope walk: The BJP has been able to manage contradictions despite its expansion.

Photo / PTI

versions of nationalism and Hinduism.

Power carries a price tag despite generously rewarding the BJP. The cost entailed in maintaining and retaining defectors from the other parties — variously labelled as imports, turncoats, opportunists and weathervanes — is enormous. These are men and women who did not enter the BJP to embrace its ideology and imbibe the RSS’s bible. Their entry was a derivative of the party’s rise to a pole position where it held out the promise of a supreme patron handing out the loaves and fishes of power in much the way the Congress did in the decades gone by. There are two significant differences: the BJP was birthed by an ideologically motivated RSS, albeit out of expediency, when the Sangh needed political and parliamentary presence to lobby in crises and was part of a large family with equally ambitious progenies desirous of sharing power. On the other hand, the Congress spawned off-springs such as the Sewa Dal and the National Students’ Union of India that were always subservient to the parent. Second, the BJP or the Bharatiya Jana Sangh in its previous incarnation was on the political periphery until 1989 but the party organization was put together by dedicated founders who never swerved from the original political objectives and built a corps of workers, initially drawn from urban India, with the RSS’s help. Barring stray individuals, the core team remained unquestioningly loyal to the BJP through thick and thin. But the BJP’s recent enlargement and the large-scale induction of defectors from the Congress and regional parties etched their own fault lines. Added to this trend is the over-centralization of authority in identifiable power centers ensconced in Delhi which ride roughshod over the regions and the provincial satraps who

were law unto themselves in the years when the nucleus was less strong.

A recent manifestation of the post-2014 features was in the leadership changeover in Uttarakhand, seven months before the assembly elections. The BJP anointed its third chief minister in four years. The first, Trivendra Singh Rawat, went out on account of his ‘unpopular’ decisions, one of which upset the powerful Hindu clergy. His successor, Tirath Singh Rawat, a Lok Sabha MP, had to quit ostensibly because he could not meet the deadline set for his election to the legislature. The view from inside the BJP was that the leadership was afraid for Rawat to contest a by poll in case he lost. If this reasoning is even partially true, it shows that despite the Congress’s failure to step up to the plate, the BJP is unsure about its prospects of returning to power. The choice for the third incumbent fell on a relatively younger Pushkar Singh Dhami, who like his peers in Himachal Pradesh and Goa, Jai Ram Thakur and Pramod Sawant, enters through the by now established route of the ABVP and the Bharatiya Janata Yuva Morcha. If demography were a determinant, nothing explains why the leaders could not have chosen the 45-year-old Dhami over the senior Rawats in the first place. Except that Uttarakhand has a line-up of CM aspirants, consisting of the BJP’s originals as well as the migrants who are reportedly miffed at being passed over thrice and could work against the official candidates in their districts in the elections.

Over to another state, Tripura, that was trumpeted and showcased as a bang-up win in 2018 after the Left Front government was ousted, because the event marked the victory of ‘nationalism’ over ‘communism’. Two years hence, the BJP government, led by

THE TENSION BETWEEN ADHERING TO THE RSS’S IDEOLOGY AND EXECUTING ITS DIVISIVE AGENDA AND MAINTAINING THE POWER BALANCE AMONG A MOTLEY GROUP OF NEW INDUCTEES IS ONE ASPECT OF THE NEW BJP.

Biplab Kumar Deb of RSS provenance, was up against intra-party dissensions led by seven legislators, all from the Congress and the Trinamool Congress (TMC). Before the elections, the BJP lacked a viable functioning organization and candidates. However, realizing the groundswell of anger against the Left Front government, the BJP pressed its traditional attributes, like campaigning and propaganda dissemination, to advantage and channelized popular disenchantment into an offensive against the former CM, Manik Sarkar. The Congress and the TMC were ineffective counters. Seeing the wind blow in the BJP’s favor, their leaders and rank-and-file switched allegiance and filled in the human resources vacuum. However, under Deb, the trust deficit between the originals and the outlanders never closed. They were mutually suspicious to the extent that Sudip Roy Burman, a former Congressman who became a minister, was dropped for allegedly “conspiring” against the CM.

In Madhya Pradesh, when the BJP candidate was convincingly defeated by the Congress nominee in the Damoh Assembly by poll in May, the axe fell on Jayant Malaiya, a former BJP minister and a heavyweight at that, on the suspicion of sabotage. Rahul Lodhi, the candidate, came to the BJP from the Congress in the en masse defections that precipitated the downfall of the Kamal Nath government. In this instance, a BJP old-timer paid the price for allegedly getting back at a Congress defector.

Goa, Karnataka and Uttar Pradesh are the other states that exemplify a system stressed out by the pulls and pressures of power and possibly, of overreaching its ambitions. The tension between adhering to the RSS’s ideology and executing its divisive agenda and maintaining the power balance among a motley group of new inductees is one aspect of the New BJP. Undergirding the unwieldy growth is a powerful and cohesive center in the hands of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah who so far have demonstrated an uncanny ability to hold together the contradictions. It’s not just about enforcing ‘discipline’.

(The author is a senior journalist)

Pak expects five lakh fresh Afghan refugees in case of civil war in Afghanistan: Report

ISLAMABAD (TIP): Pakistan expects some five lakh fresh Afghan refugees in case of a civil war in neighbouring Afghanistan, according to a media report here on July 7, amidst the Taliban militants gaining rapid strides in the war-torn country.

The Express Tribune reported that this time the Pakistani authorities insist refugees would be kept at special camps in the bordering areas instead of letting them in the settled parts of the country.

Afghan refugees started coming to Pakistan following the invasion by the former Soviet Union.

Pakistan has been pushing to send them back but it may face fresh waves of refugees if Afghanistan plunged into civil war.

At a recent briefing given to a select group of parliamentarians, the military authorities in Pakistan painted grim prospects of any peace in Afghanistan.

The members of parliament were told that Afghanistan was fast descending into civil war, something that did not bode well for Pakistan.

The negative fallout of unrest in Afghanistan includes a rise in terrorism and a fresh influx of Afghan refugees, the report said.

Pakistani officials, quoted by the



newspaper, said although Taliban gains were quite rapid in recent weeks, the situation could change if the Afghan security forces show some resistance.

In recent weeks, the insurgents have seized nearly a third of Afghanistan's rural districts and besieged several provincial capitals.

Hundreds of Afghan security force members have fled into neighbouring Tajikistan in the face of Taliban

advances since the US vacated its main Afghan base as part of a plan to withdraw all foreign troops by September 11.

"Therefore, it is too early to predict where things are heading in Afghanistan. The situation at best is volatile and unpredictable," a Pakistani official said when asked about the chances of Afghanistan slipping into another phase of chaos. (PTI)

TALIBAN TAKE DISTRICTS IN NORTHERN AFGHANISTAN FROM FLEEING TROOPS

KABUL (TIP): The Taliban's march through northern Afghanistan gained momentum overnight with the capture of several districts from fleeing Afghan forces, several hundred of whom fled across the border into Tajikistan, officials said July 5.

More than 300 Afghan military personnel crossed from Afghanistan's Badakhshan province as Taliban fighters advanced toward the border, Tajikistan's State Committee for National Security said in a statement. The Afghan troops crossed over at about 6:30 pm local time Saturday.

"Guided by the principles of humanism and good neighborliness," the Tajik authorities allowed the retreating Afghan National Defense and Security Forces to cross into Tajikistan, said the statement.

Since mid-April, when US President Joe Biden announced the end to Afghanistan's "forever war," the Taliban have made strides throughout the country. But their most significant gains have been in the northern half of the country, a traditional stronghold of the US-allied warlords who helped defeat them in 2001.

The Taliban now control roughly a third of all 421 districts and district centers in Afghanistan.

(AP)

After pressuring telecom firms, Myanmar's junta bans executives from leaving

SINGAPORE (TIP): Senior foreign executives of major telecommunications firms in Myanmar have been told by the junta that they must not leave the country without permission, a person with direct knowledge of the matter said.

A confidential order from Myanmar's Posts and Telecommunications Department (PTD) in mid-June said senior executives, both foreigners and Myanmar nationals, must seek special authorisation to leave the country, the person said.

A week later, telecom companies were sent a second letter telling them they had until Monday July 5 to fully implement intercept technology they had previously been asked to install to let authorities spy on calls, messages and web traffic and to track users by themselves, the source said. Reuters has not seen the orders.

The directives follow pressure on the companies from the junta, which is facing daily protests from its opponents and a growing number of insurgencies to activate the spyware technology.

A spokesman for the military did not answer multiple requests for comment. The junta has never commented on the electronic surveillance effort, but announced soon after seizing power its aim to pass a cybersecurity bill that

would require telecoms providers to provide data when requested and remove or block any content deemed to be disrupting "unity, stabilisation, and peace". It also amended privacy laws to free security forces to intercept communications.

The travel ban comes after intensified pressure from military officials to finish the implementation of the surveillance equipment. The source, who spoke on condition of anonymity for fear of reprisals, said the ban was meant to pressure telecoms firms to finish activating the spyware technology, although the order itself does not specify a reason.

Three other telecoms sources, also speaking on condition of anonymity, said the authorities had stepped up pressure on the companies to implement the intercept, but declined to elaborate further. Two sources said companies had been warned repeatedly by junta officials not to speak publicly or to the media on the intercept.

Telenor declined to comment. There was no immediate response to requests for comment from Ooredoo, state-owned MPT and Mytel, a joint venture between Vietnam's Viettel and a Myanmar military-owned conglomerate. (Reuters)

MYANMAR FORCES KILL 25 DURING RAID

YANGON (TIP): Myanmar security forces killed at least 25 persons on July 8 in a confrontation with opponents of the military junta at a town in the centre of the Southeast Asian nation, two residents and Myanmar media said on Sunday.

A spokesman for the military did not respond to calls requesting comment on the violence at Depayin in the Sagaing region.

The state-run Global New Light of Myanmar said "terrorists" ambushed security forces patrolling there, killing one of them and wounding six. It said the attackers retreated after retaliation by the security forces. — Reuters

NEPAL, INDIA REVISE RAILWAY SERVICE PACT

KATHMANDU (TIP): In a major boost to the Nepal-India bilateral ties, the two neighbouring countries revised the Railway Service Agreement on June 30, according to a media report.

According to the revised text of the Letter of Exchange, all authorised private container train operators (Indian as well as Nepali) will be able to utilise the Indian railway network to carry freight containers for Nepal's imports or exports, ending the monopoly of the Indian government-owned Container Corporation of India, the Kathmandu Post daily reported.

The agreement was signed in 2004 and the two sides have tried to amend it several times in the past. As the countries are planning to expand and extend more cross-border railway service in both passengers and cargo facilities, the agreement was needed to be revised without any delay, a Nepali official said. — IANS

38 PEOPLE KILLED, 51 INJURED IN RAIN-TRIGGERED LANDSLIDES, FLOODS IN NEPAL

KATHMANDU (TIP): Flash floods and landslides triggered by torrential rains across Nepal have left at least 38 people dead, including seven children, and wounded over 50 others in the last 20 days, the Home Ministry said on July 5. The ministry said 51 people sustained injuries and 24 people, including three children, have gone missing in the incidents of floods and landslides in different parts of the country.

Similarly, 1,250 people have been evacuated from different parts of the country that were hit by the natural disaster, it said.

Five people were killed in Sindhupalchowk district, four killed in Doti district, three each in Gorkha and Rolpa, two each in Chitawan, Tanahun, Pyuthan and Rautahat, one each in Lalitpur, Khotang, Saptari, Kavre, Dhading, Sindhuli, Jumla, Arghakhachi, Dang, Palpa, Kaski, Kalikot, Panchthar, Bajhang and Bajur districts, the ministry said. (PTI)

Indian Overseas Congress, USA Vice-Chair George Abraham condoles Father Stan Swamy's death in custody



Father Stan Swamy dedicated his whole life defending the marginalized and the oppressed people

NEW YORK (TIP): The custodial death of the Jesuit priest Stan Swamy in Mumbai, India has sent shock waves across the world. The Indian panorama received a number of calls from readers condemning the Indian government's total disregard of the basic human rights

of people. Some have sent their written statements of condemnation.

George Abraham, a community activist and vice chairman of IOC USA has sent the following statement which we are publishing without editing.

"It is a dark day for democracy in India, and the national leadership and members of the judiciary should hang their heads in shame," said George Abraham, Vice-Chairman of the Indian Overseas Congress, USA who was reacting to the death of Stan Swamy, who dedicated his life to serving the poor tribals in India. Father Swamy's detention and treatment in prison that led to his death is a blot on the consciousness of the nation and a travesty of justice," said Mr. Abraham.

Father Stan Swamy was held in detention under the draconian law called

UAPA, which is supposed to be a tool against terrorists. It is pitiful that a country that professes to broadcast to the world about its cultural and human virtues would treat a frail, old man of 84 years old who was suffering from Parkinson's disease this way! He even needed a court's intervention to receive a straw to drink water, and the delay to his request to move him to a hospital due to Covid by the judiciary that may have cost him his life.

Is India anymore a country of equal justice under the law? It is about time to reexamine the path it has chosen in the past six years that has witnessed the undermining of Institutions and devaluing the lives of ordinary people across the nation. Freedom of expression is becoming a thing of the past as the Government appears to be

clamping down any criticism of its hierarchy.

Father Stan Swamy dedicated his whole life defending the marginalized and the oppressed people who didn't have a voice of their own while facing the onslaught of corporate lobby fully backed by vested interests and dissenting voices were routinely branded as anti-nationals charged with colonial-era sedition laws, and Father Swamy himself became another victim of this nefarious scheme.

It is also time to remember many other human rights warriors who are still in prison, such as Sudha Bharadwaj, who is said to have been facing health risks of her own. We can only hope the passing of Father Stan Swamy may reopen the mindset of those in power to release those on bail while awaiting charges.

Indian Overseas Congress (IOC, USA) Condemns the custodial death of Father Stan Swamy

NEW YORK (TIP): The Indian Overseas Congress (IOC, USA) has expressed shock on the way Father Stan Swamy was treated inhumanly without basic facilities in spite of his fragile health in police custody resulting in his death.

The President of Indian National Overseas Congress Mohinder Gilzian expressed outrage at the death of Father Stan Swamy under custody and said that the Indian Government should punish the people responsible for foisting false cases on the activist, his continued detention and inhuman treatment. He urged the intervention of President of

India to hold accountable those responsible for the detention, inhuman treatment and death of Father Stan Swamy. He said that the UAPA/Sedition act is being misused and used against people for political reasons.

Vice Chairman George Abraham said that it is a dark day for democracy in India, and the national leadership and members of the judiciary should hang their heads in shame. He said that Father Swamy's detention and treatment in prison that led to his death is a blot on the consciousness of the nation and a travesty of justice. He said that he will be organizing a meeting to pay homage to

Father Stan Swamy and celebrate his life which was spent in service of the poor and helpless people.

Secretary General Harbachan Singh said that he was saddened by the death of Father Stan Swamy, a Jesuit priest & tribal rights activist, who died in Indian custody under charges of the Unlawful Activities Prevention Act. He said that the Indian Government should respect the vital role of human rights activists in healthy democracy.

The National General Secretary Rajendar Dichpally has said that the NDA Government should be held accountable for the death of a man who has spent his

lifetime in service of the poor and tribal people. He said that the Modi Government has been twisting the judiciary as one can see how bail was given to Pragya Thakur (BJP MP) and Arnab Goswami (Founder of Republic TV) and the same denied to Father Stan Swamy. He said that this is a black mark in Indian Democracy. He expressed his deep condolences to the family of Father Stan Swamy.

Washington DC IOC, USA Chapter President Johnson Myalil said Father Stan Swamy's custodial death is the result of high-handedness of NSA, indifference of the judiciary, and the failure of political leadership. Government of India should allow the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights to conduct a comprehensive and thorough investigation into the circumstances of the incarceration and death of Father Stan Swamy.

Mayor De Blasio and Chancellor Porter Announce Academic Recovery Plan for Pivotal School Year Ahead

\$635M historic investment to jumpstart academic achievement for every student

NEW YORK (TIP): Mayor Bill de Blasio and Schools Chancellor Meisha Porter, on July 8 announced their academic recovery vision for New York City's public schools and students in the wake of the pandemic. The bold, rigorous framework will guide school communities and support students during the 2021-22 school year and beyond, stressing six critical areas of focus: early literacy for all, developing students as digital citizens, preparing students to be college- and career-ready, investing in special education services, building a rigorous and inclusive universal curriculum, and investing in social emotional supports for every student. In addition, each focus area includes dedicated supports for multilingual learners and immigrant students to address their unique needs and support their academic progress and language acquisition.

"Our kids deserve the best that New York City has to offer. That's why we're rolling out the NYC Universal

Academic Recovery Plan when schools open their doors this September," said Mayor Bill de Blasio. "It's not enough to only get our kids back in the classroom. We have got to close the COVID achievement gap. And we will do that by reaching every child and supporting them—academically, emotionally, and socially—every step of the way."

"This historic, high-impact investment in the academic growth and success of New York City's students will allow us to come back from the COVID-19 pandemic stronger than ever," said Schools Chancellor Meisha Porter. "This fall, we will welcome our students back to schools that are prepared to support them academically and emotionally after all they have been through – that's what the Universal Academic Recovery Plan is all about."

Early Literacy for All - \$49M in FY22

This administration will redouble its commitment to early literacy by investing in screening and intervention



Mayor Bill de Blasio and Schools Chancellor Meisha Porter, on July 8 announced their academic recovery vision for New York City's public schools and students in the wake of the pandemic

for students in kindergarten through 2nd grade, with a singular goal of all students reading on grade level by the end of 2nd grade. To accomplish this, schools will use a universal literacy screener for all K-2 students. The screeners will identify risk for dyslexia, as well as other challenges and print-based disabilities, and schools will implement intervention plans based on the results.

The Department of Education (DOE) will support schools through the literacy intervention process by:

Targeted class size reduction achieved through hiring approximately 140 teachers in 72 higher need elementary schools.

(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)



Sweeping Offensive to Eliminate **COVID-19** Pandemic
SAVE THE VILLAGES. SAVE THE COUNTRY.



Rooted in Education, and Blossoming into Empowered Village Development.



Mask Making



Oxygen on Wheels



Facilitating Vaccination



Patient Isolation Center



Awareness Campaign



Mass Motivation

EKAL EFFORTS TO FIGHT COVID-19

- Dispensing OTC medications and immunity boosters
- Providing diagnostic equipments e.g. Oximeter, Digital Thermometer
- Supporting government efforts
- Delivering Oxygen on mobile vans
- Information campaign about vaccine, pandemic & safety

WAYS TO SUPPORT EKAL

- Diagnostic Kits - \$250**
For 5 Kits
- Adopt a Village - \$500**
One village for COVID fight
- Supporting COVID Center - \$5,000**
For 1 center
- Supporting Victim's family - \$5,000**
One time per family
- Funding Telehealth - \$15,000**
For 30 villages

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All proceeds will go for COVID relief efforts in India.

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Cabinet reshuffle: Political reboot in Modi 2.0 delivered

Ahead of the rejig, 12 ministers resigned, including Ravi Shankar Prasad, Harsh Vardhan, Prakash Javdekar, Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank and Santosh Gangwar

The much-awaited Union Cabinet expansion of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's second term has finally taken place. In one of the biggest ministry expansions in India's history, 36 new ministers have been inducted, seven promoted to Cabinet rank, while 12 sitting ministers have been shown the door.

Modi in his second innings, at a time when India is at a critical crossroad during the COVID-19 pandemic, is building a fresh team which will lay the foundation of a new India, and, of course, will help the BJP in the 2024 general elections.

Modi, running his Cabinet like a corporate chief executive officer, carried out a performance appraisal of various ministers over the past few weeks. The ministers were evaluated on various key performance indicators (KPIs) like vision, mission, objectives, targets versus action plan, impact, communication and outreach.

Former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh had introduced a Results Framework Document (RFD) to evaluate the performance of his Cabinet colleagues, but had to shelve it after some ministers opposed such evaluation.

Modi, however, adopted this people-centric performance approach, giving it his personal touch. He believes that transparency and accountability are the two cornerstones of any pro-people government and feedback from them improves public participation in decision-making.

Twelve of the 53 ministers (which amounts to 22 percent) who were found lacking were asked to put in their papers. Seven of the 53 ministers (13 percent), who scored well in the evaluation, have been elevated.

After the July 7 expansion, the Union ministry will now operate at 95 percent capacity, with just four positions vacant.

Big names like Ravi Shankar Prasad and Prakash Javdekar, prominent spokespersons of the government, are among the 12 asked to leave. The mishandling of the COVID-19 second wave which has affected the government's image and led to a dip in Modi's popularity ratings, has probably cost Health Minister Harsh Vardhan his job.

The Cabinet reshuffle clearly shows that Modi has taken feedback from all stakeholders and has responded to public opinion. Through this he has also given a message to the new inductees that they need to deliver.

Modi has also not necessarily opted for domain expertise in the reshuffle to encourage new faces to bring in new ideas to provide solutions. The example being the preference of Kiren Rijiju over Bhupender Yadav for the law ministry.

Apart from performance, the focus has been on youth, inclusiveness, broader representation to communities, and faces with administrative experience.

MPs from 25 states and union territories are now ministers in the Union Cabinet. The new Cabinet includes seven former IAS officers, 11 women and 14 ministers below the age of 50.

The BJP was earlier referred to as a party of the upper caste and 'baniyas'. It has shed this image over the last few years. A majority of the OBC vote-bank nationally, which was earlier with the Congress and erstwhile Janata Dal, has moved to the BJP. The party won the maximum SC/ST reserved seats in the 2019 general elections.

Today Other Backward Classes (OBCs), Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs), apart from the upper caste, are its core support block.

The expansion gives due weightage to people from these communities and bolsters the image of the party as the champion their cause.

Currently, 27 ministers out of 77 are from the OBC community, 12 from the SC and eight from the ST community, representing around 60 percent of the ministry strength.

This is expected to boost the BJP's prospects in state elections due next year. Seven states, including the all-important Uttar Pradesh, go to the polls in 2022, with the BJP in power in six of them.

This mid-term course correction is likely to bring transparency and accountability in governance and help the BJP win the ensuing state as well as general elections with its deft political messaging.

Here is the complete list of ministers who were newly inducted into the Union Cabinet on Wednesday, July 7



In Prime Minister Narendra Modi's sweeping reshuffle of his council of ministers – nearly one in five of the existing ministers have been dropped, while a number of new additions have taken the strength of the Union Council of Ministers to 77, just one short of the record 78-member Council of Ministers in the NDA government's first term in office.

Narendra Modi: Prime Minister and also in-charge of: Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions; Department of Atomic Energy; Department of Space; All important policy issues; and All other portfolios not allocated to any Minister

CABINET MINISTERS

- Raj Nath Singh:** Minister of Defence
- Amit Shah:** Minister of Home Affairs; and Minister of Cooperation
- Nitin Jairam Gadkari:** Road Transport and Highways
- Nirmala Sitharaman:** Finance and Corporate Affairs
- Narendra Singh Tomar:** Agriculture and Farmers Welfare
- Dr Subrahmanyam Jaishankar:** External Affairs
- Arjun Munda:** Tribal Affairs
- Smriti Zubin Irani:** Women and Child Development
- Piyush Goyal:** Commerce and Industry, Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution and Textiles
- Dharmendra Pradhan:** Education and Skill Development and Entrepreneurship
- Pralhad Joshi:** Parliamentary Affairs, Coal and Mines
- Narayan Tatu Rane:** Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises
- Sarbananda Sonowal:** Ports, Shipping and Waterways, and AYUSH
- Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi:** Minority Affairs
- Dr Virendra Kumar:** Social Justice and Empowerment
- Giriraj Singh:** Rural Development and Panchayati Raj
- Jyotiraditya M. Scindia:** Civil Aviation
- Ramchandra Prasad Singh:** Steel
- Ashwini Vaishnav:** Railways; Communications; and Electronics and Information Technology
- Pashu Pati Kumar Paras:** Food Processing Industries
- Gajendra Singh Shekhawat:** Jal Shakti
- Kiren Rijiju:** Law and Justice
- Raj Kumar Singh:** Power and New and Renewable Energy
- Hardeep Singh Puri:** Petroleum and Natural Gas; and Housing and Urban Affairs

Mansukh Mandaviya: Health and Family Welfare; and Chemicals and Fertilizers

Bhupender Yadav: Environment, Forest and Climate Change; and Minister of Labour and Employment

Dr Mahendra Nath Pandey: Heavy Industries

Parshottam Rupala: Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying

G Kishan Reddy: Culture; Minister of Tourism; and Minister of Development of North Eastern Region

Anurag Singh Thakur: Information and Broadcasting; and Youth Affairs and Sports

MINISTERS OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE)

Rao Inderjit Singh: Minister of State (Independent Charge) of the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation; Minister of State (Independent Charge) of the Ministry of Planning; and Minister of State in the Ministry of Corporate Affairs

Dr Jitendra Singh: Minister of State (Independent Charge) of the Ministry of Science and Technology; Minister of State (Independent Charge) of the Ministry of Earth Sciences; Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office; Minister of State in the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions; Minister of State in the Department of Atomic Energy; and Minister of State in the Department of Space

MINISTERS OF STATE

Shripad Yesso Naik, Faggansingh Kulaste, Prahalad Singh Patel, Ashwini Kumar Choubey, Arjun Ram Meghwal, General (Retd) V K Singh, Krishan Pal, Danve Raosaheb Dadarao, Ramdas Athawale, Sadhvi Niranjana Jyoti, Dr Sanjeev Kumar Balyan, Nityanand Rai, Pankaj Chaowdhary, Anupriya Singh Patel, S P Singh Baghel, Rajeev Chandrasekhar, Shobha Karandlaje, Bhanu Pratap Singh Verma, Darshana Vikram Jardosh, V Muraleedharan, Meenakshi Lekhi, Som Parkash, Renuka Singh Saruta, Rameswar Teli, Kailash Choudhary, Annpurna Devi, A Narayanaswamy, Kaushal Kishore, Ajay Bhatt, B L Verma, Ajay Kumar, Devusinh Chauhan, Bhagwanth Khuba, Kapil Moreswar Patil, Pratima Bhoumik, Dr Subhas Sarkar, Dr Bhagwat Kishanrao Karad, Dr Rajkumar Ranjan Singh, Dr Bharati Pravin Pawar, Bishweswar Tudu, Shantanu Thakur, Dr Munjapara Mahendrabhai, John Barla, Dr L Murugan, Nisith Pramanik

French court lets Britain's Cairn Energy seize 20 Indian assets in Paris

A French court has reportedly allowed Britain's Cairn Energy to seize 20 Indian Government properties in Paris to recover an arbitration award of \$1.7 billion (over Rs 12,600 crore) even as the Finance Ministry here said it had not received any notice in this regard and was trying to ascertain facts.

The French court had agreed to an application by Cairn to seize the residential real estate owned by India in central Paris. The legal formalities were completed on Wednesday, said French media reports.

The Finance Ministry suggested that a dialogue was on with the company's representatives. "Constructive discussions have been held and the government remains open to an amicable solution to the dispute within the country's legal framework," said a ministry statement.

The centrally located properties mostly comprise flats worth over 20 million Euros used to accommodate visiting VIPs in France, according to the French media. "Whenever such an order is received, appropriate legal remedies will be taken in consultation with our counsels," said the statement.

Cairn had received a notice from the Income Tax Department in January 2014, raising a preliminary assessment of Rs 10,247 crore tax liabilities for the group reorganisation it had done in 2006.

In March 2015, the IT department contended that Cairn made a capital gain of Rs 24,503 crore. Cairn challenged the move before an arbitration tribunal in The Hague, which awarded it \$1.2 billion plus costs and interest, which totals \$1.7 billion. *Source: TNS*

Govt clears Rs 23K-cr Covid package to boost health infra

NEW DELHI (TIP): The revamped Union Cabinet, in its first meeting on Thursday, July 8, approved Rs 23,123 crore Covid-19 emergency response package to boost health infrastructure and paediatric care across all 736 districts in the wake of a possible third wave.

The package will be implemented by the Centre and states till March 2022, in a financial sharing pattern of Rs 15,000 crore and Rs 8,123 crore, respectively.

The aim is to add 2.4 lakh medical beds and 20,000 ICU facilities with a special focus on paediatric care, add 8,800 ambulances, help states maintain a testing capacity of 21.5 lakh a day and install medical oxygen storage tanks with gas pipelines in every district. Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya said the package would accelerate preparedness to improve Covid response. "The aim is early prevention, detection and management and infrastructure development, including for paediatric care," he said.

The plan will support central hospitals, including AIIMS, Delhi, and PGI, Chandigarh, for repurposing 6,688 beds for Covid management, boost genome sequencing capacity, support implementation of hospital management information system in all district hospitals and increase telemedicine capacity to 5 lakh consultations a day.

Although sero surveys showed over 55% kids had already developed antibodies and may not be disproportionately vulnerable to a third wave, the government does not want to take any chances.

The response package is an extension of the first part of the package worth Rs 15,000 crore announced in March 2020 to boost health infrastructure in the wake of the pandemic.

Don't be complacent, single mistake can derail fight against Covid: Modi

Prime Minister Narendra Modi cautioned his council of ministers on Thursday, July 8, that complacency



The package approved by Cabinet is to be implemented by Centre and states from July this year to March 2022.

could derail India's fight against Covid-19, and a single mistake could have far-reaching impact and weaken the fight to defeat the virus, according to people aware of the developments.

At the meeting of the expanded council of 77 members, Modi also asked the ministers to be punctual, learn from their predecessors, and focus on public service. The event came a day after Modi rebooted his council, dropping 12 ministers, inducting 36 new faces, and promoting seven.

Modi said India's fight against the pandemic was on track but expressed concern at the persistently high number of cases from Maharashtra and Kerala, said a person privy to the details of the meeting.

According to the person quoted above, the PM said that over the past few days, pictures and videos of crowded places were being circulated and people were seen roaming without masks or social distancing. "This is not a pleasant sight and it should instil a sense of fear in us," Modi was quoted as saying by the person

quoted in the first instance.

The PM said India's fight against the pandemic was powered by frontline workers and was underway with full vigour. He also said that India was steadily vaccinating a substantial percentage of its population and testing was also consistently high.

In the past, the PM has urged people to not let their guard down against the pandemic and adhere to Covid safety protocols. At the meeting too, the PM said that everyone must remember that the threat of Covid-19 was far from over and many nations were seeing surges in infections, said the person quoted above.

He told the ministers that their aim should not be to instil fear but request people to keep taking all possible precautions so that India can move beyond the pandemic.

A second person aware of developments said Modi asked ministers to reach office on time and channel their energies on ministerial work.

He also said new ministers should not make unnecessary statements.

Magisterial inquiry to be conducted into death of Father Stan Swamy

MUMBAI (TIP): A magisterial inquiry will be conducted into the death of Father Stan Swamy, who passed away at the Holy Family hospital in Mumbai's Bandra on Monday, July 5, officials of the Maharashtra prison department said.

The 83-year-old Jesuit priest and tribal rights activist, who was arrested by the National Investigation Agency (NIA) in connection with the Elgaar Parishad case on October 8, 2020, died in judicial custody while undergoing treatment at the hospital. He was lodged in Taloja Central Jail in Navi Mumbai before he was shifted to the private hospital as his health

worsened on May 28.

A prison department official said that as per procedure, an accidental death report (ADR) will be registered by the police, following which the magisterial inquiry will begin. "According to mandated procedure for cases where a person dies in police or judicial custody, a magisterial inquiry is required to be conducted," the official added.

The official further said that as per Section 176 (1A) of the Code of Criminal Procedure, inquiry into all cases of custodial deaths, rapes and disappearances in custody have to be conducted by a judicial magistrate. The section was added in the statute in 2005.



Prior to this, such probes were conducted by the executive magistrate.

The official said that due to a National Human Rights Commission order in 2010 that stated that judicial inquiries were not mandatory in cases

where there were no allegations, probes were not conducted into all such deaths for a decade. However, last year, NHRC defined the scope of inquiry to include cases of custodial deaths, including natural deaths and deaths caused by illness.

"With this, Swamy's death in judicial custody will fall under this particular section. Hence, though as per the hospital, he died of natural causes, a magisterial inquiry will be conducted," the official said.

The Bombay High Court, on May 28, had directed state prison authorities to shift Swamy from Taloja Central Jail to the private-run Holy Family Hospital for 15

days, while asking Swamy to bear the cost of his treatment. Swamy was shifted to the hospital ICU the same night and put on oxygen support. The HC continued his stay at the hospital from time to time.

Seeking interim bail on grounds of the pandemic, Swamy had said that he suffered from Parkinson's, among other health issues. He had also filed for bail on grounds that he was arrested for challenging indiscriminate arrests of thousands of young adivasis labeled as "naxals" without any proof of their involvement. The special court had, however, disallowed his pleas. *Source: The Indian Express*

India adds 43,393 Covid cases; active cases see decline again

NEW DELHI (TIP): India on Thursday, July 8, reported a net addition of 784 in active coronavirus cases to take its count to 460,704. India's share of global active coronavirus cases now stands at 3.93 per cent (one in 25). The country is fourth among the most affected countries by active cases. On Wednesday, it added 45,892 cases to take its total caseload to 30,709,557 from 30,663,665 — an increase of 0.1%. And, with 817 new fatalities, its Covid-19 death toll reached 405,028, or 1.32 per cent of total confirmed infections.

With 3,381,671 more Covid-19 vaccine doses being administered on Wednesday, India's total count of vaccine shots so far reached 364,847,549. The count of recovered coronavirus cases across India, meanwhile, reached 29,843,825 — or 97.18 per cent of total caseload — with 44,291 new cured cases being reported on Thursday.

Now the fourth-most-affected country by active cases, third by deaths, second by total cases, and first by recoveries, India has added 297,923 cases in the past 7 days.

India now accounts for 3.93% of all active cases globally (one in every 25 active cases), and 10.08% of all deaths (one in every 10 deaths).



India has so far administered 364,847,549 vaccine doses. That is 1188.05 per cent of its total caseload, and 26.17 per cent of its population.

Among Indian states, the top 5 in terms

of number of vaccine shots administered are Maharashtra (40140035), Uttar Pradesh (40125660), Gujarat (31293703), Rajasthan (30700753), and Karnataka (27585937).

Among states with more than 10 million population, the top 5 in number of vaccine shots per one million population are Delhi (510654), Kerala (496204), Gujarat (489941), Uttarakhand (477256), and J&K (416064).

Backwards from here, the last 1 million cases for India have come in 21 days.

The count of active cases across India on Thursday saw a net addition of 784, compared to net reduction of 4,437 on Wednesday. States and UTs that have seen the biggest daily net increase in active cases are Kerala (3823), Maharashtra (333), Manipur (303), Mizoram (286), and Arunachal Pradesh (190).

With 44,291 new daily recoveries, India's recovery rate stands at 97.18%, while fatality rate remained unchanged at 1.32%.

The Indian states and UTs with the worst case fatality rates at present are Punjab (2.70%), Uttarakhand (2.15%), and Maharashtra (2.02%). The rate in as many as 17 is higher than the national average.

India's new daily closed cases stand at 45,108 — 817 deaths and 44,291 recoveries. The share of deaths in total closed cases stands at 1.81%.

Third wave of Covid can hit India in August: Report

NEW DELHI (TIP): India may be hit by a third wave of the coronavirus pandemic from August and it could reach its peak in September, a report released by the State Bank of India said, the Hindustan Times reported.

The report projected that Covid-19 cases in India can dip to around 10,000 in the second week of July, but infections will increase by the second fortnight of August. The projections are based on "historical trends" of cases, the SBI said. The report stated that global data shows that on an average, third wave peak cases are around 1.7 times that of the second wave, Mint reported.

In a separate report published in June, the SBI had projected that the third wave could be as severe as the second one and could last for 98 days. The report had said that Covid-19 vaccination should be India's key priority, especially for children who could be the next vulnerable group.

The forecast made by the latest SBI report is quite different from the government's projections about the third wave.

On June 27, chairperson of India's Covid-19 Working Group of the National Technical Advisory Group, NK Arora, said that a study conducted by the Indian Council of Medical Research has shown that if a third wave of the coronavirus hits India, it is likely to come late. "We have a window period of six to eight months [before third wave] to immunise everybody in the country," Arora said.

ICMR scientists found that at least 30% of the population who had been infected earlier must entirely lose their immunity for the third wave to be as devastating as the second one. In another possible scenario, they found that the third wave must occur immediately after the second wave for it to be equally severe.

Covaxin to get WHO nod soon? Chief scientist says trial data 'looks good'

NEW DELHI (TIP): In what potentially comes as a piece of good news for Hyderabad-based vaccine manufacturer Bharat Biotech, the World Health Organization (WHO) has indicated that it might just provide its much-awaited approval to Covaxin, the company's indigenous jab against the coronavirus disease (Covid-19).

Soumya Swaminathan, the chief scientist at WHO, told a Mumbai-based news organisation that the final phase trial data for Covaxin "looks good" and meets the safety profile of the international public health agency so far.

The pre-submission meeting between Bharat Biotech and WHO was held on June 23, Swaminathan told CNBC TV-18 in an interview, adding that the data packet is currently being assembled. She noted that although Covaxin's efficacy against the Delta variant of Covid-19 is a bit low, it is still not bad, while the overall efficacy is "quite high."

Bharat Biotech finally made public its findings from the Phase-3 efficacy analysis of Covaxin last Saturday, where it claimed an overall efficacy of 77.8% against symptomatic Covid-19 patients. The pre-print data from "India's largest efficacy trial" showed that Covaxin demonstrates 93.4% effectiveness against severe symptomatic Covid-19 cases. On the other hand,



Covaxin provides 65.2% protection against the B.1.617.2 (Delta) strain, currently the most predominant Covid-19 variant in India, it said.

The World Health Organization keeps a close watch on all the vaccines which are on the pipeline for emergency listing, Swaminathan said, adding that the agency is awaiting more data for a final say on the matter.

Speaking on the Covid-19 situation in India, the WHO chief scientist said that the government should focus on primary immunisation of at least 60-70% of

its population. The focus should not be on booster shots but on broadening the scope of primary vaccination, she said. Only after a sizeable population has been vaccinated can India draw inspiration from countries like the United Kingdom, which have moved on to focusing on booster doses.

Most of the world, except some districts in the United States, has recently seen a spurt in Covid-19 cases while there has been no reduction in the death toll, Swaminathan noted.

Source: HT

Rajasthan HC cancels Adani group's land allotted for solar park near Pokhran

By Dr Yash Goyal

JAIPUR (TIP): In a serious setback to the ambitious solar energy planning of the state government, Rajasthan High Court has cancelled the allotment of land measuring 1452.13 Bigha made in favour of the Adani Renewable Energy Park Rajasthan Limited (AREPRL) in village Nedan in Pokhran on the reasons that it is the 'public utilities' land of farmers and villagers.

On a joint petition of 23 Khatedar Tenants led by one Barkat Khan of village Nedan, a Division Bench of High Court justice Rameshwar Vyas and Justice Sangeet Lodha (rpt Sangeet) have cancelled forthwith the possession of 1452.13 bigha land by respondent-AREPRL whereof it has not been handed over the Adani firm.

In its 56 pages judgement made on June 29, HC has asked the state government that it shall conduct survey of the lands allotted to the respondent companies in all the three villages and if any part of the land allotted is found covered by public utilities, the allotment of the land to that extent shall also be cancelled.

HC further ordered that the allotment of the land surrounding the lands of the petitioners, other Khatedar Tenants and the land of public utilities made in favour of the respondent-ESUCRL (Essel Surya Urja Company of Rajasthan Ltd) in village Nagnechinagar and Ugras, and in favour of AREPRL in village- Nedan shall also be reviewed by the state government so as to ensure that on account of allotment made in favour of the respondent companies, ESUCRL and AREPRL the rights of the Khatedar Tenants and the inhabitants of the aforesaid villages to the beneficial use and enjoyment of their properties and public utilities are not infringed or adversely affected.



Adani Renewable Energy Park Rajasthan Limited (AREPRL) in village Nedan in Pokhran

HC categorically asked the state government that the entire exercise pursuant to this order shall be completed by the State Government within a period of six weeks from the date of receipt of certified copy of this order.

In 2018, the then District Magistrate of Jaisalmer in Rajasthan has allotted a total of 6115.06 Bighas of land in Nedan village for setting up of a power plant (1500 MW), and of which the HC has now cancelled part of the land (1452 bigha) in the very village.

Villagers ran from pillar to post against allotment of 3 land cases since 2018

Entire legal matter deals in the allotment of three land cases: one belongs to Adani's AREPRL at Nedan in Jaisalmer district, and two to Essel's ESUCRL in Jodhpur district. Villagers have run from pillar to post against the allotment of their lands for which they are called Khatedar Tenants and Cultivator for 40-45 years.

Villagers contended that they are entitled for regularisation of their old possession. They also stressed that their families residing in their Dhani constructed in village Nedan, and their exists schools, temple, water tank, pond, Oran land etc, but while allocating the land this fact was ignored.

Petitioners had challenged the legality of order dated 11-1-2018 issued by the Jaisalmer district collector allotting the land measuring 6115.06 bighas of revenue village Nedan in favour of AREPRL for installation of 1500 MW Solar Park.

Similarly in second case, Khatedar Tenants and cultivators for 40-45 years of agriculture land comprising various 'Khasras of village Nagnechinagar in Jodhpur district assailed the legality of order of Jodhpur Collector on 23-3-2018 allotting the lands measuring 70.08 bighas in favour of ESUCRL for establishing Solar Park.

In third land allotment case too, Khatedar tenants challenged legality in the allotment of 2045.11 Bighas in revenue village Ugras by Jodhpur collector on 23-3-2018 in favour of ESUCRL for installation of 450 MW Solar Park.

Earlier on 27-11-2019, the Single Bench of the Rajasthan High Court had 'dismissed the three petitions' filed by scores of Khatedar Tenants and villagers on a number of legal grounds and references. The petitioners had strongly alleged that the allocation of land by district collectors of Jodhpur and Jaisalmer would curtail their public utilities such as Pond, Talab, Graveyard, but the Single Bench Judge had justified, "Such places of civic rights has not been handed over to AREPRL and they would not insist for handing over possession or allotment of such land, possession whereof has not been given".

Single judge opined that the petition preferred involve host of dispute question of facts, which cannot be gone into the Court in exercise of the writ jurisdiction, and thus, the petitioners were heard only qua the prayer clause (a) of the writ petition i.e. with respect to order impugned therein dated 11.1.2018 issued by the District Collector, Jaisalmer allotting 6115 Bighas 6 Biswas land comprising various Khasras of village Nedan in favour of AREPRL.

Then petitioners have moved to the DB of HC where special appeals and consequently the writ petitions are partly allowed, and the judgement was made in their favour.

HC's SUO MOTO interest on Solar Park on land nearby Great Indian Bustard arc

The DB of Rajasthan High Court also stepped into a land allocation case in favour of ADANI's AREPRL for Solar Energy Plant near Great Indian Bustard (GIB) Arc area in village Rasla in Jaisalmer district.



Great Indian Bustard (GIB)

Photo / courtesy Pinterest.com

DB in its same order stated, "Indisputably, the land allotted to the respondent AREPRL near GIB Arc area relates village Rasla, which is not subject matter of present special appeals, and therefore, we have the Question regarding legality of the said allotment to be dealt with suo moto PIL (DBC Writ Petition No. 825/19) pending consideration before this court. Let the copy of this order be placed on the files of said writ petition".

Reaction on HC judgement related to solar projects

Rajasthan, the biggest state in the country, has a vast potential for solar and wind energy in Jodhpur, Bikaner, Jaisalmer and Barmer districts with an installed capacity of 5002 MW in Solar and 4337 MW in wind energy, respectively.



Rajasthan Energy Minister Dr BD Kalla.

When asked for his reaction on the HC judgement, Rajasthan Energy and PHED Minister Dr B D Kalla told TIP here that of course there would be a hurdle in new investment plans and employment generation in the area sand desert of the state. It is the judicial matter, which is not my concern, Dr Kalla said adding, "Rajasthan has presently 4702 MW of solar power generation, and it has planned a solar energy target at 30,000 MW in years to come.

Recently, the GoR has signed an MoU of 5000 MW with NTPC, and another 5000 MW MoU was in the pipeline with another company (SECI: Solar Energy Corporation of India), he discloses. And Rajasthan Power Generation Corporation would set up 810 MW solar plant in next 2 years, the Minister said.

In a new plan put up in the state Budget 2021-22, Rajasthan Power Distribution Corporation will set up a Green Corridor of 6.3 Giga Watt to enable new projects of Renewable Source of Energy covering Jaisalmer, Barmer, Jalore, and Jodhpur districts, he added.

Joint Venture Company

Adani Renewable Energy Park Rajasthan Ltd (AREPRL) is a 50:50 Joint Venture Company (JVC) incorporated by Adani Energy Park Ltd (AREPL) and Rajasthan Renewable Corporation Ltd (RRECL), Government of Rajasthan, under the Companies Act, 2013. The JVC has been formed under the provisions of MNRE Scheme for development of solar parks and UMPPs 2014, wherein both the parties hold equal shareholding, quoting AREPRL web site, an official said here.

An MoU has been signed with RRECL, the Government of Rajasthan's nodal agency for the development of non-conventional energy sources, to develop solar parks with a cumulative capacity of 10,000 MW in a phased manner. As a part of the first phase, AREPRL is developing a 500 MW capacity solar park Bhadla, Jodhpur and 1500 MW capacity park in Fatehgarh, Jaisalmer.

Former President Donald Trump announced he is suing Facebook, Twitter and Google



Donald Trump - File photo

WASHINGTON (TIP): Former President Donald Trump took his fight with three massive tech companies to court, filing lawsuits that legal experts say are all but guaranteed to fail – even

as they rally Republican voters, fundraisers and donors.

Trump revealed Wednesday, July 7, that he is suing Facebook, Twitter and Google, as well as their respective CEOs Mark Zuckerberg, Jack Dorsey and Sundar Pichai, in class-action lawsuits.

Trump, who has a history of threatening legal action but not always following through, made the announcement at his golf club in Bedminster, New Jersey, alongside two leaders from the America First Policy Institute, the pro-Trump nonprofit group that is supporting the lawsuits.

Shortly after the news conference wrapped, Trump's political entities started sending out fundraising messages that touted the lawsuits in their appeals for money. One such text message, written as if it were coming from Trump himself, includes a link to

his joint fundraising committee Save America, which also raises money for other Republican political initiatives.

The lawsuits were unveiled just over a month after Facebook decided to uphold Trump's ban from using the platform until at least January 2023. Twitter, Trump's preferred social media outlet throughout his one term in office, permanently banned him on the heels of the Jan. 6 invasion of the Capitol by a mob of his supporters.

The lawsuit against Pichai also names as a defendant YouTube, the video-sharing website bought by Google in 2006. YouTube indefinitely banned Trump in January.

"We're not looking to settle," Trump told reporters at Bedminster when asked about the lawsuits. "We don't know what's going to happen but we're not looking to settle," he said.

The three related lawsuits, filed in federal court in Florida, allege the tech giants have violated plaintiffs' First Amendments rights.

The suits want the court to order the media companies to let Trump back on their platforms. They also want the court to declare that Section 230 of the Communications Decency Act, a piece of legislation that stops tech companies from being held liable for what users post on their platforms, is unconstitutional.

As president, Trump railed against Section 230 and repeatedly called for its repeal. He even tied the issue to a crucial round of stimulus checks at the height of the coronavirus pandemic, as well as the passage of an annual defense spending bill.

Legal experts doubt whether Trump's latest attack on big tech companies will succeed.

US WILL NOT IMMEDIATELY LIFT TRAVEL RESTRICTIONS: WHITE HOUSE



Photo for representation only

WASHINGTON (TIP): The Biden administration will not immediately lift any international travel restrictions, even as it faces growing pressure from US business groups and lawmakers, a White House official told Reuters on Wednesday, July 7.

In June, the administration launched interagency working groups with the European Union, United Kingdom, Canada, and Mexico to look at how to lift restrictions and eventually resume travel.

"While these groups have met a number of times, there are further discussions to be had before we can announce any next steps on travel reopening with any country," the White House official told Reuters.

"We have made tremendous progress domestically in our vaccination efforts, as have many of these other countries, but we want to ensure that we move deliberately and are in a position to sustainably reopen international travel when it is safe to do so." (Source: Reuters)

Toyota won't donate to election objectors after company was targeted by anti-Trump PAC in ad

WASHINGTON (TIP): The announcement came after an anti-Trump PAC said it would target companies that donated to lawmakers who refused to certify the election.

The decision backtracks on Toyota's previous donation stance.

Toyota Motor Corp. will no longer donate to members of Congress who voted against certifying President Joe Biden's 2020 election win in January, the company said Thursday, July 8.

"Toyota is committed to supporting and promoting actions that further our democracy. Our company has long-standing relationships with Members of Congress across the political spectrum, especially those representing our U.S. operations," spokesperson Edward Lewis told The Detroit News via email.

"Our bipartisan PAC equally supports Democrats and Republicans running for Congress. In fact, in 2021, the vast majority of the contributions went to Democrats and Republicans who supported the certification of the 2020 election. We understand that the PAC decision to support select Members of Congress who contested the results troubled some stakeholders. We are actively listening to our stakeholders, and, at this time, we have decided to stop contributing to those Members of Congress who contested the certification of certain states in the 2020 election," the statement continues.

The decision backtracks on Toyota's previous stance on funding members of Congress who voted not to certify the election. In April, the company told The



Detroit News that it did "not believe it is appropriate to judge members of Congress solely based on their votes on the electoral certification."

Between then and now, the motor company has donated more than \$55,000 to Republicans who opposed certifying the results — more than three times as much as the next biggest donor, according to an analysis by the watchdog group Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington (CREW).

More than 140 Congress members voted against certifying the 2020 election, all Republicans, baselessly claiming fraud. On Jan. 6, the same day as the certification, pro-Trump rioters, emboldened by widespread misinformation about the 2020 election, stormed the Capitol aiming to stop the formal counting of Electoral College votes.

Toyota's first donation to an election objector after the Capitol siege was made

on Feb. 4 — less than a month after Jan. 6 — to Rep. Alex Mooney, R-WVa.

"In the months since, corporate and industry interests have had to choose whether to do their part to uphold our democracy by turning off the flow of corporate donations to these members, also known as the Sedition Caucus, or to continue to support them in order to seek political influence," CREW reported. "Many have failed this test, some reneging on a promise to change their giving while others made no commitment and are giving like nothing ever happened."

Toyota's decision to cut financial ties with election objectors came after The Lincoln Project, an anti-Trump political action committee, announced it would release a series of ads targeting companies that continued to donate to lawmakers who refused to certify Biden's 2020 win. Toyota was the PAC's first target.

"Toyota vehicles feature safety detection systems, smartphone integration, and more white nationalism than you might've expected," The Lincoln Project tweeted Thursday alongside its ad targeting Toyota.

After Toyota announced it would cease donations to Congress members that voted against certification, The Lincoln Project tweeted that the company "put democracy ahead of transactional politics."

"We hope that the rest of Corporate America will follow their lead," the tweet reads. (Source: USA Today)

U.S. military mission in Afghanistan to end August 31, says Joe Biden

WASHINGTON (TIP): U.S. President Joe Biden announced on Thursday, July 8, that the U.S. military mission in Afghanistan will end on August 31, nearly 20 years after it began.

The U.S. military has “achieved” its goals in the country — killing Osama bin Laden, degrading al-Qaeda and preventing more attacks on the United States, Mr. Biden said in a White House speech.

“We are ending America's longest war,” he said.

“The status quo is not an option,” Mr. Biden said of staying in the country. “I will not send another generation of Americans to war in Afghanistan.”

Also read: Political, economic support will continue after U.S. troops leave: Biden tells Afghan leaders

“The United States cannot afford to

remain tethered to policies created to respond to a world as it was 20 years ago,” he said. “We need to meet the threats where they are today.”

Mr. Biden said the United States “did not go to Afghanistan to nation-build.”

“It is the right and the responsibility of the Afghan people alone to decide their future.”

Mr. Biden pledged to continue supporting the Afghan government and security forces and said thousands of Afghan translators who worked for US forces and face threats from the Taliban would be able to find refuge in the United States.

“There is a home for you in the United States, if you choose,” he said. “We will stand with you, just as you stood with us.”

Mr. Biden said he was confident the

Afghan armed forces could stand up to the Taliban, who have made strong advances across the country since the beginning of the year.

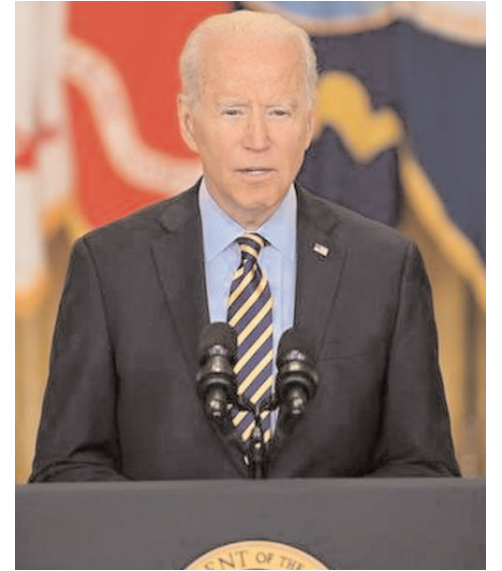
“I do not trust the Taliban,” Mr. Biden said, “but I trust the capacity of the Afghan military.”

Asked if a Taliban takeover was “inevitable,” the President said: “No, it is not.”

He flatly rejected comparisons to the US experience in Vietnam.

“The Taliban is not the North Vietnamese army,” Mr. Biden said. “They’re not remotely comparable in terms of capability.”

“There’s going to be no circumstance where you are going to see people being lifted off the roof of an embassy of the United States from Afghanistan,” he said. “It is not at all comparable.” (Agencies)



U.S. President Joe Biden announced: “We are ending America's longest war”. - File photo

Texas Democrats Provide Update on Legislative Priorities Ahead of Abbott’s Special Legislative Session

AUSTIN, TX (TIP): Texas Democratic lawmakers and statewide organizations including the Texas Democratic Party, Black Voters Matter, the Workers Defense Action Fund, the Black Freedom Factory, the Texas Right to Vote Coalition, MOVE Texas, and the Texas Freedom Network, among others, hosted a press conference at the south steps of the state Capitol on Thursday, July 7 morning to bring attention to Republican anti-voter laws and other items that Gov. Greg Abbott has labeled as priorities during his special legislative session.

During the regular session, Texas House Democrats were successful in stopping the passage of Republicans’ anti-voter law, Senate Bill 7 (SB 7), which would have made it even more difficult for Texans with disabilities and Texans of color to vote in the status quo. Upset that the Republican-dominated legislature failed to advance his anti-voter legislation, the governor defunded the entire legislature -- a co-equal branch of government -- and demanded they come back for a special session and pass bills

targeting voters of color, disabled voters, trans children, immigrants, and others in order for employees of the legislature to be paid for their work.

Most notably, the governor’s agenda for this special session doesn’t even include anything about the state’s crumbling electric grid, which failed in February and left millions without power and hundreds of Texans dead, resulting in the deadliest carbon monoxide poisoning event in recent U.S. history. Even last month, ERCOT asked Texans to reduce energy and set their air-conditioning to a higher temperature in the middle of summer in order to prevent the state’s energy grid from failing, yet again.

Instead, the governor’s list of issues to address during the special session is largely red meat for his base, such as banning transgender children from engaging in school sports that match their gender identity, even more funding for border security and his new border wall, abortion, social media censorship, and critical race theory, among others.

“On the agenda, we have racist and

ableist anti-voter legislation, money going to a racist border wall, a prohibition on teaching an accurate version of American history, more control over our bodies and less access to abortion, and additional trauma being afflicted on trans kids who just want to play sports,” said Darcy Caballero, Policy and Advocacy Strategist for the Texas Democratic Party. “What’s not on the agenda is a way to fix our crumbling infrastructure so Texans can be confident that their A/C and power will stay on during what’s likely to be the hottest summer on record.

“Instead, we continue to get more of the same red meat legislation that Republicans depend on to win their elections,” Caballero added. “After Texans came out to vote in record numbers in 2020, Republicans are trying to cling to power the only way they know how: by preventing voters of color, working people, and young people from voting.”

(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)



Rep. Nicole Collier, D-Ft. Worth, speaks at a press conference on the south steps of the Texas Capitol on Thursday, where Democratic lawmakers and organizers spoke out against anti-voter legislation and the Governor's misplaced priorities for the special session.

Tropical Storm Elsa slams East Coast; at least 1 dead in Florida and 10 injured in Georgia



ARLINGTON, VA. (TIP): Tropical Storm Elsa powered its way up the East Coast on Thursday, July 8, an unrelenting weather system that has claimed one life, injured at least 10 people and flooded parts of New York City.

About 27,000 homes and businesses remained without power in the eastern U.S. on Thursday, July 8, and flooding was a concern as isolated areas could see up to 8 inches of rain before the storm passes.

A flash flood watch was issued for tens of millions of people along the East Coast because of the threat of heavy rain. The National Hurricane Center issued the tropical storm warning as far north as Boston and Cape Cod, Massachusetts.

In New York City, pictures and video on social media showed flooded subway stops and shut down highways and roads. The NYPD had to rescue several motorists from rising waters, they said on Twitter.

As of 11 p.m. EDT Thursday, Elsa was centered about 65 miles north-northwest of Norfolk, Virginia and 170 miles southwest of Atlantic City, New Jersey, moving northeast at 25 mph, the hurricane center said. The storm has strengthened slightly, and sustained winds howled at 50 mph.

Elsa was expected to gain speed over the next couple of days, pass near the eastern mid-Atlantic states by Thursday night and then edge near or over the Northeast on Friday and Friday night, said Jack Beven, a senior hurricane specialist at the hurricane center in Miami.

(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)



Kriti Sanon urges paparazzi to not cover funerals

Kriti Sanon has made a 'humble request' to the media and the paparazzi who are sharing visuals from Dilip Kumar's funeral. The actor took to her Instagram Stories and urged the media to avoid covering celebrity funerals for it's disturbing to see 'videos of such a sensitive event with photographers talking casually in the background'.

Dilip Kumar died on Wednesday, July 7 morning. In the evening, the actor was buried at the Juhu Qabristan in Mumbai. Videos and pictures from the funeral were shared on social media.

In her appeal to the media, titled 'A humble request', Kriti Sanon said, "Is it necessary for media and paparazzi to cover someone's funeral? A funeral is a very personal affair and media should let people mourn in peace without a camera flashing in their faces! It's disturbing to see videos of such a sensitive event with photographers talking casually in the background. I urge the media to please not cover funerals and give the family and closed ones their privacy. Would you like such a personal loss being flashed all over? Lets change things a bit.. Lets put humanity before profession!"

Taapsee Pannu: Want to reaffirm audience trust in me for choosing quality films

Taapsee Pannu has been signed up for a Telugu film titled "Mishan Impossible". The actress says she wants to reaffirm the trust the audience has in her for choosing quality.

"In last seven years I have always been on a lookout to be part of the stories I want to see myself as an audience, movies that I will spend my time and money on. And 'Mishan Impossible' is one of them," Taapsee said.

She added: "I want to reaffirm the trust the audience has in me for choosing quality films and I'm doing exactly that by becoming a part of a movie like this."

Taapsee joined the team of the film today. Welcoming the actress on to the sets, the makers released a working still where the actress can be seen with a broken hand. She looks anxious, as she watches something on the laptop.

Niranjan Reddy and Anvesh Reddy produce the film, while N M Pasha is the associate producer. The film has cinematography handled by Deepak Yeragara and music scored by Mark K. Robin. Ravi Teja Girijala is the editor.

Source: IANS



Shahid Kapoor, Mira celebrate 6th wedding anniversary

Actor Shahid Kapoor is celebrating his sixth wedding anniversary with wife, Mira Rajput. On Wednesday, July 7, Mira took to Instagram to share a photo with Shahid and a romantic message for him.

In the photo, Mira Rajput and Shahid Kapoor are seen in a lush green garden. She has her arms wrapped around him and he is seen giving her a kiss on her head. "I love you more than words suffice. Happy 6, my love my life," she captioned her post.

The couple were showered with blessings and love from their fans. "God bless u," wrote one. "So jealous but happy," commented another.

Mira and Shahid got married in 2015 and welcomed their daughter Misha in 2016. Two years later in 2018, their son Zain was born. Shahid is 13 years older than Mira, a Delhi University graduate.

While Mira made the romantic post on the occasion, Shahid is yet to share a message for his wife on social media. He has been sharing selfies from the shoot of his upcoming movies with Mrunal Thakur and Kunal Kemmu.

He also paid tribute to actor Dilip Kumar, who died on Wednesday. Sharing a picture of him on Instagram, Shahid wrote, "We are all nothing but versions of you Dilip Saab. Every actor has studied you in awe. Wondering how you did it all. You were as close to PERFECT as it can get. As you return to your



spiritual home. The prayers of millions are with you. Thank you for giving us all you did. And sharing your enlightened soul with us through all your breathtaking performances. You will live on forever sir. You are TIMELESS. Rest in peace."

Esha Deol to make digital debut with Ajay Devgn

Returning to the spotlight after a long hiatus, actor Esha Deol Takhtani is all set to make her entry into the digital space with upcoming crime-drama series 'Rudra - The Edge of Darkness', launching soon only on Disney+ Hotstar VIP. Having garnered admiration in both critically acclaimed and commercially successful movies, the actress will be reuniting with her fellow Bollywood megastar Ajay Devgn after more than a decade.

Rudra - The Edge of Darkness is an engaging dark, gritty crime-drama series that brings together a unique storytelling format and powerful characters, making it a must-watch for fans of thrillers and crime-dramas.

Esha said, "I am really happy to collaborate with Applause and BBC Studios for Rudra - The Edge of Darkness on Disney+ Hotstar VIP. As an actor, I believe in working on projects that would let me explore something new and engage me as a viewer as well. This series is a fresh take on the quintessential cop drama, with a grey overtone, something which has not been explored in the Indian context before. With the resounding success of the OTT space, I am charged up for my digital debut with this one and I am looking forward to working with Ajay Devgn after a long time who has been a fantastic co star to me in many films."





Superman and Lethal Weapon director Richard Donner dies

Filmmaker Richard Donner, who helped create the modern superhero blockbuster with 1978's Superman and mastered the buddy comedy with the Lethal Weapon franchise, has died. He was 91.

Richard died Monday, July 5, in Los Angeles, his family said through a spokesperson.

Richard gained fame with his first feature, 1976's The Omen. A then-unheard-of offer followed: \$1 million to direct 1978's Superman. Richard channeled his love of the character into making the film, repeatedly facing off with producers over the need for special effects that would convince the audience that a superhero could really fly. In the title role, Richard cast Christopher Reeve, who was associated with Superman for the rest of his life.

By the 21st century, the genre was dominating the box office in the US and thriving overseas. The heads of Marvel Studios and DC Entertainment—producers of most of today's superhero fare—both worked for Richard when they were starting out in Hollywood.

Julianne Moore is no fan of words 'aging gracefully'

Oscar-winning actor Julianne Moore has criticised the term "aging gracefully" as it applies to women, saying it is "totally sexist".

"There's so much judgment inherent in the term 'aging gracefully'. Is there an ungraceful way to age? We don't have an option of course. No one has an option about aging, so it's not a positive or a negative thing, it just is," the actor told As If magazine.

The Still Alice star said, "(aging is) part of the human condition, so why are we always talking about it as if it is something that we have control over?"

Julianne Moore said she takes to heart a quote from Helen Mirren with regards to her philosophy on aging: "Aging is a requirement of life: You either grow old or die young."

The actor said, "We are given a narrative as children that we keep growing through school, maybe go to college then, after school is finished, the idea of growth is done.

But we have all this life left to live. How do we continue to challenge ourselves, to interest ourselves, learn new things, be more helpful to other people, be the person that your friends and family need or want? How do we continue to evolve? How do we navigate life to have even deeper experiences?"

The 60-year-old actor is set to reunite with her Far From Heaven director Todd Haynes for the film May December, which also features Natalie Portman. Source: PTI



Angelina Jolie accuses Brad Pitt of blocking her winery sale



Angelina Jolie and Brad Pitt's divorce has spilled over to the south of France, or, more particularly, Château Miraval, the French winery and castle shared by the duo. Angelina, 46, has accused her estranged husband, 57, of blocking the sale of their winery to a third-party buyer in court documents filed on Tuesday, July 6 in Los Angeles. (HollywoodLife has reached out to Angelina and Brad's reps for comment.)

In the documents obtained by HollywoodLife, Angelina has asked for the removal of an automatic temporary restraining order (ATRO), a routine order that prevents divorcing parties from making financial decisions that

would affect the other amid proceedings, in order to finalize the sale — but Brad has not consented to the removal yet, stalling the process.

Angelina's lawyers have stated that the actress is "extremely desirous of closing the pending agreement for the sale" and would very much like to "extricate herself from being business partners with her ex-husband." The document further read: "Petitioner should not be indefinitely held hostage to being Respondent's business partner with respect to separate property assets in a family court proceeding to divide community property."

Source: HollywoodLife

Charlize Theron finally breaks the news of 'The Old Guard' Sequel



Hollywood star Charlize Theron has confirmed that she and co-stars Marwan Kenzari and Luca Marinelli are "definitely" returning for another instalment of "The Old Guard".

Theron confirmed to Variety that the script is already done and that they plan to start shooting the action flick early next year, reports etonline.com.

The first film of "The Old Guard" series, an adaptation of the graphic novel of the same name, followed Charlize Theron's character Andy and a covert team of immortal mercenaries who are suddenly exposed and must now fight to keep their identity a secret. "The Old Guard" was directed by Gina Prince-Bythewood.

Meanwhile, Charlize Theron and filmmaker Niki Caro have joined hands for a film on gender equality. Theron will produce the film, while Caro will direct.

The film will focus on four female athlete's fighting for equality in big wave surfing. It will revolve around the lives of Bianca Valenti, Andrea Moller, Paige Alms and Keala Kennelly and their journey to make a place for themselves in the sport which is predominantly male-dominated, according to contactmusic.com.

LINCOLN CENTER BOUNCES BACK

BY MABEL PAIS

VIRTUAL & IN-PERSON EVENTS ALL SUMMER AT RESTART STAGES



Lincoln Center Map - Photo /lincolncenter.org

Lincoln Center's (LC) RESTART STAGES — an outdoor performing arts center with 10 outdoor performance and rehearsal spaces — helps kickstart the performing arts sector and New York City's revival.

Fostering a dynamic environment for artists, community organizations, and audiences, Restart Stages is a welcoming and safe place for live performances, family activities, and civic engagement. Restart Stages is part of the Stavros Niarchos Foundation-Lincoln Center Agora Initiative, a collaboration that reimagines and reactivates public space for a new era.

Throughout the summer, audiences are invited to enjoy performances by Lincoln Center, its resident organizations, cultural and community arts partners, and guest curators from across the five boroughs. To learn more, visit lincolncenter.org/lincoln-center-at-home/series/restart-stages

TICKETS

Free tickets are made available through the TodayTix Lottery, the Official Ticketing Partner of Restart Stages. The TodayTix Lottery opens for entries two weeks before each performance.

Health and safety are LC's top priority. In accordance with the New York State guidelines and in consultation with its medical advisors, Lincoln Center has implemented protocols to enhance safety for all staff, artists and guests.

LC POET-IN-RESIDENCE

Mahogany L. Browne is appointed as First Ever Poet-in-Residence. The residency, entitled "We Are The Work", will feature a variety of in-person and virtual events, along with new poetry by Browne, commissioned specifically for the residency. "This residency will include all of the intersections that shaped my process as both artist and advocate," said Mahogany L. Browne.

Featured Artists and Collaborators Include Richard Blanco, Aracelis Girmay, Rachel Eliza Griffiths, Isaac Fitzgerald, Terrance Hayes, Sarah Kay, Christine Platt, Liza Jessie Peterson, DJ Reborn, Crystal Valentine, Hank Willis Thomas, Jacqueline Woodson, V (formerly Eve Ensler), Vuyo Sotashe, & more

It is presented as part of "Restart Stages," which

activates outdoor space through artistic and community initiatives that speak to our current moment and reimagines cultural engagement in public space for a new era.

For her residency, Browne has curated events that draw from her experience as a poet and activist—including a racial justice writing workshop, film screenings, a poetry jazz night, book readings of justice-oriented children's books, and more. The residency opens on July 10 with a multipart roving artistic experience that showcases visual and literary artists as they investigate systems of oppression and includes art by Russell Craig, Rico Frederick, Eboni Hogan, and more. The event will be hosted by Browne, and features youth poetry performances as well as live music by DJ Reborn and Mylez Gittens.

Said Mahogany L. Browne, "My landscape of being has been impacted by mass incarceration, poetry, social movement work, abolition, immigration, reclamation of joy, youth leadership, literacy, and mental wellness. This grouping of writers, artists, movement workers, experts, performers, and educators is a call to the frontline. We are collecting our heartbreaks, our anxieties, our fears, and our desires. We are growing this harvest of impossible humanity; this messy evolution that can grow so much goodness."



Lincoln Center's "The Green." - Photo /lincolncenter.org

Additional highlights include the Woke Baby Book Fair, a family-friendly celebration with book readings, a baby movement class led by Paris Alexandria of BK Yoga Club, and a fresh produce giveaway from Seeds in the Middle; a conversation with V (formerly Eve Ensler), Yolanda Sealey Ruiz, and Idrissa Simmonds on Racial Equality Work in the Community and Classroom; and a jazz and spoken word event featuring Adam Falkner, Max Michael Jacob, Vuyo Sotashe, and Shanelle Gabriel. Film screenings include Wash the Dead, a short film by Mahogany L. Browne & Russell Craig on The GREEN. The culminating in-person event on September 10, How the Work Begins: A Revolutionary Concert, includes poet, DJ and activist, Jive Poetic, Resistance Revival Chorus, dance performances, film presentations, hands-on activities showcasing Words of Art and Brain Yoga, and readings by Isaac Fitzgerald, Jon Sands, and best-selling YA Authors.

"As we do our part to champion the cultural and economic comeback of our city, it's incumbent upon us to ensure we're supporting the voices, stories, and lived experiences of those whose artistry holds up a mirror to our world—even when those stories and experiences may be difficult to see," said Jordana Leigh, Senior Director of Programming at Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts.

All events are free and open to the general public. Tickets to the event on July 10 are now available via the TodayTix Lottery or by calling Lincoln Center Guest Services at 212-875-5456.* To learn more about free tickets and access to the in-person and virtual events, please visit LincolnCenter.org/WeAreTheWork.

"WE ARE THE WORK"

Mahogany L. Browne Residency



Mahogany L. Browne - Photo /lincolncenter.org

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

July 10, 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

We Are The Work - Opening

Sunken Plaza & Performance in Hearst Plaza

A live and roving artistic experience showcasing visual and literary artists as they investigate systems of oppression. The event includes musical performances, youth slam poets, and a poetry reading with Mahogany L. Browne and special guests. Artists include Russell Craig, Rico Frederick, Rachel Eliza Griffiths, Eboni Hogan, Caitis Meissner, Migz, The Supremacy Project x Michael Boyd, DJ Reborn, and Mylez Gittens.

July 17 at 7:00 p.m.

Poetic Intersections - Online Premiere (Virtual Event)

On July 17, Browne hosts the first virtual event of her residency: "Poetic Intersections," an online collection of poetry readings from some of the most compelling voices in the literary field and Browne's personal literary heroes and colleagues. Experience the artists that teach, challenge, and fortify her as a mother, writer, and community organizer. Performers include: Terrance Hayes, Jon Sands, Richard Blanco, Tai Freedom Ford, Yesenia Montilla, Christina Olivares, Crystal Valentine, Roberto Carlos Garcia, Jive Poetic, Aricka Foreman, Jen Benka, Cathy Linh Che, Sarah Kay, Aracelis Girmay, and Cristin O'Keefe Aptowicz.

For the complete schedule of "We Are The Work" events continuing until September, visit lincolncenter.org/lincoln-center-at-home/series/we-are-the-work

RESTART STAGES: FAMILY & KIDS: Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts is thrilled to present fun-filled — and sun-filled! — outdoor programming and activities for young audiences and the young at heart. From ticketed performances to pop-up workshops and events, an open-air reading room, and participatory art installation (The GREEN), Restart Stages will keep your family busy and engaged all summer long. You can enter the TodayTix lottery for a chance to win tickets to a Concerts For Kids live performance, or be on the lookout for surprise dance workshops, story time, arts and crafts, poetry readings, and so much more. You never know what events will pop up on The GREEN!

lincolncenter.org/lincoln-center-at-home/series/restart-stages-family-kids

DANCE BREAK: Join LC for Dance Break—a pause in your day to move, re-energize, and have fun! Filmed outdoors on Lincoln Center's campus, these one-minute dance lessons feature a wide range of dance styles and are meant for all ages and abilities. Take a break, learn something new, and DANCE!

Dance Break is now available in the Headspace (headspace.com) app as part of a new partnership! Every Thursday, check your "Today" section on the app for new dance styles. To learn more, visit lincolncenter.org/lincoln-center-at-home/series/dance-break

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

THEATRE WORLD CELEBRATES 75

BY MABEL PAIS

PLAY-PERVIEW BENEFITS RAICES

PRESENTS STREAMING OF "LIVING AND BREATHING"

BY MANDO ALVARADO

DIRECTED BY JERRY RUIZ

NET PROCEEDS TO BENEFIT RAICES
(REFUGEE AND IMMIGRANT CENTER FOR
EDUCATION AND LEGAL SERVICES)

STREAMING BEGINS SATURDAY, JULY 10



Living And Breathing" Poster - Photo / play-perview.com

Play-PerView's next streamed event benefits RAICES (Refugee and Immigrant Center for Education and Legal Services).

Featuring Tony Award winners and a constellation of stars from the worlds of Broadway, Off-Broadway, film, and television, Play-PerView, a new live-streaming theater initiative founded by producer Jeremy Wein (NYC PodFest, Kevin McDonald: Alive), will deliver unique, one-time-only, live-streamed theatrical events and original series into the homes of theater fans around the globe.

On Saturday, July 10th at 7:00pm EST (on demand through July 14), Play-PerView will stream a LIVE performance of "Living and Breathing" by Mando Alvarado ("Vida," "Greenleaf"). Directed by Jerry Ruiz (Mala Hierba, Basilica), the cast will feature Chris Gardner, Thomas Mejia, Jose Joaquin Perez ("We Need To Talk About Kevin," "Person of Interest"), and Johnathan Tchaikovsky ("The Wolf of Wall Street," "Bull").

In "Living and Breathing," when Todd purchases a 'living sculpture,' the controversial piece of art causes a rift with his old college friends Michael and Jeremy that leads to a hilarious and incendiary examination of the nature of their lifelong bond through a conversation about race, friendship, and art in today's America.

Proceeds from all events will be directed to arts organizations impacted by the COVID-19 virus. Play-PerView's producers Jeremy Wein and Jen Campos Productions, have raised close to \$0.5M to date in support of arts organizations and other charities across the country impacted by the COVID-19 virus through 48 major live-streamed events and additional auxiliary programming.

Tickets are "pay what you can" and are available at [eventbrite.com/e/play-perview-living-and-breathing-live-reading-tickets-152845417759](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/play-perview-living-and-breathing-live-reading-tickets-152845417759).

For additional information on these and future events, visit [Play-PerView.com](https://www.play-perview.com) or follow @Play_PerView on Twitter and @Play_PerView on Instagram for updates, trivia, contests, and more!

PLAY-PERVIEW

Play-PerView is an organization that believes in the power of community and highlights the ways in which artists can support one another both in times of triumph and crisis with love, joy, and innovation in the digital age. Play-PerView programs present a variety of one-time-only events — including play readings, non-scripted series, panel discussions, and more — as well as a desire to bring live theatrical experiences to audiences outside of the major hubs of New York, Chicago, and Los Angeles — this initiative will raise funds for arts organizations and other charities such as The Actors Fund, Broadway Cares, not-for-profit institutions, and theatrical unions who are helping to relieve those in need of financial assistance due to job loss, medical bills, and other essential needs. To learn more, visit [play-perview.com](https://www.play-perview.com)

CREATIVE TEAM

MANDO ALVARADO (Playwright) is an award-winning playwright/screenwriter from Pharr, Texas. He is currently a Supervising Producer on "Brand New Cherry Flavor" for Netflix. To learn more, visit [mandoalvarado.com](https://www.mandoalvarado.com)

JERRY RUIZ (Director) is a director, producer and new play aficionado. Having directed several plays in New York theater, he has developed work at Playwrights Horizons, Soho Rep., The Public Theater, Atlantic Theater Company, the Oregon Shakespeare Festival, and the Playwrights Realm. Currently, Jerry serves as Head of Directing at Texas State University. To learn more, visit [jruizdirector.com](https://www.jruizdirector.com)

JEREMY WEIN (Producer) is a producer and director based in Brooklyn, New York. He is the founder of the New York City Podcast Festival, which he produced from 2013-2018. He recently produced the debut EP for The U.S. Open (featuring Shawn Randell, William Jackson Harper, Steven Boyer, Diana Oh, Je? Biehl, and Bobby Moreno), which will be released later this year. Follow him at

Twitter: @ThisMyShow

Instagram: @JeremyWein90

JENNIFER CAMPOS PRODUCTIONS (Producer) JC Productions was founded to promote diverse and inclusive theatrical productions across the country. Ms. Campos has worked as an equity stage manager with several off-Broadway theater companies including The New Group and Primary Stages. Most recently, Jennifer was an Associate Producer for The New Group Off Broadway production of "Waiting for Godot" with Ethan Hawke, John Leguizamo, and Wallace Shawn. She can be accessed at [linkedin.com/in/jennifer-campos-9386075](https://www.linkedin.com/in/jennifer-campos-9386075)

RAICES (REFUGEE AND IMMIGRANT CENTER FOR EDUCATION AND LEGAL SERVICES)

RAICES is a nonprofit agency that promotes justice by providing free and low-cost legal services to underserved immigrant children, families, and refugees. With legal services, social programs, bond assistance, and an advocacy team focused on changing the narrative around immigration in this country, RAICES is operating on the national frontlines of the fight for immigration rights. We defend the rights of immigrants and refugees, empower individuals, families, and communities, and advocate for liberty and justice. Watch the video - youtu.be/7YTmuSkgsWY

To learn more, visit [play-perview.com](https://www.play-perview.com) and [raicestexas.org](https://www.raicestexas.org)

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



Theatre World Awards

Theatre World Awards Logo - Photo / theatreworld.org

The Theatre World Awards, Dale Badway, President, in association with Tom D'Angora and Michael D'Angora present the star-studded line-up of this year's "Theatre World Awards: Special Event Celebrating 75 Years!" Each year The Theatre World Awards presents 12 awards to outstanding debut performances on and off-Broadway. After a year of no debuts, The Theatre World Awards, the oldest American award for debuts in theatre in New York, will return for a one-night virtual benefit gala honoring Broadway legends André De Shields and Patti LuPone with the 8th Annual John Willis Award for Lifetime Achievement in The Theatre as well as presenting Audra McDonald with the Dorothy Loudon Special Award for Excellence in Theatre.

Directed by Tom D'Angora and Michael D'Angora, the star-studded benefit gala will feature performances from past Theatre World Award winners.

The special event will be hosted virtually by [BroadwayWorld.com](https://www.broadwayworld.com) on Sunday, July 11th beginning at 7pm. The free event will stream exclusively on [BroadwayWorld.com](https://www.broadwayworld.com)

The event and accompanying fundraising campaign are being produced by Tom D'Angora, Michael D'Angora, and Tim Guinee. The trio are donating their time to the Theatre World Awards project. The event is produced in association with The Theatre World Awards Board of Directors.

The Theatre World Awards relies on the support and contributions of its alumni and donors. Tax deductible donations may be made by visiting the Go Fund Me link at [gofund.me/cf2604da](https://www.gofundme.com/cf2604da).

In what has become a highly entertaining and often touching tradition, 12 previous winners serve as the presenters, and often relive moments from past ceremonies and share wonderful stories rarely heard at other theatrical awards. Many people feel that this is the most fun and enjoyable awards show of the Broadway season! This special gala presentation will celebrate past and present honorees showcasing the historic heritage of the organization.

For additional information about the Theatre World Awards, visit

www.theatreworldawards.org

www.facebook.com/TheatreWorldAwards/

www.twitter.com/TWAwards

ONE OF CHINA'S WANDERING ELEPHANTS RETURNS TO RESERVE

BEIJING (TIP): One member of a group of elephants that left a nature reserve and wandered close to cities in China's southwest has been tranquilised and returned to the reserve after leaving the herd. The elephants left the reserve in Yunnan province last year and walked more than 500 kilometers north. AP

RUSSIA TO LAUNCH NEW INT'L SPACE STATION MODULE

MOSCOW (TIP): The long-delayed Russian module for the International Space Station is set to be finally launched this month, but the date has been pushed back several days, the head of the country's space corporation said July 8. The launch of 'Nauka' has been delayed because of technical problems. AP

IRAN HOSTS AFGHAN PEACE TALKS AS FIGHTING SURGES

TEHRAN (TIP): Iran on July 7 hosted the first significant talks in months between Taliban and Afghan Government representatives, a surprise meeting that comes as the US completes its withdrawal from Afghanistan and districts fall to the Taliban across the country.

The high-level peace talks between the warring sides follow months-old discussions in Qatar that have been stalled by a diplomatic stalemate and escalating violence. Even as officials faced each other across vast tables in Tehran and Iran's top diplomat pledged to end the crisis, fighting surged in Afghanistan's Badghis.

The Taliban political committee, led by chief negotiator Sher Mohammad Abbas Stanikzai, flew from Doha to Iran's capital to meet Afghan government officials, including former Vice-President Younus Qanooni and others from the High Council for National Reconciliation.

Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif urged the delegates to "take difficult decisions for their country. — Agencies

ICELAND REDUCES WORKING HOURS BUT MAINTAINS PRODUCTIVITY AND PAY

LONDON (TIP): A four-day work week has been an "overwhelming success" in Iceland, with the majority of the labour force switching to work fewer hours without affecting their productivity, according to researchers in the country. A study was conducted between 2015 and 2019 in the Iceland national government and capital Reykjavik's City Council, part of which over 2,500 workers. (PTI)

Hearings in Hong Kong subversion trial extended to September

HONG KONG (TIP): Hearings in the trial of 47 Hong Kong pro-democracy activists charged under a Beijing-imposed national security law have been extended to September.

The activists, aged 23 to 64, appeared in court on July 8 in the government's effort to convict them of conspiracy to commit subversion for their involvement in unofficial primary elections held last year by the pro-democracy camp to determine candidates to field in legislative elections which were later postponed.

Authorities say the primaries were part of a plot to paralyse Hong Kong's government and have cracked down heavily on dissent following months of anti-government protests in 2019.

Defendants protested the move to extend the hearings and shouted that Hong Kong's pro-democracy movement must "hang on". The hearings will resume on September 23.

In addition to the new national security law, authorities have changed the criteria for Hong Kong elections and the makeup of the legislature to ensure an overwhelming pro-Beijing majority. Most outspoken democracy advocates have been jailed,



intimidated into silence or have sought asylum overseas, while demonstrations have been banned and the city's most prominent pro-democracy newspaper, the Apple Daily, has closed after police arrested staff and froze its assets.

Beijing has defended the moves as

necessary to restore order in the Asian financial hub. Critics say they mark a betrayal of the central government's promise to maintain Hong Kong's civil liberties for 50 years after its handover from British colonial rule in 1997. AP

South Africa's Zuma hands himself over to police to begin sentence

NKANDLA (SOUTH AFRICA) (TIP): South African former President Jacob Zuma turned himself in to police on July 7 to begin 15 months in jail for contempt of court, the culmination of a long legal drama seen as a test of the post-apartheid state's ability to enforce the rule of law.

Police spokesperson Lirandzu Themba confirmed in a statement that Zuma was in police custody, in compliance with the Constitutional Court judgment.

The Department of Correctional Services said in a separate statement that Zuma was admitted to Estcourt Correctional Centre, about 175 km (108 miles) from his rural homestead in Nkandla in eastern South Africa. Television aired live footage of his motorcade entering the facility.

The court gave Zuma a 15-month jail term last week for defying an instruction earlier in February to give evidence at an inquiry into corruption during his nine years in power until 2018. The inquiry is led by Deputy Chief Justice Raymond Zondo.

Police had been instructed to arrest Zuma by the end of Wednesday if he failed to appear at a police station.



Hundreds of his supporters, some of them armed with guns, spears and shields, had gathered nearby at his homestead to try to prevent his arrest.

But in the end, the 79-year-old Zuma decided to go quietly.

"President Zuma has decided to comply with the incarceration order," his foundation said, the first time Zuma's camp had shown any willingness to cooperate with the court.

It was a remarkable fall for a revered veteran of the African National Congress liberation movement, who was jailed by South Africa's white minority rulers for his part in its struggle to make everyone equal before the law.

Zuma denies there was widespread

corruption under his leadership and he had struck a defiant note on Sunday, lashing out at the judges and launching legal challenges to his arrest.

His lawyers asked the Constitutional Court on Wednesday to suspend its order to the police to arrest him by midnight pending the outcome of his challenge against a jail sentence.

Zuma gave in to pressure to quit and yield to now-President Cyril Ramaphosa in 2018. He has since faced inquiries into allegations of corruption dating from his time as president and before.

The Zondo Commission is examining allegations that he allowed three Indian-born businessmen, Atul, Ajay and Rajesh Gupta, to plunder state resources and traffic influence over government policy. He and the Gupta brothers, who fled to Dubai after Zuma was ousted, deny any wrongdoing.

Zuma also faces a separate court case relating to a \$2 billion arms deal in 1999 when he was deputy president. He denies the charges.

The former president maintains that he is the victim of a political witch hunt and that Zondo is biased against him. Reuters

Haiti police battle gunmen who killed president, amid fears of chaos

PORT-AU-PRINCE (TIP): Haiti's security forces were locked in a fierce gun battle on July 7 with assailants who assassinated President Jovenel Moise at his home overnight, plunging the already impoverished, violence-wracked nation deeper into chaos.

The police had killed four of the "mercenaries" and captured two more, Police General Director Leon Charles said in televised comments late on Wednesday, adding that security forces would not rest until they had all been dealt with.

"We blocked them en route as they left the scene of the crime," he said. "Since then, we have been battling with them."

"They will be killed or apprehended."

Moise, a 53-year-old former businessman who took office in 2017, was shot dead and his wife, Martine Moise, was seriously wounded when heavily armed assassins stormed the couple's home in the hills above Port-au-Prince at around 1 a.m. local time (0500 GMT).

Haiti's ambassador to the United States, Bocchit Edmond, told Reuters in an interview the gunmen were masquerading as U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) agents as they entered Moise's guarded residence under cover of nightfall - a move that would likely have helped them gain entry.

The brazen assassination, which drew condemnation from Washington and neighboring Latin American countries, came amid political unrest, a surge in gang violence, and a growing humanitarian crisis in the poorest nation in



the Americas.

The government declared a two-week state of emergency to help it hunt down the assassins, whom Edmond described as a group of "foreign mercenaries" and well-trained killers.

The gunmen spoke English and Spanish, said interim Prime Minister Claude Joseph, who assumed the leadership of the country, where the majority speak French or Haitian Creole.

"I am calling for calm. Everything is under control," Joseph said on television alongside Police General Director Charles.

"This barbaric act will not remain unpunished".

The first lady had been airlifted to Florida for treatment where she was in a stable condition, Joseph said.

Haiti, a country of about 11 million people, has struggled to achieve stability since the fall of the Duvalier dynastic dictatorship in 1986, and has grappled with a series of coups and foreign interventions.

U.S. President Joe Biden denounced the killing as "heinous" and called the situation in Haiti - which lies some 700 miles (1,125 km) off the Florida coast - worrisome.

"We stand ready to assist as we continue to work for a safe and secure Haiti," he said.

U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken, in a call with Joseph, expressed Washington's commitment to work with Haiti's government to support "democratic governance, peace, and security," State Department spokesperson Ned Price said in a statement.

Many people in Haiti had wanted Moise to leave office. Ever since he took over in 2017, he faced calls to resign and mass protests - first over corruption allegations and his management of the economy, then over his increasing grip on power.

Lately, he presided over a worsening state of gang violence that rights activists say is linked to politics and business leaders using armed groups for their own ends.

In recent months, many districts of the capital Port-au-Prince had become no-go zones and one of Haiti's most powerful gang leaders warned he was launching a revolution against the country's business and political elites <https://www.reuters.com/world/americas/haiti-gang-leader-launches-revolution-violence-escalates-2021-06-24> - although rights activists said he was more linked to Moise than the opposition.

Moise himself had talked of dark forces at play behind the unrest: fellow politicians and corrupt oligarchs unhappy with his attempts to clean up government contracts and to reform Haitian politics. He provided no proof of this. (Reuters)

China's gene giant harvests data from millions of women

BEIJING (TIP): A Chinese gene company selling prenatal tests around the world developed them in collaboration with the country's military and is using them to collect genetic data from millions of women for sweeping research on the traits of populations, a Reuters review of scientific papers and company statements found.

US government advisors warned in March that a vast bank of genomic data that the company, BGI Group, is amassing and analysing with artificial intelligence could give China a path to economic and military advantage. As science pinpoints new links between genes and human traits, access to the biggest, most diverse set of human genomes is a strategic edge. The technology could propel China to dominate global pharmaceuticals, and also potentially lead to genetically enhanced soldiers, or engineered pathogens to target the US population or food supply, the advisors said.

Reuters has found that BGI's prenatal

test, one of the most popular in the world, is a source of genetic data for the company, which has worked with the Chinese military to improve "population quality" and on genetic research to combat hearing loss and altitude sickness in soldiers.

BGI says it stores and re-analyses leftover blood samples and genetic data from the prenatal tests, sold in at least 52 countries to detect abnormalities such as Down's syndrome in the foetus. The tests — branded NIFTY for "Non-Invasive Fetal TrisomyY"—also capture genetic information about the mother, as well as personal details such as her country, height and weight, but not her name, BGI computer code viewed by Reuters shows.

So far, more than 8 million women have taken BGI's prenatal tests globally. BGI has not said how many of the women took the test abroad, and said it only stores location data on women in mainland China.

The tests are a private procedure for the women who take them, a component

in their routine prenatal care. But the studies show that they yield increasingly potent information for research.

One BGI study, for instance, used a military supercomputer to re-analyse NIFTY data and map the prevalence of viruses in Chinese women, look for indicators of mental illness in them, and single out Tibetan and Uyghur minorities to find links between their genes and their characteristics.

The scale of BGI's accumulation of prenatal data, and its collaboration with the military in prenatal and neonatal research, have not been previously reported. The company has published at least a dozen joint studies on the tests with the People's Liberation Army (PLA) since 2010, trialling and improving the tests or analysing the data they provided, the Reuters review found.

DNA data collected from prenatal tests on women outside China has also been stored in China's government-funded gene database, one of the world's largest, the company confirmed. (Reuters)

KIDNAPPERS DEMAND FOOD FOR CHILDREN SEIZED IN NIGERIA SCHOOL RAID

KADUNA (TIP): Kidnappers who abducted more than 100 students from a boarding school in Nigeria's Kaduna state warned that the children could starve unless parents supply them with food, parents and the head of the Kaduna Baptist conference said on July 7.

The Baptist official said about 125 students are missing, while at least 28 were reunited with their families, after the overnight raid on the Bethel Baptist High School early this week, the 10th mass school kidnapping since December in northwest Nigeria.

Parents of those missing told Reuters that the kidnappers promised the children would be safe if parents delivered rice, beans, palm oil, salt and stock cubes. They said abductors told them that a ransom demand would follow. "Search and rescue operations (are) ongoing and we strongly believe that these students will safely return to their parents soon," Reverend I.A. Jangado said in a statement. (Reuters)

UK sees biggest surge in Covid cases since January

Britain reported the highest daily number of new Covid cases since January 29 on Tuesday, and the greatest number of deaths within 28 days of a positive test since April 23. Recent figures showed that there were 28,773 new cases, up from 27,334 on Monday, and 37 deaths. As of the end of Monday, 86.2% of British adults had received one dose of a vaccination against Covid and 64.3% had received two doses.

Meanwhile, Covid deaths in Russia have hit another daily record, with the authorities reporting 737 more fatalities amid a rapid rise in infections. Russia's Covid task force on Tuesday reported 23,378 new cases. The daily tally of confirmed infections has more than doubled in the past month.



Global Covid-19 caseload tops 185.5 mn

WASHINGTON (TIP): The overall global Covid-19 caseload has topped 185.5 million, while the deaths have surged to more than 4 million and vaccinations soared to over 3.35 billion, according to the Johns Hopkins University.

In its latest update on Friday, July 9, morning, the University's Center for Systems Science and Engineering (CSSE) revealed that the current global caseload, death toll and the total number of vaccine doses administered stood at 185,500,538, 4,009,084 and 3,351,337,474, respectively.

The US continues to be the worst-hit country with the world's highest number of cases and deaths at 33,790,136 and 606,468, respectively, according to the CSSE.

In terms of infections, India follows in the second place with 30,709,557 cases.

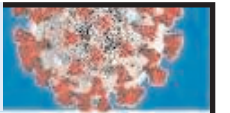
The other worst countries with over 3 million cases are Brazil (18,962,762), France (5,861,128), Russia (5,638,901), Turkey (5,465,094), the UK (5,040,053), Argentina (4,613,019), Colombia (4,450,086), Italy (4,267,105), Spain (3,915,313), Germany (3,741,470) and Iran (3,327,526), the CSSE figures showed.

In terms of deaths, Brazil comes second with 530,179 fatalities.

Nations with a death toll of over 100,000 are India (405,028), Mexico (234,458), Peru (193,743), Russia (138,441), the UK (128,601), Italy (127,731), France (111,473) and Colombia (111,155).

Source: IANS

TRACKING THE VIRUS



GLOBAL

Cases | Deaths
185,500,538 | **4,009,084**

INDIA

Cases | Deaths
30,752,950 | **405,939**



Delta variant, first identified in India, now 'dominant' in US

The delta variant of the coronavirus disease (Covid-19) -- or B.1.617.2 -- first seen in India, will soon end up being the most dominant strain of the virus in the United States, news agencies reported on Thursday morning, adding that the delta variant constitutes almost half of the total infections in the country right now.

The delta Covid-19 variant makes up 30% of the total number of samples sequenced for the virus in the US over a two-week period ending June 19, said Jude Fulce, spokesperson at the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). She told the Bloomberg news agency that this number is likely to be 52% now, which will be confirmed once the data for the two-week period ending July 3 comes in.

So far, the 'alpha' variant of Covid-19, first identified in the United Kingdom, had been dominant in the US. Now alpha cases constitute 28.7% of the total cases -- a declining trend -- while delta variant cases are on the rise.

The data is a result of a study conducted by the CDC in which the health agency estimated proportions of the most common SARS-CoV-2 lineages circulating in the US on a bi-weekly basis. The virus sequences have been collected in the



national genomic surveillance since December last year.

The US CDC categorised the delta Covid-19 variant as a 'variant of concern' last month, noting that the extent to which the strain has affected the country varies across regions. While the delta variant constitutes 30% of the total Covid-19 infections in the Pacific Northwest, it ranges to more than 80% of the cases in the Midwestern region of the country. However, the variant has been found in every US state, officials confirmed.

The delta variant of the coronavirus disease is believed to be more potent than the earlier strains of the virus, in the sense that it is more infectious and lethal, leaving the younger population especially vulnerable.

Pfizer developing Covid booster shot to target delta variant

Pfizer and BioNTech announced Thursday, July 8, they are developing a Covid-19 booster shot intended to target the delta variant as concerns rise about the highly transmissible strain that is already the dominant form of the disease in the United States.

The companies said although they believe a third shot of their current two-dose vaccine has the potential to preserve the "highest levels" of protection against all currently known variants, including delta, they are "remaining vigilant" and developing an updated version of the vaccine.

"As seen in real world evidence released from the Israel Ministry of Health, vaccine efficacy has declined six months post-vaccination, at the same time that the Delta variant is becoming the dominate variant in the country," the companies said in a written statement.

"These findings are consistent with an ongoing analysis from the companies' Phase 3 study," they said. "That is why we have said, and we continue to believe that it is likely, based on the totality of the data we have to date, that a third dose may be needed within 6 to 12 months after full vaccination."



Clinical studies could begin as early as August, subject to regulatory approvals, the companies said.

The announcement comes the same day Olympics organizers said they are banning all spectators from the games this year after Japan declared a state of emergency that's meant to curb a wave of new Covid-19 infections due in part to the delta variant.

Delta is estimated by the World Health Organization to be about 55% more transmissible than alpha, the variant first found in the United Kingdom that once dominated the U.S. While current evidence shows Pfizer's is highly effective against delta in preventing severe disease and death, it may not protect as well against mild disease and spreading the disease to others, scientists say.

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Guide to ace the foxy eyeliner look

Makeup enthusiasts will understand the satisfaction of having aced a trend, especially something that has got to do with the eyes. It is said that eye makeup can make or break your look, and as such, it becomes important to have a clarity as to exactly what it is that you are looking to achieve.

Now, you must have come across the viral foxy-eye trend while scrolling through social media channels or flipping the pages of a magazine. Whatever may be your source, Samir Modi, the founder and managing director at Colorbar Cosmetics says it is "all about manipulating your eye shape for a lifted look, emphasising on the outer corners for a sultry effect. Overall, you get an end result similar to that of a subtle face-lift, but all with makeup."

How different is it from the winged eyeliner look?

Modi says unlike the winged eyeliner trend, "the straighter tip of the fox-eye helps to achieve a more slanted and almond-shaped look, while a curved wing rounds up the eye to make it appear larger".

- Start by taking a brown eyeshadow shade on the smallest size fluffy blending brush and create a line at the crease of your eyelid, while elongating up towards your temples at a 45-degree angle. Blend the edges of the line that you just created, maintain the overall shape and make sure there are no harsh lines.
- Grab your eyeliner in either a brown or black and make sure it has a superfine tip. Start with the inner corner or your eye and create a 'V' shape along the tear duct. Don't worry about any minor imperfections, you can always take a Q tip, soak makeup remover and touch it up.
- Now for the outer corner of your eye, you're going to take your eyeliner and start at the outermost corner of your eyelid and draw a straight low line and pull outward. Make sure the line is close to the lower lash line.



- You're now going to draw a line from your lower lash line or waterline and connect it to the line you have already created and then fill in the space. The result is that the angular triangle you create with your liner has its top edge connecting to your eyelid, but the bottom edge connected to the lower lid.

Ways you can enhance your eyeliner

- To enhance the look, you can use concealer or a Q tip soaked in makeup remover to sharpen the edge of your eyeliner.
- Go for a negative space triangle for a feline effect, or simply continue your top lid liner all the way towards the tear duct for a Cleopatra-esque definition.
- Add some single falsies to the outer corner of the lash line, to emphasise the length of the eye and if false lashes aren't for you, use a mascara that will flare your outer lashes.

Source: The Indian Express

FOOD CORNER

Moong Dal Pakodi



Ingredients

- Moong Dal - 1 cup, Onion - 1/4 cup, finely chopped, Green Chillies - 4, finely chopped, Baking Powder - a pinch, Salt as per taste, Cumin Seeds - 1/2 tsp, Coriander Leaves - few, Oil as required for frying

Method

- Soak the dal for 2 hours.
- Drain well.
- Add salt and grind to a coarse paste.
- Add green chillies, onion, coriander leaves, baking powder and cumin seeds.
- Heat oil in a deep frying pan.
- Make small balls of the dough and fry them in hot oil until golden brown.
- Remove and drain excess oil.
- Serve hot with sauce or mint chutney.

To make Moong Dal Pakodi Chaat

Ingredients

- Curd - 1 cup, whisked, Sev - 1 cup, Green Chutney for Chaat, Sweet Chutney, Coriander Leaves - few, chopped

Method

- Transfer the prepared pakodis to a plate.
- Add 2 to 3 tbsps of the whisked curd on top.
- Sprinkle sev. Garnish with green chutney, sweet chutney and coriander leaves.

Women who communicate with female friends have lower level of stress

It is believed that communication can solve many things. It not only rules out misunderstanding, but also allows you to explain yourself. And at times, a small chat with your friends can cheer you up in unexpected ways. Now recently, the Beckman Institute for Advanced Science and Technology researchers at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign learned that women who communicate with their female friends have lower level of stress hormone across the lifespan.

The study was published in the Journal of Women and Aging. It was titled 'What are friends for? The impact of friendship on communicative efficiency and cortisol response during collaborative problem solving among younger and older women.'

The study highlighted the key differences in the ways various age groups communicate. Along with this, one conversational component emerged that stands the test of time — friendship — specifically, bonds between two female individuals.

The study was led by former Beckman Institute postdoctoral researchers Michelle Rodrigues and Si On Yoon. Under their guidance, an interdisciplinary team studied and evaluated how interlocutors' age and



familiarity with one another affect a conversation. The overall effectiveness and stress responses of the interaction were reviewed and the results were generated. The foundation of this female-driven study is on two hypotheses.

First, being the tend-and-befriend hypothesis and the second is the socio-emotional selectivity hypothesis. The former one challenges the traditionally

masculine "fight-or-flight" dichotomy, while the latter postulates a social "pruning" as human beings with their increasing age pursue higher-quality circles of friends.

Rodrigues explained that women have evolved an 'alternative mechanism in response to stress.' According to him, in order to deal with stress, women can befriend their female peers. Both the above-stated theories were merged by the

interdisciplinary team and a single query came out, which read across women's lifespans, how are the tendencies to "tend and befriend" as well as socially select reflected in their communication?

A pool of 32 women, including 16 older adults (aged 62-79) and 16 younger adults (aged 18-25) participated in the research. Each participant was either paired with a friend or a stranger. The partnerships established between two individuals underwent a series of conversational challenges.

The research found that the younger adult pairs communicated efficiently with familiar partners as compared to their older counterparts. They communicated less efficiently with unfamiliar partners, while the older adults demonstrated conversational dexterity. It seems that the younger adults are a little more hesitant in trying to have communication with strangers, whereas the older adults have an easier time.

Along with many other observations included in the study, researchers have also noticed that friendship has the same effect throughout the lifespan. Rodrigues said that familiar partners and friendship buffer stress, and its preserved with age.

Milk chocolate at this time of day can help body burn fat

Eating milk chocolate every day may sound like a recipe for weight gain, but a study of postmenopausal women has found that eating a concentrated amount of chocolate during a narrow window of time in the morning may help the body burn fat and decrease blood sugar levels.

The study was published in The FASEB Journal.

To find out about the effects of eating milk chocolate at different times of day, researchers from Brigham collaborated with investigators at the University of Murcia in Spain.

Together, they conducted a randomized, controlled, cross-over trial of 19 postmenopausal women who consumed either 100g of chocolate in the morning (within one hour after waking time) or at night (within one hour before bedtime). They compared weight gain and many other measures to no chocolate intake.

Researchers report that among the women studied:

- Morning or night-time chocolate intake did not lead to weight gain;
- Eating chocolate in the morning or in the evening can influence hunger and appetite, microbiota composition, sleep and more;
- A high intake of chocolate during the morning hours could help to burn fat and



- reduce blood glucose levels. Evening/night chocolate altered next-morning resting and exercise metabolism.

Frank AJL Scheer, PhD, MSc, Neuroscientist and Marta Garaulet, PhD, Visiting Scientist, both of the Division of Sleep and Circadian Disorders, Departments of Medicine and Neurology, Brigham and Women's Hospital. Drs Scheer and Garaulet are co-corresponding authors of the study.

"Our findings highlight that not

only 'what' but also 'when' we eat can impact physiological mechanisms involved in the regulation of body weight," said Scheer.

"Our volunteers did not gain weight despite increasing caloric intake. Our results show that chocolate reduced ad libitum energy intake, consistent with the observed reduction in hunger, appetite and the desire for sweets shown in previous studies," said Garaulet.

Source: ANI



Delta variant 8 times less sensitive to vaccine antibodies: Study

The Delta variant of coronavirus is eight times less sensitive to antibodies generated by vaccines as compared to the original strain that came from China's Wuhan, according to a new study.

The study, which was conducted on more than 100 healthcare workers (HCWs) at three centres in India including Sir Ganga Ram Hospital (SGRH) here, found that the B.1.617.2 Delta variant not only dominates vaccine-breakthrough infections with higher respiratory viral loads compared to non-Delta infections (Ct value of 16.5 versus 19) but also generates greater transmission among the fully vaccinated HCWs.

The collaborative study, "Sars-Cov-2 B.1.617.2 Delta Variant Emergence and Vaccine Breakthrough: Collaborative Study", from India with scientists from Cambridge Institute of Therapeutic Immunology and Infectious Disease is yet to be peer-reviewed.

It revealed that in vitro, the Delta variant is approximately eight-fold less sensitive to vaccine-elicited antibodies compared to Wuhan-1.

"Across all scenarios considered, our results suggest the Delta variant is both more transmissible and better able to evade prior immunity elicited by the previous infection compared to previously circulating lineages," the findings of the study read.

Dr Chand Wattal, chairperson of the Institute of Clinical Microbiology and Immunology, SGRH, said, "From this study, it appears that we have miles to go before we sleep in case of Covid-19 pandemics. These mutations are bound to happen if we lower our guard and allow ourselves to fall prey to this virus, giving it an opportunity to multiply."

"This is a straight eye-opener to the fully vaccinated people that you cannot lower guard in the name of vaccination. The virus is on the prowl, still looking for its prey. This mutant has come back with enhanced spike proteins for attachment to the lung epithelial cells which have provided it with a much higher capacity to infect many more people than the Wuhan strain," he said.

Source: PTI

Physical activity helps avoid health issues related with poor sleep says study

A new study has found that those who had both the poorest sleep quality and who exercised the least were most at risk of death from heart disease, stroke, and cancer, prompting the researchers to suggest a likely synergy between the two activities.

The findings of the study were published in the British Journal of Sports Medicine.

Both physical inactivity and poor sleep are independently associated with a heightened risk of death and/or cardiovascular disease and cancer. But it's not clear if they might exert a combined effect on health.

To explore this further, the researchers drew on information provided by 380,055 middle-aged (average age 55) men and women taking part in the UK Biobank study. The UK Biobank is tracking the long-term health of more than half a million 37-73-year-olds, who were recruited from across the UK between 2006 and 2010.

Participants supplied information on their normal weekly physical activity levels, which were measured in Metabolic Equivalent of Task (MET) minutes. These are roughly equivalent to the amount of energy (calories) expended per minute of physical activity.

For example, 600 MET minutes a week is the equivalent of 150 minutes of moderate-intensity activity, or more than 75 minutes of vigorous-intensity physical activity a week.

Physical activity levels were categorised as: high



(1200 or more MET minutes/week); medium (600 to less than 1200); or low (1 to less than 600); and no moderate to vigorous physical activity, according to World Health Organization guidelines.

Sleep quality was categorised using a 0-5 sleep score derived from chronotype ('night owl' or 'morning lark' preference), sleep duration, insomnia, snoring, and daytime sleepiness: healthy (4); intermediate (2-3); or poor (0-1).

A dozen physical activity and sleep pattern combinations were derived from the information supplied.

Participants' health was then tracked for an average of 11 years up to May 2020 or death, whichever came first, to assess their risk of dying from any cause as well as from all types of cardiovascular disease; coronary heart disease; stroke; all types of cancer; and lung cancer.

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Apple Watch credited with saving woman's life in US: Report

The Apple Watch has again been credited with helping to detect a user's potentially life-threatening heart condition, media reports said.

Diane Feenstra from Michigan said her Apple Watch alerted her to an abnormally high heart rate, sending her to urgent care where an EKG revealed that she had had a recent heart attack without realising it, reports 9To5Mac.

"The day in question, April 22, I had 169 beats per minute heart rate even though the most vigorous exercise I had done was to walk up 12 steps. So I called my husband at work and said do you think this is concerning? And he said call your doctor," Feenstra told WZZM in an interview.

At the local urgent care centre, doctors performed an EKG, which revealed that Feenstra had recently had a heart attack without realising it.

According to the report, the symptoms of a heart attack may vary a lot in both men and women.

"I had pain going down my left hand, I had a little swelling in my left foot, I had indigestion that I just explained away as acid reflux that I was experiencing as I got older," Feenstra said.

"The biggest thing was a pain in my shoulder and I figured I had vacuumed and put my muscles out of whack somehow," she added.

Feenstra then visited a clinic located at Grand Rapids in Michigan where additional testing uncovered that she had a full blockage in the widow maker artery, following which she had a stent procedure done to rectify the situation. *Source: IANS*

Microsoft issues emergency update for PrintNightmare security flaw

Microsoft has released security updates for Windows users to patch a security flaw impacting the Windows Print Spooler service. The vulnerability called "PrintNightmare," that was discovered last week, allows attackers to remotely execute malicious code with system privileges and install programs, make changes in the existing programs, and create new accounts with full user rights. Microsoft has brought the emergency patch for all major Windows versions — starting from Windows 7 to Windows 10. Windows Server users have also been provided with specific security updates to fix the critical flaw.

The list of Windows versions that have received the security updates to patch the PrintNightmare vulnerability comprises Windows Server 2004, Windows Server 2008, Windows Server 2012, Windows Server 2012 R2, Windows Server 2016, Windows Server 2019, Windows 7, Windows RT 8.1, Windows 8.1, and Windows 10. Microsoft said that the updates contain protections for the issue that has been recorded as CVE-2021-34527.

Since the Windows Print Spooler service exists on all Windows versions, the vulnerability has impacted all Windows machines. However, the security updates list is currently limited to a few versions initially. Microsoft said that it would update the remaining Windows versions soon.

Meanwhile, users on a Windows machine that is yet to receive the security fix are recommended to manually disable the Print Spooler service or disable inbound remote printing. The Print Spooler can be disabled by passing the "Stop-Service -Name Spooler -Force" and



"Set-Service -Name Spooler -StartupType Disabled" commands through PowerShell.

Inbound remote printing, on the other hand, can be disabled by going to Computer Configuration > Administrative Templates > Printers and switching off the Allow Print Spooler to accept client connections option. You need to restart the Print Spooler service for the change to take effect.

The PrintNightmare flaw was reported by researchers at Chinese cybersecurity firm Sangfor Technologies last week. It is known as a remote code execution vulnerability that could be exploited to run arbitrary malicious code with system privileges. The flaw exists when the Windows Print Spooler service improperly performs privileged file operations, Microsoft explained.

Source: Gadgets360

Chinese researchers want to send over 20 rockets to deflect asteroids

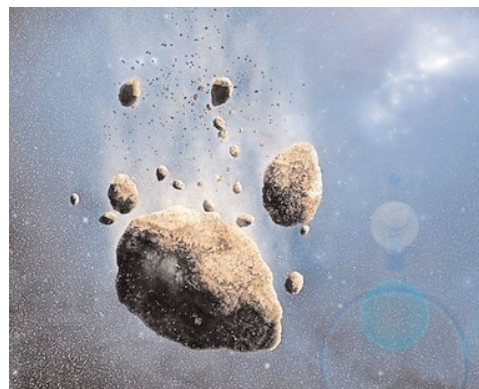
Chinese researchers want to send more than 20 of China's largest rockets to practice turning away a sizable asteroid - a technique that may eventually be crucial if a killer rock is on a collision course with Earth.

Sometime between late 2021 to early 2022, the United States will launch a robotic spacecraft to intercept two asteroids relatively close to Earth, reports Reuters.

When it arrives a year later, the NASA spacecraft will crash-land on the smaller of the two rocky bodies to see how much the asteroid's trajectory changes.

At China's National Space Science Center, researchers found in simulations that 23 Long March 5 rockets hitting simultaneously could deflect a large asteroid from its original path by a distance 1.4 times the Earth's radius.

Their calculations are based on an asteroid dubbed Bennu, orbiting the sun, which is as wide as the Empire State Building is tall. It belongs to a class of



rocks with the potential to cause regional or continental damage. Asteroids spanning more than 1 km would have global consequences.

China's National Space Science Center cited a recently published study in *Icarus*, a journal on planetary science. Long March 5 rockets are key to China's near-term space ambitions - from delivering space station modules to launching probes to the Moon and Mars.

This funny bug can disable Wi-Fi on iPhones

A security researcher has discovered a funny bug that can completely disable your iPhone's ability to connect to Wi-Fi.

Carl Schou said in a tweet that if an iPhone comes within range of a network named %secretclub%power, the device won't be able to use Wi-Fi or any related features.

He found that certain Wi-Fi networks with the percent symbol (%) in their names can disable Wi-Fi on iPhones and other iOS devices, reports 9to5Mac.

Once an iPhone or iPad joins the network with the name '%p%s%s%s%n', the device fails to connect to Wi-Fi networks or use system networking features like AirDrop.

The issue persists after rebooting the device.

The '%' symbol is commonly used in programming languages to format variables into an output string.

"In C, the '%n' specifier means to save the number of characters written into



the format string out to a variable passed to the string format function. The Wi-Fi subsystem probably passes the Wi-Fi network name (SSID) unsanitised to some internal library that is performing string formatting, which in turn causes an arbitrary memory write and buffer overflow," explained the report.

"This will lead to memory corruption and the iOS watchdog will kill the process, hence effectively disabling Wi-Fi for the user," it added.

Fitch slashes India's growth forecast to 10%

Fitch Ratings on Wednesday, July 7, cut India's growth forecast to 10% for the current fiscal, from 12.8% estimated earlier, due to slowing recovery post second wave of Covid, and said rapid vaccination could support a sustainable revival in business and consumer confidence.

In a report, the global rating agency said the challenges for banking sector posed by the coronavirus pandemic have increased due to a virulent second wave in the first quarter of the financial year ending March 2022 (FY22).

Fitch believes that rapid vaccination could support a sustainable revival in business and consumer confidence; however, without it, economic recovery would remain vulnerable to further waves and lockdowns.

It said localised lockdowns during the second wave kept economic activity from stalling to levels similar to those during 2020, but disruption in several key business centres has slowed the recovery and dented Fitch's expectations of a rebound to pre-pandemic levels by FY22. India's economy contracted 24.4% in June quarter of 2020.

Saudi Arabia pushes back on UAE opposition to OPEC+ deal

Saudi Arabia's energy minister pushed back against opposition by fellow Gulf producer the United Arab Emirates to a proposed OPEC+ deal and called for "compromise and rationality" to secure agreement when the group reconvenes. It was a rare public spat between allies whose national interests have increasingly diverged, spilling over into OPEC+ policy setting at a time consumers want more crude to aid a global recovery from the Covid-19 pandemic.

Zomato gets SEBI nod for Rs 8,250-cr IPO

Food delivery platform Zomato has received SEBI's nod to raise Rs 8,250 crore through an IPO.

The IPO comprises fresh issue of equity shares worth Rs 7,500 crore and an offer-for-sale to the tune of Rs 750 crore by Info Edge (India) Ltd, according to draft red herring prospectus. Zomato obtained its observation on July 2, an update with the regulator showed.

Google sued by 36 states over alleged Play Store abuses

Alphabet Inc.'s Google was sued by three dozen states alleging that the company illegally abused its power over the sale and distribution of apps through the Google Play store on mobile devices.

State attorneys general said in a complaint filed Wednesday in federal court in San Francisco that Google used anticompetitive tactics to thwart competition and ensure that developers have no choice but to go through the Google Play store to reach users. It then collects an "extravagant" commission of up to 30% on app purchases, the states said.

Google was accused of paying Samsung Electronics Co., the largest Android manufacturer, to ensure that the Korean company didn't develop its own competing app store. Additionally, after Fortnite maker Epic Games Inc. began distributing its app outside of Google's store, Google "bought off" developers to dissuade them from doing the same, according to the complaint. Details of those payouts were blacked out in the complaint.

The company said the lawsuit "gets it wrong" by limiting the definition of the app marketplace to Android devices



and ignoring that Google competes with Apple Inc. for developers and consumers.

"We don't impose the same restrictions as other mobile operating systems do," Wilson White, Google's Senior Director of Public Policy, said in a blog post. "So it's strange that a group of state attorneys general chose to file a lawsuit attacking a system that provides more openness and choice than others."

New York is leading the case with Utah, North Carolina and Tennessee.

"Google has served as the gatekeeper of the internet for many years, but more recently,

it has also become the gatekeeper of our digital devices --resulting in all of us paying more for the software we use every day," New York Attorney General Letitia James said in a statement.

The complaint, filed by 36 states and the District of Columbia, marks a new attack by government officials in the U.S. against the search engine's business practices. The Justice Department and a group of states filed separate complaints over Google's search business last year, while another state coalition sued over Google's digital advertising business.

Amazon begins new chapter as Bezos hands over CEO role

Amazon founder Jeff Bezos stepped down as CEO on Monday, handing over the reins as the company navigates the challenges of a world fighting to emerge from the coronavirus pandemic.

Andy Jassy, who ran Amazon's cloud-computing business, replaced Bezos, a change the company announced in February.

Bezos, Amazon's biggest shareholder with a stake worth about \$180 billion, will still hold sway over the company he started out of his Seattle garage in 1995. He takes over the role of executive chair, with plans to focus on new products and initiatives.

Jassy takes the helm of a \$1.7 trillion company that benefited greatly from the pandemic, more than tripling its profits in the first quarter of 2021 and posting record revenue as customers grew ever more dependent on online shopping.

Jaguar Land Rover sees chip shortage dent output, profits this fiscal year

Luxury carmaker Jaguar Land Rover Automotive Plc issued a profit warning on Tuesday citing the impact of semiconductor chip shortage on vehicle production, sending shares of its parent Tata Motors Ltd as low as 10%.

The British carmaker, which saw sales reviving over the last six months, said it will report a negative operating margin and an operating cash outflow of £1 billion this quarter. The company said it expects the supply of semiconductor-based parts to improve in the fiscal second half, though the problem will continue to impact vehicle production for the next year-and-a-half, until suppliers boost output.

Tata Motors shares recouped some of the losses later in the day, closing 8.14% lower on the BSE, while the benchmark Sensex remained unchanged. "The company had about £3.7 billion of cash and short-term investments (unaudited). Based on this and broadly in line with expectations given the supply constraints, the company expects to report a cash outflow of about £1 billion with a negative Ebit margin for the quarter. Total liquidity at the end of the first quarter was over £5.6 billion, including a £1.9 billion undrawn committed credit facility (RCF)," JLR said.



Didi plunges below IPO price as China expands crackdown

Didi Global Inc. plunged in U.S. trading as the ride-hailing company faced scrutiny over its data security and a broader Chinese crackdown on companies listing their shares abroad.

China's State Council issued a sweeping warning to China's biggest companies, vowing to tighten oversight of data security and overseas listings. That announcement followed the opening of a security review by China's internet regulator last week and a demand for app stores to remove Didi.

Didi's American depository shares fell 20% to \$12.49, wiping out about \$15 billion of market value and taking the stock below the \$14 price from its initial public offering. Beijing-based Didi controls almost the entire ride-hailing market in China and raised \$4.4 billion last week in the second-largest U.S. IPO for a Chinese firm.

The State Council's broadside marked an escalation in President Xi Jinping's campaign to bring the nation's technology firms -- and their reams of valuable data -- under control. Over the weekend, China also moved against two other companies that also recently listed in New York, -- Full Truck Alliance Co. and Kanzhun Ltd., Ltd. The warning "is aimed at securities violations, but it also makes special provisions for cross-border data supervision, which signals that data supervision has become one of the most important regulatory fields in China," said Xia Hailong, a lawyer at the Shanghai-based Shenlun law firm.

"Sine there is no mechanism in place for cross-border supervision of securities, conducting a security review on data could serve as an effective tool for Chinese regulators to rein in overseas listed companies," he said.

Source: Bloomberg

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
July 12 to 18, 2021**

Aries

This week you will enjoy living your life and relaxing because you will have the time to do what you love instead of slogging off constantly which you have been doing since quite a while now. Make sure you're focused on yourself this week and not on other people. As you spend your time in new adventures and exploring nature throughout the week you will learn more about yourself this week than you have in the last few weeks.

Taurus

Your health trouble you this week. You will feel a discomfort in your body, most likely your stomach, it is a sign that you need to stop eating poorly and irregularly. If you ignore the pain and discomfort, it will progressively keep getting worse, so you need to be disciplined in terms of eating well.

Gemini

You will come across a lot of people this week you will help you better your love life. This week is full of love and peace for you. This week is a great week for your love life as well. It would be good to love and most importantly be kind towards your partner this week.

Cancer

You will do great this week. Material security is on your way this week. This week you will realize the importance of your family as you will have gone through something very challenging and difficult in your life this week itself. Make sure to express your gratitude to them and apologies for your past mistakes genuinely.

Leo

You will have the time, space and finances to follow your passion this week. You will gain a lot of profit in your business this week which

will set a positive mood for the week. Your quality of work will significantly improve as you have invested a lot of time in learning new things. Your focus towards your goal as well as your patience is very commendable.

Virgo

You will look at the world with a unique new insight this week. You will notice that if you look out for the little good things that keep happening throughout the week. Life might be a little bit tough this week but you will realize that you are tougher than any circumstances or challenges that you come across you this week. You will be a force to reckon with in the face of adversities that you face this week and everything that you do in life will be an inspiration to all those around you from this point onwards.

Libra

Your business will seem to be improving this week as new clients arrive, and it is gradually improving in your favor. Discipline in your work must be maintained for you to see significant positive changes in your work. Your business will work out on its own with only a small amount of supervision needed from you. Outsourcing has worked in your favor, now all you need is management skills and discipline, patience, responsibility.

Scorpio

You might be feeling fit and fine mentally and even elated by the love that is being shown to you but physically your health will be like a leash to you which prevents you from having fun and living life to the fullest this week. Even though the trouble that you have in your health this week is quite temporary and won't go on to bother you as much as it does this week in the next few weeks but this week might be a slightly tough week for you.

Sagittarius

The positive aspect of your life this week is that you will learn to stand up for yourself and say no when you do not want to do anything. Standing up for yourself will help you to live life to the fullest this week. You will come across a lot of people this week; you will help you better your love life. This week is full of love and peace for you. This is a great week for you overall. It would be good to love and most importantly be kind towards everyone this week.

Capricorn

You may need to be a little pragmatic as you seem to be so overwhelmed with love, you need to think about taking the next step now. You also need to accept that both lovers are never similar hence deal with your differences with compassion and kindness. If you focus all your energies on the goal which you have set for yourself, you are bound to get success. During this time, you will do well in your professional life as financial abundance is in your sign's favor this week when comes to your business.

Aquarius

Your passion will shine through in everything that you do this week; You need to be fearless and bold in following your dreams this week. The risks that you took this week will work out in your favor this week. You will have the most fun this week more than any other week.

Pisces

You will come across someone you will be very interested in unexpectedly this week. Venus is in your favor this week. You will have wonderful adventures with your partner this week. You will need to put some effort to please your partner. But all in all, this will be a great week for you and your loved ones.

BIRTHDAY HOROSCOPE JULY 12 TO 18, 2021

By Astro Friend Chirag - Blessed Son of Astrologer Bejan Daruwalla

CONTD FROM PAGE 32

July 12

Your day will begin with a lot of surprises, sparkles and smiles. You will have the best day looking after the people you love. Even though as the day goes on you will have a lot of chores to do, you will enjoy the best today and you will realize how fulfilling your day has been today.

July 13

Today is a favorable day for you to start your own enterprise. There will be an inclination on your part to start a venture or setting up an agency that will take up quite a bit of investment but on the whole, it will be successful. You will only make life more difficult for yourself today if you indulge in eating foods you know you're not supposed to.

July 14

You will have a very positive day today. You will get what you're trying to accomplish by practicing gratitude and staying content, a feeling of gratitude and love will be consistent throughout the day. Get yourself more time to sleep to relax, rejuvenate, and recharge. Your body needs rest, and you need to give yourself some time off from the work and stress that you have been experiencing all along.

July 15

Today is the day it all starts getting better and then goes on to be better than you could have ever imagined. Luck will provide you with a lot of positive outcomes that you deserve today. If you do not let the stress and anxiety of the busy life get to you, you will have the best day today.

July 16

You will experience an exuberant day today. Which is relaxing easy and full of love for you? Your partner will

be very supportive of you throughout the day today and will do all that is required so that you can have some time for yourself. Use this time to recharge and rejuvenate.

July 17

Your business will take off on a new level just because of a single person in your team. You will reach new prospects due to this one person. Relaxing by meditating and doing what you love will be very important for you today as well as appreciate your business partner that is doing your business this good as they are the reason why your business is doing so good.

July 18

You will experience a minor yet significant profit that you have made, which will fill your day with joy today. You need to remember that there is work that needs to be done today and not spend the whole day celebrating the profit you have made today. To avoid overspending, investing all of your money immediately will be a great idea.

|| SHREE GANESHAY NAMA ||



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Jagannath Puri Rath Yatra: world's largest chariot festival



One of India's biggest religious festivals, the Jagannath Puri Rath Yatra, is unique in that three Hindu gods are taken out of their temples in a colorful procession to meet their devotees.

The biggest of these processions takes place in Puri in the eastern state of Orissa, while the other takes place in the western state of Gujarat.

Believed to be the oldest Rath Yatra or chariot procession in the world, this festival marks the annual ceremonial procession of Lord Jagannath, his elder brother Balabhadra and younger sister Subhadra, from their home temple to another temple, located in what is believed to be their aunt's home.

This journey is documented in undated Hindu sacred texts known as the Puranas which are believed to have been written a few thousand years ago.

However, the Supreme Court has rejected the petitions seeking permission to conduct the Rath Yatra this year at various places in Odisha apart from the Puri Jagannath temple where it has been allowed.

The religious festival will be held on 12 July. Last year too, the devotees were barred from taking part in the yatra due to Covid-19.

What makes it so interesting?

This is the only festival in the world where deities are taken out of temples to travel to devotees, and it is also the largest chariot procession in the world.

Millions of people come to watch as a "king" sweeps the road with a golden mop and three massive 18-wheeled chariots bearing the sibling deities make their way through massive crowds. Their chariots, which are mini architectural marvels, are constructed over 42 days from over 4,000 pieces of wood by the only family that has the hereditary rights to make them.

Legend says it always rains on the day of the procession. For a whole week before, the temple doors are shut and no one is allowed inside, because it is believed that the sibling deities have a fever after bathing in the sun with 108 pitchers of water. The breaking of their fever calls for a change of scene, which is why they go to their aunt's home for a few days.

The size, pomp and splendour of this procession has even contributed a word to the English dictionary: Juggernaut.

What is the legend of the sibling deities?

Unlike the ornate, carefully crafted metal idols everywhere else, these three deities are fashioned from wood, cloth and resin. They are malformed with large heads and no arms: reminders of the legend of an impatient King.

The legend begins in different ways.

One speaks of an arrogant Indrayumna, King of Puri in

the east, who tried to steal the Hindu god Krishna's heart. It had been immersed in the legendary Dwarka sea after his cremation and had reappeared to the tribes people of the place as an idol. When Indrayumna tried to claim its possession, the idol disappeared. The repentant king sought absolution from Krishna by sanctifying him in another form.

Another speaks of how Krishna's grief-struck siblings - his elder brother Balabhadra and younger sister Subhadra - rushed into the Dwarka sea carrying his half-cremated body. At the same moment, King Indrayumna dreamed that Krishna's body had floated back up on his shores as a log. The two legends merge here: Indrayumna decided to build a temple to house the log. His next task was to find someone to craft the idols from it. Legends say that Vishwakarma, God's own architect, arrived as an old carpenter. He agreed to carve the idols, but on the condition that he was not to be disturbed. However, when he did not emerge from his workshop for weeks, going without food, water or rest, a worried and impatient King threw the door open.

At the time the images were only half-finished, but the carpenter disappeared. Still, believing the idols to be made from the very body of God, the King sanctified them and placed them in the temple.

When the deities disintegrate, they are remade in the same half-done image with new wood every 12 years. They were last remade in 2015.

Why are there two rath yatras and how are they connected?

Dwarka in Gujarat - where Krishna's half-cremated body is believed to have been immersed into the ocean - is located on the west coast of India and Puri in Orissa - where it is said to have re-emerged as a log - is located in the east.

About 500 hundred years ago, a travelling Hindu saint and temple priest of a Hanuman temple in Gujarat, Shree Sarangdasji, arrived in Puri to offer prayers at the historic Jagannathan temple.

While sleeping at the temple guest house, it is believed that he received visionary instruction from Lord Jagannathan to go back to Ahmedabad in Gujarat and install three idols of Jagannathan, Balabhadra and Subhadra there. Carrying out the instructions received in his dream, he founded the Ahmedabad Jagannathan Temple.

By doing so, he sanctified the two locations - one where Krishna's mortal remains began their journey from the west, to their transformation as Puri's Lord Jagannathan in the east.

About 142 years ago, one of the founder's disciples, Shree Narsinhdasji Maharaj, began the Ahmedabad Rath

Yatra. The deities on chariots, pulled by elephants and humans, replicate their own journey in Puri, completing a set of rituals that sanctify the two places where Krishna's mortal remains are believed to have come to rest.

What happens to the chariots and elephants after the journey?

At the end of the festival, the chariots are dismantled and their wood is used as fuel in the temple kitchens - believed to be the largest in the world that cook 56 things every day and feed anywhere between 2,000 to nearly 200,000 people.

The elephants are returned to the lands managed by the temple trusts to roam free - until the procession the following year. This year's festival was, however, marred by controversy over the elephants.

Following the death of some of the temple elephants in Gujarat, there was massive outcry over plans to replace them with elephants from the north-eastern state of Assam.

The four elephants would have had to make a perilous train journey of more than 3,100km (1,926 miles) in heatwave conditions to participate in the festival.

This decision was suspended by a wildlife official after activists went to court.

Source: BBC

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"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."

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Popularly known as "God's Own Country", Kerala is one of the most sought after tourist destinations in the world. This exotic land is renowned for its rich cultural heritage, tropical climate, palm fringed beaches, misty hill stations, health resorts, wild life sanctuaries, enchanting art forms, grand festivals and, the serenity of the backwaters and the emerald blue Arabian Sea which promise an unforgettable holidaying experience to travellers. According to "National Geographic Travel", the leading travel Magazine, Kerala is one of the 50 must see destinations of a lifetime and one of the 10 paradises of the World.

Top Places to Visit

Munnar

Munnar is a popular hill station of Kerala perched at an altitude of 1600 metres in the Western Ghats. Famous for its tea estates, various shades of green, blankets of mist forming natural-view points, Munnar is aptly known as the 'Kashmir of South India'.

Munnar is a popular destination for a honeymoon with an abundance of resorts and cottages. Situated on the banks of three rivers- Madupetti, Nallathanni and Periyar.

Munnar is divided into Old Munnar, where the tourist information office is, and Munnar, where the bus station and most guest houses are located. The Eravikulam National Park, Salim Ali Bird Sanctuary and tea plantations are its major attractions.

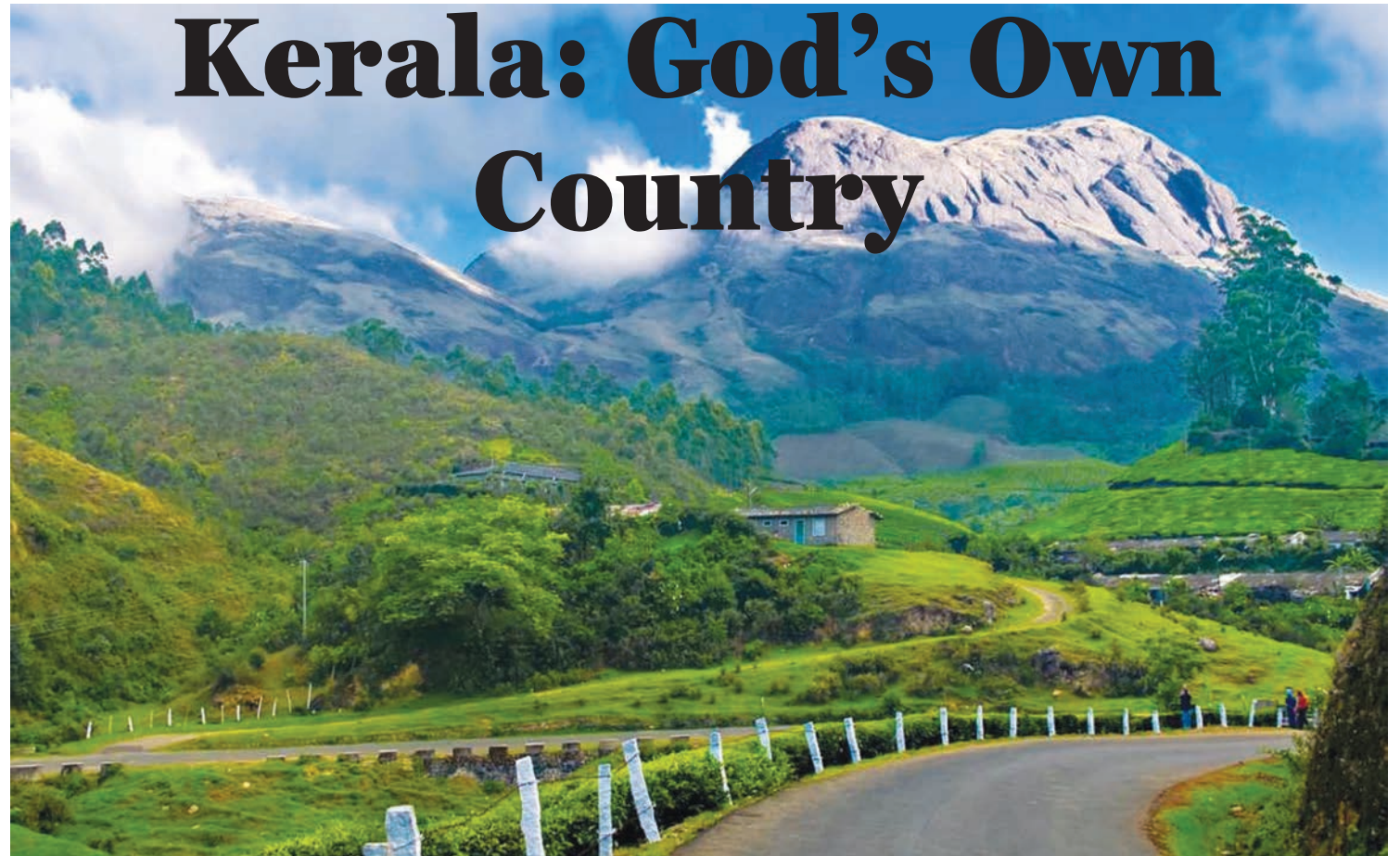
Alleppey

Officially called Alappuzha, Alleppey is the picture-perfect place known for its beautiful backwaters and the houseboats offering overnight stays. The coastline of Alleppey offers some of the best beaches in Kerala with water sports during the dry season.

Alleppey is located close to Kochi in the South Indian state of Kerala. Its palm-fringed inter-connect network of canal backwaters attracts a lot of tourists from all over the world. Coupled with other beautiful places in Kerala, Alleppey is often considered for a honeymoon or for a great family vacation.

There are plenty of houseboats, homestays, and rejuvenating Ayurvedic resorts that make staying in Alleppey brilliant. The houseboats pass through the serene backwaters, where you can catch glimpses of green paddy fields, choir-making activities, beautiful avifauna, and witness the life of locals in Kerala.

Be sure to catch a traditional snake



Kerala: God's Own Country

boat race in the months of August and September and try out some toddy (palm wine) at a local toddy shop for adding a touch of authenticity to your travel experience in Alleppey.

Wayanad

Replete with waterfalls, historical caves, comfortable resorts and homestays, Wayanad in Kerala is famous for its spice plantations and wildlife. Walking through the sprawling spice plantations, trekking to the pre-historic caves and experiencing a resort holiday are one of the many things you can do to get a taste of Wayanad.

Wayanad is best known for the wildlife reserves - Wayanad wildlife reserve which is home to an exquisite variety of flora and fauna. Wayanad wildlife reserve is an integral part of the Nilgiri biosphere reserve peacefully located amidst the serene hills of Western Ghats. Wayanad homes a wide variety of wildlife like elephants, leopards, and bears. Wayanad is a perfect weekend idea from the cities of South India. If taking a road trip from Bangalore, you will drive through three national parks: Nagarhole, Bandipur and Mudumalai.

Thekkady

Home to the country's largest Tiger Reserve- Periyar, Thekkady is a great way to enjoy a jungle vacation. Periyar National Park, being a major attraction, is one place where you can enjoy bamboo rafting in the catchment area of Mullaiperiyar Dam, hiking, and in the midst of the wilderness, shopping! Popular for its good eating joints, you can also enjoy its vast stretches of spice gardens and various adventure sports. You can also enjoy a night trek in the wilderness of Periyar. The early morning ride in the boat within the sanctuary is an extremely awesome experience and you might be able to spot wild elephants, bison, wild boars, various kinds of birds, etc. Anakarra is also located nearby which is a great place to enjoy nature. Murikaddy is located around 5 km from the city and is famous for coffee and spices plantations. Chellar Kovil is another area located nearby with a lot of picturesque waterfalls and cascades. Mangala Devi Temple, located at an altitude of 1337 m and at a distance of around 15km from Thekkady opens only on the Chitra Pournami Festival.

Varkala

Varkala is a coastal town in the southern part of Kerala known for the

unique 15m high 'Northern Cliff' adjacent to the Arabian Sea. It is popular for its hippie culture, shacks on the cliff serving great seafood and playing global music and the samadhi of Kerala's saint Sree Narayana Guru. Varkala is also known for Jardana Swami Temple, also known as Dakshin Kashi. Varkala has some of the best pristine beaches, hills, lakes, forts, lighthouses, natural fisheries and springs - all of this together makes this town a little paradise. You will also find a lot of shops with signboards in Hebrew selling Yoga mats, oxidised silver jewellery and harem pants made of cotton. Ayurvedic spas, affordable resorts, hostels, clean beaches make it a must-visit city of Kerala.

Poovar

Poovar is a small rustic town situated 27 kms from Thiruvananthapuram with unspoiled, unexplored golden sand beaches and beautiful backwaters of Kerala. Also known as a fishing village, the tranquil Poovar island lies between the Arabian Sea and the Neyyar River. Hiring a boat, (especially during the sunset) that will take you through the mangrove forest of backwaters is a must-do activity. The town has some of the beautiful resorts and hotels that are known for the hospitality they offer.



contd from page 1

India's PM Narendra Modi in a...

Modi's government has faced sharp criticism for the chaotic rollout of a nationwide immunization campaign that experts said had worsened the impact of the second wave, killing hundreds of thousands.

The official death toll after a surge in COVID-19 infections in April and May passed 400,000 last week.

More than half of those reported deaths – the third most of any country – occurred during the past two months as the Delta variant of the virus tore through the nation and overwhelmed its already strained healthcare system.

Experts believe the actual number may be much higher and there are fears of a third wave soon. Millions remain unvaccinated.

The reshuffle also comes after the defeat of Modi's Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) in April elections in the key West Bengal state.

Modi will face another major test of his popularity in state elections in Uttar Pradesh, Goa, Manipur, Punjab and Uttarakhand states in February and March next year, which may prove to be a bellwether for his party in 2024 national elections.

Read related stories on page 14

Indian American Astronaut Sirisha...

While boss Branson will be testing the private astronaut experience, Bandla, Vice President of Government Affairs and Research Operations at Virgin Galactic, will be evaluating the human-tended research experience.

Andhra, India born Bandla will be using an experiment from the University of Florida that requires several handheld fixation tubes that will be activated at various points in the flight profile

"I am so incredibly honored to be a part of the amazing crew of #Unity22, and to be a part of a company whose mission is to make space available to all," she tweeted.

Bandla will be the third Indian American woman to fly into space after Karnal, India, born Kalpana Chawla and Sunita Williams.

Building on the success of the Company's most recent spaceflight in May, Unity 22 will focus on cabin and customer experience objectives, including:

- Evaluating the commercial customer cabin with a full crew, including the cabin environment, seat comfort, the weightless experience, and the views of Earth that the spaceship delivers — all to ensure every moment of the astronaut's journey maximizes the wonder and awe created by space travel

- Demonstrating the conditions for conducting human-tended research experiments

- Confirming the training program at Spaceport America supports the spaceflight experience

For the first time, Virgin Galactic will share a global livestream of the spaceflight. The livestream will be available to watch on Virgin Galactic.com and will be simulcast on the Virgin Galactic Twitter, YouTube, and Facebook channels. It is expected to begin at 7:00 am MDT / 9:00 am EDT on the day of the flight.

Branson said: "I truly believe that space belongs to all of us. After more than 16 years of research, engineering, and testing, Virgin Galactic stands at the vanguard of a new commercial space industry, which is set to open space to humankind and change the world for good."

"It's one thing to have a dream of making space more accessible to all; it's another for an incredible team to collectively turn that dream into reality," he said.

"As part of a remarkable crew of mission specialists, I'm honored to help validate the journey our future astronauts will undertake and ensure we deliver the unique customer experience people expect from Virgin."

Previously, Bandla served as the Associate Director for the Commercial Spaceflight Federation, an industry association of commercial spaceflight companies.

At CSF, Bandla works on various policies with the

aim to promote the commercial space industry and make commercial spaceflight a reality. Before CSF, she worked as an aerospace engineer designing components for advanced aircraft at L-3 Communications in Greenville, Texas.

She has a Bachelor of Science degree in aeronautical/astronautical engineering from Purdue and holds a Masters of Business Administration from George Washington University.

Bandla currently serves on the Board of Directors for the American Astronautical Society, Future Space Leaders Foundation, and is a member of the Young Professional Advisory Council at Purdue University. Bandla also helps to coordinate the Matthew Isakowitz Fellowship Program.

Meanwhile, Bandla's grandparents back in Andhra Pradesh are flooded with phone calls and messages showering their blessings and wishing her the best, according to the Indian Express.

Bandla Ragaiah, her paternal grandfather based in Guntur, says it was at the age of four years that Sirisha, who was always curious about flying and had her eyes set on the skies, took to her first adventure.

"At the age of four, she travelled alone to the US where her parents and older sister lived," the 83-year-old who worked as a principal scientist and professor at state-run Acharya NG Ranga Agriculture University told Indianexpress.com over the phone.

"Though the person who accompanied her was known to us, he was a stranger to her. She was not scared to fly alone. She was excited," he said.

Ragaiah is happy and proud that his granddaughter is set to achieve her dreams. He recalls her as a child who was decisive in her thoughts and determined to achieve them.

"We don't know how she got interested in aircraft, stars and skies. It has been in her since childhood. Whatever she has achieved today is on her own accord and her parents gave her full freedom to pursue her dream. She has proved her excellence and rose to the occasion,"

Ragaiah was quoted as saying.

Her maternal grandfather, Venkat Narasiah, who retired as a Chemistry professor and lives at Tenali in Prakasam district of Andhra Pradesh, echoed similar views.

He recalled that Bandla used to visit NASA during the family's stay in Houston. "She was so interested in flying an aircraft that even after she could not make it to NASA due to a condition in her eyesight, she pursued higher education in the same field. For those like her, she has done videos on YouTube — 'lessons from Bandla Sirisha' on how to get into the Space industry," Narasiah told Indianexpress.com.

Both her grandparents agree that Sirisha was a fearless and active child. "When I used to come home late at night, I used to discourage her from stepping out. But she would always tell me not to worry and that she could take care of herself," said Ragaiah.

"Even during a power cut when other children of her age would be scared of the pitch darkness around, she was not one of them," Narsiah added.

Dr. Anupama Gotimukula is the New...

During a solemn ceremony attended in person by hundreds of AAPI delegates from around the nation at the Omni Atlanta, outgoing AAPI President Dr. Sudhakar Jonnalagadda passed on the gavel to Dr. Gotimukula. "I am happy to declare that AAPI is stronger and is going to be in safe hands, as I pass on the traditional gavel to Dr. Anupama Gotimukula, the new President of AAPI," he said.

"We came to the US pursuing the American Dream," said the fourth woman President of AAPI in its 39 years long history in her inaugural address, noting AAPI helps "to elevate the voice of Indian Americans everywhere." "Through hard work and a bit of luck, most of us achieved that dream and have become successful and caring doctors who play a crucial role in the American healthcare system," she said.

"We serve patients. Raise money for local causes.

Contribute to our education system and improve the lives of millions of Americans," Gotimukula said.

"We joined AAPI to socialize and meet others like us and in that journey learned that through this wonderful organization, we were able to make a bigger impact with the many academic, philanthropic and social initiatives."

Acknowledging and thanking "our founding members and all the past leadership of AAPI who contributed to the growth of the organization," Dr. Gotimukula said, "We stand on the shoulders of our predecessors."

They "fought the good fight in bringing AAPI to where we stand today; vibrant, strong, healthcare heroes being recognized and valued by our peers, communities and most importantly the patients."

Healthcare professionals have made a significant difference in fighting the Covid-19 pandemic, Dr. Gotimukula noted.

"AAPI and our members have been on the frontlines serving patients, working with local public health authorities donating and distributing resources such as PPEs, critical hospital supplies as well as most recently providing much needed oxygen concentrators and ventilators in India.

"You are truly healthcare heroes who stood up and risked your lives to serve when it was most needed. A value that is not just American but also something we brought along from our motherland of India," she said.

Dr. Gotimukula has a new Executive Committee, consisting of Dr. Ravi Kolli, President-Elect; Dr. Anjana Samadder, Vice President; Dr. Satheesh Kathula, Secretary; Dr. Krishan Kumar, Treasurer; Dr. Kusum Punjabi, Chair, Board of Trustees; Dr. Soumya Neravetla- President, Young Physicians Section; and, Dr. Ayesha Singh, President, Medical Student/Residents & Fellows Section.

Dr. Gotimukula will lead AAPI as its President in the year 2021-2022, the largest Medical Organization in the United States, representing the interests of the over 100,000 physicians and Fellows of Indian origin in the United States, serving the interests of the Indian American physicians in the US and in many ways contributing to the shaping of the healthcare delivery in the US for the past 39 years.

"As we look forward to the future beyond Covid-19, we at AAPI have so much more room to grow and serve," Dr. Gotimukula said outlining her vision to make AAPI a premium healthcare leader, primarily focusing to improve and reform the current healthcare system.

I challenge myself, my Executive Committee, and you all, my AAPI colleagues, to rise up to the task of building on our accomplishments and successes over the last several years. My team and I have defined several goals for this year to further AAPI's mission, along three key dimensions."

"As one of the biggest stakeholders in the current healthcare system, there is an urgent need for Healthcare & Societal Reform, she said. "We need to be a part of the change we want in our healthcare system."

Dr. Gotimukula urged AAPI to "improve health equity; get rid of discrimination; fight South Asian racial bias; reduce physician burnout; and improve the career trajectory of the younger generation of Indian American doctors who will be taking care of us as we age." A resident of San Antonio, Texas, Dr. Gotimukula is a board certified pediatric anesthesiologist, practicing since 2007, is affiliated with Christus Santa Rosa, Baptist and Methodist Healthcare systems in San Antonio.

After graduating with distinction from Kakatiya Medical College, NTR University of Health Sciences in India, she did Residency at University of Miami & University of Illinois, and Fellowship in Pediatric Anesthesiology at University of Michigan.

A resident of San Antonio, Texas, Dr. Gotimukula is a board certified pediatric anesthesiologist, practicing since 2007, is affiliated with Christus Santa Rosa, Baptist and Methodist Healthcare systems in San Antonio.

(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)

New-look England thrash Pakistan in ODI opener

England's makeshift one-day international team put the COVID-19 issues that hit the previous squad behind them to bowl out Pakistan for 141 runs before cruising to a clinical nine-wicket win in the series opener in Cardiff on Thursday, July 8.

Stand-in skipper Ben Stokes led an entirely fresh England XI, including five debutants, after a COVID-19 outbreak in the squad during the recent series win over Sri Lanka meant all 16 players initially selected had to self-isolate.

But the revamped hosts were on the front foot from the start, with paceman Saqib Mahmood marking his return to the side with four wickets for 42 to help bowl out Pakistan with just under 15 overs to spare.

Chasing 142 for a 1-0 lead in the three-match series, England lost Phil Salt in the fifth over before fellow opener Dawid Malan and Zak Crawley steadied the ship.

Federer unsure if he'll be back

Roger Federer has been feted by plenty of ovations at Wimbledon's Centre Court. None quite like this one, though. This was not a celebration and didn't come at the end of the match.

Instead, it delayed the beginning of what turned out to be the last game of his quarterfinal loss and felt more like a "thank you" or — just in case — a "goodbye." And Federer acknowledged afterward he isn't sure whether he'll be back.

The eight-time champion at the All England Club bowed out 6-3, 7-6 (4), 6-0 against 14th-seeded Hubert Hurkacz of Poland on Wednesday, a surprisingly lopsided finish to Federer's 22nd appearance in the tournament.

Asked whether it also might have been his last appearance here, he replied: "I don't know. I really don't know. I've got to regroup."

As for whether retirement is an immediate possibility, he offered this: "No, I hope not. ... The goal is to play, of course."

That likely was on thousands of minds in the stadium when Federer stepped to the baseline to serve while trailing 5-0 in the third set: He waited while fans in the full-to-capacity stands applauded and cheered, some rising to their feet.

Soon enough, it was over; only the third shutout set ceded by Federer in 429 career Grand Slam matches; both of the others came at the French Open.

"The last few games, obviously, you can feel that you're not coming back from it," said Federer, who spoke steadily and did not betray any emotion in his news conference.

"I'm not used to that kind of situation, obviously, very much. Especially not here."

England outlasts Denmark in Euro 2020 semifinal, will meet Italy for championship

LONDON (TIP): After five decades of heartbreak and anguish, of shootout defeats and unfulfilled dreams, England again will play for a major men's soccer trophy.

The Three Lions on Wednesday, July 7, took another step toward their first title since the 1966 World Cup, defeating Denmark, 2-1, in extra time at Wembley Stadium to advance to the European Championship final.

On Sunday, July 11, they will return to the famous venue in northwest London to face Italy, which advanced Tuesday with a penalty-kick triumph over Spain.

"They can see what it's meant to the whole country and what it's meant to the fans in the stadium," said Coach Gareth Southgate, who guided England to the 2018 World Cup semifinals in Russia. "I've never known the new Wembley like this. Nights like tonight make it all worthwhile."

England has not witnessed its national team in a major final since it won the World Cup at home 55 years ago — an eternity for a country that invented the modern game in the 19th century and boasts the sport's most popular club circuit, the Premier League.

It will mark England's first appearance in the Euro final in 10 attempts. (It lost in the semifinals twice.)

"We know we haven't won nothing yet, but you have to enjoy winning," said striker Harry Kane, who scored the winning goal on a rebound of his saved penalty kick in the 104th minute. "There is always that feeling in the back of your mind we've got one more to go, so you



Harry Kane and teammates celebrate his extra time goal.

don't want to get too carried away. ... We're obviously excited about a final on our home ground."

The outcome ended an emotional ride for Denmark, a decided tournament underdog that, in its group opener last month in Copenhagen, watched in horror as star midfielder Christian Eriksen suffered a cardiac arrest on the field. His life was saved by teammates and medics.

The Danes lost their first two matches before winning three straight and getting within two victories of repeating their 1992 European crown.

"We needed the support. We needed the empathy when that happened with

Christian," Coach Kasper Hjulmand said. "We have received a lot of love and support. It was an amazing feeling. These guys are outstanding. The whole nation should be proud."

The outcome was not without controversy. Although England was the better side in the second half and extra time, following a 1-1 draw through 45 minutes, the deciding goal came after referee Danny Makkelie awarded a questionable penalty kick.

England's Raheem Sterling tumbled in the box after light contact, and following Makkelie's ruling, video review upheld the call.

No spectators for Tokyo Olympics 2021 as Japan declares state of emergency

TOKYO (TIP): With Covid-19 infections rising, the Japanese government has announced a state of emergency in the country to contain the spread. It has also been announced by the International Olympic Committee and Japanese organizers that fans will be barred from the Tokyo Olympics as the administration look to contain the virus.

The widely expected move was made following talks between the government, Tokyo organisers and Olympic and paralympic representatives.

It was "regrettable" that the Games were going to be held in a limited format, Tokyo 2020 President Seiko Hashimoto told a briefing, adding her apologies to those who had bought tickets.

Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga said it was essential to prevent Tokyo, where the highly infectious Delta COVID-19 variant was spreading, from becoming the source of another wave of infections.

The ban all but robs the Tokyo Games, which are scheduled to run from July 23 to August 8, of their last hope for pomp and public spectacle.

Once seen as a chance for Japan to stand large on the global stage after a devastating earthquake a decade ago, the showpiece event was delayed by the pandemic last year and has been hit by massive budget overruns.

Karolina Pliskova rallies to reach first Wimbledon final

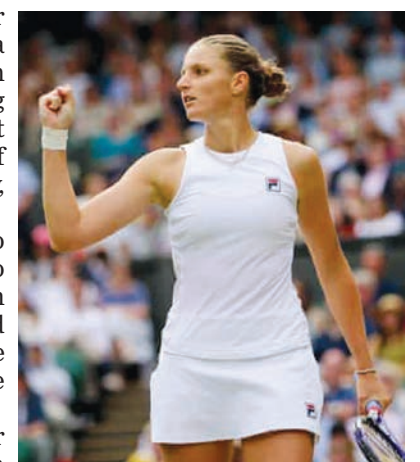
LONDON (TIP): Former world number one Karolina Pliskova reached her maiden Wimbledon final after coming back from a set down to beat second seed Aryna Sabalenka of Belarus 5-7 6-4 6-4 on Thursday, July 8.

The Czech goes into Saturday's decider looking to capture her first Grand Slam title, having only ever reached one other final when she finished runner-up to Angelique Kerber at the 2016 U.S. Open.

Pliskova will face another Wimbledon final debutant in world number one Ash Barty, who beat Kerber earlier on Thursday.

The 29-year-old Pliskova found it hard going against Sabalenka, the first seeded player she had faced in this year's tournament, and it showed as she dropped her first set on the only break point she faced with a double fault.

She made inroads on Sabalenka's booming serve, which reached speeds of 193 kilometres per hour, to clinch a break to love midway through the second set. It was her ninth break point of the match but the first she converted, giving her the confidence to serve out the set and level the score.



History this week: July 9-15

July 9

JULY 9, 1868 - The 14th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution was ratified. The Amendment defined U.S. citizenship and prohibited individual States from abridging the rights of any American citizen without due process and equal protection under the law. The Amendment also barred individuals involved in rebellion against the U.S. from holding public office.

July 10

JULY 10, 1943 - The Allied invasion of Italy began with an attack on the island of Sicily. The British entry into Syracuse was the first Allied success in Europe. General Dwight D. Eisenhower labeled the invasion "the first page in the liberation of the European Continent."

JULY 10, 1973 - The Bahamas gained their independence after 250 years as a British Crown Colony.

JULY 10, 1991 - Boris Yeltsin took the oath of office, becoming the first popularly elected president in Russia's thousand-year history.

BIRTHDAY - Theologian and founder of Presbyterianism, John Calvin (1509-1564) was born in Noyon, France.

BIRTHDAY - American artist James Whistler (1834-1903) was born in Lowell, Mass. He is best remembered for his portrait Whistler's Mother.

BIRTHDAY - French author Marcel Proust (1871-1922) was born near Paris. "Happiness," he wrote in *The Past Recaptured*, "is beneficial for the body but it is grief that develops the powers of the mind."

Birthday



Arthur Ashe

Tennis player Arthur Ashe (1943-1993) was born in Richmond, Virginia. He won a total of 33 titles including the U.S.

men's singles championship and U.S. Open in 1968 and the men's singles at Wimbledon in 1975. As a pioneering African American athlete, he fought against racism and stereotyping and was arrested numerous times while protesting. In 1992, he announced he had likely contracted HIV through a transfusion during heart surgery. He then began a \$5 million fundraising effort on behalf of the Arthur Ashe Foundation for the Defeat of AIDS and campaigned for public awareness regarding the dreaded disease. He died from pneumonia in New York, February 6, 1993.

July 11

BIRTHDAY - John Quincy Adams (1767-1848) the 6th U.S. President, and son of the 2nd President, John Adams, was born in Braintree, Massachusetts. After serving just one term as President, he served 17 years as a member of Congress. He died in 1848 while in the House of Representatives in the same room in which he had taken the presidential Oath of Office. He was the first president whose father had also been president.

July 12

JULY 12, 1943 - During World War II, in the Battle of Kursk, the largest tank battle in history took place outside the small village of Prohorovka, Russia. About nine hundred Russian tanks attacked an equal number of German tanks fighting at close range. When Hitler ordered a cease-fire, 300 German tanks remained strewn over the battlefield.

JULY 12, 1994 - Germany's Constitutional Court ended the ban on sending German troops to fight outside the country. The ban had been in effect since the end of World War II. The ruling allowed German troops to join in United Nations and NATO peace-keeping missions. On July 14, German military units marched in Bastille Day celebrations in Paris, the first appearance of German troops there since World War II.

BIRTHDAY - British pottery designer Josiah Wedgwood (1730-1795) was born in Burslem, Staffordshire, England.

Birthday



Henry David Thoreau

American philosopher Henry David Thoreau (1817-1862) was born in Concord, Massachusetts. At Walden Pond he wrote, "I frequently tramped eight or ten miles through the deepest snow to keep an appointment with a beech tree, or a yellow birch, or an old acquaintance among the pines."

July 13

JULY 13, 1787 - Congress enacted the Northwest Ordinance establishing formal procedures for transforming territories into states. It provided for the eventual establishment of three to five states in the area north of the Ohio River, to be considered equal with the original 13. The Ordinance included a Bill of Rights that guaranteed freedom of religion, the right to trial by jury, public education and a ban on slavery in the Northwest.

July 14

JULY 14, 1789 - The fall of the Bastille occurred at the beginning of the French Revolution.

JULY 14, 1791 - In England, the Birmingham riot occurred on the second anniversary of the fall of the Bastille. Mob rule lasted for three days, targeting controversial scientist and theologian Joseph Priestly's home and laboratory as well as the homes of his friends. Priestly, who had expressed support for the American and French revolutions, fled to London with his family and later moved to America.

BIRTHDAY - American folk singer and social activist Woody Guthrie (1912-1967) was born in Okemah, Oklahoma. Best known for *This Land Is Your Land*,

Union Maid, and *Hard Traveling*.

Birthday



Gerald R. Ford

Gerald R. Ford, the 38th U.S. President was born in Omaha, Nebraska, July 14, 1913 (as Leslie King). In 1973, he was appointed vice president following the resignation of Spiro T. Agnew. He became president on August 9, 1974, following the resignation of Richard M. Nixon. He was the first non-elected vice president and non-elected president of the U.S.

July 15

July 15, 1918 - During the Battle of the Marne in World War I, German General Erich Ludendorff launched Germany's fifth, and last, offensive to break through the Chateau-Thierry salient. However, the Germans were stopped by American, British and Italian divisions. On July 18, General Foch, Commander-in-Chief of the Allied troops, launched a massive counter-offensive. The Germans began a retreat lasting four months until they requested an armistice in November.

BIRTHDAY - Dutch painter Rembrandt van Rijn (1606-1669) was born in Leiden, Holland. Best known for *The Night Watch* and many portraits and self-portraits.

BIRTHDAY - The first American saint, Frances Xavier Cabrini (1850-1917) was born in Lombardy, Italy. She was the founder of the Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart of Jesus and established Catholic schools, orphanages, convents and hospitals. She was canonized, July 7, 1946, by Pope Pius XII.

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Message from Peter J. McDonnell, M.D. Director Wilmer Eye Institute, Johns Hopkins University, USA on the occasion of laying the foundation stone on December 10, 2020



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