



MODI HOLDS FIRST BILATERAL MEETING WITH PRESIDENT BIDEN; DISCUSSES INDO-PACIFIC, CLIMATE AND COVID

TIP SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

WASHINGTON, DC (TIP): Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday, September 24, described as "outstanding" his first bilateral meeting with US President Joe Biden who said the Indo-US relationship is destined to be "stronger, closer and tighter" as the two leaders discussed a wide range of issues, including combating COVID-19, climate change, trade and the Indo-Pacific.

President Biden, who welcomed Prime Minister Modi in the Oval Office of the White House said that today they are starting a new chapter in US-India relationship.

Observing that he has long believed that the US, India relationship can help them solve global challenges, Biden in his opening remarks before a battery of India and American media said they are



PM Modi and President Biden hold their first bilateral meeting at the White House on September 24

now "are launching a new chapter in history of India US ties, taking on some of the toughest challenges we face together."

And this starts with a shared commitment to end COVID-19, he said.

Prime Minister Modi, who is visiting the US for the 7th time after assuming office in 2014, described Friday's bilateral meeting with Biden that lasted more than 60 minutes as "important" as they're meeting at the start of the third decade of this century.

"Your leadership will certainly play an important role in how this decade is shaped. The seeds have been sown for an even stronger friendship between India and the US," Prime Minister Modi told Biden.

CONT'D ON PAGE 38

VP Harris in her first meeting with PM Modi talks about defending democracies



PM Modi (left) and VP Harris at the joint media appearance before their first in-person meeting, September 23

TIP SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

WASHINGTON, DC (TIP): Voicing concern over the threat to democracies around the world, Vice President Kamala Harris on Thursday, September 23,

underscored the need to defend democratic principles and institutions in both India and the US.

CONT'D ON PAGE 38

Our diversity is the identity of our strong democracy, says PM Modi at UNGA



Prime Minister Narendra Modi addresses the 76th session of the United Nations General Assembly in New York on September 25, 2021

UNITED NATIONS (TIP): Prime Minister Narendra Modi, in his address to the 76th session of the UNGA on September 25, 2021, said that countries with "regressive thinking" that are using terrorism as a "political tool" must understand that it is an equally big threat for them also.

Mr. Modi said that he represents a country which is proud to be known as the mother of democracy and cited his own rise from a tea seller at a railway station to the Prime Minister of India to underscore the strength of India's democracy.

"I represent a country that is proud to be known as the mother of democracy. On 15th of August this year, India entered into the 75th year of its independence," he said.

CONT'D ON PAGE 38

FIX TIMEFRAME FOR UNSC REFORMS: G4

JAISHANKAR ADDRESSES G20 MEETING ON AFGHANISTAN ISSUE

TIP SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW YORK (TIP): The G4 has called for concrete outcomes in a fixed timeframe on the measures to reform the UN Security Council. "With G4 Foreign Ministers Heiko Mass, Motegi and Carlos Franca, sent a clear message on the need for reformed multilateralism," said External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar after meeting his German, Japanese and Brazilian counterparts in New York.

All four members of G4 are aspirants for permanent seats on the UN Security Council. In making their claims,

India cites its large population and economic strength and Brazil's absence of a Latin American nation among the five permanent members (P-5) while Japan and Germany feel the UNSC has rewarded only the victors of World War II.

Jaishankar also addressed the G20 Foreign Ministers' meeting on Afghanistan where he said assistance providers must be accorded unimpeded, unrestricted and direct access. Taliban's commitment not to allow use of Afghan soil for terrorism should be implemented and the government must have representation from all sections of Afghan society.



The G4 has called for concrete outcomes in a fixed timeframe on the measures to reform the UN Security Council. Seen in the picture are the G4 Foreign Ministers Jaishankar, Heiko Mass, Motegi and Carlos Franca - Photo / PTI

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-: EDITORIAL :-*Quad or AUKUS - India needs to review its involvement in blocs***PROF. I.S. SALUJA**

The interests of the US and India find convergence on the issue of threats to the two countries from terrorists in Pak supported Afghanistan. US may be worried Afghanistan could become a source of another 9/11. India, already being harassed by Pakistan in Kashmir, is naturally concerned with the emergence of the Mullah power in Afghanistan. It is a good reason for the two countries to come closer because of the recent developments in Afghanistan and Pakistan's efforts to seek control of the government in Afghanistan via the Haqqani group that Pakistan has supported and promoted over

decades.

US has always needed allies to fight its battles and protect its interests. China is the main challenger to America's economic and military power. America must contain China. India fits into the American scheme. India has a long history of border dispute with China. Again, China is supportive of India's sworn enemy - Pakistan. Weakening of China will mean weakening of Pakistan. India may also be viewing China as too formidable an economic power to allow India to have the kind of influence it is eying to have in the region. So, India will support any nation or

group of nations which might checkmate China.

We know of traditional rivalry between China and Japan.

As for Australia, it is a country living in fear of being overwhelmed by China. So, with support coming from the US, the neighboring economic giant Japan and a willing collaborator India, Australia hopes to keep China on the leash.

We only hope India will weigh coolly what is in its best interests, and not become a pawn in the hands of the individual nations or blocs.

-: GUEST COMMENTS :-*Death of a Mahant***ENSURE PUNISHMENT TO CRIMINALS IN HOLY ROBES**

heart of the discord.

The mysterious death of Mahant Narendra Giri, president of the Akhil Bharatiya Akhara Parishad, allegedly by his own hand, yet again proves that self-confessed devotion to God and spiritualism doesn't make even religious leaders immune from greed and crime. The body of the 75-year-old Mahant Giri was found hanging from a fan on Monday at Prayagraj's Baghambari Math - one of the country's 13 main akharas, or monasteries - which he headed. The police found a suicide note, purportedly written by the mahant, in which he accused a disciple, Anand Giri, of harassing him. Later, the police found a video recording in which the mahant made the same accusation against Anand Giri. Though investigations are at a preliminary stage, it is evident that the two were at loggerheads over no spiritual matter - the control of the temple and monastery lands, worth hundreds of crores of rupees, seems to have been at the

Religious figures, enjoying unparalleled respect and devotion of their



congregations, and the economic benefits

Mahant Narendra Giri - File photo

that come along with heading religious centers, are often tempted by the ultimate sins of greed and lust. In recent past, we have seen this in the cases of Gurmeet Ram Rahim, Asaram Bapu and Franco Mulakkal, the former Jalandhar Bishop who was accused of rape or sexual misconduct by multiple women. Investigation and assured punishment in this world, rather than the next one, may deter criminals in holy robes.

(Tribune, India)*Capt Amarinder Singh's unceremonious exit as the Punjab Chief Minister is a new low for the self-destructive Congress. - File photo*

The party stirred a hornets' nest two months ago when it elevated Navjot Singh Sidhu as the PPCC chief, overriding objections by Capt Amarinder. If the top brass had wanted Sidhu to be the CM face, it should have made things clear right from the outset. Giving Sidhu carte blanche to take potshots at the CM was an invitation to disaster. The feeble, unconvincing attempts to bring about a patch-up between Capt Amarinder and Sidhu only made things worse.

The high command's lackadaisical approach can be gauged from the fact that it set up the election manifesto implementation committee in Punjab as late as January 2020, almost three years after Capt Amarinder led the party to a thumping victory in 2017. If misgovernance and the failure to fulfil poll promises were the all-important issues, course correction should have been done much earlier, not at the eleventh hour when the party needs all hands-on deck.

Now, it would be naive of the Congress to consider Punjab as a low-hanging fruit. The party will have to go back to the drawing board to gear up for the 2022 elections. The state leaders have already expended too much time and energy on political intrigue and one-upmanship. With the Congress' credibility in tatters, it will be an uphill task for the grand old party to retain power.

(Tribune India)

Modi arrives in Washington, DC to a warm welcome by the Indian American community

SEPT 23 ENGAGEMENTS INCLUDE MEETING WITH US VICE PRESIDENT KAMALA HARRIS AND BILATERAL WITH JAPANESE AND AUSTRALIAN PMs

TIP SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

WASHINGTON, DC (TIP): Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday, September 23, a day after his arrival here, is scheduled to have as many as eight meetings, including one with Vice President Kamala Harris, on the first working day of his current US trip.

Apart from meeting Harris at the White House, the Prime minister will have two bilateral meetings with his Australian and Japanese counterparts - Scott Morrison and Yoshihide Suga.

Prime Minister Modi was received on arrival at the Andrews airbase by Mr. T. H. Brian McKeon, Deputy Secretary of State for Management and Resources on behalf of the government of the USA and India's Ambassador to the US Tarun Singh Sandhu.

A large number of Indian Americans had gathered at the airport, despite rain, to welcome Mr. Modi.

Touched by the love and warmth of the Indian American community, Modi later tweeted:

*Narendra Modi
@narendramodi*

Grateful to the Indian community in Washington DC for the warm welcome. Our diaspora is our strength. It is commendable how the Indian diaspora has distinguished itself across the world.

7:58 PM · Sep 22, 2021 · Twitter for iPhone

Modi would kick off his day's engagements with a series of one-on-one meetings with five top American CEOs representing diverse areas from technology, the IT sector to finance, defense and renewable energy.

These CEO's include Shantanu Narayen from Adobe and Vivek Lall from General Atomics, Cristiano E



Prime Minister Modi was received on arrival at the Andrews airbase by Mr. T. H. Brian McKeon, Deputy Secretary of State for Management and Resources on behalf of the government of the USA and India's Ambassador to the US Tarun Singh Sandhu.

Amon from Qualcomm, Mark Widmar from First Solar and Stephen A Schwarzman from Blackstone.

According to sources, these CEOs represent fairly large corporate interests, companies that have particular expertise, have invested in India and have the potential to invest

significantly there.

In the afternoon, Modi is scheduled to have a bilateral with Prime Minister Morrison of Australia. The two leaders have met in the past on a number of occasions on the sidelines of various international conferences.

Morrison had recently called Modi to brief him about planning to go ahead with the AUKUS alliance.

The US, Britain and Australia last week announced the AUKUS alliance for the Indo-Pacific to take on the threats of the 21st century and allow for greater sharing of defense capabilities, including help Australia acquire nuclear-powered submarines, in a bid to counter China's growing power in the strategically vital region.

Morrison was to visit India in January last year which he had to postpone because of a massive fire in Australia. Another trip to India in May had to be postponed due to the COVID-19 situation. After meeting with Morrison, Modi would drive down to the White House for a meeting with Indian-origin US Vice President Kamala Harris at her ceremonial office. The maiden meeting between the two leaders has been scheduled for an hour. The two leaders are likely to talk to the

press. According to sources, they are expected to talk on a range of issues that interest both sides -- from the management of COVID-19 to issues like cooperation in the high tech and space sectors.

Prime Minister Modi is looking forward to his first meeting with Vice President Harris, sources said.

The two leaders have earlier spoken to each other over the phone during the COVID-19 crisis in June.

Later in the day, the prime minister is scheduled to meet prime minister Suga of Japan. The two leaders have been speaking to each other quite frequently.

On Friday, the Prime Minister would spend most of his time at the White House, first a bilateral meeting in the Oval Office with President Biden. This would be followed by the first-ever in-person Quad summit.

In November 2017, India, Japan, the US and Australia gave shape to the long-pending proposal of setting up the Quad to develop a new strategy to keep the critical sea routes in the Indo-Pacific free of any influence.

The prime minister will then leave for New York. He is the first speaker scheduled to address the UN General Assembly on September 25.



Modi meeting the enthusiastic Indian Americans who had gathered at the airport and on way to hotel, despite rain, to welcome him

PM Modi and US Vice President Kamala Harris discuss bilateral ties, Indo-Pacific

TIP SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

WASHINGTON, DC (TIP): Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday, September 23, described India and America as "natural partners" as he held the first in-person meeting with Vice President Kamala Harris at the White House during which they decided to further cement the Indo-US strategic partnership and discussed global issues of common interest, including threats to democracy, Afghanistan and the Indo-Pacific.

"India and America are natural partners. We have similar values, similar geopolitical interests," Modi said in a joint media appearance with Harris, the first-ever person of Indian origin to be elected as the vice-president of the United States.

Noting that India and the US are the largest and oldest democracies, Modi said the two countries share values and their coordination and cooperation are also gradually increasing.

This is the first meeting between the two leaders. Harris had earlier spoken with Modi over the phone in June during the COVID-19 crisis in India.

"You are the source of inspiration for so many people across the world. I am completely confident that our bilateral relationship will touch new heights under President Biden and your leadership," Modi told Harris.

The two leaders were wearing masks as they both spoke in front of a battery of pool reporters from both India and the US.

Modi invited the 56-year-old Democratic leader and Second Gentleman Douglas Emhoff to visit India.

"Both President Biden and you assumed office at a time when our planet faced very tough challenges. In a short time, you have had many achievements to your credit be it COVID-19, climate change or the Quad," Modi said.

In a statement, the Ministry of External Affairs said the two leaders exchanged views on recent global developments, including in Afghanistan and reaffirmed their commitment towards a free, open and inclusive Indo-Pacific region.

The two leaders discussed the COVID-19 situation in their countries, including ongoing efforts to contain the pandemic through expedited vaccination efforts, and ensuring supply of critical medicines, therapeutics and healthcare equipment, it said.

"As relates to the Indo-Pacific, the US stresses on maintaining a free and open Indo-Pacific," Harris said, amidst China's aggressive moves in the strategically vital region.

India, the US and several other world powers have been talking about the need to ensure a free, open and thriving Indo-Pacific in the backdrop of China's rising military maneuvering in the region.



US Vice President Kamala Harris and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi holding talks at the White House, September 23 - Photo / Twitter

China claims nearly all of the disputed South China Sea, though Taiwan, the Philippines, Brunei, Malaysia and Vietnam all claim parts of it. Beijing has built artificial islands and military installations in the South China Sea.

Harris said the world is more interconnected and more interdependent than ever before. "And the challenges that we face today have highlighted that fact. COVID-19, climate crisis and the importance of our shared belief in the Indo-Pacific region," she said. "Both sides acknowledged the importance of collaborative action on climate change. Prime Minister spoke about India's push for increasing renewable energy and the recently launched National Hydrogen Mission. He also emphasized the importance of lifestyle changes to promote environmental sustainability," the statement said.

Modi noted that he had the opportunity to speak to Harris after she assumed the Vice Presidency. "One of our interactions happened when India was battling a very tough wave of COVID-19 infections. I recall your kind words of solidarity that time," Modi said.

India was confronted with the second wave of the COVID-19 pandemic. A very difficult time for India, he said. "Like a family, the sense of kinship and so warmly, you extended a helping hand, the words that you chose when you spoke to me, I will always remember

that, and I'd like to thank you from the bottom of my heart," the prime minister said.

"Like a true friend, you had given a message of cooperation, and were very full of sensitivity and immediately after that we found that the US government, the US corporate sector and the Indian community, all came together to help India," he said.

Modi said that the US Government, companies based in the USA and the Indian diaspora were very helpful when India was fighting a tough wave of COVID-19 infections.

Both leaders acknowledged the vibrant people-to-people linkages as the bedrock of the mutually beneficial education linkages and the flow of knowledge, innovation and talent between our two countries.

Modi said that four million people of Indian origin are acting as a bridge of friendship between the two countries.

Harris described India as a "very important partner" to the US and welcomed New Delhi's announcement that it will soon resume vaccine export.

India stopped the export of COVID-19 vaccines after the second wave of the pandemic hit the country in April this year.

On Monday, India said that it will resume export of surplus COVID-19 vaccines in the fourth quarter of 2021 under the "Vaccine Maitri" programme and to meet its commitment to the COVAX global pool. On the issue of the climate crisis, she told Modi that the US working together with India can have

not only a profound impact on people of nations but around the world itself.

Harris said that it is incumbent on the two nations to protect democracies in the best interests of people of the two countries.

"As democracies around the world are under threat, it is imperative that we defend democratic principles and institutions within our respective countries and around the world. And that we maintain what we must do to strengthen democracies at home and it is incumbent on our nations to of course protect democracies in the best interests of people of our countries," she said.

Their meeting comes a day ahead of the maiden bilateral meeting between Modi and President Joe Biden and the Quad Leaders' Summit at the White House on Friday.

Since taking office, Harris has met with or spoken to over 30 world leaders, promoting US interests on issues ranging from global health to climate change to cyber threats.

PM Modi later tweeted:
Narendra Modi
@narendramodi
Glad to have met
@VP
@KamalaHarris

Her feat has inspired the entire world. We talked about multiple subjects that will further cement the India-USA friendship, which is based on shared values and cultural linkages.

Visit www.theindianpanorama.news for more stories on PM Modi's US visit

Biden: Quad plan to make 1 bn Covid vaccines in India on track

TIP SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

WASHINGTON (TIP): The first in-person summit of Quad nations opened in Washington on Friday, September 24, with PM Narendra Modi hoping that it would be a force for global good by ensuring prosperity and peace in the Indo-Pacific and the world.

The summit, hosted by US President Joe Biden at the White House, saw all four leaders noting that the grouping had made excellent progress since its first summit held virtually six months ago.

None of the leaders mentioned China in their opening statements though some spoke of an Indo-Pacific free of coercion. Known to forget names, Biden introduced PM Modi as "my friend from India" just as he had referred to Australian PM Scott Morrison as "my friend from Down Under" while announcing AUKUS security treaty a week ago. PM Modi noted that the four countries had come together for the first time in 2004 to extend support to the Indo-Pacific region that had been hit by tsunami.



US President Biden, Indian PM Modi, Australian PM Scott Morrison and Japanese PM Yoshihide Suga at the Quad summit at the White House on September 24, 2021

"Today, the world is grappling with the pandemic and we are meeting once again as Quad and working for humanity," he said, observing that the Quad initiative to produce one billion vaccines in India would greatly help countries in the Indo-Pacific region.

The Quad, he hoped, would move forward to find answers to wide-ranging issues such as supply chains, global security, climate action, Covid response and technology.

Biden described Quad as a group of democratic partners, sharing the same

world view and a common vision of the future, coming together to take on key challenges. "We are making excellent progress," he said while announcing fellowships for students from Quad countries to pursue advanced degrees in STEM and said the plan to manufacture one billion vaccines in India was on track.

The four major democracies of the world, he declared, "know how to get things done and are up to the challenge".

Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison said a trusted and secure cyberspace and addressing supply chain problems should be Quad's priorities. Its collective strength, he hoped, would lead to an Indo-Pacific where disputes were settled peacefully in accordance with international law.

Japanese Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga wanted Quad to discuss new areas, such as infrastructure and clean energy and promote people-to-people exchanges in science and technology.

Visit www.theindianpanorama.news for more stories on PM Modi's US visit

PM Modi, Japanese Premier Suga reaffirm commitment for free, open Indo-Pacific

TIP SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

WASHINGTON, DC (TIP): Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Japanese counterpart Yoshihide Suga have reaffirmed their commitment towards a free, open and inclusive Indo-Pacific region, as they reviewed the multi-faceted bilateral relationship and exchanged views on recent global developments, including in Afghanistan.

During their meeting here on Friday, September 24, the two Prime Ministers agreed to enhance bilateral security and defense cooperation, including in the area of defense equipment and technologies, according to a statement issued by the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA).

Prime Minister Modi thanked Suga for his personal commitment and leadership, both as Prime Minister and Chief Cabinet Secretary earlier, in enabling great advances in the India-Japan Special Strategic & Global Partnership over the last few years, it said.

"The two Prime Ministers reviewed the multi-faceted relationship between the two countries and exchanged views on recent global and regional developments, including in Afghanistan. They reaffirmed their commitment towards a free, open and inclusive Indo-Pacific region," it said. The two Prime Ministers welcomed the increasing economic engagement between the two countries. "Furthering friendship with Japan," the MEA said in a tweet after the meeting. "Prime Ministers @narendramodi and @sugawitter had a fruitful meeting in Washington DC. Both leaders held discussions on several issues including ways to give further impetus to



Prime Minister Modi and his Japanese counterpart Yoshihide Suga reviewed the multi-faceted relationship between the two countries and exchanged views on recent global and regional developments, including in Afghanistan.

trade and cultural ties," it said.

A special strategic and global partnership with Japan- firmly rooted in history and based on common values, it further said.

They welcomed the launch of the Supply Chain Resilience Initiative (SCRI) between India, Japan and Australia earlier this year as a collaborative mechanism to enable resilient, diversified and trustworthy supply chains, the statement said.

Prime Minister Modi highlighted the need to develop bilateral partnerships in manufacturing, MSME and skill development.

Prime Minister Suga informed Modi that in order to operationalize the Specified Skilled workers (SSW) agreement which was signed earlier this year, the Japanese side would be undertaking skill and language tests in India from early 2022, it said.

They discussed the Covid-19 pandemic and efforts to address it and highlighted the

increasing importance of digital technologies and in this regard positively evaluated the progress in the India-Japan Digital Partnership, especially in start-ups.

The two leaders exchanged views on further collaboration in various emerging technologies. Discussions also took place on climate change issues and green energy transition, and the potential for Japanese collaboration with India's National Hydrogen Energy Mission, the statement said.

The two prime ministers reaffirmed their commitment to advance efforts to facilitate the smooth and timely implementation of the Mumbai-Ahmedabad High Speed Rail (MAHSR) project.

They also welcomed the progress in bilateral developmental projects in India's Northeastern Region under the India-Japan Act East Forum, and noted possibilities for further enhancement of such cooperation, it said.

Prime Minister Suga expressed confidence that the strong momentum attained by the India-Japan partnership in the last few years will continue even under the new administration in Japan.

Modi conveyed that he was looking forward to welcoming the next prime minister of Japan to India for India-Japan Annual Summit in the near future.

Modi and Suga spoke in April this year and the two leaders underscored the importance of working together to create resilient, diversified and trustworthy supply chains, ensuring reliable supply of critical materials and technologies, and developing new partnerships in manufacturing and skill development to deal with the crisis.

Suga had called off a scheduled visit to India in April end in view of the coronavirus situation.

Speaking after virtually inaugurating a Japanese Zen Garden and Kaizen Academy set up at the premises of the Ahmedabad Management Association (AMA) in June, Modi had described Suga as a very straight-forward person.

"Prime Minister Suga and I believe that during the time of this Covid-19 pandemic crisis, the Indo-Japanese friendship and our partnership have become even more relevant for global stability and prosperity. Today, when we are facing several global challenges, it is the need of the hour that our friendship and relationship get stronger day by day," Modi had said.

He said efforts like setting up of the Kaizen Academy are a beautiful reflection of this relationship.

Modi said the launch of the Zen Garden and Kaizen Academy is a "symbol of the spontaneity and modernity of India-Japan relations".

Visit www.theindianpanorama.news for more stories on PM Modi's US visit

PM Modi discusses bilateral, regional, global issues with Australia's Morrison

TIP SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

WASHINGTON, DC (TIP): Prime Minister Narendra Modi has met his Australian counterpart Scott Morrison here ahead of the first in-person Quad meeting to be hosted by US President Joe Biden and discussed a broad range of issues of bilateral, regional and global importance, including the Indo-Pacific.

The meeting between Modi and Morrison on Friday, September 24, came a week after they spoke over phone and reviewed the rapid progress in the India-Australia Comprehensive Strategic Partnership, including through the recent 'two-plus-two' dialogue, and exchanged views on regional developments and the forthcoming Quad meeting.

This was the first in-person meeting between the two leaders in the post-pandemic period.

"They reviewed progress since the last leader's summit that was held virtually in June 2020, and they resolved to continue their close partnership and cooperation for the mutual wellbeing of both sides," Foreign Secretary Harsh Vardhan Shringla told reporters while details of the meeting.

The last bilateral meeting was the Leaders' Virtual Summit held on June 4 last year when the Strategic Partnership between India and Australia was elevated to a Comprehensive Strategic Partnership, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said in a statement.

During the meeting here, Modi and Morrison discussed a broad range of issues of bilateral, regional and global importance, it said.

The Prime Ministers "resolved to continue close cooperation for mutual well-being and towards advancing their shared objective of an open, free, prosperous and rules-based Indo-Pacific region," the MEA said.

India, the US and several other world powers have been talking about the need to ensure a free, open and thriving Indo-Pacific in the backdrop of China's rising military maneuvering in the region.

China claims nearly all of the disputed South China Sea, though Taiwan, the Philippines, Brunei, Malaysia and Vietnam all claim parts of it. Beijing has built artificial islands and military installations in the South China Sea.

"Great to meet with my good friend and a great friend of Australia, Indian PM Narendra Modi during my visit to the US," Morrison tweeted.

"A wide-ranging and productive discussion ahead of the first in-person Quad meeting as we look to further deepen the partnership between our two countries," Morrison said.

Prime Minister Modi in a tweet said,



PM Modi and Australian PM Morrison discussed a broad range of issues of bilateral, regional and global importance

"It is always wonderful to interact with my good friend, PM @ScottMorrisonMP. We had wide-ranging deliberations on strengthening cooperation in the fields of commerce, trade, energy and more." According to the MEA statement, in their meeting, Modi and Morrison reviewed the ongoing negotiations on a bilateral Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement (CECA) and welcomed the visit to India by former Australian prime minister Tony Abbott as Morrison's Special Trade Envoy for India and noted the commitment of both sides to achieve an early harvest announcement on an interim agreement by December 2021.

They underlined the need for the international community to address the issue of climate change on an urgent basis as Prime Minister Modi highlighted the need for a broader dialogue on environment protection, it said, adding that both the leaders also discussed possibilities of providing clean technologies.

Modi and Morrison agreed that "as two vibrant democracies in the region, the two countries needed to work closer together to overcome the challenges in the post-pandemic world, inter alia to enhance supply chain resilience," the MEA said.

"Both leaders lauded the immense contribution of the Indian diaspora to Australia's economy and society, and discussed ways to enhance people-to-people ties," the statement added.

Prime Minister Modi also invited Morrison to visit India.

"The Prime Minister mentioned that the Indian community was very well looked after during the COVID crisis in

Australia. He especially mentioned that to the Prime Minister and there was an appreciation of the contribution of the Indian diaspora in Australia," Shringla said.

Earlier, Office of Prime Minister Modi said on Twitter: "Advancing friendship with Australia. PM @ScottMorrisonMP held talks with PM @narendramodi. They discussed a wide range of subjects aimed at deepening economic and people-to-people linkages between India and Australia.

Ministry of External Affairs spokesperson Arindam Bagchi termed the meeting as "another chapter in our Comprehensive Strategic Partnership with Australia".

"Another chapter in our Comprehensive Strategic Partnership with Australia! PM @narendramodi and @ScottMorrisonMP met today. Discussed regional & global developments as well as ongoing bilateral cooperation in areas related to Covid-19, trade, defense, clean energy & more," Bagchi said on Twitter.

The meeting assumes significance as External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and Defense Minister Rajnath Singh on September 11 held the 'two-plus-two' talks in New Delhi with their Australian counterparts Marise Payne and Peter Dutton.

It was the first meeting between the prime ministers of India and Australia since the AUKUS (Australia, the UK and the US) security partnership was unveiled last week by US President Biden, British Prime Minister Boris Johnson and Morrison.

In response to a question, Shringla said that Prime Minister Morrison did

briefly mention rationale from the Australian side in seeking to initiate the AUKUS Alliance.

"He felt that the technology that they received was appropriate and there was a brief discussion in that regard," he said.

In a tweet, the prime minister's office described it as advancing friendship with Australia. "They discussed a wide range of subjects aimed at deepening economic and people-to-people linkages between India and Australia," the PMO tweeted. The AUKUS partnership, seen as an effort to counter China in the Indo-Pacific, will allow the US and the UK to provide Australia with the technology to develop nuclear-powered submarines for the first time.

Australia said its decision to join a security alliance with the US and the UK is aimed at developing capabilities that can contribute along with India and other countries in deterring behavior that threatens the peace and security in the Indo-Pacific.

In the first reaction from India on the contentious alliance, Shringla on Tuesday said that the new security agreement among the US, the UK and Australia is neither relevant to the Quad nor will have any impact on its functioning, and they are not groupings of a similar nature.

Shringla said while the AUKUS is a security alliance among the three countries, the Quad is a plurilateral grouping with a vision for a free, open, transparent and inclusive Indo-Pacific.

The Quad comprises India, the US, Japan and Australia.

Visit www.theindianpanorama.news for more stories on PM Modi's US visit.

PM Modi meets CEOs of five top American Companies; encourages them to invest in India

TIP SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

WASHINGTON, DC (TIP): Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday, September 23, met a group of five top American corporate leaders on a one-on-one basis from a range of diverse sectors ranging from drones to 5G, semiconductor, and solar and encouraged them to step up their investments by highlighting the vast opportunities in India.

"Talking technology..." the Prime Minister's Office said in a Twitter post after Modi's meeting with Qualcomm CEO Cristiano Amon and First Solar CEO Mark Widmar. They had a productive interaction, it said.

"PM Modi highlighted the vast opportunities India offers. Mr. Amon expressed keenness to work with India in areas such as 5G and other" Digital India efforts, it added.

Qualcomm, which started its operations in 1996, has operations specializing in wireless modem and multimedia software, Digital Signal Processing (DSP) and embedded applications, and digital media networking solutions.

In India, Qualcomm Ventures has invested in companies that address key domestic issues from dairy, transportation to defense.

"Toward making India a global innovation hub!" Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) Spokesperson Arindam Bagchi tweeted. The Prime Minister had a conversation with Amon on investment opportunities in hi-tech sectors in India.

"Discussed recent electronics and telecom manufacturing PLI schemes; and measures to strengthen innovation ecosystem," he added.

They discussed investment opportunities offered in India's telecommunications and electronics sector. This included the recently launched Production Linked Incentive Scheme (PLI) for Electronics System Design and Manufacturing (ESDM) as well as developments in the semiconductor supply chain in India, the MEA said in a release.

"Strategies for building the local innovation ecosystem in India were also discussed," the ministry added.

"Powering India's Solar Potential!" Bagchi said after Modi's meeting with Widmar. They discussed India's renewable energy landscape.

Widmar shared plans to use the PLI scheme for manufacturing solar power equipment with unique thin-film technology; and integrating India into global supply chains, Bagchi said in a tweet.

First Solar has successfully commissioned 150 MW of Utility-Scale Solar Power to the Grid in India and has installed 1.8 GW of solar capacity in the country. Early this year, it announced its intention to set up a new 3.3 GW Facility in India.

As such First Solar is contributing to India's plans to ramp up solar power generation to 100 GW by 2022. During the meeting, the prime minister elaborated on India's efforts to harness solar energy, including the 'One world, One sun and One grid' initiative and investment opportunities in the sector, his office said in a tweet. "They talked about India's renewable energy landscape, particularly solar energy potential, and our target of 450 GW electricity generation from renewable sources by 2030," the ministry said.

Discussions also took place about First Solar's interest in setting up manufacturing facilities in India using their unique thin-film technology by availing the recently launched Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme, as well integrating India into global supply chains, it added.

In his meeting with Adobe CEO Shantanu Narayan, Prime Minister Modi discussed Adobe's ongoing activities in India and future investment plans, according to Bagchi.

"Ideas to leverage Digital India flagship programme in sectors like health, education and R&D were also



PM Modi holding talks with Qualcomm CEO Cristiano Amon
Photo / Twitter



PM Modi and First Solar CEO Mark Widmar discussed India's renewable energy landscape. - Photo / Twitter



Prime Minister Modi discussed with Adobe CEO Shantanu Narayan his company's ongoing activities in India and future investment plans - Photo / Twitter



The Prime Minister discussed with Vivek Lall, chief executive of General Atomics India's strides in drone technology, including the path-breaking reforms and PLI scheme
Photo / Twitter



PM Modi discussed with Stephen A Schwarzman, CEO Blackstone, the ongoing projects and further investment opportunities in India, including under the National Infrastructure Pipeline and National Monetisation Pipeline. Schwarzman is seen presenting his book to Modi
Photo / Twitter

discussed," he said. "Deepening Knowledge Partnerships!" he tweeted.

After North America, India represents Adobe's biggest operations with over 6,000 employees across its campuses in Noida and Bengaluru. India also serves as an innovation hub for Adobe, with the Indian R&D team contributing to development of every Adobe product. Moreover, initiatives such as Adobe's Grassroots Innovation Challenge and Women-in-Technology Scholarship are fueling the ongoing digital revolution in India. Modi also met Vivek Lall, chief executive of General Atomics, and Stephen A Schwarzman from Blackstone.

The Prime Minister and Lall discussed India's strides in drone technology, including the path-breaking reforms and PLI scheme, the PMO said in a tweet.

"They spoke about strengthening the defense technology sector in India. Lall appreciated the recent policy changes to accelerate defense and emerging technology manufacturing and augment capacity building in India," the MEA said.

General Atomics, which opened its first office in India in 2018, is making significant contributions to deepen India-US defense and security cooperation. It is working with both governments in an effort to provide India with

the latest systems and technologies supporting national defense.

General Atomics has also partnered with Indian companies to develop solutions for Indian defense as well as capacity building.

"India remains an attractive investment destination! PM @narendramodi met Mr. Stephen Schwarzman, CEO @blackstone. Discussed ongoing projects and further investment opportunities in India, including under the National Infrastructure Pipeline and National Monetisation Pipeline," Bagchi tweeted.

Blackstone, which started its operations in India in 2006 and has so far invested around USD 15 billion in various sectors including private equity, real estate, education, fashion, packaging and housing finance.

Blackstone Real Estate Fund is said to be the largest owner of commercial real estate in India. The company played a key role in launching India's first real estate investment trust (REIT) along with its partner Embassy Group in 2019 and has since then launched two REITs in the country.

PM Modi tweeted:

Narendra Modi
@narendramodi

It was a delight to meet Mr. Stephen Schwarzman, the CEO of @blackstone

His commercial success and intellectual prowess are admirable. We talked about India's investment potential and why our country is one of the world's most attractive destination for investment.

At the end of his round of meetings, Modi tweeted:

Narendra Modi
@narendramodi

Through the morning, had extensive discussions with top CEOs and business leaders on investment in India. They were appreciative of India's reform trajectory. Closer economic linkages between India and USA benefit the people of our nations.

Visit www.theindianpanorama.news
for more stories on Prime Minister Modi's US visit

Indian diaspora has distinguished itself across the world: Modi

TIP SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

WASHINGTON, DC (TIP): Prime Minister Narendra Modi has commended the Indian Diaspora for distinguishing itself across the world, as he received an enthusiastic welcome from the community on his arrival here on a major visit to further enhance Indo-US relations.

Modi was warmly greeted by groups of Indian-Americans at the airport soon after his plane landed here on Wednesday and later at the hotel where he had an interaction with the members of the community.

"Grateful to the Indian community in Washington DC for the warm welcome. Our diaspora is our strength," Modi said in a tweet along with a set of pictures of his interaction with Indian-American CEOs.

"It is commendable how the Indian diaspora has distinguished itself across the world," Modi said.

One of the signature events of Prime Minister Modi's overseas visits has been his meetings with the diaspora community in large gatherings.

However, due to the current COVID-19 situation, the prime minister is unlikely to have a large gathering or meeting with the diaspora.

Modi has been popular among Indian-Americans, who constitute more than 1.2 per cent of the country's population.

The community is increasingly playing an important role, including in American politics.

Modi, who is visiting the US for the 7th time after assuming office in 2014, and the first time after President Biden took



Prime Minister Modi acknowledging greetings of the Indian American community gathered to welcome him. - Photo / Twitter

on the reins of America, has said that his visit would be an occasion to strengthen the Indo-US Comprehensive Global Strategic Partnership and consolidate ties with Japan and Australia.

Apart from meeting US President Joe Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris, Modi is also scheduled to have separate bilateral talks with his Australian counterpart Scott Morrison and Japanese

Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga.

Visit www.theindianpanorama.news for more news on Modi's visit to the US.

PM Modi reaches New York to address 76th UNGA session on September 25th morning

TIP SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW YORK (TIP): Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday late night arrived in New York where he is scheduled to address the 76th session of the United Nations General Assembly, which was held virtually last year due to the Covid pandemic.

Modi flew to New York from Washington after holding his first bilateral meeting with US President Joe Biden in the Oval Office of the White House and attended his first in-person Quad summit on Friday.

The prime minister and his counterparts - Scott Morrison of Australia and Japan's Yoshihide Suga - attended the meeting of Quad leaders hosted by US President Biden in Washington.

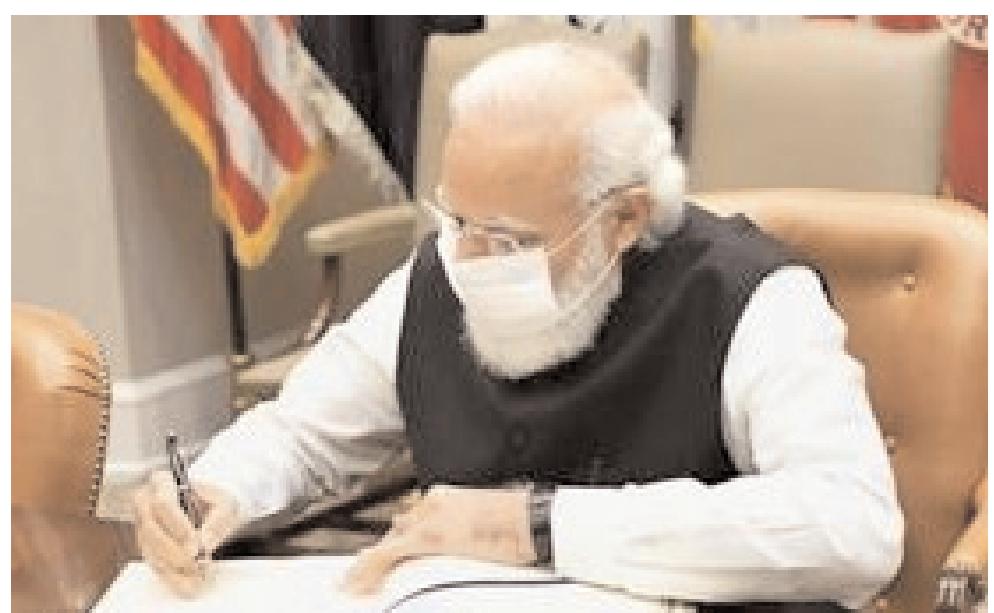
"Landed in New York City. Will be

addressing the UNGA at 6:30 PM (IST) on the 25th," the prime minister said in a tweet.

"Voicing the sentiments of the 1.3 billion people of India! PM @narendramodi arrives in New York to address the 76th UNGA tomorrow. India's current membership of the @UN Security Council lends even greater significance!" the Ministry of External Affairs said in a tweet.

Modi will address the world leaders at the UN General Debate on Saturday morning. He is the first world leader scheduled to address the world organization.

The prime minister was received at the airport by India's ambassador to the US Taranjit Singh Sandhu and India's Permanent Representative to the UN ambassador T S Tirumurti.



PM Modi flew into New York from Washington after holding his first bilateral meeting with US President Joe Biden

Quad, AUKUS, SAARC... and a divided Asia

AUKUS: YET ANOTHER ANTI-CHINA GROUPING CREATED BY THE US



BY SUDHEENDRA
KULKARNI

"WE INDIANS, INSTEAD OF SORTING OUT OUR DISPUTES WITH CHINA ON OUR OWN ON THE BASIS OF EQUALITY AND FAIRNESS, HAVE CHOSEN TO JOIN THE US-LED QUADRILATERAL. ESSENTIALLY AN ANTI-CHINA ALLIANCE, THE QUAD COULD END UP MAKING ASIA THE THEATRE OF A NEW COLD WAR AND AN EXPENSIVE ARMS RACE. SHOULD WE ALLOW OUTSIDERS TO PUT THEIR GUNS ON OUR SHOULDER TO FIRE AT CHINA?"

"EXACTLY A HUNDRED YEARS AGO, MAHATMA GANDHI HAD WARNED ABOUT A FUTURE WHEN POWERFUL NATIONS, USING THEIR NAVIES, WOULD "THREATEN WORLD'S PEACE AND EXPLOIT ITS RESOURCES" (YOUNG INDIA; DECEMBER 8, 1921). HIS WARNING IS NOW COMING FRIGHTENINGLY TRUE. TAGORE TOO HAD WARNED ASIANS AGAINST IMITATING THE MONSTROUS FEATURES OF THE EUROPEAN RIVALRY, WHICH TRIGGERED TWO HORRIFIC WORLD WARS. INDIA, WHICH ASPIRES TO BECOME A 'VISHWA GURU', IS BLISSFULLY IGNORING GURUDEV'S WARNING, TOO."

Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore would have been an unhappy man were he alive today. A poet-philosopher who relentlessly advocated Asian unity, he would have been utterly distressed by the disunity and conflicts in Asia, and the current efforts by Western powers to mire the continent in bloc rivalry.

No other Indian leader of his times visited as many Asian countries as he did - Japan (1916, 1924, 1929), Burma (1916, 1924, 1927), Sri Lanka (1922, 1928, 1934), China (1924, 1928), Singapore (1916, 1924, 1927), Indonesia (1927), Malaysia (1924 and 1927), Thailand (1927), Vietnam (1929), and Iran and Iraq (1932).

His mission was to 'create an Asian mind'. When he established Visva-Bharati in 1921, his principal goal was to revive the age-old civilizational, cultural and spiritual bonds that linked India and other Asian countries. He was not the only Indian who had this vision. Mahatma Gandhi, Jawaharlal Nehru and Subhas Chandra Bose also espoused Asian solidarity.

'The Asian Mind' of Gurudev's dreams is fragmented today. Countries that were once victims of colonialism have drifted apart. Asia - home to 60 per cent of the world population - is becoming increasingly non-peaceful, with Western powers trying to create competing groupings and ignite fires of conflict.

Sadly, the internal quarrels in Asia are harming peace and closing the opportunities for mutually beneficial cooperation aimed at enhancing the wellbeing of its peoples. West Asia has seen many wars in the recent past - Iran-Iraq war, the US invasion of Iraq, and the ongoing wars in Syria and Yemen. In South Asia, Afghanistan has suffered four decades of external wars and internal conflicts. Even after the recent withdrawal of American troops, there are no cooperative efforts by India and regional neighbors to help Afghanistan achieve stability and national reconstruction.

This is mainly due to Taliban's religious fanaticism on the one hand and India-Pakistan hostility on the other. India and Pakistan are in no mood to establish good unneighborly relations even 75 years after our two countries gained independence from British rule. Because of our ceaseless enmity, SAARC (South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation), of which Afghanistan is also a member, has become completely dysfunctional and remains in coma. Its leaders have not had a summit meeting since 2014.

In contrast, China has achieved some success in making the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) a viable non-Western platform in the region. The SCO managed to induct both India and Pakistan as full members in 2017. At its recent 20th anniversary summit in Dushanbe (Tajikistan), Iran joined it as a full member. Afghanistan has an



The two architects of AUKUS

observer status in the SCO.

Sadly, India has chosen to isolate itself from a regional cooperation endeavor involving China, Russia, Iran and Pakistan to promote peace and inclusive government in Kabul even though there is no basic difference among the five nations over the issue that the Taliban regime must not give sanctuaries to terrorist organizations.

Instead, India is aligning its Afghan policy with that of America. More worrisome is America's reported attempt to seek a military base at some place in 'north-west India' for carrying out 'over-the-horizon counter-terrorism operations' in Afghanistan. Agreeing to this would be catastrophic for India and the region. It would also expose us to the criticism of following double standards. India has been rightly insisting that the Taliban should not allow Afghan soil to be used against India. How, then, can we allow the USA's anti-Afghan operations from Indian soil?

Let's look at another major intra-Asian antagonism. India and China, the two great Asian civilizations, are locked in a power struggle, which, if unchecked, can be disastrous for both as well as the continent and the world. India-China rivalry, coupled with China's failure to peacefully resolve maritime disputes with its neighbors in South China Sea, has given an opportunity for the distant US to fish in troubled waters.

America has no business getting involved in Asian disputes. Yet, invoking the artificial concept of the 'Indo-Pacific', which gives India's westernized ruling elite a feel-good sense of gaining global leadership, Washington has persuaded the Modi government to offer it a foothold in the India-China row.

Since the end of World War II, US rulers have been acting on the belief that their country is the global hegemon and, as such, have the right to flaunt its power anywhere in the world.

However, with the rise of China in recent decades, the days of US global domination are clearly numbered. Alarmed by this certainty, it is busy

sowing the seeds of disunity in Asia. For this purpose, it is building military groupings to contain China.

Unfortunately, we Indians, instead of sorting out our disputes with China on our own on the basis of equality and fairness, have chosen to join the US-led quadrilateral. Essentially an anti-China alliance, the Quad could end up making Asia the theatre of a new cold war and an expensive arms race. Should India allow outsiders to put their guns on its shoulder to fire at China? What will be the consequences of India becoming a pawn in America's games?

America has now created yet another anti-China grouping - AUKUS, a security pact among Australia, the UK, and the US, all three being Anglosphere nations. America and Britain will help Australia develop and deploy nuclear-powered submarines to deter China.

France is extremely angry with its two NATO allies because the pact has scuttled the lucrative \$80-billion French-Australian submarine deal. This shows how several western nations have now become predominantly war economies. They prosper only by selling costly weapon systems to non-western countries, including India.

Be it Quad or AUKUS, what should worry Indians and all other Asians is how our seas and oceans will increasingly become a playfield for menacing warships and submarines.

Exactly a hundred years ago, Mahatma Gandhi had warned about a future when powerful nations, using their navies, would "threaten world's peace and exploit its resources" (Young India; December 8, 1921). His warning is now coming frighteningly true. Tagore too had warned Asians against imitating the monstrous features of the European rivalry, which triggered two horrific world wars.

India, which aspires to become a 'Vishwa Guru', is blissfully ignoring Gurudev's warning, too.

(The author is a former close aide to ex-PM Vajpayee and Founder, Forum for a New South Asia)

A one-party juggernaut and its feeble challengers

WITH NO GLUE STILL TO BOND THE OPPPOSITION, THE NON-PARTY MOVEMENTS OF RESISTANCE COULD OFFER HOPE FOR CHANGE



It is almost one year that farmers have been protesting against the farm laws enacted by the Modi government.

The political Opposition in its entirety appears to have decided this - that each party would rather contest and lose to a smaller local adversary than challenge the one bigger, common and more ominous adversary. And win (or lose) the forthcoming Assembly elections, and more importantly, the crucial general election of 2024 together. The writing has been on the wall ever since 2019, reaffirming the urgency of the good old saying, "united we stand/win, divided we fall".

Some stirrings

Only one leader with credible bona fides - the inimitable fighter and West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee - appears to have recognized this and is striving to forge a united front to challenge the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). Indeed, she had sounded out the Opposition on this even before 2019, but it was ignored then as it is being ignored now. Nationalist Congress Party leader Sharad Pawar, the veteran, is also one leader sensitive to the nuances of the present scenario and did take some initial steps towards forging a common front to take on the strong adversary. It ended with an online conversation, with a prepared sermon by Indian National Congress chief Sonia Gandhi on how India must be saved. Period. The writing on the wall remains unread. Meanwhile, every party is busy finalizing its list of candidates for the forthcoming Assembly elections and issuing statements to the press asserting its own invincibility in the forthcoming battle. The year 2024 is still too far on the horizon to exercise one's mind. Never mind the link between the two.

A contrast lies in strategy

It is hard for an outsider to ignore the distinct modes of election management, one that the BJP has introduced especially over the past decade and that of the other established parties. The BJP prepares for an election at the ground level at least two years ahead by activating its cadres, especially cadres from the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh, in establishing personal contacts with potential voters, collecting information about the local issues that might motivate voters to its side, the caste/subcaste/community profile of each constituency to cohere with grandiose calls for Vikas, and Hindu Rashtra from the top-level leadership, not to forget the ever active BJP IT cell forging and spreading questionable material every day on social media.

In other words, the BJP is forever preparing for an election. This is in contrast to the Opposition parties which get into action a month or two before election dates are announced, their chief concern being to usually nominate candidates with their own resources for winning. The leaders contribute their mite to the process by making speeches at election meetings. The BJP also learns quickly from its defeats and victories and does take immediate remedial action. The recent quick change of governments in several BJP-ruled States is a good example. The party also changes its tactics keeping in mind the lessons learnt. The contrast, of the energy of the BJP and the lethargy on the other side, is striking.

The BJP and the Opposition rely largely on attacking each other. This suits the BJP more because the Opposition earns credibility only if it posits an alternative economic, political and social programme to the electorate

that carries conviction, for which it has to be formulated long before the elections are seen on the horizon. Before 2019, the Congress did posit an attractive economic alternative by promising ₹6,000 per month to poor farmers, but it was formulated a few weeks before the elections, announced from electoral daises by Congress leader Rahul Gandhi with no groundwork to prepare the audiences for it, and thus, carried no conviction. Since then, no Opposition party has challenged the Government by positing an attractive alternative slogan.

As of now, the reluctance of the Opposition parties to come together for the decisive fights ahead, and the absence of any evidence of serious preparations, do seem to indicate a willing walkover to the ruling party.

The Congress's problem

It is easy to pin the responsibility for this denouement on the Indian National Congress. As the country's second largest party in the Seventeenth Lok Sabha, with footprints around the country (besides being the oldest and the most experienced political party), the responsibility devolves upon it squarely to forge a vision and a programme which would accommodate most if not all the others into a single conglomerate (though preferably not a single unit), for the battles ahead.

But it is this status it has that fills it with an arrogance to claim the unshared leadership of any possible combination of parties, expressed in the following formula: come and support us and we shall fight together. There is no need for discussion, for discussion involves sharing. Just listen to either Ms. Sonia Gandhi or second best, Rahul Gandhi, and do as they say and demand. This is



BY HARBANS MUKHIA

PARADOXICALLY, THE ONLY AVENUE OF POLITICAL CHANGE THROUGH THE ELECTIONS THAT LIES OPEN, IF AT ALL, IS IN THE NON-POLITICAL MOVEMENTS OF RESISTANCE SUCH AS THE FARMERS' AGITATION.

contrary to what its high status should imply: openness, liberalism, generosity and a vision for India beyond a vision for the present party leadership.

Its exclusive concern looks like retaining the three Gandhis (Ms. Gandhi, Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Vadra) at the top even if the bottom keeps floundering and withering away. It is not only the pleas from leaders of a much higher stature such as Mr. Sharad Pawar but also pleas for the reinvigoration of the party from its own senior most and most committed leaders (the G23, or 23 of them) that are perceived as a threat to Gandhis and thus sidelined.

There has been zero "introspection" within the party after each stunning political defeat. There is no sign of the party being a living organism capable, or at least willing, to rectify its errors and move on. This is in contrast to its chief rival. The grimness of the situation is highlighted by the sterling fact that the Opposition cannot go forward without the Congress either. What more could make the BJP happier?

A new brigade

Paradoxically, the only avenue of political change through the elections that lies open, if at all, is in the non-political movements of resistance such as the farmers' agitation. The farmers, who have withheld the indifference and the assaults of the Government show no sign of backing off. They have kept almost all political parties away while also shouting from the rooftops that their mission is to defeat the BJP in the elections by mobilizing farmers around the country. That they do have the capacity to mobilize themselves has been demonstrated repeatedly, most recently in Muzaffarnagar (Uttar Pradesh) and Karnal (Haryana). The mahapanchayat at Muzaffarnagar has also cautioned farmers against the BJP's use of the so-far successful strategy of divide and rule along communal lines, and the Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister has already announced his intention to go the whole hog along this path. A major communal conflagration may also be in the offing. The results of these elections will decide the future of India to a large extent.

(The author Harbans taught history at the Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi)

16 Indian-origin candidates win federal polls in Canada elections

OTTAWA (TIP): 16 of the 17 Indian-origin politicians who have made it to the Canadian House of Commons in the recent general elections are Punjabis.

The number of Indian-origin candidates who were reelected is marginally down from 20 in 2019.

All prominent Punjabi-Canadian faces were reelected—including Defense Minister Harjit Sajjan from Vancouver South, Minister Bardish Chagger from Waterloo, Minister Anita Anand from Oakville and Jagmeet Singh, who heads New Democratic Party, from Burnaby South seat.

Liberal Member of Parliament Chanderkanth Arya, who has his roots in Karnataka, was elected from Napanee in Ontario yet again—the lone non-Punjabi Indian-origin MP.

Many of these seats were from Ontario, Canada's largest province and a hub for Indian immigrants. Punjab origin MPs won four of five seats in Brampton: Ruby Sahota from Brampton North, Maninder Sidhu from Brampton



17 Indian-origin politicians have made it to the Canadian House of Commons. Of them 16 are of Punjabi origin. Canada's Defense Minister Harjit Sajjan (from left), Liberals' Anita Anand and NDP leader Jagmeet Singh are among the winners - Photo / Twitter @HarjitSajjan

East, Sonia Sidhu from Brampton South, and Kamal Khera from Brampton West.

Five of those who won are women: Anju Dhillon, a lawyer and a Liberal Party from Dorval-Lachine-La-Salle who became the first Indian-Canadian to win a seat twice in the French-speaking province of Quebec; her fellow Liberal

candidate Ruby Sahota; Sonia Sidhu; Anita Anand; and Bardish Chagger.

Other prominent winners are Jasraj Singh; George Chahal; Tim Uppal; Sukh Dhaliwal; and Randeep Singh Sarai.

Nineteen of 20 Indian origin MPs who'd been elected in 2019 were of Punjabi-origin.

INDIAN AMERICAN MANAGEMENT CONSULTANT ASHISH VAZIRANI TO BE NOMINATED TO A KEY PENTAGON POSITION



Ashish Vazirani, an Indian American management consultant to be nominated to a key Pentagon position

WASHINGTON (TIP): US President Joe Biden has announced his intent to nominate Ashish Vazirani, an Indian American management consultant, to a key Pentagon position. Vazirani has been nominated for the position of Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness, Department of Defense. Currently, he is the principal of A2O Strategies, LLC, where he provides advisory services to commercial and non-profit, high growth and large enterprises, on the development, implementation and execution of growth strategies.

Most recently, Vazirani was Executive Director and CEO of the National Military Family Association (NMFA), where he provided strategic and operational oversight, and direction for all aspects of NMFA's advocacy and programming to support military families, the White House said on Tuesday. **(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)**

RESIDENTS OF JAGMEET SINGH'S ANCESTRAL VILLAGE CELEBRATE HIS WIN IN CANADIAN ELECTION



Jagmeet Singh was also re-elected in Burnaby South, British Columbia. He is expected to play the kingmaker yet again, as Trudeau's party failed to get clear majority

BARNALA / BARNABY (TIP): Residents of Thikriwala village in Barnala district of Punjab performed an ardas in the gurdwara on Wednesday, September 22 to celebrate the success of National Democratic Party (NDP) leader Jagmeet Singh, who belongs to this village, in Canadian elections. Though they expected Singh to increase his seat tally from last elections 24 to above 50 this time, they are happy, as he will be a kingmaker again.

"We are proud of the achievement of Jagmeet. He has put the name of Thikriwala village on the global map," said Thikriwala resident Balwant Singh Bhullar, who is posted as Treasury Officer Barnala.

Visited in 1993

Some people still remember that Jagmeet Singh visited the village in 1993, when the family sponsored a room in the school in memory of his grandfather.

(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)

NORTH AMERICAN PUNJABI ASSOCIATION DEMANDS NRI AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO FOR PARGAT SINGH



Pargat Singh - File photo

WASHINGTON (TIP): US-based NRI body North American Punjabi Association (NAPA) has demanded NRI Affairs portfolio in the new Cabinet for hockey Olympian Pargat Singh, who had won from the Jalandhar Cantt constituency by a big margin of votes.

In a letter sent to PPCC president Navjot Singh Sidhu and Punjab Chief Minister Charanjit Singh Channi, NAPA executive director Satnam Singh Chahal said a majority of the Punjabi diaspora was from the Doaba region. "So, the NRI Affairs Minister should be from this region and Pargat Singh was the best choice for the job," he said.

Chahal said there were many issues and concerns of the Punjabi diaspora that needed to be addressed by the government.

He demanded that there should be more fast-track courts in the Doaba region to decide the disputes of the Punjabi diaspora at their homes.

BIDEN TO NOMINATE INDIAN AMERICAN ERIK RAMANATHAN AS ENVOY TO SWEDEN



Indian American Erik Ramanathan to be nominated US ambassador to the Kingdom of Sweden

WASHINGTON (TIP): President Joe Biden will nominate Indian American Erik Ramanathan, a longtime political ally and fundraiser to serve as ambassador to the Kingdom of Sweden, the White House announced on Wednesday, September 22.

A political appointee, Ramanathan is the chairman of the board of a health nonprofit, Heluna Health, serving more than 80 million Americans with over 500 programs addressing population health and community resilience issues.

These include maternal and child health, nutrition, literacy, supportive housing, infectious disease, addiction, and front-line and supportive efforts to combat the Covid-19 pandemic.

He was previously Executive Director of the Harvard Law School Program on the Legal Profession, following his role as Senior Vice President - General Counsel of ImClone Systems, a public biotechnology company, according to a White House statement.

Ramanathan has also held major leadership roles on the non-profit boards of New Politics Leadership Academy, Shady Hill School, and Immigration Equality.

Earlier in his career, he was a health care attorney with Proskauer Rose LLP. Ramanathan earned a BA at Johns Hopkins University and a JD cum laude from Harvard Law School.

He has been an LGBTQ+ community leader for more than three decades and is the recipient of honors including the Global Vision Award for service to the LGBTQ+ and HIV+ immigrant and asylee communities.

Ramanathan, according to Politico, wanted Biden to run for president in 2016. He has served on the national finance committees of Biden for President and of the Democratic National Committee, according to his LinkedIn.

"If confirmed, I look forward to serving with a talented team of diplomats to build upon our deep and venerable friendship with Sweden," he said in a statement. "I will work to advance our partnership in areas including trade, investment, defense, and human rights while strengthening collaborations with respect to the many challenges we face together, from the Covid-19 pandemic to the climate crisis."

Ramanathan joins a record 40 plus Indian Americans working in the Biden-Harris administration. Besides Vice President Kamala Harris, the team includes Vivek Murthy serving his second term as 'America's Doctor' and Vinay Reddy as Biden's speechwriter.

Nine New York City contractors indicted for allegedly bribing NYCHA superintendents for "micro purchase" contracts

NEW YORK CITY (TIP): Nine New York City contractors have been indicted for allegedly bribing NYCHA superintendents for "micro purchase" contracts.

"These defendants allegedly tried to seek favors from NYCHA superintendents by offering them bribes, corrupting a process meant to ensure contracts are fairly awarded," Brooklyn District Attorney Eric Gonzalez said. "I commend the employees who came forward to report the bribe offers, kicking off this investigation. My office will continue to work closely with DOI to make sure that bribery schemes and other forms of corruption are investigated and prosecuted."

For larger construction projects and repairs to be performed by an outside vendor, NYCHA generally solicits multiple bids before awarding a contract.

But for smaller repairs involving contracts up to \$10,000, NYCHA implemented the micro purchase process which does not require multiple bids.

Instead, the superintendent or assistant superintendent of a housing development has the discretion to choose a vendor and request an estimate.

The defendants were identified as:

- Lakhwinder Kumar, 47, and Kumar Construction Corp., of South Ozone Park, Queens
- Charanjit Singh, 58, Satbir Singh, 71, and Fine Touch Construction, of Floral Park, Queens
- Davinder Singh, 45, Nishan Singh, 56, Yuvi Development Inc., and NB Builders, of Hicksville, New York
- Surinder Singh, 59, Guriqbal Singh, 28, A. Peter Luger Construction, PKG Contracting Corp. and Heera and G. Builders, of South Richmond Hill, Queens
- Jaswant Banga Singh, 57, and Khushi Construction Inc., of New Hyde Park
- Bakhshish Chand, 68, and Amar Contracting, of Richmond Hill, Queens.

They are charged with bribery, giving unlawful gratuities, offering a false instrument for filing and conspiracy.



Brooklyn District Attorney Eric Gonzalez and New York City Department of Investigation Commissioner Margaret Garnett announced on Monday, September 20, that nine contractors had been charged in multiple indictments with bribery, giving unlawful gratuities, offering a false instrument for filing and conspiracy for allegedly offering NYCHA employees bribes in exchange for "micro purchase" contracts.

Photo / Courtesy Brooklyn DA's office

According to the investigation, in November 2018, Lakhwinder Kumar allegedly told an assistant superintendent at a NYCHA development in Brooklyn that he appreciated the jobs he received and offered him money. That employee reported the bribe offer to the Department of Investigations (DOI), which then equipped him with audio and video recording devices.

A month later, Kumar was recorded allegedly handing that assistant superintendent \$450 in exchange for a micro purchase job at the development.

The following year, in July 2019, in an unrelated incident, Surinder Singh, allegedly handed \$600 in cash to the superintendent of another NYCHA development in Brooklyn.

The employee tried to return the money, but Singh allegedly refused to take it.

The superintendent then reported the matter to DOI. A few weeks later, he allegedly left cash in the employee's office who again reported it to DOI, which then equipped the employee with audio and video recording devices.

Starting in Spring 2019, DOI placed undercover

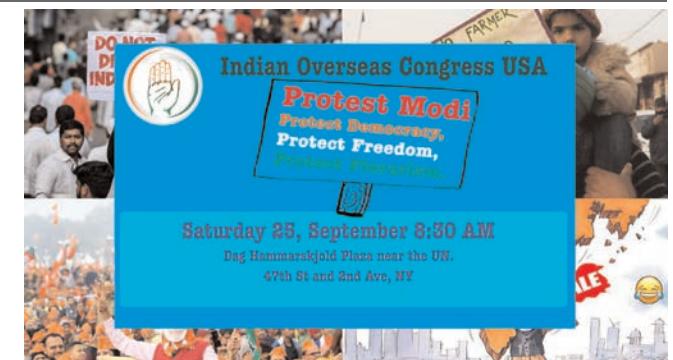
investigators posing as assistant superintendents at the Red Hook Houses West and Lafayette Gardens in Clinton Hill. Over a period of many months, the undercover at Red Hook allegedly recorded a number of contractors including Charanjit Singh and Satbir Singh, who are partners; Davinder Singh and Nishan Singh, who are brothers; and another contractor, Guriqbal Singh, discussing jobs at the development on numerous occasions and handing the undercover amounts of cash ranging from \$500 to \$1,000 in exchange for micro purchase jobs.

The undercover at Lafayette Gardens allegedly recorded Kumar, Charanjit Singh and another contractor also allegedly giving cash bribes to the undercover.

As the investigation continued, it expanded to capture recordings of Surinder Singh allegedly paying additional bribes to a NYCHA employee at a NYCHA development in Brooklyn and Jaswant Banga Singh and Bakhshish Chand allegedly giving cash bribes to an employee at a NYCHA development in Queens.

It is alleged that between December 2018 and May 2021 the defendants paid bribes or unlawful gratuities to NYCHA employees or undercover investigators totaling about \$20,000 in cash, in addition to two \$500 gift cards and four bottles of Johnnie Walker scotch with a total approximate value of \$115 in exchange for various jobs such as tile work, installation of tub enclosures, installation of a chain link fence, and repairing windows.

"NYCHA has zero tolerance for these illegal acts committed by staff and vendors, and worked in partnership with DOI on this investigation," NYCHA said in a statement. "We have implemented significant changes to the systems to prevent this type of malfeasance, including updates and modifications to purchasing oversight, how contracts are awarded and tracked, and post-award contract management. They are all being implemented as part of the Transformation Plan, which was mandated by the 2019 HUD Agreement, and we will continue to do the necessary work to improve." (Source: Brooklyn DA office)



The press is being muzzled, and with the judiciary under pressure, the institutions which Nehru Ji and Ambedkar Ji built are under severe stress. The draconian UAPA is being used to stifle personal dissent, and people are labeled anti-nationals for merely expressing opinions critical of government policies.

IOCUSA stands firmly in solidarity with the protesting farmers in India who have been denied their rightful voice and concerns to be heard on the unlawfully and surreptitiously passed Farm bills. The IOC, USA also voices its deep concerns on the security of India, especially given the increased threat from China, Pakistan, and now Afghanistan.

(Read full story at
www.theindianpanorama.news)

IOCUSA denounces Modi administration's misgovernance and failures on diverse fronts

NEW YORK CITY (TIP): The Indian Overseas Congress is an advocacy organization that promotes democracy, freedom, and justice for all and, in this regard, supports a very strong bilateral relationship between India and the USA and lauds every effort that fosters such partnership bondage, especially to rein in any radical terrorism emanating from Afghanistan.

The IOCUSA, however, expresses grave concern at the faltering economic situation in India, on the gross mismanagement of the Covid-19 pandemic, for allowing the growth of chronic unemployment, for negligently causing total despair and unrest among the farmers due to the promulgation of unfair farm laws, for the dissolution of public sector entities in favor of private enterprises, and the brutal attack and manipulation of religion on the very sensitive secular fabric of India. Hence, IOCUSA wishes to highlight and condemn the Modi Administration's disappointing misgovernance and lack of honesty in dealing with critical issues affecting India and the undemocratic policies and practices.

The IOCUSA also expresses its extreme

disappointment with the Narendra Modi-led NDA Government with the tackling of the Covid, especially the second wave that hit the country in March 2021. There was a lack of effective disaster management in utilizing existing resources and facilities in tackling one of the biggest crises that the country has faced in several decades. The total mismanagement of the second wave resulted in a large number of deaths across the country that are still not fully accounted for. The IOC, USA blames the Prime Minister for not releasing factual figures and information on the second wave and misleading the nation on this critical issue.

IOC.USA believes that the Modi government should be held responsible for the rampant mob attacks on minorities triggered by vitriolic statements by leading BJP leaders spewing the communal venom of prejudice and hatred. The Delhi riots were nothing but a byproduct of the hate-driven policies this administration has been pursuing. Under the BJP rule, civil society is increasingly being hand-cuffed with canceling their FCRAs and even forcing some of them out of the country.

WELCOME TO NEWCOMERS

Every now and then some officials move on to their new postings and their replacements arrive. While those leaving get a sendoff, the new arrivals are given a welcome reception.

In recent months, some officials who got transferred included Mr. Ashwani Tewari, Country Head of State Bank of India, Mr. Balasubramaniam Elango, CE of Bank of Baroda, and Deputy Consul General Shatrughna Sinha. Their replacements have since arrived.

The Indian Panorama takes pride in introducing them to the readers.

Mr. Virendra Bansal
Country Head -US Operations State Bank of India, New York



Mr. Virendra Bansal has taken over as the Country Head of the US Operations of State Bank of India, which includes its offices in New York, Chicago, Los Angeles, Sao Paulo and Washington DC. Prior to his present assignment, he was Chief Executive Officer, New York Branch since May 2019. He holds a Bachelor's degree in Engineering (Mechanical) and has certification of AML/ KYC from Indian Institute of Bankers.

He is a career banker with over 30 years' experience with State Bank of India in India and outside. Having joined as a directly recruited Probationary Officer in 1990, Mr. Bansal has handled several important and crucial assignments in diverse areas of Credit, International Banking and Retail Banking.

His prior assignments include Deputy General Manager & Relationship Manager at Corporate Accounts Group of State Bank of India at Mumbai where he managed relationship with some of the large corporates with aggregate credit exposure of USD 8.00 billion approx. His previous roles were Head (Trade) at London branch of State Bank of India and Branch Head of retail branch handling high net worth customers.

Mr. Prasanta Kumar Tripathy

**Chief Executive Manager,
State Bank of India, New York**



Mr. Prasanta Kumar Tripathy joined as Chief Executive Officer at New York branch in June'2021. He is experienced banker with over 25 years of working in various facets of banking in major markets for State Bank of India in India and outside. Having joined as a directly recruited Probationary Officer in 1995, Mr. Tripathy has handled several important and crucial assignments in diverse areas of Credit, Government business, International Banking and Retail Banking.

His prior assignments include, Deputy General Manager of New Delhi Main Branch, Delhi. Where he was responsible for growth in deposits, Foreign Business, Govt. Business, oversee Accounts of Ministry of External Affairs, Ministry of Finance, etc. His important task was to keep track of the PM CARES FUND ACCOUNT, which required direct reporting to Prime Minister's Office. He has worked as DGM and Chief Development Officer at Local Head Office, New Delhi as Head of HR department having 17000 staff members with

responsibilities of hiring, training, industrial relations, business conduct & discipline management. He has previously worked at Commercial Bank of India LLC, Moscow as Vice President (Credit) supervising Loan Syndications & Bi-lateral loans and Credit.

Mr. Chander Mohan Kumra

**Chief Executive Bank of India US Operations,
New York**

Mr. Chander Mohan Kumra is the Chief Executive of Bank of India US Operations. Bank of India is one amongst the top five Public Sector Banks in India.

Mr. Kumra joined Bank of India in 1995 as Direct Recruit Officer. In his 26 years of unblemished and illustrious career in Bank of India, he worked in various progressive positions in the Bank.

He worked as Deputy General Manager of International Division Head Office wherein he was overseeing the business operations of all overseas Branches of Bank of India. Previously, he had completed an overseas stint at Bank of India's Operations in Hong Kong.

Apart from rich overseas banking operations, Mr. Kumra has also handled key positions on domestic front such as Deputy General Manager & Branch Head of our Kolkata Large Corporate Branch which is a specialized vertical of the Bank dealing with Large Corporate Credit, Assistant General Manager & Branch Head of Bharat Diamond Bourse Branch which is a specialized Branch for Foreign Exchange Operations and Assistant General Manager & Branch Head at Jaipur SME City Center where he handled High Value credit proposals.

Being a seasoned banker, he is thoroughly familiar with the key skills of business development of the Bank while ensuring regulatory compliances.



Hindu University of America awards Honorary Doctoral Degree to Padma Bhushan Anupam Kher

NEW YORK CITY (TIP): Hindu University of America awarded Master of Arts in Sanskrit Degrees, and other Master's and Doctoral Degrees in Hindu Studies and Yoga, to 12 of its graduating students at a Graduation Ceremony on Saturday, September 18, 2021, at the Marriott Marquis, Times Square, New York. In addition, Hindu University of America also awarded an Honorary Doctoral Degree in Hindu Studies to Padma Bhushan Shri Anupam Kher.

The event began with Bhajans and dignified Vedic chanting and was addressed by the Chairman of the Board of Trustees, Padma Bhushan Prof. Ved Nanda. He welcomed and commended the graduating students as well as the chief guest of the event, Shri Anupam Kher. Dr. Nanda said that America was very receptive to Hindu ideas and thought, and that he was confident that Hindu University is on its way to fulfilling the expectations of not only the immigrant Hindu

community, but also of many other Americans. The students, who received their degrees to appreciative applause, spoke briefly but movingly about the gift of knowledge that they had received from their teachers and guides. The graduating class of MA Sanskrit students deeply appreciated the precious gift that they now possessed, i.e., a direct access to the Shastras that contained the Hindu knowledge systems.

Swami Sarvapriyananda, the resident Swami and head of the Vedanta Society of New York City, was also a featured speaker at the event. He spoke about the need for the "Hindu community to build institutions that can transmit Santana Dharma systematically to the next generation of Hindu Americans." He added that "Hindus in North America have been great temple builders... but the younger generation is interested in the meaning and philosophy behind the rituals... It is good that Hindus have made large donations to Harvard and Columbia,



Anupam Kher receiving Honorary Doctoral Degree in Hindu Studies at a Graduation ceremony of the Hindu University of America in New York on September 18, 2021

GOPIO Manhattan Organizes 'Meet & Greet' for Students from India at the New York Indian Consulate



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

NEW YORK CITY (TIP): The GOPIO Manhattan (NYC) in cooperation with Consulate General of India in New York organized the 'Meet & Greet' for Students from India studying in the Northeast to connect them to the community and providing mentoring opportunities as well as to raise awareness of Consular services to students from the Indian Consulate. Students from 21 universities, mostly from the Northeast participated in person or virtually.

The chief guest/host for the evening Ambassador Randhir Kumar Jaiswal, commented, "Welcome to all the students from India with open heart as you pursue your future studies here in the North-East region and help in the growth of economy here in USA and back home in India."

He further highlighted the goal to expand this program to include more students, from the pool of 200,000 students that come to the USA for further studies, to attend in person more interactive sessions and gain exposure to various services offered by the Consulate for the benefit of the students from registration at the Consular Portal, to cultural events to mental health support initiatives.

Ambassador Taranjit Singh Sandhu, via a video message welcomed the students from India and commented "Indian Students continue to be a strong bridge between India and USA. Delighted to welcome the students virtually! The

education and knowledge partnership are an area that holds great potential in our bilateral relations. During my visits across US, I've always made it a point to visit universities and visit faculty and students there." He further added "We have an active student hub and a dedicated student wing at the Embassy. You can count on them for any assistance."

The program started with a welcome by GOPIO International Chairman Dr. Thomas Abraham, who also serves as an advisor to GOPIO-Manhattan. Dr. Abraham encouraged the speakers to mentor, motivate and guide the students.

Dr. Abraham said, "In the 1960s and '70s when a foreign student joined a university, he/she was given host family, now with connected world and social media, the host family concept went away and the 4.5 million Indian Americans could serve as the host family to the new students."

GOPIO-Manhattan Executive Vice President Professor Rajasekhar Vangapaty moderated the first panel on mentoring students in the current market environment and added his learnings to the students using his unique perspective as a Registrar of Fashion Institute of Technology, the MIT of Fashion. There were four panelists in this session who are asked to comment on several questions.

Ms. Abha Kumar, Business transformation leader/ Board member Notify.io Advisory Board Shopelier,



Ambassador Taranjit Singh Sandhu, Ambassador of India to the United States, welcoming the Students from India.

Former CIO- Corporate & International Vanguard, shared her experiences with the students and said, "The way we worked in the past will not be relevant post-COVID...we now will look for employees who have the ability to have a wide perspective and connect the dots."

Ms. Kumar further added that students should master the technology component; the companies also look for certain emotional intelligence when they hire. Lastly, in corporate America, your work doesn't speak for you, you need to speak for yourself.

Mr. Prasan Kumar, Senior VP & Strategy Director at Publicis Group & Lecturer at Glasgow Caledonian New York College added "When you're in a classroom, experiment as much as you can." He elaborated, "bringing more than a textbook education is significantly important, get your perspective as per your interest, helps you being a problem solver and think long-term for career choice reflecting from his personal experience of moving 4 careers in 2 decades from IT to advertising now."

Mr. Neil Datta, Head of Due Diligence at Forbes Family Trust & Co-Founder Meritas provided insights in the current market context and said, "You're either a fintech company or you don't know it yet." He further added, "The ability to be a problem solver is a crucial skill that helps you in whatever you choose to work in."

Mr. Joe Simon, CIO at Entain which is involved in Sports Betting, echoed the

thoughts of the speakers and added, "Cultural sensitivity is crucial." He further added that in order to succeed, one needs to be fairly convinced about what one is trying to do and that the two most underrated skills in corporate America are patience and persistence."

The second panel on F1 to H1B via OPT was moderated by Mr. Aseem Trivedi, Manager of Data Analytics at Ernst and Young. He shared his unique path to Green Card as an experience for the students. He reminded the students "One should start thinking now what after H1B?"

Mr. Akshat Singh, a recent economics graduate of Columbia University brought his experience with Students and shared the idea "Get started on OTP process asap and do not wait for 6-months or so."

Mr. Ankit Chaudhari, Associate Vice President at JP Morgan Chase commented about his personal journey from F1 to OPT to H1-B to Green Card and suggested students "ask your employer whether they will sponsor your visa or not, but you give your best services."

Ms. Apeksha Tewari, Master of Laws from Penn State Law and Lawyer, shared her personal views to the students as part of the panel said, "Now that you are here, outside of your studies, you need to network with your professors, peers, everyone & communication is the key, ask for things."

Mr. Shivender Sofat, President GOPIO-Manhattan, who joined virtually told the importance of mentoring to the students, discussed chapter activities and motivated everyone to volunteer and become members at future events held by GOPIO Manhattan.

Mr. Siddharth Jain, GOPIO Manhattan Board Member & Program Coordinator; conducted the questions & answers session and concluded with vote of thanks to Chief Guest/Host Ambassador Shri Randhir Kumar Jaiswal, Dy. Consul Shri Varun Jeph, Consul for Political, Education and Culture Shri Vipul Dev, Consul for Community Affairs Shri A. K. Vijayakrishnan and the consulate staff. Other GOPIO-Manhattan officials present at the meeting included Vice President Vimal Goyle, and Co-Secretaries Dr. Lisa George and Bhavya Gupta.

"The students had an excellent time networking with students from different universities as well as with speakers and the Consulate and GOPIO officials and we plan to do a much bigger event next year hopefully after the Covid restrictions are over," Dr. Abraham added.

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

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

Facebook Link: GOPIO Manhattan NYC
(Based on a press release)



Speakers and organizers at the 'Meet & Greet' for Students from India.

From L to R: 1st Row: Speaker Akshat Singh, Speaker Apeksha Tewari, Speaker Ankit Chaudhari, GOPIO Chairman Dr. Thomas Abraham, Ambassador Randhir Kumar Jaiswal, Speaker Joe Simon, Dy. Consul Varun Jeph and Consul Vipul Dev.

2nd Row: Dr. Lisa George, Bhavya Gupta, Speaker Prasan Kumar, Speaker Aseem Trivedi, GOPIO Manhattan EVP & Session Chair Professor Rajasekhar Vangapaty, Speaker Neil Datta, GOPIO Manhattan VP Vimal Goyle, GOPIO Manhattan Board Member & Program Coordinator Siddharth (Sid) Jain

FIACONA thanks President Biden and VP Harris for advising Modi on the need for democratic values

WASHINGTON DC (TIP): The Federation of Indian American Christian Organizations (FIACONA) thanks Vice President Harris for telling Prime Minister Modi, "I know from personal experience and from my family, of the commitment of the Indian people to democracy and to freedom, and to the work that may be done and can be done, to imagine and then actually achieve our vision for democratic principles and institutions".

While we greatly applaud the Vice President's powerful testimony and her heartfelt remarks, we also feel that Mr. Modi may not have understood the gravity of what she was trying to convey to him.

It is not the first time that Mr. Modi and his team have completely missed the point of suggestions coming from



Voiceing concern over the threat to democracies around the world, Vice President Kamala Harris on Thursday, September 23, underscored the need to defend democratic principles and institutions in both India and the US. - Photo / Twitter

American leaders, including the then Vice-President Biden and President Obama on past occasions.

Hence, we ask that President Biden and Vice President Harris be more direct and explicit in expressing that India should not and could not afford to go down the path of religious nationalism at the expense of pluralist democratic principles that values Christian and other religious segments of the population.

Should Modi and his party choose to continue down this path of religious nationalism despite warnings from leaders of the free world, there is no reason to assume that India would end up any better than Pakistan, Sri Lanka, or Myanmar in that region, thus jeopardizing the stability and commerce in the Indo-Pacific region.

Hindu Swayamsevak Sangh USA celebrated Raksha Bandhan with the Irving Police Department in Texas



Irving Police Department celebrates Raksha Bandhan with Hindu Swayamsevak Sangh USA

Photo Courtesy / Twitter/@IrvingPD

DALLAS, TX (TIP): Raksha Bandhan, a festival that cherishes the bond between brothers and sisters, is celebrated by the Hindus across the world. The festival was celebrated this year on August 22.

However, it's never too late to celebrate this bond, and ring in the festival as did members of Hindu Swayamsevak Sangh (HSS) in Dallas.

Hindu Swayamsevak Sangh USA celebrated the festival of love and togetherness with the Irving Police Department here. Taking to Twitter, the official handle of Irving PD posted pictures of the celebration with HSS members.

Hindu Swayamsevak Sangh (HSS) USA is a voluntary, non-profit, social and cultural organization. Sangh, as the organization is popularly known, aims to organize the Hindu community in order to preserve, practice and promote Hindu ideals and values. There is an HSS presence in North Irving.

Shree Jalaram Mandir Raas Garba Ramzat with Kirtidan Gadhvi Turns Chicago land Devotional

CHICAGO, IL (TIP): Chicagoland couldn't have asked for a better post-pandemic celebration after almost two years of pause to any public gathering than the beautiful religious and musical extravaganza organized by Shri Jalaram Mandir with Kirtidan Gadhvi and group. The grand program of "Ras-Garba Ramzat" was organized by Shri Jalaram Mandir, 425 Illinois Blvd, Hoffman Estate, IL on Friday September 17, 2021 from 6:00 pm to 1:00 am at Renaissance Convention Center, 1551, Thoreau, Schaumburg, IL with the internationally acclaimed vocalist Kirtidan Gadhvi" and his fellow artists who entertained thousands of devotees at the Renaissance Schaumburg Convention Center Hotel at Schaumburg, IL. The event was attended by over 2500 people.

"The best karma is not the one that has a good result, the best karma is the one that has the best purpose."

Shri Jalaram Mandir follows the similar path of public service, with all its revenue from such programs going to the contribution of the temple. The selfless and free service of Shri Jalaram Mandir, its managing committee and all the



Enthusiasm and devotion marked the event

volunteers was as excellent as ever with beautiful sound system lighting, security, photography, videography and booths for different businesses. There was free entry for children below 10 years of age, free parking, tea and snacks at reasonable prices, provision of water, cold drinks and free covid testing. The contribution of donors from different fields as sponsors was commendable. All the devotees who came were also very supportive and cooperative. Jalaram Mandir has been organizing events in mind boggling fashion depicting unique examples of teamwork and credit goes not only to Board Members but to every individual that participates with zeal be it an executive or volunteer. The entire venue was

overcrowded and the spectacular audience danced and enjoyed Raas Garba with enthusiasm and fervor. This annual holy event is celebrated in honor of Goddess Durga Mataji.

"Navali Nortani Raat Maa Amba Garbe Ghumta (Nisarya) Pavagadhthi. Ne Chicagona Khailaiya Raas Garba Khub Ghumta Sang Kirtidan Gadhvi"

Garba and Raas, performed by Kirtidan Gadhvi and Group, transformed the whole center into a huge dance floor to accommodate thousands of bare feet moving into thunderous drumbeats in swirling circles around deity Hindu Goddess "Durga".

(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)

India sees fall in daily Covid-19 tally with 29,616 new cases

India recorded a spike of 29,616 new Covid-19 cases on Sept 25. The country also witnessed 290 deaths, taking the death toll to 446,658. So far, India has recorded 33,624,419 corona cases in total. Delhi reported 24 Covid-19 cases and no fatality. Kerala recorded 19,983 new Covid-19 cases and Maharashtra 3,286 cases.

According to the health ministry, two-thirds of India's adult population has received the first dose of the Covid vaccine and nearly one-fourth, or 23 per cent, is now fully vaccinated. Private hospitals accounted for only six per cent of the Covid vaccines given in the country since May this year.

BJP, Nishad party, Apna Dal to contest UP polls together

The contours of the BJP-led NDA alliance appear to be in place for the UP elections next year. The saffron party today announced alliance with Sanjay Nishad-led Nirbal Indian Shoshit Hamara Aam Dal (Nishad party), which represents communities like fishermen and boatmen whose traditional occupations are centered around rivers.

UP election in-charge Dharmendra Pradhan said the BJP would contest the elections in alliance with the Nishad Party and Apna Dal, whose leader Anupriya Patel is also a Minister of State in the Narendra Modi council in the Centre.

Both Pradhan and state party chief Swatantra Dev Singh specified that the alliance will contest under the leadership of CM Yogi Adityanath and PM Narendra Modi.

Rahul and Priyanka meet Pilot amid Rajasthan rumblings

In a signal that the Congress has started moving fast to resolve the Rajasthan tangle, party leader Rahul Gandhi met the state's former deputy chief minister Sachin Pilot in New Delhi on Friday, Sept 24, their second meeting in a week.

While both sides remained tight-lipped about what transpired during the meeting, two senior Congress leaders maintained that it was a "good meeting" and went in the "right direction".

"We expect the effects of the meeting can be visible in next few days," said a senior Congress functionary indicating that some of Pilot's sympathisers might be relocated in different governmental positions in Rajasthan soon, as the first step.

Samyukta Kisan Morcha calls for Bharat bandh on September 27

NEW DELHI (TIP): Samyukta Kisan Morcha (SKM) has called for a 'Bharat bandh' on September 27 to protest against the Centre's three farm laws. The Bandh will be effective from 6 am to 4 pm.

"This would include all government and private offices, all educational and other institutions, all shops, industries and commercial establishments, all public events and functions. Public and private transport shall also come to a halt during this period," said Samyukta Kisan Morcha (SKM).

The kisan body said, "All emergency establishments and essential services, including hospitals, medical stores, relief and rescue work and people attending to personal emergencies will be exempted."

The Kisan morcha claims Bharat bandh will be enforced in a voluntary and peaceful manner.

The farmers' organisations have urged all farmers, students, unions of government, private institutions and trade, transport unions and chambers to support September 27 Bharat bandh.

Bank officers' union extends support to 'Bharat Bandh'

The All India Bank Officers' Confederation (AIBOC) on Wednesday



extended its support to the 'Bharat Bandh' called by Samyukta Kisan Morcha on September 27.

AIBOC requested the government to re-open dialogue with the Samyukta Kisan Morcha on their demands and rescind the three contentious farm laws.

AIBOC affiliates and state units will join in solidarity with the protest actions of the farmers all over the country on Monday, the union said in a statement.

Citing the NSS Land and Livestock holdings of Households and Situation Assessment of Agricultural Households, 2018-19 report released earlier this month, the union said it indicates that the government's target of doubling farmers' income by 2022 seems a distant dream.

The average outstanding loan per agricultural household has increased to Rs 74,121 in 2018 from Rs 47,000 in 2013. The growing indebtedness of agricultural households reflects deep farm distress, it said.

New Punjab CM Charanjit Singh Channi meets top brass in Delhi over cabinet expansion



Amrinder Singh Raja Warring, Pargat Singh and Kuljit Nagra.

While Sidhu is strongly supporting all three, Channi, it is learnt, is of the opinion that the organisation persons should concentrate of the party as elections are around the corner. Pargat Singh is PPCC general secretary and Nagra is working president.

Also, Sidhu is backing Raja Warring, but former Finance Minister Manpreet Singh Badal is strongly opposing him. Badal and Channi are considered thick for past many years. Badal had played a role in Channi's rise as CM too.

Channi was called to Delhi on Thursday

and had held two rounds of meetings, with senior leader KC Venugopal, general secretary incharge Harish Rawat, Harish Chaudhary and Ajay Maken and finally with Rahul Gandhi.

He was called again on Friday for the meeting after Rahul Gandhi met former PPCC chief Sunil Jakhar for about 45 minutes.

It is learnt that Jakhar too had a view on a few MLAs being inducted as ministers.

The party has been trying to impress upon Jakhar to accept a role in the Cabinet but he has been declining. Sources privy to the meeting said that Jakhar told Rahul that he did not want any position in the government.

Before this development, the Congress in Punjab was waiting for the list of Cabinet ministers as the CM is learnt to have conveyed to his colleagues that the list was finalised it would be run past AICC chief Sonia Gandhi for a final word.

While the party is retaining most of the ministers from Amarinder's Cabinet, it has to induct only a few new ones. But it is unable to make a final decision on those few only.

Source: The Indian Express

Women can apply for NDA & Naval Academy exams

The UPSC has permitted unmarried women to apply for the National Defence Academy (NDA) and Naval Academy examinations, said officials.

The move follows a Supreme Court directive on the issue last month. In a statement, the UPSC said in compliance with the apex court's interim direction, it had decided to open the application on upsconline.nic.in for the exam to enable "unmarried women candidates only", who were otherwise eligible in terms of nationality, age and educational qualification. The agency said the physical standards and number of vacancies for women candidates would be notified at later stage when it receives a recommendation from the Ministry of Defence.

CBI registers FIR in Mahant Giri's death

The CBI filed an FIR on Friday, Sept 24, in connection with the death of Akhil Bharatiya Akhara Parishad president Mahant Narendra Giri in Allahabad.

The agency has invoked Section 306 (abetment to suicide) of the IPC in the FIR. The seer was found hanging by his disciples in Allahabad on Monday. Earlier in the day, the Centre gave its approval for a CBI probe with the Department of Personnel and Training issuing a notification.

India inks Rs 21,000 crore deal with Airbus for 56 IAF planes

NEW DELHI (TIP): India Friday, Sept 24, signed a contract estimated to be worth Rs 20,000 crore with Airbus Defence and Space to procure 56 C-295 military transport aircraft.

The new aircraft will replace the IAF's Avro-748 planes. The first 16 of these will be delivered in flyaway condition from Spain between the next two and four years.

The remaining 40 will be manufactured by Tata Advanced Systems along with Airbus in India. These deliveries will begin from the fourth or fifth year from now and end by the tenth year.

This is India's first aerospace programme in the private sector.

The Cabinet Committee on Security approved the deal, which has been in the works for a decade, earlier this month. On Friday, besides the deal, the Defence Ministry signed an offset contract with Airbus. As part of this, company will discharge its offset obligations through direct purchase of eligible products and services from Indian offset partners.

While officials have been tight-lipped about the deal, sources say it is estimated at over Rs 20,000 crore. The programme will involve the development of a complete industrial ecosystem — from manufacturing, assembly and tests to delivery and lifecycle maintenance.

All the aircraft will be equipped with an indigenous Electronic Warfare Suite and handed over in a transport configuration. The government has called this a "big step towards modernisation of the IAF transport fleet".

Sukaran Singh, Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of Tata



Advanced Systems Ltd, told reporters that the company, along with Airbus, has considered more than a hundred sites to set up the production facility. A final call, in consultation with all stakeholders including the local residents, is yet to be taken.

Remi Millard, President and MD, Airbus South Asia, said the project is much more ambitious than a mere technology transfer, as it is aimed at manufacturing the aircraft in the country. He said this will place India on the global map to manufacture such aircraft.

His colleague Jean-Brice Dumont, Executive Vice-President, Military Aircraft, said there is a "real" export potential from these facilities, but the

priority is to honour the commitment to the Air Force. He said that the engines for the 40 aircraft manufactured in India will have to be imported. But, he added, the technology transfer to make engines within the country is just a "matter of time".

According to Airbus, the C-295 has a proven capability of operating from short or unprepared airstrips, and can be used for tactical transportation of up to 71 troops or 50 paratroopers. It can also be deployed for logistics operations to locations inaccessible to heavier aircraft. It can airdrop paratroops and loads, and also be used for casualty or medical evacuation. It can perform special missions as well as disaster response and maritime patrol duties.

Modi's image in SC mails raises eyebrows; apex court objects

NEW DELHI (TIP): Since its launch six months ago, the Central Government has been going all out to promote the showpiece initiative, Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, to mark 75 years of Independence next year.

But this has now led to questions being raised over the inclusion of ads for the event with images of Prime Minister Narendra Modi in emails sent to advocates by the Registry of the Supreme Court.

Several advocates confirmed to The Indian Express that the images were included as part of email signatures — and said this blurred the line separating the judiciary and executive.

Late Friday, the Registry said in a statement that the National Informatics Centre (NIC), "which provides the email services to the apex court, was directed to drop that image from the footer of the emails originating from the Supreme Court".

"It was further directed to use the picture of the Supreme Court of India, instead. NIC has since complied with the directions...," it said.

The statement was issued hours after a lawyer red-flagged the ads in a message on the WhatsApp

group of the Supreme Court Advocates-on-Record Association.

"Sir, I have received this notice from the Registry with a snapshot of the Prime Minister. The same does not seem to be in order of the Supreme Court's position as an independent organ and not a part of the government. Request you to kindly take up the same with the Hon'ble Chief Justice with a note of protest if you deem appropriate," the message said.

Soon, even as the apex court's secretary general Sanjeev S Kalgaonkar said he was not aware of such incidents, the Advocates-on-Record association's secretary Joseph Aristotle said further course of action will be planned after a formal complaint is received from lawyers.

Advocates-on-Record (AoR) are lawyers qualified to plead before the Supreme Court — only an AoR can file a case in the apex court. The Registry handles the back-end operations of the court, and communicates with AoRs on the status of cases.

When contacted, an NIC official said: "This script is used in all NIC platforms. Today, we have

taken steps to remove this from the Supreme Court platform... a message related to Gandhi Jayanti was being used earlier."

Hours later, the Registry issued its statement. "Late last evening, it was brought to the notice of the Registry...that the official emails of the Supreme Court of India were carrying an image as footer, which has no connection whatsoever with the functioning of the judiciary," it said.

Asked about the ads in emails, Senior advocate Chander Uday Singh described them as "highly objectionable". "The Supreme Court and all other courts of India are not government offices and not intended to be used as propaganda machinery of the government," Singh said.

Another advocate, who did not wish to be named, said: "The Supreme Court must not only be independent but must also be seen to be independent. In the minds of people, if the image of the judiciary being separate from the political executive is to be maintained, any such association must be avoided."

Source: Indian Express

India in history this Week

SEPTEMBER 24 TO SEPTEMBER 30, 2021

24 SEPTEMBER

1861 Bhikaji Cama was born the lofty voice of women's rights.

1932 Poona Pact was signed between Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar and Mahatma Gandhi in Pune's Yerwada Central Jail for the rights of untouchables.

2014 ISRO's satellite Mangalyaan successfully entered the orbit of Mars.

2008 The Madras High Court dismissed the petition regarding premature release of Nalini and two other convicts in the Rajiv Gandhi murder case.



2008 Kapil Dev, the Indian cricketer was conferred the honorary title of Lieutenant Colonel in the Territorial Army by Army Chief General Deepak Kapoor at a function.

1932 Bengal's revolutionary nationalist Pritilata Wadeedar became the first woman to lay down her life for the country's independence.

2009 India's first Chandrayaan-1 discovered water on the lunar surface.

1726 The East India Company was authorized to form municipal and mayor courts in Bombay, Calcutta and Madras.

1940 India's famous female swimmer Aarti Saha was born.

25 SEPTEMBER

1524 Vasco da Gama came to India for the last time as Viceroy.

1916 Indian economist, sociologist, journalist and great thinker Deendayal Upadhyaya was born.

1914 Former Deputy Prime Minister of India Chaudhary Devi Lal was born.

2009 The Enforcement Directorate of India revealed the hawala network of about five thousand crore rupees.

1920 Birth of India's famous rocket scientist Satish Dhawan.

1955 India's first female physician Rukmabai passed away.

2006 Demand for Indian citizenship to Dalai Lama.



26 SEPTEMBER

1820 Indian social reformer, educationist and freedom fighter Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar was born.

1923 Bollywood actor Devanand was born in Punjab (Pakistan).

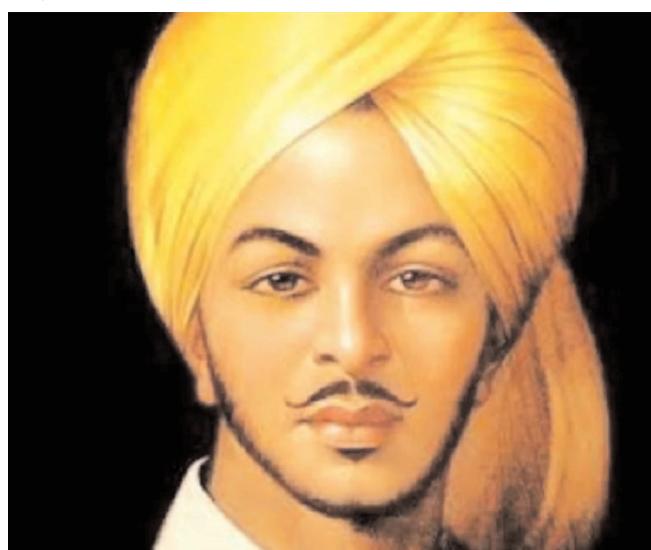


1932 Manmohan Singh, the 13th Prime Minister of the country, was born in a village in the Punjab province of undivided India.

1998 Sachin Tendulkar broke Desmond Haynes' world record by scoring an 18th century in a one-day cricket match against Zimbabwe.

27 SEPTEMBER

1883 The great social reformer Raja Ram Mohan Roy died.



1907 The great revolutionary Bhagat Singh was born.

1998 Google, the world's largest search engine, was launched.

1760 Mir Qasim became the Nawab of Bengal.

2009 The talks between Indo-Pak foreign ministers started.

1871 Vitthalbhai Patel, elder brother of Sardar Patel and famous freedom fighter was born.

28 SEPTEMBER

1929 Swar Kokila Lata Mangeshkar was born.



1767 Sajjan 17 forbids private slave transport to the Cape of Good Hope, India.

1838 The last Mughal emperor in India Bahadur Shah Zafar ascended the throne after his father's death.

1977 India's famous poet Sumitranandan Pant died. He is one of the four major pillars of the Chhayawadi era in Hindi literature.

2004 The World Bank named India as the fourth largest economy in the world.

2011 Chief Minister Mayawati announced the creation of three more districts in Uttar Pradesh, comprising 72 districts, namely Panchsheel Nagar, Prabuddhanagar and Sambhal.

1836 Birth of spiritual master Shirdi Sai Baba.

29 SEPTEMBER

1932 The actor, producer-director Mahmood Ali was



born.

1959 Aarati Saha became the first Asian woman to cross the English Channel.

1836 Madras Chamber of Commerce and Industry was established.

1971 About 10 thousand people died due to cyclonic storm in the Bay of Bengal.

1837 The last Mughal emperor Bahadur Shah II took over the rule of Delhi.

1962 Birla Planetarium opens in Kolkata.

1928 India's first National Security Advisor Brijesh Mishra was born.

30 SEPTEMBER

1908 One of the famous poets of Hindi, Rashtrakavi Ramdhari Singh Dinkar was born on 23 September 1908 in a place called Simaria.

1967 The International Monetary Fund (IMF) reformed the monetary system.

1952 The revised standard version of the Bible was published and released to the public.

1993 In Aurangabad district of Maharashtra, more than 10 thousand people died due to earthquake and millions were rendered homeless.

2003 The famous Indian chess player Vishwanathan Anand won the World Rapid Chess Championship.

2010 The Lucknow bench of the Allahabad High Court ruled in the disputed Babri Masjid case, dividing the land into three parts and giving one part each to Ramlala, Nirmohi Akhara and Waqf Board.



2007 Renowned playback singer Manna Dey was selected for the prestigious Dadasaheb Phalke Award in 2009.

1837 Pandit Shraddharam Sharma, a famous Hindi and Punjabi litterateur and freedom fighter was born.

GOPIO Virginia

Proudly Presents

AWARD OF EXCELLENCE BANQUET

CELEBRATION OF 10TH ANNIVERSARY

GANDHI JAYANTI CELEBRATION

Our Special Guests:



Congressman Gerry Connolly | Congressman Don Beyer

Ambassador of Mauritius H.E. Purmanund Jhugroo

State Senator | Delegates

Other Invitees: Senator Tim Kaine | Indian Ambassador
and more...

03 OCTOBER 2021
6 PM - 9 PM

THE PROGRAM HAS REACHED ITS CAPACITY AND WE HAVE SOLD OUT OF TICKETS

Event will follow CDC guidelines

Proof of vaccination may be requested so we ask that you bring your vaccination card.

Organizing Committee:

Jay Bhandari, Vishnu Reddy, Vinita Tiwari, Shyamali Hauth, Sant Gupta, Ajay Gupta, Reena Gulati, Shweta Jain, Swati Sharma, Madhu P Sharma, Kushal Bhandari, Puja Khanna, Rani Sisodia, Suryakant Tovrekar, Danny Luck, Anshu Matalia, Himanshu Mehta, Nilima Mehra & Saddam Salim.



Salman Khan gets talking about his longest relationship

Superstar Salman Khan said his over a decade-long association with the reality show "Bigg Boss" is his "longest relationship" and he keeps coming back to it every year, faithfully.

Khan, who is currently shooting for his upcoming actioner "Tiger 3" in Austria, has been associated with the show since its season four in 2010.

The superstar will be seen hosting the 15th season of the Colors show, set to premiere on October 2.

In a video message shown to the media during a special event at the Pench National Park in Madhya Pradesh, the 55-year-old actor said the show has a strong hold on him and it brings a certain "permanency" in his life.

"My relationship with 'Bigg Boss'... This is perhaps my only relationship that has lasted this long. Some relationships, what do I say... Let it go.

"(But) 'Bigg Boss' has brought a certain permanency in my life. Though sometimes for those four months, we don't see eye to eye but when we are parting ways (after a season's end), we are desperate to reunite," Khan said in the message.

Present at the special event were former "Bigg Boss" contestants Devoleena Bhattacharjee and Arti Singh.

Taapsee Pannu's Rashmi Rocket brings back lingering memory of Dutee Chand

A couple of days ago, Taapsee Pannu skyrocketed to top trends for her 'mard ki body' when a faceless troll, well, decided to troll her on Twitter. The point of contention - a still from her upcoming film, *Rashmi Rocket*, where Taapsee, with her back to the camera, showed off enviably ripped muscles. Her answer? "Just remember this line and wait for 23rd September (sic)." On September 23, the trailer of *Rashmi Rocket* dropped - and it all came together.

Taapsee's *Rashmi*, a National-level player, is tagged 'mardaana' for she is 'not conventionally feminine'. Her achievements, medals, fame, all snatched away in a matter of seconds when she's accused of lying about her gender and competing in women's games. What followed was a slew of archaic gender testings to ascertain if she was a woman at all. Then, a ban. Then, a case. Mudslinging, public opinion made and broken, and the customary Bollywoodised crescendo of tears, drama and the promise to rise back up. And a lingering memory of Dutee Chand from 2014.

Dutee Chand, a double silver medallist at the Asian Games and India's National record-holder in 100 m, was banned and dropped from India's Commonwealth and Asian Games teams in 2014. This was on grounds of hyperandrogenism - a condition where the female body produces more testosterone, almost at the level of men.



She was just 19 at the time. She fought back. She won. And had her ban overturned. In 2018, she won two Silver medals at the Women's 100 m and 200 m at the Asian Games. And became the first Indian athlete to come out as gay. But that is not the story of *Rashmi Rocket*. *Rashmi* resonates with Dutee on several levels. *Rashmi*, like Dutee, comes from a humble background. And

as the story goes, has had to fight the 'I am a woman, so what?' battle against patriarchy. From there, to now having to prove her femininity would be a twisted war, unlike what Bollywood has ever seen before. *Rashmi*, however, has her husband by her side. Yes, Bollywood can only go so far until it trips on the knight-in-shining-armour boulder.

Source: India Today

Vicky Kaushal's 'Sardar Udham' to release directly on Amazon Prime Video

Filmmaker Shoojit Sircar's upcoming movie "Sardar Udham", starring Vicky Kaushal in the lead, will premiere on Amazon Prime Video.

A biopic on freedom fighter Sardar Udham Singh, who assassinated Michael O'Dwyer, the former Lieutenant Governor of Punjab in British India in 1940, to avenge the 1919 Jallianwala Bagh massacre, the film will digitally release in October.

Said to be a "heart-wrenching story of retribution", "Sardar Udham" showcases the journey of a gallant man who made sure the world never forgets the lives of his beloved brethren who were brutally killed in the Jallianwala Bagh Massacre of 1919.

Vicky Kaushal took his Instagram handle to break the news of release. He wrote, "My heart is filled with love as we bring to you the story of a revolutionary. This October, watch #SardarUdhamOnPrime."

Prime Video too shared the same picture on its Instagram and captioned it, "You know the man but not his story. Bringing to you the story of India's freedom fighter, this October, watch #SardarUdhamOnPrime."



The film Ganapath is next for Kriti Sanon

Kriti Sanon and Tiger Shroff made their Bollywood debut together with *Heropanti*. The duo was much appreciated as a pair by the audience. However, after that movie, Kriti and Tiger have not shared screen space. And now, the *Heropanti* duo is all set to create magic on screen as they will be seen together in the movie *Ganapath*. Kriti Sanon has already begun the grind as she is attending rigorous training to get in shape for her character.

Kriti took to her Instagram account and shared a video montage of her dance and workout schedules as she 'warmed up'.





Soon, documentary on Britney Spears

A documentary based on pop singer Britney Spears is one step closer to the screen and will be on Netflix, a trailer-teaser for the film 'Britney Vs. Spears' confirmed.

In the 18-second clip, Spears is heard leaving a message for an attorney in 2009. A trailer is expected to drop on Wednesday, September 22, and the documentary itself on September 28, ahead of Spears' next court date on September 29. The documentary is being directed by Erin Lee Carr and has been underway for more than a year. It is unclear, though highly unlikely that Spears herself will appear in the project, given how closely guarded she has been throughout the course of her conservatorship.

Actress Vanessa Hudgens says she had Zoom pole dancing lessons during the lockdown, which were "tough" and left her bruised.

Hudgens said: "I've had multiple hobbies, I've definitely leaned into multiple things. At one point I got a pole and I was taking Zoom lessons, pole dancing, which was tough. I had a lot of bruises, but it was no joke."

"Eating, I did a lot of eating, I made a lot of anklets and necklaces and bracelets. Definitely leaned into some art, did a bit of painting and colouring, a lot of music and a lot of movies and TV." The 'High School Musical' actress met her boyfriend, Cole Tucker, during a Zoom meditation class during the pandemic and she credits the fact they're both "weirdos" as to why they get on so well, reports femalefirst.co.uk.

She told 'Entertainment Tonight': "We're just like the same, we're very similar. We're such weirdos, it's wonderful." Hudgens has also kept busy working on her first animated movie role, as Sunny in 'My Little Pony: A New Generation' and she had a great experience recording her lines.

She said: "It was so nice. I'm a cozy broad, so I love showing up to work and being able to stay cozy all day and really just digging into this character and this story. And you know, it's such a great story, it's such a great character, I just loved every minute of it. I was so excited. I think they were kind of taken aback by how excited I was." Hudgens recently described her Cole Tucker as "perfect" for her and said that she was making it her priority to remain "grateful for everything".



Nicole Kidman makes rare comment on Tom Cruise, their marriage

Hollywood actor Nicole Kidman has given an insight into her marriage and subsequent divorce from actor Tom Cruise. Speaking to Harper's Bazaar, for its upcoming October issue, Nicole discussed the immense media scrutiny their relationship invited in the 1990s.

Nicole and Tom met on the set of their 1990 movie Days of Thunder and got married just six months after the movie's release. They were together for more than a decade and even adopted two children. However, they split in 2001.

She said that her acting career was eclipsed by the attention that was given to her personal life and marriage. She blames the media for it.

She said, "I was young. I think I offered it up? Maybe I've gotten a bit more trepidatious, but I'm always trying to be as open as possible. I just prefer to live in the world that way."

She further added, "I'm wary at times, and I've been hurt, but at the same time I much prefer a warm approach rather than a prickly shutdown approach." She added that the episode left her 'open' to other experiences, such as when she finally met her now-husband, country singer Keith Urban.



Gillian Anderson bans her kids from watching her series Sex Education

Actress Gillian Anderson, who stars as Dr Jean Milburn in the Netflix series Sex Education, has banned her children from watching the show.

Anderson, who has Piper, 26, with Clyde Klotz, as well as Felix, 12, and Oscar, 14, with Mark Griffiths, said: "I am living happily in the denial that my children do not watch the show — I hope they haven't. When it first came out, I told them they weren't allowed to. But I have no control over what they do at their friends' houses. I have no control over what their friends show them." The new series of Sex Education features 20 intimate scenes in the first two minutes!

Anderson said that she's already had some candid conversations with her children about the issues explored on the show. She said: "I have had the conversations with them about certain aspects of the show, and also the importance of certain aspects of the show."



NJSO "RETURNS" TO MAIN STAGE

BY MABEL PAIS

"At a time when Haiti is recovering from a devastating hurricane, the ongoing effects of COVID and the wanton assassination of its president, this concerto seeks to remind us all of the magic and majesty of Ayiti, an island nation rooted in the fight for freedom and democracy that inspires my work as a composer, violinist and artist in collaboration and communion with the same people, places and songs of hope found in our beloved New Jersey community. How far is Haiti from New Jersey? The waters and wonder meet upon the same shores of liberty!" - Daniel Bernard Roumain (DBR), Resident Artistic Catalyst



Xian Zhang - Photo / Courtesy NJSO



DBR
Photo /
CourtesyNJSO

WIPA USHERS IN NEW SEASON WITH SALON SERIES

By Mabel Pais



Flutist Natasha Loomis & Pianist Ryan Bridge

Photo / Courtesy WIPA

The New Jersey Symphony Orchestra (NJSO) and Music Director Xian Zhang return to mainstage performances with an opening-weekend program featuring Beethoven's Seventh Symphony, Daniel Bernard Roumain's "Voodoo Violin Concerto" and the world premiere of Michael Abels' "Emerge," October 8 at 8 pm and 10 at 3 pm at NJPAC, Newark.

Zhang says: "Live concerts create such a powerful connection between the musicians and the audience that the Orchestra and I cherish, and we cannot wait to perform for our patrons in the concert hall again. I am thrilled to open this season with works by both of them alongside Beethoven's beloved Seventh Symphony. I am particularly excited to welcome Daniel, our Resident Artistic Catalyst, to the stage for his violin concerto."

Roumain takes center stage, performing the violin solo in his "Voodoo Violin Concerto" in his first mainstage performance with the Orchestra since being named NJSO Resident Artistic Catalyst this spring.

The season opener begins with the world premiere of "Emerge," a new work the NJSO co-commissioned from Michael Abels after performing the celebrated composer's riveting "Dances & Delights" in the Orchestra's first concert film in November 2020. Beethoven's beloved Seventh Symphony closes the program.

NJSO President & CEO Gabriel van Aalst says: "The emotion and energy that musicians and audiences alike felt at our recent outdoor parks concerts was overwhelming, and we are so excited to reunite with our audiences in the concert hall. The entire institution has committed all of our efforts to ensuring a safe return to our stages and communities. I am so grateful to all of our donors and patrons for the support that has enabled the NJSO to weather the challenges of the past 18 months and to return to live performances."

NJSO performances will follow safety measures in partnership with the venue and based on the guidance provided by the CDC and the State of New Jersey.

For more information, visit njsymphony.org/openingweekend.

TICKETS

Tickets are available online at njsymphony.org or by phone at 1. 800.ALLEGRO (255.3476).

CONCERT PROGRAM

New Jersey Symphony Returns
Friday, October 8, at 8 pm | NJPAC in Newark
Sunday, October 10, at 3 pm | NJPAC in Newark

XIAN ZHANG conductor

DANIEL BERNARD ROUMAIN violin
MICHAEL ABELS "Emerge" (World Premiere, NJSO Co-Commission)

DANIEL BERNARD ROUMAIN "Voodoo Violin Concerto"

BEETHOVEN Symphony No. 7
Learn more at njsymphony.org/openingweekend.

The New Jersey Symphony Orchestra (NJSO)

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

The NJSO embraces its legacy as a statewide orchestra through mainstage and chamber performances at venues across New Jersey, as well as partnerships with fellow Garden State arts organizations, universities and civic organizations. The Orchestra's education and community engagement programs promote meaningful, lifelong engagement with live music.

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

The NJSO Youth Orchestras alongside continued virtual instruction collaborated on a year-long project, "Our Voices," an album of 25 original compositions available to stream at www.njsymphony.org.

The Orchestra's online hub for free musical content is njsymphony.org/virtual.

COVID SAFETY

The safety of the organization's patrons, musicians and staff is of the utmost importance to the NJSO. Visit njsymphony.org for constantly updated details focused on attendees' well-being at our performances.

Connect with NJSO:

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

COVID SAFETY : Mask and proof of Full Vaccination Card required at the door.

TICKETS : Tickets are FREE for WIPA students. Adults and seniors can purchase tickets at whartonarts.myboxoffice.us/program/salon-series-ryan-bridge-piano-and-natasha-loomis-flute-1660

The Wharton Institute for the Performing Arts (WIPA)

WIPA's mission is to offer accessible, high quality performing arts education that sparks personal growth and builds inclusive communities.

Wharton is New Jersey's largest independent non-profit community performing arts education center serving over 1,500 students through a range of classes and ensembles including the 15 ensembles of the New Jersey Youth Symphony, which serve 500 students in grades 3-12 by audition.

Wharton Institute for the Performing Arts is located in Berkeley Heights, New Providence and Paterson, NJ and reaches students from 10 counties. All of Wharton's extraordinary faculty members and conductors hold degrees in their teaching specialty and have been vetted and trained to enable our students to achieve their personal best. To learn more, visit WhartonArts.org

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

Works to be performed include William Grant Still's "Summerland" and "Mother and Child," Dora Pejaevi's "Sonata for Flute and Piano," selections from Nikolai Medtner's "Forgotten Melodies," Op. 38, Ian Clarke's "Touching the Ether," and Henri Dutilleux's "Sonatine for Flute and Piano."

The Sunday afternoon series continues on November 14 with Two Pianos, Eight Hands featuring Ryan Bridge, Po-Wei Ger, Diana Lin, and Eric Olsen and concludes on December 19 with Mr. T and the Next Wave jazz quartet.

For full concert details, visit www.WhartonArts.org

STARS ILLUMINE NJPAC'S SPOTLIGHT GALA BY MABEL PAIS

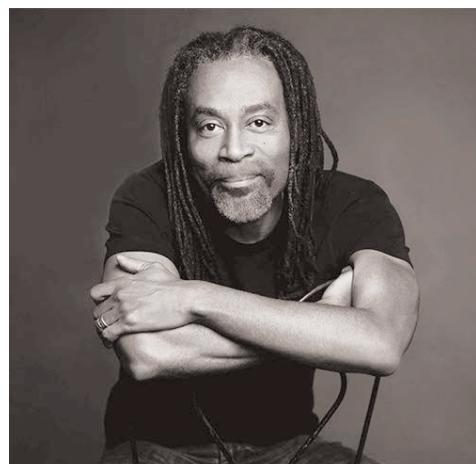
"Today, Women@NJPAC is focused on supporting the vital work of the Arts Center - and amplifying the voices of women in our communities, in the arts, in the social justice movement, and in the corporate world."

"The 'Spotlight Gala' is not only an opportunity for us to raise funds for NJPAC's award-winning programs for children and families, but also to spread the word about our work supporting all women, and lifting up the next generation of fierce, creative and effective leaders." -Faith Taylor, President - Women@NJPAC

NJPAC invites you to its annual SPOTLIGHT GALA where a galaxy of singing stars in "Perfect Harmony" join Women@NJPAC to illuminate the evening with the broadcast airing on NJ PBS (New Jersey's public television station, and MyNJPBS.org/live) on October 2 at 7 PM EDT.



Kelli O'Hara - Photo / Courtesy NJPAC



Bobby McFerrin - Photo / Courtesy NJPAC

The stars include Broadway's Kelli O'Hara, jazz vocalist Bobby McFerrin, jazz vocal group Manhattan Transfer, a cappella ensembles Take 6 and Naturally 7 and modern-day doo wop masters Under the Streetlamp will appear during an exhilarating night of performances that celebrate the power of vocal music.

Toby and Leon G. Cooperman, and the Cooperman Family, will be honored with the NJPAC 'Founders Award' during the Gala, acknowledging their contributions in the fields of medicine, education and the performing arts, and their founding gift toward the construction of the new Cooperman Family Arts Education and Community Center - a purpose-built new home for the Arts Center's arts education and community engagement programs, scheduled to open in 2024.

"For years, the Arts Center's Spotlight Gala has been our way of celebrating the beginning of our season, of saying 'thank you' to all our supporters and audience members, and of ensuring that

our work in arts education and community engagement can thrive and grow," says John Schreiber, President and CEO of NJPAC. "Although the Arts Center is now beginning to reopen for in-person performances, I'm so pleased that this year we will once again take our biggest party of the year virtual and share our exciting Spotlight Gala concert with arts lovers across the state through our ongoing partnership with NJ PBS."

EVENTS OF 2021

Some of the many programs hosted or made possible by Women@NJPAC this year:

A "Leading Ladies" virtual panel discussion featuring the powerhouse team of women behind the New Jersey Arts and Culture Recovery Fund, an initiative that raised millions of dollars to keep New Jersey's arts organizations alive in the wake of coronavirus.

The third annual "Gathering of Givers," Women@NJPAC's celebration of the power of women in philanthropy, which this year focused on women's contributions to rebuilding communities after the pandemic, featuring Lara Abrash, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Deloitte & Touche, and Joanne Lin, Principal, Newark Venture Partners, among many other women executives.

"She Did That: Black Women in the Workplace," a part of the Arts Center's "PSEG True Diversity Film Series," which highlighted the growing impact of African American women executives and entrepreneurs.

The launch of Women Leaders @ Work, a new series of virtual events, co-sponsored by Executive Women of New

Jersey, that explores the impact of women who are advancing organizations large and small. The first event in the series, Women in the Boardroom, focused on women who are taking leadership roles in corporate and nonprofit boards.

A virtual edition of the Women@NJPAC annual 'Spring Luncheon,' which offered a fascinating conversation with fashion icon Norma Kamali, and an appearance by Tony Award winning Broadway powerhouse, Laura Benanti;

Plus, hundreds of students in NJPAC's arts training programs received scholarships from Women@NJPAC to continue their studies.

WOMEN@NJPAC & The Spotlight Gala

Women@NJPAC, a "sisterhood for good" was established in 1994. The annual Spotlight Gala is organized by Women@NJPAC, the Arts Center's longtime advocacy organization.

The organization was started by nine women. This small band of women has now grown into a powerhouse of fundraising and "friend-raising" that today numbers thousands of members. Over the past 27 years, the Women@NJPAC has become an organization that not only supports the work of the Arts Center but serves as a networking venue par excellence for New Jersey women, and a funder with a particular focus on issues impacting women and girls. Women@NJPAC annually hosts multiple events on and off the Arts Center campus. It has grown into an organization of thousands of executives, artists, activists, mothers and change-makers devoted to advancing the philanthropic work of its members, and helping NJPAC deliver on its mission as an anchor cultural institution.

For more information, visit njpac.org/support/women-at-NJPAC

CELEBRATE NATIONAL HISPANIC MONTH WITH LATIN ICONS! BY MABEL PAIS

SEE TITO NIEVES, ARTURO O'FARRILL, EDDIE PALMIERI, LOS TIGRES DEL NORTE, LATIN FREESTYLE + HIP HOP,
GILBERTO SANTA ROSA, ELIZARDI CASTRO



Tito Nieves - Photo / elunicitonieves.com

The National Hispanic Heritage Month is celebrated from September 15 to October 15. During this month, heightened awareness is given to histories, cultures, and contributions of Americans whose ancestors came

from Spain, Mexico, the Caribbean, and Central and South America. NJPAC pays tribute to and celebrates Latin culture with live music from a line-up of Latin superstars.

Salsa Meets Jazz Starring TITO NIEVES, ARTURO O'FARRILL BIG BAND and EDDIE PALMIERI salsa orchestra

SEPTEMBER 25, 2021 at 8:00 p.m.

To learn more and for Tickets, visit njpac.org/event/salsa-meets-jazz

LOS TIGRES DEL NORTE

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 17, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.

For more information and Tickets, visit njpac.org/event/los-tigres-del-norte

Latin Freestyle + Hip Hop (90's Dance Star Studded Dance Concert)

Friday, October 22, 2021 at 8:00 p.m.

To learn more or for Tickets, visit njpac.org/event/the-90s-all-star-dance-concert

GILBERTO SANTA ROSA

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 29, 2021 at 8:00 p.m.

To learn more and for Tickets, visit njpac.org/event/gilberto-santa-rosa

ELIZARDI CASTRO

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 27, 2021 at 8:00 p.m.

The Town Hall at 123 W 43rd St, New York, NY 10036
For more information and Tickets, visit ticketmaster.com/law-disorder-an-evening-with-elizardi-castro

COVID SAFETY RULES

For COVID Safety Rules, visit njpac.org/visit/covid-health-and-safety

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



UK TO MAKE IT ILLEGAL FOR RESTAURANT EMPLOYERS TO KEEP STAFF TIPS

LONDON (TIP): The UK government said on September 24 that it will make it illegal for employers to withhold tips from workers under new regulations for the country's hospitality industry.

Most hospitality workers, many of whom earn the minimum sector wage, rely on tipping to top up their income. But research shows that many businesses that add a discretionary service charge onto customer's bills are keeping part or all of these service charges, instead of passing them onto staff.

"Unfortunately, some companies choose to withhold cash from hardworking staff who have been tipped by customers as a reward for good service," said UK Labour Markets Minister Paul Scully.

"Our plans will make this illegal and ensure tips will go to those who worked for it. This will provide a boost to workers in pubs, cafes and restaurants across the country, while reassuring customers their money is going to those who deserve it," he said.

The move is set to help around 2 million people working in one of the 1,90,000 businesses across the hospitality, leisure and services sectors, where tipping is common place and can make up a large part of their income. This will ensure customers know tips are going in full to workers and not businesses, ensuring workers receive a fair day's pay for a fair day's work.

The Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) said an increase in card payments has made it easier for businesses to keep the funds. Around 80 per cent of all UK tipping now happens by card, rather than cash going straight into the pockets of staff. Businesses who receive tips by card currently have the choice of whether to keep it or pass it on to workers. The new regulation is aimed at creating consistency for those being tipped by cash or card.

Under the changes, if an employer breaks the rules they can be taken to an Employment Tribunal, where employers can be forced to compensate workers, often in addition to fines.

The government said the tipping legislation will build on a range of government measures to protect and enhance workers' rights. —PTI

Vaccine certification for travel must meet 'minimum criteria', says UK

LONDON (TIP): The UK government has said that Covid-19 vaccine certification from all countries must meet a "minimum criteria" and that it is working with India on a "phased approach" to its international travel norms.

It follows Covishield, the Serum Institute of India manufactured Oxford/AstraZeneca vaccine, being added as eligible to an expanded UK travel advisory on September 23.

But with India's vaccine certification not on a list of 18 approved countries, Indian travellers to the UK will continue to be treated as non-vaccinated and therefore required to quarantine for 10 days on arrival.

Following much confusion over this process, UK government sources said on Wednesday night that additions or changes to the approved country listings are being kept under "regular consideration", but there was no further clarity on the required criteria for approving a country's vaccine certification.

"As part of our recently expanded inbound vaccination policy, we recognise the following vaccines Pfizer BioNTech, Oxford AstraZeneca, Moderna and Janssen (J&J), for the purposes of international travel. This now includes the formulations AstraZeneca Covishield, AstraZeneca Vaxzevria and Moderna Takeda," a UK government spokesperson said.

"Our top priority remains protecting public health, and reopening travel in a safe and sustainable way, which is why vaccine certification from all countries must meet the minimum criteria taking



into account public health and wider considerations. We continue to work with international partners, including India, to roll out our phased approach," the spokesperson said.

Travellers who are not fully vaccinated, or vaccinated in a country such as India currently not on the UK government's recognised list, must take a pre-departure test, pay for day two and day eight PCR tests after arrival in England and self-isolate for 10 days, with an option to "test to release" after five days following a negative PCR test.

With reference to an outcry over India's vaccination certification not being recognised despite Covishield being one of two main Covid-19 vaccines administered in India, UK government sources would only say that the rollout of its inbound vaccination programme to other countries and territories was always intended as a "phased approach", building on the success of pilots with the US and Europe.

The 18 countries currently on the UK government's approved inbound vaccinations list besides the US and

Europe include: Australia, Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Bahrain, Brunei, Canada, Dominica, Israel, Japan, Kuwait, Malaysia, New Zealand, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, South Korea, Taiwan and the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

Talks are being held in New Delhi between British officials and National Health Authority representatives, led by CEO RS Sharma, in an attempt to resolve India's omission from this list.

"Excellent technical discussions with @rssharma @AyushmanNHA. Neither side raised technical concerns with each other's certification process. An important step forward in our joint aim to facilitate travel and fully protect public health of UK and India," British High Commissioner to India Alex Ellis tweeted on Thursday.

From October 4, England's traffic light system of red, amber and green countries based on levels of Covid-19 risk is to be officially scrapped. However, despite Covishield now being recognised within the UK's eligible vaccine formulations, it would not offer any advantage to Covishield-vaccinated Indian travellers planning a UK visit.

The Indian government has expressed its strong condemnation of such a move and warned of "reciprocal measures" if vaccinated travellers from India continued to be treated in a "discriminatory" way.

At a Global Covid summit hosted by US President Joe Biden on Wednesday, Prime Minister Narendra Modi reiterated that international travel should be made easier through "mutual recognition of vaccine certificates". —PTI

6.0-magnitude earthquake strikes near Melbourne, tremors rattle southeast Australia

SYDNEY/MELBOURNE (TIP): A 6.0-magnitude earthquake struck near Melbourne on September 23, Geoscience Australia said, one of the country's biggest quakes on record, causing damage to buildings in the country's second largest city and sending tremors throughout neighbouring states.

The quake's epicentre was near the rural town of Mansfield in the state of Victoria, about 200 km (124 miles) northeast of Melbourne, and was at a depth of 10 km (six miles). An aftershock was rated 4.0.

Images and video footage circulating on social media showed rubble blocking one of Melbourne's main streets, while people in northern parts of the city said on social media they had lost power and others said they were evacuated from buildings.

The quake was felt as far away as the city of Adelaide, 800 km (500 miles) to the west

in the state of South Australia, and Sydney, 900 km (600 miles) to the north in New South Wales state, although there were no reports of damage outside Melbourne and no reports of injuries.

More than half of Australia's 25 million population lives in the southeast of the country from Adelaide to Melbourne to Sydney.

"We have had no reports of serious injuries, or worse, and that is very good news and we hope that good news will continue," Prime Minister Scott Morrison told reporters in Washington.

"It can be a very disturbing event, an earthquake of this nature. They are very rare events in Australia and as a result, I am sure people would have been quite distressed and disturbed."

Quakes are relatively unusual in Australia's populated east due to its

position in the middle of the Indo-Australian Tectonic Plate, according to Geoscience Australia. The quake on Wednesday measured higher than the country's deadliest tremor, a 5.6 in Newcastle in 1989, which resulted in 13 deaths.

The mayor of Mansfield, Mark Holcombe, said he was in his home office on his farm when the quake struck and ran outside for safety.

"I have been in earthquakes overseas before and it seemed to go on longer than I have experienced before," Holcombe told the ABC. "The other thing that surprised me was how noisy it was. It was a real rumbling like a big truck going past." He knew of no serious damage near the quake epicentre, although some residents reported problems with telecommunications. Reuters

Researchers detect malaria resistant to key drug in Africa

UGANDA / LONDON (TIP): Scientists have found evidence of a resistant form of malaria in Uganda, a worrying sign that the top drug used against the parasitic disease could ultimately be rendered useless without more action to stop its spread.

Researchers in Uganda analysed blood samples from patients treated with artemesinin, the primary medicine used for malaria in Africa in combination with other drugs.

They found that by 2019, nearly 20 per cent of the samples had genetic mutations suggesting the treatment was ineffective. Lab tests showed it took much longer for those patients to get rid of the parasites that cause malaria.

Drug-resistant forms of malaria were previously detected in Asia, and health officials have been nervously watching for any signs in Africa, which accounts for more than 90 per cent of the world's malaria cases. Some isolated drug-resistant strains of malaria have previously been seen in Rwanda.

"Our findings suggest a potential risk of cross-border spread across Africa," the researchers wrote in the New England Journal of Medicine, which published the study on Wednesday.

The drug-resistant strains emerged in Uganda rather than being imported



from elsewhere, they reported. They examined 240 blood samples over three years.

Malaria is spread by mosquito bites and kills more than 4,00,000 people every year, mostly children under five and pregnant women.

Dr Philip Rosenthal, a professor of medicine at the University of California, San Francisco, said that the new findings in Uganda, after past results in Rwanda, "prove that resistance really now has a foothold in Africa."

Rosenthal, who was not involved in the new study, said it was likely there was undetected drug resistance elsewhere on the continent. He said

drug-resistant versions of malaria emerged in Cambodia years ago and have now spread across Asia. He predicted a similar path for the disease in Africa, with deadlier consequences given the burden of malaria on the continent.

Dr Nicholas White, a professor of tropical medicine at Mahidol University in Bangkok, described the new paper's conclusions about emerging malaria resistance as "unequivocal."

"We basically rely on one drug for malaria and now it's been hobbled," said White, who also wrote an accompanying editorial in the journal.

He suggested that instead of the standard approach, where one or two other drugs are used in combination with artemesinin, doctors should now use three, as is often done in treating tuberculosis and HIV.

White said public health officials need to act to stem drug-resistant malaria, by beefing up surveillance and supporting research into new drugs, among other measures.

"We shouldn't wait until the fire is burning to do something, but that is not what generally happens in global health," he said, citing the failures to stop the coronavirus pandemic as an example. AP

CHINA DECLARES ALL CRYPTOCURRENCY TRANSACTIONS ILLEGAL

BEIJING (TIP): China's central bank on September 24 declared all transactions involving Bitcoin and other virtual currencies illegal, stepping up a campaign to block use of unofficial digital money.

Chinese banks were banned from handling cryptocurrencies in 2013, but the government issued a reminder this year. That reflected official concern that cryptocurrency mining and trading might still be going on or the state-run financial system might be indirectly exposed to risks.

Friday's notice complained Bitcoin, Ethereum and other digital currencies disrupt the financial system and are used in money-laundering and other crimes.

"Virtual currency derivative transactions are all illegal financial activities and are strictly prohibited," the People's Bank of China said on its website.

Promoters of cryptocurrencies say they allow anonymity and flexibility, but Chinese regulators worry they might weaken the ruling Communist Party's control over the financial system and say they might help to conceal criminal activity.

The People's Bank of China is developing an electronic version of the country's yuan for cashless transactions that can be tracked and controlled by Beijing. —AP

CHINA FLIES 19 JETS TOWARDS TAIWAN AMID ROW OVER PACIFIC TRADE PACT

TAIPEI (TIP): China sent 19 fighter jets towards Taiwan in a large display of force on September 23 after the self-governing island announced its intention to join an 11-nation Pacific trade group that China has also applied to join. Taiwan deployed air patrol forces in response to the Chinese jets and tracked them on their air defense systems, the island's Defence Ministry said in a statement.

Among the various jets, some of which flew in a long L-shaped path, were 12 J-16 and two J-11s, as well as bombers and an anti-submarine aircraft. China has sent fighter jets toward Taiwan on an almost daily basis this past year. It stepped up its military harassment of the self-ruled island and has sent large displays of fighter jets after political events in which it views as interfering with its sovereignty. Taiwan and China split during a civil war in 1949, but China continues to claim Taiwan as part of its territory. Beijing opposes Taiwan's involvement in international bodies.

Taiwan announced on Thursday that it applied to join the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership, setting up another potential clash with Beijing. —AP

107-year-old Japanese twins certified as world's oldest

TOKYO (TIP): Two Japanese sisters have been certified by Guinness World Records as the world's oldest living identical twins, aged 107 years and 330 days, the organisation has said.

The announcement coincided with Respect for the Aged Day, a national holiday in Japan.

Sisters Umeno Sumiyama and Koume Kodama were born on Shodoshima island in western Japan on November 5, 1913, as the third and fourth of 11 siblings.

The sisters as of September 1 broke the previous record of 107 years and 175 days set by famous Japanese twin sisters Kin Narita and Gin Kanie, Guinness World Records Ltd. said in a statement.

About 29 per cent of the population of 125 million in Japan, the world's fastest aging nation, are 65 years or older, according to the health and welfare ministry. About 86,510 of them are centenarians—half of whom turned 100 this year.

Sumiyama and Kodama were separated after finishing elementary school, when Kodama was sent to work as a maid in Oita on Japan's southern main island of Kyushu. She later married there, while Sumiyama remained on the



island they grew up on and had her own family. The sisters later recalled their difficult younger days. Growing up, they said they were targets of bullying because of prejudice against children of multiple births in Japan.

Busy with their own lives for decades, the sisters rarely met until they turned 70, when they started making pilgrimages together to some of the 88 Shikoku temples and enjoyed being reconnected.



Their families told Guinness World Records that the sisters often joked about outliving the earlier record holders, affectionately known as "Kin-san, Gin-san," who attained idol-like status in the late 1990s for both their age and humour.

Due to anti-coronavirus measures, the certificates for their new record were mailed to the separate nursing homes where they now live, and Sumiyama accepted hers with tears of happiness, according to Guinness. —AP

LANKA SEEKS \$100-MN IMF LOAN TO PROCURE COVID VAX

COLOMBO (TIP): Sri Lanka has decided to ask for a \$100 million loan from the IMF to procure 14 million doses of the Pfizer Covid-19 vaccine and finance other vaccination programme related costs, it was announced here on Wednesday.

"Minister of Health Keheliya Rambukwella had proposed that Sri Lanka obtain the additional loan grant of \$100 million under the programme of strategic preparation and response to Covid-19," the government said in a statement. The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has agreed to grant a supplementary loan of \$100 million to assist Sri Lanka's Covid-19 response, it added.

The decision made was to obtain the funds to procure 14 million doses of the Pfizer vaccine and also finance other vaccination programme related costs. The minister for pharmaceuticals Channa Jayasumana told Parliament on Tuesday that the government had already vaccinated over 50 per cent of the island nation's 21 million population. "Our target is to vaccinate over 75 per cent of the population within the next few months," he said.

The public health inspectors said those below the age of 30 had shown reluctance to get vaccinated. Only around 35 per cent of them had received the jabs by September 20. — PTI

NARAYAN KHADKA APPOINTED NEPAL'S NEW FOREIGN MINISTER

KATHMANDU (TIP): Senior Nepali Congress leader Narayan Khadka has been appointed Nepal's new foreign minister. President Bidya Devi Bhandari appointed Khadka on the recommendation of the government led by Prime Minister Sher Bahadur Deuba.

Khadka, 72, was administered the oath of office and secrecy by President Bhandari during an official ceremony at the Sheetal Niwas on Wednesday.

During a meeting of the top leaders of the ruling party alliances held at his residence in Baluwatar on Tuesday evening, Deuba had proposed the name of Khadka as the new foreign minister of Nepal.

Khadka has done his PhD in Economics from a University in Pune.

Prime Minister Deuba has been holding the portfolio till now.

The post of the Foreign Minister had been vacant for more than two months after the formation of the new government led by Deuba.

With Khadka's appointment, there are now seven ministers in the government, including Deuba and one minister of state. He had served as advisor to then Prime Minister Krishna Prasad Bhattarai in the 1990s. He was also the minister of urban development in 2014. PTI

Taliban minister rebukes fighters over misconduct

PESHAWAR (TIP): The Taliban's new defence minister has issued a rebuke over misconduct by some commanders and fighters following the movement's victory over the Western-backed government in Afghanistan last month, saying abuses would not be tolerated.

Mullah Mohammad Yaqoob said in an audio message that some "miscreants and notorious former soldiers" had been allowed to join Taliban units where they had committed a range of sometimes violent abuses. "We direct you keep them out of your ranks, otherwise strict action will be taken against you," he stated. "We don't want such people in our ranks." The message from one of the Taliban's most senior ministers underlines the problems Afghanistan's new rulers have sometimes had in controlling fighting forces as they transition from an insurgency to a peacetime administration.

Some Kabul residents have complained of abusive treatment at the hands of Taliban fighters who have appeared on the streets of the capital, often from other regions and unused to big cities.



Mohammad Yaqoob, Afghansitan Defence Minister
Warns against seeking revenge
Under the general amnesty announced in Afghanistan, no mujahid has the right to take revenge on anyone.

There have also been reports of reprisals against members of the former government and military or civil society activists, despite promises of an amnesty by the Taliban. Yaqoob said there had been isolated reports of unauthorised executions, and he repeated that such actions would not be tolerated. — Reuters

Nepal's new foreign min wants friendly ties with India, China



KATHMANDU (TIP): Nepal's newly-appointed Foreign Minister Narayan Khadka said on Wednesday that he would work towards maintaining friendly and balanced relations with India and China and forge national consensus with political parties on matters of foreign relations.

Khadka, 72, was sworn in as the Minister for Foreign Affairs on Wednesday. President Bidya Devi Bhandari administered the oath of office

and secrecy to Khadka in a ceremony at the Rashtrapati Bhawan, Shital Niwas, in the presence of Prime Minister Sher Bahadur Deuba.

Talking to reporters after assuming the office, Khadka said he would work towards ensuring friendly, amicable and balanced relations with both the immediate neighbours — India and China.

Arguing that the foreign policy of a country is not specific to any political party, the senior Nepali Congress leader said he would work towards forging national consensus with other political parties on matters of foreign relations, a website reported.

He also said the issue of the Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC) Compact Agreement would also be resolved, keeping in view the country's larger interests.

Under the US \$500 million MCC programme, the US government would provide grant assistance which would mainly be utilised on strengthening Nepal's transmission line to facilitate the export of hydro-electricity to India in the near future and also improve the country's road networks.

Khadka is the fifth minister to be appointed in the Deuba government, which was formed on July 13. With his appointment, there are now seven ministers in the government, including Deuba, and one minister of state. — PTI

TALIBAN EXPAND ALL-MALE INTERIM AFGHAN CABINET



KABUL (TIP): The Taliban expanded their interim Cabinet by naming more ministers and deputies on Tuesday, but failed to appoint any women, doubling down on a hard-line course despite the international outcry that followed their initial presentation of an all-male government lineup earlier this month.

In their previous rule of Afghanistan in the late 1990s, the Taliban, who adhere to a harsh interpretation of Islam, had barred girls and women from schools, work and public life.

At a news conference on Tuesday, Taliban government spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid held out the possibility of adding women to the Cabinet at a later time, but gave no specifics. He also said the Taliban were preparing rules for allowing teenage girls and women to return to schools and jobs in line with Islamic law, but did not say when that might happen. — AP

The crisis manager: Angela Merkel's double-edged European legacy

ACROSS A DECADE OF ROLLING THREATS, FROM THE EUROZONE TO BREXIT AND COVID, GERMANY'S OUTGOING CHANCELLOR FOCUSED ON HOLDING THE EU TOGETHER

It was Monday 13 July 2015 and dawn had broken when Angela Merkel said it was all over: Greece would be leaving the eurozone. After 15 hours of all-night crisis talks, it looked like disaster. Merkel gathered her papers and was heading towards the door. If the summit had ended at that moment the history of the European Union, its fragile currency and Merkel's legacy would be very different.

But the drama took another turn. Donald Tusk blocked the exit. Throughout the night, the French president, François Hollande, had been cajoling the German chancellor to think again. Now Tusk, European Council president, refused to let her leave, persuading her to reconvene with him and Greek prime minister Alexis Tsipras, warning of the stakes for the EU. "In five years in the discussions between Hollande and Merkel it was a unique occasion in which Hollande really won the battle with Merkel," Pierre Sellal, then France's ambassador to the EU, said. Hollande helped convince Merkel not to run the risk of 'Grexit', suggested Sellal: "It was Pandora's box, the consequences of which were impossible to predict."

Six years on it is Merkel, not Tusk nor Hollande, who is remembered as the savior of the euro. Even arch critic Yanis Varoufakis, Greece's former finance minister, told the BBC that Merkel saved the euro by keeping Greece in, although he disagrees with how she did it. The reason is simple: Greece could not have stayed in the eurozone if its largest EU creditor, Germany had not agreed.

Now, after 16 years and roughly 100 EU summits as Europe's most powerful leader, Angela Merkel is preparing to leave the stage. For the EU it will be the end of an era. With her bright blazers and soundbite-free statements, Merkel is as much a fixture of EU summits as the flags and fine wines. Untouched by scandal, unshaken by referendums, the German chancellor has seen many leaders come and go, including four French presidents, five British prime ministers and eight Italian premiers.

But she leaves a double-edged legacy. Though she is credited with keeping the EU together during more than a decade of rolling crises - eurozone, migration, Brexit, Trump and then coronavirus - critics lament what they see as her lack of vision. For some, her approach was *auf Sicht fahren* - driving by sight. She navigated each crisis like a driver on a foggy road, edging forward, not sure where she was going, but always keeping the car on the road.

At her first EU summit in December 2005, Merkel was relatively unknown. The EU had just come through a period



A masked Angela Merkel arrives walks along a red carpet in front of flags of European nations and the European Union at an EU summit in Brussels.

of rapid expansion. Poland, Hungary and eight other mostly central and eastern European countries had joined the club only 20 months earlier. Euro notes and coins had been in people's pockets for less than four years. The UK, led by Tony Blair, a "passionate pro-European", was in charge of the EU's rotating presidency. But the optimistic mood had been soured by French and Dutch voters' rejection of the Constitutional Treaty in 2005, leaving the project in a political tangle.

As Merkel's successor will find, any German chancellor carries the clout of their office. Germany is the EU's pre-eminent power: the richest economy, with the most votes and the biggest checkbook. "Obviously any German chancellor will play a major role in the European Union," said Jim Cloos, who recently stood down as a long-serving senior official at the EU council. But the individual makes a difference. "The way she did things: she was a major power in the European Council," said Cloos, who credits her with keeping the club together during the EU's most difficult period since the end of the second world war. "We have held it together; actually - well, we lost the Britons, but that is their choice. We have done this in our usual chaotic, complicated way because we are a union of 27 states, and institutions."

Back in 2005, the new German chancellor impressed the EU executive with her grasp of detail. Dalia Grybauskait?, then the EU budget

commissioner, recalls meeting Merkel in December to discuss fiendishly complex EU budget negotiations. "It was her fifth day in office. She knew the files as well as [then European Commission president] José Manuel Barroso and me."

Grybauskait?, who went on to serve as Lithuania's president for a decade, described Merkel as "the queen of compromises", who "never gives empty promises". Alexander Stubb, another political ally in the center-right European People's party, sat next to Merkel at EU summits during his stint as Finland's prime minister in 2014-15. "Angela Merkel was ... by far the most impressive in the room. She was able to eloquently express what she wanted and then subtly show to the council secretariat ... what she wanted in the council conclusions. In that sense she worked both as a politician and as a civil servant."

Leaders from rival political traditions also rated her. Former Italian prime minister Enrico Letta, who now leads Italy's main center-left party, recalled her staying power. In 2014, when a G20 dinner in St Petersburg hosted by Russia's Vladimir Putin ended at 2am after fraught discussions on Syria, Merkel was one of a handful of leaders who stayed to watch dancers of the Bolshoi ballet. Others went to bed, but she stayed for a chilly open-air, long-delayed performance of the romantic classic *Ruslan and Lyudmila*. "It was cold," Letta recalled. "She decided not to

go to sleep but to stay there and see the show and to give the dancers and to give Putin satisfaction, to say 'we are here and we played a role until the end.'"

If the meticulous grasp of detail and endless stamina are not in doubt, critics say Merkel was too slow to grasp the threat to the eurozone after 2010, enforcing austerity on the debt-battered economies of southern Europe.

Letta, who was battling soaring youth unemployment in Italy acknowledges that she was hamstrung by her powerful finance minister, Wolfgang Schäuble, "the champion of austerity", who was powerful in Merkel's CDU party.

But facing a bailout-skeptical German public, Letta argues, Merkel took a crucial decision. She threw her weight behind an Italian to lead the European Central Bank. Her support took Mario Draghi to Frankfurt, over a more conservative northern European candidate. Eight months into the job, Draghi said the ECB would "do whatever it takes" to save the euro, words that proved a turning point in settling the sovereign debt crisis.

Merkel's decision to back Draghi reflected her growing awareness that she must act for the EU and not simply Germany, Letta believes. "She started to have in this very period a European constituency, aside from her German constituency."

Shampoo tricks for glossy, silky and smooth hair

Have you been practising everything possible, from oiling to masking your hair and still can't see results? We have some new expert-approved tips that might be the saving grace you need. After all, what harm can trying one more thing do! Experts recommend you start at the root of the problem, aka keeping your hair clean. The way you shampoo your hair makes all the difference in the world and can drastically affect the texture and appearance of your locks.

Here are some shampoo tricks you can try out while washing your hair the next time around, for better quality hair.

Double cleanse

Yes, you read that right! Double cleansing is not meant just for skin!

Pick out your favourite hair oil and heat it up till it is lukewarm. Then massage your hair with it for around 5 minutes till you feel the oil has really sunk into your scalp.

Then, hop into the shower and slather on shampoo to get rid of all the gunk extracted by the oil. Don't forget to condition post that!

Use your fingers

Yes, manicures are all the rage right now but the worst thing one can do for their hair is to scrub their scalp with nails. There are loads of bacteria under the nail. While a good scalp massage under a hot shower sounds divine, if you're using your nails to scrub your scalp, you are only infecting it with germs. Instead, use the tips of your fingers rather than the nails.



Lather your shampoo

While it is definitely more convenient to drop the shampoo directly onto your scalp, the shampoo being a blob on the scalp doesn't cut it for the hair. Instead, to spread it evenly on your scalp, take the shampoo in your palms, lather it and then apply it to wet hair. This way you are manually spreading the shampoo around that will clean your hair effectively.

Rinse

Yes, it is imperative to save water, especially now, but not rinsing your head well post a shampoo leads to a buildup of product which then causes dandruff and infections.

After shampooing, ensure you stand under the shower for a good minute to get rid of all the residue and keep your scalp clean and fresh.

Cold water final rinse

As good as hot water feels on the scalp, it only leaves the cuticles open after a wash which leaves the hair more prone to easy breakage. One of the easiest ways to ensure your hair remains healthy is to give your hair a last rinse with cool water before heading out.

As long as you follow these easy-to-do hacks, be assured that your hair will not only look but also feel great!

Source: *Pinkvilla*

FOOD CORNER

Kashmiri Lamb



Ingredients

4 dried red chile peppers (such as cayenne), 3 long, green fresh chile peppers (such as Indian Jwala), 1 teaspoon cumin seeds, 1 teaspoon Kashmiri garam masala, 1 (1 inch) piece fresh ginger root, peeled and grated, 5 cloves garlic, crushed 1/4 cup dried unsweetened coconut, 3 tomatoes, chopped, 6 tablespoons vegetable oil, 2 large onions, thinly sliced, 2 pounds lamb meat, cut into 1 1/2-inch cubes, salt to taste, 1/2 teaspoon ground turmeric, 1 cup plain yogurt, 1/2 teaspoon saffron threads, 20 whole blanched almonds, 1/4 cup chopped fresh cilantro,

Directions

- Place red chiles, green chiles, cumin seeds, garam masala, ginger, garlic, grated coconut, and tomatoes into a blender; pulse several times to chop, then blend into a smooth paste.
- Heat vegetable oil in a large skillet or Dutch oven over medium heat. Stir in onion; cook and stir until the onion has softened and turned translucent, about 5 minutes. Reduce heat to medium-low, and continue cooking and stirring until the onion is very tender and golden brown, 10 to 15 minutes more.
- Stir the spice paste into the onion and cook and stir until the oil separates from the mixture, about 3 minutes.
- Stir in lamb pieces and salt. Cook, stirring frequently over medium-high heat, until the lamb pieces are browned on all sides, about 8 minutes.
- Mix in yogurt, saffron, and blanched almonds until well combined.
- Reduce the heat to low and simmer, covered, until the meat is tender and the gravy is thick, about 1 hour.
- Garnish the curry with chopped cilantro before serving.

Is Biotin the right means to contain post COVID hair loss?

Scientists are yet to find whether the virus, the medicines to treat COVID, the stress of getting infected or any deficiency caused by the disease is behind the phenomenon of hair loss post getting infected. Since COVID treatment requires an intake of a lot of strong medicines, it is important to have a nutritious diet during recovery to control incidents like hair loss. Among the many nutrients that promote hair growth and prevent hair loss, biotin is one.

What is biotin and how does it work?

There are 13 types of vitamins that help our bodies to grow and develop normally. Biotin is one of the B vitamins. Also known as vitamin B7, it is soluble in water and acts as a catalyst that converts some other nutrients into energy. Biotin stimulates keratin production in hair and can increase the rate of follicle growth, and hence has a role to play in the health of hair and nails. The daily biotin requirement in adults is around 30 mcg, while women who are breastfeeding should take 35 mcg/day after consultation with a physician. Not getting enough



biotin in your body may cause hair loss or brittle nails. Most of the body's requirements can be sourced from the food we eat, but people with a biotin deficiency may need over-the-counter supplements to help prevent hair loss during and after recovering from COVID.

Food sources of biotin

The common sources of biotin in food items include egg yolk, organ meats such as liver or kidney, vegetables such as cauliflower and mushroom, whole grains and cereals, nuts, like almonds, peanuts, pecans, and walnuts and butter made from nuts, soybeans and other legumes, and fruits such as bananas and raspberries.

Reduce stress to promote hair growth

As per dermatologists, the hair follicle cycle has three phases: growth, resting and shedding. For most people, it is normal to shed between 50 and 100 hairs every day. Stress may increase the rate of hair fall. However, there is generally a gap of two to three months between a stressful event and the beginning of hair loss; such events can last for as much as nine months. The pandemic-related stresses, such as anxiety about contracting the virus, concern for ill family members, financial stress, social isolation and changes related to working and schooling from home, have impacted us significantly. Take steps to calm the mind before you start any treatment for hair loss.

US Covid-19 deaths are topping 1,900 a day

WASHINGTON (TIP): Covid-19 deaths in the US have climbed to an average of more than 1,900 a day for the first time since early March, with experts saying the virus is preying largely on a distinct group - 71 million unvaccinated Americans.

The increasingly lethal turn has filled hospitals, complicated the start of the school year, delayed the return to offices and demoralized health care workers.

"It is devastating," said Dr. Dena Hubbard, a pediatrician in the Kansas City, Missouri, area who has cared for babies delivered prematurely by cesarean section in a last-ditch effort to save their mothers, some of whom died. For health workers, the deaths, combined with misinformation and disbelief about the virus, have been "heart-wrenching, soul-crushing."

Twenty-two people died in one week alone at CoxHealth hospitals in the Springfield-Branson area, a level almost as high as that of all of Chicago. West Virginia has had more deaths in the first three weeks of September — 340 — than in the previous three months combined. Georgia is averaging 125 dead per day, more than California or other more populous states.

"I've got to tell you, a guy has got to wonder if we are ever going to see the end of it or not," said Collin Follis, who is the coroner in Missouri's Madison County and works at a funeral home.

The nation was stunned back in December when it was witnessing 3,000 deaths a day. But that was when almost no one was vaccinated.

Now, nearly 64 per cent of the US population has received at least one dose of the COVID-19 vaccine. And yet, average deaths per day have climbed 40 per cent over the past two weeks, from 1,387 to 1,947, according to data from Johns Hopkins University.

Health experts say the vast



majority of the hospitalised and dead have been unvaccinated. While some vaccinated people have suffered breakthrough infections, those tend to be mild.

The number of vaccine-eligible Americans who have yet to get a shot has been put at more than 70 million.

"There is a very real risk you'll end up in the hospital or even in the obituary pages," Dr. Bruce Vanderhoff, chief medical officer for the Ohio Department of Health, said to the unvaccinated. "Don't become a statistic when there is a simple, safe and effective alternative to go out today and get vaccinated."

Many low-vaccination communities also have high rates of conditions like obesity and diabetes, said Dr. William Moss of Johns Hopkins. And that combination — along with the more contagious delta variant — has proved lethal.

"I think this is a real failure of

society and our most egregious sin to be at this stage where we have hospitals overwhelmed, ICUs overwhelmed and hitting this mark in terms of deaths per day," Moss lamented.

New cases of the coronavirus per day in the US have dropped since the start of September and are now running at about 139,000. But deaths typically take longer to fall because victims often linger for weeks before succumbing.

In Kansas, 65-year-old cattleman Mike Limon thought he had beaten COVID-19 and went back to work for a few days. But the virus had "fried" his lungs and he died last week, said his grandson, Cadin Limon, 22, of Wichita.

He said his grandfather didn't get vaccinated for fear of a bad reaction, and he hasn't gotten the shot either for the same reason, though serious side effects have proved extremely rare.

Source: AP

UK approves Covishield, but yet to accept Cowin certificates

NEW DELHI (TIP): The UK on Wednesday, September 24, added Covishield to its list of approved Covid vaccines for in-coming travellers but is yet to accept certificates issued from India as valid proof.

London's visa rules are under constant review and the UK High Commission here said it was in dialogue with the Indian government to break the impasse after Foreign Secretary Harsh Vardhan Shringla threatened reciprocation if the "discriminatory" regime was not reversed.

Basically, the UK has problems with certificates issued by Indian



public authorities as well as with the vaccine app Cowin. This means Indians fully vaccinated with Covishield on reaching the UK still have to undergo 10 days of quarantine besides at least two RTPCR tests. "Formulations of the

four listed vaccines, such as AstraZeneca Covishield qualify as approved vaccines from October 4," said the UK's Department of Health in a move that left New Delhi still unsatisfied because India is not on the list of 17 countries whose vaccination certificates will be accepted.

What India found galling was that Pune-manufactured Covishield is based on the same Oxford-AstraZeneca vaccine whose UK version is accepted. Moreover, India had supplied five lakh doses of this very Pune-made vaccine to the UK when it was battling a sudden spike in infections.



Researchers detect malaria resistant to key drug in Africa

LONDON (TIP): Scientists have found evidence of a resistant form of malaria in Uganda, a worrying sign that the top drug used against the parasitic disease could ultimately be rendered useless without more action to stop its spread.

Researchers in Uganda analysed blood samples from patients treated with artemesinin, the primary medicine used for malaria in Africa in combination with other drugs.

They found that by 2019, nearly 20 per cent of the samples had genetic mutations suggesting the treatment was ineffective. Lab tests showed it took much longer for those patients to get rid of the parasites that cause malaria.

Drug-resistant forms of malaria were previously detected in Asia, and health officials have been nervously watching for any signs in Africa, which accounts for more than 90 per cent of the world's malaria cases. Some isolated drug-resistant strains of malaria have previously been seen in Rwanda.

"Our findings suggest a potential risk of cross-border spread across Africa," the researchers wrote in the New England Journal of Medicine, which published the study on Wednesday.

The drug-resistant strains emerged in Uganda rather than being imported from elsewhere, they reported. They examined 240 blood samples over three years.

Malaria is spread by mosquito bites and kills more than 4,00,000 people every year, mostly children under five and pregnant women.

Dr Philip Rosenthal, a professor of medicine at the University of California, San Francisco, said that the new findings in Uganda, after past results in Rwanda, "prove that resistance really now has a foothold in Africa."

Rosenthal, who was not involved in the new study, said it was likely there was undetected drug resistance elsewhere on the continent. He said drug-resistant versions of malaria emerged in Cambodia years ago and have now spread across Asia. He predicted a similar path for the disease in Africa, with deadlier consequences given the burden of malaria on the continent.

Dr Nicholas White, a professor of tropical medicine at Mahidol University in Bangkok, described the new paper's conclusions about emerging malaria resistance as "unequivocal."

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NASA splits human spaceflight unit in two

NASA is splitting its human spaceflight department into two separate bodies -- one centered on big, future-oriented missions to the Moon and the Mars, the other on the International Space Station and other operations closer to the Earth.

The reorganisation, announced by NASA chief Bill Nelson on Tuesday, reflects an evolving relationship between private companies, such as SpaceX, that have increasingly commercialized rocket travel and the federal agency that had exercised a US monopoly over spaceflight for decades.

Nelson said the shake-up was also spurred by a recent proliferation of flights and commercial investment in low-Earth orbit even as NASA steps up its development of deep-space aspirations. "Today is more than organizational change," Nelson said at a press briefing. "It's setting the stage for the next 20 years, it's defining NASA's future in a growing space economy." The move breaks up NASA's Human Exploration and Operations Mission Directorate, currently headed by Kathy Leuders, into two separate branches.

Leuders will keep her associate administrator title as head of the new Exploration Systems Development Mission Directorate, focusing on NASA's most ambitious, long-term programs, such as plans to return astronauts to the moon under project Artemis, and eventual human exploration of Mars.

Twitter will now let you tip your favourite creator using cryptocurrency

Twitter announced a slew of features during its product event held on Thursday. The micro-blogging site revealed that it is rolling out Tips, which is a tipping feature, to everyone with more payment options to choose from including cryptocurrency. Using Tips, Twitter users can tip their favourite account on the micro-blogging platform, help a small business owner through a difficult time, give to an important cause. Tipping on Twitter got simpler and now comes with more payment options.

Announcing the feature, Esther Crawford, Product Manager at Twitter said, "Our tipping feature now called Tips is rolling out to everyone with more payment options to choose from even crypto. Whether you want to tip your favorite account because you adore their commentary, send some love to an emerging comedy creator for their hilarious Tweets, help a small business owner through a difficult time, give to an important cause — whatever you want to support (and we know you already have some ideas), Tips is here to help you do it. She revealed that Tips will be first rolled out to iOS users and then the Android users will get in a couple of weeks."

Twitter will let influencers or people with a large follower base add a Tips icon next to the Follow button on the profile page. If you want to tip somebody, you will simply have to tap on the tip icon and the list of payment services or platforms that the account has enabled will be visible to you, and you can select whichever you prefer. The feature is currently rolling out to users in the US.

Bitcoin mining producing tonnes of waste

Bitcoin mining produces electronic waste (e-waste) annually comparable to the small IT equipment waste of a place like the Netherlands, research shows.

Miners of the cryptocurrency each year produce 30,700 tonnes of e-waste, Alex de Vries and Christian Stoll estimate.

That averages 272g (9.5oz) per transaction, they say. By comparison, an iPhone 13 weighs 173g (6.1oz).

Miners earn money by creating new Bitcoins, but the computing used consumes large amounts of energy.

They audit Bitcoin transactions in exchange for an opportunity to acquire the digital currency.

Attention has been focused on the electricity this consumes - currently more than the Philippines - and the greenhouse gas pollution caused as a result.

But as the computers used for mining become obsolete, it also generates lots of e-waste.

The researchers estimate Bitcoin mining devices have an average lifespan of only 1.29 years.

As a result, the amount of e-waste produced is comparable to the "small IT and telecommunication equipment" waste of a country like the Netherlands researchers said - a category that includes mobile phones, personal computers, printers, and telephones.

The research is published in the journal Resources, Conservation & Recycling.

Efficiency drive

As electricity is a key cost for Bitcoin miners, they have sought out ever more efficient processors.

That has seen a move to highly specialised chips called Application-specific Integrated Circuits (ASICs).

But ASICs are so specialised that as they become obsolete, they cannot be "repurposed for another task or even another type of cryptocurrency mining algorithm", the researchers write.

But while the chips can't be reused, much of the weight of Bitcoin mining equipment is made up of components such as



"metal casings and aluminium heat-sinks" which could be recycled.

Globally just over 17% of all e-waste is recycled. However, the number is probably less in some of the countries in which most miners are based, where in many cases regulations on e-waste are also poor.

Chip shortage

Many industries are struggling with a global chip shortage.

In addition to producing large amounts of e-waste the researchers argue that "rapidly cycling through millions of mining devices may disrupt the global supply chain of various other electronic devices".

They suggest that one solution to the problem of e-waste would be for Bitcoin to change the way transactions are verified, to a different less computing-intensive system.

Source: BBC

EU plans one mobile charging port for all, in setback for Apple

BRUSSELS (TIP): The European Union aims to have a common charging port for mobile phones, tablets and headphones under a European Commission proposal presented on Thursday, Sept 23, in a world first, with the move impacting iPhone maker Apple more than its rivals.

The move has been more than 10 years in the making, with the European Union executive touting environmental benefits and 250 million euros (\$293 million) in annual savings for users.

Under the Commission's proposal, a USB-C connector will become the standard port for all smartphones, tablets, cameras, headphones, portable speakers and handheld videogame consoles.

Chargers will also be sold separately from electronic devices.

The EU executive will revise its eco-design regulation in the near future so that the external power supply is interoperable which is the last step for a common charge.

The Commission said it is not targeting Apple and only acted because companies were not able to



agree on a common solution despite a decade of talks, which have reduced the number of mobile phone chargers to three from 30.

Apple pushed back against the proposal.

"We remain concerned that strict regulation mandating just one type of connector stifles innovation rather than encouraging it, which in turn will harm consumers in Europe and around the world," the company said in a statement.

It also voiced concerns about the 24-month transition period for companies to comply with the legislation once it is adopted.

"We gave industry plenty of time to come up with their own solutions, now time is ripe for legislative action for a common charger. This is an important win for our consumers and environment and in line with our green and digital ambitions," Commission Vice President Margrethe Vestager said.



China declares all cryptocurrency transactions illegal

China's central bank on Friday, Sept 24, declared all transactions involving Bitcoin and other virtual currencies illegal, stepping up a campaign to block use of unofficial digital money.

Chinese banks were banned from handling cryptocurrencies in 2013, but the government issued a reminder this year. That reflected official concern that cryptocurrency mining and trading might still be going on or the state-run financial system might be indirectly exposed to risks.

Friday's notice complained Bitcoin, Ethereum and other digital currencies disrupt the financial system and are used in money-laundering and other crimes.

"Virtual currency derivative transactions are all illegal financial activities and are strictly prohibited," the People's Bank of China said on its website.

Promoters of cryptocurrencies say they allow anonymity and flexibility, but Chinese regulators worry they might weaken the ruling Communist Party's control over the financial system and say they might help to conceal criminal activity.

ADB slashes India's GDP growth forecast

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has lowered India's growth projections for the current financial year by a percentage point to 10%, mainly due to disruptions in economic activity caused by the second wave of the Covid pandemic. In April, ADB had projected a growth rate of 11% in 2021-22 for India.

In its update of the Asian Development Outlook (ADO), the multilateral lending agency has also trimmed the growth forecast for Asia as a region from 7.3% to 7.1% for 2021, though it retained the growth projections for China at 8.1%.

"The growth forecast for India in fiscal year 2021 (ending March 2022) is revised down, as May's spike in Covid dented the recovery. The outbreak, however, dissipated faster than anticipated, resulting in several states easing lockdown measures and returning to more normal travel patterns," said the ADO Update (ADOU) 2021.

Sensex scripts history, crosses 60,000 mark for first time; Nifty nears 18,000

MUMBAI (TIP): The BSE Sensex made history on Friday, Sept 24, by reaching the 60,000 mark for the first time ever as investors continued to accumulate banking, finance and auto stocks despite lacklustre global cues and concerns over frothy valuations.

The 30-share benchmark rose 163.11 points or 0.27 per cent to its lifetime closing high of 60,048.47. Intra-day, it touched an all-time peak of 60,333.

Similarly, the NSE Nifty advanced 30.25 points or 0.17 per cent to close at a record 17,853.20. It soared to a lifetime high of 17,947.65 during the day.

It took a little over 31 years for the Sensex to traverse from 1,000 points to the historic 60,000 level.

The benchmark index was at 1,000 points back on July 25, 1990 and took nearly 25 years before it touched the 30,000 level on March 4, 2015.

The Sensex has climbed from the 30,000 level to 60,000 in a little over six years, reflecting the overall bullishness in the market.

The last 10,000 points have come at a record pace, with the Sensex reaching the 50,000-level only in January this year.

"Sensex reaching 60,000 today is an indicator of India's growth potential, as well as the way India is emerging as a world leader during COVID period in addition to worldwide monetary expansion and relaxed fiscal policies adopted by world powers," said Ashishkumar Chauhan, MD and CEO, BSE.

Asian Paints was the top gainer in the Sensex pack on Friday, surging 3.72 per cent, followed by M&M, HCL Tech, HDFC Bank, Bharti Airtel, Maruti and Infosys.

On the other hand, Tata Steel, SBI, Axis Bank, ITC, HUL, NTPC and Bajaj Finance were among the laggards, shedding up to 3.60 per cent.

"Market valuations are high but on the flip side the underlying economic growth is favourable. We would suggest not to be under-invested in equity."

"One can rebalance portfolios and revert to long term strategic allocation to large caps by exiting laggards and trimming the tail in mid and small caps, many of which may be overvalued right now," said Nimish Shah, Chief Investment Officer - Listed Investments, Waterfield Advisors.

Sectorally, BSE telecom, realty, teck, IT and auto indices rallied up to 2.77 per cent, while metal, healthcare, basic materials and FMCG fell as much as 2.31 per cent.

Broader BSE midcap and smallcap indices underperformed the benchmarks, shedding up to 1.16 per



cent.

During the week, the Sensex rallied 1,032.58 points or 1.74 per cent, while the Nifty surged 268.05 points or 1.52 per cent.

"Even at 60k our advice for investors is to buy in select stocks (strong companies in terms of managing and growing companies) with a medium to long term view."

"Most of the time in the market it is proved that the level of the index is just a number and the actual market index is very different from the numbers. However, the buying is advisable in tranches/parts, do not lock your entire funds at current levels," said Shrikant Chouhan, Head of Equity Research (Retail), Kotak Securities.

Global markets were on a weak footing on Friday on concerns over China Evergrande group after the real estate giant missed bond interest payments.

In Asia, bourses in Shanghai, Seoul and Hong Kong ended with losses, while Tokyo was positive.

Equities in Europe were also trading on a negative note in mid-session deals.

Meanwhile, international oil benchmark Brent crude rose 0.23 per cent to USD 77.43 per barrel.

The Indian rupee slipped 4 paise to close at 73.68 against the US dollar on Friday, following weaker Asian peers against the American currency.

Foreign institutional investors were net buyers in the capital market on Thursday as they purchased shares worth Rs 357.93 crore, as per exchange data.

Source: PTI

Banks can now sell fraud loans to ARCs

MUMBAI (TIP): The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Friday, Sept 24, allowed banks to sell fraud loan exposures to asset reconstruction companies (ARCs). Banks will now be able to transfer to ARCs loan exposures classified as fraud as on the date of transfer, provided that the responsibilities of the bank with respect to continuous reporting, monitoring, filing of complaints with law enforcement agencies and proceedings related to such complaints shall also be transferred to the ARC.

"The transfer of such loan exposures to an ARC, however, does not absolve the transferor from fixing the staff accountability as required under the extant instructions on frauds," the RBI said in its master direction on transfer of loan exposures.

The guidelines said lenders must put in place a comprehensive board-approved policy for transfer and acquisition of all loan exposures. The board-approved policies of every lender on transfer or acquisition of stressed loans shall cover the norms and procedure for transfer, the valuation methodology to be followed, delegation of powers to various functionaries for taking decisions on the transfer of loans, stated objectives for acquiring stressed assets and the risk premium to be applied.



When negotiated on a bilateral basis, the negotiations must necessarily be followed by an auction through the Swiss challenge method if the aggregate exposure of lenders to the relevant borrower is Rs 100 crore or more. In all other cases, the bilateral negotiations shall be subject to the price discovery and value maximisation approaches adopted by the transferor as part of the board-approved policy, the RBI said.

Shree Ganeshaya Namah



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The Indian Panorama brings you Weekly and Birthday Horoscope by NASTUR BEJAN DARUWALLA

WEEKLY HOROSCOPE - 27th Sep to 3rd Oct 2021

Aries

Helping others throughout this week appears to be one of the many things you do for people this week and in the long run, you just are only helping yourself especially if you are supportive of your partner, family and friends. This week is and should be all about experiencing love and exploring your feelings for you. This week you have the planets giving you an opportunity to build up a lot of good karma hence focus on that only.

Taurus

This is an amazing week for you. You will be provided with ample opportunities to prove yourself at work which, in turn, may also lead to your promotion this week. If you're single, Venus is in your favor this week. You will have wonderful adventures this week with your partner. You will move on to the next level with your partner. You will experience a positive shift in your feelings, the world has never seemed this beautiful to you before and you will simply be high on life.

Gemini

You will go through a minor rough patch in business which will leave you in immediate need for the money. The people who you thought were your friends will make excuses and try to leave you to your own devices when they find out about your loss, it will still take you some time to fully realize who really cares and looks out for you and who is with you for selfish reasons, focus on only yourself this week so that you can create a positive outcome at the end. This week is a crucial learning lesson for you. Be very careful with the decisions you take.

Cancer

A normal start to the week is likely for you. You will make use of the first two days of the week to improve your knowledge. You will crave for something new in your life. You will procure new items. Results will mirror the hard work that you have put in the past few days but all in all this week might be quite boring for you if you keep it like that. You will have a lot of free time at

your hands and pretty much nothing to do as your business is flourishing by the work of outsources hence you will only need to dedicate a little amount of time and attention to your business.

Leo

Someone experienced will give you right guidance this week so keep your ears and mind wide open. Your family environment will be very communicative. Your children will be obedient and you will inspire them with your victories. Spirituality will be activated showing you way to get inclined towards God. Faith will keep you feeling secured and safe during minor health complications that you face during this week.

Virgo

This week will be important for your profession. You will keep busy at work, your focus towards your goal as well as your patience will be tested. With the help of patience, you might be able to achieve your goals on time. Your dedication for work will be tested many times. Expect some rewards in the result of hard work at the end of the week. You are likely to make investments in fixed assets as well. Expect to hear good news in terms of parent's health. Your losses will convert into gains by the end of this week. Your past dead investments might become profitable as well.

Libra

In the beginning of the week you might feel some detachment from your partner. You will also have some health issues. It is advised not to start a new business or take up any new project this week. You are also advised to postpone making investments into the business. You are likely to face losses this week as luck is not on your side. Your gains are likely to be converted into losses. You need to avoid being involved in controversies; otherwise, it will pull you down negatively. Your strong willpower and blessings from elders might protect you from this adverse situation.

Scorpio

Your focus will be good this week and you will have good patience. You will be able to utilize your strength to implement your plans in the business or work, in terms of growth in the work and business. You will get help from your network to make it possible. Expect some changes in your place, position or responsibilities at work, in terms of promotions. Your family will support you to get success at work, which will help you maintain domestic harmony.

Sagittarius

Your love life will enter into a new phase this week. You will experience a positive shift in your emotions as everything new is exciting and intriguing. Your beauty and charm will lend you a very exciting opportunity, this week. Although it all seems very enticing, do not jump into it without understanding the whole situation as well as consulting those you trust.

Capricorn

You will make some investments this week which will bring you good gains later. You will not be able to spend more time with your family due to burden of work. You are likely to feel dull by the end of the week as your competitors will poke you and try to ruin your efforts. Strictly prohibit yourself from funding into a very large venture and lending on the last day of the week.

Aquarius

You are financially doing a lot better this week. You will meet a new prospect that will challenge you and your team to the core. Your employees will be highly supportive this week. You will enjoy the teamwork. Your love life is at pause as of this week. If you are single, nothing is about to change.

Pisces

This week will bring you great prosperity. You will be saving more money than usual this week. You will be able to make some good decisions regarding some complicated business matters with the help of right guidance. Your cooperation and convincing skills will be beneficial this week.

BIRTHDAY HOROSCOPE : 27TH SEP TO 3RD OCT 2021**CONTD FROM PAGE 32****Sep 27**

You will have the most special day today. Make sure you are very kind and down to earth today. It'll be easy for you to achieve great success in your professional life. If you chose to work hard today, the financial profit you will make today will last you a long time. Seeing the financial gains in real-time will motivate you a lot and cause you to work really hard today which means a positive cycle is created for more profits to come in.

Sep 28

Your partner will be very supportive of you and will be a major reason you get through today. Even though you won't have time to love and appreciate your partner as you're busy with your work today make sure to express your feelings whenever you make time. As gestures as kind as this should not go unappreciated. Your health is doing great in general. Except for the overworking taking a toll on you. You might feel more tired as you go through the day, which is temporary and nothing to worry about. Make sure to stay away from caffeinated drinks and hydrate using simple water or coconut water only.

Sep 29

You need to know how to get work done by other people. As someone who has been in a one-man army for a long time, it's understandable why hiring employees is difficult for you but it is the only way for you to grow. As you will face a lot of obstacles today this confidence will help you be strong and emotionally stable which is mandatory for you to get through this day.

Sep 30

You will close a deal with a prospect that will bring a lot of joy and prosperity to the company as well as your family. You will understand that things will work out better for you and your business from this point onwards which will make you very happy. You will gain some popularity in your town today. You will begin to value the social and financial rewards of taking more responsibility at work. Today is a great day for you to expand your business if you're willing to put in the hard work.

Oct 1

Today is a great day for you to start being extremely productive and workaholic. Maturity will set in today, as the moon transitions; you will find

yourself in a completely different mood. You will have a great time today when it comes to being creatively challenged. You have been focused on other people too much which has the potential to change today and you must make it happen.

Oct 2

You will fall in love with life, the world, and everything in between today. Nothing, in particular, will happen that has caused this change; it is simply your stars that make you feel beloved today. You will have a fairly positive day today because you will face ups and downs but you won't be moved by them emotionally. Saturn being dominant in your sign gives you a lot of emotional stability and viability that you need to sustain today.

Oct 3

You will have to focus on your productivity today. You tend to get too lost in becoming a person that everyone is impressed with. You're working hard for fame and recognition which is what you should change today; this realization is a positive thing for you. You will spend the day feeling content and grateful. Things, where you were stuck before, will suddenly start clearing up.

॥ SHREE GANESHAY NAMAH ॥

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HISTORY THIS WEEK

"WE ARE NOT MAKERS OF HISTORY. WE ARE MADE BY HISTORY." Martin Luther King, Jr.

September 24



SEPTEMBER 24, 1957 - President Dwight Eisenhower ordered the National Guard to enforce racial integration of schools in Little Rock, Arkansas.

SEPTEMBER 24, 1980 - War erupted between Iran and Iraq as Iraqi troops crossed the border and encircled Abadan, then set fire to the world's largest oil refinery.

BIRTHDAY - John Marshall (1755-1835) was born in Germantown, Virginia. He was appointed by President John Adams to the position of Chief Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court in January 1801. He became known as "The Great Chief Justice," largely responsible for expanding the role of the Supreme Court through such cases as Marbury vs. Madison and McCulloch vs. Maryland.



BIRTHDAY - American writer F. Scott Fitzgerald (1896-1940) was born in St. Paul, Minnesota (as Francis Scott Key Fitzgerald). Best known for This Side of Paradise, The Great Gatsby and Tender is the Night.

BIRTHDAY - Puppeteer Jim Henson (1936-1990) was born in Greenville, Mississippi. He created the Muppets, including Kermit the Frog, and Bert and Ernie, entertaining and educating generations of children via the daily TV show Sesame Street.

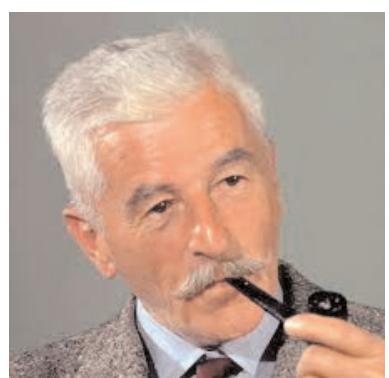
September 25

SEPTEMBER 25, 1513 - Spanish explorer Vasco Nunez de Balboa first sighted the

Pacific Ocean after crossing the Isthmus of Panama.

SEPTEMBER 25, 1690 - The first American newspaper was published. A single edition of Publick Occurrences Both Foreign and Domestick appeared in Boston, Massachusetts. However, British authorities considered the newspaper offensive and ordered its immediate suppression.

SEPTEMBER 25, 1789 - The first U.S. Congress proposed 12 Amendments to the Constitution, ten of which, comprising the Bill of Rights, were ratified.



BIRTHDAY - American writer William Faulkner (1897-1962) was born in New Albany, Mississippi. Best known for The Sound and the Fury and The Reivers.

BIRTHDAY - Russian composer Dmitri Shostakovich (1906-1975) was born in St. Petersburg, Russia. He witnessed the Russian Revolution and went on to become one of the greatest Soviet composers.

September 26

SEPTEMBER 26, 1687 - The Acropolis in Athens was attacked by the Venetian army attempting to oust the Turks, resulting in heavy damage to the Parthenon.

SEPTEMBER 26, 1918 - The last major battle of World War I, the Battle of the Argonne, began as a combined force of French and Americans attacked the Germans along a 40-mile front.

SEPTEMBER 26, 1960 - The first-ever televised presidential debate occurred between presidential candidates John F. Kennedy and Richard M. Nixon. Many who watched were inclined to say Kennedy 'won' the debate, while those who listened only to the radio thought Nixon did better. Nixon, who declined to use makeup, appeared somewhat haggard looking on TV in contrast to

Kennedy.

SEPTEMBER 26, 1984 - Britain agreed to allow Hong Kong to revert to Chinese sovereignty in 1997.

BIRTHDAY - American folk legend Johnny Appleseed (1774-1845) was born in Leominster, Massachusetts (as John Chapman). For 40 years, he traveled through Ohio, Indiana and into Illinois, planting orchards. He was a friend to wild animals and was regarded as a "great medicine man" by Native Americans.



BIRTHDAY - Writer T.S. (Thomas Stearns) Eliot (1888-1965) was born in St. Louis, Missouri. He rejected conventional verse and language in favor of free expression.

BIRTHDAY - Composer George Gershwin (1898-1937) was born in Brooklyn, New York. Along with his brother Ira, he created enduring songs including The Man I Love, Strike Up the Band, I Got Rhythm and the opera Porgy and Bess.

September 27

SEPTEMBER 27, 1964 - After a 10-month investigation, the Warren Commission Report was issued stating a lone gunman had been responsible for the assassination of President John F. Kennedy in Dallas on November 22, 1963.

SEPTEMBER 27, 1995 - The Israeli cabinet agreed to give Palestinians control of much of the West Bank which had been occupied by Israel for 28 years.



BIRTHDAY - American revolutionary leader Samuel Adams (1722-1803) was born in Boston, Massachusetts. He was

a passionate, vocal man who helped ignite the revolution and served as a delegate to the First and Second Continental Congresses. He was a signer of the Declaration of Independence and the Articles of Confederation.

BIRTHDAY - American political cartoonist Thomas Nast (1840-1902) was born in Landau, Germany. He originated the symbols for the two main U.S. political parties, the Democratic donkey and the Republican elephant. Nast was also instrumental in destroying the Tweed Ring, a group of corrupt politicians plundering the New York City treasury.

September 28

SEPTEMBER 28, 1066 - The Norman conquest of England began as Duke William of Normandy landed at Pevensey, Sussex.

SEPTEMBER 28, 1542 - California was discovered by Portuguese navigator Juan Rodriguez Cabrillo upon his arrival at San Diego Bay.



SEPTEMBER 28, 1978 - Pope John Paul I died after only 33 days in office. He was succeeded by John Paul II.



SEPTEMBER 28, 1995 - Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and Palestine Liberation Organization leader Yasser Arafat signed an accord at the White House establishing Palestinian self-rule in the West Bank.

September 29

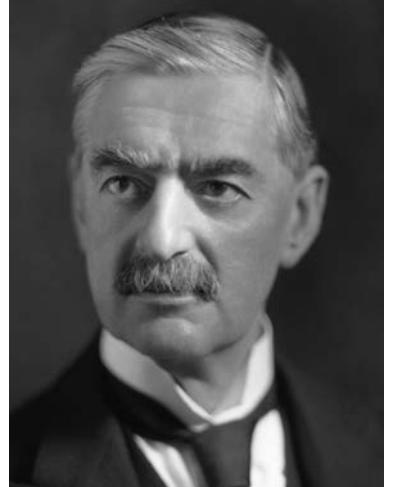
SEPTEMBER 29, 1789 - Congress created the United States Army, consisting of 1,000 enlisted men and officers.

SEPTEMBER 29, 1829 - Britain's "bobbies" made their first public appearance. Greater London's Metropolitan Police force was established by an act

of Parliament at the request of Home Secretary Sir Robert Peel, after whom they were nicknamed. The force later became known as Scotland Yard, the site of their first headquarters.

BIRTHDAY - Nuclear physicist Enrico Fermi (1901-1954) was born in Rome. While teaching at the University of Chicago, he developed a method of causing nuclear fission, producing a chain reaction releasing explosive nuclear energy which led to the development of the Atomic bombs.

September 30



SEPTEMBER 30, 1938 - British Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain returned to England declaring there would be "peace in our time," after signing the Munich Pact with Adolf Hitler. Chamberlain claimed the agreement meant peace, however, Hitler seized all of Czechoslovakia in March of 1939.

SEPTEMBER 30, 1955 - Actor James Dean was killed in a car crash in California at age 24. Although he made just three major films, Rebel Without a Cause, East of Eden and Giant, he remains one of the most influential actors.

SEPTEMBER 30, 1966 - Nazi war criminals Albert Speer and Baldur von Schirach were released from Spandau prison after serving 20 years. The prison, originally built for 600 inmates, was left with only one prisoner, former Deputy Führer Rudolf Hess.

BIRTHDAY - American writer Truman Capote (1924-1984) was born in New Orleans, Louisiana (as Truman Streckfus Persons). He took the last name of his stepfather, becoming Truman Capote. Best known for Breakfast at Tiffany's and In Cold Blood.

Pitru Paksha Shraddh

The full moon time of Bhadrapada and the Pratipada of Krishna Paksha of Ashwin month from Amavasya is called Pitru Paksha. In the year 2021, Pitru Paksha will commence from 20th September 2021 (Monday) till 6th October 2021 (Wednesday).

According to Brahmpurana, before worshiping the Gods, a man should worship his ancestors because it is believed that the Gods are pleased of that. For this reason, the elders are honored and posthumously worshiped in Indian society.

These offerings are in the form of Shraddh which is to be performed on the tithi (date) of death, falling in Pitru Paksha and if the tithi is not known, then Ashwin Amavasya can be worshiped which is also called All Sovereign Amavasya. On Shraddh we remember our ancestors by doing tarpan and offer food and dakshina to Brahmins or needy people.

Shradh Dates

- 20th September 2021 (Monday) – Purnima Shraddh
- 21st September 2021 (Tuesday) – Pratipada Shraddh
- 22nd September 2021 (Wednesday) – Dwitiya Shraddh or Dooj Shraddh
- 23rd September 2021 (Thursday) – Tritiya Shraddh
- 24th September 2021 (Friday) – Chaturthi Shraddh and Maha Bharani Shraddh
- 25th September 2021 (Saturday) – Panchami Shraddh
- 27th September 2021 (Sunday) – Shashti Shraddh
- 28th September 2021 (Tuesday) – Saptami Shraddh
- 29th September 2021 (Wednesday) – Ashtami Shraddh
- 30th September 2021 (Thursday) – Navami Shraddh
- 1st October 2021 (Friday) – Dashmi Shraddh
- 2nd October 2021 (Saturday) – Ekadashi Shraddh
- 3rd October 2021 (Sunday) – Dwadashi Shraddh or Magha Shraddh
- 4th October 2021 (Monday) – Trayodashi Shraddh
- 5th October 2021 (Tuesday) – Chaturdashi Shraddh
- 6th October 2021 (Wednesday) – Sarva Pitru Amavasya or Amavasya Shraddh

As per the Hindu beliefs, these 15-16 days mark the presence of ancestors on the earth who come down to bless their offsprings and their children. Hindus offer foods to dogs, cows and crows as part of the ritual. It is believed that the food given to these animals and birds is fed to deceased ancestors.

The eldest member of the family, particularly the eldest son, begins the ritual by wearing clean clothes and a ring made of kush grass after a holy bath. Kush is a symbol of kindness and is used to invoke ancestors.

After that, a wooden table covered with a white cloth is kept in the south direction. Black sesame seeds and barley seeds are spread on the table and a picture of the ancestor is placed on it.

Devotees then invite their ancestors and offer ‘Pind’ in the form of rice balls which are usually made with ghee, honey, rice, goat’s milk, sugar and occasionally



barley.

Pind is followed by ‘Tarpan’ where water mixed with flour, barley, kush and black sesame and offered. Once the Pind and Tarpan are done, the poor and needy people are offered food.

SIGNIFICANCE

As per Hindu Puranas, it is believed that Hindus owe a karmic debt to their ancestors and they try to pay that by performing ‘Pind Daan’ during Shraddh. It is said that Pind Daan performed by the succeeding generations on earth fulfil their ancestors’ unfulfilled desires and ensure their entry to heaven.

Mistakes You Should Avoid During Pitru Paksha

The followers of Hindu religion perform many rituals and practices for the peace of the soul of their ancestors. Hindus offer food and water (tarpan) during Pitru Paksha for the salvation of their ancestors. According to the Hindu calendar, it is a 16-day lunar period spanning over the months of Bhadrapada and Ashwin. This year, Pitru Paksha will be observed from September 20 to October 6. In this period, Hindus remember their ancestors and perform ‘rituals like - Tarpan’, ‘Pind Daan’ and ‘Shraddh’.

It is believed that by observing Pitru Paksha, Hindus get the blessings of their ancestors to get success, happiness and prosperity.

Several holy books of Hinduism describe mistakes

that must be avoided during Pitru Paksha. According to scriptures and religious texts, Hindus are expected to avoid the following things during Pitru Paksha:

- Vegetarian food should be consumed during Pitru Paksha. If you consume non-vegetarian food and alcohol during the 16-days lunar period, then it may upset the departed soul and you are likely to face trouble.
- The member of the household who performs ‘Shraddh’ rituals in Pitru Paksha should not cut his hair and nails during the 16-day lunar period. He should also follow celibacy.
- Shraddh should be performed before sunset. It is considered inauspicious to perform Shraddh after sunset.
- If any animal or bird comes to your door during the Pitru Paksha, then you must give food to them. It is believed that ancestors come to meet you in the form of animals and birds. If possible, you should give food to cows and crows during this period.
- It is considered auspicious to eat on the leaf in Pitru Paksha and feed Brahmins on the leaf during this period.
- Any auspicious work like marriage, engagement should not be done during Pitru Paksha at all. You should also avoid buying any new things during this period.



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“If Hindus don’t maintain Hinduism, who shall save it?”

“If India’s own children don’t cling to their faith, who shall guard it?”

“Indians alone can save India, and India and Hinduism are one.”

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Beautiful Bengal

West Bengal boasts of different ethnicities, cultures, religions, people and languages which add to its beautiful landscapes, forests, coastal beauty as well as its heritage.

The beautiful state of West Bengal attracts a significant number of tourists every year as the state is jewelled with mesmerising landscapes, snow-clad mountains, gushing sea, blossoming tea gardens, enormous deltas, lush green forests, plentiful wildlife, ancient temples and magnificent British monuments. The Tiger Hill, the Howrah Bridge, the Tea Gardens are some of the famous tourist spots which offer an insight into the vast culture and history of the West Bengal. The culture of the state is adorned by colourful fairs and festivals every month. A vast number of famous pilgrimages also attract a large number of tourists of all faiths and beliefs.

Places to Visit

Kolkata

Kolkata, India's second biggest city, is a perpetually ongoing festival of human existence, concurrently luxurious and squalid, refined and frantic, pointedly futuristic, while beautifully in decay. A vibrant 350-year-old metropolis located on India's Eastern Coast, the capital of West Bengal thrives on contradictions and imposing spectacles; nothing is commonplace in this city. Famously known as the City of Joy, Kolkata is, in every sense, the artistic, cultural and intellectual capital of the country. Kolkata's streets are vivid, hectic, chaotic, and yet, brimming with life and creativity. Driven by the indomitable spirit of the self-made middle class, the city has created a beautiful juxtaposition of the old colonial-era charm with the nascent upcoming hipster culture that thrives amongst the city's millennial residents.

Starting from admiring the flourishing art scene in the city to going on rewarding gastronomical explorations to wandering amidst the countless bazaars to sitting by the banks of the Hooghly and enjoying a peaceful sunset, Kolkata is soaked in layers and layers of heritage and culture, and peeling off each layer to look beneath the hood is a very rewarding, once-in-a-lifetime experience. As the famous quote goes, "If you want a city with a soul, come to Calcutta".

Formerly the capital of the British empire before the government was shifted to Delhi, Kolkata has a distinct tinge of its royal past lingering in every nook and cranny of the city. If you want to soak in some of the city's regal past, take a walk along the streets of North Kolkata, which houses some of the oldest mansions in the city, swathed with vines and a persistent sense of aristocratic pride. Kolkata is home to Rabindranath Tagore's ancestral house, which has now been converted into a museum and houses a staggering collection of family portraits and paintings. There are plenty of ghats all over the city where you can sit and enjoy a sunset while sipping on tea, one of the most noted of these being the Prinsep Ghat, which offers stunning views of the Vidyasagar Setu in the backdrop. Close by is Millennium Park,



which is a beautified waterfront park from where you can avail boat rides and cruises.

Kolkata has a very lively nightlife, and the entire stretch along Park Street houses innumerable bars and pubs

where you can party the night away. Kolkata's street food is famous all across the country, and the city is lined with eateries and food stalls at every corner, where you can savour local Bengali food, or try out local snacks such as Jhalmuri, or Ghugni Chaat.

Darjeeling

Jaw-dropping locales, mesmerising sunrises, the untouched beauty of the hills, the old-world charm of the past, and the welcoming smiles of the local people all add up to make Darjeeling one of the most beautiful hill stations in Eastern part of India. Spread over a steep mountain ridge, nestled amidst acres of lush green tea plantations, Darjeeling stands at the height of 2,050 meters above sea level, thus boasting of cool climes all year round. This scenic hill station is the perfect getaway for a romantic honeymoon and is just around 700 kilometres away from Kolkata.

A respite from the hot and humid summers of India, Darjeeling is a popular tourist destination in North-East India. Providing a heady mixture of splendid tea gardens on rolling mountain slopes, meandering toy train rides through the picturesque city, and delectable traditional Tibetan cuisine, Darjeeling works wonders to cater to the gorgeous panorama of the Himalayas.

There is a reason the city is known as the 'Queen of the Himalayas'. The lush green slopes dotted with women plucking tea leaves is a sight as mesmerising as no other. There are over 86 tea estates in Darjeeling that are responsible for producing the worldwide famous 'Darjeeling Tea'. Have a cup of locally brewed chai at the tea estate, or get down amidst the plantations to pluck a few tea leaves yourself, you are free to take your pick!

Sundarbans

Known for hosting the biggest mangrove forests in the world, Sundarbans National Park is located in West Bengal, India. It is also a Tiger Reserve and a Biosphere reserve that provides a complete nature's circle to the tourist right from 'Royal Bengal tigers' to roaring rivers and beautiful estuaries. Sundarbans National Park is a part of Sundarban delta that is covered with Mangrove Forest and the largest population of the Bengal Tigers. It is a UNESCO world heritage site with a large variety of birds and reptiles including salt-water crocodile.

Shared between India and Bangladesh, the Sundarbans meaning beautiful forest, have been declared a UNESCO heritage site. This area has a silent charm that manages to amaze one with the simplicity and naturalness of its ecological balance in spite of offering habitat to some of the most dynamic and awe-inspiring flora and fauna. They are in fact the last remaining stands of the mighty jungles which once covered the Gangetic plain and the sustainability of this natural structure is pretty majestic. Since 1966, the Sundarbans have been a wildlife sanctuary, and it is estimated that there are over 400 Royal Bengal Tigers and about 30, 000 spotted deer in the area.

contd from page 1

Modi holds first bilateral meeting with...

"Had an outstanding meeting with @POTUS @JoeBiden. His leadership on critical global issues is commendable. We discussed how India and USA will further scale-up cooperation in different spheres and work together to overcome key challenges like COVID-19 and climate change," Modi tweeted after the meeting.

Biden said the relationship between India and the US, the largest democracies in the world, is "destined to be stronger, closer and tighter."

"I've long believed that the US-India relationship can help us solve a lot of global challenges. In fact, back in 2006, I had said that by 2020 India and the US will be among the closest nations in the world," Biden told Modi.

"Today, we're launching a new chapter in the history of US-India ties, taking on some of the toughest challenges we face together, starting with a shared commitment," he said.

Biden said he and Prime Minister Modi would talk about what more they can do to fight COVID-19, take on the climate challenge that the world face, and ensure stability in the Indo-Pacific, including with their quiet partners.

India, the US and several other world powers have been talking about the need to ensure a free, open and thriving Indo-Pacific in the backdrop of China's rising military maneuvering in the region.

"Of course, our partnership is more than just what we do. It's about who we are in our shared responsibility to uphold democratic values, our joint commitment to diversity, and it's about family ties, including four million Indian-Americans make the United States, stronger every single day," he said.

Noting that the world would celebrate Mahatma Gandhi's birthday next week, Biden said, "We're all reminded that his message of non-violence, respect, tolerance, matters today maybe more than ever had."

On this, Modi said, "Gandhi Ji spoke about trusteeship, a concept which is very important for our planet in the times to come."

Noting that trade will be an important factor in the Indo-US ties in the coming decade, the Prime Minister said that there is much to be done in the area.

Modi said this decade will be shaped by talent and people-to-people linkages. "I am glad the Indian diaspora is making an active contribution towards the US' progress."

He said that technology is becoming a driving force. "We have to utilize our talents to leverage technology for greater global good."

Modi recalled his interactions with Biden in 2014 and 2016, saying "that time you had shared your vision for ties between India and US. I am glad to see you are working to realize this vision."

He said that each of the subjects mentioned by the president are crucial for the India-US friendship. "His efforts on COVID-19, mitigating climate change and the Quad are noteworthy," Modi added.

"This morning I'm hosting Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the White House for a bilateral meeting. I look forward to strengthening the deep ties between our two nations, working to uphold a free and open Indo-Pacific, and tackling everything from COVID-19 to climate change," President Biden had tweeted minutes before the meeting.

While the two leaders have met earlier when Biden was the Vice President of the country, this is for the first time that Biden is meeting Modi after he became the 46th president of the US in January.

Both Biden and Prime Minister Modi have spoken over the phone multiple times and have attended a few virtual summits, including that of the Quad in March hosted by the US president. The last telephone conversation between them took place on April 26.

Spokesperson of the Ministry of External Affairs Arindam Bagchi said that India US relationship is a partnership of trust. "Globally we will make a difference!" he tweeted.

"Vibrant discussions between" Modi and Biden. "Joseph Biden on global, regional & bilateral issues. An expansive agenda including defense, security, health, education, trade, IT, economic, Science and Technology energy and People to People ties," Bagchi said.

The Prime Minister also signed the visitor book in the Roosevelt Room of the White House. "Registering the spirit of India United States friendship in ink," the spokesperson tweeted.

The Indian delegation included S Jaishankar, Minister of External Affairs; Ajit Doval, National Security Advisor; Harsh Vardhan Shringla, Foreign Secretary and Tarun Singh Sandhu, India's Ambassador to the United States.

The American delegation included Antony Blinken, Secretary of State; Jake Sullivan, National Security Advisor; John Kerry, Special Presidential Envoy for Climate; Kurt Campbell, Deputy Assistant to the President and Coordinator for Indo-Pacific Affairs; Donald Lu, Assistant Secretary of State for South and Central Asian Affairs and Sumona Guha, Special Assistant to the President & Senior Director for South Asia at National Security Council.

VISIT WWW.THEINDIANPANORAMA.NEWS FOR MORE STORIES ON PM MODI'S US VISIT

VP Harris in her first meeting with PM...

Harris made the remarks in a joint media appearance with Prime Minister Narendra Modi before their first in-person meeting at the White House during which they decided to further cement the Indo-US strategic partnership and discussed global issues of common interest, including the Indo-Pacific.

"As democracies around the world are under threat, it is imperative that we defend democratic principles and institutions within our respective countries and around the world, and that we maintain what we must do to strengthen democracy at home and it is incumbent... to protect democracy in the best interest of the people of our country," she said in her remarks as she welcomed Modi to her ceremonial office.

"I know from personal experience and from my family of the commitment of the Indian people to democracy, and the work that needs to be done, we can begin to imagine, and then actually achieve our vision for democratic principles and institutions," she said.

Harris said that she looks forward to discussing how the two countries can continue to best work together to strengthen their relationship around their mutual concerns and the challenges they face, but also the opportunities that those challenges present. She had earlier spoken with Modi over phone on June 3.

India, she said, is a very vital partner to the United States.

"Throughout our history, our nations have worked together and stood together, to make our world a safer and stronger world."

"Mr. Prime Minister, when you and I last spoke, we talked about how our world is interconnected... and the challenges that we face today highlighted that fact... with COVID-19, the climate crisis and the importance of our shared belief in a free and open Indo-Pacific region," Harris said.

She said that early in the COVID-19 pandemic, India was a vital source of vaccines for other countries.

"When India experienced a surge of COVID... the United States was very proud to support India and needed its and responsibility to vaccinate its people," she said.

Harris welcomed India's announcement that it will soon be able to resume vaccine export and it is of particular note and admiration that India is currently vaccinating approximately 10 million people a day.

"The President and I believe very strongly that the United States working together with India would have not only a profound impact on the future of our respective nations but on the world itself" on climate,

she said.

"And as it relates to the Indo-Pacific, the United States, like India, feels very strongly about the pride of being a member of the Indo Pacific, but also the fragilities of the importance and the strength as well of those relationships, including maintaining a free and open Indo Pacific," the Vice President said.

Harris also touched upon the issue of climate change.

"On the issue of the climate crisis, I know that India and we take this issue quite seriously. The President and she believe very strongly that the United States working together with India would have a profound impact on people of the two countries," she added.

Their meeting comes a day ahead of the maiden bilateral meeting between Modi and President Joe Biden and the Quad Leaders' Summit at the White House on Friday, September 24.

Since taking office, Harris has met with or spoken to over 30 world leaders, promoting US interests on issues ranging from global health to climate change to cyber threats.

Our diversity is the identity of our...

"We have had a great tradition of democracy that goes back to thousands of years".

"Our diversity is the identity of our strong democracy," he said.

"It is a country that has dozens of languages, hundreds of dialects, different lifestyles and cuisines. This is the best example of a vibrant democracy," the Prime Minister said.

"The strength of our democracy is demonstrated by the fact that a little boy who at one time used to help his father at his tea stall at a railway station is today addressing the United Nations General Assembly for the fourth time as prime minister of India," he said.

"I will soon have spent 20 years serving my countrymen as head of government. First, as the longest serving Chief Minister of Gujarat and then as the Prime Minister for the last seven years," Mr. Modi said, adding that democracy has delivered.

Mr. Modi said that countries with "regressive thinking" that are using terrorism as a "political tool" must understand that it is an equally big threat for them also, in a veiled attack on Pakistan which is often accused by its neighbors of providing safe havens to terrorists.

Prime Minister also said that in order to strengthen the rules-based world order, the international community must speak in unison, in an apparent reference to China which is flexing its military muscles in the Indo-Pacific.

Noting that the world is facing an increased threat of regressive thinking and extremism, Mr. Modi said countries that are using terrorism as a political tool have to understand that terrorism is an equally big threat to them.

"It is absolutely essential to ensure that Afghanistan's territory is not used to spread terrorism and for terrorist activities," he said. "We also need to ensure that no country tries to take advantage of the delicate situation in Afghanistan and use it for its own selfish interests." Pakistan's neighbors, including Afghanistan and India, and the U.S. have long accused Islamabad of providing safe haven and support to militants, a charge denied by it.

Mr. Modi said that oceans are also a shared heritage.

"Our oceans are also the lifeline of international trade. We must protect them from the race for expansion. The international community must speak in one voice to strengthen a rule-based world order," he added.

Mr. Modi underscored the need for the United Nations to reform itself to be able to be more relevant and deliver more effectively. He couched a message for the UN in his quote from the Nobel Laureate Rabindranath Tagore which recommended moving forward fearlessly on the path of righteousness and all weaknesses and doubts will disappear.

Messi ruled out of PSG game against Montpellier

Lionel Messi has been ruled out of Paris St Germain's match against Montpellier as he has not fully recovered from a bone bruising injury, the Ligue 1 club said on Friday, Sept 24.

Messi suffered a knock on his left knee and an MRI scan earlier this week confirmed signs of a bone contusion. He missed PSG's 2-1 victory at Metz on Wednesday.

The 34-year-old Argentine forward, who joined the French club from Barcelona on a two-year contract in August, will be assessed again on Sunday -- ahead of next week's Champions League home game against Manchester City. PSG added midfielder Marco Verratti will return to training on Sunday while defender Sergio Ramos, who has yet to make his club debut, continues to train individually as he recovers from a calf injury.

No more neutral venues for us: Pakistan Cricket Board official

The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) will not consider hosting its home series at neutral venues from now onwards, a senior official said on Friday, Sept 24, asserting that the country is safe to host international games.

New Zealand arrived in Pakistan for the first time since 2005 but left without playing a single game, citing a security threat. England also decided to cancel its tour to Pakistan, saying it had players' welfare in mind.

"That is now out of the equation because the security situation in Pakistan is normal and we have everything in place to host any international team. No more neutral venues for us," a PCB official said.

Pakistan has hosted a few of its home series in UAE as major Test-playing nations have avoided touring Pakistan since the 2009 terror attack on the Sri Lankan team.

Gradually international cricket resumed in Pakistan and the PSL was also organised. After the cancellation of the two tours, the PCB had approached a few Boards to arrange an international series at home before the T20 World Cup but now it has decided to organise a domestic event.

"Initial talks were held with some boards including Sri Lanka, Bangladesh and Zimbabwe but it was then decided to focus on the National T20 Championship as all the main players are available for the event and it is a curtain raiser to the World Cup for us now," the official said.

IPL 2020: Dhoni's CSK humble Kohli's RCB with all-round show, claim top spot

SHARJAH (TIP): Chennai Super Kings produced a clinical all-round show to humble Royal Challengers Bangalore by six wickets and claim the top spot in the IPL pecking order here on Friday, Sept 24.

RCB skipper Virat Kohli (53) and young Devdutt Padikkal (70) struck brisk half-centuries in an impressive 111-run stand but CSK pulled the strings to restrict them to 156 for six after electing to bowl.

The in-form Ruturaj Gaikwad came good again with a quick 38 while Faf du Plessis made 31 at the top to lay a strong foundation for CSK to chase the modest target in 18.1 overs.

The win took CSK to the top spot with 14 points. They overtook Delhi Capitals, who also have 14 points, but the yellow brigade has better net run-rate of 1.185, compared to 0.613 of the Delhi team.

While it was the second consecutive win for CSK, the RCB now have lost both the games post the league's resumption.

Gaikwad and Du Plessis added 71 runs in 8.2 overs and later Moeen Ali (23) and Ambati Rayudu (32) also got starts but could not convert those into big knocks.

Suresh Raina (17) and skipper MS Dhoni (11) ensured that there was no twist in the tale, taking the side past the finish line.

Neither Mohammed Siraj nor Navdeep Saini could trouble the CSK openers. Whether the ball was pitched up, short or bowled at good length, Gaikwad and his Protea partner treated them with equal disdain.

Gaikwad punched the ball hard and even reverse swept with ease before Kohli pulled off a stunning low catch off wrist-spinner Yuzvendra Chahal.

Realising that spinners may turn the game around, Kohli handed the ball to



off-spinner Glenn Maxwell and the Australian responded with the wicket of du Plessis, who was guilty of playing a loose shot.

However, Rayudu and Moeen did not show any respect to the slow bowlers. They worked the ball around to keep the scoreboard moving and also got the big shots.

Earlier, Kohli and Padikkal went hammer and tongs after being asked to take first strike but once the partnership was broken by Dwayne Bravo, RCB lost the momentum.

RCB managed only 45 runs in the remaining 6.4 overs after being in a position from where they could have pushed for a score in the vicinity of 200.

Bravo's bowling made a huge difference to the conclusion of the RCB innings as he conceded only 24 runs in his four overs and also added the wickets of Glenn Maxwell (11) and Harshal Patel (3).

CSK had no dearth of quality bowlers with Deepak Chahar and Josh Hazlewood opening the attack but Bangalore openers -- Kohli and Padikkal -- went about striking the ball cleanly.

Kohli began with consecutive boundaries off Chahar but took a bit of time to find his rhythm. The skipper lofted the same bowler for a massive six on the on-side while Padikkal was fluent with his well-timed shots on the off-side.

Dhoni shuffled his bowlers but none got the length that could either trouble the batsmen or stop the run flow.

The young left-hander also used his feet well against left-arm spinner Ravindra Jadeja, sending the ball soaring over long-on. He completed his fifty with a crushing four off Chahar which also raised the team's hundred.

The breakthrough eventually came when Bravo sent back Kohli, who struck the ball clean and hard but was caught near the boundary ropes. Source: PTI

SECOND WOMEN'S ODI (INDIA VS AUSTRALIA)

India lose nerve to concede second game and series

MACKAY (TIP): India and their premier bowler Jhulan Goswami failed to keep their nerves in a dramatic final over as Beth Mooney's brilliant unbeaten hundred ensured a five-wicket win for Australia -- their 26th on the trot -- in the second women's ODI here today.

Australia thus took a 2-0 lead in the three-match WODI series and India's fragile bowling attack will now come under the scanner.

It was a match that was in India's pocket till the 25th over of the Australian innings but Mooney, with an unbeaten 125, stunned the visitors in the third-highest chase of all-time in women's ODI cricket by knocking off a target of 275.

In fact, the Indian team prematurely celebrated when Goswami's waist high full-toss was hit straight to mid-wicket by Mooney but, to their horror, it turned out to be a no-ball. It was marginal as Goswami's last ball was sent towards



Beth Mooney struck a magnificent century to take Australia to their 26th consecutive victory. Photo: Cricket Australia

wide long-on for a couple to finish the match.

With 13 needed off the last over, old

guard Goswami was handed the ball with Mooney (125 off 133 balls) and Nicola Carey (39 not out off 38 balls) on the rampage on a dew-laden night.

Wicketkeeper Richa Ghosh and Poonam Yadav were put under extreme pressure as the batters got five off the first two balls and Goswami accidentally bowled a beamer that hit Carey on the helmet with the umpire rightly signalling a no-ball. Ghosh's inexperience once came through as she missed a run-out when five were required off the last two balls before the no-ball drama changed the course of the game.

But it was more about the poor show from Indian spinners Deepti Sharma and Poonam Yadav that led to Australia making a comeback after being 52/4. After a poor start to their chase, opener Mooney and Tahilia McGrath put on a 126-run fifth-wicket stand.

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