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India capable of producing vaccines: Gates
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UP boy tops in US high school
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HINDUS4TRUMP
Over 100,000 Indian-Americans watch virtual rally

FREMONT: Hindus4Trump held a massive virtual rally on 19th July across the 48 states of the United States. The rally was organized by Americans4Hindus.org along with all other allied Hindu organizations such as OFBJP, HSS, Sattology, Festival of Globe, ISKCON and many other allied organizations. Al Mason from the Trump Campaign Finance Committee answered many questions of the community particularly their concerns, their current perception of the democrat opponents and also their existing challenges.

More than 100,000 American Hindus attended the virtual meet, through various social media forums, who approved the candidature of President Trump. It still remains to be seen in coming weeks how this gets translated into financial contribution and votes for Trump.

Many important areas of concern were discussed that require attention and listed.

Dr Romesh Japra

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Last week’s result
Will China back off from South China Sea?
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**TUESDAY**
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**THURSDAY**
Sai Baba Abhishek Live: 8:30 to 9 am
Sai Baba Aarti Live: 9:30 to 10 am
Main temple Aart- Live: 7:00 to 7:30 pm
Sai Baba Shej Aarti: 7:30 to 8 pm

**FRIDAY**
Mahalakshmi Abhisekam
Live: 10:30 to 11 am
Mahalakshmi Archana Live: 11:30 to 12 am

**SATURDAY**
Navagraha Abhisekam live: 9 to 9:30 am
Balaji Abhisekam live: 9:30 to 10 am
Navagraha Archana live: 9:45 to 10 am
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Many important areas of concern were discussed that require attention and listed. 

Need for Trump Presidential campaign:

- Outreach to American Hindu candidates who need RNC support in their campaigns
- RNC to work closely with Americans4Hindus, which has emerged as the single largest grassroots committee with direct reach across eligible American Hindu voter’s base
- Address concerns of American Hindu community with leftists and Islamists being openly supported by Democrats
- Support an equitable immigration policy that rewards merit
- Address specific issues related to education policy that includes accurate description of ancient Hindu History, Yoga and Spirituality
- Address the plight of Hindus in Bangladesh, Pakistan and Afghanistan
- Appoint a Hindu Leader to USCIRF board from the recognized traditions from Hindu culture

Dr Raj Bhayani, co-Founder & Co-Chair of Americans4Hindus along with Mr Aditya Satsangi, co-Founder & President of Americans4Hindus and Dr Romesh Japra, co-Founder & Chairman of Americans4Hindus.org, organized this meet with Al Mason, who is the Co-chair of Trump Victory Indian-American Finance Committee. Kimberly Guilfoyle, Senior Advisor to Donald J Trump for President, Inc. and National Chair of the Trump Victory Finance Committee also endorsed this largest initiative of Hindus4Trump of Americans4Hindus.org.

Dr Japra raised an important point, “How can the Trump administration address the dharma concerns of American Hindu Community to cater to almost 12 million dharma followers in the USA?” Aditya Satsangi, educated Al Mason about the Hindu community which comprises Hindus from India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Fiji, Guyana, Trinidad, Nepal, Thailand, Australia, Europe and also growing number of Caucasian Americans accepting Hindu dharma values. Not to forget the growing Yoga community with almost 40M followers across the United States.

Prime Minister Modi’s International Yoga Day has brought more than 20M Americans publicly demonstrating Yoga in Prominent places across all 50 states and other American territories.

“It is important for all politicians to recognize Hinduism and Dharma as one of the official religions of United States. Hindus4Trump also demand that Bhagavad Gita be taught in all educational institutes.” Says Aditya Satsangi, San Diego

The A4H event marks a unique transition in America’s political landscape. Says Dr Subrato Ganguly, Houston.

The entire virtual event was lively and filled with pride of Trump-Modi friendship and also USA-India friendship. Hindus4Trump will surely bring votes for Trump in key swing states and also some additional seats in California for GOP. The GOP also needs to do some more on their part to retain this enthusiasm. There are some other virtual rallies being planned at state levels and national level to ensure the momentum.

More to come from Americans4Hindus.org

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WASHINGTON: The Indian-American community could be “an absolute difference maker” in battleground states in the November 3 presidential elections, a top Democratic leader has said.

As a little over 100 days are left for the elections, both the Republican and the Democratic parties are making huge efforts to reach out to the small but influential Indian-American community in some of the key battleground states such as Michigan, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin.

Thomas Perez, chair of the Democratic National Committee says that Michigan has 125,000 Indian-American voters.

We lost Michigan by 10,700 votes in 2016, he said, referring to the loss of Hillary Clinton, the then Democratic presidential nominee at the hands of President Donald Trump.

In Pennsylvania, (there are) 156,000 (Indian-American voters). We (Democratic party) lost (presidential elections) in Pennsylvania by 42-43,000 (votes). In Wisconsin (there are) 37,000 (Indian-American voters). We (Democrats) lost (presidential elections) in Wisconsin by 10,700 votes for Trump in Key swing states.

Shekar Narasimhan, chairman of AAPI Victory Fund, said that there are 1.3 million potential Indian-American voters in eight battleground

Americans.

We lost Wisconsin by 21,000 (votes) in 2016, said the head of the Democratic Party.

The Indian-American vote, the AAPI (Asian-American and Pacific Islanders) vote more broadly, can be an absolute difference maker (in the 2020 presidential elections), Perez said at a virtual event An Electorate Coming of Age: Indian Americans for Biden, jointly hosted by the South Asians for Biden along with AAPI Victory Fund and Indian-American Impact Fund.

We are hustling to the finishing line 108 days till the weekend. Think about those three states alone that I mentioned. The Indian-American votes alone can be the difference in moving forward, Perez said.

Shekar Narasimhan, chairman of AAPI Victory Fund, said that there are 1.3 million potential Indian-American voters in key battleground states of Arizona (66,000), Florida (193,000), Georgia (150,000), Michigan (125,000), North Carolina (111,000), Pennsylvania (156,000), Texas (475,000) and Wisconsin (37,000), PTI
Indian-American shakes up Democrat Primary in NYC

Suraj Patel 36, a first-generation American attorney, business ethics professor, who has been an
Obama White House staffer, is a progressive Obama Democrat, and a novice in politics who could be very near success in the Democrat primary in New York. He trails party veteran Carolyn Maloney 74 with a slim margin of 648 votes while a huge number of mail-in ballots still await to be counted.

Patel has filed a lawsuit pressing for counting of all ballots fearing the party establishment could squash his bid questioning the legality of the mail-in votes.

"If all the mail-in ballots are counted, I will be the first Indian-American to go to Congress from New York," says Patel.
The US House currently has four Indian-American lawmakers (Ami Bera and Ro Khanna from California, Pramila Jayapal from Washington state, and Raja Krishnamoorthi from Illinois), and the Senate has one (Kamala Harris from California).

Patel, who teaches business ethics at NYU, is a first generation Indian-American whose parents emigrated from India in the 1960s and started a hospitality business after his dad first worked the night shift fixing subway track. "I grew up bussing tables, filling vending machines, doing motel laundry, and helping out on construction sites. Together as a family, we lived the American Dream, something that's nearly impossible in today's rigged economy," he says on his web platform. He is also critical of the Democratic establishment "three decades of no progress and three decades of the same representation."

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In support of his campaign he says, "Unlike the Congresswoman (Maloney), I refuse to take corporate PAC money from the very companies I would regulate. I also think competition is not only healthy for democracy, it's necessary to ensure new voices and new ideas are heard. That's why I support term limits, automatic voter registration, and am active in the fight to end gerrymandering and voter suppression across the country. Incumbency protection has no place in my agenda."

Amid border row with China, Indian & US navies carry out drill

NEW DELHI: Indian and the US Navies carried out a swift exercise close to the Andaman and Nicobar islands recently as the standoff between India and China continues for over two months.
The passing exercise or PASSEX involved the super carrier USS Nimitz returning from the South China Sea as it passes through Indian Ocean Region. A passage exercise is normally undertaken whenever an opportunity arises, in contrast to pre-planned maritime drills.

USS Nimitz (CVN 68) is US Navy nuclear-powered aircraft carrier and the world’s largest warship armed with F/A-18F Super Hornets as well as F/A-18E Super Hornets.

India had earlier conducted a similar exercise with France and Japan in the seas. The drills come soon after Indian Navy carried out an exercise in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands to test its capabilities and be battle ready against Chinese forays in Indian Ocean Region.

The Malabar exercises between US and Indian navies were instituted in 1992. They were more regular since 2004 with other Asian nations joining in the annual event.

China had objected to the only Australia participation in the drills along with India, Japan, US and Singapore in 2007. IANS
India should focus on food security: American economist Richard Wolff

KOLKATA: A predominantly rural economy like India should use its population in low-density non-urban areas to prevent the spread of coronavirus and build a more manageable food security system to counter the pandemic-triggered slowdown, says eminent American economist Richard Davis Wolff.

Wolff, who believes climate change, inequality, racism, instability and the COVID-19 pandemic have converged to make the global economic crisis more acute and long-lasting, said India’s anti-pandemic programs should not just involve funding but also focus on constructing social distancing protocols for rural conditions.

In predominantly rural economies like India, lower (non-urban) population densities should be made to work against the viral (coronavirus) spread and likewise a stress on building up food security should be more manageable,” said Wolff, professor emeritus at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst faculty.

Elaborating, he said, India’s anti-pandemic programs should involve funding but also systemic assistance in two key areas -- to construct social distancing programs and protocols for rural conditions and to prioritize the creation of growing, processing, and storing food across the country for a secure food system”.

The economist was skeptical whether large emergency stimulus packages, including India’s Rs 20 lakh crore that is equivalent to the 10 per cent of its GDP, would help sustain economically backward classes and offset historically accumulated social deficiencies and exclusions.

“In many countries, including India, mass poverty for a long time has undermined the health, housing, education, and related conditions of huge populations. They consequently suffer more than the average from both viral pandemics and economic crashes. Even large emergency stimulus packages like that of India’s package (10 per cent of its GDP) and the US’s (considerably larger) cannot offset historically accumulated social deficiencies and exclusions. It would take both much more money and a willingness to undertak "In many countries, including India, mass poverty for a long time has undermined the health, housing, education, and related conditions of huge populations. They consequently suffer more than the average from both viral pandemics and economic crashes‘

‘In many countries, including India, mass poverty for a long time has undermined the health, housing, education, and related conditions of huge populations. They consequently suffer more than the average from both viral pandemics and economic crashes‘

most recent book is Understanding Socialism, predicted that the current global recession due to COVID-19 might go deeper than the ones earlier this century.

“We need to remember that it is the third capitalist crash in this century. The first one was the ‘dotcom crisis’ in early 2000 and then the one triggered by widespread sub-prime mortgage default in the US in 2008. The crash was one of the worst in capitalism’s history, second only to the crash of the 1930s. And now, in 2020 and we have a far deeper crash than in 2008,” he said.

“Capitalism’s periodic downturns (such as crashes, recessions, depressions, crises, business cycles and busts) occur on average every four-seven years, Wolff said, attributing each one to a different trigger that has the effect of distracting attention from the system’s inherent instability. It also distracts from other basic problems that global capitalism has never solved. Those have now exploded together converging on this capitalist downturn to make it extreme,” he added.

“The five converging crises of climate change, inequality, racism, instability and the ongoing viral pandemic persuade me that today’s global crisis will cut deeper and last longer than most current predictions.”

According to him, small and medium businesses with limited resources are more vulnerable compared to larger corporations that will gain the most from bailouts and stimulus programs.

“As happens in most capitalist societies, the bigger the enterprise the greater its resources to cultivate political friends. The current crises find small and medium businesses more vulnerable and with fewer resources to enable survival than large corporations usually possess. That is why, despite the World Economic Forum’s and many government’s statements on the importance of maintaining and supporting small and medium enterprises and despite stimulus programs aimed at them, the systemically unequal competition between big business and other businesses will dominate the situation. Thus the bailouts and stimulus programs benefit large corporations at the expense of medium and small businesses everywhere,” he elaborated.

The post-pandemic world, the economist cautioned, has to face the need to not return to the pre-pandemic ‘normal’. Instead, major structural changes in national economies, world trade, and finance need to be decided and implemented. Chief among these is a much less unequal global distribution of wealth and income,” he suggested.

Wolff, also a visiting professor at New School University, NYC, held the US government responsible for not adopting the policy of re-employing workers leading to the massive unemployment, economic losses in that country.

“This is not the policy adopted in the US where instead massive unemployment of tens of millions was allowed. That quarter of the labor force has suffered massive economic losses is now agonized over whether their former jobs will be available and under what wages and conditions. Massive unemployment invites every employer to recoup losses by cutting wages, benefits, job security,” Wolff said.

“That has already gotten well underway across the US. The suffering is greatest for the poorest, exacerbating already extreme inequality and aggravating racist tendencies to socially explosive levels,” he added. PTI
Indian-origin doctors warn racial bias in research behind COVID-19 disparity in UK

LONDON: A group of Indian-origin doctors has warned that inherent racial bias in medical research and practice could be exacerbating the disproportionately severe impact of COVID-19 among ethnic minorities in the UK and globally, as they call for a wider study into lifestyle-related risks among them.

While metabolic syndrome (MetS) that increases a person’s wider health risk is known to be behind the severity of the deadly virus among some ethnic groups, UK-based cardiologist Aseem Malhotra and British Association of Physicians of Indian Origin (BAPIO) chairman JS Bamrah and US-based infectious disease and obesity physician Ravi Kamepalii highlight that the genetic factors behind MetS are not being properly factored in.

They warn that genetic predisposition may be a key factor behind South Asians developing conditions linked to obesity, such as Type 2 diabetes, at much lower levels of body fat.

But these are not being identified as high risk and managed appropriately because of the general focus on Body Mass Index (BMI) as a proxy for healthy weight.

Using Body Mass Index (BMI) as a proxy for healthy weight will provide the illusion of protection and will miss a substantial proportion of those from black and South Asian ethnic minority groups with MetS risk, they write in the peer-reviewed academic journal ‘The Physician’.

BMI is determined by a person’s weight relative to their height and a BMI above 30 is taken as the standard measure for unhealthiness in the UK.

The doctors have called for an immediate update of the risk assessment tool to take into account five factors that will help identify those from ethnic minority backgrounds at the highest risk from not just Covid-19 complications, but longer-term risk of death and heart attack.

In their paper titled ‘Poor metabolic health is the major issue for increased COVID-19 mortality in BAME groups’, the doctors note: Just as racism is endemic in the NHS (National Health Service), racial bias exists in the identification and management of patients from BAME backgrounds at high risk.

Normal BMI metabolically unhealthy have a threefold increased all-cause mortality and or cardiovascular event risk compared to metabolically healthy normal weight over a 10-year period. Unfortunately, the current NHS risk assessment tool doesn’t directly measure metabolic health, which is a more sensitive method to identify and subsequently manage BAME individuals at high risk.

Poor diet, lack of activity and severe Vitamin D deficiency are highlighted as the common factors leading to poor metabolic health and increased infection severity risk among BAME backgrounds, particularly South Asians.

The doctors have called for an immediate update of the risk assessment tool to take into account five factors that will help identify those from ethnic minority backgrounds at the highest risk from not just Covid-19 complications, but longer-term risk of death and heart attack.

These five factors are: blood pressure above 120/80mmHg, (pre-hypertension or hypertension); HbA1c > 5.7 (pre-diabetes/Type 2 diabetes); high blood triglycerides; low HDL-Cholesterol; and increased waist circumference.

MetS, which has been identified as having up to several-fold increased risk of mortality from COVID-19, is defined as having at least three of the above risk factors but this is not being assessed in the current NHS risk assessment tools, the doctors note.

They also draw on a concerning picture of lifestyle factors not being addressed behind those risk factors, which include a diet low in whole fruit and vegetables, and one that’s high in sugar and refined carbohydrates especially in those from South Asian backgrounds.

Indian consulate in Dubai to remain open on weekends, public holidays

DUBAI: Starting August 1, the Consulate General of India in Dubai will remain open on weekends and public holidays, Consul-General Aman Puri said.

Puri officially took charge of the Consulate on Sunday (19 July), and given the current circumstances owing to the COVID-19 pandemic, services will remain open all days of the week, including weekends and public holidays.

“Starting August 1 to December 31, the consulate will remain open from 8 a.m. to 10 a.m. on holidays. Unlike an open house, consular services will be made available for those in need of emergency requirements such as passport renewal for emergency travel, etc.,” he told the Khaleej Times.

He said the decision was also subject to review, depending on the situation.

“We feel that the coming days are going to be tough and people may need our support. However, this is not something new. Our colleagues at posts and missions (Indian) have always come forward in support of distressed Indians. Given our community here in Dubai is large, the needs here are large as well.”

Puri said it remains his priority to continue to provide support towards the repatriation of stranded Indians in the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

“As a priority, we will continue to support the stranded Indians to Dubai to return home. So far, the consulate has repatriated 170,000 Indians from Dubai and the Northern Emirates,” he told the Khaleej Times.

Out of the 170,000, a total of 40,000 have flown out on the Vande Bharat Mission repatriation flights, and 130,000 have used chartered flights organized by private companies and community groups. Puri also assured that the Consulate will continue to support distressed Indians in every way possible.

“Not just those directly impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, but even those who have suffered economic distress due to the ongoing crisis,” he said.

Puri replaced former Consul-General Vipul, who left Dubai on July 11. IANS
UP boy tops in US high school

ALIGARH: Mohammad Shadab, the son of a motor mechanic in Aligarh, Uttar Pradesh, has topped at his high school in the US. Shadab, who had received a scholarship, said: "Last year, I received the Kennedy-Lugar youth exchange scholarship worth Rs 20 lakh from the US government. After this, I went to the US to pursue my high school education. "I have worked really hard to top the high school. I was also selected Student of the Month at the school and it was an achievement for me. "The condition at home was not good and it is still not that good. I want to support my parents and make them feel proud. I am thankful to the Indian government for making me the flag-bearer of the nation but Shadab and I am happy that he topped at the high school in the US."

"I want to work at the UN as a human rights officer," said Shadab. IANS

UK to make changes to extradition treaty with Hong Kong

LONDON: Britain’s government will be making changes in its extradition arrangements with Hong Kong after China imposed a tough new national security law.

As tensions grow with Beijing, Prime Minister Boris Johnson said he had concerns about the new law and about alleged human rights abuses in China in particular in regard to the treatment of the Uighur minority. He promised to be tough but to not completely abandon a policy of engagement with China. "There is a balance here," Johnson said during a visit to a school. "I'm not going to be pushed into a position of becoming a knee-jerk Sinophobe on every issue, somebody who is automatically anti-China." Johnson said he would leave it to Foreign Secretary Dominic Raab to outline the extradition changes in a statement to the House of Commons. Raab has said it can no longer be "a role in the UK's new high-speed mobile phone network amid security concerns fuelled by rising tensions between Beijing and Western powers. Johnson's government has already criticized China's decision to impose a sweeping new national security law on Hong Kong. The UK has accused the Beijing government of a serious breach of the Sino-British Joint Declaration under which the UK returned control of Hong Kong to China in 1997, and announced it would open a special route to citizenship for up to 3 million eligible residents of the community.

Johnson said during a visit to a school. I'm not going to be pushed into a position of becoming a knee-jerk Sinophobe on every issue, somebody who is automatically anti-China.

Beijing has objected to the move. China's ambassador to Britain, Liu Xiaoming, recently described the offer as gross interference in Chinese affairs. Liu told the BBC's Andrew Marr that Britain was dancing to the tune of the U.S. and rejected the allegations of human rights abuses against the mainly Muslim Uighur people. AP

Ind-Am condole death of civil rights leader John Lewis

WASHINGTON: The Indian-American community has condoled the death of John Lewis, the iconic civil rights leader, who as a member of the US House of Representatives, was instrumental in the introduction and passage of several legislations related to India and Mahatma Gandhi.

Lewis, who died on July 17 at the age of 80, represented Georgia’s 5th Congressional District in the US House of Representatives from 1987 until his death.

The Indian-American community condoled the death of Lewis, saying he was a true friend of India and was a firm believer of Gandhi and peace.

India's Ambassador to the US Taranjit Singh Sandhu called Lewis a true friend of India.

We mourn the loss of Congressman Lewis, an iconic figure of the civil rights movement, a champion of ahimsa and nonviolence and a true friend of India. He will continue to inspire coming generations through his life and the values he stood for, Sandhu tweeted.

The Indian-American community condoled the death of Lewis, saying he was a true friend of India and was a firm believer of Gandhi and peace.

Congressman John Lewis was an American hero a giant, whose shoulders upon many of us stand. Throughout his life, he showed unending courage, generosity, and love for our country, she said.

Last December, Democratic Congressman Lewis re-introduced Gandhi-King Scholarly Exchange Initiative Act that affirmed India-US friendship and proposed to establish a bilateral partnership for collaboration to advance development and shared values.

The legislation was for the first time introduced by Lewis in 2009 and subsequently every two years.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi also condoled the death of Lewis on Sunday (19 July), saying his legacy will continue to endure and inspire people. PTI

Trump nominates Indian American to head USAID Asia operations

NEW YORK: US President Donald Trump has nominated an Indian American lawyer who has been active in the Republican Party and with the Hindu American Coalition to head the Asian operations of the US Agency for International Development (USAID).

The White House has announced the nomination of Sue Ghosh Stricklett as the assistant administrator in charge of USAID’s Asia Bureau overseeing supervising its operations from China to the Maldives.

USAID is the arm of the US government that provides development assistance to developing countries and promotes democracy and gender equality.

Her nomination goes to the Senate, which has to approve nominees to senior positions like hers. According to the White House, she was a foreign policy adviser on Asia to presidential campaigns.

She was the founder of the Trump campaign in Maryland State for the 2016 election. She had also campaigned for the two previous Republican Party presidential candidates John McCain and Mitt Romney.

Stricklett has been the general counsel for American Hindu Coalition, which says it is a non-partisan organization that says its aims is to "build a stronger America through Hindu Enlightenment Principles."

She is the author of several articles in US media advocating close relations with India and on "Trump's outreach to Hindus, both before and after his election" with a slew of important appointments in his administration.

The White House said that she has been a lawyer in private practice for over 25 years working in areas of foreign policy and national security.

"The scope of her practice includes Foreign Corrupt Practices Act compliance, intellectual property licensing and technology transfer, US dual-use and defense trade control licensing, and sanctions law enforcement," the White House said.

Stricklett’s nomination comes when less than six months are left in Trump's current term and nearly 250 key positions of the 755 requiring Senate confirmation have yet to be filled. PTI
MoU signed for India to develop strategic petroleum reserve in US

WASHINGTON: India and the US have signed an MoU to develop a strategic petroleum reserve and the two countries are in advanced stage of discussion to store crude oil in America to increase India’s stockpile, Union Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas Dharmendra Pradhan stated. Pradhan co-chaired with his American counterpart Energy Secretary Dan Brouillette a virtual US-India Strategic Energy Partnership Ministerial.

“We have signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to begin co-operation on strategic petroleum reserve. We are also in advanced phase of discussing of storing crude oil in US strategic reserve to increase India’s strategic oil stockpile,” Pradhan told reporters in a joint telephonic press conference.

Responding to a question, the minister said the memorandum on cooperation in the field of strategic petroleum reserve was based on a proposal from the US after the recent historic drop in oil prices during coronavirus pandemic.

Following the historic drop in global crude oil process, the Indian government actively considered increasing its oil stockpile both inside the country and also overseas in countries like the US, he said.

Very soon the government will be coming out with a concrete road map and proposal on how it can be unfolded, Pradhan said, adding that this would also include that New Delhi can invest in an American storage facility for India’s requirement.

Co-operation in Strategic Petroleum Reserves Program will further strengthen India’s energy security and pave the way for greater US investments and collaborations in India’s future SPR programs, the minister said.

Brouillette said the MoU signed Friday (17 July) will establish the process of moving forward.

“What we would like to do is to begin the process of sharing with India, the establishment of a strategic reserve. And then accordingly, how does our SPR or Strategic Petroleum Reserve work here?” he said.

“Could ultimately look similar to what we’ve done with Australia, but there’s no predetermined outcome as to where this conversation is going to grow into. We’re excited to begin the conversation with India. We do think it’s important for both of our nations said the US Energy Secretary in response to a question.

The State Department said that the MoU on Strategic Petroleum Reserve will ensure a consistent energy supply, protects national security, and promote regional and global stability.

“The US-India Strategic Energy Partnership works to support sustainable energy development, in the 21st century and beyond. We collaborate on renewable energy, smart grids, and unconventional & clean energy sources research for the benefit of our people, now and in the future,” South and Central Asia Bureau of the State Department said in a tweet.

Substantive wide-ranging conversation on the different pillars of India-US energy partnership took place during the India US Strategic Energy Partnership Ministerial, said India’s Ambassador to the US Taranjit Singh Sandhu.

Minister Pradhan said that during the meeting, he expressed his keenness to work closely with the US government to realize the “full potential of our Strategic Energy Partnership and also invited the US Government and companies to join our initiatives under the Atmanirbhar Mission to further strengthen the strategic energy partnership”.

Asserting that India-US relationship has witnessed significant growth and expansion in the last few years, especially through the energy component, the minister said that the Strategic Energy Partnership was now recognized as a key constituent of this bilateral engagement.

“Our meeting today reflects both our Govt’s commitment in further invigorating this partnership. It is, indeed, welcome that despite the challenges of the COVID-19 situation, we are committed to strengthen our energy linkages and work together on mutually-aligned priorities,” he said. PTI
Bangladesh's Summit Alliance sails strong in India

KOLKATA: Bangladesh’s Summit Alliance Port Ltd (SAPL), the maiden Public Private Partnership (PPP) investor in the Inland Waterways Authority of India’s (IWAI) port infrastructure management, is sailing strong as demand for export cargo to Bangladesh and North East through Indo-Bangla protocol route is gaining momentum.

SAPL’s Indian subsidiary, Summit Alliance Port East Gateway, won a contract to operate and maintain three Inland Waterways terminals on National Waterways-1 (Haldia to Varanasi), GR Jetty I &II and BSN in Kolkata and Kalanaghat in Bihar on a revenue sharing model in 2018.

“In June, we handled 71,000 tons. We have reached near pre-covid cargo handling as demand for waterways cargo to Bangladesh and NE is strong. At this run-rate, we are targeting one million tons cargo from Bengal terminals in 2021,” AGM of Indian operation of SAPL, Sagar Khatagar stated.

The slowdown of export and import from Petrapole land port near Kolkata since the lockdown was imposed in March has turned out to be a boon for Kolkata Port Trust and SAPL India.

Both have been witnessing increasing demand and recently steel was shipped to Bangladesh through the Indo-Bangla protocol route signed to develop a new trade route and connect Northeast India via the neighboring country.

The Indian shipping minister recently flagged off a container ship from Kolkata port to Tripura, which will reach Agartala via Chattogram port in Bangladesh, Khatagar said adding that the company will very soon ship SAIL steel in containers to Bangladesh.

First set of private trains to be introduced by 2023

NEW DELHI: The first set of 12 private trains will be introduced in 2023, followed by 45 more in the next fiscal, according to an initial timeline drawn by the railways which plans to roll out all 151 such train services by 2027, officials said.

In a formal kick-start to its plans to allow private entities to operate passenger trains on its network, the railways earlier this month invited proposals from companies to run 151 modern passenger trains on 109 pairs of routes across the country. The project would entail a private sector investment of about Rs 30,000 crore.

As part of the plan for private trains, the railways has planned to introduce 12 trains in 2022-23, 45 in 2023-24, 50 in 2025-26 and 44 more in the next fiscal, taking the total number of trains to 151 by the end of FY 2026-2027.

The request for qualification (RFO), which was floated on July 8, is likely to be finalized by November, the financial bids will be opened by March, 2021 and selection of bidders is planned by April 31, 2021, according to a timeline for introduction of private passenger trains prepared by the railways.

Bidders quoting the highest share in gross revenue shall be awarded the project, officials said.

“We have worked out a plan by which we hope to begin private train operations. Tenders will be finalized by March 2021 and trains will operate from March, 2023,” a senior official said.

The railways has said that 70 per cent of the private trains will be manufactured in India, which will be designed for a maximum speed of 160 kmph.

There would be a reduction in journey time by around 10-15 per cent at 130 kmph and around 30 per cent at 160 kmph. The running time taken by a train shall be comparable to or faster than the fastest train of Indian Railways operating in the respective route.

The private player will pay the railways fixed haulage charges, energy charges as per actual consumption and a share in gross revenue determined through a transparent bidding process. The railways is expected to receive total haulage charges of around Rs 3,000 crore per annum from operation of these 151 trains, they said.

TechBriefs

IIT-M, edtech firm launch new program in next-gen tech

NEW DELHI: Institute of Technology Madras (IIT-M) and ed-tech company, Great Learning have launched a new program that aims at making technology professionals advance their careers by learning software engineering, cloud computing, Internet of Things (IoT) and blockchain.

This nine-month-long ‘Advanced Certification Program’ offers 300 hours of robust online video learning sessions, live learning sessions, and a series of practical projects in cloud computing, blockchain and IoT.

This program focuses on making current and aspiring software developers job-ready and future-proof by teaching them cutting edge technologies. It is designed to bridge the talent shortage faced by the industry in the areas of cloud computing, blockchain and IoT.

“We are delighted to collaborate with IIT Madras to offer this program and further our mutual objective of making high-quality education more accessible through online programs,” Mohan Lakhmraju, Founder and CEO, Great Learning said in a statement.

According to the company, this program aims to help learners develop the required skills for roles like software development engineers, software or technical architects, solution architects, cloud engineers, etc.

Govt issues notice to Twitter after recent hack targeting high-profile users

NEW DELHI: India’s cyber security nodal agency CERT-In, has issued a notice to Twitter asking the micro-blogging platform for full details of the recent global hack targeting high-profile users, as it sought complete information on number of Indian users affected as well as impact on data, a source said.

The source privy to the development told PTI that CERT-In has also asked Twitter for information on number of users from India who have visited the malicious tweets and links, and whether the affected users have been informed by the platform about unauthorized access to their Twitter accounts.

The government has also demanded information of vulnerability exploited by attackers and modulus operandi of the attack and sought details of remedial actions taken by Twitter to mitigate the impact of the hacking incident.

Twitter was not immediately available for comments.

Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In) swung into action after reports that hackers gained access to Twitter’s systems to hack accounts of many global corporate leaders, politicians, celebrities and businesses.

Cyber attackers had hacked into the Twitter accounts of global high profile users - including former US President Barack Obama, Democratic presidential front-runner Joe Biden as well as many corporate leaders including Amazon CEO Jeff Bezos, Microsoft co-founder Bill Gates and Tesla CEO Elon Musk - recently in a purported Bitcoin scam.
One can be said to be perfectly healthy in body and mind only if no part of the body or mind makes itself felt. A part makes itself felt only when there is something wrong with it. You know that you have a head only when it aches.

**Sri Atmananda** (1883 - 1959)

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**India's pharma industry capable of producing COVID-19 vaccines for entire world: Bill Gates**

NEW DELHI: India's pharmaceutical industry will be able to produce COVID-19 vaccines not just for the country but also for the entire world, according to Microsoft co-founder and philanthropist Bill Gates.

A lot of "very important things have been done" in India and its pharma industry is doing work "to help make the coronavirus vaccine building on other great capacities that they have used for other diseases," said the Co-Chair and Trustee of Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

Speaking in a documentary -- COVID-19: India's War Against The Virus -- to be premiered on Discovery Plus, Gates said India also faces a huge challenge due to the health crisis because of its gigantic size and urban centers with a lot of population density.

Commenting on the strength of India's pharma industry, he said, "India has a lot of capacity there -- with the drug and vaccine companies that are huge suppliers to the entire world. You know, more vaccines are made in India than anywhere-- starting with Serum Institute, that's the largest."

He further said, "But (there are) also Bio E, Bharat (Biotech), many others. They are doing work to help make the coronavirus vaccine, building on other great capacities that they have used for other diseases."

Stating that India joined Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI), which is a group working on a global basis to build vaccines platforms, Gates said, "I am excited that the pharmaceutical industry there will be able to produce not just for India but also for the entire world. (This is) What we need to reduce the deaths and make sure we are immune, which is how we end the epidemic."

Gates said Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation is also a "partner with the government, particularly with the department of biotechnology, the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) and the office of the principal scientific advisor provide advice and help about getting these tools going."

Commenting on the deadly virus breaching India's borders in the documentary, which was shot extensively during the period of lockdown, he said, "India is still at the beginning of this, but there's a lot of very important things have been done. It's a huge challenge with India because you've got a gigantic country. You've got your urban centers with a lot of density-- and so that-- drives the spread. You have people moving around."

He, however, added: "Yet people are stepping up... Looking at how we reduce the spread while trying not to reduce food availability, equipment that people need."

Highlighting Gates foundation's role, he said it has "worked for the Indian government on health issues like introducing new vaccines over the last decade; and so when COVID-19 came along, we stepped in and said you know where are the gaps, we have been funding work on detection and isolation. PTI

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**New antiplatelet drug shows promise for treating heart attack**

NEW YORK: Researchers have developed a new drug that prevents blood clots without causing an increased risk of bleeding, a common side effect of all antiplatelet medications currently available.

The study, published in the journal Science Translational Medicine, described the drug and its delivery mechanisms and shows that the drug is also an effective treatment for heart attack in animal models.

"Unfortunately, current antiplatelet medications prevent the blood clotting that causes heart attack and stroke but also disrupt platelets' ability to stop bleeding if a blood vessel is torn," said study researcher Xiaoping Du from the University of Illinois in the US.

"The magic of this new drug is it prevents clots but does not make people prone to bleeding, which other drugs have failed to do," Du added.

In a previous study, the research team identified a signaling mechanism that is important in the blood clotting process but not required for platelets' ability to adhere to a wound and prevent bleeding. Based on this finding, the researchers derived a peptide to target the signaling mechanism and designed a nanoparticle that successfully delivered the peptide into platelets.

The peptide-derived nanoparticle drug -- called M3mP6 high-loading peptide nanoparticle, of HLPN -- was then tested in mice as a possible treatment for heart attacks.Du said a heart attack can cause heart failure and death in two different ways. IANS
Human trials of COVID-19 vaccine important milestone for Atmanirbhar Bharat

NEW DELHI: Zydus Cadila’s move to begin human trials of its indigenously developed vaccine candidate for COVID-19 is an important milestone for an ‘Atmanirbhar Bharat’, Department of Biotechnology Secretary Renu Swarup has informed.

Zydus Cadila announced it has initiated Phase 1 and 2 clinical trials of its COVID-19 vaccine candidate. ZyCoV-D, the plasmid DNA vaccine designed and developed by Zydus, has been partially funded by the Department of Biotechnology under the National Biopharma Mission.

This makes it the first indigenously developed vaccine for coronavirus to be administered in humans in the country, the DBT secretary said in a statement.

Swarup said the development is also a big leap forward for the scientific community.

This is an important milestone for Atmanirbhar Bharat as Zydus begins human clinical trials for the indigenously developed vaccine. We hope that the vaccine continues to show positive outcomes as it has done so far in the pre-clinical phase where it was found to be safe, immunogenic and well tolerated, she said.

The adaptive phase 1 and 2 dose escalation, multi-centric study will assess the safety, tolerability and immunogenicity of the vaccine, the statement said.

ZyCoV-D and COVAXIN, developed by city-based Bharat Biotech in collaboration with Indian Council of Medical Research, are the only two vaccine candidates to have got a nod from the drug regulatory body to conduct human trials.

This partnership with Zydus is to serve the country’s need for a vaccine to fight the dreaded pandemic, which has put a billion people at risk, Swarup said.

Such research endeavors will help the country develop preventive strategies for future disease outbreaks as well. PTI

Researchers develop coating that kills coronavirus in 1 hour

NEW YORK: The researchers have developed a surface coating, which, when painted on common objects like doorknobs or light switches, can inactivate SARS-CoV-2 in one hour, the virus that causes COVID-19.

According to the study, published in the journal ACS Applied Materials & Interfaces, the results of the tests have been outstanding.

When the coating is painted on glass or stainless steel, the amount of virus is reduced by 99.9 per cent in one hour, compared to the uncoated sample.

“The idea is when the droplets land on a solid object, the virus within the droplets will be inactivated,” said study researcher William Ducker from Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University in the US.

“One hour is the shortest period that we have tested so far, and tests at shorter periods are ongoing,” Ducker added. IANS

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NEW DELHI: During the COVID-19 pandemic the focus has been on women supporting each other to help build financial security. In these uncertain times and an economic slowdown, women are working harder than they ever did, both at home and at work.

Kool Kanya is a digital platform for women to network professionally, exchange opportunities, share opinions and ask questions. The digital space also offers career guidance, mentorship and opportunities for women to help them build careers they love and want to explore.

IANSlife got talking with Vanshika Goenka, CEO and founder to know more and get an idea behind the platform. Read excerpts:

What's your primary goal with the platform?

Goenka: We are on a mission to help every woman out there create a career she loves. Our platform provides extensive career resources and community support from peers and experts. We are also launching a marketplace for independent women professionals and freelancers. The vision is to build the perfect ambition destination - a one-stop solution for everything that has to do with a woman's career.

We also want to go regional soon. The dream is that every time a woman thinks of her career she should think of Kool Kanya.

What was your motivation for starting Kool Kanya?

Goenka: I am from a business family. I was only five years old when I overheard a conversation between my father and his relatives. ‘You have only two daughters,’ they said. ‘Who will manage the business later?’ This conversation left a deep impression on me. I wondered why this question even needed to be asked. ‘What about me?’ I wondered.

Many years later, I was working for a company that manufactured sanitary pads. I realized that I was the only woman in the room, working with an all men team to create a product for women. It was then that it hit me that there were just not enough women in workspaces. I started delving into this skewed ratio. This is what led to the start of "Kool Kanya".

What kind of challenges did you face in your entrepreneurial journey?

Goenka: In the beginning, when we spoke about building a product that helps women in their careers, we were immediately seen as an NGO. This also made hiring challenging. I started off with freelancers until we had the content to attract people to the company.

Another challenge that I faced was having people a lot older and more experienced than me on the team. It took me time to trust my own decisions and to always keep my vision in mind when making decisions. I have also learnt to not chase perfection, especially for a digital product. We did this a lot in the beginning, which slowed us down. Now we launch as soon as the feature is ready, learn from user interaction and feedback and then re-iterate.

What's your approach towards consistently delivering relevant content that resonates with and is valuable to a diverse audience?

Goenka: We are constantly studying trends- analyzing what is working and not working. We also monitor conversations that are happening in our community to understand pain points we can cover. IANSlife
NEW DELHI: Just like most parents, actor and fitness icon Mandira Bedi, who swears by the philosophy of ‘sweat now, shine later’, tried to ensure a healthy and active lifestyle for her son while they stay home. Asked how big of a concern is fitness of her child, she shared that as a parent, her inevitable worry has been to keep her son active during this prolonged stay at home duration. “Due to the pandemic, the kids have been completely locked inside their houses and are left with fewer options to stay rejuvenated. I have always believed that sports and physical activities help imbibe life values and are as essential as proper nourishment for a kid’s proper development,” she said.

Bedi has shared on social media an exercise video, sharing her experience of MILO HOMEGROUND with her child. The initiative by Nestle India will roll out workout videos inspiring kids to enjoy effective and easy exercises demonstrated by leading AFI (Athletics Federation of India) sporting heroes like Hima Das, Neeraj Chopra, KT Irfan, Md. Anas Yahiya, MR Poovama and more.

“These are interesting workout sessions that are carefully crafted with detailed instructions by the athletes that can be easily executed by kids. Through the initiative, MILO aims to encourage parents to start inculcating physical exercise into the child’s routine. As a fitness enthusiast, I was very excited to be a part of this initiative as it is completely aligned with my belief of nourishing kids for an active and healthy lifestyle,” Bedi told IANSlife in an email interview.

The fitness lover says she swears by the philosophy of ‘sweat now and shine later’, and adds that she has tried to inculcate the value of sports and physical activities in her child’s life at a very early stage. “A healthy, balanced, nutritious diet is equally important for a child’s growth and I’m blessed that my child understands the difference between a healthy meal and an unhealthy meal."

Speaking about her own fitness, Bedi shared the turning point in her life, which came when she was signed for a reality show in 2008.

NEW YORK: New York’s Metropolitan Museum of Art will reopen five days a week starting Aug. 29 after being shuttered since March 13 to curb the spread of the coronavirus, museum officials announced Wednesday.

The Met’s Fifth Avenue building will be open Thursday through Monday with safety protocols including frequent cleaning and visitors limited to 25% of the museum’s capacity, the officials said. Face coverings and social distancing will be required.

“Perhaps now more than ever the Museum can serve as a reminder of the power of the human spirit and the capacity of art to bring comfort, inspire resilience, and help us better understand each other and the world around us,” museum president Daniel H. Weiss said in a statement.

The Met’s Cloisters facility in upper Manhattan will open at a later date, officials said. The Met Breuer on Madison Avenue, which the Met took over in 2016, will not reopen. It is being turned over to the Frick Collection as a temporary home during renovation of the Frick’s Fifth Avenue mansion.

The planned reopening of the 150-year-old Met is the latest sign of New York’s cautious resumption of normal activities as city and state officials seek to avoid a resurgence of the virus.
Dharamsala, a hill station in the state Himachal Pradesh, is famous for its steep valleys and cedar trees. It is a popular holiday spot among families, backpackers and foreigners.

Dharamsala is famed as the holy residence of the Dalai Lama and houses the Tibetan spiritual leader in exile. Dharamsala is located in Kangra district at a distance of 18km from Kangra City. The city is distinctively separated as upper and lower divisions with different altitudes. The lower division is the Dharamsala town itself whereas the upper division is popularly known as McLeodganj.

This is situated on the upper hilly stretch of land of Kangra Valley which is placed just against the picturesque scene of Dhauladhar ranges. Being a Tibetan hub, Dharamsala is considered to be one of the best places to learn and explore Buddhism and Tibetan Culture.

PLACES TO VISIT
- **Library of Tibetan Works and Archives**
  - With artefacts and manuscripts that date back to the 12th century, the Library of Tibetan Works and Archives is one of the pioneering institutions in the study and research of Buddhism. It has as many as 80,000 manuscripts, 600 Buddhist artefacts including beautifully crafted silk applique thangkas and a three dimensional, wood carved mandala of the Avalokiteshvara, one of the most revered and compassionate Bodhisattva in Buddhism. With an air of peace and serenity descending upon people who visit the museum, it is indeed a calming experience to visitors of this offbeat museum in India.

- **Dharamshala Cricket Stadium**
  - Nestled in the lap of the majestic Himalayan mountain range lies the quaint little Dharamshala Cricket Stadium. Located at the height of 1,457 meters above sea level, it is one of the highest sports grounds in the world. Visiting a cricket stadium while in Dharamshala may sound like a strange thing to add to one’s itinerary, but the magnificent natural backdrop and the cool winds constantly drifting across the ground is what makes a trip to HPCA Stadium (as it is also known) worth it. Indigo skies, an eternal stream of the fresh mountain breeze, and the vast expanse of lush green field offer a sensory experience like no other. With a view comparable to the Adelaide Oval or Newlands, this stadium competes with the best in terms of its magnificence.

- **Dharamshala International Film Festival**
  - One of the leading independent film festivals of the county is the Dharamshala International Film Festival (DIFF) which is held every year in November. The festival is for both filmmakers and volunteers and also travellers from far and wide. Apart from being a celebration of art and strong independent cinema, the DIFF also makes for the perfect break from Indian summers.

For detailed story visit [www.indiapost.com](http://www.indiapost.com)
CG Amit Kumar set to take Chicago Indian Mission to new heights

CHICAGO: A career diplomat with wide ranging experience under his belt serving many an Indian Mission abroad and headquarter too, Amit Kumar has come to Chicago recently as the new head of Indian Consulate,

In a short span of only three months, he has not only breathed in fresh air in the functioning of the Indian mission which otherwise would have turned dormant in the wake of Corona spread but has also earned respect and huge goodwill among the community members at large because of his humility and sincerity of approach.

The Indian Mission as is the case with many others has discontinued for the time being the practice of offering Passport, OCI, Visa services and renunciation of Indian citizenship in person but the new head with his able staff has been offering on line services abiding the Corona considerations. The workload has come down but has still been felt a lot as there is a huge demand for its various services. Besides, the Mission has to follow guidelines set up in Delhi.

It is worth noting that OCI Card holders requiring re-issue of their cards in the wake of issuance of new passport had a breather as the last date has been extended to December 2020. A note from the Consulate states that as and when the restrictions on the international travel are lifted by the Indian government, the status of the OCI card holders as long visa for travel to and from India gets restored. Till this time the OCI card holders will be allowed to travel on the strength of the existing OCI cards bearing old passport number, subject to certain conditions.

The burden is also up in the wake of Vande Bharat junket devised primarily to help stranded Indian origin persons and others too in Midwest areas. Hundreds of people have taken advantage of this facility to reach India and come from India, and a good degree of credit should go to Amit Kumar for his input to Delhi. His staff including Consul Gupta and Consul Ranjit Singh handled the task so far successfully.

The international flight are on a hold for the time being and it is Air India which is prime source right now pressed into in service. However, United, Air France and Lufthansa are likely to be in the line for resuming operations and expectations are that by mid August the regular commercial flights would resume.

Consul General Amit Kumar has not confined his activities only to Vande Bharat and Consulate’s regular services. He has started casting his net wide and plans for boosting economic cooperation between India and Midwest by holding and hosting virtual online meetings. He will also get more actively associated with community events time and other considerations permitting.

Cont’d on page 21
A Tsunami of evictions poised to hit US

VIDYA SETHURAMAN
India Post News Service

Millions of workers laid off during the COVID pandemic have not been able to pay their rents. State and local politicians have enacted eviction moratoriums. But many of those protections are set to expire in August, setting off a tidal wave of evictions. Speakers in the EMS conference on July 17 explored who is most at risk, measures to extend the moratoriums, and litigation and advocacy aimed at protecting tenants.

Emily A. Benfer, visiting professor of law and the director of the Health Justice Clinic at Wake Forest School of Law, and co-creator of the COVID-19 Housing Policy Scorecard with the Eviction Lab at Princeton University shared nationwide data on evictions, with a focus on current racial demographics of the issue and the populations hardest hit. Throughout the public health crisis, Benfer has been investigating how states are dealing with evictions and sharing what she finds in a public database. About 10 million people, over a period of years, were displaced from their homes following the foreclosure crisis in 2008. We’re looking at 20 million to 28 million people at this moment, between now and September, facing eviction.

Today, 50 million renters live in households that suffered COVID-19 related job or income loss. 40% of job loss occurred in low-income households. 92% increase in daily rental assistance requests from this time in 2019 and food pantry requests increased by as much as 2000% in some states. 31.6% of renters have slight or no confidence in their ability to pay rent, said Emily.

Studies have demonstrated that eviction causes increased mortality and causes respiratory distress, which in the Covid-19 pandemic can put people in even greater peril. It results in depression, suicides and other poor health outcomes.

And the primary response to Covid-19 has been to shelter in place. As an immediate measure, we need a nationwide uniform moratorium on eviction, and it has to be coupled with financial assistance to ensure that the renter can stay housed without shifting the debt burden onto the property owner.

Legislator Kumar Barve, of the Maryland state House of Delegates, discussed the impact of evictions in his state. Barve and several legislators have written to Maryland Governor Larry Hogan to extend the state’s eviction moratorium, which is currently set to expire in August. An extension until the end of January in 2021 would allow the job market to recover from the devastating losses it suffered as a result of coronavirus-related shutdowns. The lawmakers say it would also give the state time to avert mass evictions.

The primary response to Covid-19 has been to shelter in place. As an immediate measure, we need a nationwide uniform moratorium on eviction, and it has to be coupled with financial assistance to ensure that the renter can stay housed without shifting the debt burden onto the property owner.

In order to evict the tenant, the landlord must file an unlawful Detainer Lawsuit in Superior Court. It takes about 45 days for an uncontested eviction from the time of court filing, and 60 to 75 days for a contested eviction. Even before Covid 19, people have been struggling to pay rent in CA. At this time of crisis, we hear lot of complaints on how tenants are evicted by the landlords using police force and fake papers. She urged the tenants to know their rights and act vigilant.

MAFS 2020 VIRTUAL FUNDRAISER

MAFS had a Virtual Mini Fundraiser throughout May celebrating Asian Pacific American Heritage Month and part of #GivingTuesdays. Our live Mini Fundraiser was scheduled for May 2nd, but due to Covid-19, we were not able to have it. We are still open and continuing essential services and need your support.

Our goal is to raise $15,000 dollars and with your help, we are already a third of the way there! Please donate generously to keep home-delivered meals for seniors and other amazing programs like Adult Literacy classes, LIHEAP applications, and our Memory Cafe, going. All you have to do is click on the link to Donate.

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Schweppes urged to stop promoting Lord Ganesh Cocktail

MADHU PATEL

CHICAGO: Indian Americana at large have urged Amsterdam headquartered beverage firm Schweppes International Limited (SIL) to remove the Ganesh Cocktail promoted on its website, calling it very repulsive and in bad taste.

It is contended that any disrespectful usage of Deities or concepts or symbols or icons for commercial or other purposes is unacceptable as it hurt the devotees.

Rajan Zed, President of Universal Society of Hinduism, led this outcry and said that Lord Ganesha was highly revered in Hinduism meant to be worshipped in temples or home shrines and not to be converted into an alcoholic mixed drink served in a cocktail glass for sipping at the bar. Besides, linking a deity with an alcoholic beverage was very disrespectful, Zed added.

SIL and its parent Suntory Holdings Limited (SHL, based in Japan) should not be in the business of religious appropriation, sacrilege, and ridiculing entire communities. Besides removing Ganesh Cocktail from corporate and country websites, SIL and SHL CEO Takeshi Niinami should apologize, Rajan Zed indicated.

Hinduism is the oldest and third largest religion of the world with about 1.1 billion adherents and a rich philosophical thought and it should not be taken frivolously. It was deeply trivializing of immensely venerated Hindu deity Lord Ganesha to be associated with an alcoholic drink, Rajan emphasized.

The recipe of GaneshCocktail, suggested for "anytime" occasion, includes Gin spiced with Schweppes Lemon and garnished with rosemary. Schweppes was founded in 1783, and SIL markets Schweppes brand in Andorra, Austria, Belgium, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Monaco, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, San Marino, Slovakia, Spain, Sweden and Switzerland. SHL, founded 1899, claims to be a “global leader in both the alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages industry”.

Nominations invited for Ankit-Junaid Social Harmony Fellowship & Award 2020

India Post News Service

CHICAGO: Ankit-Junaid Social Harmony Fellowship & Award is an initiative of KhudaKhidmatgar organization to recognize the college enrolled students working for peace and communal harmony.

This Award was started in September 2018 in the memory of Hafiz Junaid and Ankit Saxena. They both are the victims of communalism as Junaid was killed brutally in a train by an unruly mob just two days before Eid & Ankit, killed in Delhi for loving a girl of different community.

The objective for the scholarship is to nurture the seeds of communal harmony amongst the youth who will become a part of the mainstream in the future. As we all know, it’s the youth who are the torchbearers of society, so it’s very important to promote brotherhood and communal harmony for a better society.

Moreover, we need to develop creative and innovative methods of peace building in the society, which will help in cementing the gaps between the communities. Therefore, this fellowship also aims at bringing fraternity and unity in the society.

The fellowship will be awarded to two (02) college students who are working for the promotion of peace and harmony. The scholars belonging to weaker sections of society, women and those who are differently abled are given preference. But we restrict self-nomination.

The nominations will go through the strict scrutiny of our jury, which is composed of experts in the field of peace and harmony. The fellowship includes memento, certificate and Rs. 5,000.

The nominations along with the resume of the candidate should be mailed at office@khudakhidmatgar.org or Watsp on +91 79-82586984 before 01st September 2020.

The First Ankit-Junaid Social Harmony Fellowship & Award 2019 was given to NidaAkram - a student of post graduation from Aligarh Muslim University and was elected as the Vice President of Abdullah College Girls Students’ Union, AMU for the session 2017-2018. As the V-P of the Students’ Union, Ms. Nida organized donation drives for relief work, workshops and seminars on communal harmony and peace building.

And Kartik Dora - law student from Delhi University. He hails from Odisha. He is the champion of human rights and an adherent believer of the constitutional values, working with the under-privileged children settled on the outskirts of North Delhi. Also, he is involved in the process of secularization and de-communalizing the youth through personal meetings.

For more information contact Faisal Khan at +91 99997 46196+91 99688 28230

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1. Filing of Indian Income Tax & TDS return
2. Compliances of scrutiny & notices from Income Tax Department

(III) Investments In Financial Instruments
1. Composite total value added services of various investments in Financial instruments which attracts added gain in your basket.

(IV) US Tax Laws pertaining to Foreign income & assets
1. Preparing workings & various Forms like Form 5471, 8865, 8938, 3520 & FinCEN114 for US Tax returns
2. Immunity under Streamlined Domestic Offshore Procedures (SDOP) / Streamlined Foreign Offshore Procedures (SFOP)

OUR POPULAR WEBSITES

• www.femonline.com an edited and updated version of Foreign Exchange Management Act 1999 and Regulations there under as also Tax Laws pertaining to NRIs
• www.nrribanks.com the only website displaying monthly updated interest rates of almost all banks in India offered to NRIs;
• www.nrimumutualfunds.com website showing investment opportunities in Mutual Funds in India.

NRI guide, "Facilities for Non-Resident Indians"

Keynote Consultancy publishes every year this Booklet for NRIs wherein updated regulations relating to FEMA, Indian & US Tax Laws are being incorporated.

The core team of Keynote Consultancy headed by NITA RAJESH DHURVA comprises of efficient professionals like Chartered Accountants, Company Secretaries, MBA’s & IT Professionals who worked under the guidance of RAJESH DHURVA and are experts in the various fields and services managed by the firm.

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Apart from the above, we also update our Clients about the amendments in Laws & any useful information pertaining to NRIs from time to time.

For more information visit our website www.femonline.com

www.indiapost.com
The California 11th congressional district has historically been a mixed county with its fair share of Democrat and Republican leadership in its history. The district includes many important cities such as Concord, Richmond, Pittsburg and others. The key challenges of the district are children’s safety, environmental controls and law enforcement reforms.

The district faces severe challenges in terms of veterans welfare and veterans health. The district covers nineteen cities and some parts of San Ramon and Martinez. The other issues plaguing this congressional district is the issue of transportation.

The highways and road infrastructure in this district needs a severe attention. Medical access through Medicaid for elderly population needs lots of attention. The public school infrastructure needs urgent attention. The funding of public schools is at an all time low. The law enforcement needs severe attention. The Medicaid system for elderly is almost bankrupt.

Currently, this district is led by a Democrat, Mark DeSaulnier who is a liberal-conservative. He was a liberal republican earlier. He is currently supported by Congressional Progressive Caucus, whose chief whip is Ilhan Omar, and is co-chaired by Premala Jayapal and Mark Pocan. He has sponsored 40 bills in the US congress. He has been often dubbed as a ‘Play-Safe’ politician. He has never taken any bold steps in his position as Democrat candidate in the house.

He has stayed away from any topic of national or international relevance which can capture anyone’s attention. Off late the biggest attention grabbing action that he has taken is tweeting against President Trump.

He did not support either Bernie Sanders or Elizabeth Warren’s policies. He doesn’t support Medicare for all and also a minimum $15 minimum wage in California. He is fully in Nancy Pelosi camp. That means a corporate Democrat. How much he supports unionism is yet to be seen ! He is a liberal-conservative. He supported BLM movements to gain visibility. His health remains a major concern for his constituents.

In 2020, Mark is asking votes on following issues:

- Hold the President accountable;
- Grow the economy and create good jobs;
- Ensure students receive a quality education and are not strapped with crushing debt;
- Invest in projects to reduce traffic congestion in the Bay Area, and improve housing options;
- Protect Medicare and Social Security, and increase access to affordable health care coverage;

- Safeguard the environment and combat climate change;
- Make government work for you.

In 2020, Nisha Sharma is the nominee from the GOP. She belongs to the minority American Hindu community. She has strong family values, business ethics and a strong policy background. She is a business owner and is not a career politician.

She is known for taking calculated bold decisions. Coming from a family of socially responsible business owners, Nisha is well-versed with the challenges of middle class and also daily wage earners. She is an independent business owner and also a liberal-conservative candidate. She is not a corporate supported candidate.

In 2020, She is asking votes on following issues:

- $15 minimum wage for all
- Middle path between Medicare for all & Private healthcare
- Loan forgiveness for students
- Opposes New Green Deal because it will put $32 Trillion taxes on Americans
- Tax deferment for middle-class especially for Minority communities who are struggling with debt
- Investment in upgrading Mass Transit System for Bay Area to reduce traffic congestion on roads
- Affordable housing for the homeless. Increasing new shelters for homeless
- Pandemic Control centers for the District
- Make Government work for all sections of society
- Incentivize local businesses to hire more locals

Of the two candidates, Mark has been noticeably more disaffected by the issues of the constituents because he feels he is surely winning. Nisha Sharma seems to be more socially driven and a bold candidate who is willing to make decisions to bring a fresh perspective to the 11th congressional district.

Nisha Sharma seems to have an edge over Mark DeSaulnier.

Disclaimer: Views expressed are personal to the author
India presents huge opportunity for collaboration in the Health care field and the Consulate did support Nexdigam and for Midwest where in lies huge possibilities for areas like food procession, health care, IT sector and hospitality for Midwest. He pointed out that in recent weeks there has been a number of announcements by US companies undertaking major investments in India. These include plans by Google to invest $10 billion, $ 5.7 billion by Facebook, $ 1 billion by Foxconn, $1.2 billion by Walmart and $1.6 billion by Saudi Arabia’s PIF. In addition there are several other $ 100+ million investment propositions by different companies. While investments have flown into both manufacturing and IT sector, it is the latter category that is being watched with great interest, he said.

These investment decisions are both a recognition of and confidence in the potential of the Indian economy reflecting the opportunities that lie ahead as well as a testimony to the government’s concerted push on digitalization- digital empowerment and innovation. “All in all, the future ahead in the Indian IT space looks very exciting”, he added.

CG Amit Kumar joined the Indian Foreign Service in 1995 and has served in several Indian Missions abroad dealing with both bilateral and multilateral work in diverse areas such as political, strategic and economic spheres. Prior to his Chicago assignment, he was the Deputy Chief of Mission in the Embassy of India, Washington DC with Ambassador-rank. His overseas assignments include stints in a number of key capitals as Third Secretary in the Embassy of India, Beijing; First Secretary dealing with political work in the Embassy of India, Berlin; First Secretary / Counselor dealing with political, information, cultural and education work at the Embassy of India, Ankara; Counselor and Head of the Economic & Commercial Wing in the Embassy of India, Beijing; and Counselor / Minister dealing with Third Committee and UNSC matters in the Permanent Mission of India to the United Nations, New York.

CG Amit Kumar holds a Bachelor’s degree in Mechanical Engineering from the Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur He is married to Ms. Surabhi Kumar and has two children.

Cont’d from page 17

Even in cultural field, has plans and the start is with conducting online weekly sessions on Hindustani Vocal music and weekly sessions on Indian classical dances. The Hindustani music workshop is conducted by accomplished vocalist Chethan Anant while weekly classical dance workshop will be hosted live by Ms Anindita Neogy. An accomplished dancer trained in Jaipur as well as Lucknow schools of Kathak India is also having a variety of dance styles and there is popular Bharat Natam. The Consulate has invited Ms Anjali Verghese to conduct dance sessions on Bharat Natam too and this has commenced from July 7 on the Consulate Facebook page. The music workshop by Anant has been live on the Consulate’s Facebook page every Friday beginning July 10 while the weekly dance sessions by Ms Neogy has been hosted live every Wednesday starting July 8 2020.

India Post
CHICAGO: The South Asian American Policy & Research Institute (SAAPRI) has strongly come out supporting immigrants in the United States in as much as they have helped build the fabric of this country.

In recent days, the Trump administration has issued a series of directives that could ultimately be hurting immigrants and international students. Everyday immigrants now face difficult decisions as family members lose visas and they must decide whether to continue working and be apart or be together but leave this country.

This harms not only those who have worked for years to come here legally, but also their family members. Everyday immigrants now face difficult decisions as family members lose visas and they must decide whether to continue working and be apart or be together but leave this country.

Many of the large multinational corporations who provide student internships, externships, OPT opportunities and full-time employment were also taking action against ICE’s destructive policy built on the ideals of freedom. The risk and trauma brought on by the order and sentiments like it remain. That is why we felt it was still necessary to send this letter to you.

Harvard and MIT, together with over 180 other private and public institutions, had filed a lawsuit arguing that ICE’s new directive was not only a bad policy move but also illegal and would have left hundreds of thousands of lawful students with no educational opportunities.

Many of the large multinational corporations who provide student internships, externships, OPT opportunities and full-time employment were also taking action against ICE’s destructive policy. Led by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, eighteen corporations, trade associations and lobbying groups recognized the significant harm the policy posed to an already stressed economic climate. Those organizations had filed their own amicus brief against DHS and ICE seeking a temporary restraining order against the action.

SAAPRI encourages all to continue to reach out to their employers and colleagues and advocate on behalf of vulnerable immigrant groups whenever necessary through whatever means they see fit.
WASHINGTON: In a surprise U-turn, the Trump administration has dropped its controversial plan to deport hundreds and thousands of international students, including Indians, if their universities switch to online-only classes in this fall semester due to the coronavirus pandemic.

The US immigration authorities announced on July 6 that foreign students will have to leave the country or risk deportation if their universities switch to online-only classes during the September to December semester.

The Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) said that for the fall 2020 semester students attending schools operating entirely online may not take a full online course load and remain in the US. The rule would have applied to holders of two types of visas, including F-1 visas, which allow nonimmigrant students to pursue academic coursework in the US.

The U-turn in just one week by the administration comes following a nationwide and international outrage against its order and a series of lawsuits filed by over 200 educational American educational institutions, led by the prestigious Harvard University and Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT).

The institutions wanted permanent injunctive relief to bar the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and the ICE from enforcing the federal guidelines barring international students attending colleges and universities offering only online courses from staying in the country.

As many as 17 US states and the District of Columbia, along with top American IT companies such as Google, Facebook and Microsoft, joined the MIT and Harvard in the US District Court in Massachusetts against the DHS and the ICE in seeking an injunction to stop the entire rule from going into effect.

"I have been informed by the parties that they have come to a resolution. They will return to the status quo," Judge Allison Burroughs, the federal district judge in Boston, said in a surprise statement at the top of the hearing on the lawsuit.

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The announcement comes as a big relief to over one million international students, including tens of thousands from India. In the 2018-2019 academic year, there were over 10 lakh international students in the US. According to a recent report of the Student and Exchange Visitor Program (SEVP), 1,94,556 Indian students were enrolled in various academic institutions in the US in January.

Judge Burroughs said the policy would apply nationwide.

"Both the policy directive and the frequently asked questions would not be enforced anywhere," she said, referring to the agreement between the US government and MIT and Harvard.

Congressman Brad Schneider said this is a great win for international students, colleges and common sense.
DDA extends time for payment of additional FAR charges till Dec 31

NEW DELHI: As a relief measure in view of the COVID-19 pandemic, the DDA announced to extend the time for payment of additional floor area ratio (FAR) and use conversion charges on reduced rates up to December 31, officials said.

The decision was taken during the urban body’s Authority meeting, which was chaired by Delhi Lieutenant Governor Anil Baijal.

FAR is the ratio of a building’s total floor area (gross floor area) to the size of the piece of land, upon which it is built.

Besides, the Delhi Development Authority (DDA) also proposed flexibility in use of land with higher FAR to incentivize in-situ rehabilitation projects, officials said.

"The policy provides for minimum residential component of land area for rehabilitation of squatters to be 60 per cent and maximum for remunerative use to be 40 per cent," the DDA said in a statement.

The Authority has also approved a proposal for issuing public notice regarding proposed amendments or modifications, which provide that the scheme should be designed in a composite manner with “an overall maximum FAR of 400 on the residential component of the land,” it said.

The maximum FAR of 300 on the remunerative component of the land shall be applicable irrespective of land use, officials said.

"Any use or mix of uses shall be permitted as proposed by the developer entity within the overall FAR of 300, in the remunerative component as per MPD (Master Plan of Delhi) provisions.

"In case the developer entity proposes mix of uses, the parking and other development control norms, will be applicable on pro rata basis, on the FAR utilized for the particular use," the statement said. PTI
House number numerology: Significance of house number 7

SURBHI GUPTA

If you live in house number 7, or one where the numbers add up to 7 (such as 16, 25, 34, 43, 52 and so on), you are living in a haven of spirituality. The vibe of house number 7 is philosophical, which tends to make the occupants religious and introspective. House number 7 has a calming energy, which makes it a relaxing, quiet place for people who want a break from their life. This house may play a transformative role for troubled couples, families and singles, who want to change their lives.

Note: The number seven when combined in the form of 16/7 may result in flow of negativity in the household.

House number 7: Who should avoid it?

Number 7 is governed by the moon and therefore, people staying here are inclined towards finding the truth of life. People who are looking for a place to isolate themselves, can take shelter in such homes.

Professionals such as writers can focus on their writing here. Individuals, who are recovering from bad relationships and negative energies, can find solace in house number 7. House number 7 is a den of positive energy and can be used for personal and mental healing.

Numerology number 7: Who should avoid it?

House number 7 can be a challenging place for couples. They might grow together or apart, depending upon their nature, since the vibe of this house is transformative. Since such houses are ideal for meditative spaces. If you are planning to start a storefront in such properties, it won’t give you good returns.

Home décor for house number 7

If you are staying in House Number 7, you should opt for minimalism and ensure that there is no artifact or item in the house that can attract negative energy. Make sure you have a separate meditation or reading area in the house. You should keep idols of Buddha and other spiritual deities in your home. Colors such as orange, yellow and purple are most suitable for a place like house number 7. Ideal colors for house number 7 include shades of yellow, orange and purple.

Covid-19: Buying real estate is no exception

Cont’d from page 24

Unlock 1.0 have revealed that there are about 65 percent of homebuyers in the market currently, out of which 77 percent’s purpose is to buy the house for their own.

Although ready to move in properties still remain a favorite, however, the apprehension towards under-construction seems to be easing a bit with 64 percent of homebuyers preferring ready to move house in when compared to 74 percent in pre-Covid times.

Maneesh Upadhyaya, Chief Business Officer, said, “65 percent buyers are in-market now while only 38 percent were actively searching for houses post-Lockdown. In addition, buyers are still looking at real estate as the best asset to invest in. Covid-19 has further assisted in increasing the adoption of digital platforms with 55-60 percent buyers/tenants expressing a preference for virtual visits and meets. 99acres has been the first in the league to capture this trend and has come up with digital solutions like real-time video tours and webinars to help clients/consumers in their journey.”

Buyers are seeing this as a good time to buy as of the 65 percent in the market currently, 32 percent are in the finalization stage, while 11 percent have dropped the idea of buying a property due to job and market uncertainty.

Of the people who had selected a property to buy pre-Covid, majority of them have responded saying they are looking to close transactions in the next 3 months. 

Mace-ANAROCK collaborate to deliver Tech-driven Construction Solutions

MUMBAI: Mace, the international consultancy and construction company, and ANAROCK Group, India’s leading real estate services company have announced a collaboration to bring unique real estate services to immediately benefit the Indian market as we settle into the new normal post the COVID-19 pandemic.

The two companies have signed a Memorandum of Understanding to provide a new and integrated project management service to Indian developers, helping to deliver real estate projects and vital infrastructure.

This collaboration will bring about a quantum change in how Indian real estate is designed, constructed and operated, particularly during and post COVID-19 when technology will become instrumental. Focusing on innovation in management and construction, Mace has delivered some of the world’s major programs and projects such as the London 2012 Olympic Games and the 2019 Pan American and Parapan Games in Lima. ANAROCK, which has successfully completed exclusive sales mandates for over 400 Indian residential projects, is coordinating with the country’s leading developers to give them a decisive edge by using these services.

Through the Mace-ANAROCK collaboration, the objective is to leverage on technology such as virtual reality, apps and offshore technology/design for manufacture and assembly that can be used to improve safety and expedite construction timelines.

By using data analytics, modern methods of construction and digital tools, Mace-ANAROCK focuses on innovative project delivery to upskill the workforce and train people for jobs of the future.

Anuj Puri, Chairman - ANAROCK Group says, “The Mace and ANAROCK collaboration will focus on expert consultancy services for construction and project delivery across sectors including mixed-use office and retail developments, residential projects NewsVoir/PTI.
IBM Declares GNA University as an Accredited Academic University

JASWANT SINGH GANDAM / RAMAN NEHRA
India Post News Service

PHAGWARA: GNA University is now an Academic Partner with IBM under the "IBM Academic Initiative", a varsity release has stated.

Dr. Vikrant Sharma, Dean, Faculty of Engineering and Technology said, "IBM Academic Initiative is a program which provides students and faculty at accredited GNA with access to IBM assets at no charge for the classroom (teaching and learning) and non-commercial research purposes. It provides with powerful technical and strategic resources from IBM."

For students the early exposure to business and technology and how it works can form the basis for a lifetime of exploration and career opportunities. This IBM repository is comprised of resources teachers can use with students to excite them about the possibilities. There are also resources students can use themselves to get experience using the technology to create and experience tech in a whole new way.

Established in 2005, the IBM Academic Initiative allows and encourages faculty, students, and researchers at accredited academic institutions to leverage IBM tools, courses, and other resources in the classroom. Indian Institute of Technology Kharagpur, Indian Institute of Technology Bombay, the Indian Statistical Institute Kolkata, and Birla Institute of Technology and Science Pilani, are some of the academic partners of IBM under this initiative. ??Now the students of GNA University can have hands-on experience of "industrial strength" tools that will help them in their chosen careers. In this initiative tools like IBM Cloud, Data Science, IBM Watson, IBM Security, Quantum, Blockchain, etc. can be accessed or, can take advantage of hands-on resources that will teach about data and analytics, Internet of Things, security and much more.

Mr. Gurdeep Singh Sihra, the Pro-Chancellor, GNA University congratulated the whole Team for this big achievement and encouraged them to enhance more research activities and unleash the best to the students.*

Bjp's newly appointed office-bearers feted by Union minister Som Parkash

JASWANT SINGH GANDAM / RAMAN NEHRA
India Post News Service

PHAGWARA: The newly appointed office-bearers of Punjab state unit of Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) were feted by Union minister of state for Commerce and Industry Som Parkash at his local residence.

They were presented ‘siropas’ (robe of honour) carrying party symbol Lotus and its name on them.

Those honored include Avtar Singh Mand, the newly appointed party’s state spokesman, Ramesh Sachdeva, state executive member, Ex-councillor Jaswinder Kaur, President District Mehila Morcha and Sonu Rawalpindi, re-appointed as District President of Bharatiya Janata Yuva Morcha.

All these office-bearers had gone to minister’s residence to seek his blessings and thank him for their appointments.

Addressing them, Som Parkash called upon them to take to grass root level the historic decisions taken by PM Narendra Modi for providing new ‘dish’ (direction) to and ‘dasha’ (improved condition) of country.

He listed various public-interest decisions taken by PM Modi and his government. He exhorted them to begin forthwith working for 2022 assembly polls of Punjab.

The office-bearers assured minister that they would leave no stone unturned for winning the Corporation as well as assembly elections.

Among others, Smt Aneeta Som Parkash, a social service stalwart, Arun Khosla, Ex-Mayor, Paramjit Singh Pamma (Chachoki) party’s Phagwara Block President, were also present.

GNA University Professor designed "Disinfectant Wand" to fight COVID-19

JASWANT SINGH GANDAM / RAMAN NEHRA
India Post News Service

PHAGWARA: Phagwara’s GNA University Professor, Dr. Anurag Sharma of Faculty of Engineering and Technology has developed a handy, low-cost and effective "Disinfectant Wand" which can kill 99.9% of viruses like Corona, SARS etc. in 20-30 seconds, a varsity release announced.

This Disinfectant Wand utilizes UVC light to significantly reduce viruses, certain molds and other allergens, on surfaces at home or while traveling. Perfect for smaller items like cell phones, remote controls, keyboards, faucets, toys, music players, countertops, bathroom beds sheets and much more.

Dr. Anurag said, "It can disinfect any surface, airplane and train headrests, steering wheels or shopping cart handles, quickly and easily, without chemical residue or harsh liquids or odors. Whether at home, work, dorm, hotel, public restroom, car, bus, train or work, this little magical stick is ideal for everything you touch except people and pets, because it can harm their skin or eyes, therefore we have made a provision that it will turn off as it will rotate on other side."

Dr. V.K. Rattan, the Vice Chancellor, GNA University said, "At GNA University, we always encourage innovative ideas and try to develop real time applications which can contribute to the society."
GOOD NEWS

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Your Weekly Future

by VANEET SHARMA

JULY 24TH to JULY 30TH 2020

MAR 21 to APRIL 20

ARIES

The beginning of the week is not at all auspicious for your health, happiness, working efficiency, confidence and patience. This is not auspicious Muhurat for starting a new task. The mid of the week would bring happiness because of the continuation in the favor of destiny that you shall be getting for accomplishing your important tasks. There would be improvement in your health also.

APRIL 21 to MAY 20

TAURUS

The beginning of the week is indicating increase in marital bliss and betterment in understanding between husband and wife. This is the right time to take decisions for getting into partnership venture. Your conjugal life shall be excellent. The mid of the week is not favorable for your physical and mental health. Don’t lose heart and patience during your difficult time. The remaining part of the week would be better as compared to the mid.

MAY 21 to JUN 20

GEMINI

The beginning of the week shall mark those initiatives which would be taken by you for paying of your loans, settling disputes with enemies and taking precautionary measures to protect yourself from diseases. Your expenses might increase because of your going on a journey. The middle of the week is favorable for your marital bliss and compatibility with your spouse. The concluding part of the week is not auspicious for your happiness, health and accomplishment of task.

JUN 21 to JULY 22

CANCER

The beginning of the week shall mark gains from speculative activities along with establishment of your reputation as an eminent consultant. The advice of your mother would put you on right path. You would be happy with the performance of your children in their educational field. In the mid of the week you would plan to visit a tourist place or a place of pilgrimage with your parents and children.

JULY 23 to AUG 22

LEO

The beginning of the week is not favorable for your state of mind, general happiness, health of mother and domestic issues would trouble you. The mid part of the week indicates some betterment regarding the issues related to children thereby getting some relief from the tensions you are going through presently. Although the increased expenses would keep you worried in the remaining part of the week however the settlement of all issues and journeys to desirable places.

AUG 23 to SEP 22

VIRGO

The beginning of the week is favorable for the enhancement of your reputation in society. Your behavior in society shall be very nice and you would speak sweetly with people around you. The mid part of the week indicates that continuous increase in income would tempt you to spend money on your native place, house and vehicle etc. The concluding part of the week would establish your reputation as a very good consultant.

SEP 23 to OCT 22

LIBRA

In the beginning of the week the support of spouse would be especially appreciable when her advice would miraculously help you solve family related issues thereby creating substantial increase in your saving potential. The atmosphere of harmony and peace in the family would keep you highly enthusiastic and confident. The mid days of the week are especially favorable for business plans.

OCT 23 to NOV 22

SCORPIO

You are a go getter and you believe in your actions. Your confidence, health, immunity, enthusiasm and working efficiency shall be at its peak. People would be giving you lot of respect for your impressive personality and the talent of resourcefulness. In the mid of the week although there would be some tensions in handling the issues related to family however your main focus appears to be peace and prosperity in the family.

NOV 23 to DEC 21

SAGITTARIUS

There would be decrease in confidence especially because of failure in the accomplishment of your tasks. This is a highly auspicious time for undertaking a new task. In the mid days of the week you will be putting in lot of efforts for maintaining your health and confidence but success in this connection appears to be very average. The remaining part of the week appears to be auspicious for social activities but the required enthusiasm and confidence would be missing.

DEC 22 to JAN 19

CAPRICORN

You might plan to generate a new source of income for which you shall be getting the valuable advice of your children too. The mid part of the week is not favorable for your health and happiness. You would be highly frustrated because of excessive loss of mental peace after the exhaustion of your energies. Because of hindrances in the accomplishment of task you might complain about problems of mood swings.

JAN 20 to FEB 19

ACQUARIUS

Your good relations with seniors shall prove beneficial for your career growth. The mid days of the week are beneficial in terms of earning more gains from business, increase in income, fulfillment of desires, happiness from children and good relations with elder brothers. You will be happy at heart and your enthusiasm and working efficiency shall also be at its peak but the concluding part of the week won’t be that auspicious for the accomplishment of tasks.

FEB 20 to MAR 20

PISCES

This is a beneficial time for spiritual practices and blessings of Guru. The mid of the week is highly auspicious for the attainment of name and fame. There are great probabilities of attainment of reputation and social status along with power and position. This is the right time to take initiative for creating a platform for the attainment of rise in career. In the concluding part of the week you can expect gains from business/increase in income.

Kindly read the predictions from your ascendant sign. If you do not know your ascendant sign then read the same from Moon sign. If Moon sign is also not known then read it from the Zodiac sign. The ascendant sign which is calculated from the birth details viz. date, month, year, time & place of birth gives 85 % accurate predictions. The accuracy of predictions from Moon sign get limited to only 50 %. The predictions from Zodiac sign are only 25 % accurate. In nutshell the predictions from ascendant sign are most accurate. In getting personality analysis the traits given by ascendant sign are 100 % accurate and that is the essence of Vedic Astrology.
Philosophy

FRANCIS LUCILLE

N ot expecting is a great art. When we no longer live in expectation, we live in a new dimension. We are free. Our mind is free. Our body is free. Intellectually understanding that we are not a psycho-physical entity in the process of becoming is a necessary first step, but this understanding is not sufficient.

The fact that we are not the body must become an actual experience that penetrates and liberates our muscles, our internal organs, and even the cells in our body. An intellectual understanding that corresponds to a sudden, fleeting recognition of our true nature brings us a flash of pure joy, but when we have full knowledge that we are not the body, we are that joy.

We all experience moments of happiness which are accompanied by a perception of expansion and relaxation. Before this body perception, we were in a state of timelessness, an unadulterated, causeless joy, of which the physical sensation was simply the ultimate consequence. This joy perceives itself.

At that moment, we were not a limited body in space, not a person. We knew ourselves in the immediacy of the moment. We all know this felicity without cause. When we explore deeply what we call our body, we discover that its very substance is this joy.

We no longer have the need nor the taste nor even the possibility of finding happiness in external objects. How is this deep exploration accomplished? Don’t reject the body sensations and emotions that present themselves to you. Let them blossom fully in your awareness without any goal or any interference from the will.

Progressively, the potential energy imprisoned in muscular tensions liberates itself; the dynamism of the psychosomatic structure exhausts itself; and the return to fundamental stability takes place.

This purification of body sensation is a great art. It requires patience, determination, and courage. It finds its expression at the level of sensation through a gradual expansion of the body into the surrounding space, and a simultaneous penetration of the somatic structure by that space.

That space is not experienced as a simple absence of objects. When the attention frees itself from perceptions that hold it in thrall, it discovers itself as that self-luminous space which is the true substance of the body. At this moment, the duality between body and space is abolished.

The body is expanded to the size of the universe and contains all things tangible and intangible in its heart. Nothing is external to it. We all have this body of joy, this awakened body, this body of universal welcoming. We are all complete, with no missing parts. Just explore your kingdom and take possession of it knowingly. Do not live any longer in that wretched shack of a limited body.

Everything that appears in awareness is nothing other than awareness: co-workers, clients, superiors, absolutely everything, including the premises, the furniture, and the equipment. First understand this intellectually, then verify that this is so.

We are not the body must become actual experience

When we explore deeply what we call our body, we discover that its very substance is this joy

There comes a moment where this feeling of intimacy, this benevolent space around you, no longer goes away; you find yourself at home everywhere, even in the packed waiting room of a train station. You only leave it when you go into the past or future. Don’t stay in that hovel. This immensity awaits you right here, at this very moment.

Don’t be content to merely understand. Put your understanding into practice.

Excerpted from ‘Eternity Now.’ Frenchman Francis Lucille (76) is a spiritual teacher in the tradition of Advaita Vedanta. He is a disciple of Jean Klein.

Perspective

To build or not to build a temple - in Pakistan

MAHENDRA VED

G oing by conflicting trends on social media, one saying ‘Mandir Taub Banega’ (Temple will be constructed) and the other, ‘Mandir Nahin Banega’, (Temple will not be constructed), the road to Pakistan’s first Hindu temple seems long, controversial and full of uncertainties.

The temple is to come up as part of a community complex for the federal capital’s 3,000-plus Hindus on a four kanal plot in Sector H-9/2 that the Hindus have been given possession. However, there are objections and some youths even vandalized the temporary fencing around the temple site. Clips of the attack and a person offering ‘azan’ went viral on social media.

Mufdi Zia-ud-Din of the Lahore chapter of Jamia Ashrafia, a leading cleric in Pakistan, has issued a fatwa against the construction of the temple by calling it “un-Islamic.” The fatwa, issued initially when the federal grant was approved, also states that according to Sharia laws, it is not permitted for non-Muslims to build their new worship places or rebuild those, which were in ruins as "this is a sin in an Islamic state."

Minorities in Pakistan

The issue reflects the inner contradictions in Pakistan, an Islamic Republic. Of the estimated 221 million Pakistani citizens, over 96 percent are Muslim and around 1.85 percent are Hindus - although the Pakistan Hindu Council claims the latter number to be much higher.

Pakistan has only pre-partition shrines for Hindu, Christian and Sikhs; some of these are historic and serve the country’s dwindling minorities. According to the Evacuee Trust Property Board of the Government of Pakistan, there are approximately 1,300 temples in the country with only 30 considered currently functional.

According to a recent report in The Express Tribune, “over the years, temples have vanished from Pakistan’s largest city (Karachi), their remnants both a reminder of the past and a foretelling of a bleaker future for the port city’s Hindus”.

The federal cabinet under Prime Minister Imran Khan cleared Rs. 100 million (£500,000 or $630,685) worth of state funding on June 27. Following this, the Minister for Religious Affairs, Noorul Haq Qadri, told the National Assembly that there was “no question” about the temple, but about the ability of the government funding. The minister had himself sought the grant from the cabinet after meeting a delegation of Members of the National Assembly (MNAs) belonging to Hindu and Christian minorities, including Lal Chand Malhi, Dr. Ramesh Vankwani, Jai Prakash Ukrai, Shunila Ruth, and James Thomas.

The Islamabad High Court on July 8 rejected a bunch of petitions questioning the government’s move from political, constitutional, religious, civic and administrative standpoints. The Ulema Council of Pakistan, a body of the Islamic clergy has approved of the government’s decision.

The government told the court that the issue had been referred to the Council of Islamic Ideology (CII) on whether Muslim taxpayer’s money can be used, for construction of the temple. CII Chairman Qibla Ayaz has acknowledged the receipt of the ministry’s letter and he forwarded it to the council’s research department to formulate an opinion. CII is a statutory body and the construction of the temple can only begin if the CII gives a favorable decision.

Clearly, the government’s decision has been praised by some while some radical religious groups spoke against it. Some even threatened to kill the Hindus. Those in support pointed out that the taxpayers’ money would be used and they include members of religious minorities as well.

Pakistan’s political right and the Islamists say a shrine for a religious minority in the Islamic Republic is against Islam. The Holy Quran and the Holy Hadith, say a shrine for a religious minority in the Islamic Republic is against Islam.

Prime Minister Khan is considered personally a liberal, but his politics have been deeply conservative. He had supported the Taliban while in the opposition. -South Asia Monitor

For detailed story visit www.indiapost.com
Actress Bhumi Pednekar’s upcoming film “Dolly Kitty Aur Woh Chamakte Sitaare” is heading for a digital release. “As an artiste, I only look to entertain the audience every time I am on the screen and I am okay with any platform becoming the vehicle of my creative expression.” Bhumi said.

She said that she feels her upcoming film will reach out to a much larger audience with the decision to release it on an OTT platform.

Directed by Alankrita Shrivastava, “Dolly Kitty Aur Woh Chamakte Sitaare” also stars Konkona Sen Sharma.

Bhumi is a huge fan of Konkona’s brilliance and Alankrita’s sensitivity. “ ‘Dolly Kitty…’ is a very special film. Konkona as we know is a phenomenal person and actor, and Alankrita (Srivastava) is a very special director. (Producers) Balaji (Motion Pictures) as an institution has always supported content that has broken barriers. IANS

Actress Esha Gupta opened up on her state of mind in an Instagram post and also revealed what she does when she feels negative. She shared a photo where she can be seen performing yoga.

“Yoga is not a workout, it’s a work-in-- Does anyone else feel they lose their pose balance if emotionally not in the right place? ‘Yog’ is a prevedic Indian practice, which is a combination of physical mental n spiritual self. … its origin meant more about aligning our whole inner self.”

“These 5 months have been an emotional roller coaster for me, for all of us, but I always pick myself up, and yoga has been my reason for that. Don’t think you are in a rat race. We all have our different paths, find yours with self love and positivity,” shared the actress on Instagram.

On work front, Esha was last seen as a police officer in the web series “REJCTX2”. IANS

Actress Shraddha Kapoor recently crossed the milestone of 50 million followers on Instagram, and to thank her fans for all the love, she shared handwritten notes in Marathi, Hindi and English on Thursday.

Her note in English read: “To all my dearest sweetest, gems, babudis, fan clubs, and well wishers. I’ve been going through all the videos, edits, and posts that you have made with much love and I’m so so so overwhelmed and humbled! I am here because of you all. I wish you all lots and lots of love back along with happiness and peace. Please take the best care of yourselves, spread kindness and keep shining bright. Thank You, Thank You! 50 Million Times.”

Being an environment activist as well, the actress often uses her social media platforms to urge her fans to do their bit for animals.IANS
GUIDELINES

!!! Lokah Samastah Sukhino Bhavanthu !!!

By the grace of Lord Venkateshvara and Lord Shiva in-line with California State guidance, we are pleased to announce the reopening Vedic Dharma Samaj / Fremont Hindu temple at 3676, Delaware Drive, Fremont, CA for daily prayers. We kindly request all temple devotees to adhere to the following:

1. We are marking spaces 6 feet apart in the Main hall and Balaji temple. Entry will only be through the main temple and Exit through Balaji temple.

2. Use the hand sanitizer provided at the entrance.

3. Devotees should wear masks at all times.

4. We will be limiting upto 30 devotees at any given time in the temple.

5. Devotees please do not to touch Priest’s feet or come close to the temple podium.

6. Don’t bring any fruits or flowers, please consider donating online and we will utilise it to buy fruits and flowers for the temple.

7. Don’t bring any prasadham.

8. Please maintain social distancing and avoid getting in close-proximity with anyone.

9. Devotees are not allowed to sit in the temple. Please take the darshan and maintain social distancing.

10. All private functions can be performed at the temple/ Home. We will limit the number of functions and people attending, depending on the number of events/people we anticipate for the day. Please contact the temple admin to schedule.

11. On special event days we will create an online token system. Only people with prior bookings will be allowed. Links for booking spots will be sent in the event announcement email and on our website.

12. We also encourage devotees to avail our online pooja services for most of their religious needs.

13. Gathering at parking lot is strictly not allowed.

14. Handshakes, hugs and other forms of greetings with physical contact not allowed.

15. All temple events can be seen on Facebook live.

Timings: 9:30 am - 1 pm, 5:30 - 8:30 pm

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Digital play with Indian business models

TAPONEEL MUKHERJEE

The last decade has seen rapid digitization. How ever, the last three months have seen the pace of digitization accelerate rapidly. Even as the world adjusts to a new normal, the ability to leverage digitization to improve, create and innovate business models will be vital in deciding the winners of the future. In India, in this context, the two issues that assume significant importance are business models that can monetize user bases using transactions and the ability of technological solutions to create disruptors and opportunities in previously unexplored corners.

The first issue is the monetization of user bases. As India builds its digital infrastructure in terms of UPI, access to faster data speeds and greater digitization of processes, monetization and, more importantly, the creation of sustainable business models mean new challenges from unforeseen competitors. For instance, recent news from the US suggests that Walmart will partner with Tribeca to turn 160 store parking lots into driveaway theatres. This has significant ramifications not just for the movie theatre industry but for businesses per se.

For starters, before the Corona pandemic, big-box retail wasn’t perceived as a threat to the movie theatre business. While one would not expect this move by Tribeca and Walmart to eliminate the utility of a movie theatre, the move shows a trend whereby the most unlikely of businesses can start making a dent into the revenue sources for industries. A rapid pace of digitization and the search for new sources of revenues for businesses will mean disruptors will emerge from what are viewed as “non-traditional” corners.

However, for agile and rapidly evolving businesses, the above threat is also an opportunity. Technology and digitization will create opportunities for businesses in areas that were earlier off-limits. In general, and in the Indian context, rapid digitization means that the boundaries between entertainment, retail, cinema, sports and music will start getting blurred. Engaging consumers, creating relevant value propositions and enabling business models that have long-term value creation and revenue-generating capacity will assume prime importance.

As we look ahead and the world deals with a rapid pace of technological transformation, one that has been put on the fast track by the present-day needs, a focus on India-appropriate business models and flexible strategies will be central to business success in the future. IANS

Data speeds and greater digitization of processes, monetization and, more importantly, the creation of sustainable business models. As stated earlier, the ability to marry user bases and a seamless product or service will be decisive to monetization and ultimate investment returns and business success. The ability to cater to a rapidly growing large user base, and yet the ability to monetize using relatively lower revenues per user will be vital. The telecom industry has shown one use case for reference purposes.

The second issue of prime importance is for businesses to be aware of both opportunities in and threats to their business models from previously unexplored corners of the market. Necessarily, in addition to the traditional disruptor of businesses, the quick adoption of digital infrastructure will

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TEMPLE ADMIN:

www.fremonttemple.org
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**GUIDING PRINCIPLES**

1. A4H is committed to pluralism and eschews all groups and individuals that prescribe to fanatical or fascist notions of society.
2. In consonance with the unity of reality principle underlying Hindu philosophy, A4H believes that the whole world is one family (Vasudaiva Kutumbakam) and does not prescribe to divisive notions that divides society into categories such as victims and victimizers or privileged and oppressed.
3. A4H believes in freedom, liberty and equal protection under the law for all regardless of race, national origin, color, gender, sexual orientation or disability (Loka Samasta sukhino bhavantu).
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