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# Vegan Vision

## From Fad To Lifestyle

BY A STAFF WRITER

**T**hirty years ago, a few Indian-Americans got together to form Vegetarian Vision when they saw more and more Indian immigrants becoming non-vegetarian because of the difficulty accessing their traditional Indian products.

"People coming from India couldn't find enough vegetarian food. So they were changing their lifestyle. We felt an organization like this was needed," Chairman H.K. Shah, founder of Vegetarian Vision founded in 1992, now called World Vegan Vision, told Desi Talk. He and his wife turned vegan 15 years ago.

For an Indian vegetarian, to turn to a vegan diet bereft of dairy products, is only to be imagined. But Shah does not think so.

"Some people find it hard (without dairy)," he concedes, "But there are so many substitutes today and some of our 2,000 members have been vegan for more than 30 years," he added. That membership is a far cry from the small group which formed the organization and also included Padma Shri Dr. Sudhir Parikh, chairman of Parikh Worldwide Media and ITV Gold.

The WVV has a membership that has also shifted over time, and now it is spreading its wings to India. On Sept. 9, World Vegan Vision, which opened branches in Mumbai and Delhi just before COVID-19 became a pandemic, hosted a reception to welcome India's new Consul General in New York Randhir Jaiswal, at Akbar restaurant in New Jersey, a sign of its spreading wings.

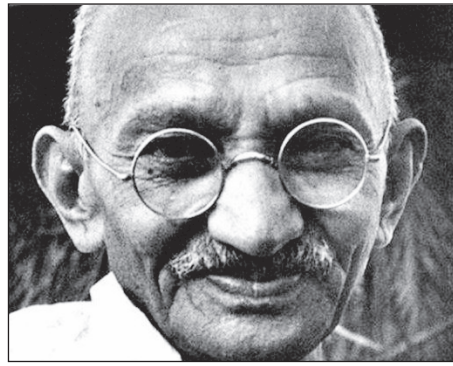
### CHANGING WITH THE TIMES

An interesting factoid is revealed with a search for vegans in America. The American Vegan Society, according to Wikipedia, was founded in 1960, by H. Jay Dinshah in Malaga, New Jersey, when he was just 26 years old, 3 years after he became a vegan. Dinshah married Freya Smith whose parents were active in The Vegan Society of U.K. He remained the president of the organization until 2000 when he died of a heart attack at the age of 66. He brought out a magazine called Ahimsa.

As to how many vegans there are today in the U.S., the numbers differ from one study to another. An Ipsos Retail Performance survey in March 2020, estimated there were some 9.6 million Americans on a plant-based diet than there were 15 years ago, Vegannnewsnow.com reported March 6, 2020.

Livekindly.co referred to a 2004 survey by Time and CNN which found only 290,000 people in this country were interested in a vegan diet. Ipsos used that as its baseline.

On the other extreme, Onegreenplanet.org, referring to "recent studies," claims "30 percent of Americans are not only leaving meat off their plates but also seeking out plant-based meat alternatives," a claim that could not be ver-



Mahatma Gandhi

ified.

The reality may be somewhere in between or even on the lower side.

Foodwaysinfocus from Michigan State University, noted that the 2015 book, *The Rise of Veganism: Start a Revolution*, said only 2.5 percent of the American population is vegan, which however, was still a significant rise from the 1 percent it was in 2009.

The Vegan Society, an organization formed back in 1944 in United Kingdom, quotes a 2016 Oxford University study which estimates that if the world went vegan, it could save 8 million human lives by 2050, reduce greenhouse gas emissions by two thirds and significantly affect climate change positively, not to mention reducing healthcare costs totalling some \$1.5 trillion. The Oxford Martin School's Programme on the Future of Food, built several models, and estimated that if a vegan diet was followed globally, it would cut food-related emissions by 70 percent, compared to 63 percent if everyone went vegetarian, and if 'global dietary guidelines' were followed, it would reduce only 29 percent.

"Our analysis indicates that adopting global dietary guidelines would not be enough to reduce food-related greenhouse gas emissions to the same extent that total greenhouse gas emissions will need to fall to keep global temperature increases to below 2°C," Dr. Marco Springmann, leader of the study, is quoted saying in the press release from Oxford University.

### WORLD VEGAN VISION

When the U.S.-based Vegetarian Vision was established in 1992, it focused on spreading awareness not only about being vegetarian, but also where such foods could be procured by the new Indian immigrant, hosting events, and securing a following, not just of Indians but also white and black mainstream Americans. "At one time our membership was fifty-fifty Indian and non-Indian," Shah said. Things have come a long way since then.

Today, not only has vegetarianism caught on in Mainstream America, but vegan lifestyles are proliferating. While not statistically proven, it is reasonable to assume that many Americans know someone who is a vegan in their circle of associates and friends, and many who are vegetarians.

World Vegan Vision's overarching message on its website ([worldveganvision.org](http://worldveganvision.org))

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6

## World Vegan Vision Hosts India's Consul General



From left: Co-director of World Vegan Vision Nitin Vyas, Padma Shri Dr Sudhir Parikh, Dipak Shah, India's Consul General in New York Randhir Jaiswal and founder of WVV HK Shah at the Sept. 9, 2020 welcome reception for CG Jaiswal at Akbar Restaurant in New Jersey.

BY A STAFF WRITER

**W**orld Vegan Vision, a non-profit established in 1992, held a reception to welcome the new Consul General of India in New York, Randhir Jaiswal Sept. 9, 2020. The WVV which was founded in the United States, is expanding to several cities in India starting early this year, though the COVID-19 pandemic has slowed some of that progress temporarily.

The reception was held at Akbar Restaurant, Edison, N.J. and was hosted by Directors of World Vegan Vision, Nitin Vyas and Vinod Shah.

Event supporters included the Gandhian Society, the Association of Indians in American, NJ Chapter, as well as Aristacare

Many prominent speakers welcomed

Consul General Jaiswal, among them were H.K. Shah, founder-WVV, Bhadra Butala (Gandhian Soc), Dr. Shrenik Shah (WVV), Madhupati Das (ISKCON), Rabbi Andre Malek, Uma Swaminathan (AIA), Chandra & KK Mehta (WVV), Padma Shri Dr. Sudhir Parikh (Parikh Worldwide Media), Rakesh Bhargava (WVV), Dr. Sunil Parikh (SSAI), Deputy Consul General Shatrughan Sinha, Vipul Masuria (IC-NYC), Bobby Bansal (OTBA), Kaushik Vyas (URF), and Kenny Desai (Trustee WVV).

All spoke of the benefits of vegan food on health, compassion toward animals and the effect on the environment. Dr. Sudhir Parikh welcomed Consul General Jaiswal and complimented World Vegan Vision for its work.

"Even in the brief time you have been here, it is clear that your heart is in the

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6



From left: Co-directors of World Vegan Vision Vinod Shah and Nitin Vyas; Padma Shri Dr Sudhir Parikh; Piyush Patel, Kenny Desai, India's Consul General in New York Randhir Jaiswal and founder of WVV HK Shah, at the Sept. 9, 2020 welcome reception for CG Jaiswal at Akbar Restaurant in New Jersey.



# Tadka Can Take Any Salad From Ho-Hum To Flavorful

By ANNADA RATHI

Salads may not immediately come to mind when Indian food is mentioned. Spice-rich, ingredient-heavy, multistep dishes such as chicken tikka masala, samosas, biryani more often symbolize the cuisine.

A variety of salads, however, are savored throughout India. They differ in style and flavor from region to region and table to table, and usually perform in the background as a crunchy sidekick – an obligatory part of a spread or a palate-changing contrast to a meaty dish.

Perhaps the most common Indian salad in the United States is raita, which is popular in northern and western India. It is made with diced cucumbers, onions or tomatoes, mixed with yogurt and spiced with cumin or mustard powder and garnished with chopped mint or cilantro.

That yogurt-based salad fits into one of the broad categories of Indian salads, which also include cooked, oil-free and tadka-based. Like India itself, with its inexplicable unity among head-exploding diversity, these varied salads often intersect and overlap.

For me, the most intriguing of the lot is a tadka-based salad.

Tadka, also known as chaaunk, vaghaar, bagar, phodni, popu, thaalippu is a cooking technique so omnipresent in India, that most kitchens have a special pot reserved exclusively for it.

Tadka is oil or ghee drunk on spices. Zapping spices, such as black mustard or cumin seeds, in hot fat is the perfect way to extricate – or bloom – flavors. Turmeric is a common addition to the tadka, giving a golden gloss to the dish. Tadka may be the first step of a dish – or the last one.

And, in some states in the south and west – including Maharashtra, where I come from – tadka is commonly repurposed as a dressing for diced vegetables.

Like others from west India, I prefer to use a neutral oil, such as peanut or vegetable, for tadka, preferring a blank canvas for the spices. North and east Indians are partial to mustard oil for their tadka.

To start your tadka, heat the oil in a small, heavy-bottomed pot. To test if the oil is hot enough, add a seed or two. If the seeds start sizzling the instant they hit the oil, the temperature is just right.

As the oil heats, the seeds will start to pop. Once they stop dancing, the oil is cumin-y, mustardy and is ready to inject these flavors and hues into anything that follows, including a sabji, a dal or a fresh salad.

In my mother tongue, Marathi, salad is called koshimbir. Cucumbers, tomatoes, onions and red pumpkin are popular koshimbir ingredients, but I have seen nontraditional choices, such as guava and apple, too. The diced vegetables get an enriching boost from roasted peanut powder that imparts creaminess as well as a protein punch. On top of all this goes the scorching tadka.

The aroma and sizzle unleashed by tadka as it hits the vegetables is a heady sensory experience and a harbinger of the contentment to follow. Tadka magnifies the



Koshimbir With Tadka (Indian Salad).

oomph, bestows richness, tames the grassiness of greens and subdues vegetables until they realize who is the boss and start giving up sippy, slurpy juices.

Until I came to the United States, more than 20 years ago, I didn't know that salad dressings existed as a category, or that salads were commonly eaten as a main course.

That has changed.

Below, you will find one of my favorite salads – a lunch-worthy tadka-based meal that is bulked up thanks to sprouted mung beans.

I continue to experiment, because you can dress any salad with tadka. A grain or bean salad would each take to tadka particularly well.

And go to town with spices: Mustard seeds, cumin seeds, coriander, nigella, caraway, black peppers, cinnamon, star anise, cloves. Garlic pieces and chile peppers, both fresh green and dry red, can add a satiating kick.

Whether you make it for salad or not, tadka, with its flavor-enhancing, tiny-but-mighty powers, is adaptable, letting you tailor spices to suit your cravings in a variety of recipes and cuisines.

## KOSHIMBIR WITH TADKA (INDIAN SALAD)

Active: 40 minutes | Total: 40 minutes (plus 30 hours for soaking and sprouting the beans)

4 servings

This koshimbir is a glorious looking salad of diced vegetables, bulked up with sprouted beans, made creamy with peanut powder, spiced with cumin and red chile powder, and crowned with tadka. It can be

a side dish, a starter course or even a light lunch. Substitute vegetables of your choice, such as diced red onions, chopped lettuce, grated radishes, diced fennel and fava beans, or limit the vegetables to one or two.

**Make Ahead:** The mung beans need to be soaked and sprouted about 30 hours ahead.

**Storage Notes:** The vegetables may be combined and refrigerated in an airtight container for up to 1 day.

**Where to Buy:** Peanut powder can be found at well stocked supermarkets and online, or make your own (see NOTES). Dry mung beans can be found at health food stores, Indian markets or online.

## INGREDIENTS

### FOR THE SALAD

- 1 cup (4 1/2 ounces) medium-diced cucumber
- 1 cup (4 1/2 ounces) medium-diced Roma tomatoes
- 1 cup (2 ounces) coarsely grated carrot, about 1 medium
- 1 cup (3 1/2 ounces) finely chopped green or napa cabbage
- 1 cup (4 ounces) sprouted mung beans (see NOTES)
- 1/4 cup roasted peanut powder (see NOTES)
- 1/4 teaspoon ground cumin
- 1/8 teaspoon ground red chile (optional)
- 3 teaspoons fresh lime juice
- 1/2 teaspoon table salt or 1 teaspoon kosher salt
- 1/2 cup chopped fresh cilantro, for garnish

### FOR THE TADKA

- 2 tablespoons vegetable oil or another neutral oil
- 1/4 teaspoon black or yellow mustard seeds
- 1/4 teaspoon cumin seeds
- 1/4 teaspoon ground turmeric

### DIRECTIONS

**Make the salad:** In a large bowl, toss together the cucumber, tomatoes, carrot, cabbage, mung beans, peanut powder, cumin, chile (if using), lime juice and salt until combined. Set aside or cover and refrigerate for up to 1 day.

**Make the tadka:** When ready to serve, in a small heavy-bottomed pot over medium heat, add the oil and heat until shimmering. Drop a mustard seed in the oil; if it starts to pop and crackle immediately, the oil is ready. If not, wait and repeat until one does. Add the remaining mustard seeds, the cumin seeds and turmeric, then turn the heat off. Be careful, as the seeds can land on you while they are “dancing” and burn the skin.

Once the seeds stop popping, pour the tadka over the salad and gently toss to combine. Garnish with cilantro, gently toss again and serve.

### NOTES

**To make peanut powder:** Put a rack in the center position of the oven and preheat to 350 degrees. Spread 1/2 cup raw, shelled, unsalted peanuts on a medium rimmed baking sheet. Toast for 5 to 6 minutes, rotating the sheet from front to back halfway through, until the peanuts are dark brown. Transfer the peanuts to a food processor or coffee grinder and grind them to a coarse powder. Storage: If you make additional peanut powder, refrigerate in an airtight container for up to 2 weeks. If using salted store-bought roasted peanuts, adjust the salt in the recipe.

**To make sprouted mung beans:** To get 1 cup of sprouted beans, soak 1/4 cup (2 ounces) of whole green mung beans in 2 cups of water for at least 6 hours and up to overnight. The beans should sink. Skim off and discard any that are still floating, then drain and spread the rest on a flat plate. Transfer the beans to a wet cheesecloth, twist the ends together into a loose knot, and set it, twisted end down, in a colander over a large bowl or tray. Let sit on the counter for 24 hours, checking every few hours to ensure the cheesecloth remains moist, remoistening as needed. After 24 hours, your sprouts should be about 1-inch long. Rinse the sprouts under running water and use in salads, soups, stir-fries or wraps. Consider sprouting other beans, such as brown lentils, black garbanzo beans and moth beans. Sprouting jars, available online, make sprouting easy. Keep in mind: Warm weather will hasten the sprouting.

**Nutrition | Calories:** 131; Total Fat: 8 g; Saturated Fat: 1 g; Cholesterol: 0 mg; Sodium: 340 mg; Carbohydrates: 11 g; Dietary Fiber: 3 g; Sugars: 6 g; Protein: 5 g. Recipe from food writer Annada D. Rathi.

-SPECIAL TO THE WASHINGTON POST



# NYC Health Advisor Explains How 'Test And Trace' Will Work Once Schools Reopen

BY A STAFF WRITER

**N**ow that schools are opening, COVID-19 testing and tracing will be done at NYC public schools on teachers as well as students through random sampling, even as basic precautions in the form of masks, regular sanitizing, social distancing and proper airflow in schools, are already required practices.

"The sample is going to give us how good we're doing in keeping Covid out of the schools as well as identifying people who may not have been diagnosed," New York City's Senior Health Advisor Dr. Jay Varma, told PIX11 News in a remote interview on September 4.

"On the day testing occurs we are going to set up at an area inside the school,



New York City's Senior Health Advisor Dr. Jay Varma.

maybe outside and we will have people there to assist in collecting the specimens,"

said Dr. Varma who has been on the forefront of COVID-19 contact and tracing system in the City.

The first day of school in New York City is September 21, and testing will begin on October 1, as school officials want to give enough time to the parents to sign consent forms.

A more painless, approved swab test will be taken at the public schools. "The one we're going to do is a much shorter swab, approved for what's called home collection kits, not the specimen that goes deep into the nose," Dr. Varma said.

The United Federation of Teachers has been pushing the city for random free testing in schools to determine if anyone has the asymptomatic virus as reported by Pix11.

The NYC health department has made tremendous progress in speeding up the

return of test results, Dr. Varma said in the interview.

New York City would be the first major school district to reopen schools with the testing system. City officials are confident it will work, because of the city's low infection rate, reported by Pix11, New York.

Dr. Jay Varma is the Senior Advisor for Public Health at NYC Mayor's Office for infectious diseases, outbreaks, public health, and global health. From 2011 to 2017, he served as the Deputy Commissioner for Disease Control at the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene. He directed the public health laboratory and all infectious disease control programs for New York City, including HIV, tuberculosis, sexually transmitted infections, vaccine-preventable diseases, and general communicable diseases.

## Mahesh Bhagia Wins Municipal Chair Position At Edison Democratic Organization

BY A STAFF WRITER

**E**dison, which is the fifth largest municipality in New Jersey, now has a new Democratic municipal chairman. Indian American Mahesh Bhagia was elected to the position at the Edison Democratic Organization's reorganization meeting, which was held July 21. He defeated LTI executive Raj Pandya by a vote of 109 to 41.

Bhagia is IBA (Indian Business Association) vice president and assistant to Edison Mayor Thomas Lankey. He will succeed Shariq Ahmad, who after serving in the position since 2017, did not seek re-election.

"I am humbled by the overwhelming support we received tonight (July 21)," Bhagia is quoted saying in Our Edison, adding, "I look forward to continuing the great work by Shariq. Our goal is to be a united force working together for the betterment of our township and all of our



Edison Democrat Organisation Chairman Mahesh Bhagia.

residents."

Ahmad has joined the Biden 2020 Presidential Campaign earlier this summer. He was a big supporter of Bhagia as the candidate to replace him.

"I want to congratulate Chairman Mahesh Bhagia on a hard-earned victory last night," Ahmad told Our Edison. "Mahesh has been a strong member of our Democratic team. He is a tireless campaigner who has played an important role in every primary and general election victory the Democrats have enjoyed since I became Chairman. I am confident he will lead Edison Democrats to more victories during his tenure," Ahmad added.

Another Indian-American vying for various positions, was Veena Sinha running for Recording Secretary. She defeated Smita Shah by a vote of 11 to 31, Our Edison reported.

In the race for Treasurer, Mohin Patel defeated Manher Shah by a vote of 121 to 25, the news report said.

### COVER STORY

## World Vegan Vision Hosts India's Consul General

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

work of serving the community and serving your country. And food and climate change are among your many interests, so we are doubly thankful you could be here to lend your support to one of the foremost think tanks in this country on the subject of veganism," said Dr. Sudhir Parikh,

Consul General Jaiswal went into the history of vegetarianism which came into being alongside the Industrial Revolution, and to which Mahatma Gandhi catered when he went to study in England. "He (Gandhi) was a vegetarian and he also agreed and embraced the idea of veganism," CG Jaiswal said.

"I cannot but compliment you for what you are doing, And I am so glad that World Vegan Vision has established chapters in India and I only hope they will continue to grow in numbers, size, and more and more people will come forward."

Piyush Patel and Dipak Shah were honored with

plaques for their philanthropy. And Nitin Vyas was honored with a plaque by SSAI for his outstanding volunteer work during Covid-19 to first responders.

The event was also attended by former Edison city councilman Dr. Sudhansu Prasad, Dr. Pandey, Sunil Hali, executive director of the Indo-American Arts Council, Raj Pandya (Pandya Foundation) and Bimal Joshi (Golden Era), Mahesh Wani (Mallakham), and Niren Chaudhri (Balaji Temple),

Media partners for the event included Parikh Worldwide Media's ITV Gold, TV Asia, Manna TV, India Life, NRI Today, Tiranga, and Divya Bhaskar & Masala Junction.

The singers Umesh Patel, Hamid Khan, Kiran & Kavita entertained those present while the vegan dinner was served, catered by Akbar Restaurant.

World Vegan Vision, founded by H.K.Shah and Malti Shah, in 1992, has more than 1500 life members, many patrons, donors, and family members in New York and New Jersey & Ohio Chapters.

## From Fad To Lifestyle

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

is, "Let us make the world free of violence and suffering," and that includes the suffering of a calf whose mother is deprived of the milk meant for her. That is what turned Selina Dhunna, now 24, to the vegan regime when she was just 19 years old, followed by her mother.

"The main message is about compassion - not just for humans but also animals and putting yourself in the animal's position-Why would we drink someone else's milk that is not meant for us?" Dhunna questions, adding, "Besides, many Indians or other South Asians don't do too well with milk anyway, with lactose intolerance etc."

According to The Vegan Society, 1 in 5 Brits cut down on meat consumption during the COVID-19 pandemic to date.

Certainly, veganism has moved from being seen as a fad to becoming a lifestyle that businesses are also pushing as they see customers lining up behind it.



# NYS Department Of Labor Announces \$300 Lost Wages Assistance Payments Will Begin This Week

By A Staff Writer

The New York State Department of Labor today announced that payments for the Lost Wages Assistance (LWA) program, which provides an additional \$300 in weekly benefits to unemployed New Yorkers, will begin next week. Up to 2.4 million New Yorkers are eligible for the program, including 435,000 who must submit an additional certification to qualify.

During the pandemic emergency, New York State has paid \$43.7 billion in unemployment benefits to 3.5 million New Yorkers, representing over 20 typical years' worth of benefits paid in just six months.

"Throughout this crisis, states' unemployment systems have been pushed to the limit and constantly-changing federal guidance — including this haphazard Presidential executive order — have only delayed our efforts to get benefits to New Yorkers in need. But we have worked day and night to stand up this program, and millions of New Yorkers will see payments next week," **Commissioner Roberta Reardon said.** "We are emailing all New Yorkers who are receiving benefits to inform them of their status and, if needed, provide information about certifying for the Lost Wages Assistance program. All New Yorkers should keep an eye out for these messages and, if an additional certification is required, respond immediately."

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)



has released funding for the first three weeks of LWA benefits to New York State, covering the benefit weeks ending August 2nd, August 9th, and August 16th. The DOL estimates that up to 2.4 million New Yorkers may be eligible for the benefits from those weeks, including recipients of both traditional unemployment insurance (UI) and Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA). Approximately 2 million New Yorkers are pre-qualified and will receive payments starting next week. The remainder — roughly 435,000 New Yorkers — must submit an additional certification to qualify.

Of the estimated 2.4 million New Yorkers who may be eligible:

**Approximately 2 million are already qualified for the LWA program** because they indicated on their initial benefit application that their unemployment was connected to the COVID-19 pandemic. These claimants:

- Do not need to take any further action;
- Will receive LWA payments starting next week; and
- Will receive an email and text message from DOL informing them they have pre-qualified for LWA.

Roughly 435,000 need to submit an additional certification confirming that their unemployment is related to COVID-19 to qualify for LWA benefits, as required by the federal government. These claimants:

- Can certify starting Friday, September 11th either online or via phone:
- Online: claimants will receive a secure DocuSign email from the DOL on September 11th, with a link to certify for LWA benefits
- Phone: claimants can call 833-491-0632 to certify via an automated phone system
- Will receive payments starting next week if their certification is submitted by 5pm on September 15th — after that, payments will be released on a rolling basis.

Eligible New Yorkers will receive LWA payments of \$300 per week for the weeks ending August 2nd, 9th, and 16th. Under federal rules, New York State may be eligible for additional weeks of LWA funding.

According to FEMA, funding for the LWA program will continue until any of the following occur:

1. The federal Disaster Relief Fund balance falls below \$25 billion;
2. The \$44 billion set aside for the LWA program is depleted;
3. Congress enacts a replacement unemployment relief program; OR
4. If none of the above scenarios occur before December 27, 2020, funding will terminate on that date.

# Hoboken Mayor Bhalla And NJ Transit Unveil Key Bus Line Improvements

By A Staff Writer

Hoboken Mayor Ravi S. Bhalla, joined New Jersey Transit officials to unveil a series of improvements to bus service in his township Sept. 8, 2020, to increase capacity, create efficiencies, enhance convenience and reduce wait times.

The 126 bus line in Hoboken, already one of the busiest NJ TRANSIT lines in the state, will now have additional stops and new buses.

"Today, we celebrate a range of new improvements to NJ TRANSIT's 126 bus route — an indispensable route for Hoboken residents traveling to New York City and one of the most heavily-used routes in our entire system," NJ TRANSIT President & CEO Kevin Corbett is quoted saying in the press release. "These improvements include the introduction of our new articulated buses on this route earlier this year, which adds much needed capacity and features many new customer amenities. We were pleased to partner with Mayor Bhalla and the City of Hoboken to further improve the customer experience by making adjustments to bus stops along the route, which are expected to reduce wait times and promote distancing onboard to the greatest extent possible."

"Hoboken is committed to working with our partners in government to improve our mass transit infrastructure, and we are thrilled to modernize our bus stops in partnership with NJ TRANSIT," said Mayor Bhalla. "Along with the new, articulated buses, Hoboken residents will have improved access and shorter wait times during rush hour and have more reliable transit into New York City."

Also joining New Jersey Transit and Mayor Bhalla were Assemblywoman Annette Chaparro, Councilman Phil Cohen, and Bike Hoboken President Chris Adair, who all spoke about the importance of mass transit improvements along the 126 bus line.

The improvement plan includes the following:

- Moving the stop at 6th and Clinton streets one block south to 5th Street. The new stop location is longer than the previous one at 6th, allowing more room for



Mayor Ravinder Bhalla, in turban, with NJ Transit officials Sept. 8, 2020, to announce improvements in 126 bus line.

larger articulated buses, and boasts a wider sidewalk, allowing for a large shelter and other amenities.

- Adding a stop on Clinton Street between 7th and 8th. With this additional stop, there will now be a stop every other block between Observer Highway and 11th Street.
- Formalizing the "courtesy stop" at Willow Avenue and 2nd Street. Previously an unsigned and unscheduled stop, the new stop will serve an area that had an unusually long distance between stops.
- Updated parking restrictions prohibiting parking during the 4 to 7 p.m. rush hour at bus stops. Until now,

buses have often been unable to pull to the curb due to the presence of parked vehicles.

Additionally, the new articulated buses being deployed on the route will increase onboard customer capacity by 65-percent compared to an average commuter bus, the press release noted. During the COVID-19 pandemic, these larger buses allow for better distancing as a precaution against the spread of the virus, it added.

NJ TRANSIT is in the process of replacing all of the current 85 articulated buses in the fleet with the new buses while adding 25 additional articulated buses to expand the fleet to 110, the press release said.



# 15-Year Old Student Makes And Donates More Than 5000 PPEs

BY A STAFF WRITER

It really affected Sujan Munver, a high school freshman, when he heard about friends, acquaintances, patients and teachers passing away due to the COVID-19 pandemic. He wanted to help and found the best way to do it in his situation was to use the talents he has.

"As a member of the robotics team at my school, I knew how to use a 3D printer and researched ways that I could help the community," Sujan told News India Times in a personal statement describing his initiative.

The student from Dwight-Englewood School in Englewood Cliffs, NJ, led a group of students from the robotics team and 3D printed face shields to donate to various organizations including the town's mayor and first responders. The group is called DE3D (pronounced 'deed' with DE short for Dwight-Englewood and 3D for their face masks making technique.)

"I learned that face shields were in limited supply, were only single use, and were not as comfortable as one would think," Sujan went on to explain. "I contacted one of my robotics coaches and was surprised when my school loaned me their high-quality 3D printer and donated raw materials."

But it was not all that easy. "I investigated various reusable, cleanable face shields that could be manufactured at home. I took the best components of different models that I found on the internet and designed a face shield that would meet the needs of medical providers, while also using the least amount of plastic to be environmen-



High school student Sujan Munver, freshman at Dwight Englewood School in Englewood Cliffs, N.J., right, with the Mayor of Englewood Cliffs Mario Kranjac. Sujan and his team manufactured 5,000 plastic shields for distribution to frontline workers.

tally friendly." Sujan said.

Once he had figured all that out, Sujan first reached out to the town mayor, Mario Kranjac who immediately requested 75 face shields for the police department and first responders. He then received communication from the Physician Services Division and Urology department at Hackensack



High school student Sujan Munver, freshman at Dwight Englewood School in Englewood Cliffs, N.J., center, with the Mayor of Englewood Cliffs Mario Kranjac, left, and other unidentified people, accepting the PPEs that Sujan and his team, DE3D, manufactured for first responders, health care personnel, and others.

Meridian Health, NJ to produce face shields for all of their staff to support the in-office procedures they perform.

"My younger sister, Radha, optimized a design for ear savers that help relieve pressure on the ears from wearing masks for extended periods of time," Sujan said.

"At this point, we have collectively produced more than 5,000 face shields and ear savers and donated them to local hospitals, first responders, private physicians and dentists in the area. Additionally, we have sent PPE to other areas of the country, including the Navajo Nation in Arizona and Gouverneur Health in New York. Our work has been so well received that our school requested us to 3D print face shields for students and faculty for re-opening."

It takes around two hours to produce, assemble, and clean each face shield, Sujan describes in his description of the initiative.

The process involves 3D printing the head-band or visor component, using a CO2 laser to precisely cut the clear shield plastic, and assembling the full shield with elastic headbands. Sujan runs the printer 24/7 to maximize production.

Following on the footsteps of his grandparents who founded and actively participated in several philanthropic organizations throughout their lives, Sujan has involved himself in various charitable organizations.

"The greatest satisfaction is in doing my little part in this global effort to protect physicians, nurses, and all medical/administrative staff as they have continued to provide patient care. Health is our most valuable asset, and members of our medical community are the true heroes during this unprecedented time," said Sujan in the statement.

## 'Hindu Americans For Biden' Launched With Focus On Hate Crimes

BY A STAFF WRITER

Following on the footsteps of the Trump campaign's launch of Hindu Voices for Trump in mid-August, one of four organizations targeting the Indian-American electorate, the Biden campaign has revved up its outreach to this faith community.

This Sept. 3, 2020, the Democratic presidential campaign under the aegis of South Asians for Biden, launched what it said was "an aggressive push" to engage Hindu Americans by launching 'Hindu Americans for Biden', focusing on hate crimes against members of the community "in the Trump era."

"Every Hindu American vote counts, and the Biden-Harris campaign is committed to actions, not empty rhetoric," Murali Balaji, co-chair of Hindu Americans for Biden, is quoted saying in the press release. "We can't stress enough the historic moment we're in when a Democratic presidential campaign has engaged Hindus at the level of this campaign. We look forward to helping the Biden-Harris ticket and Democrats down ballot win in November."

The event entitled, "Preventing Hate Crimes and Protecting Mandirs" featured remarks by Congressman Raja Krishnamoorthi, D-Illinois, a Hindu American member of Congress. Rep. Krishnamoorthi noted that Hindu Americans will play a vital role in the upcoming election, and that mobilizing them will be key to a Biden-Harris victory, a press release from the Biden campaign said.



Rep. Krishnamoorthi, D-Illinois, at launch of Hindus for Biden Sept. 3, 2020.



AAPI Director in Biden presidential campaign Amit Jani at Hindus for Biden event Sept. 3, 2020.

"This outreach shows the Biden-Harris campaign is serious about the Hindu American community," Krishnamoorthi said. "I'm excited to work with Hindu Americans for Biden and our core constituencies to help us win in November."

Niki Shah, Hindu Americans for Biden member and host of the discussion, noted the importance of engaging the Hindu American community. "The socioeconomic and cultural diversity of our community cannot be overlooked," Shah said. "We have to make sure we are proactively engaging with the entire Hindu American community and ensure we are addressing challenges facing us."

The discussion, which was co-sponsored by South Asians for Biden, also discussed the need for Hindu temples to embrace enhanced safety measures in light of recent violence and vandalism including the violent attack on a Hindu priest in New York last year.

"Vice President Biden has pledged to increase prosecution of hate crimes committed against religious minority groups such as Hindu Americans," the press release said.

"Religious minorities, including Hindus, have lived in fear over the past four years," said Amit Jani, the Biden campaign's AAPI outreach director. "We need to make sure that the Hindu American community feels safe. A Biden-Harris administration will strive to do that."

Hindu Americans for Biden plans to hold other events in the coming weeks leading up to the election, organizers said in the press release.



# Macy's Thanksgiving Parade Is On, With A Twist

By JOHN J. EDWARDS III

**T**he Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade is going forward by standing still.

The 96-year-old holiday celebration, usually a 2 1/2-mile procession down Manhattan's West Side to Macy's flagship department store in Herald Square, will be a sharply reduced television-only spectacle this year, the company said in a statement Monday. Elements of the parade will be performed in and around Herald Square but won't move.

The parade's trademark giant character balloons will still appear, but rather than being held by the usual dozens of handlers, they'll be anchored to specialty vehicles, Macy's said.

The parade will be taped over two days, with 75% fewer participants and none under the age of 18. Masks and social distancing will be enforced. Local bands will replace the regional high-school and college marching bands this year.

And yes, Virginia, there will still be Santa Claus arriving at the end.

New York Mayor Bill de Blasio, D, welcomed the changes. "They are reinventing the event for this moment in history and you will be able to feel the spirit and joy of that day on television, online," he said Monday at a coronavirus media briefing. "Not the live parade but something that will really give us that warmth, that great feeling we have on Thanksgiving Day."

Large-scale spectator events like parades remain banned in New York as it continues to rebound from coronavirus restrictions. The U.S. Open tennis tournament concluded Sunday but was conducted without the thousands of fans who ordinarily attend.

The reimagined parade will air Nov. 26 on its longtime network, Comcast Corp.'s NBC.

-BLOOMBERG



A SpongeBob SquarePants balloon floats through Times Square during the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade in New York on Nov. 25, 2010.

## OPINION

# New York City's Day Of Reckoning Is At Hand

By TIMOTHY L. O'BRIEN, NIR KAISSAR

Opinion A large group of New York business leaders, all with pedigrees and some of them well-known, sent up a flare over City Hall late last week.

**"D**espite New York's success in containing the coronavirus, unprecedented numbers of New Yorkers are unemployed, facing homelessness, or otherwise at risk," they noted in a letter to Mayor Bill de Blasio, D. "There is widespread anxiety over public safety, cleanliness and other quality of life issues that are contributing to deteriorating conditions in commercial districts and neighborhoods across the five boroughs."

"We urge you to take immediate action to restore essential services as a necessary precursor for solving the city's longer term, complex, economic challenges," they added. "We look forward to your response and to partnering with you and others who share a commitment to a vibrant recovery and a great future for our city."

De Blasio, presiding over a city with divergent views among residents about how dire conditions actually are, responded on Twitter: "We're grateful for our business community and are partnering to rebuild a fairer, better city. Let's be clear: To restore city services and save jobs, we need long term borrowing and a federal stimulus - we need these leaders to join the fight to move the City forward."

What's next? It's unclear. And that's dangerous.

If de Blasio is hoping for Washington to ride to his rescue, he may have a very long wait, even if the White House changes hands. Congress has been unable to engineer another round of public funding to fill the void left by the expiration of last spring's CARES Act, which pumped trillions of dollars into the hands of families, workers, businesses and public institutions.

New York's \$88.1 billion budget for fiscal 2020, approved in July, is \$5 billion lighter than last year's and

reflects cuts made to wrestle with a \$9 billion revenue shortfall caused by economic fallout from the coronavirus lockdown. If the local economy worsens in coming months, and the downturn drags on well beyond that, the city is going to have escalating challenges keeping its coffers full. A range of services - from public health, sanitation, social services and education to policing, firefighting and public transit - will be hurt.

If the business community's traditional antipathy toward higher taxes and a more forceful government hand leaves it on the sidelines, it won't be able to help forge public-private partnerships that could help New York surmount an epic existential crisis that threatens their bottom lines and their employees' well-being.

The business group that sent the letter to de Blasio, Partnership for New York City, has been at odds with the mayor recently, friction informed by years of mutual distrust.

De Blasio has pushed New York to better serve the needs and interests of its working-class residents, and to deprioritize pro-business policymaking. The Partnership advocates civic engagement and corporate responsibility and focuses on policies affecting education, workforce development, transportation, infrastructure and innovation. (Bloomberg LP is one of dozens of the organization's members.) The group also recognizes the brutality of the pandemic's downdraft in New York: a local unemployment rate expected to average out at about 9.8% for 2020; a million financially distressed households, concentrated in communities of color and low-wage workers; about a third of the city's 230,000 small businesses possibly shuttered permanently; corporate sectors of the local economy, particularly real estate, threatened; and 1.2 million office workers operating remotely until Covid-19 abates.

In a wide-ranging July report attached to its letter to de Blasio, the Partnership outlined its thoughts about how to shore up New York's economy and public services while also addressing rifts in the city caused by income inequali-

ty. We'll explore those and other ideas for reviving New York in our next column, but we also know that none of these things will take flight if the city, like the rest of the country, can't embrace the idea of government as a force for growth - and good.

New York has a long and richly deserved reputation as an incubator for innovative approaches to public policy. Franklin Roosevelt was the governor of New York State before he became president, and much of the New Deal was steered by Roosevelt associates who had road-tested their ideas in the city and state before going to Washington. During New York City's fiscal crisis in the 1970s, financiers such as Felix Rohatyn and labor leaders such as Victor Gotbaum put their differences aside to forge a partnership that helped put the city back on track.

But these were people of different eras. The political, social, racial and economic divisions that have accompanied Donald Trump's ascent to the White House, seeded well before his rise, have left federal and local governments suspect and less able to contend with crises. The business community has helped reinforce those suspicions, preferring to emphasize the idea that an unfettered private sector left to its own devices will produce economic gains that lift all boats. As the entrenchment of income inequality demonstrates, that hasn't been the case. As a result, the private sector, despite its myriad strengths and because of some unchecked abuses, has wound up being just as much of a punching bag as the government.

The coronavirus pandemic and the climate crisis have laid bare how untenable it will be to continue living in a world unspooled by suspicion and division. Mother Nature has little time for it. Global competitors such as China have little time for it. And America's vast wealth and pride of place in the world are no longer the buffers they once were. The pandemic won't allow the country or New Yorkers to wallow in discord without consequences.

-BLOOMBERG



# Scammers

Imposters posing as officials are stepping up their game of preying on the elderly

By ELA DUTT

**H**orror stories of seniors being scammed by shysters who imitate government officials emptying their bank accounts and intimidating them with threats of arrest are legion. These criminals appear to have stepped up their game recently, obvious from the several alerts the FBI and Justice Department are sending out warning seniors to beware. Indian-American seniors are among the victims say social service workers.

The Justice Department's Office of Justice Programs describes some of them - "One caller received a computer pop-up that said she needed to secure her account. After providing her financial information, the scammer took at least \$30,000. Another called to report that he lost \$200,000 over four years to someone who had deceived him into thinking she was his girlfriend. And a third was still waiting for a contractor to come through on a roof repair—for which the caller had paid months earlier."

Most Indian-Americans, of all ages, have received scam calls from people, mostly men, many with Indian accents, who usually make a poor show of threatening a victim. But even if one in a hundred of those calls pans out, it means someone's life just got way more difficult. And a criminal just got richer.

"Americans are fed up with the constant barrage of scams that maliciously target the elderly and other vulnerable citizens," said U.S. Attorney General William Barr back in March 2020, when announcing the



The exterior of the U.S. Department of Justice headquarters building in Washington, U.S., July 14, 2009.

largest-ever haul of alleged fraudsters. The AARP reported that from March 2019 to March 2020, some 400 defendants had been charged with bilking seniors out of more than \$1 billion.

Many of these were foreign-based schemes, targeting different ethnic groups and have even acquired their own named categories -- romance fraud, grandparents scams, tech- scams, Social Security scams, Internal Revenue Service scams etc.

Barr said that preventing and disrupting 'transnational elder fraud' is one of the top priorities of the Justice Department.

After what might be a hiatus of sorts

since the March 2020 arrests, during the height of the Covid-19 crisis, these scammers appear to be waking up to their calling, no pun intended.

The Justice Department sent out an 'Alert' Sept. 4, 2020, from San Diego, California, that DOJ has "received multiple reports that individuals claiming to represent the DOJ are calling members of the public as part of an imposter scam."

The department strongly encourages the public to remain vigilant and not to provide personal information during these calls, which appear to target the elderly, the press release said. .

On Sept. 9, the U.S. Attorney for the Northern District of New York also sent out a 'Fraud Alert' about scammers claiming to be with the Department of Justice, again warning seniors that they were the target in most of these cases, and not to give out personal information.

Reports to the National Elder Fraud Hotline indicate these scammers falsely represent themselves as Department of Justice investigators or employees and attempt to obtain personal information from the call recipient, or they leave a voicemail with a return phone number.

The return phone number directs users to a recorded menu that matches the recorded menu for the department's main phone number, noted the press release from California. Eventually, the user reaches an "operator" who steers the user to someone claiming to be an investigator. That "investigator" then attempts to gain the user's personal information.

The New York fraud alert gives an almost identical account. And these details mirror the call that one of the seniors interviewed by News India Times related (See accompanying story).

"I have been getting a lot of calls lately," Sudha Acharya, a senior in Queens, told News India Times. "Today for example, a caller said 'I am a police officer'. After several calls, I picked up and said I know you are not a police officer. So the voice said, 'Okay, stay where you are and we will come and arrest you.'"

Acharya luckily, is savvy on these matters. She is the executive director of South Asian Council for Social Services, which deals a lot with seniors in need of help, and

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12

## One Senior's Point-By-Point Account Of A Scam Call

(Name withheld due to privacy concerns)

"I was waiting for a return call which is why I picked up the without looking at the calling number. The person at the other end had a very heavy Indian accent. But then that's so common these days in America.

The man first asked me my full name. And then here's what followed. I am going over the important points so others can identify these calls.

1. Ask your full name.
2. Tell you where they are calling from. The man told me he was an officer from the Social Security Administration.
3. To make it seem authentic, they give you their name and a badge number and want you to write it down saying they would give you a personal call back number.

4. Then they would start with something drastic. To me the man said my car was found abandoned with blood all over it. I don't own a car. And what has SSA got to do with a homicide case. I laughed a little and asked, 'Why are you calling if that's true. Shouldn't the police be at my house?'

5. They don't give up. At first they try to make you feel they're trying to help you.

To me, he said the SSA knew I was not involved. He was only trying to reconfirm that it was not my car as they found millions of dollars going out of my account to someone in Maxico.

By then I was really laughing. I could have put down the phone but wanted to see how far would he go. Of course I knew he was a fake and a fraud. See when they make these calls, they still don't know our day-to-day manner of talking.

He gave himself away completely saying, "Madam, be respectful. This conversation is being taped by the FBI and the Police."

6. When the helping "poor you" tactic doesn't work, they try intimidating you and threatening you.

My caller had someone call me during my conversation with him from the spoofed local police precinct number. That was definitely an American voice. The woman gave me a name from a comic book strip and told me she had 4 warrants for me and if I don't continue to talk to them, she can be at my door in 10 minutes. She said I would definitely go to jail.

Even if you know the case is not real, you begin to tire out and feeling low.

You start remembering all horror stories of police atrocities and good people trying to prove their identity.

7. I tried calling the SSA from my other phone. But it doesn't give you a person and you have to go through a web of machine messages.

8. So I called a journalist friend who told me to ask the person to call me on the FBI press office number. The man at the other end agreed to and in half a minute I got a call from that number. So they found out they had reached NY FBI and spoofed that number to call me. My friend asked me to pick up the call which I did.

But the person heard my friend's voice and sounded alarmed. "Who are you calling, madam," he asked.

I told him I was calling my family. When he asked me why, I said, "If this thing is such a big problem, I want my family with me."

I then disconnected him.

9. They still don't give up. They had wasted their time and hadn't got me to send them any money "in order to resolve the case". Do they really sit in those countries and think America operates this way, you wonder.

After that I got 7 more calls, from the spoofed FBI number, from the spoofed police precinct number and some unknown numbers.

10. I reported this call online with the Attorney General's office. I called the FBI and the officer explained to me that they were trying to deal with the issue.

"There are between 2,000 and 2,500 such calls per month most of them originating from the Gujarat city of Ahmedabad," he said. He said they are successful when they catch and arrest the callers' counterparts in the US who try to collect the money that is wired through the Western Union.

He advised me to get call protect from my service provider which I did. I still get about 8 fraud calls per day - pretending to be from the Con Edison or from other utility companies.

11. I also called the police precinct and the officer who picked up my call only laughed. He told me nothing could be done about it. I asked him to take my complaint on the phone reminding him of the lock down. He said the police cannot take complaints on the phone and Covid or no I would have to go personally to file a complaint.



# Travel

The Washington Post

By Justin Bachman

United Airlines Holdings will add new nonstop flights to Africa and India to serve customers visiting friends and relatives, as the carrier revamps an international network beset by weak business traffic.

Destinations such as Lagos, Nigeria, and Bangalore, India, will focus on large diasporas living in the U.S. and will give United greater network diversity, said Patrick Quayle, vice president of international network and alliances. Traffic from trips to see friends and family has withstood the coronavirus pandemic better than other segments, particularly corporate travel, he said.

"It's us rebuilding our network in a new way," Quayle said. "We're not just going to put the chess pieces back on the board the way they used to be."

Most of the new routes reflect United's plans for a smaller North Atlantic schedule in summer 2021, given heavy travel restrictions imposed by the U.S. and European governments. The airline expects that its European schedule next summer will largely reflect the capacity it has deployed this fall, Quayle said. International

ally, United will fly about 40% of its 2019 schedule next month.

United in December will begin a daily nonstop from Chicago to New Delhi followed by a daily San Francisco-Bangalore flight in early 2021, the company said in statement Wednesday. American Airlines Group Inc. also plans a new flight to the southern India tech hub in 2021, from Seattle.

Next year, United plans new service three times a week from Washington to Lagos and to Accra, Ghana, as well as a new daily flight from Newark, New Jersey, to Johannesburg. That flight will complement seasonal service from Newark to Cape Town that United began in December 2019.

Delta Air Lines Inc. serves Johannesburg nonstop from Atlanta and both Accra and Lagos from New York's John F. Kennedy International. In October, Delta will add a seasonal one-stop Cape Town flight on its service from Johannesburg to Atlanta. State-owned South African Airways is insolvent and hasn't operated for more than five months.

On Thursday, United will also begin its first nonstop from Chicago to Tel Aviv, operating three times a week. El Al Israel

## United plans India, Africa flights to diversify route map



Photo: Tom Samworth | Dreamstime.com

Airlines had planned to start that route in March, just as the pandemic began decimating international travel.

For the summer of 2021, United expects that Hawaii will become a favored destination and will add four weekly nonstops from Chicago to Kona on the Big Island and from Newark to Maui.

Hawaii essentially closed its tourism industry this year by requiring a 14-day

self-quarantine upon arrival. The state tentatively plans to resume tourism Oct. 1 for visitors with proof of a negative coronavirus test.

"We've seen it in our data -- there's a lot of demand for Hawaii," Quayle said.

United stock tumbled 58% this year through Tuesday, the worst drop on a Standard & Poor's index of the five biggest U.S. airlines.

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# Scammers

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 10

according to her, many of her colleagues are getting similar calls.

"It (scam calls) had not happened for a few months. But just this week, it's picked up again," Acharya noticed.

In many cases, the caller ID shows a Washington, D.C. area code (202), which makes it more convincing.

Counselors are hard at work telling seniors not to pick up calls from numbers they do not recognize, and to ignore such threats and not be worried.

Mary Archana Fernandez, the director of Family Support Services at SACSS, is dealing with the consequences of such scam calls on her clients.

"One of my clients gave them her debit card number and her bank account got emptied," Fernandez told News India Times. "Even if it was not a huge amount, that \$600 was for paying her rent." Calls to Social Security Administration, the victim's bank to close the account, etc. were steps that had to be taken.

"If you have limited English proficiency and hear 'Department of Justice' and stuff like that, you think 'Oh my God! Am I in trouble?'," Fernandez said.

"This happened to three people," Fernandez said. One of them mistakenly thought that the caller belonged to Fernandez' organization when he claimed to call from the Social Security office. He gave the caller his Social Security number,



## Report Abuse to APS

You can report suspected abuse to Adult Protective Services Association

## Report Financial Exploitation

Find the Right Reporting Agency for Financial Exploitation through the Elder Abuse Resource Roadmap: Financial

PHOTO: JUSTICE.GOV

Justice.gov website photo from section on elder justice.

and later came to Fernandez to ask if she had called him. He subsequently had to make changes to his bank accounts etc.

"So it happens to a lot of our seniors," says Fernandez who foresees more problems around the bend with the launch of the 'Text and Trace' initiative in New York. "Now a lot of seniors feel they don't want to answer calls or give personal information, but we tell them that in this case, you have to give some personal information because it is for Covid."

"We tell them the caller ID will say 'Text and Trace' and that they should answer the call and ask for a translator if they are do not have English proficiency," Fernandez said.

According to the National Council on Aging, says "Financial scams targeting seniors have become so prevalent that they're now considered 'the crime of the 21st century.'" Why? Because seniors are thought to have a significant amount of money sitting in their accounts." But a lot of low-income seniors get hit by this crime.

"With the elderly population growing and seniors racking up more than \$3 billion in losses annually, elder fraud is likely to be a growing problem," says the FBI

"We don't want anyone – particularly our seniors – to be fooled by scammers posing as employees of the Department of Justice," said U.S. Attorney Robert Brewer

of California in the press release. "Please protect yourself! Do not be fooled by scammers, and don't give out your personal information to a random caller claiming to be a DOJ employee."

"Phone scams are an ugly and pervasive act of victimization. The scams being reported to our National Elder Fraud Hotline are especially heinous because they show the perpetrators are preying upon one of the most vulnerable segments of our society – the elderly," said Director Jessica Hart of the Office of Justice Programs' Office for Victims of Crime (OVC), in the press release.

Those who receive these calls are encouraged not to provide personal information and to report these scams to the FTC via their website or by calling 877-FTC-HELP (877-382-4357). Fraud can also be reported to the FBI for law enforcement action at <https://www.justice.gov/criminal-fraud/report-fraud>.

The National Elder Fraud Hotline is a resource created by OVC for people to report fraud against anyone age 60 or older. Reporting certain financial losses due to fraud as soon as possible, and within the first 2-3 days, can increase the likelihood of recovering losses. The hotline is open seven days a week. For more information about the hotline, please visit <https://stopelderfraud.ovc.ojp.gov/>

## LIFESTYLE

# Centennial Of Paramhansa Yogananda's Coming To America, Approaching

BY A STAFF WRITER

September 19, 2020 marks the 100th anniversary of the arrival in the West of Paramahansa Yogananda, regarded by many as the father of Yoga in the West. He was the founder of his own international society, Self-Realization Fellowship (SRF), which aimed to disseminate India's ancient science of yoga meditation.

Today, that philosophy and practice is as relevant as ever today, especially during these times, says the Self Realization Fellowship in a press release Sept. 8. Yoga, it notes, "provides simple tools for building lasting inner peace, clarity, and strength regardless of outward conditions." The SRF has scheduled a special online Centennial Commemoration event on September 19, the exact day of Yogananda's arrival in America to serve as India's delegate to an International Congress of Religious Liberals convening in Boston.

The online event will include a commemorative ceremony livestreamed from Boston, MA, and a special address livestreamed from SRF Headquarters by SRF President Brother Chidananda. For details visit <https://yogananda.org/srfcentennial>.

"What Paramahansa Yogananda brought to the West is perhaps one of the greatest



PHOTO: YOGANANDA.ORG

Paramahansa Yogananda, author of *Autobiography of a Yogi*, founded Self-Realization Fellowship in 1920. Photo courtesy of Self-Realization Fellowship, Los Angeles, Calif.

gifts to humankind—India's ancient science of Yoga, the science of knowing the Self, of realizing and experiencing who we truly are, divine souls with unlimited potential," Chidananda is quoted saying in the press

release.

The SRF estimates today more than 36 million Americans practice yoga and 18 million meditate, in large part because of Paramahansa Yogananda's pioneering efforts.

"Yogananda put yoga on the map in America," says Harvard scholar Diana Eck, quoted in the press release.

His best-selling classic, *Autobiography of a Yogi*, continues to be the definitive introduction to yoga meditation for millions of seekers around the globe, according to SRF. Among those influenced by his writing are Nobel Laureate Thomas Mann, Apple founder Steve Jobs (the *Autobiography of a Yogi* was the only book he kept on his iPad, and he had arranged for it to be gifted to all his family and friends at his memorial), and Beatle George Harrison.

Yogananda, in his maiden speech on the science of religion, at the International Congress of Religious Liberals, would later be described by the Congress organizers as "forcible" and "impressive."

His subsequent talks on the universality of religion and the efficacy of yoga meditation would receive media coverage in all the major newspapers in the U.S. and attract thousands to the largest auditoriums, the press release said.

Yogananda founded SRF the same year as his arrival, and in his more than 30 years

in the U.S., he made America his adopted home.

His other writings include commentaries on the Bhagavad Gita, *God Talks With Arjuna*, and the four Gospels, *The Second Coming of Christ: The Resurrection of the Christ Within You*; and the three-volume series of *Collected Talks and Essays on Realizing God in Daily Life*.

Today, SRF, along with its sister organization Yogoda Satsanga Society of India (which Yogananda founded three years earlier in 1917), has grown to include more than 800 temples, ashrams, retreats, and meditation centers in more than 60 countries around the globe.

An annual World Convocation is held each summer in Los Angeles, attracting upwards of 4,000 participants each year. This year, SRF held its first fully online convocation with nearly 35,000 registering for the event, organizers said in the press release. In addition, SRF/YSS annually contributes to many local, national, and international charitable causes.

The Government of India has paid tribute to the life and work of Paramahansa Yogananda on three occasions, most recently in October of 2019 when it issued a special commemorative coin to commemorate Yogananda's 125th birth anniversary.





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# What Tourists Need To Know About Visiting New York City During The Pandemic

By NATALIE B. COMPTON

In the early days of the pandemic, New York was the focal point of the outbreak's wrath. After shutting down for months to flatten the growth curve of the novel coronavirus, the city is opening up again, for residents and visitors alike.

"Things have been really nice (these) past couple months, especially with our numbers dropping," says Benjamin Liong Setiawan, a lifestyle writer who has lived in New York for over 20 years. "It's been nice to be able to enjoy the city again."

However, that doesn't mean New Yorkers want visitors to expect business as usual. While attractions are reopening and indoor dining is set to return at 25% capacity on Sept. 30, much of New York City is still closed or struggling to remain open with coronavirus precautions. Not to mention, its residents are still experiencing an emotional toll.

"I think a lot of people probably did experience PTSD," Setiawan says. "All that we ask as New Yorkers is that you respect the people that live here and the rules that have been put in place so that we can keep everybody safe."

Before you plan a trip to New York, familiarize yourself with restrictions by checking the state's coronavirus website. Chris Heywood, the executive vice president for global communications at NYC & Company, says that people from about 30 states are required to quarantine for 14 days on reaching New York, whether they're arriving by plane, car or bus.

Here's what else to know if you're considering traveling to New York during the pandemic.

## Where you can stay

Whether New York City hotels stayed open throughout the pandemic or are only just beginning to reopen, many are offering packages to bring in more business, Heywood says. They're also carrying out enhanced cleanings, putting up sneeze guards at front desks and sometimes suspending amenities (such as restaurants and fitness centers).

"It's definitely 'safety first'; that's kind of the ethos of the city right now," Heywood says.

Setiawan recommends finding a hotel based on what you would like to do on your trip. If your primary focus is visiting museums, find accommodation uptown.

"If you want to be by the water, there's 1 Hotel Brooklyn Bridge. It's beautiful and has a pool, and you can explore Brooklyn Heights and Dumbo and Cobble Hill," he says.

## What you can do

If your ideal New York visit includes going to a Broadway show, dancing at nightclubs or going to a concert, you will want to hold off on a trip. However, the government is allowing more and more businesses to reopen.

To navigate the ever-changing status of businesses, the city's tourism board is keeping an updated website of what's open and how to get tickets if needed. "There is a bevy of things to see and do right now," Heywood says.

To reopen as safely as possible, attractions have tweaked their operations in a number of ways. For example, visiting the High Line trail requires getting a free timed-entry pass ahead of time. The Empire State Building is limiting its visitor capacity by 50% and is performing enhanced cleaning. It also advertises that during its recent renovation, the building installed "state-of-the-art air purification" systems. Like the High Line, guests must have reservations and will have their temperatures checked before they are permitted to enter. They must also wear face covering and observe social distancing throughout the experience.



Pedestrians stroll along 5th Avenue, south of the Empire State Building.

As museums, including the American Museum of Natural History, the Museum of Modern Art and the Metropolitan Museum of Art, reopen, "many of them obviously are following all of those social distancing rules and [doing] pre-ticketing and limiting how many people can come in," Heywood says.

Setiawan is a fan of simply walking around the city and spending time in its parks, like Madison Square Park, Prospect Park and Washington Square Park.

He recommends setting aside hours to explore Central Park and take advantage of the free audio guides available at notable sites. The actress Julia Louis-Dreyfus narrates information about Bow Bridge, for example, and the actress Isabella Rossellini explains the Ramble.

"If you're uptown, there is Riverside Park, which is really beautiful and along the Hudson River," Setiawan says. "There's places to ride your bike. There's places to picnic. There are some tennis courts up there."

## What you can eat and drink

New York City's bars and restaurants have been deeply wounded by the pandemic, and the list of permanently closed establishments is still growing. As you visit places to eat and drink, whether you're staying there or taking

your order to go, be mindful of the hospitality industry's trauma.

"You're watching someone drown - try and be a little bit more empathetic," says Sother Teague, the beverage director of the world-renowned bar Amor y Amargo.

Teague's advice to visitors who want to be respectful bargoers includes tipping well -- fewer customers means fewer tips for employees who rely on the gratuities to pay rent. Plus, employees are doing extra work to set up safe sidewalk accommodations. Teague also recommends getting to bars early. The city's coronavirus restrictions require guests to leave establishments by 11 p.m., so bars need more business earlier in the evening. Finally, consider ordering bottled cocktails to go if they're available.

"You can get your cocktails to go and walk around the city; you couldn't do that prior to the pandemic. The open-container laws were different," Setiawan says. "It's nice that that's been relaxed a bit so you can support your favorite bars, try to help people out and also have a great cocktail to go. Who doesn't want that?"

Setiawan's favorite places to grab takeout during the pandemic have been Tappo Thin Crust Pizza and restaurants in Manhattan's Chinatown, "since they were the first restaurants to be affected due to misplaced fear and racism," he says. He recommends two restaurants: Tasty Hand-pulled Noodles; and Noodle Village, for soup dumplings.

Setiawan also recommends checking out a self-guided food crawl hosted by the coronavirus relief organization Send Chinatown Love. Through September, the crawl highlights 13 restaurants, cafes, bakeries and other businesses, in hopes of bring tourism back to the neighborhood.

For outdoor dining, Setiawan has enjoyed Marea across the street from Central Park for pasta and seafood, and Rezdora. "Whenever I go there, I feel like I'm going to a friend's house because everybody's just so lovely," he says. "The food is great, but also the people are great. So it makes you want to go back and you feel like a local."

-THE WASHINGTON POST



Patrons sit at temporary outdoor seating in China Town, Manhattan.



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## United plans India, Africa flights to diversify route map

United Airlines Holdings will add new nonstop flights to Africa and India to serve customers visiting friends and relatives, as the carrier revamps an international network beset by weak business traffic.

Destinations such as Lagos, Nigeria, and Bangalore, India, will focus on large diasporas living in the U.S. and will give United greater network diversity, said Patrick Quayle, vice president of international network and alliances. Traffic from trips to see friends and family has withstood the coronavirus pandemic better than other segments, particularly corporate travel, he said.

"It's us rebuilding our network in a new way," Quayle said. "We're not just going to put the chess pieces back on the board the way they used to be."

Most of the new routes reflect United's plans for a smaller North Atlantic schedule in summer 2021, given heavy travel restrictions imposed by the U.S. and European governments. The airline expects that its European schedule next summer will largely reflect the capacity it has deployed this fall, Quayle said. Internationally, United will fly about 40% of its 2019 schedule next month.

United in December will begin a daily nonstop from Chicago to New Delhi followed by a daily San Francisco-Bangalore flight in early 2021, the company said in statement Wednesday. American Airlines Group Inc. also plans a new flight to the southern India tech hub in 2021, from Seattle.

Next year, United plans new service three times a week from Washington to Lagos

and to Accra, Ghana, as well as a new daily flight from Newark, New Jersey, to Johannesburg. That flight will complement seasonal service from Newark to Cape Town that United began in December 2019.

Delta Air Lines Inc. serves Johannesburg nonstop from Atlanta and both Accra and Lagos from New York's John F. Kennedy International. In October, Delta will add a seasonal one-stop Cape Town flight on its service from Johannesburg to Atlanta. State-owned South African Airways is insolvent and hasn't operated for more than five months.

On Thursday, United will also begin its first nonstop from Chicago to Tel Aviv, operating three times a week. El Al Israel Airlines had planned to start that route in March, just as the pandemic began decimating international travel.

For the summer of 2021, United expects that Hawaii will become a favored destination and will add four weekly nonstops from Chicago to Kona on the Big Island and from Newark to Maui.

Hawaii essentially closed its tourism industry this year by requiring a 14-day self-quarantine upon arrival. The state tentatively plans to resume tourism Oct. 1 for visitors with proof of a negative coronavirus test.

"We've seen it in our data -- there's a lot of demand for Hawaii," Quayle said.

United stock tumbled 58% this year through Tuesday, the worst drop on a Standard & Poor's index of the five biggest U.S. airlines.



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# India Parliament Resumes With Modi Bracing For Virus Debate

By BIBHUDATTA PRADHAN,  
ABHIJIT ROY CHOWDHURY

Indian lawmakers returned to the nation's parliament for the first time since the start of the pandemic with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government bracing for a tumultuous session as the country sets new global records in coronavirus infections, and with a tense border standoff with China dominating the headlines.

The worst economic slowdown amid major economies is also expected to drive debate, although the question hour — in which lawmakers seek direct replies from ministers — has been suspended in a move that's happened only in times of war or national emergency, prompting criticism from the opposition.

Countries around the world have been grappling with how to conduct legislative business during the pandemic. In India this parliament session will be marked by several firsts. The Covid-19 epidemic has forced the overhaul of logistics and infrastructure to maintain social distancing among members.

Members are required to get tested for the virus no more than 72 hours before the start of the parliament session, according to a bulletin from the upper house or Rajya Sabha. Some senior lawmakers have informed the secretariat of both houses they will skip the session to avoid exposing themselves to possible infection. The average age of members of 545-seat lower house or Lok Sabha is 54 and that of the 250-member upper house is 63 years —



A woman undergoes covid-19 testing in New Delhi on Sept. 8, 2020. India is adding more than 80,000 confirmed infections per day, with about 71,000 deaths so far, numbers experts say are likely being under-counted.

BLOOMBERG PHOTO BY T. NARAYAN/BLOOMBERG

putting many in the high-risk group for serious complications from covid-19.

Ultraviolet germicidal irradiation in the air conditioning system will be used, while polycarbonate sheets will separate galleries from chambers, additional display screens and special cables connecting the two houses have been installed.

At least 25 legislators, across the two houses of parliament, have so far tested

positive for the virus, according to officials with knowledge of the matter, who asked not to be identified citing rules on speaking to the media.

A spokesman for the parliamentary affairs ministry wasn't immediately available for comment.

The session comes as Modi struggles to contain the spread of the virus, which is growing at one of the fastest paces in world

and adding as many as 95,000 case each day. India is now the second worst affected country with more than 4.7 million infections and has the highest death toll after U.S. and Brazil.

India's strict lockdown, implemented in late March to contain the outbreak, led to the biggest contraction among major economies with gross domestic product shrinking 23.9% in the three months to June from a year earlier, resulting in millions of job losses.

Modi's administration is also working to de-escalate tensions along the disputed Himalayan border with China, where some 20 soldiers have been killed.

The main opposition Congress party intends to push the government over what it says are its failure to contain the coronavirus epidemic and manage relations with its nuclear-armed neighbor, China.

"We will demand white paper on China's aggression along the Line of Actual Control, raise the issue of handing of Covid that is ravaging the country and highlight mismanagement of economy that lead to free fall of GDP," said Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury, leader of Congress party in the lower house of parliament. "We will push the government to the corner."

The session, scheduled to end Oct. 1, will take up 11 bills to replace existing ordinances and some other legislation, including three bills on labor reforms, according to a government statement.

-BLOOMBERG

## India Considers Emergency Authorization Of Vaccine As COVID-19 Cases Surge

By RAJENDRA JADHAV

-MUMBAI

India said on Sunday it was considering granting an emergency authorization for a COVID-19 vaccine, particularly for the elderly and people in high-risk workplaces, as the country's number of reported infections passed 4.75 million.

India, which has consistently reported over 1,000 COVID-19 deaths daily this month, has now recorded 78,586 fatalities from the disease. It lags only the United States globally in overall number of infections, but it has been adding more daily cases than the United States since mid-August.

"India is considering emergency authorization of a COVID-19 vaccination," said Health Minister Harsh Vardhan. "If there is a consensus we may go ahead with it, especially in the case of senior citizens and people working in high-risk settings."

Vardhan said the timeline on Phase III trials could be shortened by giving emergency authorization, but stressed no corners would be cut in clinical trials and that a vaccine would only be made available



A health worker in personal protective equipment (PPE) collects a swab sample from a woman amidst the spread of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) at Indira Gandhi International Airport, in New Delhi, September 12, 2020.

when the government could ensure its safety and efficacy.

He said no date has been set for a vaccine launch, but added results of trials

should be clear by the first quarter of 2021.

"A vaccine expert group has been established recently by the government to look into various issues related to the delivery of

vaccines to vulnerable populations,"

The comments came as the Indian health ministry reported 94,372 new COVID-19 cases and 1,114 deaths on Sunday.

The government's efforts to kickstart the economy, which saw a 23.9% contraction in the April-June quarter, have been hampered by the surge in cases.

The western state of Maharashtra, the nation's richest and a key industrial hub, has recorded more than 1.03 million infections.

In a briefing on Sunday, the state's chief minister, Uddhav Thackeray, urged residents to wear masks, maintain social distancing and avoid crowds, amid growing fatigue over a drawn-out lockdown that has made many people lax about precautions.

The state has been easing various restrictions gradually and it recently allowed hotels to operate under certain conditions, though many businesses remain shut. Thackeray said Maharashtra was considering reopening dine-in restaurants and gyms following appeals from business owners.

-REUTERS



ASTROLOGY

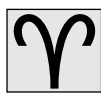


# This week for you

By DR. PREM KUMAR SHARMA

E-mail: psharma@premaastrologer.com Contact No - 01147033152/40532026

**ARIES:** You may have to face some uncomfortable questions on the social front. An old ailment may play up and make you suffer. Some of you may get an out of town posting, which is not to your liking. Finding a suitable place to stay may pose difficulty. Stiff competition on the academic front may affect your morale. Match making process may be underway for the eligible in the family. Curb wastage on the financial front.



**TAURUS:** You may hold ill will against someone at work. Chances of botching up an important matter cannot be ruled out. Financial problems may give you sleepless nights. You will be inclined to put in your bit in an ongoing project at work and reap rich rewards. An upcoming celebration on the social front promises to keep you happily engaged. Falling in love with someone of your style and tastes cannot be ruled out! A tiff with spouse is possible.



**GEMINI:** This is the right time to take the bull by the horns. You are likely to preempt what is required to be done on the professional front, even before being told. A feather in the cap is likely for those who have taken up higher studies. You will save much by going in only for discounts and bargains. Those ailing will do themselves a favour by undergoing medical check-up. Your romantic aspirations are likely to be realised.



**CANCER:** Someone calling a spade a spade is likely to convince you most tellingly. You will be meticulous in whatever you accomplish on the professional front in this week. Superiors are likely to delegate additional powers to you at work. Those fearing the worst on the health front can rest easy as no major problems are foreseen. Financially, you will have enough to indulge in a bit of splurging! You will be able to resurrect your flagging love life..



**LEO:** There is someone waiting for you to do as you had promised. You are likely to come in total control of things in your sphere of activity. Academic front may find you brimming with confidence and ready to take on the competition. Your excellent communication skills will keep you on the right side of those who matter. Financial front grows stronger as you come across big money. You are likely to outdo others in gaining popularity.



**VIRGO:** Right timing is the key for you to achieve, what you have set out for. You may be instrumental in carrying out some major changes on the home front. Professionally, you are likely to outdo others. Excellent performance on the academic front may bring you nearer to a scholarship. Health is set to improve for those feeling under the weather. There is much that is not happening on the romantic front, so do something about it.



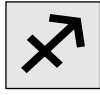
**LIBRA:** You may have to be on your toes, as someone most demanding may harass you. A lukewarm response to something organised by you is indicated. Someone you have passing acquaintance with may start giving romantic feelers, but take your call. Undertaking a journey to meet someone close is on the cards. You will need to be attentive to the directions of a senior to avoid embarrassment later. Don't leave money matters to someone else, handle them yourself.



**SCORPIO:** You may have to exercise your influence urgently, if you don't want an opportunity to slip through your fingers. If you are trying to win someone over to your side, you can fail miserably. Office politics may get the better of you. Taking things lightly on the work front can get you into trouble. Money due to you may be delayed. Your depleting bank balance seems alarming, so do something about it. You may go on a vacation.



**SAGITTARIUS:** A special week is indicated. Your set routine is likely to prove beneficial for health. Increased earning is indicated and will help ease your financial situation. You are likely to take up a responsibility on the professional front and discharge it satisfactorily. Much love and understanding is indicated with spouse. Remaining cool is the key to your victory over your adversaries on the social front. You will not be taken in by false promises on the romantic front.



**CAPRICORN:** A responsibility given to you at work will need resources, so get cracking. You are likely to gain some importance on the family front by interacting socially. Making new friends is possible. A pleasurable evening is foreseen with lover on the romantic front. Those who love to drive will get an opportunity to undertake a long journey. You may feel reluctant to part with your money, even if it is for a genuine reason.



**AQUARIUS:** You will remain in the right frame of mind and discharge your duties well. Some good investment opportunities may come your way. You may complete a workplace task to the best of your ability, but may not feel fully satisfied. Some tense moments are likely for those involved in a selection process, but success is foretold. You will have to curb your habit of volunteering information not asked for, as it may cause friction on the family front.



**PISCES:** Those looking for a suitable job may not find things favourable. Too much academic pressure may be on your head and may even make you desperate. People who have been avoiding you in the past will appear more communicative. A change in attitude may find you much closer to someone than before. Smooth going on the work front will enable you to implement something new. Those in love will commit their undying love for each other.



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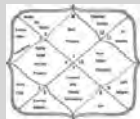
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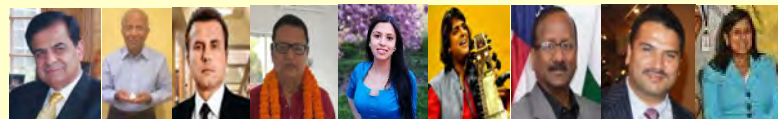
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# Pfizer CEO Says Americans Could Get Covid Shot Before Year-End

By RILEY GRIFFIN, ANNA EDNEY

**P**fizer Inc. Chief Executive Officer Albert Bourla said it's "likely" the U.S. will deploy a covid-19 vaccine to the public before year-end and that the company is prepared for that scenario, pushing back against more tepid expectations shared by health authorities.

Bourla said Sunday on CBS's "Face the Nation" that he's "quite comfortable" that the vaccine the company is developing in partnership with BioNTech SE is safe and that it could be available to Americans before 2021, contingent on an approval from U.S. regulators at the U.S. Food and Drug Administration.

"I cannot say what the FDA will do," Bourla said. "But I think it's a likely scenario, and we are preparing for it."

New York-based Pfizer and Germany's BioNTech are seen as frontrunners in the race to develop a coronavirus vaccine, alongside Moderna Inc. and AstraZeneca Plc. Bourla said Pfizer and its partner have a 60% chance of knowing the efficacy of its still experimental vaccine by the end of October.

"Of course that doesn't mean that it works; that means that we'll know if it



BLOOMBERG PHOTO BY ZACH GIBSON

Albert Bourla, chief operating officer and chief executive officer of Pfizer Inc., listens during a Senate Finance Committee hearing on drug pricing in February 2019.

works," Bourla said. The timing of clinical trial results depends on enough people in the study getting covid-19 to make a calculation. But positive results could clear the way for approval, he said.

Bourla's assurances come just as Pfizer and BioNTech have expanded the number of clinical trial participants they're seeking in order to include more people with diverse backgrounds.

The companies said in a statement Saturday that they expect to enroll the

30,000 patients they originally sought for its final-phase clinical trial this week. They are also expanding that target to 44,000 participants to include people as young as 16, and to allow those with HIV and Hepatitis B and Hepatitis C.

Bourla said on CBS that they will also focus on recruiting more people of color, including African Americans and Latinos, to the late-stage trial in coming weeks. He said the study participants are currently 60% White and 40% people of color, and that older volunteers make up 44% of the cohort.

The companies joined other vaccine developers last week in an unusual pledge to only submit applications with the FDA for vaccine clearance when the drugs have shown to be safe and effective in large clinical trials. That followed concerns that President Donald Trump is pushing the agency to cut corners to get a vaccine to market before the Nov. 3 election.

Bourla said part of the reason Pfizer didn't accept taxpayer dollars to fund its covid-19 vaccine research and development was to avoid government bureaucracy and influence. "I wanted to keep Pfizer out of politics," he said.

Trump has said publicly that a vaccine could be authorized by the November elec-

tion even though other top U.S. health officials, including National Institutes of Health Director Francis Collins, have said they think closer to the end of the year is more realistic. Even then, enough vaccine won't be available to cover most Americans until well into 2021.

Former FDA Commissioner Scott Gottlieb, also speaking on CBS, said it's "atypical" that the approval process of any drug or vaccine would be discussed within a political context.

"I don't think we're going to see an authorization before the election," said Gottlieb, who sits on Pfizer's board of directors. He added that American's distrust in a covid-19 vaccine will likely dissipate after the election.

The former FDA chief said he expects most Americans won't be vaccinated until 2021 or later.

"This is likely to be a very staged market entry," Gottlieb said. He described a process in which regulators will first issue an emergency use approval providing a limited supply of shots to those at high risk of infection, including frontline workers. Then the FDA will "slowly walk down that approval" to make it more broadly available, Gottlieb said.

-BLOOMBERG

## Telemedicine Takes Off As Pandemic Discourages In-Person Treatment

By MICHELLE CORTEZ

**W**hen the character Elroy came down with "Venus virus" on the futuristic cartoon "The Jetsons" in 1962, his mom called the doctor -- who appeared in the living room via a video screen.

Actual telemedicine, health care delivered from a distance, was in its infancy at the time, but the real thing has more or less caught up with that vision. Until recently, its impact was limited by concerns for safety, accuracy and privacy. Now, because of the coronavirus pandemic, its use has skyrocketed as people across the world eschew visiting a doctor's office out of fear of exposure to the novel pathogen.

When the coronavirus hit, medical practitioners started ramping up their virtual offerings -- notably appointments via videoconferencing apps such as FaceTime and Zoom -- as a way to continue caring for patients and keep their businesses alive. At the same time, regulators loosened the rules that had restricted telemedicine. In the U.S., for example, officials eased enforcement of the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act, which sets strict privacy standards. Also, government insurance programs Medicare and Medicaid expanded the types of services covered and began paying for virtual visits at the higher, in-person rate. A report from McKinsey & Co. in June concluded that 46% of consumers in the U.S. were using telemedicine, up from 11% a year earlier. Industry analysts expect the trend toward acceptance to continue.

Coronavirus will likely remain a health threat for the next several years, until immunity gained from vaccines and infections is widespread globally. By then, telemedicine is likely to be an embedded part of the health-care ecosystem. McKinsey estimated that with changes such as replacing 20% of emergency room visits and 25% of health-care office visits, telemedicine eventually could account for a fifth of all Medicare, Medicaid and commercial insurance spending on outpatient, office and home health care. That



BLOOMBERG PHOTO BY T. NARAYAN

Civil defense members and counselors work at the Covid-19 district surveillance and telemedicine hub in New Delhi, India, on Aug. 2, 2020.

would amount to \$250 billion in 2020, compared with the \$3 billion the industry generated annually in the U.S. before coronavirus hit.

-- The background

For most of its history, telemedicine was used mainly by people in hard-to-reach areas -- in the most extreme case, astronauts on the International Space Station. It was seen as a small, bonus product for health-care providers who primarily cared for patients in person.

In the U.S., Medicare, which covers the elderly and often sets industry standards, was one of the main stumbling blocks: It only paid for telemedicine if patients were in rural areas and went to a local medical facility that connected them remotely to experts. Restrictions on health professionals working across state lines -- since suspended for telemedicine -- further constrained its use. For years, demand for the technology rose slowly, with the most enthusiastic users younger people accustomed to connecting with people and getting goods and services over the internet.

The largest providers focused on virtual urgent care, helping patients get immediate visits, often with doctors they didn't know. Growth was held back by concerns among patients, health-care organizations and doctors that telemedicine would lead to lower-quality care, poor results and inconsistencies in diagnoses and treatment plans.

-- The argument

Now that patients and physicians are on board, they've found unexpected benefits. For patients, telemedicine can make it faster, cheaper and safer to get medical care. They don't have to take as much time off regular activities, travel to the doctor's office, possibly pay for parking, or wait for the start of an appointment, perhaps in a room crowded with sick people.

For physicians, the practice, once established, often saves time, allowing them to care for more patients and potentially increase profits. A growing body of evidence shows that telemedicine is just as good as in-person visits for many types of medical care, and even better for others. A study from the University of Texas Southwestern found it led to an increase in patients getting specialized care and fewer missed appointments in April 2020 compared to the same month a year earlier.

A 2018 study in rural and remote regions of Australia found that a telemedicine program connecting local clinics to cardiology specialists at a metropolitan location boosted testing for heart disease by 42% in a single year; it reduced driving time by more than 300 miles (500 km) per patient and shaved about two weeks off the time required to get a test and more than a month off the wait to receive results. Still, limitations remain. Nothing replaces the nuances doctors can pick up using all their senses in an actual visit. Even the basics, such as listening to the heart or getting a blood pressure reading, can't be done remotely in most cases.

Lots of patients, including many who could benefit the most, have difficulty accessing telemedicine.

-THE WASHINGTON POST



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**Divorce Mediation When The Couple Is Polarized**



By Talaiya Safdar, Esq.

**M**ediation is a collaborative approach to resolving conflicts.

Instead of having both parties pitted against each other in adversarial roles the parties work together to move toward resolution. Wait, how can we move together toward resolution if we want different things? Sounds like a bunch of therapy mumbo jumbo? Think again.

**What You Want & Why You Want It.**

As spouses coming to the end of the marriage or in any conflict between two people the discord perpetuates as long as both parties stay rooted in their positions.

It is the role of the mediator to guide you out of your positions and into your interest, to guide you away from what you want and toward why you want it. Why is this important?

The classic example is two sisters fighting over the only orange in the family pantry. Each sister must have the entire orange for herself, anything less is unacceptable. Regardless of how hard the parent tries to dissuade them, they stand firm rooted in

their decisions like a tree in the hard ground. This is their position. A parent takes each daughter and separately asks them why she wants the orange. One says she wants to drink the juice; the other wants to use the rind to make a dessert. What each sister wants is her position, why she wants it is her interest. The simple and obvious solution is to give the rind to one after the juice has been squeezed for the other. Thereby, addressing both sisters' interests.

When parties move out of their

emotionally charged. It is a process that takes time, however it is a proven model that does help build communication skills for both parties to carry with them through their lives.

**When can divorce mediation work?**

When there is a decision for a divorce but there is still an area of the divorce that there is no agreement for example: child custody, support, visitation, marital assets, spousal support, residency of children, equitable distribution, division of assets etc.



Photo: Dreamstime.com

positional space and into a space where they identify and recognize their needs/interests they become aware that even though their positions may be opposed their underlying interests may not be and suddenly they release their roots from the hard ground they have knotted themselves into.

This is a very simple example that illustrates an important tenet of mediation. A skillful mediator will be able to facilitate a productive dialogue even when one or both parties become



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# Dance Show Ropes In Nora Fatehi After Judge Malaika Arora Tests Positive For Coronavirus

By SHRUTI DHAWAN

**S**hooting of the immensely popular dance reality show 'India's Best Dancer' was postponed for a week after Bollywood actress Malaika Arora who is on the judging panel tested positive for COVID-19.

But avid fans did not have to wait long. Actress and singer Nora Fatehi replaces Malaika while the latter recovers. The crew was going to shoot an episode on Monday, September 7, but it has now been postponed.

Malaika announced her diagnosis on Sept. 8, 2020, on Instagram.

"Today I have tested positive for coronavirus but I want to inform you all that I am feeling fine. I am asymptomatic and following all the required protocols and will be quarantined at home as instructed by my doctor and authorities. I request all of you to stay



PHOTO: INSTAGRAM MALAIKA ARORA

Malaika Arora, one of the judges on the reality dance show "India's Best Dancer".

calm and safe. Thank you for all your support," she said.

Ranjeet Thakur, producer of the show, told Times of India, "Earlier, we felt that there was not much time left to rope in another special judge on such short notice. But, thankfully, Nora who had come as a special guest for an earlier episode, will step in again this week as a special judge. I am thankful that she has agreed. Malaika will come back on the show after she recovers from COVID-19."

Like every other TV show, the show's producers say they have taken extensive care on the set to ensure that social distancing is maintained as much as possible and sanitizers are readily available.

The show has three judges Geeta Kapur, Malaika Arora and Terence Lewis. It airs at 8pm EST on Sony Entertainment Television and has a large following in the U.S.

## Two 20-Somethings Meet Cute – Way Too Cute – In 'The Broken Hearts Gallery'

By MICHAEL O'SULLIVAN

**T**wo 20-somethings meet hyper-cute in "The Broken Hearts Gallery." Lucy (Geraldine Viswanathan) – a quippy Manhattanite who has been dumped recently by her superficial boyfriend and fired from her job as an art gallery assistant – has accidentally jumped into the back seat of an idling vehicle she mistakes for her Uber, only to find that the sexy-and-single driver, Nick (Dacre Montgomery), is accommodating enough to take her home.

He's also enough of a gentleman to never make a move.

In the unlikely case that you've never seen a rom-com before, you may be in for a mildly pleasant jolt, 90 minutes or so later. All others beware: The route of the film, like Lucy's drive home, is preordained – a Google Maps version of a plot, with absolutely no surprises.

The polished if perfunctory directorial debut of TV writer Natalie Krinsky ("Gossip Girl"), "Broken Hearts" features an attractive, appealing cast, including, in addition to the two leads – each of whom oozes weapons-grade charm – Phillipa Soo ("Hamilton"), Utkarsh Ambudkar ("Brittany Runs a Marathon"), Bernadette Peters ("The Good Fight") and Arturo Castro ("Broad City").

But Krinsky's strenuously arch screenplay, stuffed to bursting with an ironic detachment born of millennial angst – and zingers that feel less like real human conversation than the voice-overs of comedians simultaneously narrating their own sad lives – never so much as scratches the surface of genuine emotion. It's all gloss and glitz, grunged up for the camera with the grubby patina of the bohemian life in New York City. Case in point: Nick lives in a former YMCA he is converting, seemingly single-handedly, into a boutique hotel. Where does he get the money? In this cinematic version of the Big Apple, such considerations only spoil the fun.

The title of the film comes from an idea of Lucy's. Something of a pack rat, she has held onto old mementos of past lovers, hitting upon the idea of opening a gallery where the city's lovelorn can dump their romantic keepsakes – a sort of performative art therapy. Lo and behold, Lucy's idea – housed in Nick's shabby-chic lobby – goes viral, attracting the attention of strangers and, ultimately, New York magazine.

This is actually not a bad idea, even though someone else's



GEORGE KOUCINE/THE SHAR PICTURES VIA THE WASHINGTON POST

Geraldine Viswanathan and Dacre Montgomery in "The Broken Hearts Gallery."

trinkets and trash have no inherent meaning for the rest of us, apart from the tales that come attached to them. But it doesn't quite work in a movie, despite the gimmick of recording several contributors talking directly to the camera about the stories behind their artifacts. The gallery itself seems like something that would work better on, say, Instagram than in a bricks-and-mortar art space – let alone a nearly two-hour film.

Be that as it may, "Broken Hearts" wends its way toward the foregone conclusion with a single-minded determination that is admirable, if not exactly unexpected. Both Lucy and Nick (platonic friends, right?) still have previous entanglements with old flames that have to be dealt with before – well, you know.

It would be churlish of me (and, for most of you, completely unnecessary) to spell out what happens in this shiny and sugarcoated chronicle of sheer nonsense.

Rating: 1.5 stars. PG-13. Contains sexuality throughout, some crude references, strong language and drug references. 109 minutes.

Ratings Guide: Four stars masterpiece, three stars very good, two stars OK, one star poor, no stars waste of time.

-THE WASHINGTON POST

## Netflix Argues For Free Speech In Court Spat With Indian Tycoons Over 'Bad Boy Billionaires'



REUTERS/MIKE BLAKE/FILE PHOTO

The Netflix logo is pictured on a television in this illustration photograph taken in Encinitas, California, U.S., January 18, 2017.

By ADITYA KALRA

-NEW DELHI

**A**n Indian court's decision to stall the release of a Netflix Inc series on four Indian tycoons facing fraud allegations "freezes free speech" and hurts the company financially, the U.S. streaming giant has argued in a court filing seen by Reuters.

"Bad Boy Billionaires" is a documentary series about liquor tycoon Vijay Mallya, Sahara group's Subrata Roy, Indian IT executive Ramalinga Raju and jeweller Nirav Modi. Netflix put the show on hold this month on order of a state court where Sahara alleged violation of Roy's privacy rights.

Roy is currently on bail in a case where he was ordered by court to repay billions of dollars to investors in a scheme which was found to be illegal. Roy denied wrongdoing in the case and has already repaid investors, his counsel said.

Arguing for free speech in an appeal at the High Court of Bihar, Netflix said the docuseries was an assimilation of information available in public domain. The filing has not previously been reported.

The pre-publication injunction granted by the court "freezes free speech," Netflix said in the filing earlier this month, which was reviewed by Reuters. It argued it has a right to free speech "on a matter of public interest."

Some Netflix shows in India have faced court challenges and police complaints for obscenity or for hurting sentiments. The ongoing legal spat is among the most high-profile ones Netflix has faced in India, one of its key growth markets.

The court in Bihar that gave the injunction earlier had said the series "would certainly damage the reputation" of Roy. Sahara and Netflix declined to comment. Roy could not be reached for comment.

The U.S. streaming giant has argued it had invested large sums and done worldwide publicity on the series. The injunction, Netflix argued, resulted in irreparable monetary loss, as well as affected its goodwill and reputation.

Netflix describes "Bad Boy Billionaires" as an "investigative docuseries (which) explores the greed, fraud and corruption that built up – and ultimately brought down – India's most infamous tycoons."

-REUTERS



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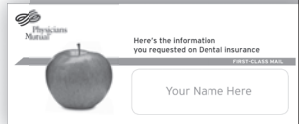
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09/04-09/18 SH

**NORTH CAROLINA**  
Housekeepers and Desk Clerks needed for North Carolina State. Ready to train. Free Accommodation provided.  
**Call Patel: ( 828) 446-3080**

9/04-10/02 SL

**OHIO**  
Hotel in Springfield Ohio requires single/couple for Housekeeping & Front Desk (Computer skills & English must ). Legal status must. Free accommodation provided.  
**Call: 717-669- 6217**

08/21-09/18 SH

**PENNSYLVANIA**  
Franchise Motel in Scranton, PA looking for Single and Couple for Housekeeping,Front desk, Night Auditor, Breakfast attendant and laundry person. Legal status must.  
**Call Bhavin Shah: 570-905-3525** (9am to 5pm -Mon to Fri)  
**Email: comfort18507@gmail.com**

09/11-10/09 SD

**PENNSYLVANIA**  
Franchise Hotels in Pittsburgh, PA need Front Desk/ Housekeeping, couples/ single required Immediately in Pittsburgh, PA. Accommodation provided. Attractive salary.  
**Jay: (724) 321-6808**

8/21-09/18 SH

**LANCASTER, PA**  
Immediate Hire : Need Couple / Single For Front Desk(Basic Computer skills & English must ) & Housekeeping help for Small Motel in Lancaster PA. Free accommodation provided. No experience required. Will train if needed.  
**Call NICK 484-686-3013** ( 9am to 5pm)

08/28-09/18 SH

**PENNSYLVANIA**  
Franchise Motel in Philadelphia, PA need Couple for Housekeeping. Accommodations will be provided. Legal status is Required.  
**Call: (267) 391-8812** (9am-8pm EST.)

08/28-09/18 SD

**PENNSYLVANIA**  
FRANCHISE MOTEL IN PENNSYLVANIA NEAR HERSHEY NEEDS FRONT DESK/MANAGER AND ALSO HOUSEKEEPING STAFF.IMMEDIATE OPENING. LEGAL STATUS REQUIRED. ACCOMMODATION MAY BE PROVIDED. CONTACT (717) 475 4787

09/18-09/18-sd

**HOTEL FURNITURE FIXTURE FOR SALE**

**HOTEL FURNITURE FOR SALE**  
Marriott Courtyard/ Quality Inn Hotel and Suites in Valparaiso, Indiana. 110 Unit Hotel closed, Sale of furniture, fixture like Beds, Beddings, Carpet, Curtains, 32 Inch Phillips TV Set, Microwave, Mini Refrigerator, Time clock etc, in each room. One Coke Machine, Two Ice Machines, Two Commercial Laundry Machines and Dryers, Commercial Kitchen Equipment, Twenty Restaurant Tables with 80 Chairs, Fully Equipped Fitness Center and Standard Quality Inn Sign approved by Choice Hotels,  
**Call Anjum Rana: 574-780-2200**

9/04-09/25 MS



**CLASSIFIED**

**MOTEL**

**MOTEL HELP WANTED**

**Continued from Page 25**

**PENNSYLVANIA & NJ**

Need Front Desk & Housekeeping Couple / Single for Franchise Motel in Philadelphia & Pittsburgh area - PA and Cherry Hill, NJ.  
Free accommodation provided.  
Call Rashmi / Mona (610) 279-0150

7/24-07/16/21 SL

**TEXAS**

Franchise Motels in Houston, Texas need Single/Couple for manager, front desk and housekeeping. Good pay with accommodation will be provided.  
Call: Dipak Patel: 361-571-9490 (9 AM to 3 PM CST)

9/11-10/02 SD

**VIRGINIA**

Quality Inn in Virginia is now hiring for Front Desk Representatives & Housekeeping single / couples, Choice Hotels experience preferred for desk position. Accommodation provided and excellent pay.  
Call Rushi: 443-243-3797

09/04-09/25 JG

**MOTEL HELP WANTED**

**VIRGINIA**

Franchise Choice Motel in Virginia required only experienced Single or couple for front desk and night audit. and needed a housekeeping couple too. Legal status must. Good salary & accommodation provided  
Call: 757-472-5796.  
Email: sirdrpatel@gmail.com

02/07-01/29/21 SD

**VIRGINIA**

NEED FRONT DESK CLERKS for Day shift and Night shift for Days Inn property in Richmond VA 23225. Experienced, Fluent English, Computer literate and Legal Must.  
Call: (804) 591-1755  
Email: MKLHotel@Gmail.com

2/26/21fn- SD

**LYNCHBURG, VA**

26 Rooms Independent Motel near Lynchburg, VA 24572 need Couple to manage Motel. Experienced, Computer literate, English and Legal must. Free accommodation provided.  
Call Anil (804) 928 3914  
Jashu (434) 851 6060

09/18 -10/16 - SL

**MATRIMONIAL**

**Matrimonial**

**FEMALE**

**Gujarati Jain** parents invite correspondence for their innocently divorced, 31 years/ 5' 2", slim, beautiful, US Citizen daughter, only from US based individuals. Email bio-data & recent photograph to: [Shahashok1965@gmail.com](mailto:Shahashok1965@gmail.com)

9/11-10/09 SH

**Seeking well placed** professional, settled in Atlanta for a 39yr / 5' 3". Well settled Attorney in Atlanta. Please email bio-data with recent photographs to: [sonalimports@yahoo.com](mailto:sonalimports@yahoo.com)

8/28-09/25-SH

**Patel parents** invite correspondence for USA born daughter, slim, beautiful, 38 yrs, 5'-3 1/2", doctor. Email bio-data & photograph: [shubhspd@gmail.com](mailto:shubhspd@gmail.com)

8/28-9/18 SL

**Seeking a Groom from Hindu** family for a USA born daughter of Gujarati family. Doctor by profession. Beautiful by look and nature. Located in the Mid Atlantic area. 28 years old. Height 5'6". Please contact at [snlgan@gmail.com](mailto:snlgan@gmail.com) for exchange of more details.

09/18-sd

**GUJARATI FAMILY SEEKS GROOM**

For Gujarati Girl, 33/ 5'4"/59 slim whitish working as a product manager with square Inc. of San Francisco, CA. MBA Yale University, ME Cornell University, BE Purdue University from well educated US citizen boy. Contact: [disha.patel225@gmail.com](mailto:disha.patel225@gmail.com), [bipinhpatel@gmail.com](mailto:bipinhpatel@gmail.com) or Call: 301-266-9400

09/18-10/09-sd

**Matrimonial**

**MALE**

**Gujarati Paach Gaam Patel** family invites correspondence for their US citizen Son, 5'8"/Age 34. Business Management in family business from a good looking family oriented girl. Student visa/ H1 visa holders are also welcome. Contact: [apatel18644@gmail.com](mailto:apatel18644@gmail.com)

9/11-10/02 SD

**Gujarati boy** 36 yrs, 5' 4", never married, MBA, Marketing Strategist, CA based looking for professional and family oriented girl. Caste no bar. Email Bio-data / photo: [karamsadboy@yahoo.com](mailto:karamsadboy@yahoo.com)

9/11-10/09 SL

**Gujarati Brahmin** parents invite correspondence for son, 30 yrs old Doctor of Pharmacy. Looking for Gujarati, veg girl from good family. Email bio/photo to: [pjshuk56@outlook.com](mailto:pjshuk56@outlook.com)

8/21-09/11 Sh

**Bengali Hindu male**, 45/5'8", owns Tutoring business, self sufficient, from good family; seeks educated, professional beautiful female with family values. Call 516-709-2953.

09/18-SH

**Matrimonial**

**MALE**

Looking for a beautiful bride, educated, vegetarian, smart, with strong family background; for a groom, 32/6', very fair, handsome, holding a good position in Govt. Email bio with picture: [umasengupta2@gmail.com](mailto:umasengupta2@gmail.com) Call: (718) 380-0724 after 5pm.

9/04-09/11 SH

**Looking for a professional bride**, bet 36-39, smart, with a good family background; for male, 45, educated, well placed Banker. Email bio with picture: [umasengupta2@gmail.com](mailto:umasengupta2@gmail.com) Call: (718) 380-0724

8/21-09/11 SH

**Parents of Muslim male**, Piping Designing Engineer, 29/5' 6", seek bride, preferably US citizen, educated, from good family. Call (908) 342-0487. Email: [mansuritasleem01@gmail.com](mailto:mansuritasleem01@gmail.com)

8/14-10/30 Sh

**Gujarati Vaishnav family** inviting correspondence for their US citizen son 5'11", Age 30, BBA. Working in Long Island, New York from a family oriented, well educated and settled girl. Contact: 516-493-1192. [viralhumtum@yahoo.com](mailto:viralhumtum@yahoo.com)

09/18-10/16-sd

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