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Members of FIA at the warehouse in Keasbey NJ where the supplies were packed and labelled.

At your service, Ma

FIA shipped 9 containers of medical cargo to India last week as part of its continued efforts to help its motherland tide over the Covid crisis

It was a proud moment for the Federation of India Associations and the entire Indian diaspora, when the last of the cargo containers was loaded to be shipped to India last week. There were nine such 40-foot containers, each containing essential medical equipment related to treatment of Covid-19 and aimed at helping India with preparing for the third wave of Covid-19 which, according to experts, is likely to strike in the coming months. The second wave in the months of April and May had had a disastrous effect on India. The country that had been among the first to respond to other nations' call for help had been brought down to its knees. There was acute shortage of oxygen, ventilators, BiPAP machines, oxymeters, etc. Thousands of lives were lost because of this shortage.

India has started preparations for the third wave. FIA stands with its motherland in her hour of need. Last week, it shipped cargo comprising 400,000 pulse oxymeters, ventilators, resuscitation bags, BiPAP machines, test kits, etc, from Keasbey, NJ to Navi Mumbai. Ventilators were sent via Air

India. The supplies were donated by the City of New York, while the rest of the logistics related to the shipment were handled by FIA.

General Secretary and executive committee member of FIA-NY NJ CT Parveen Bansal led the logistical efforts.

Deputy Consul General of New York Shatrughna Sinha was all praises for the team's efforts in taking charge of the cargo and managing its timely shipment. He also thanked all the sponsors for their contributions.

FIA Chairman Ankur Vaidya applauded the efforts of City of New York, Hon. Mayor Bill De Blasio and his team, Jennifer Geiling from the Mayor's office, CG-NY Randhir Jaiswal, DCG Shatrughna Sinha and the India team including Diwakar Mittal from NITI Aayog, Prime Minister's Office, Red Cross India, Air India, Maersk, R&A Logistics, besides sponsors including FIA President Anil Bansal, Kenny Desai, Board Member Prabir Roy, Executive Committee member Mahesh Dubal, Board Member Anand Patel. He also thanked executive members Haresh Shah, Saurin Parikh and Alok Kumar.

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Write to us!

Got feedback for us? We would love to hear about it. Have an event you want others to know about? Tell us. Clicked a pic worth sharing? Send it across. Your inputs are invaluable. You can mail your comments to editor@fianynjct.org

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Shraddhanjali



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Shree Jaswant Mody

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A quick glance

US announces \$41 million aid to India

India will receive an additional assistance to the tune of \$41 million from the United States towards its ongoing Covid battle. This fund will be used in areas like testing, pandemic-related mental health services, timely referrals to medical services and access to healthcare in remote areas, according to the United States Agency for International Development (USAID).

With this, the overall assistance provided by US to India has reached \$200 million, besides an additional \$500 million towards emergency supplies and training of over 214,000 frontline health workers, the USAID said.

9 Indian-Americans in Spelling Bee finals

The Indian-American kids have once again proved they have got their spellings right. Nine of the 11 finalists of the prestigious 2021 Scripps National Spelling Bee are from the community.

The nine are Bhavana Madini (13) from New York, Sreethan Gajula (14) from North Carolina, Ashrita Gandhari (14) from Virginia, Avani Joshi (13) from Illinois, Vivinsha Veduru (10) from Texas, Dhroov Bharatia (12) from Dallas, Vihaan Sibal (12) from Texas, Akshainie Kamma (13) from Texas and Chaitra Thummala (12) from San Francisco. The others are Roy Seligman (12) from The Bahamas and Zaila Avant-garde (14) from New Orleans.

The final round will be held on July 8. Last year, the contest had to be cancelled because of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Shalina Kumar is first South Asian fed judge

Indian-American circuit court chief judge Shalina D Kumar has been nominated by President Joe Biden as a federal judge for the Eastern District of Michigan. She will be the first federal judge of South Asian descent in Michigan, the White House has said. Kumar has served on the Oakland County Sixth Circuit Court since 2007. The Michigan Supreme Court appointed her the chief judge in January 2018.

Indian-American boy is world's youngest chess GM

Abhimanyu Mishra, 12, from New Jersey won the title in Budapest

#Budapest

The world chess arena has got its youngest star. Abhimanyu Mishra, a 12-year-old from New Jersey, was named the youngest chess grandmaster ever after scoring his third GM norm on June 30.

With this achievement, he broke the record of Russia's Sergey Karjakin who had held the title since 2003. Karjakin was 12 years and seven months old when he won the title. Mishra was 12 years, four months and 25 days old when he reached the milestone.

Abhimanyu already holds the title of the youngest International Master which he got in November 2019. At that time, he had broken the record of GM Rameshbabu Praggnanandha.

Abhimanyu was introduced to the game by his father Hemant, a data management professional, when he was just three.

He was then mentored by Gary Kasparov after he joined the latter's Young Stars Programme.

A player needs to win three GM norms

to be a grandmaster. To help him have a chance at it, his father took him to take him to Europe where there were more tournaments happening.

Abhimanyu got his first and second norms in April and May. However, he failed to win in the next three events. He got 2500 Elo points, a requirement to be a GM. He then won his third GM on June 30 after defeating Indian GM Leon Luke Mendonca in the final round.

Abhimanyu currently has a performance ELO rating of 2619 and is ranked 742 in the world. He aims to be the world champion someday.



Lights, sound, action...

Students of Mokshaa Dance Academy put up enthralling performances at their annual show conducted recently

#New Jersey

It was a riot of colours and movement as children as young as 3 and teens as old as 18 took to the stage of the annual function of Mokshaa Dance Academy recently.

There were a total of 16 performances, including two finales and a flash mob dance by the parents.



Mokshaa students in action



The youngest dancers performing



75TH YEAR OF INDIA'S INDEPENDENCE SUNDAY, AUGUST 15TH, 2021

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India to issue 5 lakh free tourist visas

Offer valid till March '22; aimed at reviving tourism industry

#New Delhi

One of the worst sufferers of the Covid-19 pandemic has been the travel and tourism industry. In a bid to revive the sector, the government of India last week announced that it would issue free tourist visas to 5 lakh tourists. This is among the slew of measures announced by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman.

This offer is valid until March 31, 2022, or until the figure of 5 lakh is reached, whichever is earlier. A tourist can avail of this offer only once.

Sitharaman, in her briefing, pointed out that India had 10.93 million foreign visitors in 2019 who spent \$30.098 billion on leisure and business. A foreign tourist stays in India for an average of 21 days, she said.

She also announced other measures to support stakeholders of the sector.

The travel and tourism sector has suffered huge losses across the world, thanks to the Covid-19 pandemic and the resulting lockdown everywhere. Even when the travel restrictions were removed after the first wave, many were reluctant to travel for fear of contracting the virus.



Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman

Young hopes pinned on America's Children Act

Bill proposes to provide pathway to permanent residency to minors who arrived on dependent visa and risk deportation at 21 years of age

#Washington

What happens when you are forced to leave the place where you grew up, made friends and went to school and college? What when you must head to a place which, though is the place your family came from, is entirely unfamiliar to you?

That's the uncertainty the children of non-green card holders in the US have been facing for a very long time now. And that's the uncertainty the America's Cultivation of Hope and Inclusion for Long-Term Dependents Raised and Educated Natively (America's CHILDREN) Act hopes to address.

The legislation was introduced by Rep Deborah Ross, a Wake County Democrat, along with Reps Raja Krishnamoorthi (Illinois), Mariannette Miller-Meeks (Iowa) and Young Kim (California). It proposed to ensure that

legal immigrants who came to the US as minors and grew up in the country are not forced to leave. According to estimates, of the nearly 2 lakh children on dependent visa in the US, 70% are Indians.

What's happening

The children of parents who are in the country on an H1-B visa get a dependent H-4 visa. However, that expires once they get married or cross the age of 21, whichever is earlier. If their parents fail to qualify for a green card before that, they must either get another temporary stay visa or leave the country.

The Bill, if approved, will allow them to apply for permanent residence in the US. It will also allow them to work here and also reclaim their position in the queue to get green cards if their parents get these.

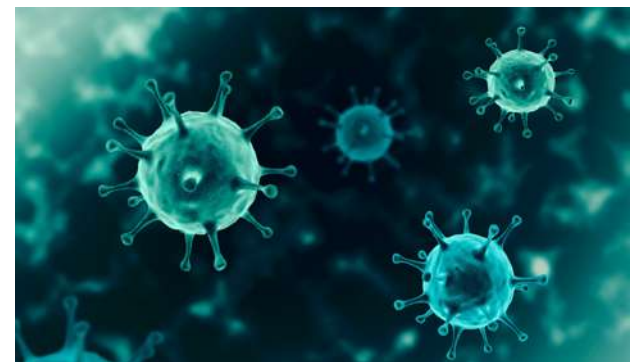
Delta variant now seen in 96 nations: WHO

11 of them reported the variant of concern (VOC) in just one week

#New Delhi

Known as a highly transmissible strain of SARS-CoV-2 variants, the Delta strain has been detected in at least 96 countries now, according to the Covid-19 weekly epidemiological update by the WHO. It was first detected in India and has since rapidly spread through other countries.

According to reports, the Delta variant is 55% more transmissible than the Alpha variant. Of the 96 countries, 11 were added in just the last week of the compilation of these data, according to WHO.

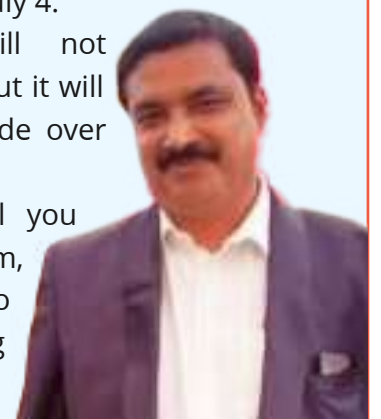


Someone needs your help...

When 52-year-old Vivek Nema from Jabalpur in Madhya Pradesh developed Covid-19, his family had not imagined how far things would worsen. Post-Covid, he contracted mucormycosis (Black Fungus). Its treatment is not cheap, and in just a few weeks, the family had exhausted their savings and taken big loans. His daughter Ashna started a fund-raiser in India while family friend Deepti Nanawati did that in the US. Unfortunately he could not make it—he passed away on July 4.

Money will not bring him back, but it will help his family tide over the debt crisis.

If you feel you can help them, find the link to the crowdfunding page below.



Teary-eyed Serena exits Wimbledon in Round 1

Williams slipped on the grass court and injured her ankle, after which she could not play for long

#London

For the first time in her entire career, American legend Serena Williams bowed out of a Wimbledon tournament in the first round itself. The reason: an injury.

Had she won, it would have been her eighth Wimbledon singles title. Williams was leading 3-1 in the match against Aliaksandra Sasnovich on Centre Court when she slipped and hurt her ankle. She returned after examination, but had to stop at 3-3.

She walked out of the court in tears.

The last time Williams won a Slam was the Australian Open 2017. After her exit, Andy Murray tweeted, "Brutal for @serenawilliams but centre court is extremely slippery out there. Not easy to move out there."

However, this is not the first time that a player slipped on the grass court and had to retire from the match.

Maria Sharapova and Novak Djokovic, too, have had such dramatic falls.



Serena Williams

Peek into Tokyo Games

US women's soccer team all set for Tokyo, eyes another gold

They are the four-time Olympics champion. And now, the US women's soccer team has set its eyes on yet another gold. Only this time, the victory will be even more special. If they get the gold, they will become the first team in history to

win back-to-back World Cup and Olympics titles. On Monday, the team completed its preparatory road to the Tokyo Games after a second friendly win against Mexico.

On board are Lindsey Horan, Carli Lloyd and Tobin Heath.

Badminton: Sindhu on final list

The Badminton World Federation has announced names of 87 male and 86 female badminton players who will compete at Tokyo 2020.

The list includes reigning men's singles Olympic champion Chen Long (People's Republic of China) and Rio 2016 women's singles silver medallist PV Sindhu (India).



Denmark's 2017 World Champion Viktor Axelsen and home favourite OKUHARA Nozomi, who won bronze at Rio 2016, are also among the star names.

A total of 50 NOCs from five continents will be represented in the competition, which begins on 24 July at Musashino Forest Sport Plaza.

5G-enabled viewing experience

The Tokyo Organizing Committee of the Olympic and Paralympic Games has announced that it will deploy the latest 5G technology to showcase innovative sports at three competition venues during the Games.

The new arrangements will include broadcasts of ultra-high resolution videos and simultaneous multipoint videos with the help of the high-speed 5G technology.

These facilities will be offered at sailing, swimming and golf venues.



Sania set to make history in Tokyo

Will be only Indian female athlete to compete in four Olympics

#New Delhi

Indian tennis star Sania Mirza is all set to create history at the Tokyo Olympics, scheduled to start later this month. She will be the only Indian female athlete till now to have participated in four Olympic Games. The Tokyo Games commence from July 23.

Mirza has qualified for the women's doubles for which she will partner with World No 95 Ankita Raina. The latter is India's highest-ranked doubles player. This is also the first time that Mirza with partner with someone who is among the world's top 100 for the women's doubles event. She will use her protected world ranking of 9 to enter the Olympics.



Sania Mirza

End of An Era

Dilip Kumar bids goodbye

Among the biggest stars of Indian film industry, the thespian breathed his last on Wednesday morning

#Mumbai

Never mind the fact that he was 98. The popularity of Dilip Kumar, or Dilip Saab as he was fondly addressed, was intact. So much so that every time he was hospitalized, his wife and yesteryear actress Saira Banu would keep posting health updates to avoid being inundated by calls.

The legendary actor breathed his last at 7.30 am IST on Wednesday at Hinduja Hospital in Mumbai where he had been admitted last week after complaining of breathlessness. He was 98.

His death was announced via his Twitter handle by family friend Faisal Farooqui.

The legend

Born Mohammad Yousuf Khan in Peshawar on December 11, 1922, Dilip Kumar marked his debut in films with Jwar Bhata. The credit for bringing him to films goes to late actress Devika Rani. It was there that he was given the name 'Dilip Kumar' to better his prospects.

While his initial films did not do well, he tasted success with 'Jugnu' in 1947

He went on to Shaheed, Andaz, Deedar, Daag, Devdas, Azaadn and Madhumati. The epic Mughal-e-Azam of 1960 can easily count as one of the biggest films of the Indian film industry. (Mughal-e-Azam and Naya Daur, originally made in black-and-white, were fully



Mughal-E-Azam

colourized and released again in theatres in 2004 and 2008 respectively.)

He married Saira Banu in 1966 and then Asma Sahiba in 1981, but the second marriage ended in 1983.

Dilip Kumar took a five-year break from acting from 1976 to 1981. His comeback film Kranti, a star-studded film, was the biggest hit of the year.

Later, he could be seen in supporting roles, but even there his mark was indelible.

He was last seen on screen in Qila in 1998.

Awards

- First recipient of Filmfare award
- 8 Filmfare awards for best actor
- Lifetime Achievement Award
- Padma Bhushan in 1991
- Dadasaheb Phalke award in 1994
- Pakistan's Nishan-e-Imtiaz in 1998.
- Guinness world record for maximum number of awards won by an Indian actor.
- He was also nominated as Rajya Sabha member by Congress between 2000 and 2006.



Naya Daur



Kranti



Madhumati

I am
ready
for you

Telugu heartthrob Vijay talks about 'Liger'

The much-awaited multi-lingual film has completed nearly two-thirds of shooting

#Mumbai

At the very start, we shall give the disclaimer. The first part of the headline doesn't have anything to do with the second, or at least the context wasn't the same. Recently, the young and dashing Telugu star Vijay Deverakonda had posted his photograph from Daboo Ratnani's calendar on Twitter. As if that was not enough to make girls swoon, he captioned it with "I am ready for you".

The responses to that tweet weren't entirely unexpected. "I am ready for you too," went many of his fans.

Now that we have explained the first part, let's move to the next.

Liger, the much-awaited multi-lingual film starring him and Bollywood actress Ananya Panday, has completed about 65 per

cent of the shooting, Vijay has said. Goes without saying that we are all excited.

The film has been produced by Puri Jagannadh with Karan Johar, Charmy Kaur, Apoorva Mehta and Hiroo Johar as producers.

While giving an update about the film's status, Vijay said that 65% of the shooting had been completed and that now they would move to Mumbai. He said that the team hoped to complete the production by August and shoot in Mumbai. He also talked about complex scenes that he would be required to shoot in coming days for the film. "... other scenes require numerous people on sets. Amid fear of the third wave, we're trying to figure it out," he said.

A star has arrived, wrote Forbes India when it featured him in its 30 under 30 list.



Indeed he has.

After the blockbuster 'Arjun Reddy' (2017) which was highly successful and had girls swooning over Vijay, Liger will mark his debut in Bollywood and Ananya's in Tollywood (the Telugu film industry).

Trolled for performing hubby's last rites, Mandira gets support

Raj Kaushal passed away after a massive heart attack last week

#Mumbai

Film-maker Raj Kaushal, husband of actress Mandira Bedi, passed away last week after a massive heart attack. Mandira performed the final rites. But when photos appeared on social media, she was trolled for breaking Hindu traditions and doing something supposed to be done by males. Even her choice of clothes—jeans and T-shirt—was critized.

However, many from the industry came out in her support. "That some people are still commenting on Mandira Bedi's dress code or choice to carry out her husband Raj Kushal's last rites shouldn't surprise us. Stupidity is



more abundant than any other element," wrote Sona Mohapatra. "Makes me sick that people are having a field day trolling a grieving woman for performing last rites on her husband instead of asking a stranger or her tiny kid. Or for not having the time to dress the way THEY imagine grieving women should dress," wrote Mini Mathur.

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Swami Vivekananda's tryst with American Independence Day

Swami Vivekananda, a great social reformer who had lived in America for four years, celebrated America's Independence Day throughout his stay here. July 4 also happens to be his death anniversary



Those of us who have followed Swami Vivekananda's short and turbulent life know that the 4th of July—America's Independence Day—has had a special significance in his life. In four of the years he spent in America, he celebrated the day with his companions and friends. On another occasion, while spending a summer in London, he was a guest of honor at an event where the American community was celebrating the day. The gala had been hosted by a well-known American lady who had married a British banker. He loved the United States like his native country. On his arrival in Chicago, he lived with a mid-western American family from whom he learned a lot, and most willingly. Only then was he ready to teach.

It was in 1902 that he looked in an almanac a few months ahead and apparently

chose deliberately to leave his body on the evening of July 4. We take this as a symbol. Vivekananda, who had throughout the 39 years of his life chafed under the burden of an unwell body, found his independence from it at last, his mission accomplished, now achieving his well-deserved rest. He gave out certain signs in the later days of his life that, his work being over, he would accept now the mergence in freedom which his master had promised. Lying on his cot in the evening, he sent away his attendant, entered into a deep meditation and moved to another world.

Here is Swami Vivekananda's poem to the Fourth, which he composed on a houseboat in Kashmir in 1898 and read, or had someone read, at the early morning breakfast. As he did in everything, in this symbol of American freedom too, he saw divinity.

TO THE FOURTH OF JULY

*Behold, the dark clouds melt away,
That gathered thick at night, and
hung
So like a gloomy pall above the
earth!
Before thy magic touch, the world
Awakes. The birds in chorus sing.
The flowers raise their star-like
crowns—
Dew-set, and wave thee welcome
fair.
The lakes are opening wide in love
Their hundred thousand lotus-eyes
To welcome thee, with all their
depth.
All hail to thee, thou Lord of Light!
A welcome new to thee, today,
O Sun! Today thou sheddest
Liberty!
Bethink thee how the world did
wait,
And search for thee, through time
and clime.
Some gave up home and love of
friends,
And went in quest of thee, self-
banished,
Through dreary oceans, through
primeval forests,
Each step a struggle for their life or
death;
And worship, love and sacrifice.
Fulfilled, accepted and complete.
Then thou, propitious, rose to shed
The light of Freedom on mankind.
Move on, O Lord, in thy resistless
path!
Till thy high noon o'erspreads the
world.
Till every land reflects thy light,
Till men and women, with uplifted
head,
Behold their shackles broken, and
Know, in springing joy, their life
renewed!*



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Nandy Sisters
Osman Mir

Parthiv Gohil
Pratik Gandhi
Sanjay Goradia
and the Siddi group

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Vaccination assistance for more than half a million people

12,000+ health kits for families and health centers

Food assistance for 30,000+ struggling families

You can help us continue to make a critical impact in COVID disaster relief efforts. Your gift could provide:

\$25

Essential healthcare kit for one family

\$50

Food assistance for one month for one migrant family

\$100

Vaccination assistance for 100 people

\$250

Rehabilitation for one person

\$500

One oxygen concentrator for health center

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Your Save a Village donation will assist a community living below the poverty line with the following services:

Health Awareness	Distribution of information about sanitation, hygiene, and COVID-19 risks and precautions
Vaccination Assistance	Transportation assistance, vaccination drives, health status follow-ups, and campaigns to combat disinformation
Healthcare Resources	Creation of isolation centers, distribution of COVID Care Kits and other medical needs
Grocery Support	Meals and grocery kits for struggling families and individuals
Other Services	Facilitating entitlements for widows and disabled people, connecting beneficiaries with available government services, and providing other village support as needed

Please note: This project and its duration may vary by village.

NORTH JERSEY

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Hetel Gor 914-912-1954
Dolly Kaur 646-226-3834
Jayprakash Mehta 201-359-0058
Nita Nanavati 973-831-2461
Bharati Palkhiwala 201-264-4977
Jayu Parikh 973-992-1390
Saumil Parikh 201-779-2241

Aruna Patel

201-969-1061

Mardavi Patel

201-747-1024

Kanan Patrawalla

973-635-6575

Hemlata Shah

201-925-9170

Ketki Shah

201-612-7732

Snima Sheth

201-686-4145

CENTRAL JERSEY

Varsha Mehta

908-477-7616

LONG ISLAND

Lila Shah

516-365-1895

MANHATTAN

Saumil Parikh

201-779-2241

STATEN ISLAND

Saroj Desai

718-448-4785

PENNSYLVANIA

Girish Desai

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Parag Patel

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