

THE DIASPORA BI-WEEKLY



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Federation of Indian Associations NY-NJ-CT. 501(C)3

The Largest Non-Profit Grassroot Umbrella Organization in the Tri-state of NY-NJ-CT

FEDERATION OF INDIAN ASSOCIATIONS - NY-NJ-CT & CONSULATE GENERAL OF INDIA, NEW YORK
invite you to join **7TH INTERNATIONAL DAY OF YOGA**
Join us for an hour of yoga and meditation and learn few tips for healthy lifestyle with Yoga

yoga 2021

DATE: SUNDAY, JUNE 20TH, 2021
TIME: 10:00 AM EST

VENUE: LIBERTY STATE PARK
200 Morris Pesin Drive Jersey City, NJ 07305 | Parking lot #4 and Field "F"

GUEST OF HONOR: JAY SEAN (Singer, Songwriter)
HOST & EMCEE: NINA DAVULURI (American Public Speaker, Actor)
GUEST YOGA INSTRUCTOR: THARA NATALIE (Certified Yoga Teacher, Raiki Healer and Health Coach)

Yoga: India's gift to the world

This holistic approach to health and well-being has struck a chord with numerous individuals across the globe. FIA invites you to join its yoga day event at Liberty State Park on June 20

The seventh International Day of Yoga is around the corner. An ancient Indian discipline that focusses on the physical, mental and spiritual well-being of an individual, yoga has found a resonance across the world. The United Nations, in acknowledgement of its global appeal, proclaimed June 21 as the International Day of Yoga in December 2014.

While introducing the proposal in the UN, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi had said: "Yoga is an invaluable gift from our ancient tradition... embodies unity of mind and body, thought and action ... it is a way to discover the sense of oneness with yourself, the world and the nature."

Ashtanga yoga has eight parts – yama (abstinence), niyama (observance), asana (postures), pranayama (breath control), pratyahara (withdrawal of senses), dharana (concentration), dhyana (meditation) and samadhi (absorption, where the mind

becomes still).

While doing asanas, a lot of emphasis is given to breath control. It is important that one breathes correctly. You exhale as you stretch and inhale as you relax. A few asanas require you to hold your breath.

The thumb rule in yoga is, do not exert. Do not treat it like a workout. Take it easy.

FIA has organized a yoga event on Sunday, June 20, at Liberty State Park in New Jersey. Registration is mandatory. Mark the date!



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Ramesh Patel's legacy lives on

'Kaka': A force to reckon with

It's been a year since kaka, as we lovingly called our dynamic chairman Ramesh Patel, left us. But what he has left behind is a void that can never be filled. Besides being an honest and committed community leader, kaka was a storehouse of wisdom and knowledge. This, combined with his years of experience and statesmanship, made him a force to reckon with.

I have fond memories of conversations, sometimes arguments, with him. His words in Gujarati "Taaro kaako betho chhe (your uncle is here to support you)" continue to give me the strength I seek during moments of self-doubt. Encouraging others came naturally to him. There was never a dull moment with him.

After his untimely demise, when I was elected to take his place, I knew I had big



Ramesh Patel

Chairman Emeritus, FIA

April 20th, 1942 - June 6th, 2020

shoes to fill. His absence was acutely felt in this one year, which has been a roller coaster. However, with his blessings, FIA has kept up

the momentum and made progress.

FIA continues to stay focused and determined to provide help to communities in need during the pandemic here in the USA as well as in our motherland, India. Numerous concrete and consolidated Covid-related actions have been taken up, including aid and relief efforts, be it in the form of medical equipment or direct donations. FIA is among the top-tier non-profit organizations in the USA leading the efforts and doing its bit for the society. The fact that Covid snatched kaka from us kept prodding us constantly to do our best to assist those fighting Covid and help them win.

I am sure kaka is in a better place. May the lord bestow upon him eternal peace and calm... Om Shanti!

Ankur Vaidya
Chairman, FIA

Glimpses from the past: FIA remembers its charismatic leader



Breather for India

As cases dip, states start unlocking

India on Tuesday reported less than 1 lakh cases in 24 hours for the first time in 2 months

#New Delhi

Days after reaching the peak during a disastrous second wave of Covid-19, India has been witnessing a decline in daily cases. The country on Tuesday reported 86,498 cases in 24 hours, the lowest in 66 days.

With the decrease in cases, states that had been under a near total lockdown started the process of unlocking. National capital Delhi opened malls and shops on an odd-even basis. It was among the worst-hit in the second wave, with acute shortage of oxygen and high death rate.

Starting May 31, the Delhi government had allowed factories and construction businesses to resume work. The lockdown was eased further from Monday, with shopping complexes and markets to reopen from 10 am to 8 pm on an odd-even basis. The Metro rail began operating at 50 per cent capacity. Government and private offices have been allowed to reopen with 50 per cent attendance.

Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal also announced work on preparations for a



possible third wave in September-October.

Gujarat allows offices to resume at full strength

New cases in Gujarat dropped below 1,000 on Saturday. In view of the declined in cases, the state government allowed all offices, private and government, to function at 100% staff capacity from June 7

5-level unlock plan in Maharashtra

The Maharashtra government announced a five-level plan to lift lockdown curbs in the state from June 7, based on the weekly positivity rate and occupancy of oxygen-equipped beds.

Cities and districts, which have a positivity rate of below five percent and oxygen bed occupancy of less than 25 percent, will open up completely, according to a government notification.

Lockdown in Tamil Nadu, Himachal Pradesh, Goa extended with relaxations

Lockdown in Tamil Nadu has been extended till June 14, chief minister MK Stalin announced. The restrictions have been eased, except in 11 districts where the number of new cases reported was still high.

Himachal Pradesh and Goa also extended the 'Corona curfew' till 14 June on Saturday. In Goa, shops selling essential items are allowed to operate between 7 am and 3 pm every day. Himachal Pradesh had earlier eased curbs including those related to the opening of shops, restaurants and eateries.

Vaccine shortfall will hit COVAX goals, warns WHO

COVAX programme, aimed at equitable access to vaccine across the globe, has been severely hit because of short supply

The World Health Organization has warned that a shortfall in Covid-19 vaccine doses going through the COVAX programme in June and July could undermine the efficiency of the roll-out.

"At no point in this pandemic have

we seen such an acute need to look to the future challenges and not rest on the patchy achievements made so far," read the COVAX joint statement.

"The terrible surge of the virus in India has had a severe impact on COVAX's supply in the second quarter of this year, to the point where, by the end of June we will face a shortfall of 190 million doses.

The WHO said though COVAX would have larger volumes available later in the year, if the current shortfall was not addressed, the consequences could be catastrophic.

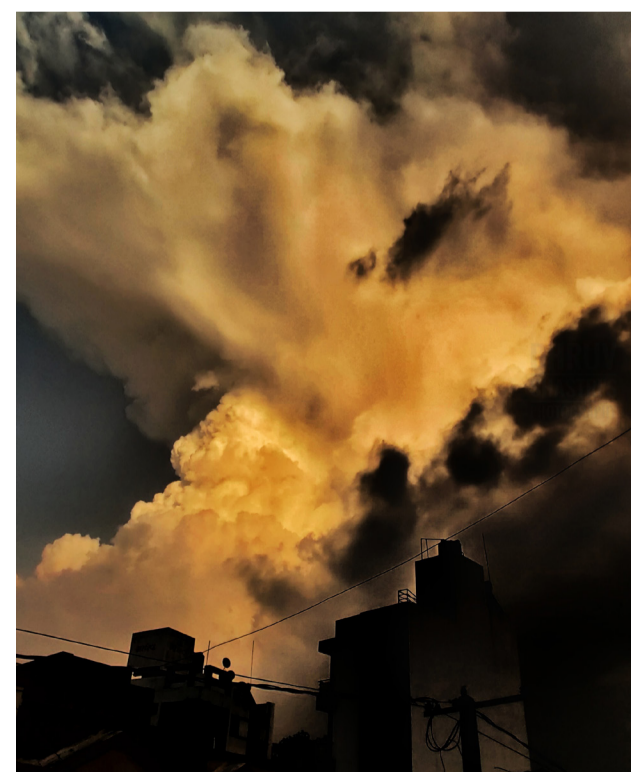
It called for funding as well as sharing of doses by countries with the largest supplies.



Before the rains

A cloudy evening sky in Gujarat's Rajkot city. Several parts of the state received moderate to heavy rains last week because of low pressure area over the Arabian Sea that turned into cyclonic circulation

Dhruv Shastri



Gautam Adani is second richest Asian; Ambani still No. 1

#Mumbai

The top two richest persons of Asia are Indians. With his net worth increasing, Adani Group promoter Gautam Adani has become the second richest Asian. Reliance Industries promoter Mukesh Ambani continues to occupy the topmost position.



Gautam Adani

Adani replaced Zhong Shanshan of China

With a net worth of \$66.5 billion, Adani is also the fourteenth richest businessman in the world. Ambani's net worth is around \$76.5 billion, according to Bloomberg data.

The six Adani



Mukesh Ambani

market capitalisation of Rs 12.6 trillion. Adani Green tops the charts in the group with m-cap with Rs 1.99 trillion.

The Adani Group's market cap has nearly doubled since the beginning of current calendar year, against a 3.6 per cent decline in

Group companies had combined market capitalisation of Rs 8.36 trillion as on Thursday, against Reliance Industries'

Promoter of Adani Group companies replaced China's Zhong Shanshan as his net worth rose and the latter's dipped

the RIL's m-cap over the period.

Adani has added \$32.7 billion to his net worth year-to-date in 2021, while Ambani's net worth has declined by \$176 million.

Zhong Shanshan, who was second richest in Asia, and Adani were

neck and neck on May 17, with net worth of \$63.9 billion and \$63.1 billion, respectively.

A day later, Adani took the lead with his net worth rising to \$65.9 billion, while Shanshan's dipped to \$63.7 billion.



Zhong Shanshan

When Twitter made headlines in India

Leaders' Twitter a/cs lose blue tick

Micro-blogging site removes verification badge from handles of VP Venkaiah Naidu, RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat; restores them hours later; receives final notice to comply with India's new IT rules

Last Saturday was a day when micro-blogging site Twitter was making headlines one after the other. Earlier in the day, it unverified the account of India's Vice-President Venkaiah Naidu before restoring it a few hours later. It did the same thing with RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat. Twitter justified the move saying that the accounts had been inactive for quite some time and hence had been unverified under the verification policy.

The last tweet from Naidu's Twitter handle— @MVenkaiahNaidu was on July 23, 2020, while Bhagwat has not tweeted anything since he joined it.



Mohan Bhagwat

Besides Bhagwat, the handles of senior RSS office-bearers too lost their blue ticks. The same reason of inactivity was cited for

removing the verification ticksThe verification badge had been restored by the end of the day

Twitter gets final notice for compliance with India's new IT rules...

Twitter has been given final notice to comply with the new IT Rules that mandate the platform to appoint India-based compliance and grievance officers among other clauses, failing which it will face "consequences", the government said on Saturday amid an escalating standoff with the platform.

Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021, were introduced earlier this year. They cover social media, over-the-top (OTT) video streaming platforms, along with publishers of news on digital media.

...suspended indefinitely in Nigeria after deleting President's post

Last week, Nigeria indefinitely suspended Twitter, two days after the social

media platform removed a tweet by Nigerian President Muhammadu Buhari. In the said tweet, Buhari had made a reference to the country's 30-month civil



Venkaiah Naidu

war in 1967-1970, warning "those who wanted the government to fail" to desist from fomenting trouble.

"Many of those misbehaving today are too young to be aware of the destruction and loss of lives that occurred during the Nigeria civil war. Those of us in the fields for 30 months, who went through the war, will treat them in the language they understand," the president tweeted on Tuesday night.

Information Minister Lai Mohammed accused Twitter of 'having an agenda', as reported by africanews.

G7 agree on global tax for big Cos

Finance ministers of the G7 nations have reached a historic agreement to reform the global tax system to make it fit for the global digital age, British finance minister Rishi Sunak has said. This reform refers to a minimum global tax of 15 per cent and could close the cross-border tax loopholes that some of the world's biggest companies have been taking advantage of.

The ministers of the Group of Seven nations met in London for a face-to-face meeting, the first since the start of the pandemic.

The G7 has said it will back the minimum global corporation tax rate of at least 15%, and put in place measures to ensure taxes

were paid in the countries where businesses operate.

The deal is aimed at ending the decades-long situation where countries attract corporate giants with extremely low tax rates and other lucrative exemptions, even letting go of huge earnings.

According to a copy of the final agreement seen by Reuters, the G7 ministers said they would "commit to a global minimum tax of at least 15% on a country by country basis".

Rich nations have struggled for years to agree a way to raise more revenue from large multinationals such as Google, Amazon and Facebook, which often book profits in

The nations have agreed to support a minimum global corporation tax of 15%, ensure that companies pay taxes in countries where they carry out business



jurisdictions where they pay little or no tax.

Agencies

China, Russia kick off biggest nuclear energy co-op project

#Beijing

Chinese President Xi Jinping and his Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin last Wednesday hailed the nuclear



Xi Jinping

cooperation between the two neighbours as they virtually attended the groundbreaking ceremony of the

biggest nuclear energy project to build four nuclear power plants in China costing about US\$ 3 billion.

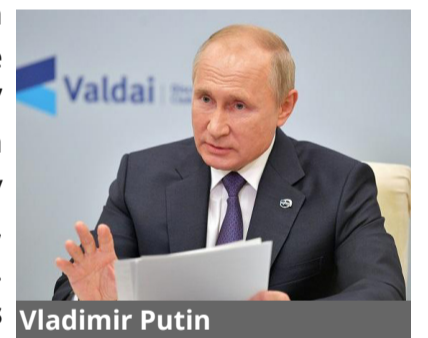
The ceremony, attended by the two leaders via a video link, was held to mark the first day of construction of power units No. 7 and 8 of the Tianwan Nuclear Power Plant, and No. 3 and 4 of the Xudapu Nuclear Power Plant.

The Tianwan Nuclear Power Plant is located in the city of Lianyungang in eastern Jiangsu province. The Xudapu Nuclear Power

Xi Jinping, Vladimir Putin witness the launch virtually; hail the nuclear cooperation

plant is located in Xingcheng in northeastern Liaoning province.

"This has been the biggest China-Russia nuclear energy cooperation project to date and represents the highest level of practical cooperation between the two sides," Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman, Zhao Lijian said.



Vladimir Putin

Agencies

Past haunts England bowler on debut day

Robinson suspended from int'l cricket after row over tweets

#London

The two-match Test series between England and New Zealand would have been Ollie Robinson's dream come true. Unfortunately for him, that dream was shattered just after it began. Right after the end of the first match, the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) announced that Robinson had been suspended from all forms of international cricket pending inquiry on his tweets in the past.

The match, held last Wednesday, was the first international one in Robinson's career. However, his selection was mired in controversy. On the day of the match, his tweets from 2012 and 2013, which included remarks suggesting Muslim people were linked to terrorism, and derogatory remarks about women and people of Asian heritage resurfaced. Looking at the uproar on social media, the ECB decided to suspend him indefinitely from all forms of international

England and Wales Cricket Board orders suspension after his 'racist and sexist' tweets from 2012-13 resurface

cricket pending inquiry into the said tweets. Robinson will now not be available for the second match.

In his apology, the bowler said that he was "embarrassed by the racist and sexist tweets that I posted over eight years ago. I deeply regret my actions..."



Juhi fined Rs 20 lakh for 'publicity stunt' over 5G

Delhi High Court dismisses Bollywood actress's petition against rollout of 5G in India, calls it 'publicity stunt' and fines her for wasting its time

#New Delhi

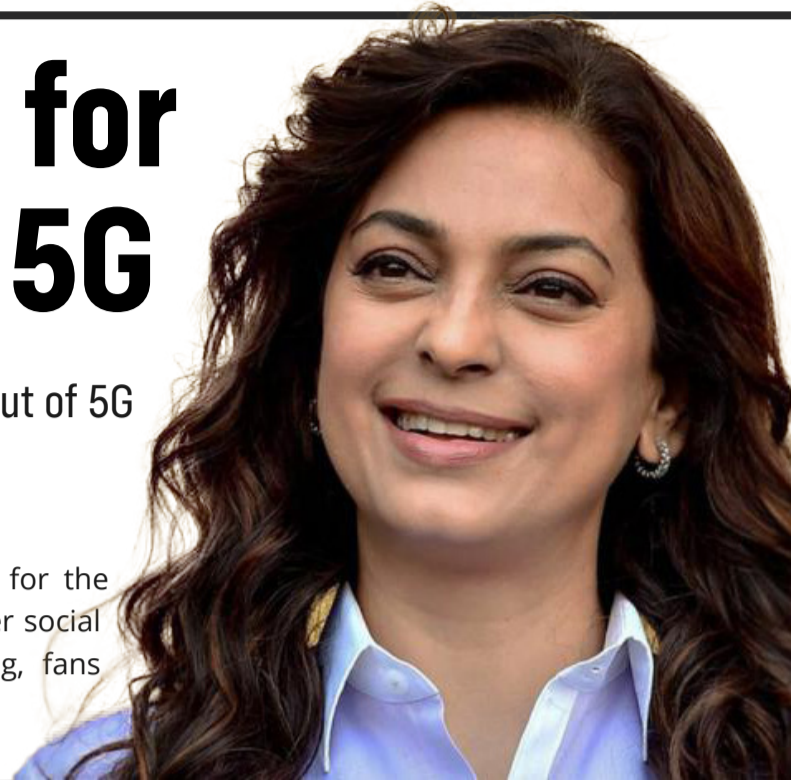
Bollywood actress Juhi Chawla has earned the ire of the Delhi High Court for her petition against the rollout of 5G network in India. She had claimed that the technology exposes people and animals to radio frequency (RF) radiation 10 to 100 times greater than in current times.

The bench of Justice JR Midha while passing the judgement said that Chawla and other two petitioners had abused the process of law and imposed costs of Rs. 20 lakh on

them.

Chawla had shared the link for the online hearing of the petition on her social media profiles. During the hearing, fans could be heard singing her songs.

The Court, in its order, said, "It appears that the suit was filed for publicity. Plaintiff Juhi Chawla circulated link of the hearing on social media which created the disruption thrice. The Delhi Police shall identify the persons and take action against those who created the disruptions."



Juhi Chawla

The proceedings were locked after repeated disturbances. The court issued contempt notices against unknown persons and directed the Delhi police to identify them.

Buy that? \$3.5k for 'Indian style kurta' with Gucci tag

Irked netizens call out Italian fashion giant for the overpriced garment; say that it is available in India for less than \$7



Gucci's kurtas, priced at \$3,500



#New Delhi

How much would you pay for a cotton kurta, the ones you find in India, with some embroidery? If you know the right place, you could get it for less than Rs 500 (that's less than \$7). You could even get it tailor-made. So when Italian fashion giant Gucci put up an 'Indian-style' kurta for sale for \$3,500 (RS 2.55 lakh), it created a huge buzz among the Indian community on social media.

This kurta is described as a 'floral embroidery organic linen kaftan' on the Gucci website. This is an off-white kurta featuring floral embroidered yolk, a neck opening with a self-tie tassel, and patchwork on the sleeves.

and "I can have Ashokbhai make this back home for Rs 500"

"Gucci sweetie I will buy you this exact same kurta from Sarojini market in less than \$5", tweeted one user.

Reportedly, this is not the first time that Gucci has come under fire for cultural appropriation. Back in 2019, Sikhs decried the fashion giant for its 'Indy Turban', which cost almost \$800 each. The blue turban closely resembled the style of turbans worn by Sikhs. Offended Sikh community called out both Gucci and Nordstrom for cultural appropriation, insensitivity and the hefty price tag.

Irked, Indians vented their resentment online. One user said such kurtas were available in India for \$5 while another said they wouldn't shell out more than Rs 200 for it. Then there were reactions like "Gucci selling 'Indian kurta' in the price of gold"

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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