



SMILE CENTER USA
General Dentist
6929 West 130th Street, Suite 302,
Parma Heights
Mon to Fri:9AM-6PM, Sat:9AM-2PM
Dr. Shyam Sharma, DDS Ph: 440-340-5828
Emergency & New Patients Welcome: Rootcanal,
Dentures, Bleaching, Crowns, Bridges: Most Dental
Insurance Plans, Medicaid, Caresource Accepted

IndiaTM

NEWS INTERNATIONAL

Ohio's Asian-Indian Newspaper

INSIDE

Community Bulletin Board.....	2
Community News	3
Diwali in White House	4
Follow your dreams	5
Arts & Culture	6-7
India News.....	8-9
Humor	11



India opens for international travel – Page 10



Violence against Hindus in Bangladesh: Protest in Cleveland – Page 2



India opens doors to foreign tourists
–Page 10



Beauty tips from Shahnaz Husain
– Page 6



Tatas Sons buy Air India
– Page 12

Community Associations

President & Ph #

American Society of Engineers of Indian Origin (ASEI)

Shantaram S. Pai

(440) 734-1830

American Federation of Muslims of Indian Origin (AFMI)

Zahid Siddiqui (440) 238-3796

Arts Without Borders:

Antara Datta 330-419-3335

Asha for Education:

Fehmida Kapadia 216-513-6977

Association of Asian-Indian Women in Ohio (AAIWO)

Jayashri Bidari 440-667-0849

www.aaiwo.org

Association of Indian Physicians of Northern Ohio (AIPNO)

Dr. Dharmesh Mehta

216- 228-1168

Bengali Cultural Society

Kingshuk Das

Chinmaya Mission, Cleveland

Hema Suresh 216-526-3917

Ekal Vidyalaya Foundation

Sreedhar Nair (440) 759-1500

FICA: Ritu Mahna 216.791.3422

Gujarati Samaj of Cleveland

Nilesh Patel 732-343-5152

gujaratisamaj.cleveland@gmail.com

Guru Gobind Singh Sikh Society:

Surinder Singh Chauhan

(440)243-8439

Guru Nanak Foundation:

Dr. Subinder Singh Raina

(440) 315-8352

Indian Classical Music Society:

To be elected

India-Ohio Chamber of Commerce:

Radhika Reddy

(216) 344-9441

Indian Christian Association:

Michael Sreshta 216-403-3012

Jain Society of Gtr Cleveland

Sanket Doshi (216) 333-4571

SanketD.SAP@gmail.com

Kasturi Kannada Association

Meena Mahesh (440)740-0666

Kerala Association of Ohio

Anil Kumar (440) 572-9571

NE Ohio Marathi Mandal:

Shekhar Ganore

president@neomm.org

Marwari Association:

Sushila Mohanka (330) 598-0642

North South Foundation

Cleveland Chapter Director

Viji Vijay 440-610-5719

Clevelandnsf@Gmail.com

www.NorthSouth.org

Orissa Society of America:

Birendra Jena (330) 544-1725

Punjabi Cultural Society:

Barjinder Dhanoa (216) 650-2311

Sewa International (Cleveland)

Viji Vijay, President

440-610-5719

Cleveland@sewausa.org

SewaUSA.org

N E Ohio Telugu Association

(NEOTA): Madhavi Kasturi Kesari

(330) 319-5006 www.neota.org

N-E Ohio Tamil Sangam:

Meyy Meyyazhagan 440-899-6394

South Asian Bar Association of Cleveland:

Neil Bhagat 216-615-7321

Vedanta Center of Cleveland:

Radha Sen 216-307-8332

NE Ohio Sri Lankan Association

(NEOSLA): (330) 637 2449

Cleveland_Lankans@yahoo.com

Please send updates to:
indiaint@aol.com

Places of Worship

Shri Shiva-Vishnu Temple

7733 Ridge Rd, Parma,

Phone: (440) 888-9433

Sree Venkateswara Temple

4406 Brecksville Road, Richfield,

OH 44286

Phone: (330)-576-5626

BAPS Swaminarayan Temple

2915 Laurel Rd, Brunswick

Phone: (330) 220-4020

ISSO Swaminarayan Temple

13354 Pearl Road, Strongsville,

OH 44136

Phone: (440) 238-2222

Jain Temple (Jain Center) 3226

Boston Mills Rd, Richfield, OH

44286

Phone: 330-659-0832

Gurudwara - Richfield

(Guru Nanak Foundation)

4220 Broadview Road, Richfield,

OH 44286.

Gurudwara - Bedford

38 Tarbell Ave. Bedford, OH 44146

Ph:440-232-1702

St. Gregorios Malankara

Orthodox Church

1252 East Aurora Road

Macedonia Ohio 44056

Dr. T. Mathew 216-591-9632

Swaminarayan Subh

Sanskar Santha (SSSS)

4402 Wallings Road,

North Royalton, OH 44133

Phone: 440.628.9270

Islamic Center

6055 W130th St, Cleveland, OH 44130

216-362-0786

Asian-Indian Restaurants

Bombay Chaat Downtown

Cleveland 216-331-4598

Bamboo Garden

North Olmsted 440-734-0500

University Circle 216-505-5470

Bombay Grill: Akron 330-664-0689

Cafe Tandoor

Cleveland Heights 216-371-8500

Westlake 440-835-7999

Aurora 330-562-5334

Chapati

University Circle 216-505-5470

Cuisine of India

Parma Heights 440-842-5907

Indian Delight

Cleveland 216-651-4007

Jaipur Junction

North Royalton 440-842-3555

Hudson 330-653-6640

Indian Flame

University Circle 216-791-5555

Saffron Patch

Shaker Heights 216-295-0400;

Akron 330-836-7777

Taste of Kerala

Woodmere 216-450-1711

Asian-Indian stores

Asian Imports

North Olmsted Ph: 440-777-8101

India Grocers

Parma Hts Ph:440-885-0215

Indian Grocery

Cuyahoga Falls Ph 330-928-7060

Indo-American Foods

North Randall Ph: 216-662-0072

Patel Brothers

Parma Heights Ph: 440-885-4440

Rimi's - Indian Bakers

n Grocers & Gifts

Westlake Ph: 440-777-0116

Sunny's Asian Food & Spices

Solon Ph 440-248-0801



Protest rally in Cleveland against killing of Hindus in Bangladesh

Hindu activists and volunteers, supported and sponsored by the ICHRRF (International Commission for Human Rights and Religious Freedom), gathered at the Cleveland Public Square on Sunday, October 24 for a peaceful prayer vigil in the memory of those Hindus killed in Bangladesh by Islamic Jihadi terrorists during and after the Durga Puja festival celebrations last month.

They held placards and sang bhajans (hymns). A special permission was granted by the city of Cleveland for the prayer vigil. The

protestors wore symbolic, black-colored face masks and maintained social distancing and other COVID-appropriate behaviors while holding the peaceful prayer vigil.

The ICHRRF president Dr. Adityanjee informed the people about the steps taken by the ICHRRF to draw the attention of the international community towards the ongoing religious persecution and ethnic cleansing of Hindus, Buddhists, Chakma tribals and Christians in Bangladesh. He lamented the fact that women are being raped and children brutalized while temples and properties of

Hindus in Bangladesh are being desecrated, destroyed, and burned down while the Bangladesh government has failed to take any legal or corrective actions.

The protesters observed a minute of silence in memory of Hindus killed in Bangladesh. The event was also attended by the members of the Art of Living, Cleveland chapter, CoHNA (Coalition of Hindus in North America), HAF (Hindu American Foundation) and the ISKCON (International Society for Krishna Consciousness) who joined in the prayer vigil and bhajan singing.

Indian Americans elected mayors of Edison, NJ and Cincinnati, OH

INDIAN origin Aftab Pureval has been elected as the first ever person of Asian heritage to be elected as the Mayor of Cincinnati, OH, while Sam Joshi becomes the first Indian-American to be Mayor of Edison, the 5th largest municipality in New Jersey, during the elections held on November 2, 2021.

At 39, Pureval will replace longtime mayor John Cranley, who is term-limited from running again this year. Pureval defeated David Mann. In his acceptance speech on Nov 9, Pureval thanked Mann for his career in public service.

The son of Indian and Tibetan immigrants, Pureval becomes the first Indian-American and Tibetan, in fact, the first Asian to be elected Mayor of the city. Currently, he is Hamilton County Clerk of Courts, a position not held by a Democrat for more than 100 years.

"Words can't express how honored and excited I am to be the next Mayor of Cincinnati. Tonight, we made history! Let's get to work!" Pureval tweeted as the results

became public.

Congratulations poured in including from the likes of former Secretary of State and presidential candidate Hillary Clinton and U.S. Sen. Sherrod Brown, D-Ohio, who had supported Pureval.

Sen. Brown tweeted, "C o n g r a t u l a t i o n s t o # c a n a r y c a n d i d a t e @AftabPureval on your victory. He represents the future of Cincinnati and will fight for all workers and families in the Queen City."

Born and raised in Ohio, Pureval is an attorney and former prosecutor. He has been awarded the NAACP Theodore Berry Award for Service and has been recognized by the Business Courier as one of their 40 under 40.

Pureval is seen as a rising star in the Democratic Party.

Edison: With 100% of precincts reporting, Joshi was well in front of Republican Keith Hahn and independent candidate Christo Makropoulos.

Joshi had 10,930 votes, while Hahn had 9,459 and Makropoulos,

301. The race was to replace Democratic Mayor Thomas Lankey whose term ends Dec. 31. Lankey did not seek reelection.

When sworn in on Jan. 1, Joshi, 32, will become the township's youngest mayor and the first South Asian to hold the position. Previously Jun Choi, the township's first Asian American mayor, was the youngest to serve in the post.

"I am honored and humbled to be elected as the next mayor of Edison Township," Joshi said in a Facebook post.

Joshi's popularity was evident in June this year, when during the primaries, he defeated another Indian-American aspirant Mahesh Bhagia by 63 percent of the votes to 34 percent, despite Bhagia being the municipal chair of the Democrats.

A 'son of the soil', Joshi was born and raised in Edison.

Joshi was elected as an at-large Councilmember at 27 years old, making him the youngest elected official in Edison's history.

National/Global Organizations

National Federation of Indian American Association (NFIA) www.nfia.net

Headquarters: 319 Summit Hall Road, Gaithersburg, MD 20877 USA

Ph: 301-926-3013, Email:info@nfia.net President: Rajen Anand (562) 537-1077

Global Organization of People of Indian Origin

www.gopio.net Email: gopio-intl@sbcglobal.net

American Association of Physicians of Indian Origin (AAPI)

www.aapiusa.org

Executive Office: 600 Enterprise Drive, Suite 108, Oak Brook, IL 60523

Publisher &
Editor-in-Chief



Prakash N. Sinha

Published by
India International Inc.
Business & Editorial
offices:
1801 East 12th Street
Suite 1721
Downtown Cleveland
Ohio 44114

Phone: 216-781-4055
E-Mail:
indiaint@aol.com

Why India News International ?

INDIA News International is a secular and independent newspaper — a newspaper that doesn't belong to any religious, political, social, cultural group, an Indian-American newspaper that's truly independent.

It aims to create a better understanding between Asian-Indian Americans, other ethnic groups, and the mainstream American society. We believe that mutual understanding fosters friendship, harmony and peace.

America is a beautiful mosaic of many cultures and faiths. Asian-Indian Americans are all proud Americans and believe in American values — freedom, equality and respect for each other. Amid all its diversity, we aim to uphold and preserve the unity. E pluribus Unum (Many uniting into one).

India News International upholds the basic human values — values that are above religion and politics. We believe in universal brotherhood!

India News International seeks to promote close friendly relations between the United States and India, the two largest democracies.

It also seeks to help preserve and promote the precious Asian-Indian culture, heritage and values. And it seeks to uphold the pride and prestige of Asian-Indian Americans!

— Publisher

India International is published monthly from Cleveland and Columbus, Ohio, USA. It is distributed free in northern and central Ohio.

Yearly subscription: \$25 for home delivery by mail. (12 issues a year)
Copyright 2021 India International Inc.

Reproduction of any article, report or photo without the Editor's written permission is prohibited.

President Biden, world leaders, icons greet Indians, Indian diaspora on Diwali

WASHINGTON/LONDON: A slew of political leaders, including US President Joe Biden and UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson, and other prominent personalities took to social media on Thursday to extend their greetings to Indians celebrating Diwali, the festival of lights.

Diwali or Deepavali is a five-day festival that marks the victory of good over evil, light over darkness and knowledge over ignorance.

"May the light of Diwali remind us that from darkness there is knowledge, wisdom, and truth. From division, unity. From despair, hope," President Biden's office said in a tweet.

In a joint statement President Biden and First Lady Jill Biden said in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, this year's Diwali carries even a deeper meaning.

"It is our honor to be the first president and first lady to light a diya together in the White House to celebrate Diwali, the festival of lights that is observed by more than one billion Hindus, Jains, Sikhs, and Buddhists in the United States, India, and around the world," they said.

President Biden and Jill said they were grateful to those who celebrate in America for making the traditions of Diwali part of America's story.

"May the spirit of Diwali remind us that out of darkness there is light in knowledge, wisdom, and truth. From division, there is unity in common bonds of empathy and compassion. From isolation, there is community in the connections we share as we look out for one another and hope, dream, and believe in possibilities," it said.

US Vice President Kamala Harris in her video message reminded people to "honor the light" and lend a hand to those in need as she wished a "joyous Diwali" to everyone.

"Happy Diwali to everyone celebrating the Festival of Lights here in the United States and around the world. @SecondGentleman and I extend our warmest wishes for a holiday filled with light, love, and prosperity," she wrote in a tweet.

British Prime Minister Boris Johnson said in a tweet: "Happy Diwali and Bandi Chhor Divas to everyone celebrating here in the UK and around the world!"

"I hope this Diwali and Bandi Chor Divas for our Sikh friends are truly special... I want to say a huge thank you to Britain's Hindus, Sikhs, Jains for everything you have done to support the vulnerable and help keep people safe over the past 18 months," he said in a video message on Twitter.

"I simply want to wish everyone in the UK and around the world particularly our friends in India who suffered so much earlier this year, a very happy Diwali. May your year be filled with light and joy and prosperity," he added.

South African President Cyril Ramaphosa in his Diwali greetings lauded the Hindu community for making a "significant contribution" to the spiritual, ethical, economic and cultural life of the country through the values of honesty, patience and compassion.

"These are values and moral duties of which our society is in great need, as we seek to rebuild our economy and overcome poverty, unemployment and inequality," he said.



President Biden and the First Lady lighting a diya in the White House on the occasion of Diwali.

Statement of President Joe Biden and First Lady Jill Biden on Diwali

It is our honor to be the first president and first lady to light a diya together in the White House to celebrate Diwali, the Festival of Lights that is observed by more than one billion Hindus, Jains, Sikhs, and Buddhists in the United States, India, and around the world.

Like many cherished holidays during the pandemic, we know this year's Diwali carries an even deeper meaning.

To those who have lost loved ones, we hope this sacred time provides comfort and purpose in their memory.

To those who celebrate here in

America, we are grateful to you for making the traditions of Diwali part of America's story. For generations, you have opened your homes and hearts during Diwali to exchange gifts and sweets, host feasts with family and friends, and organize cultural programs in our communities — with prayers and dances, vibrant and colorful art, and sparklers and fireworks — that bring us all together.

May the spirit of Diwali remind us that out of darkness there is light in knowledge, wisdom, and truth. From division, there is unity in common bonds of empathy and compassion. From isolation, there

is community in the connections we share as we look out for one another and hope, dream, and believe in possibilities.

That spirit is what we reflected upon in the simple act of lighting a diya, a small candle that carries such profound meaning. From the People's House to yours, may the light shine within us all as a powerful source of healing, repair, and renewal — a light that shines on who we are and what we can be at our best as a people and a nation.

On behalf of our family, we wish you a happy Diwali.

"As an occasion of religious devotion and cultural expression, Diwali is a rich and enriching feature of our nation's valued and enviable diversity. It is also an occasion on which we acknowledge the ties of history that bind our nation to other parts of the world," he added.

Prime Minister of Israel Naftali Bennett wished his "friend" and Indian counterpart Narendra Modi.

"Happy Diwali to my friend Narendra Modi and to all the people celebrating in India and around the world," he said in a tweet. Israeli President Isaac Herzog and Foreign Minister Yair Lapid also extended their Diwali greetings.

"Happy Diwali, to all our Indian friends and Hindus worldwide! May

this beautiful festival remind us of the great light that we can bring into the world together," President Herzog said in a tweet.

"Happy Diwali to my friend Dr S Jaishankar & to all celebrating this auspicious occasion. May light continue to triumph over darkness," Yair Lapid tweeted.

"May the light in mankind dispel the darkness in our world today. Happy Deepavali," tweeted Sri Lankan Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa.

"This Deepavali, I pray for happiness, prosperity, wealth and divine grace for everyone," wrote President of Sri Lanka Gotabaya Rajapaksa.

Apple CEO Tim Cook and Google

CEO Sundar Pichai also expressed their warm wishes.

"Wishing a happy and safe Diwali to all those celebrating around the world. May the Festival of Lights fill your home with happiness and health," Cook said in a tweet.

"Happy Diwali to everyone celebrating the festival of lights! (Look for the Diya lamp when you search for 'Diwali' on Google :) ," the Indian-origin CEO of Google and Alphabet said in a tweet.

Director-General of the World Health Organization (WHO) Tedros Ghebreyesus took to Twitter to wish Indians on Diwali, saying: "May the lights of Diwali bring good health and happiness to everyone celebrating".



Hindu Heritage Month Goes Into US Congressional Record

Several states including New Jersey, Delaware, Ohio, Texas, Florida, Nevada, North Carolina, Minnesota, Virginia and Massachusetts have proclaimed October as Hindu Heritage Month, according to the website hindumonth.org, as have several cities like Dallas, TX, and La Palma, CA.

Congressman Raja Krishnamoorthi (Illinois Democrat) submitted a statement in the House of Representatives Sept. 30, 2021, on recognizing October as Hindu Heritage Month.

The statement is now part of the U.S. Congressional Record, the official daily record of proceedings in Congress. (His statement can be found in the Congressional Record Vol. 167, No. 172 of Oct. 1.)

Rep. Krishnamoorthi, said he joins the many Hindu faithful in the United States in recognizing October as Hindu Heritage Month. Several Hindu organizations in the U.S., including Vishwa Hindu Parishad of America (VHPA), have declared October as Hindu Heritage Month, and several states including New Jersey, Delaware, Ohio, Texas, Florida, Nevada, North Carolina, Minnesota, Virginia and Massachusetts have proclaimed October as Hindu Heritage Month, according to the website hindumonth.org, as have several cities like Dallas, TX, and La Palma, CA.

The Congressman, who represents the 8th Congressional District in Illinois, said his constituency “is home to many followers of this uniquely pluralistic religion, and I wish to celebrate the Hindu community’s valuable contributions to my district and to our state and country.”

“I believe this acknowledgment is especially timely, given the disturbing rise of prejudice and racism in the country,” the Congressman said, “including Hinduphobia as manifested in hateful speech and violent acts perpetrated against Indian-Americans and Hindu houses of worship.”

Vivekananda

Noting how Hinduism dates back millennia and may have ‘profoundly’ influenced both ancient and modern cultures, Krishnamoorthi said “It’s message of religious tolerance, non-violence, and the universality of the human experience was introduced to this country in 1893 by Swami Vivekanand in his landmark address at the



World Parliament of Religions,” in Chicago. Vivekananda’s spiritual influence on Mahatma Gandhi was profound, the Congressman said, and Gandhi “inspired the important work of one of our nation’s most revered leaders, Martin Luther King, Jr., to advance the cause of civil rights in the United States.”

Hindus in US

Rep. Krishnamoorthi went on to say, “The Hindu faithful in our country include physicians, lawyers, scientists, economists, philosophers, artists, academics, business leaders, government officials –and Members of Congress,” who are inspired by Vivekananda’s call to service and respect for all religions and people.

October is Hindu Heritage Month

“Madame Speaker, I know all Americans of goodwill share these beliefs, and today I would like to celebrate the work of the Hindu faithful in building bridges of understanding between all Americans, for their important contributions to our economy and our cultural and civil life, and for the part they play in creating our wonderful and distinctively diverse American experience,” Krishnamoorthi said.

On Sept. 5, 2021, the ‘Hindu Heritage Month’ which has an eponymous organization (hindumonth.org) announced,

“Today, Dharma-based organizations including those of Hindu, Sikh, Buddhist and Jain traditions from around the world, are pleased to

announce the addition of another major festival, indeed an entire month of festivals, in October as the Hindu Heritage Month.”

It goes on to say, “Hindus represent one of the newest and the fastest growing immigrant communities in the United States and Canada. Backed by a rock-solid family structure and love for education, they are fully integrated into every aspect of their adopted society, enriching it with not only outstanding professional contributions but also rich cultural heritage. From the elegant ethnic wear to delicious food to festivals like Holi and Diwali, their diverse and rich culture has impressed all in the Western world.” Various Indian organizations of Hindu, Sikh, Buddhist and Jain traditions announced Oct. 3 that the month of October has been designated as “Hindu Heritage Month.”

The celebration of Hindu Heritage Month will be a showcase for the diversity that is so fundamental to Hindu civilization, said a press release, adding that each participating organization will decide the manner as well as the schedule of their events.

Celebrations can take many forms: cultural programs, fashion shows, webinars, multi-day conferences, walkathons and more. Some events may be conducted in-person but the majority will be virtual, given the Covid-19 situation.

Mission Bindi

Mission Bindi and the Hindu Student Council are the first organizations to announce their first event for Hindu Heritage Month. They observed “World Bindi Day” on the first day of Navratri, Oct. 7, 2021. Dr. Jai Bansal, Indian American vice president of the World Hindu Council of America, and one of the organizers of the event, noted that with second and third generations now making their mark in their adopted lands, the time has come for the Hindu community to talk about its rich cultural heritage and important role in making the multitude of contributions to every aspect of the fabric of the adopted lands.

Swami Vivekananda said:

“The Hindus have to learn a little bit of materialism from the West and teach them a little bit of spirituality.”

“The old Hinduism can only be reformed through Hinduism, and not through the new-fangled reform movements.”

“We Hindu must believe that we are the teachers of the world.”

YOU can't be brave if you've only had wonderful things happen to you. -Mary T Moore

IT's beauty that captures your attention; but personality that captures your heart.

LIFE isn't about finding yourself. Life is about creating yourself.

-George Bernard Shaw

HE is the happiest, be he king or peasant, who finds peace in his home -Johann Goethe

IT never gets easy. You just get better.

Playing it safe is the most popular way t fail. -Elliott Smith



It is in your moments of decision that your destiny is shaped. -Tony Robbins

COURAGE is like a muscle. We strengthen it with use. - Ruth Gordon

We know what we are, but know not what we may be. -William Shakespeare

Believe you can and you're halfway there. -Theodore Roosevelt

If we did all the things we are capable of, we would literally a s t o u n d ourselves. -Thomas A. Edison

He who dares nothing need hope for nothing.

DARE TO DREAM

Bartell, Georgalas & Juarez

Feel free to contact us to schedule an appointment in either our Cleveland or Columbus office:

Cleveland Office:
Ph 216-710-6700
6505 Rockside Road, Suite 275
Independence, Ohio 44131

Columbus Office:
Ph 614-964-1801
1071 Fishinger Ave, Suite 200
Columbus, Ohio 43221



www.bgjattorneys.com

OUR FIRM has a long history of representing the Indian Community in complicated immigration and criminal matters.

Call to speak with one of our attorneys, not an assistant or receptionist. Our Representation is Nationwide for Immigration Matters.

Free case evaluation

We can assist in all your immigration concerns: Deportation and Removal Defense, Asylum, Employment Visas including H1b, L1, O1, investment and Greencards, Family-based immigration including Citizenship and Naturalization.

Our lawyers have years of experience representing Clients charged with Criminal Code Violations throughout the State of Ohio. We will represent you for felony or misdemeanor charges in any County or Municipal/Mayor's Court across the State including DUI/OVI.

CDL drivers can also contact us should they receive a traffic violation in an effort to protect their CDL. Federal Criminal cases including white collar crime are also routinely handled by our attorneys.

Shahnaz Husain: the amazing success story of beauty & ayurveda

50 years of promoting Ayurvedic beauty care



Shahnaz Husain is the Founder, Chairperson & Managing Director of the Shahnaz Husain Group.
Here she is speaking at an Ayurveda conference in London.

“For me, the year 2021 has special significance, as I have completed 50 eventful years in the beauty industry and have taken our Indian herbal heritage of Ayurveda worldwide with a crusader’s zeal.”



India's then President Abdul Kalam Azad presented the



Shahnaz Husain with Harvard University Professor Geoffrey Jones.

“Shahnaz Husain is a name to reckon with. To her exclusively goes the credit of bringing the therapeutic values of herbs out of the mists of antiquity and legend, and combining them with scientific research and practice. Shahnaz Husain has done so much for India’s image abroad that she truly deserves the sobriquet of India’s Beauty Ambassador.”

– The Washington Post

Shahnaz Husain, pioneer and leader of the herbal beauty care movement, based on Ayurveda, has received unprecedented international acclaim for taking the Indian herbal heritage worldwide with a crusader’s zeal.

Today, as CMD of the Shahnaz Husain Group of Companies, she heads the largest organization of its kind in the world with a global network of franchise salons, spas, beauty training academies, retail outlets, as well as 375 formulations for beauty and health care. Shahnaz Husain has marketed India’s 5,000 year old ancient civilization in a jar and created an international market for Ayurvedic beauty care.

No commercial advertising

It is not only her franchise-based enterprise, but also her marketing strategies that are truly unique. Even at a time, when the demand for the product is sustained through advertising, she does not rely on commercial advertisements.

In fact, she was invited by Harvard Business School to speak on how she established an international brand without commercial advertising. Subsequently, she became a Harvard Case Study for brand creation. Now she is a Subject at Harvard for “Emerging Markets” and part of the Business History curriculum for management students.

According to Harvard Professor Geoffrey Jones, “We felt compelled to include Shahnaz Husain in Harvard Business School’s Creating Emerging Markets project, both because of her entrepreneurial role in creating India’s natural beauty market and her strong belief in the importance of corporate social responsibility. In both regards she is a pioneer and a role model, and we were delighted and humbled that she was willing to spare her time to help the project succeed. We anticipate that the interview will be widely used by educators and researchers, and by many others interested in seeing how she became so successful and impactful.”

Shahnaz has lectured to students at the University of

Oxford, London School of Economics and MIT in the USA, and has also spoken on Brand India and Ayurveda in the House of Commons and the House of Lords in the British Parliament.

Therapeutic products

Apart from general beauty care, Shahnaz Husain is known for her therapeutic products and treatments for specific skin and hair problems. She has also formulated the Chemoline range to alleviate the effects of chemotherapy and radiation on the skin and hair. The Chemoline products are given free of cost to cancer hospitals, as part of her CSR activities.

Her premium luxury ranges like 24 Carat Gold, Diamond, Pearl, Plant Stem Cells and Platinum Range have taken international markets by storm. The Shahnaz Husain Group’s international presence gained further momentum when the sale of her products was launched at Lloyds Pharmacy at Selfridges, the famous London store, touching record breaking sales.

The Shahnaz Husain franchise is at the core of the success of the Shahnaz Husain brand. The fast paced extension of the Shahnaz Husain salons and other ventures is due to her unique franchise system. Apart from strong branding, the franchise offers an established business model with proven success rate of five decades.

Signature Salons

The Shahnaz Husain Signature Salons have become internationally known for path-breaking treatments and innovations. The formulations, comprising highly specialized products for general care and specific skin and hair problems, contain herb, flower and fruit extracts, essential oils, precious minerals and gems.

Shahnaz Husain has received three prestigious international awards in London, including the “Pioneering Ayurveda Worldwide” Award and the Excellence Award in the British Parliament. She was honoured with an Award for Excellence for her

Chemoline Range for cancer patients.

She also received the World’s Greatest Woman Entrepreneur Award from Success, the U.S. based Business Magazine, as well as the Padma Shri Award by the Government of India for exceptional service towards the country and distinguished achievement in her chosen field.

Shahnaz Husain has also received the “Pioneering Ayurveda Worldwide” Award and the Ayurveda Excellence Award in the British Parliament. She also spoke at the Ayurveda Conference at India House, London, organized by the Indian High Commission in the U.K.

Shahnaz Husain is the pioneer of vocational training in beauty in India. She started her beauty training academy, over forty years ago, when only apprenticeship training was available. It is in keeping with international standards.

Woman empowerment

Woman empowerment and humanitarian activities are close to her heart. She encouraged ordinary housewives to open salons in their own homes, to provide them the opportunity to pursue a career and attain financial independence. She has empowered the physically challenged through her free beauty training courses for the speech, hearing and visually impaired, as well as acid attack survivors. One of her beauty books has been put into Braille.

Shahnaz has tied up with Government skill development projects in beauty and wellness. Her beauty academy has trained and certified over 40,000 underprivileged women, distributing Tool Kits for home-based businesses.

Over the last five decades, the Shahnaz Husain name has become synonymous with beauty. Her name has become the brand and has gone from strength to strength. Today, Shahnaz Husain is an international beauty icon, while her achievements are a magnificent expression of her dreams, hopes and aspirations. (–Prakash Sinha)

Next month: Interview with Shahnaz Husain

WOMEN'S WORLD

Beauty Tips
from Shahnaz Husain

Shahnaz Husain, pioneer of the herbal beauty movement, has received unprecedented global acclaim for promoting Ayurveda worldwide.

Today, she heads a global network of franchise ventures and 375 organic formulations. After speaking at Harvard Business School, she became a Harvard Case Study on Brand Creation. Now she is a Subject at Harvard on “Emerging Markets.”

She has written three books on Beauty, including a beauty book which has been put into Braille. She is also known for her CSR contributions towards free beauty training for the physically challenged and underprivileged women.

Shahnaz has received the Padma Shri and prestigious international awards, including the World's Greatest Woman Entrepreneur Award from U.S.-based Success Magazine. Her name is an international brand and she is a Beauty Icon. She lives in New Delhi.

Q & A

Q. I am 40-year-old. My hair is losing its shape and style. Worse, the gray strands I meticulously hid through trips to my hairdresser every few weeks were becoming increasingly visible. So, desperate, I did something I hadn't done in 20 years: I coloured my own hair. Some beauty salons are open now, although with restrictions, of course. But I am scared to go to places where I will be in close contact with other people. I will appreciate your valuable advice on taking care of my own hair myself at home.

Consult your doctor and ask him to prescribe Vitamin C and Vitamin B-Complex supplements, to help delay greying. If you can get amla (Indian gooseberry), have the juice of one amla daily in a glass of water. Amla helps to control greying and also ensures the good health of the hair.

You can colour your hair with semi-permanent colours at home, if you wish, but you should follow the directions on the label carefully. We have formulated 100% chemical-free Colourveda Natural Colour, available in three shades of blackish brown, brown and burgundy. You can see the following link:

www.shahnaz.in/product/colourveda-natural-hair-colour-100-gms-dark-brown-f1243-brwn/

You can care for your hair, according to hair type, at home. Once or twice a week heat pure coconut oil and apply on the hair. Then dip a towel in hot water, squeeze out the water and wrap

the hot towel around the head, like a turban. Keep it on for 5 minutes. Repeat the hot towel wrap 3 or 4 times. This helps the hair and scalp absorb the oil better. Use mild herbal shampoos, according to hair type. Wash your hair twice a week for normal to dry hair and three times a week for normal to oily hair.

For normal to dry hair, after shampoo, apply a creamy conditioner, taking less quantity and massaging it lightly into the hair. Leave on for 2 minutes and rinse off with plain water.

Or, you can apply a “leave-on” type of conditioner or hair serum. Apply the same way, but do not rinse off. For normal to oily hair, use a hair rinse or hair serum. You can rinse normal to oily hair, after shampoo, by adding two tablespoons apple cider vinegar to a mug of water. Have a small bowl of sprouts daily and ask your doctor to prescribe vitamin and mineral supplements, as advised.

Q. What causes acne? What will cure my acne?

Acne actually occurs on an oily skin and starts with a blackhead. An oily skin is prone to blackheads, when the pores get clogged with oil. The surrounding tissues of the skin get irritated, resulting in inflammation. The stage is then set for acne. Use a facial scrub to discourage or dislodge blackheads, but do not apply the scrub on pimples, acne or rash. Medicated cleansers, lotions and packs are available to control acne from spreading. Apply an astringent lotion, after cleansing, as astringents help to reduce oiliness.

Cucumber has an astringent effect. Apply cucumber juice by itself on the face and wash it off with plain water after 15 minutes. It helps to reduce oiliness and close the pores. Green tea also works well as

an astringent toner. Soak green tea leaves or a tea bag in hot water for half an hour. Cool and strain and use the liquid on the skin.

Sandalwood paste can be applied on the pimples and acne. Or, mix together one teaspoon cinnamon (dalchini) powder, lemon juice and a few drops of honey. It should be a sticky paste. Apply it ONLY on the acne and leave on for a couple of hours.

Add 2 DROPS of Tea Tree Oil to two tablespoons of water or rose water. Apply this on rash and pimples.

Twice a week, mix Fuller's Earth, rose water and sandalwood paste together into a paste. Apply on the face, avoiding the lips and area around eyes. Wash it off when it dries.

If there is any dryness of the skin, mix 100 ml rose water with one teaspoon pure glycerin and keep in an airtight bottle in the fridge. Apply a little to relieve dryness. If there is redness on the skin due to acne, or the eruptions are reddish, apply aloe vera gel daily on the face, washing off with plain water after 20 minutes. It soothes irritation and also relieves dryness.

It is also important to make sure that the hair and scalp are kept scrupulously clean. If the scalp is oily, or if there is dandruff, it can lead to pimples and acne. Keep the hair away from the face. Wash pillow covers and towels in warm soapy water, after adding one teaspoon antiseptic lotion.

Include fresh fruits, raw salads, sprouts, curd, in your daily diet and drink 6 to 8 glasses of water daily. Add the juice of a lemon to a glass of water and have it first thing in the morning.

India celebrates
festival of lights under
shadow of Covid-19

India was lit up in a dazzling display of light and color, as millions of people celebrated the Hindu festival of Diwali. But it was celebrated amid concerns over the coronavirus pandemic and air pollution.

At time for feasts, prayers and fireworks, Diwali is one of the most important festivals in India. It is known as the festival of lights as people illuminate oil lamps or candles to symbolise the triumph of light over darkness and good over evil.

The symbolism seems particularly meaningful at a time when coronavirus continues to disrupt people's lives. Although cases have fallen considerably over the past month, India is still one of the world's worst-hit nations, officially recording more than 35 million cases and over 450,000 deaths.

For some, Diwali marks the beginning of a new year. It is also the social highpoint for Indians as people — buoyed by festive cheer — throw parties, meet friends and family and exchange gifts.

The exact dates of the festival change each year and are determined by the position of the moon, but it typically falls between October and November. This year, Diwali was celebrated on Thursday, November 6.

Diwali, or Deepawali, gets its name from the Sanskrit word deepavali, which means “row of clay lamps.” Many people in India light these lamps outside their homes to symbolize the inner light that protects them from spiritual darkness, in tune with a holiday that is an ode to the triumph of good over evil.

Hindu celebrations center on the return of Rama and Sita, two deities, to Ayodhya, an ancient city in India, after being exiled. Sikhs, Jains and even Buddhists have their own lore surrounding the holiday.

The course of the five days includes cleaning house, buying new furnishings and exchanging gifts with loved ones. It also centers on traditions such as buying new kitchen utensils to help bring good fortune, as well as other practices to attract the goodwill of spirits.

Across India, celebrations include fireworks and devotional music.

Like last year, the coronavirus pandemic has brought many Diwali traditions to a halt. The government has pleaded with people to avoid large gatherings and stay away from crowded areas. And many have opted for low-key celebrations, with temples even streaming prayer sessions online to discourage gatherings.

But in the capital city of Delhi, massive crowds thronged markets ahead of the festival. Such actions, officials say, could cause another dangerous resurgence in infections that could overwhelm India's healthcare system.

At the peak of India's Covid crisis in April and May, India experienced scenes of chaos as hospitals were overwhelmed with patients amid a crippling shortage of oxygen, medicines and crucial equipment.

The public health crisis has largely subsided — the country has been recording about 10,000-12,000 daily cases, down from 400,000 in May. But experts have repeatedly cautioned against complacency, saying a third wave of infections is inevitable.

But Covid is not the only issue. The use of firecrackers during the celebrations worsens pollution levels every year.

This is particularly bad in Delhi, where air pollution rises to hazardous levels and a thick blanket of smog envelopes the city. The air quality further worsens in November and December as farmers in the neighboring states of Punjab and Haryana burn crop stubble to clear their fields.

Studies around the world have linked air pollution to higher Covid-19 case numbers and deaths. A Harvard University study shows that an increase of only one microgram per cubic metre in PM 2.5 — dangerous tiny pollutants in the air — is associated with an 8% increase in the Covid-19 death rate.

Ahead of Diwali, several states ordered complete or partial bans on the use of firecrackers.



More than 1 billion Hindus observe Diwali worldwide.



Please send your questions to Indiaint@aol.com

Nothing makes a woman more beautiful than the belief that she is beautiful. —Sophia Loren

Spirituality and stress relief: Making the connection

TAKING THE PATH less traveled by exploring your spirituality can lead to a clearer life purpose, better personal relationships and enhanced stress management skills.

Some stress relief tools are very tangible: exercising more, eating healthy foods and talking with friends. A less tangible — but no less useful — way to find stress relief is through spirituality.

What is spirituality?

Spirituality has many definitions, but at its core spirituality helps to give our lives context. It's not necessarily connected to a specific belief system or even religious worship. Instead, it arises from your connection with yourself and with others, the development of your personal value system, and your search for meaning in life.

For many, spirituality takes the form of religious observance, prayer, meditation or a belief in a higher power. For others, it can be found in nature, music, art or a secular community. Spirituality is different for everyone.

How can spirituality help with stress relief?

Spirituality has many benefits for stress relief and overall mental health. It can help you:

Feel a sense of purpose: Cultivating your spirituality may help uncover what's most meaningful in your life. By clarifying what's most important, you can focus less on the unimportant things and eliminate stress.

Connect to the world: The more you feel you have a purpose in the world, the less solitary you feel — even when you're alone. This can lead to a valuable inner peace during difficult times.

Release control: When you feel part of a greater whole, you realize that you aren't

responsible for everything that happens in life. You can share the burden of tough times as well as the joys of life's blessings with those around you.

Expand your support network: Whether you find spirituality in a temple, church, mosque or synagogue, in your family, or in nature walks with a friend, this sharing of spiritual expression can help build relationships.

Lead a healthier life: People who consider themselves spiritual appear to be better able to cope with stress and heal from illness or addiction faster.

Discovering your spirituality

Uncovering your spirituality may take some self-discovery. Here are some questions to ask yourself to discover what experiences and values define you:

- **What are your important relationships?**
- **What do you value most in your life?**
- **What people give you a sense of community?**
- **What inspires you and gives you hope?**
- **What brings you joy?**
- **What are your proudest achievements?**

The answers to such questions help you identify the most important people and experiences in your life. With this information, you can focus your search for spirituality on the relationships and activities in life that have helped define you as a person and those that continue to inspire your personal growth.

Cultivating your spirituality

Spirituality also involves getting in touch with your inner

self. A key component is self-reflection. Try these tips:

- Try prayer, meditation and relaxation techniques to help focus your thoughts and find peace of mind.
- Keep a journal to help you express your feelings and record your progress.
- Seek out a trusted adviser or friend who can help you discover what's important to you in life. Others may have insights that you haven't yet discovered.
- Read inspirational stories or essays to help you evaluate different philosophies of life.
- Talk to others whose spiritual lives you admire. Ask questions to learn how they found their way to a fulfilling spiritual life.

Nurturing your relationships

Spirituality is also nurtured by your relationships with others. Realizing this, it's essential to foster relationships with the people who are important to you. This can lead to a deepened sense of your place in life and in the greater good.

- Make relationships with friends and family a priority. Give more than you receive.
- See the good in people and in yourself. Accept others as they are, without judgment.
- Contribute to your community by volunteering.

Pursuing a spiritual life

Staying connected to your inner spirit and the lives of those around you can enhance your quality of life, both mentally and physically. Your personal concept of spirituality may change with your age and life experiences, but it always forms the basis of your well-being, helps you cope with stressors large and small, and affirms your purpose in life.

(—By Mayo Clinic Staff)

UK releases new Mahatma Gandhi commemorative coin to mark Diwali



The UK Chancellor unveiled a new 5-pound commemorative coin. The special collectors' coin features an image of a lotus alongside one of Gandhi's most famous quotes: My life is my message.

LONDON: A new 5 pound coin to commemorate the life and legacy of Mahatma Gandhi was unveiled by Chancellor Rishi Sunak to mark the Hindu festival of Diwali.

Available in a range of standards, including gold and silver, the special collectors' coin was designed by Heena Glover and features an image of a lotus, India's national flower, alongside one of Gandhi's most famous quotes — "My life is my message".

Building on the enduring relationship and cultural connections between the UK and India, it is the first time that Gandhi has been commemorated on an official UK coin with the final design chosen by Sunak, who is the Master of the Mint.

"This coin is a fitting tribute to an influential leader who inspired millions of people around the world," he said.

"As a practicing Hindu, I am proud to unveil this coin during Diwali. Mahatma Gandhi was instrumental in the movement for Indian independence and it is fantastic to have a UK coin commemorating his remarkable life for the first time."

The coin, which goes on sale, is part of the Royal Mint's wider Diwali collection, which includes 1g and 5g gold bars in henna-style packaging, and the UK's first gold bar depicting Lakshmi — the Hindu Goddess of wealth.

The 20g gold Lakshmi bar was designed in partnership with the Hindu community in South Wales, where the Royal Mint is based.

The Mint will join the celebrations at the Shree Swaminarayan Temple in Cardiff, where worshippers will offer prayers to goddess Lakshmi and lord Ganesha for the coming year.

Chief Customer Officer for The Royal Mint, Nicola Howell, said: "As we approach Diwali celebrations, we are delighted to unveil the first official UK coin commemorating the life and legacy of Mahatma Gandhi. The beautiful design builds on the enduring relationship and cultural connections between the UK and India."

The announcement comes as India is celebrating its 75th year of Independence this year. Last year, the Chancellor commissioned the new "Diversity Built Britain" 50p coin following discussion with the 'We Too Built Britain' campaign, which works for fair representation of minority communities' contributions across all walks of life.

Around 10 million of the coins, which recognise and celebrate Britain's diverse history, went into circulation in October 2020.



Empire State Building Lit Up With Diwali Lights: Federation of Indian Associations (FIA) of eight states organized lighting the World famous Empire State Building in New York in the colors of a diya on November 4. Vice President Sales of Empire State Building Patricia Niscior wished the community the world over a Happy Diwali and invited them to participate and visit the World famous Empire State Building.



Bangladesh: Hindus targeted by violence demand better legal protection

Last month, several Hindu temples were ransacked during violent protests across Bangladesh that were sparked by a video of a Quran being placed at the feet of the statue of a Hindu Goddess during celebrations for the Hindu festival Durga Puja.

The Quran video provoked outrage in Muslim-majority Bangladesh, and hundreds of Muslims protested violently in more than a dozen districts. Houses belonging to Hindus were also attacked, and six people were killed.

Followers of the Hindu group, International Society for Krishna Consciousness, were joined by students and teachers from Dhaka University in blocking a major intersection in the Bangladeshi capital to demand justice.

Several other Hindu groups also joined the peaceful protest at Dhaka's Shahbagh Square. Some Muslim groups also held similar street protests over the "dishonorable" image of the Muslim holy book on a statue of a Hindu goddess.

International rights group Amnesty International has called on the authorities to take urgent steps to protect the members of the Hindu minority community against such attacks and ensure access to justice and effective remedies for victims.

Mia Seppo, the UN resident coordinator in Bangladesh, has also called upon the Bangladeshi government to ensure the protection of minorities and an impartial probe into the incidents.

Religious unrest poses a challenge to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's Awami League, which has always portrayed itself as secular and minority-friendly, especially since becoming Bangladesh's ruling party in 2009.

Thousands of attacks documented in recent years

However, the Hindu community in Bangladesh frequently encounters violence. Ain o Salish Kendra (ASK), a Bangladeshi human rights organization that documents attacks on minority communities, estimates that over 3,600 attacks targeting Hindus have taken place in Bangladesh since 2013.

The attacks include vandalism and arson targeting over 550 houses and 440 shops and businesses. More than 1,670 cases of vandalism and arson attacks on Hindu temples, idols and places of worship were also reported during that time, according to ASK.

Eleven members of the Hindu community died in these incidents, and another 862 were injured. Several instances of sexual assault against Hindu women were also reported during this time.

Rana Dasgupta, general secretary of Bangladesh Hindu Buddhist Christian Unity Council (BHBCUC), told DW that the actual number of attacks could be much higher than what ASK has estimated.

"Although Hindus were also attacked in the 1990s and 2000s, we have been observing a continual pattern of such attacks since 2011, which is alarming," he said.

"We thought the Hindu community would have a better life under the Awami League

government, but that didn't happen," he said.

Hindus make up less than 9% of Bangladesh's total population of over 170 million, with 90% of the population Muslim.

Over the past four decades, the percentage of the Hindu population of Bangladesh declined from 13.5% to 8.5%, according to Bangladeshi government data.

Although economic reasons are part of what has spurred Bangladeshi Hindus to move to neighboring India, BHBCUC expert Dasgupta considers security as the main reason why Hindus have left.

"The reason behind the attacks is to drive away minorities from their homes, to minimize the minority population of Bangladesh," he said.

Attacks on Hindus in Bangladesh often unpunished

Dasgupta blames religious fundamentalists, particularly the supporters of Bangladesh's largest Islamic party, Jamaat-e-Islami, for attacks on the Hindu community.

However, the party has been largely inactive after many of its leaders were executed a few years ago for war crimes committed during the 1971 war of independence against Pakistan.

Zunaid Saki, chief coordinator of the left-wing political party Ganasamhati Andolon, told DW that the Awami League condemns the attacks, but does little to stop them from happening again.

Saki has visited many locations where attacks against the Hindu community have taken place in recent years.

"The pattern of these attacks is the same: First, something is posted on Facebook and is marked as 'insulting to Islam' by others, and then a group of people attack a particular spot where religious minorities live," he said.

"The ruling Awami League party blames religious fundamentalists after the attack and vows to take action against the culprits. But nothing happens afterward, and nobody gets punished for the attacks," he added.

'Little hope' for justice

Rana Dasgupta said Hindu victims of attacks struggle to receive legal recourse from the government, despite promises of reform.

"The past governments didn't allow Hindu victims to file cases when they were attacked. Under the Awami League government, we can file cases, but justice is not served even after filing complaints," he said.

Nina Goswami, the director of ASK, also said that attacks on Hindus are rarely prosecuted.

"Our culture of impunity is a major reason behind it," she told DW.

"Sometimes influential people stop police from filing evidence of the attacks. We have also noticed that investigations weaken over time, and the perpetrators get released at some point without facing any punishment."

Goswami added that she sees little hope of justice for members of the Hindu community.

"Regardless of whichever political party has been in power in Bangladesh, the Hindu community has never received the protection it deserves," she said. "Rather parties tried to use the community for their political interest."

Recent violent attacks against Hindus have reopened old wounds for religious minorities in Muslim-majority Bangladesh. Rights groups say these attacks often are forgotten by the legal system and go unpunished.



Violence started during one of the most popular Hindu festivals – Durga Puja



Hindus in Bangladesh, India and many parts of the world protested.



Activists of Islami Andolan Bangladesh take part in a protest outside the National Mosque in Dhaka (Munir Uz Zaman/AFP via Getty Images)

Travel to India during Covid-19: What you need to know before you go

If you're planning to travel to India, here's what you'll need to know and expect if you want to visit during the coronavirus pandemic.

The basics

India is finally emerging after a devastating few months as the global center of a new wave of the pandemic, which brought the country's health system close to collapse. The Delta variant, which is now sweeping the world, started here.

The country swiftly closed its borders at the start of the pandemic, banning all scheduled international flights in March 2020. However, restrictions have started easing, with tourists allowed in from November 15.

The question is: What isn't on offer in India? This vast country has an astonishing range of landscapes, architecture, cultures and religions. Most first-timers stick to the "golden triangle" of Delhi, Agra and Jaipur, but other big hitters for newbies include the Kerala waterways, beaches of Goa and Mumbai, one of the world's most thrilling cities.

Entry requirements

Entry for group tourism using charter flights commenced October 15, and from November 15 individual

tourists will be allowed in. Arrivals must possess a tourism visa or e-visa granted after October 6, 2021.

Those granted previously but not used are not currently eligible for entry. However, you cannot use a land border to enter on a tourist visa.

Arriving at an airport, all arrivals are screened. Anyone showing symptoms will be taken to a medical facility.

All travelers must upload a self-declaration form on the Air Suvidha Portal, as well as a negative PCR test taken within 72 hours of the journey.

Fully vaccinated arrivals do not have to quarantine. Others must self-isolate for seven days, test on day eight, and continue to monitor their health for another week.

US CDC travel advisory:

Level 2: Moderate (downgraded from level 3 on August 16). Make sure you are fully vaccinated before traveling to India.

There have been over 34 million infections and over 459,000 deaths till November 3. (—CNN)

US opens to foreign tourists

After nearly 20 months of travel restrictions, the US has opened its borders to fully vaccinated foreign tourists. Nationals from countries that were listed on the US travel ban list during the pandemic, including India, will be able to enter the country from November 8.

Rules for Indians travelling to the US: To board a flight, travelers will need to present their vaccination certificates, along with a pre-departure negative coronavirus test taken three days prior to travel.

Airlines will also collect personal information for contact-tracing purposes. Health officials are expected to follow up with travelers in case of exposure.

Which vaccinations are accepted by the US?: The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has announced that vaccines approved for emergency use by the Food and Drug Administration, and the World Health Organisation will be accepted.

The FDA has authorised three COVID-19 vaccines for emergency use during the pandemic: Moderna, Johnson & Johnson and Pfizer-BioNTech. WHO-approved vaccines include Johnson and Johnson, Moderna, Pfizer-BioNTech, Oxford-AstraZeneca/Covishield, Sinopharm and Sinovac. **WHO approved Covaxin earlier this month.**

The U.S. fully reopened to many vaccinated international travelers on November 8, allowing families and friends to reunite for the first time since the coronavirus emerged and offering a boost to the travel industry decimated by the pandemic. The restrictions closed the U.S. to millions of people for 20 months. Airlines are preparing for a surge in activity — especially from Europe — after the pandemic and resulting restrictions caused international travel to plunge.

India opens for international travel



Expect more scenes like this as India is likely to see a surge in tourists arrival.

India has opened up for travelers and has allowed commercial flights from November. While the travel industry is expecting a surge in visitors, medical experts fear a surge of a different kind.

After nearly 20 months of closure, India finally has opened its borders to fully vaccinated foreign tourists.

Foreign tourists can enter India from November 15 on fresh Tourist Visas, said a statement from the Home Ministry. No tourist visas were issued since March 2020 when Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government shut the country's borders to rein in the coronavirus pandemic.

Under the new guidelines, all tourist visas issued before 15 October will be invalid. This means that travelers coming to India will have to get fresh visas.

However, the authorities are yet to spell out the testing, vaccination, and quarantine rules for travelers. The decision to allow

foreign tourists, announced last month, comes at a time when India's daily Covid cases have been falling.

The easing of restrictions on foreign travel also coincided with the onset of India's peak travel season, sparking hopes of revival of the beleaguered tourism industry.

With its rich geography and history, India offers a large number of tourist attractions such as the Taj Mahal monument, temples and forts, the snowy mountain peaks of the Himalayas and the white sandy beaches in the west and south.

According to government data, India attracted just 2.74 million foreign tourists last year — down from 10.93 million in 2019 — as the pandemic upended lives and

businesses.

Less than 3 million foreign tourists visiting India in 2020 was a decline of almost 75% compared to the previous year. The government plans to issue 500,000 free visas to boost tourism, which is expected to incentivize short-term travelers to visit India.

Tourism contributes almost 7% to India's GDP and is also responsible for millions of jobs in the hospitality sector. With the economy struggling like never before, India cannot afford to lose out on the precious foreign exchange that tourism brings.

Government data shows that international travelers brought in \$30 billion in foreign exchange in 2019. After the pandemic and resulting lockdown, earnings

fell by over 76%, down to around \$7 billion in 2020.

Travel industry looks forward to reopening

India's travel and tourism industry had been deeply impacted by the pandemic. With travel now opening up, people working in the sector are optimistic about business picking up pace.

"Unlike other markets, which are thriving ever since the lockdown was lifted, shopkeepers here [at Paharganj market in Delhi] have no business at all, as 80% of the business in the market depended on foreign tourists," Subhash Vij, president of the Paharganj traders' body told the Indian newspaper Hindustan Times. The market is usually frequented by backpackers and budget travelers. (—DW)

India vaccinates 1 billion against Covid

INDIA completed the administration of 100 crore doses of the Covid-19 vaccine on October 21, 2021, in just about nine months since the start of the vaccination drive.

PM Narendra Modi tweeted: "The journey from anxiety to assurance has happened and our nation has emerged stronger, thanks to the world's largest vaccination drive."

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Oct 22 cautioned people to remain vigilant and urged them to continue wearing masks.

Addressing the nation, the Prime Minister said, "Yesterday, on October 21, India has achieved the difficult but extraordinary target of 1 billion vaccine doses. Behind this achievement is the power (kartavyashakti) of 130 crore countrymen; so this success is the success of India, the success of every countryman."

"When the biggest pandemic of 100 years



(Picture CNN)

came, questions started arising about India. Will India be able to fight this global pandemic? From where will India get the money to buy so many vaccines from other countries? When will India get the vaccine? Will the people of India get the vaccine or not? Will India be able to vaccinate enough people to stop the pandemic from spreading? There were various questions, but today the 100-crore vaccine doses

are answering every question," the Prime Minister said.

There was only one mantra that if the disease does not discriminate, then there cannot be any discrimination in the vaccination. Therefore, it was ensured that the VIP culture did not dominate the vaccination campaign."

There are some among us who only trust foreign brands, even for simple everyday necessities.

However, when it came to something as crucial as the Covid-19 vaccine, the people of India unanimously trusted "Made in India" vaccines. This is a big paradigm shift.

Till today, only a handful of countries have developed their own vaccines. More than 180 countries are dependent on an extremely limited pool of producers and dozens of nations are still waiting for the supply of vaccines.



HUMOR

There's life without Facebook and Internet?
Really?
Send me the link.

Meditation

Meditation Two Hindus meet on the street. One asks the other: "Hi, how are you?" The other replies: "I'm fine, thanks." "And how's your son? Is he still unemployed?" "Yes, he is. But he is meditating now." "Meditating? What's that?" "I don't know. But it's better than sitting around and do nothing!"

Revelation

When I was a boy of 14, my father

was so ignorant, I could hardly stand to have the old man around. But when I got to be 21, (I was astonished at how much the old man had learned in seven years.

-Mark Twain

Prayer

Harry prays to God: Dear Lord, please make me win the lottery. The next day Harry begs the Lord again: Please make it so I win the lottery, Lord! The next day, Harry again prays: Please,

please, dear Lord, make me win the lottery! Suddenly he hears a voice from above: Harry, would you kindly go and buy a lottery ticket.

The First

Patient: Oh doctor, I'm just so nervous. This is my first operation. Doctor: Don't worry. Mine too.

Request

A priests asks the convicted murderer at the electric chair, "Do you have any last requests?"

"Yes," replies the murderer.

How many trees

"Daddy, what is an alcoholic?" "Do you see those 4 trees, son? An alcoholic would see 8 trees." "Um, Dad - there are only 2 trees."

Sons at College

Two women were talking about their sons who were off at college. "My son is so brilliant," the First woman said, "every time I get a letter from him I have to go to the dictionary." You're lucky," the other replied. "Every Time I get a letter from my son, I have to go to the Bank".

Names

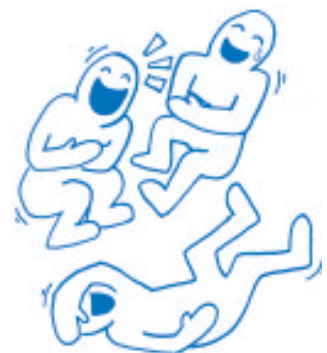
George goes to the Birth Registration Office to register his newborn son. The man behind the counter asks the name he wants to give to the boy, and the father replies: "Euro."

The man says that such a name is not acceptable, because it's a currency.

Says George: "What? There weren't any objections when I called my first two sons Mark and Frank."

There's a fine line between a numerator and a denominator. (...Only a fraction of people will get this clean joke.)

Did you hear about the first restaurant to open on the moon? It had great food, but no atmosphere.



Riddle Corner



1. Brothers and sisters I have none but this man's father is my father's son. Who is the man?

2. What is greater than God, more evil than the devil, the poor have it, the rich need it, and if you eat it, you'll die?

3. What is it that's always coming but never arrives?

4. Which word in the dictionary is spelled incorrectly?

5. Imagine you are in a dark room. How do you get out?

(Answer on page 12)

Don't object to marriage, except to an object

At any given moment, there are probably millions of people around the world who are dreaming of wedding ceremonies.

They have a strong desire to dress up in wedding finery and make a lifetime commitment in front of friends and relatives.

Many of these single people are dreaming of marrying a particular person, perhaps a boyfriend or girlfriend or someone whom their parents have selected. But others do not yet have a specific person in mind: they are still searching, hoping, praying, and dreaming.

Some of them are so intent on getting married, wearing a bride's dress or groom's suit, that they just go ahead and do it. "Why should I keep waiting for the perfect person?" they ask themselves.

That's what an Indonesian man named Khoirul Anam recently did. He asked himself an important question: "Who has provided me with rice for the last few years?"

After contemplating this question, he dressed up in his traditional wedding attire and got married in a private ceremony to his rice cooker.

According to news reports, Anam draped a sheer white veil on the rice cooker, giving it the appearance of a bride. He shared pictures of the wedding on social media, including one photo in which he's kissing his bride, and another in which he's signing the official wedding papers.

He revealed his reasons for marrying the rice cooker in a caption, saying she was "fair, obedient, loving and good at cooking."

He did not share any details about the wedding night. We can only guess that he



The Humor of Melvin Durai

LIFE CAN BE SO FUNNY !

plugged in the bride and had a steamy night.

No details about the honeymoon were revealed either. Perhaps the newlyweds took a boat ride to a nearby island. Perhaps the bride, in a romantic gesture, sat on the groom's lap the whole time.

Unfortunately, the marriage did not last. Four days after tying the knot, Anam announced that he was divorcing his wife. His reason: she was good at cooking rice but could not cook any other dishes.

This is, of course, a common problem in

marriages: one partner expects the other to change.

Anam: "Rice, rice, rice. All you keep cooking is rice. I'm tired of rice."

Cooker: "Stop pushing my buttons! You keep pushing my buttons!"

Anam: "What else can I do, but push your buttons and hope you cook something else?"

Cooker: "If you had wanted your wife to cook something else, you should have married an Instant Pot. But the Instant Pot isn't fair and obedient, is it?"

The lesson for all single people is clear: do not

marry a rice cooker and expect it to suddenly turn into a bread maker. If you want a bread maker, then marry a bread maker.

It's always sad when a marriage ends in divorce, especially when it has a big impact on statistics. As far as I know, the divorce rate in human history when a man marries a rice cooker is now 100 percent. I'm not sure, however, what the divorce rate is for all marriages involving humans and objects.

Yes, in case you are wondering, Anam is not the first human to think of marrying an object. One British woman married a duvet (a type of blanket); another Brit married a chandelier; and an American woman married an entire train station.

None of these marriages are legally binding, of course. Anam's marriage to the rice cooker was mainly a publicity stunt, but

thanks to him, perhaps fewer people will object to marrying humans.

Groom's father: "Good news. My son has changed his mind. He will marry your daughter, Priya, after all."

Bride's father: "That's wonderful! We were praying for such an outcome. What made him change his mind?"

Groom's father: "I told him to make a choice. I said, 'You must either marry a nice cook like Priya or a rice cooker.' He made a good choice."

Melvin Durai is an Illinois-based writer and humorist, author of the humorous novel "Bala Takes the Plunge." A native of India, he grew up in Zambia and has lived in North America since the early 1980s. Read his humor blog at www.Nshima.com. Email: melvin@melvindurai.com

India resumes vaccine exports

NEW DELHI: Myanmar, Bangladesh, Nepal and Iran have been the first recipients of resumed vaccine exports from India almost eight months after they were halted due to rising cases of Covid-19 in India.

The government had stopped vaccine exports as the brutal second wave hit India in April-May this year. It's only after India had administered close to a billion doses of vaccines did the government relax restrictions. Commercial contracts were also kept in abeyance as production was procured for domestic use.

India resumed its exports to the Covax facility with the first lot of doses landing in African countries. Adar Poonawalla, chief of Serum Institute of India, was quoted by Axios news website as saying that by this week, he expected Covishield doses to land in African countries.

India now has a long list of vaccines — Covavax, Corbevax, ZyCoVd, Gennova's mRNA vaccine — at various stages of regulatory approval. The first 50 million doses of SII-produced Covavax will make its way to Indonesia this week though the vaccine is yet to be greenlighted by India's DCGI, the WHO or US FDA.

While the government is focusing on getting more Indians covered by the second jab, it's clear that supplies are no longer a constraint. Vaccine manufacturers are chomping at the bit, because they need to go out to the world with their exports.

However, there remain fears about a third wave and a repeat of the shortages faced during the second wave as well as uncertainties about production volumes and timelines of manufacturers. Here, government sources say they were hobbled by the slow rollout of Covaxin by Bharat Biotech. Without the SII doing the heavy lifting (over 88% doses were Covishield), India would not have been able to ramp up its vaccinations as rapidly as it did.

Until mid-October, Bharat Biotech had only supplied around 110 million doses compared to the 400 million promised by the government to the Supreme Court. Sputnik V, the third vaccine approved by India, stopped production because Russia just could not supply enough. Until mid-October, they had supplied only 45 lakh against the 10 crore promised. In fact, globally, Russia has promised one billion vaccines, but hasn't been able to provide more than 5 million.

This means large parts of Africa, Latin America and even Asia remain unserved. China is moving aggressively, capturing markets, even though their vaccines have been shown to be well below par. Indian vaccine manufacturers are well-positioned to take a global lead on this.

With the developed world going in for boosters and scientific evidence tilting towards giving vulnerable populations boosters after 6-8 months, it won't be long before India too has to take a call on them. For government regulators, this is all the more reason to hold on to vaccines for Indians.

Riddles answers

- 1. Answer to this riddle is simple - the man is my son.
- 2. Nothing
- 3. Tomorrow
- 4. Incorrectly
- 5. Stop imagining

Air India: Tata Sons regain control of the iconic maharajah

THE story of Air India began at a tiny airfield in Karachi in undivided India on a balmy morning in October 1932 when JRD Tata, the 28-year-old scion of a well-known business family, took off for Bombay in a single-engine plane.

The Puss Moth — one of the two that Tata purchased from England — was beginning a modest weekly mail service.

The plane cruised at 100mph (160km/h), battling headwinds in what was a “bumpy and hot flight”. A bird flew into the cabin and had to be killed.

After a refuelling stop — a bullock-cart ferried fuel to the airline in Ahmedabad — the plane landed on a mud flat in Bombay (now Mumbai) in the late afternoon. After offloading some of the mail, the second, waiting plane took off with the remainder of its cargo to two cities in southern India.

No radio communication

The planes had to be started up by swinging the propeller by hand, flew without navigational or landing aids, and had no radio communication.

They routinely took off from the mud-flat near the beach in Bombay where the “sea was below what we called our airfield, and during the high tide of the monsoon, the airfield was at the bottom of the sea,” Tata recounted later.

When the place got flooded, the airline — two planes, three pilots and three mechanics — moved to a small airfield in the city of Poona (now Pune), 150km to the south-east.

“Scarcely anywhere in the world was there an air service operating without support from the government. It could only be done by throwing on the operator the financial risk. Tata Sons were prepared to take the risk,” Sir Frederick Tymms, the then chief of civil aviation in the region told a newspaper in 1934.

Mail service

Over the years, the mail service expanded to other cities. A lone passenger was also accommodated. In 1937, two Tata planes began a service between Delhi and Bombay, each plane carrying 3,500 letters and one passenger. Within six years of starting up, the airline owned 15 planes, an equal number of pilots and three dozen engineers. It claimed a punctuality of 99.4%.

“It took Tata pilots some time to get accustomed to a human riding



in the seat behind them,” the tycoon's biographer, Russi M Lala, noted. “One day a skipper consuming a leg of chicken is reported to have thrown the bone out of the cockpit. It was carried by the wind into the lap of his startled passenger”.

An aviation buff — he had flown his first solo flight as a 25 year old — Tata had always wanted to build a global airline. In the early 1940s, he spoke presciently about the impending “air age” and how air travel would become “as widely available as railway and steamer facilities today”.

By 1946, his fledgling airline was carrying one of every three passengers in India and owned nearly half of the roughly 50 planes operating in the country.

Goes International

Two years later, Air India went international. A brand new Lockheed Constellation plane christened the 'Malabar Princess' took off from Bombay on a flight to London. Tata told the BBC that the flight was the “first by an Asian airline to link the East and West by a regular service”. By the end of that year Air India was making profits.

Air India quickly gained a worldwide reputation and a well-known brand. By 1968, 75% of its passengers came from foreign countries. George Harrison and The Doors flew on it; and Salvador Dali designed and gifted the airline with a special ashtray.

Tata, a domineering businessman, was punctilious about in-flight service: he once

pointed to the color of tea served on the flight as “indistinguishable” from the color of coffee; stopped cabin attendants from smoking in the galleys while on duty; and complained that the bacon and tomatoes were often served “stone cold” in the first class breakfast.

Crew well groomed

He also ticked off his crew for not being properly groomed. “We must know where to draw the line between the odd, the ridiculous and the attractive. Some of your pursers grow sideburns right into their collars! Some have grown drooping moustaches, that make them indistinguishable from Fu Manchu. Some hostesses have buns bigger than their head... please do pay special attention to make-up and appearance” he wrote in a note to one of his managers in 1951.

In June 1953, Air India was taken over by the government. India's aviation industry had flown into heavy weather: profits were falling, too many aeroplanes had been bought, at least two airlines had shut down. The government proposed merging nearly a dozen airlines — only Air India was the standout operator — in a single state-owned corporation. Tata had mixed feelings about it.

For the next three decades Air India continued to shine. The diminutive maharajah, the airline's world-famous mascot, became one of India's most recognisable symbols. In bright destination-driven promotional posters he appeared as a Brit with a bowler hat and umbrella; a Frenchman with a

beret; and a ruddy, alpine climber from Switzerland.

The planes were named after royalty and Himalayan peaks. By the 1970s Air India had 10,000 employees in 54 countries. “[Even in the 1980s) it was a brand to reckon with. It was one of the few Indian organisations at that time with a global footprint. It had an aura of glamour and excitement,” noted Jitender Bhargava, a former executive director of Air India and author of the book, The Descent of Air India.

Things began to go downhill from the 1990s. Competition became fiercer. Air India began making heavy losses after merging with the state-owned domestic operator Indian Airlines in 2007. It relied on taxpayer-funded bailouts to stay operational, and became the butt of jokes.

Losses

The carrier was making a loss of nearly \$2.6m a day and was racked by debts worth more than \$8bn. The airline still had some of the best pilots, but its on-time performance plummeted and service deteriorated.

Now, Air India has returned to the Tata Group, India's biggest conglomerate. In an emotional note, Ratan Tata, chairman emeritus and cousin of JRD Tata, said the airline under JRD had “gained the reputation of being one of the most prestigious airlines in the world”.

“Tatas will have the opportunity of regaining the image and reputation it enjoyed in earlier years,” he said.

Fasten your seat belts !



JRD with the crew after a flight (file photo)