



## SUPREME COURT REFUSES TO INTERVENE IN KARNATAKA HIJAB ROW

**NEW DELHI (TIP):** The Supreme Court on Friday, February 11, refused to intervene in the Karnataka hijab controversy, saying "We will take it up at an appropriate time."

"You should think if such issues should be brought at the national level," a Bench led by CJI NV Ramana told senior advocate Devdatt Kamat.

Seeking to challenge the Karnataka High Court's interim order restraining students from wearing religious dress till it decided the issues arising out of the hijab controversy, Kamat urged the top court to take up the matter on Monday.

CONTD ON PAGE 38

## U.S. urges Canada to use federal powers to end bridge blockade

**THE AMBASSADOR BRIDGE IS THE BUSIEST U.S.-CANADIAN BORDER CROSSING, CARRYING 25% OF ALL TRADE BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES, AND THE EFFECTS OF THE BLOCKADE THERE WERE FELT RAPIDLY.**



**WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP):** The Biden administration urged Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's government Thursday, February 10, to use its federal powers to end the truck blockade by Canadians protesting the country's COVID-19 restrictions, as the bumper-to-bumper demonstration forced auto plants on both sides of the border to shut down or scale back production, according to an AP report.

For the fourth straight day, scores of truckers taking part in what they dubbed the Freedom Convoy blocked the Ambassador Bridge connecting Windsor, Ontario, to Detroit, disrupting the flow of auto parts and other products between the two countries.

CONTD ON PAGE 38

Truckers protest against COVID-19 vaccine mandates - File photo

## INDIA SLAMS UN TERROR REPORT FOR 'IGNORING' JEM, LASHKAR LINKS



"It is essential that we don't lose sight of the ease with which the proscribed Haqqani Network, with support from their patron state, have worked along with prominent terrorist organizations like Al-Qaida and ISIS-K in South Asia," said Ambassador Tirumurti, India's Permanent Representative to the United Nations

**UNITED NATIONS (TIP):** India has expressed dismay at the failure of the UN Secretary General's report on ISIS to take note of the close links between proscribed terrorist groups, such as Pakistan-based Lashkar-e-Toiba and Jaish-e-Mohammad, despite New Delhi repeatedly flagging these concerns.

CONTD ON PAGE 38

## Russia launches Belarus military drills as West fears Ukraine invasion

**NEW YORK (TIP):** The United States has said Russia is also dispatching some 30,000 troops to Ukraine's neighbor Belarus for the exercises that started on Thursday, February 10.

Russia and Belarus launched joint military drills on Thursday, February 10 that heightened tensions and added urgency to diplomatic efforts by NATO leaders to avert a feared invasion of Ukraine.

The war games, set to run until February 20, are the latest point of contention between Russia and the West over Ukraine. Kyiv quickly denounced the maneuvers as "psychological pressure".

French Foreign Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian called the exercises "a very violent gesture", while British Foreign Secretary Liz Truss used a visit to Moscow to accuse Russia of attempting "to undermine Ukrainian sovereignty".

NATO Secretary General Jens



Stoltenberg said the buildup was "a dangerous moment for European security".

Western leaders have been warning for weeks that Russia could be preparing to escalate an eight-year separatist conflict in east Ukraine after building up of some 1,00,000 troops around the former Soviet state. The United States has said Russia is also dispatching some 30,000 troops to Ukraine's neighbor Belarus for the exercises that started on Thursday.

CONTD ON PAGE 38

## INDIAN-ORIGIN COP NEIL BASU IN SHORT-LIST TO BE SCOTLAND YARD CHIEF



Neil Basu, an Indian-origin British police officer is considered to be in line for Scotland Yard chief - A video grab

**LONDON (TIP):** Neil Basu, an Indian-origin British police officer, is widely believed in political and media circles to be in a short-list of candidates who could become the next London Metropolitan Police Commissioner or chief of the hallowed Scotland Yard.

But his plain-speaking in the past may have rubbed decision-makers Prime Minister Boris Johnson and Home Secretary Priti Patel the wrong way. The post of police commissioner of the British capital became vacant on Thursday after the incumbent Cressida Dick, the first woman to

CONTD ON PAGE 38

**NOW HIRING!**  
**Home Health Aides**  
 Great Benefits & Flexible Hours  
 Call to Apply Today (631) 509-5600  
 www.IDEALHCS.com

300 Motor Pkwy, Suite 125  
 Hauppauge, NY 11788

**OMNI MORTGAGE CORP.**  
 Residential | Commercial | SBA Loans

Andy Singh  
 516-441-7000  
 16 E. Old Country Road  
 Hicksville, NY 11801  
 E-mail: herman@omnimortgage.com

Herman Singh  
 718-441-7000  
 118-18 101 Avenue  
 Richmond Hill, NY 11419

Registered Mortgage Broker- NYS Dept of Financial Services  
 Loans arranged thru 3rd party providers

**PRESIDENT/PUBLISHER:**

Prof. Indrajit S. Saluja

**VICE PRESIDENT:**

Chitagam Saluja

**CHIEF EDITOR:**

Prof Indrajit S. Saluja

**CONSULTING EDITOR :**

Deepak Dwivedi Chairman,

Editor-In-Chief

Blitz India Media Group

**ASSISTANT EDITOR:**

Bidisha Roy

**SPL. REPORTER UNO:**

H.S. Panaser

**GRAPHICS DIRECTOR:**

Om Parkash Malik

**DIRECTOR**

**ADMINISTRATION:**

Gauri Beri

**CONTRIBUTING**

**PHOTOGRAPHERS:**

Baldev Singh / BJ Videos

Gunjesh Desai / Masala Junction

Jay Mandal,

Mohammad Jaffer,

SnapsIndia

Mohammad Shahzad,

Zia Khan,

Nisha Rani

Vaaho Photographers,

Vijay Shah - Photo Journalist.

**CORRESPONDENTS :**

**SACRAMENTO:**

Parminder S. Aujla

**NEW YORK :**

Chitagam

**FRESNO:**

Tarlochan Singh

**DALLAS:**

Harjit Dhesi, Amarjit Dhillon

**OVERSEAS CORRESPONDENTS**

**LONDON**

Nirpal Singh Shergill

**SPL CORRESPONDENT**

**DELHI BUREAU CHIEF:**

Chandan Singh

**CHANDIGARH:**

Manjit Sidhu

**LUDHIANA:**

A.S. Arora,

R.P.Sharma

**JAIPUR :**

Dr. Yashpaul Goyal

**DALLAS BUREAU CHIEF & VP**

Lovllien Kaurr

972-330-3139

editor@theindianpanorama.news

**The Indian Panorama**

P.O. Box No. 190067, South

Richmond Hill, NY 11419,

Tel: 646-247-9458

Email:

editor@theindianpanorama.news

DISCLAIMER

THE INDIAN PANORAMA ASSUMES NO RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE CLAIMS MADE IN ADVERTISEMENTS. WE ONLY SELL SPACE. VIEWS PUBLISHED IN THE NEWSPAPER ARE THOSE OF THE AUTHORS AND DO NOT NECESSARILY REFLECT THE VIEWS OF THE NEWSPAPER. ALL RIGHTS ARE RESERVED. REPRODUCTION IN WHOLE OR IN PART WITHOUT PERMISSION IN WRITING FROM THE INDIAN PANORAMA IS PROHIBITED.

## National icon, an emblem of excellence, Lata Mangeshkar united us all

Zara aankh mein bhar lo paani... as iconic Lata Mangeshkar passes into eternity, citizens of India have every reason to mourn. A two-day national mourning in her honor, befitting the Bharat Ratna recipient, however, will not be enough to fill the gnawing void she leaves behind. Indeed, once we recover from the immeasurable loss, we will find many more reasons to cherish her legacy and hum her countless songs. For here was a timeless voice which could melt the heart of India's first Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru, and her demise makes the current one 'anguished beyond words.' Beyond political affiliations, caste, creed, class and religion, even borders, she united music lovers of all hues, not just Bollywood aficionados. Singer of thousands of songs in umpteen languages and many genres, she was that



National icon Lata Mangeshkar - File photo

rare artiste who could connect with all of India and bridge the chasm with its neighbor Pakistan too.

Born on September 28, 1929, in a family steeped in classical musical tradition, her singing talent was both spotted and honed by her father Pandit Deenanath Mangeshkar. His early demise propelled her towards the world of acting and later singing - she rendered her first song at

13. Soon, she was to become not just the voice but also the soul of Hindi film music. So exalted was her stature that legendary composer SD Burman famously said, 'Give me a harmonium, give me Lata, and I will make music.'

Her passion for music was best exemplified in her songs, a wellspring of emotions, and her zest for life was reflected in her love for movies, cricket, cars and Mozart. Clearly, her passions were as diverse as her melodious repertoire. Singers may come and go, Lata's place in the annals of musical history is irreplaceable. An emblem of excellence, as we recall her song Ek pyar ka nagma, the lines Kuch kho kar paana hai kuch paa kar khona hai... jeevan ka matlab toh aana aur jaana hai acquire a profound meaning. In her we have lost a precious gem and in her again we found a timeless treasure. (Tribune, India)

## Culture of hate: Bigotry, communalization are having a free run

The hijab controversy in Karnataka's educational institutions and the attack last week on Asaduddin Owaisi during electioneering in Uttar Pradesh cannot be wished away as incidents without any link. Both represent the outcome of patronage to rabid communal messaging that appears to celebrate bigotry, while making a boisterous jump from subtleties to brazenness. If the political class still chooses to be blind to the consequences of normalization of a culture of hate and otherization, the country will have to bear the brunt, and at a terrible cost. A narrative of manufactured insecurities that wants

the conversation to be centered around 'us' versus 'them' is being allowed to seep its way into the delicate social fabric. The free run for the militant mutation of prejudices poses a grave threat.

All-round condemnation of violence and vitriol in any form can be construed as tokenism at best in the absence of any substantial and visible action that shows the intent to clamp down on radicalization. Owaisi's speech in the Lok Sabha, a day after he escaped unhurt when his car came under attack in Hapur, is a reminder of how minds are being polluted, with no counter-efforts forthcoming. The four-time MP's rejection of the Z-category security

cover can be seen as political positioning but offering a posse of security personnel ignores the larger issue. The talk of two Indias, one based on love and the other being created on hatred, is no more some fictional construct.

Polarization has not raised its ugly head for the first time in UP elections, but the efforts at crass communalization of the campaign call for urgent attention of the Election Commission. How and why all sorts of boundaries have been crossed is acutely disturbing and needs answers. Not acting is not an option. At stake is not only the credibility of the institution, but all that the Constitution stands for. (Tribune, India)

## Deluge of freebies: Parties vie with each other to woo voters at any cost

Barely two days before the first phase of polling in Uttar Pradesh, the Samajwadi Party (SP) and the BJP released their election manifestos. With large-scale unemployment being a pressing issue, the SP has promised to bring in an 'Urban Employment Guarantee Act', while the latter has announced that it will provide at least one job or self-employment opportunity to every household. Freebies figure prominently in the Samajwadi Vachan Patra as well as the BJP's Lok Kalyan Sankalp Patra, even as the Supreme Court recently gave four weeks to the Centre and the Election Commission of India (ECI) to submit their replies on a petition seeking directions to freeze the election symbol or deregister a party that promises or distributes 'irrational'

freebies in the run-up to the polls.

Both parties have gone all out to woo the farming community, which is a make-or-break vote bank, especially so in the wake of the year-long agitation against the three farm laws. The SP has promised that all small and marginal farmers owning less than two acres of land will get two bags of DAP fertilizer, five bags of urea, electricity for irrigation and interest-free loans. The other sops include two LPG cylinders every year to BPL families, one liter of petrol to all two-wheeler owners and three liters of petrol and 6 kg of CNG per month to auto-rickshaw drivers. The BJP's manifesto mentions free electricity for irrigation; free scooty for meritorious girl students under Rani Laxmibai Yojana; two crore tablets and

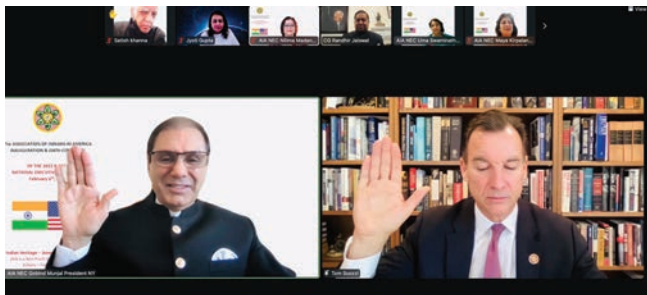
smartphones under the Swami Vivekanand Yuva Sashaktikaran Yojana; and two free LPG cylinders (one each on Holi and Diwali) to every beneficiary of PM Ujjwala Yojana.

Late last month, the apex court had expressed concern that the politics of freebies was depriving the elections of a level playing field. However, it's obvious that various political parties cannot resist the temptation of reaching out to voters through allurements. The so-called vision documents are mostly aimed at short-term gains. The onus is on the ECI to frame specific guidelines on poll-time competitive populism to prevent the deluge of sops from vitiating the poll process.

(Tribune, India)

# Veteran Community leader Gobind Munjal is inaugurated as President of The Association of Indians in America

## NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE TAKES OATH OF OFFICE AT A VIRTUAL CEREMONY



Gobind Munjal is administered the oath of office by Congressman Tom Suozzi

**LONG ISLAND, NY (TIP):** Gobind Munjal, the newly elected National President of The Association of Indians in America (AIA), was sworn-in along with his National Executive Committee in an exciting Inauguration ceremony arranged virtually on Sunday February 6, 2022.

The occasion was graced by the chief guest Honorable Consul General Randhir Jaiswal, Hon. Congressman Tom Suozzi, and Hon. New York Senator Kevin Thomas. The Inauguration and Oath ceremony was attended by well over one hundred attendees and their families. This included AIA founding members, board of Trustees, AIA National Past Presidents, AIA current and past chapter Presidents, community leaders, AIA members, friends, and all the media partners.

Bharat Ratna legendary singer Lata Mangeshkar was given homage by observing a moment of silence. It was followed by melodious singing of American and Indian National Anthem by Gita Setia.

The Chairman Board of Trustees, Dr Samin Sharma initiated the program and spoke briefly about AIA. Chief Guest Hon. Consul General of India in New York, Randhir Jaiswal, in his opening Remarks, praised AIA for all that it has done for the community during its 55 years of history and commended the organization for sending oxygen concentrators to India in 2021. He also pledged to work with AIA for outreach to the community.

National President Gobind Munjal was sworn-in by Honorable Congressman Tom Suozzi, who also administered the oath to Vice Presidents Uma Swaminathan (NJ), Nilima Madan (NY), Santosh Pandey (IL), Uma Eniasivam (FL), Secretary Gunjan Rastogi (NY) and Treasurer Dr. Bal Gilja (NY). Honorable NYS Senator Kevin Thomas had the honors for swearing-in the members at large from all the states, namely Anil Sharma (IL), Aridaman Jain (NJ), Ashish Sen (IL), Dr. Bharti Palkhiwala (NJ), Dr Binod K. Verma (NY), Gobind Bhatija (NY), Manoranjan Mishra (IL), Maya Kirpalani (FL),



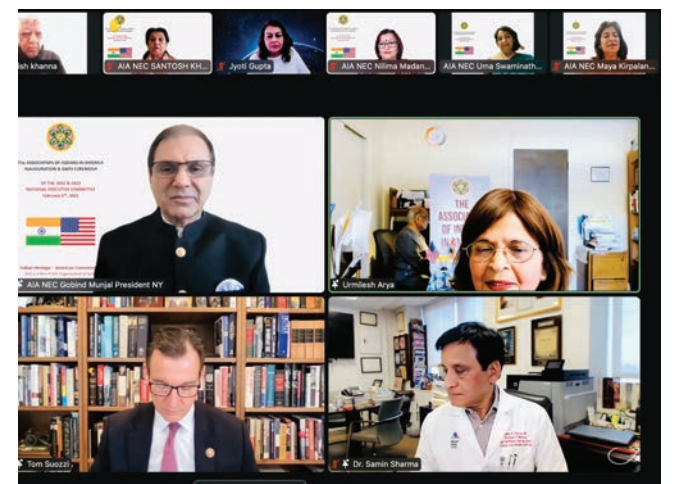
AIA Officers take oath of office



Clockwise: Dr. Sameen Sharma, Satish Khanna, Dr. Jagdish Gupta, Nilima Madan, Asmita Bhatia, Mukesh Modi

Neelam Modi (NY), OM Dhirgra (IL), Pradeep Tandon (NY), Prem Mehrotra (IL), Rajeev Chaudhary (NY) Ram Khanna (NY), Santosh Khera (NY), Sharmistha Dutta (FL), Shashi Malik (NY), Sujata Seth (NY), Sushma Kotahwala (NY), Usha Bansal (NY).

In his speech, National President Munjal welcomed everyone and shared a glimpse of his vision. In pursuing the AIA's moto of "Indian Heritage and American Commitment", he emphasized that: "We are here to serve the community needs. As we continue to direct our help to the people in India, our homeland, we should equally remain committed to the community right here in the United States, our adopted homeland. We hope to work



Clockwise: AIA National President Gobind Munjal, Dr. Urmilesh Arya, the outgoing President, Dr. Samin Sharma, Congressman Tom Suozzi

towards increasing that commitment.

As the demographic profile of the Indian American Community has changed in past 5 decades since the founding of AIA, so are their needs. We remain committed to understanding the changing requirements of the community, and then will develop Programs to help both - the Youth and the Elderly. NEC pledges support to all the Chapter Presidents and its members, so they all can build and expand on these programs across the nation. This way together, we can make the next two years most productive".

A plaque was presented to the outgoing National President Dr. Urmilesh Arya for her splendid service and all the contributions to the organization and the community.

All AIA leadership extended their good wishes and support. The program concluded with a traditional vote of thanks by the secretary.

The program on Zoom was very well planned and executed and was appreciated by all. It was mentioned that as soon as the covid conditions improve, an in-person event will be planned in the near future.

The Association of Indians in America (AIA) is the oldest not-for-profit organization of Asian Indians in America founded on August 20, 1967. It is the grassroots national organization of Asian immigrants in United States. With chapters and membership spread across the United States of America, AIA represents the hopes and aspirations of those immigrants who are united by their common bond of Indian Heritage and American Commitment.

## Elon Musk's Neuralink allegedly subjected monkeys to 'extreme suffering': New York Post

**NEW YORK (TIP):** Elon Musk's brain-chip company Neuralink is facing a legal challenge from an animal rights group that has accused the company of subjecting monkeys to "extreme suffering" during years of gruesome experiments, a New York Post report says.

Neuralink's brain chips - which Musk claims will one day make humans hyper-intelligent and let

paralyzed people walk again - were implanted in monkeys' brains during a series of tests at the University of California, Davis from 2017 to 2020, according to a complaint from the Physicians Committee for Responsible Medicine filed with the US Department of Agriculture on Thursday, February 3.

In one example, a monkey was allegedly found missing some of

its fingers and toes "possibly from self-mutilation or some other unspecified trauma." The monkey was later killed during a "terminal procedure," the group said in a copy of the complaint shared with The Post.

In another case, a monkey had holes drilled in its skull and electrodes implanted into its brain, then allegedly developed a bloody skin infection and had to

be euthanized, according to the complaint.

In a third instance, a female macaque monkey had electrodes implanted into its brain, then was overcome with vomiting, retching and gasping. Days later, researchers wrote that the animal "appeared to collapse from exhaustion/fatigue" and was subsequently euthanized.

CONTD ON PAGE 6



Elon Musk  
Photo / courtesy Wikipedia

# Singapore's Indian-origin opposition leader Pritam Singh faces probe for covering a fellow MP's lie

**SINGAPORE (TIP):** A parliamentary committee in Singapore has recommended that Leader of the Opposition Pritam Singh be referred to the public prosecutor for further investigations if criminal proceedings should be instituted on his conduct before a panel that probed his fellow lawmaker for lying in the House last year, according to media reports on Thursday, February 10.

The Indian-origin Singh, 45, is Secretary-General of The Workers' Party (WP) and Member of Parliament. He was appointed Leader of the Opposition after the 2020 General Election.

Media reports said Singh and WP vice-chairman Faisal Manap should be referred to the public prosecutor to "consider if criminal proceedings ought to be instituted", due to Singh's conduct during the committee's probe and Faisal's refusal to answer relevant questions.

The Committee of Privileges, chaired by Speaker of Parliament Tan Chuan-Jin, was looking into WP MP Raeesah Khan's conduct after she admitted on November 1 that she had lied in Parliament. This was over a claim that she had accompanied a sexual assault victim to a police station where the victim was treated insensitively.

The committee comprises six other lawmakers from



Singapore's Indian-origin opposition leader Pritam Singh faces probe for covering a fellow MP's lie - Photo / courtesy Facebook

the ruling People's Action Party (PAP) as well as WP Parliamentarian Dennis Tan.

Tan is a leading member of the PAP which has an absolute majority in the House.

The committee's recommendations are expected to be debated when Parliament sits next week, according to the media report. The committee also recommended

that Khan be fined SGD25,000 for stating an untruth in Parliament on August 3.

She repeated the untruth on October 4, for which the committee is recommending an additional fine of SGD10,000.

In November, Khan confessed in Parliament that she had in fact heard this anecdote in a support group she was part of and had shared it without the victim's consent.

Khan, 29, resigned as a WP member and MP on November 30, a mere 15 months after being sworn in as Singapore's youngest MP after the 2020 general election.

Under the Parliament (Privileges, Immunities and Powers) Act, if any MP has committed an offence of dishonorable conduct, abuse of privilege or contempt, Parliament may impose penalties and refer them to any select committee for a new probe.

The committee this round decided to refer the WP leaders to a public prosecutor instead, rather than recommending a new committee of privileges, because a new committee may not uncover more evidence, the report stated. The ruling PAP has 83 seats in the 104-seat House, WP has nine seats, with one vacant due to Khan's resignation, and Progress Singapore Party has two seats. Nine seats have been allotted to nominated MPs. (Source: PTI)

## INDIAN-ORIGIN ORGAN DONOR IN SINGAPORE AWARDED FOR GIVING NEW LEASE OF LIFE TO BABY



**SINGAPORE (TIP):** Sakthibalan Balathandautham, an Indian-origin senior sales executive in Singapore, has received the "The Straits Times Singaporean of the Year 2021" award for donating a part of his liver to a one-year-old girl he had never met before, a media report said on Wednesday, February 9.

The 28-year-old, who received the award from President Halimah Yacob on Wednesday, donated 23 per cent of his liver to baby Rheya on September 30, 2020, responding to a plea on social media in July 2020 by a young Indian couple looking for a liver donor for their one-year-old child, The Straits Times newspaper reported. Balathandautham's generous gesture has given a new lease of life to Rheya, who was diagnosed with biliary atresia a few weeks after her birth in 2019.

**Organ donor who gave baby Rheya a new lease of life is ST Singaporean of the Year**  
<https://t.co/vYdeWinSw6>  
- The Straits Times  
(@straits\_times) February 9, 2022

(Read full story at [www.theindianpanorama.news](http://www.theindianpanorama.news))

## Indian-origin woman found unresponsive at Washington Dulles airport, hospitalized

**WASHINGTON (TIP):** A 54-year-old Indian woman, found unresponsive in a wheelchair near the baggage belt at Washington Dulles International Airport, has been saved with the timely intervention of emergency medical personnel, according to authorities who described the situation as "harrowing".

The Customs and Border Protection (CBP) on Tuesday, February 8, said the woman, an Indian national and US lawful permanent resident, arrived at the airport on Sunday evening after a 15-hour flight from Doha, Qatar. Airport ambassadors alerted nearby CBP officers of the woman being unresponsive in a wheelchair near the baggage belt. "For a harrowing 10 minutes, US Customs and Border Protection emergency medical technicians administered extraordinary lifesaving efforts" on the unresponsive female traveler at the airport, the federal agency said in a statement.

Later, airport paramedics regained a pulse on the woman, who has not been identified. The statement added that as per news from the hospital, the woman was breathing on her own.

Within minutes of finding the woman unresponsive, CBP Officer Nicholas Karstetter, who is a certified advanced emergency medical technician (EMT), and Supervisory CBP Officer Herman Hundal, another certified EMT, responded and immediately initiated cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR).

Two additional CBP officers - Chief Leo Carbone, another certified EMT; and Supervisor Harmanpreet Singh - arrived and took turns administering CPR compressions.

Minutes later, the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority (MWAA) Fire and Rescue arrived and assumed lifesaving efforts with CBP EMT assistance. They then placed the woman on a stretcher and departed CBP's inspection station and soon reported that they regained a pulse. MWAA Police officers report that the woman was breathing on her own at the hospital.

(Read full story at [www.theindianpanorama.news](http://www.theindianpanorama.news))



An unresponsive woman at Washington Dulles International airport has been saved with timely intervention of emergency medical personnel

## Indian-origin Malaysian man sentenced to death for drug trafficking in Singapore

**SINGAPORE (TIP):** A Malaysian man of Indian origin has been sentenced to death by a court here for delivering heroin in Singapore and acting as a middleman for drug traffickers, according to a media report.

Kishor Kumar Raguan, 41, rode his motorcycle into Singapore to deliver a bag containing more than 900 grams of a powdery substance in July 2016. The four bundles inside the bag brought in were later analyzed to contain 36.5 grams of heroin.

The law provides for the death penalty if the amount of heroin trafficked is more than 15 grams.

Singaporean national of Chinese-origin Pung Ah Kiang, 61, who received the bag from Raguan, was sentenced to life imprisonment for possessing the drugs for the purpose of trafficking.

In written grounds released on Friday, High Court Justice Audrey Lim said she found that both Raguan and Pung knew that the bundles contained heroin, The Straits Times newspaper reported on Friday.

Rejecting Raguan's defense that he believed the bag contained "stones", the judge said the Indian-origin man, who was involved in drug activities, had failed to show that he genuinely believed the bundles contained something innocuous.

She found that Kishor was told that the items to be delivered were "kallu", which he knew referred to heroin.

Justice Lim also rejected Pung's claim that he did not know what was in the bag and was merely keeping it temporarily for his brother-in-law.

She imposed life imprisonment on Pung as he was certified by the prosecution to have substantively assisted the Central Narcotics Bureau (CNB) in disrupting drug trafficking activities, the report said.

(Read full story at [www.theindianpanorama.news](http://www.theindianpanorama.news))



Kishor Kumar Raguan, 41, rode his motorcycle into Singapore to deliver a bag containing more than 900 grams of a powdery substance in July 2016 - Photo for representation

# Indian Americans condemn vandalization of Gandhi statue in New York



A life-sized bronze statue of Mahatma Gandhi in Union Square, New York City was vandalized in New York City on Saturday, Feb 5

**NEW YORK (TIP):** Indian-American community leaders on Monday, February 7, condemned the vandalism of a statue of Mahatma Gandhi in New York and said this is disrespect to Gandhi and Martin Luther King, two leaders who sought to eradicate hate.

A life-sized bronze statue of Mahatma Gandhi was vandalized in Union Square, New York City on Saturday, February 5. The incident was strongly condemned as 'despicable' by the Consulate

General of India. The eight-foot-high statue, located in Manhattan's Union Square, was defaced by unknown persons, the Indian Consulate in New York had said.

"As an African-American practitioner of the Hindu dharma, I am deeply offended that anyone would disrespect Mahatma Gandhi, who inspired MLK (Martin Luther King) to take up the mission of non-violence, which inspired major changes in society that are still positively impacting our

lives today," said Balabhadra Bhattacharya Dasa (Benny Tillman), president of the Vedic Friends Association.

Utsav Chakrabarti, executive director of the HinduPACT said that this is not the first time that a statue of Gandhi had been vandalized in the US.

"In the past few years, statues of Mahatma Gandhi have been vandalized by groups aligned with radical Islamists and their sympathizers in South Asian communities," he claimed. (Source: PTI)

## Indian American Michelin-star chef Vikas Khanna partners with Zighrana to launch signature Made-in-India perfume in New York

**NEW YORK CITY (TIP):** A traditional Indian essence and wellness products company has partnered with Michelin-star chef Vikas Khanna to launch a signature Made-in-India perfume here, aiming to usher in a "new dawn" for India's arrival in the global perfumes industry.

Zighrana has collaborated with Khanna to launch the flagship perfume that will bear his name and be called "'Vikas Khanna' by Zighrana". The product will be launched on February 14, marked as Valentine's Day, at the Consulate General of India in New York.

A company press release said the launch of the 'Make in India' perfume, to be unveiled by Consul General of India in New York Randhir Jaiswal, "will usher in a new dawn for India's arrival in the global perfumes industry".

Hailing from Kannauj, the perfume capital of India, the new product is Zighrana's "humble attempt to capture the essence of Incredible India".

The company said it is delighted to work with Khanna, an Indian cultural icon and entrepreneur on the path-breaking venture. In keeping with the Michelin-star chef's culinary expertise, the new perfume 'Vikas Khanna' by Zighrana is a "unique blend of spices like cloves, cardamom, nutmeg, sandalwood, jasmine and rose which have come to define the unique smells of India for more than a millennia."

The company said it has used precious ingredients like pure rose oil that is both resource and labor intensive to generate, taking nearly 100 kg of flowers to make as little as 20 gm of rose oil.

Entrepreneur Swapnil Pathak Sharma from the company said that through this



Michelin-star chef Vikas Khanna

unique collaboration, she aims to ensure that India's age-old fragrance industry gets its due global recognition.

Sharma hails from a family which has been in the field of traditional Indian essence and wellness products since 1911. "I have worked hard to ensure that our latest forte into the perfume industry is at par if not better than the global standards of excellence in the perfume industry," she told media.

Khanna said in a tweet that since he moved to the US in 2000 his "mission is to bring Indian Culture, Cuisine, Arts & history with me. I'm completely dedicated to choose projects that represent those values. Proud to bring the legacy of #Kannauj India's perfume capital in form of #VikasKhannaByZighrana on Feb 14."

Khanna had posted a photo holding the signature perfume bearing his name, along with Jaiswal, Sharma and her father, Akhilesh Pathak.

On the collaboration with Khanna, Sharma said the world-renowned chef and entrepreneur is a cultural brand ambassador for incredible India and he understands both India's rich tradition as well as its place in the modern world.

"Our discussions revealed that we have

to come up with an aroma that is a reflection of the great Indian culinary, and given his background as a world-class chef there was nothing better but to develop a perfume inspired by our spices as his signature perfume," she said.

With the launch, Zighrana aims to make an entry into the global marketplace of perfumes with the brand new product "which showcases the soul of India in the global cultural capital of New York," the release added. Through the flagship perfume, Sharma said she aims to bring forth the history and legacy of her family of being in the fragrance industry for 111 years.

"It's high time India should mark its strong presence in the fragrance market and reach out to the world. New York is an intersection of different cultural influences," which makes it the ideal platform to project the Indian heritage of perfumery.

"It is an honest attempt to bring the Indian fragrance to the world stage, given that I am the fourth generation in this industry," she said.

Going forward, Sharma said she plans to come out with more distinct fragrances representing India's history and culture.

"We will be coming up soon with perfume on 'Kannauj' and also a unique fragrance developed for celebrating India's 75 years of independence in the form of 'India at 75'."

The company will also be diversifying its portfolio and wants to bring its traditional attars in the US market, besides exploring opportunities in the scented candles market.

(Based on a press release)

### INDIAN AMERICAN HIMANSHU B. PATEL TO ADVISE CONGRESSMAN SESSIONS ON CRYPTO



Congressman Pete Sessions has appointed Himanshu Patel as his chief economic development and energy infrastructure advisor for his Crypto Technical Working Group.

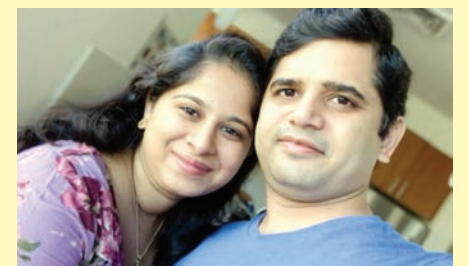
**WASHINGTON, (D.C.):** Congressman Pete Sessions has appointed Indian-American Himanshu B Patel as his chief economic development and energy infrastructure advisor for his Crypto Technical Working Group.

In a statement, Sessions said it is vital for the United States and India to take the lead globally on setting standards on innovative frontiers in areas of financial digital technologies and energy infrastructure developments.

"I am excited to be working closely with Himanshu Patel. His counsel is important to my team and I as we look to better educate other policymakers and engage the global business community. I am confident that enhanced collaboration between knowledgeable experts and world-class leaders will advance efforts on a mutually beneficial global scale," he said.

(Read full story at [www.theindianpanorama.news](http://www.theindianpanorama.news))

### INDIAN AMERICAN SOFTWARE ENGINEER IN SEATTLE GOES MISSING



Seattle police is searching for Saurabh Gupta (seen here with wife Shraddha Gupta) who went down in his apartment building to throw trash and never returned

**SEATTLE, WA (TIP):** Saurabh Gupta, an Indian American who works at Amazon went down from his 6th floor apartment in Trio Condos in Seattle to throw trash on Monday, February 7 morning, and never returned, according to local media reports. "Something has happened," his wife Shraddha Gupta was cited as saying by KIRO 7. "I don't know what happened but I'm requesting to every one of you please please please help me." Security cameras in the building captured Gupta, 34, in the parking garage when he went down after finishing a work meeting around noon, Shraddha said. He then headed back to the 6th floor to grab the trash and take it to the chute down the hall. That was the last time anyone saw him. (Read full story at [www.theindianpanorama.news](http://www.theindianpanorama.news))

## Legislator Mulé Attends Nassau County PBA Leadership Breakfast



A group of people at the breakfast  
- Photo / Office of Legislator Debra Mulé

**ROSLYN HEIGHTS, N.Y. (TIP):** Nassau County Legislator Debra Mulé (D - Freeport) joined her colleagues in local government at the Nassau County Police Benevolent Association (PBA) Government Leadership Breakfast on Monday, Feb. 7. Held at 388 Restaurant in Roslyn Heights, the breakfast was hosted in honor of new PBA President Tommy Shevlin and the organization's Executive Board.

"I was heartened by President Shevlin's passion for improving access to mental health care in police departments and diffusing the stigma in our society that inhibits people from seeking the help they need and deserve," Legislator Mulé said. "It was a pleasure to hear directly from him at this event, and I look forward to continuing to work closely with our partners in law enforcement to keep Nassau County the safest in the nation."

## Mayor Adams announces Commissioner of Department of Consumer and Worker Protection



"As a blue-collar mayor, I am focused on building a team that serves the needs of working New Yorkers throughout the five boroughs," said Mayor Adams



Vilda Vera Mayuga has been appointed Commissioner of Department of Consumer and Worker Protection



José Ortiz, Jr. has been appointed Senior Advisor for Workforce Development

**NEW YORK (TIP):** New York City Mayor Eric Adams, on February 8 announced two new appointments to fill out his economic development team and deliver on his vision for uplifting and protecting working New Yorkers. Vilda Vera Mayuga will serve as commissioner of the Department of Consumer and Worker Protection (DCWP). As commissioner, Mayuga will deepen the agency's mission of ensuring there are robust protections in place for city workers and consumers, and that such protections are fairly and equitably applied. Jose Ortiz, Jr. will serve as senior advisor for workforce development. In that role, he will advise Deputy Mayor for Economic and Workforce Development Maria Torres-Springer on strategies for better coordinating the city's

workforce development programs to aid the city's recovery from COVID-19 and ensure people from underserved communities have access to good-paying jobs.

"As a blue-collar mayor, I am focused on building a team that serves the needs of working New Yorkers throughout the five boroughs," said Mayor Adams. "From preparing workers for jobs in emerging industries to ensuring dignity and economic justice in the workplace, my administration has an ambitious agenda to 'Get Stuff Done' for the hard-working people of this city. Vilda and Jose have been doing this work for a long time, and I am thrilled to have them join our economic development team as we work to build an equitable recovery."

(Read full story at [www.theindianpanorama.news](http://www.theindianpanorama.news))

contd from page 3

### ELON MUSK'S NEURALINK ALLEGEDLY SUBJECTED MONKEYS TO 'EXTREME SUFFERING': NEW YORK POST

An autopsy then showed the monkey had suffered from a brain hemorrhage, according to the report.

**MONKEYS :** The experiments

involved drilling holes in monkeys' brains, leading to fatal infections and other deadly side effects, according to the complaint.

Elon Musk's Neuralink conducted gruesome tests on monkeys for years, according to a new complaint from an animal rights group.

The experiments involved 23 monkeys in all. At least 15 of them died or were euthanized by 2020, according to the group, which based the report on records released through California's open

records law.

"Pretty much every single monkey that had had implants put in their head suffered from pretty debilitating health effects," Jeremy Beckham, the Physicians Committee for Responsible Medicine's research advocacy director, told The Post. "They were, frankly, maiming and killing the animals."

The macabre report comes as Neuralink plans to begin its first human tests. Musk said in December that he wants to start human trials for the devices in 2022 and the company posted a job listing for a clinical trial director this January.

The group behind the report, the Physicians Committee for Responsible Medicine, advocates for veganism and alternatives to animal testing - positions that have sometimes put the group at odds with the American Medical Association. It has also previously received funding from controversial animal rights group PETA, The Guardian reported.

The group doesn't currently have "any relationship with PETA" but sometimes works on overlapping issues, Beckham said.

The organization is accusing Neuralink and UC Davis of nine violations of the federal Animal Welfare Act - a federal measure designed to reduce suffering during animal experiments.

"Many, if not all, of the monkeys experienced extreme suffering as a result of inadequate animal care and the highly invasive experimental head implants during the experiments, which were performed in pursuit of developing what Neuralink and Elon Musk have publicly

described as a 'brain-machine interface,'" the group wrote in its complaint to the USDA.

"These highly invasive implants and their associated hardware, which are inserted in the brain after drilling holes in the animals' skulls, have produced recurring infections in the animals, significantly compromising their health, as well as the integrity of the research."

The group is also suing UC Davis in an attempt to make them release more photos, videos and information about the monkeys under California's public records laws.

The alleged abuses come in stark contrast to publicly shared materials from Neuralink. In a video posted on YouTube last April, the company showed a healthy and happy-seeming monkey playing the video game Pong with its brain.

Neuralink and UC Davis did not immediately respond to requests for comment. A UC Davis spokesperson told Fortune that its work with Neuralink ended in 2020 and that the university's Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee had "thoroughly reviewed and approved" its project with Neuralink.

Elon Musk says Neuralink will one day cure paralysis and make humans smarter.

"We strive to provide the best possible care to animals in our charge," the spokesperson added. "Animal research is strictly regulated, and UC Davis follows all applicable laws and regulations including those of the U.S. Department of Agriculture."

# STONE QUEST

## JOB AVAILABLE

**THE BIG STONE FABRICATION COMPANY IS LOOKING FOR EXPERIENCED CNC MACHINE OPERATORS.**

- **USA DRIVER LICENSE A PLUS**
- **GOOD SALARY**
- **MUST SPEAK ENGLISH**

**Please call Leonid at 1.732.750.3090**

PRRIA HAIDER & PRIYANKA JOTWANI  
PRESENT



**GURU**  
*Randhawa*  
**KANIKA**  
*Kapoor* LIVE IN CONCERT



WITH SPECIAL GUEST

**IULIA VANTUR**

FRI, APRIL 1, 2022

8PM ONWARDS

**NASSAU COLISEUM UNIONDALE**

1255 HEMPSTEAD TURNPIKE, UNIONDALE, NY 11553

TICKETS \$59, \$79, \$99, \$129, VIP & VVIP



FOR SPONSORSHIPS, TICKETS AND MORE INFO CONTACT



PRRIA 516-303-6597  
VIPUL 516-776-3991

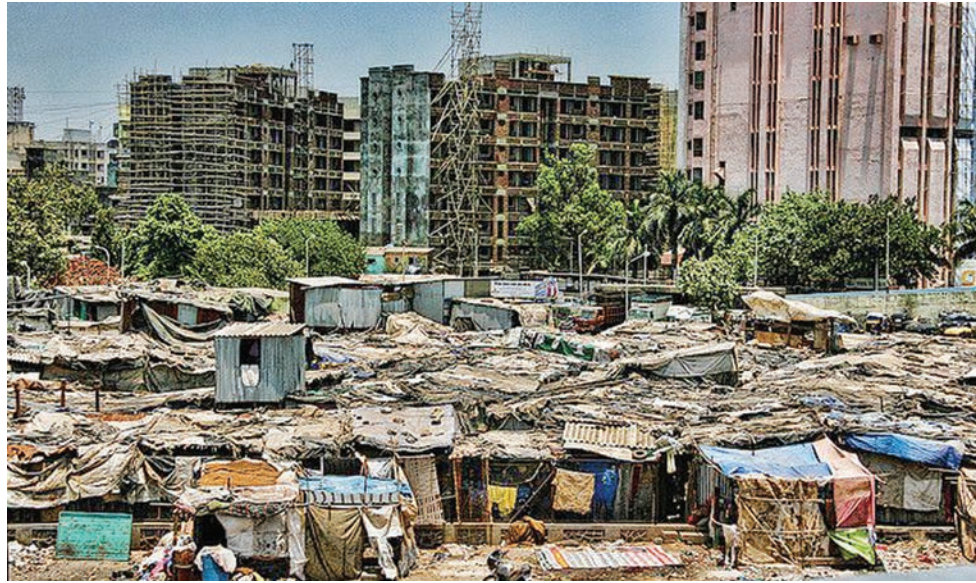
PRIYANKA 516-225-9772  
POONAM 631-697-9184

# Democracy should bridge economic chasm

BY NEERA  
CHANDHOKE



**"DEFENDERS OF THE MARKET FORGET THAT A SOCIETY THAT IS INDIFFERENT TO THE NEEDS OF THE DEPRIVED BREEDS ITS OWN CONTRADICTIONS. WE WITNESSED AN INSTANCE OF THIS FRUSTRATION LAST MONTH WHEN THOUSANDS OF RESTLESS, THWARTED AND ANGRY PEOPLE SET TRAIN COMPARTMENTS ON FIRE. THEIR RAGE IS UNDERSTANDABLE. THIS IS PERHAPS THE BEGINNING OF A CRISIS. THE CRISIS OF UNEMPLOYMENT WILL RELENTLESSLY EXACERBATE POLITICAL DISCONTENT. THE DIVIDE: POLICY-MAKERS SHOULD TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THAT A SUBSTANTIAL CHUNK OF THE POPULATION LIVES BEYOND THE PALE OF MARKET FORCES."**



The gap between the rich and the poor is to be seen everywhere in India

According to the 2022 Oxfam Report, 'Inequality Kills', in 2021, 4.6 crore Indians fell into extreme poverty. In the same year, the wealth of billionaires increased from Rs 23.14 lakh crore to Rs 53.15 lakh crore. The Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy reports that 95 per cent of 3.05 crore Indians, of which 95 per cent are below the age of 29, are unemployed. As many as 1.8 crore of this number is graduates. If we care about our fellow citizens and about how they live, we should take serious note of these numbers.

Poverty is not mere statistics. Statistics indicate that our people live in destitution. There is more, for poverty breeds multiple deprivations. The poor are not only denied access to basic needs, but they are also socially marginalized, politically insignificant in terms of 'voice' as distinct from the 'vote', dismissed and subjected to intense disrespect in and through the practices of everyday life.

There was a time when policymakers, charged by notions of redistributive justice, focused on progressive taxation, land redistribution, right to work, employment generation, quality of work, education and health of the working class. After the collapse of the socialist world in 1989, they casually abandoned grand visions of a decent society in which people encountered each other as equals, and not as members of two different worlds defined by garish wealth and mind-numbing poverty, respectively. We entered an era marked by the victory of political liberalism; a liberalism that had been pounded out of shape by the economics of neo-liberalism.

Across the world, the state withdrew from commitment to the well-being of its citizens and transited to what has been called the 'entrepreneurial' state. The belief that citizens have to create their own jobs, irrespective of the quality of work, is integral to neo-liberalism. The ideology simply does not recognize that the state throws needy individuals onto the not so tender mercies of the market.

Generations of socialist thinkers have told us that the market has place only for those who can buy, and for those who can find buyers for the commodities they offer. It has neither compassion nor need for those who are born into poverty, and who spend their time looking for a handful of grain. We forget these lessons. And defenders of the market forget that a society that is indifferent to the needs of the deprived breeds its own contradictions. We witnessed an instance of this frustration last month when thousands of restless, thwarted and angry young people set train compartments on fire. Their rage is understandable; they cannot find a place in the lower rungs of government services, while other young people drive past in flashy cars, live lives of luxury and inhabit opulent neighborhoods.

This is, perhaps, the beginning of a crisis. The crisis of unemployment will relentlessly exacerbate political discontent. The former cannot be resolved by sops to reduce poverty. The latter can hardly be resolved by promises of cash transfers during elections. In the debate on equality, the philosophical school of sufficientarianism suggests that people should be given enough to eat; how does it matter if they are unequal? Egalitarians insist that the challenge is not only about giving people enough to eat; it is about the right of everyone to participate in social, economic and political transactions as equals. The objective of equality is to enable people to be authors of their own lives. People can hardly write their own history if they are told condescendingly during elections: 'Give me your vote and I will give you a thousand or so rupees.' Is this all India's power elites owe the poor? Not structural change?

It is time we take a once valued concept out of the closet, dust it, refashion it to suit our times, and present a picture of the world we should be living in, instead of the world we do live in. The concept is that of social democracy. Social democracy is, as all concepts in political

**POVERTY IS NOT MERE STATISTICS. STATISTICS INDICATE THAT OUR PEOPLE LIVE IN DESTITUTION. THERE IS MORE, FOR POVERTY BREEDS MULTIPLE DEPRIVATIONS. THE POOR ARE NOT ONLY DENIED ACCESS TO BASIC NEEDS, BUT THEY ARE ALSO SOCIALLY MARGINALIZED, POLITICALLY INSIGNIFICANT IN TERMS OF 'VOICE' AS DISTINCT FROM THE 'VOTE', DISMISSED AND SUBJECTED TO INTENSE DISRESPECT IN AND THROUGH THE PRACTICES OF EVERYDAY LIFE.**

theory are, contested. The most persuasive case for social democracy is offered by Polish philosopher Leszek Kolakowski (1927-2009). The concept, he said, offers no ultimate solution for humankind. It merely speaks of 'an obstinate will to erode by inches the conditions which produce avoidable suffering, oppression, hunger, wars, racial and national hatred, insatiable greed and vindictive envy.' These ills of the human condition have to be fought through forms of collective action. Collective action has to concentrate on the antidote to poverty and inequality: social democracy which promotes well-being. Leaders cast, but an occasional eye on the suffering, and charitably extend a thousand rupees here and a thousand there as a personal favor. In a democracy, citizens do not need charity, they have rights to freedom and equality. They do not need the largesse of a medieval monarch, nor do they need to thank him repeatedly.

Social democracy lacks the fire and thunder of regressive right-wing politics. It lacks the romantic imagination of a post-revolutionary, perfectly egalitarian world. But it does tell us that a world where little children do not have to beg for cast-off food in bare feet and tattered clothes, is far, far better than the one in which people's life chances are shaped by inequality. An individual who is unequal to others in society can hardly write her own history. Inequality fosters unfreedom. In history, revolutions have been inspired by freedom, but also equality.

(The author is a Political Scientist)



# Is Wearing Hijab on Campus A Law and Order Issue?

BY BRINDA  
KARAT



**"THE CONFRONTATIONS BEING ORGANIZED, AND DIVISIONS CREATED AMONG THE YOUTH AT A TIME WHEN LAKHS OF STUDENTS HAVE SUFFERED A LOSS OF EDUCATION BECAUSE OF ONLINE LEARNING WHICH THEY COULD NOT ACCESS, IS NOTHING SHORT OF CRIMINAL. WHAT IS BEING PLAYED OUT IS THE OPEN AND BLATANT PROMOTION OF THE HINDUTVA AGENDA EXTENDED TO EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS. THE CORONA PANDEMIC IS BEING REPLACED BY THE COMMUNAL PANDEMIC, A VIRUS CREATED IN THE LABORATORY OF THE HINDUTVA FORCES, LEADING TO A LOCKDOWN OF EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS, RUINING THE LIVES OF YOUNG PEOPLE."**

There is nothing controversial about Muslim girls wanting to wear a headscarf, referred to (incorrectly) as a "hijab". But describing the happenings in BJP-ruled Karnataka as the "hijab controversy" is misleading. It is nothing of the kind. It is an outright assault on the right to education of young Muslim women, guaranteed to them by the law and the Constitution of India. It is significant that even the National Human Rights Commission, thought to be pro-government under its new chief, issued notice to the district authorities in Udipi on January 27 after it received a complaint stating "Facts of the case are disturbing. The allegations made in the complaint are serious in nature involving 'Right to Education'. The case therefore involves grave violation of human rights of the victim students."

It is thus very disappointing that the single bench of the Karnataka High Court did not grant an interim stay against the Karnataka government's wholly unwarranted and misconceived order of February 5 which has jeopardized the future of hundreds of young Muslim women studying for their final Class 12 exams scheduled in just two months. The order wrongly invokes Section 133(2) of the Karnataka Education Act, 1983, to state that students have to wear the dress chosen by the college Development Committee or the Appellate Committee of the Administrative Board of Pre-University Colleges, which come under the Pre-University Education Department. In the event of the Administrative Committee not selecting a uniform, "clothes which disturb equality, integrity and public law and order should not be worn." The use of this particular section 133(2) is itself questionable since it permits direct intervention by the state government in matters pertaining to "development of education." Uniforms surely do not fit into



A controversy about Muslim girls wanting to wear a headscarf, referred to (incorrectly) as a "hijab" is disturbing peace in educational institutions in Karnataka

this category.

The intent of this dubious phrasing is clear enough. In Karnataka, College Development Committees are headed by the elected MLA of the area in which the college is located. The PU college in Udipi district, where the issue first started, is headed by the BJP MLA on whose watch the decision was taken to impose the ban on entering campuses for girls wearing headscarves, even though the college has no such rules against the wearing of a headscarf. The Bajrang Dal Udipi district secretary Surender Koteshwar warned that "If the college allows students to wear hijab on campus, they would make all Hindu students put on saffron shawls inside the campus."

He put this plan into action with government patronage. First, the government, through its network of non-state actors like him and the Bajrang Dal mobilized aggressive young men wearing saffron scarves as a counter, then it allowed them to march to colleges where Muslim girls were being shut out at the gates, its police forces standing by as spectators as girls were heckled and harassed, and then, in the name of being "even-handed", it issued an order which in effect held that the headscarf could cause a public law and order problem and was therefore prohibited, whether the college had such a rule or not. In fact, another college, the Bhandarkars Arts and Science Degree College, which is also in the Udipi district, had permitted girls to wear headscarves and specified that the coloring should be the same as the dupatta. But today, in spite of this rule, girls are being kept out of this college. Is this not blatantly unfair? This kind of targeting of Muslim girls leads to a counter-response among the community, and wearing a headscarf becomes a symbol of protest even for those who never wore one. This is also what we see developing in Karnataka. In such a situation, the grounds are laid for extremist Muslim organizations who are not in support of women's freedom to promote their fundamentalist ideology.

It is being presented as if the very concept of a uniform in educational

institutions is being opposed by the girls. The Karnataka Education Minister BC Nagesh stated, "I have appealed to all these students to honor the uniform prescribed by the government. I am also making it clear that those who want to defy the government's school uniform regulations cannot enter their schools and attend classes." Muslim girls are wearing the prescribed uniform. They are, in addition, covering their heads with a headscarf. They are not replacing their uniform with a burkha. They are not using a veil to cover their face. When boys of the Sikh religion wear turbans, are they defying the government's orders on uniforms? Are there any rules anywhere in India which prevent a Sikh boy or girl from covering their head? Why should there be double standards? No one is against uniforms in educational institutions. There is no defiance of uniform regulations in the case of a Muslim girl wearing a headscarf.

The contention that this could be a law and order issue is absurd. All these years, it has never been a public law and order problem anywhere in Karnataka or indeed, India. In neighboring Kerala, Muslim students may if they choose, wear a headscarf. Many choose not to. There is no compulsion either way. There has been no law and order problem created by girls wearing headscarves in Kerala. It is a state which has the highest literacy rate among Muslim women and also the highest enrolment of Muslim girls in higher secondary schools. The reference to public order in the Karnataka government directive is deliberate. Article 25 of the Constitution states "(1) Subject to public order, morality and health and to the other provisions of this Part, all persons are equally entitled to freedom of conscience and the right freely to profess, practice and propagate religion." By bringing in the issue of public order, the government is building a case that its stand is protected by the Constitution since in this case "the right to profess, practice and propagate religion" is leading to a problem of public order.

There is a specific case dealt by the Kerala High Court (Amnah Bint Basheer

vs CBSE 2016) which has held that wearing a headscarf and long sleeves for a Muslim woman is "an essential religious practice" which has the protection of Article 25. The case concerned a Muslim female candidate who was offended by the CBSE dress code stipulating short sleeves for women and no head covering on the grounds that it violated her fundamental rights under Section 25. The court upheld her objection since the CBSE directive was to prevent the smuggling in of materials to cheat and was not connected to public order or morality. However, the judgement also instructed the candidate to subject herself to physical inspection by CBSE-appointed authorities. Thus, the integrity of the examination process was protected, as also her fundamental right. Earlier as well in 2015 in another case (Nadia Raheem vs CBSE), the court had upheld the petition of two Muslim female candidates to wear a headscarf and long sleeves on grounds of religious belief. The court noted that in a country with many religions and diverse customs, it cannot be insisted that a particular dress code be followed failing which a student would be prohibited from sitting for the examinations. In this case too, the court directed the candidate to subject herself to physical inspection to address CBSE's concerns. It is to circumvent the implications of these judgements that the Karnataka Government has deliberately created a public law and order problem as a fait accompli before the court hearings.

The focus should surely be on extending the right to education to more and more children. Girl students suffered disproportionately during these two years of online classes. According to the Right to Education Forum, ten million girls in India could drop out of secondary school due to the COVID-19 pandemic. A Karnataka survey, conducted by the Department of Rural Development and Panchayat Raj, whose findings were submitted to the state's High Court in July 2021, found that 1.59 lakh children in rural Karnataka did not go to school. Yet this government is forcibly preventing girls from attending school, pushing a narrow agenda. It would seem that these Muslim girls are to be excluded as betis - daughters- in the "Beti Bachao, Beti Padoo" slogan of the government.

It is a tragedy to see young people's emotions being manipulated so cynically by these forces. The confrontations being organized, and divisions created among the youth at a time when lakhs of students have suffered a loss of education because of online learning which they could not access, is nothing short of criminal. What is being played out is the open and blatant promotion of the Hindutva agenda extended to educational institutions. The Corona pandemic is being replaced by the communal pandemic, a virus created in the laboratory of the Hindutva forces, leading to a lockdown of educational institutions, ruining the lives of young people.

(The author is an Indian politician) (Source: Wire)

# An MSP scheme to transform Indian agriculture

A DECENTRALIZED PLAN WOULD AID PRICE STABILIZATION, OFFER INCOME SUPPORT, AND ALSO COPE WITH THE INDEBTEDNESS OF FARMERS

AMIT  
BHADURI



KAUSTAV  
BANERJEE



**"A REAL BREAKTHROUGH IN THE RECURRING PROBLEM OF AGRICULTURAL DEBT CAN BE MADE BY THE LINKING OF SELLING OF GRAINS UNDER MSP TO PROVISION OF BANK CREDIT PARTICULARLY FOR SMALL FARMERS. THE FARMER CAN GET A CERTIFICATE SELLING GRAINS AT MSP WHICH WOULD BE CREDIT POINTS PROPORTIONAL TO THE AMOUNT SOLD; THIS WILL ENTITLE THEM TO A BANK LOAN AS THEIR RIGHT AND CALIBRATE THE FLUCTUATIONS BETWEEN GOOD AND BAD HARVEST YEARS BY STORING THE CERTIFICATES FOR LATER USE. THIS MECHANISM WOULD GO A LONG WAY NOT ONLY IN ADDRESSING THE INDEBTEDNESS IN THE FARMING COMMUNITY BUT ALSO HAS THE VIRTUE OF GREAT ADMINISTRATIVE SIMPLICITY IN DISBURSING BANK LOANS."**

The ongoing struggle of farmers is not for political power. It is a struggle to transform Indian agriculture and the livelihoods of the farming majority which are in ruins in most parts of the country. The compulsion of our time is to give a new direction to a peaceful peoples' movement to generate momentum in small peasant agriculture, which in turn could give real content to our democracy. Setting aside false promises of doubling the farmers' income by the Government or pretending that market-friendly reforms will do the trick, we propose a different way of designing a minimum support price (MSP).

## A background

The massive solidarity (despite deeply divisive social fault lines) seen in the recent farmers' movement has already shaken the Himalayan arrogance of the Government. Maintaining that solidarity is essential, which means MSP must look especially into the requirements of farmers and the landless. MSP could serve, in principle, three purposes - price stabilization in the food grains market, income support to farmers, and also as a mechanism for coping with the indebtedness of farmers.

The price stabilization policy for food grains in India evolved over time, first with the Essential Commodities Act in 1955 to counter price rise due to speculative private trading and then MSP in the 1960s. A buffer stock policy with the public storage of food grains for market



intervention was developed over time to involve different kinds of mechanisms such as: setting cost-based minimum procurement price; paying the difference between procurement price and market price; storing the procured surplus for sale through the Public Distribution System (PDS) at issue price, and market intervention to stabilize price when deemed necessary. These induced farmers to shift to a high-yielding varieties cropping pattern during the Green Revolution, while ensuring food security for citizens. This task required interlinking procurement, storage and distribution with more centralized investment and control of each of these tasks.

## Partial coverage

The procurement and PDS from the Green Revolution period provided assured price incentives for rice, wheat and sugar (the flagships of the Green Revolution) but left out some 20 crops now under discussion for MSP including millets, coarse cereals, pulses and oilseeds. As a result, this partial MSP coverage skewed the cropping pattern against several coarse grains and millets particularly in rain-fed areas. The area under cultivation of rice and wheat from the time of the Green Revolution till recently increased from 30 million hectares to 44 million hectares and nine million hectares to 31 million hectares, respectively, while that of coarse cereals plunged from 37 million hectares to 25 million hectares. Although part of the diet of many people across the country, these left-out crops (grown mostly in rain-fed conditions) were not made available in ration shops. Almost 68% of Indian agriculture is rain fed and the crops grown in these regions are usually more drought resistant, nutritious and staple in the diet of the poorer subsistence farmers. This has been a particularly vulnerable point of our food security system; greater coverage of all 23 crops under MSP is a way of improving both food security and income support to the poorest farmers in

rain-fed regions.

## Economic cost

The centralized mechanism for ensuring distribution of the procured stock of rice and wheat at MSP entails bringing the procured grains to centralized Food Corporation warehouses. Here they are milled, made ready for consumption and sent back to each district/province, and from there to villages/slums/wards for distribution through fair price (ration) shops at an issue price fixed by the government which is below the market price to make it affordable for poor households.

The total economic cost involving subsidy for selling below market price along with procurement costs, distribution costs of freight, handling, storage, interest and administrative charges along with costs borne due to transit and storage losses would be around ₹3 lakh-crore. Sugarcane comes under a separate category because all this is organized through private sugar mills and is often plagued by delays.

If price is charged in a range according to harvest conditions, the total economic cost will vary within a price "band".

## As a band

MSP has to be conceived as a list of some 23 crops with a more flexible arrangement. Each crop within a band of maximum and a minimum price depending on harvest conditions (i.e., higher price in a bad and lower price in a good harvest year in general) will have its price set in the band. The price of some selected coarse grains can be fixed at the upper end of its band to encourage their production in rain fed areas. In this way, the objectives of income support to farmers, price stabilization and food security and inducing more climate-friendly cropping patterns can be combined to an extent. Wide coverage of MSP through income support to farmers would generate massive positive economic externalities through raising industrial demand especially for the unorganized

sector. This will help in extending solidarity among farmers and non-farmers while creating a chain reaction of demand expansion through multipliers for the whole economy.

For estimating the additional cost of a wider MSP; of the total grains produced some 45%-50% is for farmers' self-consumption and the rest is marketed surplus. This marketed surplus sets the upper bound of total procurement cost from which must be deducted the net revenue recovered through the PDS (if all these crops are sold through ration shops). Our preliminary estimate puts it in the range of ₹5 lakh-crore, far less than the ₹17 lakh-crore estimated by the government. It is of the same order of magnitude as DA to public sector employees (less than 5% of the population, and the total tax break and income foregone announced in the Budget for a handful of industrial houses (₹3 lakh-crore), not to speak of a willful default of bank loans by a handful of borrowers (well over ₹10 lakh-crore). This expenditure will benefit more than half the population directly and another 20%-25% of the population indirectly in the unorganized sector - over 70% of India's citizens.

A real breakthrough in the recurring problem of agricultural debt can be made by the linking of selling of grains under MSP to provision of bank credit particularly for small farmers. The farmer can get a certificate selling grains at MSP which would be credit points proportional to the amount sold; this will entitle them to a bank loan as their right and calibrate the fluctuations between good and bad harvest years by storing the certificates for later use. This mechanism would go a long way not only in addressing the indebtedness in the farming community but also has the virtue of great administrative simplicity in disbursing bank loans.

It needs emphasizing that how effectively such an MSP scheme could be implemented would depend largely on decentralizing the implementing agencies under the constitutionally mandated supervision of panchayats. The near miracle we have witnessed in organizing and unifying the farmers' movement across caste, class and gender through the panchayat and maha-panchayat system in Punjab, Haryana and West Uttar Pradesh raises hope that they will turn their attention to decentralizing the MSP implementation mechanism. The movement enabled massive and effective mobilization through these decentralized bodies. Therefore, they are capable of doing it again.

(Amit Bhaduri has taught economics across various universities. He is internationally selected professor in Pavia University, Italy and also visiting professor in the Council for Social Development, Delhi. Kaustav Banerjee teaches at Dr. B.R. Ambedkar University Delhi)

# PUNJAB ELECTIONS AND DERAS

BY PRABHJOT SINGH



REGION IS DOTTED WITH DERAS THAT ARE KNOWN TO INFLUENCE ELECTIONS



Release of Ram Rahim on parole has revived an animated debate as many see politics behind it

Release of Ram Rahim of Dera Sacha Sauda on parole a fortnight before the February 20 poll in Punjab has set in motion an animated debate over the timing of his "Furlow". There are many who view it as a political master stroke played by the BJP government in Haryana to influence elections, both in Uttar Pradesh and Punjab, others are dismissing it as an administrative or procedural relief to a convict. Whatever be the reasons or the background of his release, it has stirred a controversy that may have far reaching political implications.

Deras in general, and Dera Sacha Sauda in particular, have generally played a decisive role in many of previous electoral battles.

One of the major factors believed to influence the outcome of battles of the ballot in Punjab are Deras that dot not only the entire State but also the catchment areas, including neighboring Haryana.

Important and major Deras or sects like Radha Soamis, Nirankaris and Namdharis generally stay clear of politics and elections, same cannot be said of many others, especially Dera Sacha Sauda, that wield considerable influence in the Malwa belt and some parts of Western Uttar Pradesh.

A few months before the 2017 elections to the Punjab assembly were announced, the

then Congress Vice-President Rahul Gandhi visited Dera Radha Soami at Beas.

Incidentally, the President of the All-India Namdhari sect is H S Hanspal, who headed the Punjab Pradesh Congress Committee when Capt Amarinder Singh was Chief Minister of Punjab (2002-2007). Hanspal also represented Congress as Member of Rajya Sabha. This time, Hanspal, upset over the denial of a party ticket to his grandson, decided to leave Congress and join hands with the Aam Aadmi Party.

A substantial section of Sant Samaj that has in its fold various Sikh sects, including revered Nanaksar, used to support the ruling Shiromani Akali Dal. The situation has changed this time. The Damdami Taksal, an influential sect of Sikhs, caused a big flutter when some of its top leaders declared support for Bharatiya Janata Party.

While there has been no corroborative evidence of followers of one Dera or the other voting en masse for a particular party or a candidate, yet no party of substance misses an opportunity to appease these socio-religious organizations.

In the past, State Governments have been doling out concessions and special treatment to them in an endeavor to have their leadership on their side. So much so that at times they even enjoy immunity from the law of the land.

Law enforcement agencies face a harrowing time as and when these Deras or their chiefs get mired in controversies linked to serious criminal offences, including rape, murder or illegal confinement. Some of these cases are handled by the prime investigation agency, the Central Bureau of Investigation. It is in one of such cases that the chief of Dera Sacha Sauda, Ram Rahim, was convicted and sentenced for life. His earlier pleas for release on parole were dismissed for security reasons.

In fact, before his arrest, a big drama took place that led to arson and violence in Panchkula as a lot was said about the CBI case against the Dera Sacha Sauda chief. There were allegations that the case was being pushed to cold storage after BJP came to power on its own in the 2016 Assembly elections in the State. Earlier, the Dera was believed to have supported Congress in the 2007 Punjab Assembly elections. Some political pundits go to the extent of saying that the Dera was playing the role of a King maker.

It is why his 21-day parole and physical presence in the region is being followed with abated interest.

Looking back at electoral battles of the past two decades, it can be safely inferred that Deras have been the most sought-after centers when it comes to ensuring a victory in the elections. Undoubtedly the Deras have been playing King Makers, though discreetly. Their influence has been growing steadily and may not be impacted by the Apex court verdict on restraining political parties from seeking a vote in the name of caste, creed, religion or language.

If Akali Dal suffered reverses in the 2007 Assembly elections in the Malwa belt - it got only 19 of 65 seats - it was suspected that Dera Sacha Sauda followers voted for Congress. Though Congress led by Capt Amarinder Singh failed to return to power, it gave a lesson to the power incumbents Shiromani Akali Dal-Bharatiya Janata Party (SAD-BJP) alliance a lesson in Dera politics.

The message of the 2007 elections was loud and clear. Subsequently, every party, including the Congress, the Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD), Aam Aadmi Party, and Bahujan Samaj Party -- have been bending backwards to seek the blessings of these deras and their chiefs before or during elections.

Even the latest entrant to Punjab politics, Aam Aadmi Party, too, also tried to garner the support of Deras. In the 2017 elections, the Bahujan Samaj Party that had its base eroded considerably over the years also seriously considered seeking the support of at least five Deras that have a huge following of the Dalits.

In Punjab, Scheduled Castes are the single largest vote bank as they are a little more than 32% of the State's population. It is probably the reason for Congress to name the incumbent Chief Minister Charanjit Singh Channi as its Chief Ministerial face for the 2022 elections by overlooking the claims of its Punjab Pradesh Congress Committee chief Navjot Singh Sidhu.

There have been instances when one Dera or the other openly pledged allegiance to a party, the party

- Biggest of these Deras is of Radha Soamis based out of Beas in the Majha region
- Among major sects or Deras are Namdharis and Nirankaris, Dera Sacha Sauda with headquarters in Sirsa remains most controversial
- Other major Deras are Sachkhand Ballan, Swami Jagat Giri Ashram and Noor Mahal
- Various Sikh sects, including Nanaksar, Dhadrian, Harian Bellan, Hansali and others, represent Sant Samaj
- Damdami Taksal too has been hawking media headlines

concerned made a significant dent in its rivals' vote share. The success of Congress in the Malwa belt in the 2007 Punjab Assembly elections and the BJP success in the 2016 Haryana Assembly elections are points in order.

Though the Apex Court gave a landmark verdict on the eve of 2017 Assembly elections to five States, including Punjab, that votes cannot be solicited in the name of religion, caste or language, the Deras remained high on demand.

Intriguingly in the Assembly elections in 2012 and also the 2014 general elections, candidates close to the Dera Sacha Sauda chief, Gurmit Ram Raheem, failed to get voters' verdict in their favor. They include Harminder Jassi, who in 2017 contested unsuccessfully from Maur in the Malwa belt on Congress ticket.

The Deras play safe as they do not flout election laws and refuse to openly support one party or the other. After all parties have approached them, they follow the same safe modus operandi of referring the matter to their respective political wings, who in turn direct the followers to vote according to their conscience.

One of the prime reasons for growing the Dera cult is the failure of the State to curb caste distinctions. Discarded by upper castes, lower castes, coming from different religious backgrounds, form the bulk of Deras as they are treated at par and given respectability. Various political parties find Dera followers a heterogeneous voter base that once convinced can influence electoral fortunes.

"How Deras impact the ensuing Assembly elections?", only results will tell.

(The author is a veteran journalist with over three decades of experience covering a wide spectrum of subjects and stories. He has covered Punjab and Sikh affairs for more than three decades besides covering seven Olympics and several major sporting events and hosting TV shows. For more in-depth analysis please visit [probingeye.com](http://probingeye.com) or follow him on [Twitter.com/probingeye](https://twitter.com/probingeye))

# Kamala Harris administered oath of office to members of Presidential Advisory Commission on Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders



VP Kamala Harris virtually administered the oath of office to members of the Presidential Advisory Commission on Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders - File photo

WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP): Co-chaired by Health and Human Services (HHS) secretary Xavier Becerra and US Trade Representative Ambassador Katherine Tai, the commission complements the White House Initiative on Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders (WHIAANHPI), both of which were established by President Joe Biden last May.

Members of the commission were announced recently. Of the 23 members, four are Indian Americans - Ajay Jain Bhutoria, Sonal Shah, Kamal Kalsi and Smita Shah. Bhutoria is a Silicon Valley technology executive, community leader, speaker and author who has been recognized for his work, the White House

said.

A social impact and innovation leader, Sonal Shah is the founding president of The Asian American Foundation (TAAF), which has started the largest philanthropic effort to serve the Asian American, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander communities.

Smita N Shah is an engineer, entrepreneur and civic leader serving as president and CEO of Chicago-based SPAAN Tech, Inc, a multi-disciplinary firm with expertise in public and private infrastructure projects, including transportation, aviation and facilities.

Kamal Kalsi is an emergency medicine physician from New Jersey who has served in the Army for 20 years. He was awarded a Bronze Star medal for his work, taking care of hundreds of combat casualties on the front lines in Afghanistan, it said.

The commission will advise the President on ways the public, private and non-profit sectors can work together to advance equity, justice and opportunity for Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander (AA and NHPI) communities.

"We know there is still a lot of work to do in an affirmative, purposeful and

intentional way about ensuring that people are engaged, and that we are relevant to the way that they are experiencing and living life, and that we are connected with their goals and their dreams for themselves, their families and community," Harris said during the swearing-in ceremony on Thursday.

"And that is why it is so important to have you all as the leaders that you are together in this advisory group because the work that you will do is to give us candid feedback," she told the commissioners.

"On behalf of the President and myself, I thank you yet again for the life that you have chosen to live, which has been a life of leadership and service," Harris said.

HHS secretary Becerra noted, "The commissioners you see today represent not only subject matter experts who are recognized in their fields, but also visionary leaders who reflect the strength and diversity of the Asian American, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander community."

"From addressing anti-Asian hate and bias, to COVID-19 recovery, to the need for better data on AA and NHPI communities and resources for limited

English proficient individuals, the needs of our AA and NHPI communities are wide-ranging, unique, and urgent for us to address.

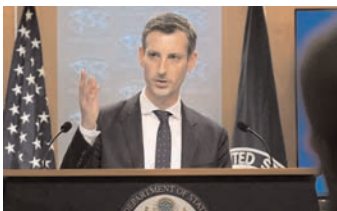
"Together, with the leadership of our commissioners, we will work to ensure that our nation lives up to its founding ideals, and that the American dream is within reach for every AA and NHPI family," she said.

US Trade Representative Ambassador Katherine Tai said unfortunately, the past two years have underscored and exacerbated long-standing inequities in the country.

"The pandemic has had significant economic and social impacts on AA and NHPI workers -- particularly in the hospitality and leisure, retail, and other service industries that employ one in four workers from our communities," Tai said.

"Meanwhile, small business owners have faced xenophobia, harassment, vandalism and targeted threats. This is why the Biden-Harris administration is prioritizing the values of equity, equality and opportunity in the Build Back Better agenda - and why our pandemic recovery must bring along all communities," she added. (Source: PTI)

## RELATIONSHIP WITH INDIA STANDS ON ITS OWN MERIT, NOT IMPACTED BY TENSIONS WITH RUSSIA: US



"We have a relationship with India that stands on its own merits," State Department spokesperson Ned Price told reporters at his daily news conference on Thursday, February 3. - File pic

WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP): America's relationship with India stands on its own merit and has not been impacted by the ongoing tension with Russia, the Biden administration said.

"We have a relationship with India that stands on its own merits," State Department spokesperson Ned Price told reporters at his daily news conference on Thursday,

February 3. He was responding to a question if the US ties with India have been impacted due to the tension with Russia over Ukraine crisis.

For the second time this week, the State Department spokesperson refrained from responding to questions related to India's position on Ukraine in the United Nations Security Council.

"I will leave it to our Indian partners to discuss their stance in the UN Security on this particular issue," Price said.

"We have been in touch with literally dozens of countries around the world, including our Indian partners, on our concerns regarding Russia's military buildup and its unprovoked potential aggression against Ukraine," he maintained.

These are conversations that the United States is having at different levels, he said.

"As I was saying in a different context earlier, Russian aggression against Ukraine and a Russian invasion of Ukraine would have implications for the security environment well beyond that neighborhood. Whether it is the PRC or India or countries around the world, the implications would be far-reaching. And I think there is a broad understanding of that," the official added. (Source: PTI)

## US lawmakers urge Biden admin to ensure global supply of COVID-19 vaccines



Barbara Lee; Judy Chu, Raul Ruiz and Joyce Beatty have in a letter to Biden urged him to ensure global supply and distribution of COVID-19 vaccines

WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP): A group of prominent American lawmakers wrote to President Joe Biden to ensure global supply and distribution of COVID-19 vaccines

Global health experts have identified an array of needs where the United States leadership can have a real and immediate impact to save lives and slow the spread of COVID-19. Most important is to continue to help countries manage and deliver the vaccines, especially given the generous investment by the United States in purchasing the doses, four top American lawmakers wrote in the letter.

The letter was written by Barbara Lee; Judy Chu, chair of the influential Congressional Asian American Pacific Caucus; Raul Ruiz, chair of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus; and Joyce Beatty, chairman of the Congressional Black Caucus.

In the letter dated January 23, these powerful Congressional caucuses urged the Biden administration to invest in the global supply and manufacture of vaccines as well as therapeutics and medical equipment to fight the pandemic.

The development follows focused outreach by India's Ambassador to the US, Taranjit Singh Sandhu, and the embassy to these important caucuses which represent over 170 members of the

US Congress and include several members of the Senate.

During these outreach programs, Indian diplomats have been emphasizing on strong healthcare partnership between India and the US, and the potential for India-US collaborations to provide affordable vaccines/medicines, including to the developing, especially Africa and Latin America.

Notably, Sandhu has spoken to all the chairs of the three caucuses, and they expressed strong support for the collaboration with India for global good. Other important members of the caucus have also expressed their support for India. Earlier, the Black Caucus had separately written to the ambassador on vaccine cooperation and delivery of vaccines to Africa in 2021.

In the letter, the lawmakers also wrote that the American leadership is needed on expanding access to diagnostic, therapeutic and other health needs like oxygen and personal protective equipment.

Not least, as the pandemic stretches into its third year, assistance is needed to address related harms such as hunger, school closure, growing strains on health system and other related health efforts, the letter added. (Source: PTI)

# Ambassador Sandhu meets officers of Indian descent at US Naval Academy

WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP): India's Ambassador to the United States Taranjit Singh Sandhu met a group of officers of Indian descent serving in the US Navy during a rare visit to the US Naval Academy in Annapolis, describing them as a "firm anchor" of India-US ties.

There are a number of Indian-origin midshipmen at the Naval Academy, the second oldest of the five US service academies.

"It was a delight to meet young officers of Indian descent at the US Naval Academy, proudly serving in the US Navy. A firm anchor of India US ties," Sandhu tweeted along with pictures of him interacting with the officers.

**THE AMBASSADOR HELD DISCUSSIONS WITH SUPERINTENDENT VICE ADMIRAL SEAN BUCK AND HAD AN INTERACTION WITH SOME OF THE MIDSHIPMEN OF INDIAN DESCENT ON FRIDAY.**



Ambassador Taranjit Singh Sandhu

Established on October 10, 1845, under Secretary of the Navy George Bancroft, the Naval Academy educates officers for commissioning primarily into the United States Navy and the United States Marine Corps.

The entire campus (known to insiders as "the Yard") is a National Historic Landmark and home to many historic sites, buildings, and monuments.

It replaced Philadelphia Naval Asylum, in Philadelphia, that served

as the first United States Naval Academy from 1838 to 1845, when the Naval Academy was formed in Annapolis, Maryland's capital city.

Candidates for admission generally must both apply directly to the academy and receive a nomination, usually from a member of Congress. Students are officers-in-training with the rank of midshipman. Tuition for midshipmen is fully funded by the Navy in exchange for an active-duty service obligation upon graduation.

Approximately 1,200 "plebes" (an abbreviation of the Ancient Roman word plebeian) enter the academy each summer for the rigorous Plebe Summer. About 1,000 midshipmen graduate.

Graduates are either commissioned as ensigns in the Navy or second lieutenants in the Marine 2 | Naval Attache, Washington DC Corps, but a small number can also be cross commissioned as officers in other US services, and the services of allied nations.

(Source: PTI)

## MANY STATES ANNOUNCE PLANS TO END MASK MANDATE IN SCHOOLS



School mask mandates will come to an end in Connecticut, New Jersey, Delaware and Oregon within weeks, state officials announced, February 8. - Photo for representation only

NEW YORK (TIP): School mask mandates will come to an end in Connecticut, New Jersey, Delaware and Oregon within weeks, state officials announced, February 8.

This is a positive sign of decreasing Covid-19 cases across the nation as the country moves toward a new normal, several Democratic governors said. California will also lift its statewide indoor mask mandate for vaccinated people next week, nearly two years after it was first implemented.

Similar announcements are expected from other states in the near future as more local leaders consider the shifting tide of mask politics, frustration with continued Covid-related restrictions, as well as higher vaccination rates and a decline in cases since the peak of the Omicron surge.

## America stands with India against Chinese aggression: US senators

WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP): The United States asserted that it stands with India against Chinese aggression as several lawmakers slammed China for choosing a PLA soldier, who was part of the military command that attacked Indian soldiers in the Galwan Valley in 2020, as a torchbearer for the Beijing Winter Olympics.

"When it comes to the India-China border situation, we continue to support

direct dialogue and a peaceful resolution of the disputes," State Department spokesperson Ned Price told reporters at his daily news conference on Thursday.

"We have previously voiced our concerns on Beijing's pattern of ongoing attempts to intimidate its neighbors. As we always do, we stand with friends. We stand with partners and allies to advance our shared prosperity, security and values in the Indo-Pacific," he said.

Earlier in the day, two top American senators slammed China for its decision to field Qi Fabao, the regimental commander of the People's Liberation Army (PLA), who was injured during the June 2020 border skirmish with Indian soldiers in the Galwan Valley in eastern Ladakh, as the torchbearer for the Games Torch Relay.

(Read full story at [www.theindianpanorama.news](http://www.theindianpanorama.news))



"When it comes to the India-China border situation, we continue to support direct dialogue and a peaceful resolution of the disputes," State Department spokesperson Ned Price told reporters at his daily news conference on Thursday, February 3

## A measured and pragmatic Budget 2022-23, says USISPF

WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP): Congratulating Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on delivering a budget that allows the government to continue supporting development while keeping an eye on fiscal deficit, the head of a top India-centric American business advocacy group described it as a "measured and pragmatic budget".

"The first principle is do no harm and the government has adhered to this - there are no major policy changes, which is good in the current scenario. I call this a measured and pragmatic budget. There was tremendous pressure on the government to do more given the upcoming state elections," Mukesh Aghi,

president, US-India Strategic and Partnership Forum (USISPF), said on Tuesday, Feb 1.

In a statement, Aghi said there is also the unsaid acknowledgment in the budget that coronavirus and inflation are still not behind us.

"We are pleased to see the 35 per cent increase in capital expenditure budget, which will support investment in critical infrastructure needed for business to expand and create more jobs along with the investments in public health and welfare," he noted.

The head of USISPF also welcomed the support for "manufacturing through PLI schemes and investments in solar

technology and other green infrastructure, which ties in nicely with the government's 'Make in India' initiative, and India's desire to lead the fight against climate change".

"This budget charts a credible path forward, and we applaud the government's steady policy hand to revive and continue the path of growth for the Indian economy," Aghi added.

Sitharaman had on Tuesday unveiled a bigger Rs 39.45 lakh crore budget, with higher spending on highways to affordable housing with a view to fire up the key engines of the Indian economy to sustain a world-beating recovery from the pandemic.



A "measured and pragmatic budget", said Mukesh Aghi, president, US-India Strategic and Partnership Forum (USISPF), on Tuesday, Feb 1.

## INDIA RECORDS 58,077 NEW COVID CASES, 657 MORE DEATHS

NEW DELHI (TIP)

India saw a single-day rise of 58,077 coronavirus infections, which took the tally of cases to 4,25,36,137, while the active cases have declined to 6,97,802, according to Union health ministry data updated on Friday, February 11.

The daily Covid cases are being recorded at less than one lakh for the last five consecutive days.

The death toll has climbed to 5,07,177 with 657 daily fatalities, the data updated at 8 am said.

The active cases comprised 1.64 per cent of the total infections, while the national recovery rate had further improved to 97.17 per cent, the health ministry said.

A reduction of 92,987 cases has been recorded in the active Covid caseload in a span of 24 hours.

The daily positivity rate has been recorded at 3.89 per cent while the weekly positivity rate has been recorded at 5.76 per cent, according to the health ministry.

The number of people who have recuperated from the disease has increased to 4,13,31,158, while the case fatality rate has been recorded at 1.19 per cent.

The cumulative doses administered so far under the nationwide Covid vaccination drive has exceeded 171.79 crore.

Source: PTI

## SC GIVES FINAL OPPORTUNITY TO VIJAY MALLYA TO APPEAR BEFORE IT IN CONTEMPT CASE

NEW DELHI (TIP)

The Supreme Court on Thursday, Feb 11, gave a final opportunity to fugitive businessman Vijay Mallya, accused in bank loan default case of over Rs 9,000 crore involving his defunct Kingfisher Airlines, to appear before it personally or through his lawyer in a contempt case where he has been found guilty.

The top court said it has given multiple opportunities to Mallya to appear either personally or through a lawyer and had even given specific directions in its last order dated November 30, 2021.

A bench of justices U U Lalit, S Ravindra Bhat and P S Narasimha posted the contempt case for further hearing after two weeks, saying that respondent contemnor (Mallya) is at liberty to act as per direction given in order dated November 30 last year, failing which the matter shall be taken to its "logical conclusion".

At the outset, the bench told senior advocate Jaideep Gupta, who has been appointed amicus curiae in the matter, that it has found the contemnor guilty of contempt of court, and now, punishment has to be imposed.

# Quad meeting: Jaishankar underlines shared vision for free and open Indo-Pacific

NEW DELHI (TIP)

India and its partners in the Quadrilateral Security Group or Quad on Friday, Feb 11, reiterated their support for efforts aimed at ensuring a free and open Indo-Pacific, and agreed to expedite the delivery of Covid-19 vaccines across the region.

During their fourth meeting in Melbourne, the foreign ministers of the four members of the Quad – India, Australia, Japan and the US – reviewed cooperation in several key areas such as the Covid-19 response, maritime security and the rules-based order in the Indo-Pacific, and prepared the ground for the next Quad Leaders' Summit to be hosted by Tokyo in the first half of the year.

India's external affairs minister S Jaishankar, Australian foreign minister Marise Payne, Japanese foreign minister Yoshimasa Hayashi and US secretary of state Antony Blinken also met Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison before their talks and discussed the realisation of the vision outlined by the Quad leaders.

Jaishankar told a joint news conference after the ministerial meeting that the foreign ministers held productive discussions. He said the robust bilateral relations between the Quad members, their strategic convergences and shared democratic values helped make the Quad a vibrant and substantial network with a shared vision for a free and open Indo-Pacific.

The Quad members agreed to expedite the delivery of Covid-19 vaccines and



US secretary of state Antony Blinken meets with Indian foreign minister S Jaishankar before the Quad meeting of foreign ministers in Melbourne on February 11, 2022. (REUTERS)

augment the last-mile delivery facilities, Jaishankar said. They will also work to uphold the rules-based trading system and continue their cooperation in counterterrorism, humanitarian assistance and disaster relief, and maritime domain awareness, he said.

Jaishankar said the Quad members will continue to support their partners in Asean to uphold peace and security in the region, and also take steps to strengthen people-to-people linkages through education and think tank linkages. Payne cautioned that the rules-based system that the Quad members are committed to is "under pressure from

authoritarian regimes" – an apparent reference to China's aggressive actions across the region. She said the Quad members will continue to support freedom of navigation and overflight across the Indo-Pacific.

Blinken explained that a free and open Indo-Pacific would mean that people will be free and live in open societies, countries will be able to choose their partners, and goods will flow freely. He also referred to "Russian aggression" in Ukraine and said such challenges to the rules-based world order could even have an impact on the Indo-Pacific.

Source: HT

## Union minister's son, accused of running over farmers in UP, gets bail

LUCKNOW/NOIDA (TIP)

The Allahabad High Court on Thursday, February 10, granted bail to Ashish Mishra, the son of Union minister Ajay Mishra, who was arrested in connection with the Lakhimpur Kheri violence that killed eight people including four farmers.

The Bhartiya Kisan Union and the Rashtriya Lok Dal expressed displeasure over Mishra's bail. Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra renewed her demand for the minister's resignation.

The Lucknow bench of the court had reserved its order on January 18 on Ashish Mishra's plea after concluding the hearing through video-conferencing.

Justice Rajeve Singh delivered the order, granting bail to Mishra who had spent four months in custody.

The counsel appearing on behalf of the minister's son had told the court that his client was innocent and there was no evidence against him that he incited the driver of a vehicle to crush the farmers.



Opposing the plea, Additional Advocate General V K Shahi had said that at the time of the incident, Ashish Mishra was in the car that mowed down the farmers.

On October 3, eight people were killed in Lakhimpur Kheri during violence that erupted when farmers were protesting against Uttar Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister Keshav Prasad Maurya's visit to the area.

Four farmers were mowed down by an SUV. A driver and two BJP workers were then allegedly lynched by angry farmers.

A journalist also died in the

violence that triggered outrage among opposition parties and farmer groups agitating over the Centre's now-repealed agri laws.

RLD chief Jayant Chaudhary on Thursday hit out at the "system" that granted bail to Mishra.

"What a system! Mowed down four farmers, got bail in four months," Chaudhary tweeted in Hindi.

BKU spokesperson Saurabh Upadhyay described the court order granting bail to the minister's son as an "attack" on democracy.

"Is it that easy for people charged with murder to get bail?" he asked, slamming the Modi government letting the minister continue on his post.

"When will the farmers of the country get justice?" Upadhyay said, claiming that the government is yet to deliver on the promises made to the farmers who ended their year-long laws protest in December.

Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra renewed the opposition demand that the accused's father should resign. Source: PTI

**TRS SEEKS PRIVILEGE MOTION OVER MODI'S COMMENTS ON ANDHRA BIFURCATION MOVE**

HYDERABAD (TIP)

Four Telangana Rashtra Samithi (TRS) Rajya Sabha members on Thursday, Feb 10, sought a privilege motion against Prime Minister Narendra Modi for allegedly "demeaning and denigrating" the Parliament through his comments on the passage of the Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Bill in the House in 2014. The bill was passed for Telangana's creation as a state.

In his reply to the debate on the motion of thanks to the presidential address in Rajya Sabha on Tuesday, Modi questioned the procedures presiding officers adopted in the House during its passage.

In the notice for the privilege motion, TRS lawmakers K Kesava Rao, J Santosh Kumar, B Lingaiah Yadav, and K R Suresh Reddy referred to Modi's comments. "The statement attempts to show the Parliament Houses in the most bad and contemptuous manner, denigrating, demeaning the procedures and proceedings of the House and its functioning. It tantamount to finding fault with the members of Parliament and the Presiding Officers for their conduct in the House," the notice said.

**UP Assembly Elections 2022: 60.17% voting recorded in first phase of polls**

NEW DELHI (TIP)

Polling ended peacefully in 58 constituencies during the first phase of the Assembly elections in Uttar Pradesh on February 10. The Election Commission put the voting percentage at 60.17, which is about 1 per cent less than the figure for the 2017 Assembly elections. There were reports of technical snags in EVMs at some places, but voting was peaceful, sources said. Additional Chief Election Officer BD Ram Tiwari said, "There were reports of technical snags in EVMs at some places. Such EVMs were immediately replaced." On the Samajwadi Party's allegation that poor voters were not allowed to exercise their franchise at Dundukheda village in the Kairana Assembly constituency, Tiwari said the district magistrate concerned was asked to look into the matter.

High voter turnout is crucial to the BJP achieving a comfortable majority in the state Assembly for the second successive time. In 2017, the BJP had won 53 of these 58 seats with an Opposition



MLA joining it later.

Of the 11 districts that went to the polls, the polling in Baghpat, Bulandshahr, Muzaffarnagar, Shamli and Hapur was well above the overall percentage, while it was tepid in urban-dominated Gautam Buddh Nagar and Ghaziabad. The polling percentage was around the overall average in Agra, Aligarh, Mathura and Meerut districts.

The fate of six ministers in the Yogi Adityanath Cabinet has been sealed in the first phase. They are Shrikant Sharma, Suresh Rana, Sandeep Singh,

Kapil Dev Aggarwal, Atul Garg and Chowdhury Laxmi Narayan Singh. A report from Ghaziabad said a minor skirmish took place between the supporters of BJP leader VK Singh and Congress leader Rajan Kant, allegedly when the former addressed mediapersons and talked about the work done by the BJP within the premises of a polling station.

In all, 634 candidates, including 73 women, are in the fray for the first phase of elections. Leading the BJP's campaign for the seven-phase Uttar Pradesh Assembly elections, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has been pitching for a double-engine government for fast-paced development, while attacking the Samajwadi Party-RLD combine. Union Home Minister Amit Shah and UP Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath have been trying to put the spotlight back on the alleged "exodus" of Hindus from Kairana before 2017, while SP president Akhilesh Yadav claimed the people have made up their mind to vote out the BJP.

Source: TNS

**Enforcement Directorate attaches journalist Rana Ayyub's assets worth Rs 1.77 crore**

NEW DELHI (TIP)

The enforcement directorate has locked assets worth over Rs 1.77 crore belonging to journalist Rana Ayyub, the Hindu reported. The action comes after an FIR was registered last year by the Indirapuram Police Station in Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh, alleging that the journalist acquired money from the public in the name of charity.

The ED had initiated an investigation against Ayyub in September when the FIR was registered. Both the ED and the income tax department have since been investigating the transactions in question, Hindustan Times reported. On Thursday, the ED locked the assets.

A note from the ED said: "Funds totalling Rs 2,69,44,680 were raised on Ketto by Rana Ayyub. These funds were withdrawn in the bank accounts of her sister/father. Of this amount, Rs 72,01,786 was withdrawn in her own bank account."

The note alleged that "fake bills" purportedly prepared by Ayyub were found. "Expenses made for personal travel by air were claimed as expenses for relief work," it claimed.

The FIR was filed in September based on a complaint by Vikas Sankrityayan, co-founder of the Hindu IT Cell, a Hindu supremacist group. Sankrityayan accused Ayyub of "illegally acquiring money from the general public in the name of charity" on Ketto, a crowdfunding website, after Ayyub raised money through the platform



Rana Ayyub

for three relief campaigns.

He also claimed she had violated the Foreign Contribution Regulation Act because she was a "journalist by profession" and was "receiving foreign money without any approval certificate or registration from the government".

The ED has claimed that the funds were raised in a pre-planned manner, in the name of charity and that they were not completely used for the stated purpose. The agency also said that Ayyub parked some of the funds in a current account and created a fixed deposit of Rs 50 lakh from the funds raised on Ketto.

When the FIR was filed, Ayyub had released a statement on Twitter, calling it "baseless" and "malicious". She stated that the donations received via Ketto were

**'Mahabharat's Bheem' actor Praveen Kumar Sobti dies**

NEW DELHI (TIP)

Actor-athlete Praveen Kumar Sobti, best known for playing Bheem in the TV series "Mahabharat" and for winning an Asian Games gold medal, died following a cardiac arrest late Monday, Feb 7, evening. The 74-year-old actor breathed his last at his Ashok Vihar residence here.

"He had a chronic chest infection problem. At night, when he started feeling uneasy, we called the doctor at home. He passed away between 10-10.30 PM following a cardiac arrest," a relative of Praveen told PTL. Sobti, who hailed from a humble family in Sarhali Kalan village near Amritsar, was 20 when he joined the Border Security Force (BSF), where he was first noticed for his athletic skills.

The athlete dominated the discus and hammer throw events for many years during the 1960s and 70s, winning medals in three Asian Games, one Commonwealth Games and taking part in two Olympics — the 1968 Mexico editions and the ill-fated 1972 Games in Munich — where Israeli athletes were massacred by a Palestinian terrorist group.

He came up with his career-best efforts in the two Olympics — 60.84m in hammer throw (1968) and 53.12m in discus throw (1972).

Sobti's discus throw gold medals in the Asiad came in the 1966 and 1970 editions. He won a hammer throw bronze in the 1966 Asian Games and a silver in the same discipline in the Commonwealth Games that year. He



also won a discus throw silver in the 1974 Asian Games.

His hammer throw silver (in 1966) remains the only one that an Indian has won at the CWG. It was India's maiden medal in a field event in the Commonwealth Games and only the second in athletics after Milkha Singh's 440 yard gold in the 1958 edition. He gained further popularity after he began his acting career and featured as Bheem in BR Chopra's classic "Mahabharat" in 1988.

As an actor, Sobti featured in supporting parts in close to 50 movies like "Yudh", "Adhikar", "Hukumat", "Shahenshah", "Ghayal", "Aaj Ka Arjun" and Tamil film "Michael Madana Kama Rajan".

He entered politics in 2013 when he joined the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) to contest the Delhi assembly elections. However, Sobti lost to BJP's Mahender Nagpal. After that, he joined the BJP in 2014. He is survived by wife, daughter, two younger brothers and a sister.

29 SEPTEMBER, 1929-6 FEBRUARY, 2022

# GOODBYE, NIGHTINGALE

Lata Mangeshkar, “the nightingale of Bollywood”, who has died aged 92 after contracting Covid-19, was a much-loved Indian national and international figure, whose songs provided the backdrop to the lives of millions for seven decades.

Music sung by her was heard constantly across India, in shops, restaurants, taxis or on the radio, and she became known as “Didi”, or sister, because so many people identified with her often emotional songs. And yet she was best known as a playback singer, a vocalist who does not appear onscreen but provides the soundtrack for films in which actors lip sync to her singing.

Her output was extraordinary – she is estimated to have recorded some 25,000 songs, which appeared in more than a 1,000 Hindi films, and she also sang in more than 20 different Indian languages. With an impressive vocal range, covering four octaves, she became massively popular with film directors for her ability to understand the context in which her songs would be used.

Mangeshkar did not just sing, but made sure that her performance matched the storyline and the character, saying that she always read the lyrics and listened to the tune before agreeing to sing.

She first came to national fame in India with the song Aayega Aanevala (meaning “the one who is destined to come will definitely come”), which she recorded in 1949 while still a teenager. A charming and dramatic song, which featured in the film Mahal that year, it was the start of a remarkable career in which she interpreted work by all the major Indian film composers.

For more than three decades she recorded hundreds of songs by the composing duo of Laxmikant-Pyarelal (Laxmikant Shantaram Kudalkar and Pyarelal Ramprasad Sharma), including such hits as Sheesha Ho Ya Dil Ho (from the film Aasha, in 1980). She also worked with SD Burman, and later with his celebrated son the composer RD Burman (who would marry her sister Asha), recording RD Burman songs including Bahon Mein Chale Aao (from the film Anamika, 1973).

Later she collaborated with the most internationally celebrated Bollywood composer, AR Rahman, and sang several of his best known songs including Jiya Jale (from the 1998 romantic thriller Dil Se) and Luka Chuppi (from the 2006 film Rang De Basanti), which she recorded when she was in her mid-70s. Rahman remembered how carefully she would rehearse: “She would sit with her assistant, and would start singing very slowly, with every lyric clear.” She was, he said, “part of a soul, part of a consciousness of India”.

If she had any competition as India’s finest playback singer, it was from her younger sister Asha Bhosle. After all, it was Asha who had Cornershop’s 1997 hit Brimful of Asha written about her, and who had recorded the most number of songs (according to The Guinness Book of World Records Lata was ahead in 1974



Lata Mangeshkar’s music was heard constantly across India, in shops, restaurants, taxis or on the radio, and she became known as ‘Didi’, or sister. Photograph: Prodip Guha/Getty Images

but Asha overtook her), and it was Asha who recorded with the experimental Kronos Quartet. Lata insisted there was no sibling rivalry, saying; “we’re very close, we never competed with each other.”

Mangeshkar was born in Indore, in what is now Madhya Pradesh state, the oldest child of Shevanti (later renamed Shuddhamati) and Pandit Deenanath Mangeshkar, a musician and teacher who ran a touring theatre company. Lata never went to school, as she quit on the first day when the teacher refused to allow her to bring her then 10-month-old sister Asha into the classroom.

Much of her childhood was spent singing alongside her father at concerts. He died in 1942, when she was 13, and she then had to support her mother and four siblings. A close family friend, Vinayak Damodar Karnatak, offered her work with his film company Navyug Chitrapat, acting in minor roles. When the company moved to Bombay (now Mumbai) in 1945, she and her family moved with them.

She said she disliked acting “because I was very small and hated putting on makeup and having to laugh and cry in front of the cameras”. But she loved playback singing, and was given her first break with a song in the film Majboor (1948). Then came the film Mahal, which included her hit song, and she rapidly became known as India’s Playback Queen.

Though most celebrated for her film work, she also gave concerts in India and abroad. In 1963, shortly after the Sino-Indian war, she sang the patriotic Hindi



Mangeshkar was cremated in Mumbai city with full state honors. GETTY IMAGES

song Aye Mere Watan Ke Logon (“Oh people of my country”) to an audience including Jawaharlal Nehru, the prime minister, who is said to have been moved to tears. In 1974 she performed many of her Bollywood hits at the Royal Albert Hall in London, backed by musicians including SD Burman, and was hailed as the first Indian artist to have performed there.

Away from music, her passions included fast cars and cricket – she would insist on taking time off to watch matches. The former Indian captain Virat Kohli was among those who paid tribute to her, as did Imran Khan, another leading cricketer and now

Pakistan’s prime minister. He wrote that “the subcontinent has lost one of the truly great voices the world has known” – a reminder that she had a vast following beyond India’s borders.

Mangeshkar may have recorded thousands of emotional love songs, but she never married. Asked about her private life by the Hindustan Times, she said, “there are some things only for the heart to know. Let’s keep it that way.” In 2001 she received India’s highest honour for civilians, the Bharat Ratna.

She is survived by her younger siblings Meena, Asha, Usha and Hridaynath, all of whom are singers or composers. Source: The Guardian



# 'End of an era', 'rest in melody': Tributes for Lata Mangeshkar

As the mellifluous voice of India's nightingale Lata Mangeshkar fell silent on Sunday, tributes poured in for the legendary singer on social media as well, with many people also sharing her pictures or clips of her old songs, fittingly describing her death as an "end of an era".

From Twitter to Facebook, the news feed was flooded with images of the singer, whose divine voice has ruled the silver screen and hearts of millions of people, across generations, in India and around the world.

No sooner had the news of her death come out, leaving legions of her admirers and fans grief-stricken, people also began to pay homage to her on social media.

'End of an era', 'RIPLataji' and 'Lata Mangeshkar' were trending on Twitter as thousands of social media users expressed their sentiments over the loss of a beloved icon of India, whose voice had the magical power to halt people in their tracks and melt anyone's heart.

On Facebook, the posts made by several users had a common refrain — "Meri Awaz Hin Pehchan Hai. Gar yaad rahe" ('my voice is my identity, if your remember').

While some chose to post her image as an aged woman with a beaming smile she always wore, others used old, monochrome pictures of her in a young avatar.

## PM Modi leads tributes as country's nightingale goes silent

Prime Minister Narendra Modi said the veteran singer left a void in our nation that can never be filled. "I am anguished beyond words. The kind and caring Lata Didi has left us. She leaves a void in our nation that cannot be filled. The coming generations will remember her as a stalwart of Indian culture, whose melodious voice had an unparalleled ability to mesmerise people."

"Lata Didi's songs brought out a variety of emotions. She closely witnessed the transitions of the Indian film world for decades. Beyond films, she was always passionate about India's growth. She always wanted to see a strong and developed India."

The Prime Minister also said, "I consider it my honour that I have always received immense affection from Lata Didi. My interactions with her will remain unforgettable. I grieve with my fellow Indians on the passing away of Lata Didi. Spoke to her family and expressed condolences. Om Shanti."

Remembering the iconic singer, President Ram Nath Kovind said, "In her vast range of songs, rendering the essence and beauty of India, generations found expression of their inner-most emotions. A Bharat Ratna, Lata-ji's accomplishments will remain incomparable."

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi said Mangeshkar remained the most beloved voice of India for many decades. "Her golden voice is immortal and will continue to echo in the hearts of her fans. My condolences to her family, friends and fans," he added.

Paying his "heartfelt tributes", Union



Legendary singer Lata Mangeshkar with Prime Minister Narendra Modi. (Twitter.com/@narendramodi)



President Ram Nath Kovind honoring Lata Mangeshkar.



minister Nitin Gadkari said the singer's passing away was "an irreparable loss to the country".

## Ameen Sayani, veteran radio personality

My heart is full of sorrow. India's melody queen, Lata Mangeshkar, is no more. She was not only the queen of Indian melody but also my sister. She was three years older than me, but I never called her Lata didi like the rest of the world because she always looked about eight years younger than me. We had a lot of good times together. Of course, every time she sang, my heart used to be full of absolute happiness. When she fell ill this time, I sent her a letter telling her the same. My wife and I had lovely evenings together with Lata. We often went to her house on Pedder Road and had some great meals.

I speak today with a hand on my grieving heart. What a lovely voice our Lataji had. It seemed as if god had poured some honey into her lovely renderings. Almost every song that she sang became a hit. My Radio Hit Parade Geetmala featured so many of her songs.

Now that Lataji has passed away, the hearts of millions of music lovers all over the world must be singing for her that soulful film song, Tum kya jaano tumhari yaad mein hum kitna roye. With Lata's passing, a lot of lovely feelings in my heart have passed away. I do hope she sings in heaven and keeps it full of melody.

## Anvita Dutt, lyricist and director

Lata Mangeshkar is the sound of my childhood—of coming back home to lunch in Guwahati, of evenings in the verandah in Jodhpur, of the fiat in Sarsawa. In between the hiss of an LP and the crackle of the radio and the tangled-up cassettes of my teens, her voice was a synonym for songs. Today I write them, but she was singing them to me before I even knew how to spell lyrics.

## Shilpa Rao, singer

I want to thank Lataji for showing us the path of learning and worshipping music. She was an institution of music and her connection with music was external. Our youth must learn from her how to uphold music in its true form. Her passing away is a huge loss for all of us. My favourite album of hers would be Pakeezah. We need to look at what Lataji has sung and for that, we need to learn and practice music; that's when we can have a deeper connection.

## Balaji Vittal, author

Lata Mangeshkar was born with a voice that only one in a billion can hope to be blessed with. That is her greatest strength. She could strike sustainable relationships with every production house and major directors. She was never seen as partisan. She had fallouts with SD Burman and Mohammed Rafi and never worked with OP Nayyar, but by and large, Lata Mangeshkar was a name acceptable to all. That is a tribute to the person that she is, not just the singer—humble, extremely hard working and with a sense of gratitude to everyone.

# Lata Mangeshkar, heroine off-screen

Aakshi Magazine

When playback singing was introduced in Indian cinema in 1935, it was not a given that the singer would become a star in their own right. After all, they had to be invisible on-screen. This was a change from the period of singer-actors like K L Saigal. But as this tradition came to be established, Lata Mangeshkar's career trajectory would show that a "dual star text" — as film scholar Neepa Majumdar calls it — was possible. You could be a fan of Madhubala, as well as of Lata who was singing for her. You didn't have to choose.

While this stardom was enjoyed by other singers of that time like Mohammad Rafi, Mukesh, Talat Mahmood, Geeta Dutt, Hemant Kumar, Asha Bhosle and Kishore Kumar too, what is peculiar to Lata, is the enduring nature of her career — people have heard her voice age through seven decades and mostly been loyal listeners. Dual stardom ensured that even when her voice clearly did not fit a younger actor like Rani Mukherjee, fans let it go. Realism was not something Hindi cinema trained you in, its pleasures were different.

This absence of realism created its own possibility, the song being the best example. This was the beauty of the Hindi film song sequence. Freed of demands of continuity or realistic characterisation, and yet taken seriously by filmmakers, musicians, lyricists, actors and singers, the song became a space of innovation. And freedom. It could celebrate love even if in real life caste-class barriers prevented it. Another world was possible.

Even within the limited patriarchal imagination of most film narratives, the song could transcend barriers by becoming a space where inner lives were explored. The heroines did this through their expressiveness (often through dance), and Lata did this through her voice. Her star image may have been controlled and sanitised of possible gossip, but once she sang, nothing held her back. Not even her real life association with Hindu right-wing politics.

To be sure it was sought to be tamed through the virgin-vamp binary, which placed the respectable Hindi film heroine in opposition to the bad girl — often the cabaret dancer who would transform into the vamp by the 1960s and 1970s. Lata herself said she didn't sing "those" kinds of songs (they were reserved for the richly-textured voice of Geeta Dutt or her sister Asha Bhosle). This division was a reminder of the erasure of thumri singers and singer-courtesans that coincided with the rise of Lata. But has it really stood the test of time? In a lovely piece published in *Agents of Ishq*, Paromita Vohra lists what she calls Lata's sexy songs and rethinks this binary, which is itself a patriarchal construct.

Whether it is expressing longing in *Lag Ja Gale*, an erotic-romantic duet like *Dum Bhar Jo Udhar Munh Phere* or protest in *Pyaar Kiya Toh Darna Kya* and *Jao Re Jogi*, a female voice exploring desire was radical even when framed as "respectable" to soften its implication. Written by poet-lyricists and composed



by talented composers, these songs do not conform to maintaining the status quo. The voice that brings these words to life, makes them real even as they are utopian.

The film song is often a source of embarrassment today, or is enjoyed ironically. It is treated as something that has to be gotten over in order for Hindi cinema to evolve. In the songs of the 50s and 60s — the "golden era" — which Lata Mangeshkar perhaps best personified, we encounter feeling as feeling. It is not just about her perfect notes; perfection can often leave you cold. It is something else. This is a quality she carried with her to her later songs of the 2000s — like *Luka Chuppi* from *Rang De Basanti* or *Pyaara Sa Gaon* from *Zubeidaa*. All her best songs embody it. Much before we understand the words, we feel the truth in her voice.

*The writer, Aakshi Magazine, is a New Delhi-based writer and holds a PhD in film studies.*

*Source: The Indian Express*



# Rare pictures of the melody queen



Lata Mangeshkar on stage with Kishore Kumar.



Lata Mangeshkar with the Clintons - Bill Clinton and Hillary Rodham Clinton in Chicago, June 1995.



Lata Mangeshkar shared this throwback picture and narrating the backstory, wrote, "1971 Bangladesh mukti yudh samapt hote hi hum Bangladesh gaye the aur Sunil Dutt ji ke group ke saath humne kaafi karyakram kiye, us waqt hum Army ke plane se hi sab jagah jaate the. [sic]"



In picture: Lata Mangeshkar (L) being welcomed by Bal Thackeray Shiv Sena chief (R) on March 5, 2001, at a concert in aid of the Gujarat earthquake victims held at the Shivaji Park grounds in central Bombay. Looking on is cricket master blaster Sachin Tendulkar (2nd L) and megastar Amitabh Bachchan.

## ACHIEVEMENTS OF LATA MANGESHKAR

Lata Mangeshkar was one of the iconic and versatile singers, India has witnessed. In so many years of her professional life, Lata Mangeshkar had received so many awards and her list of achievements is never ending.

Here is a list of achievements of Lata Mangeshkar:

- 1958 - Aaja Re Pardesi [MADHUMATI] - Filmfare
- 1962 - Kahi Deep Jale Kahi Dil [BEES SAAL BAAD] - Filmfare
- 1964 - Woh Kaun Thi - Best Female Playback Singer - Bengal Film Journalist Association Award
- 1965 - Tumhi Mere Mandir Tumhi Meri Pooja [KHANDAAN] - Filmfare
- 1966 - Sadhi Mansa - Best Playback Singer.
- 1967 - Jait Re Jait - Best Playback Singer.
- 1967 - Milan - Best Female Playback Singer - Bengal Film Journalist's Association Award
- 1968 - Raja Aur Rank - Best Female Playback Singer - Bengal Film Journalist's Association Award
- 1969 - Saraswati Chandra - Best Female Playback Singer - Bengal Film Journalist's Association Award
- 1969 : Padam Bhushan
- 1969 - Aap Mujhe Achhe Lagne Lage [JEENE KI RAAH] - Filmfare
- 1970 - Do Raaste - Best Female Playback Singer - Best Female Playback Singer - Bengal Film Journalist's Association Award
- 1971 - Tere Mere Sapne - Best Female Playback Singer - Best Female Playback Singer - Bengal Film Journalist's Association Award
- 1972 - Parichay - Best Female Playback Singer
- 1973 - Marjina Abdulla (Bengali) - Best Female Playback Singer - Bengal Film Journalist's Association Award
- 1973 - Abhimaan - Best Female Playback Singer - Bengal Film Journalist's Association Award
- 1974 : Guinness Book of World Records: for singing the maximum number of songs in the world
- 1975 - Kora Kagaz - Best Female Playback Singer
- 1980 : Was presented key of the city of Georgetown, Guyana, South America
- 1980 : Honorary Citizenship. The Republic of Suriname, South America
- 1981 - Ek Duje Ke Liye - Best Female Playback



Singer. A Portrait Of Lataji - 1983 - Bengal Film Journalist's Award Association

- 1985 - Ram Teri Ganga Maili - Best Female Playback Singer - Bengal Film Journalist's Award Association
- 1985 : 9th June declared as Asia Day in honour of her arrival in Toronto, Canada
- 1987 : Honorary Citizenship of the U.S.A, Houston, Texas, U.S.A
- 1989 : Dada Saheb Phalke Award
- 1990 - Lekin - Best Female Playback Singer
- 1990 : Honorary Doctorate (Literature) By Pune University
- 1993 : Filmfare Lifetime Achievement Award
- 1993 : Filmfare felicitated by the Maharashtra Government 1994 : Filmfare Special Award ( Didi Tera Devar Deewana -HAHK)
- 1996 : Videocon Screen Lifetime Achievement Award
- 1997 : Rajiv Gandhi Award.
- 1998 : Lux Zee Cine Lifetime Achievement Award
- 1999 : Padma Vibhushan
- 1999 : NTR Award
- 2000 : Lifetime Achievement Award by IIFA in London
- 2000 : Jeevan Gaurav Puraskar by the Chaturang Pratishthan The Bharat Ratna Award
- 2001 : Bharat Ratna - The Nation's Highest Civilian Award 2001: Noorjehan Award : First Recipient
- 2001: Maharashtra Ratna : First Recipient
- 2002: Felicitation By CII ( For Contribution to Music & the Film Industry)
- 2002: Hakim Khan Sur Award ( For National Integration by Maharana Mewar Foundation)
- 2002: Asha Bhosle Award : First Recipient



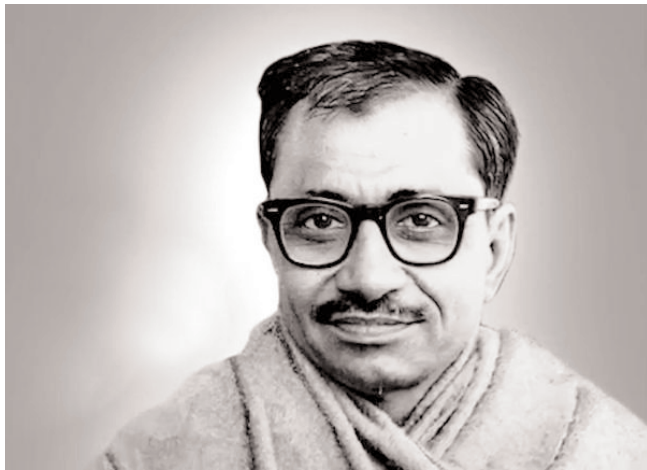
In picture: Lata Mangeshkar (R) is accompanied by her sisters Asha Bhosle (2R), Meena Khadikar (L) Usha Mangeshkar (2L) during the Pandit Hridaynath Mangeshkar Awards in Mumbai on March 31, 2013.

# India in history this Week

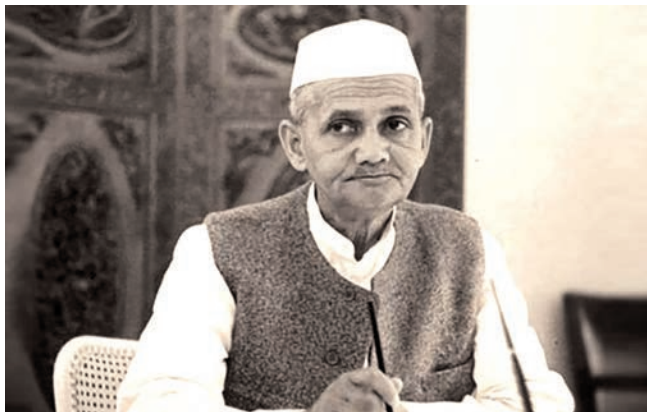
FEBRUARY 11, 2022, TO FEBRUARY 17, 2022

## 11 FEBRUARY

1901 Indian revolutionary Damodar Swaroop Seth was born.  
1856 The East India Company took over Awadh.



1968 Jana Sangh founder, writer, journalist Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyay was killed in Mughalsarai.  
1933 The publication of Mahatma Gandhi's Harijan Weekly began in 1933.  
1966 Former Prime Minister Lal Bahadur Shastri died in Tashkent.



1997 Indian Astrophysicist Jayant V Narlikar awarded the 1996 Kalinga Prize in 1996 by UNESCO.

## 12 FEBRUARY

1502 Vasco-de-Gama sailed from Lisbon for a second trip to India.  
1928 Gandhiji declared Satyagraha in Bardoli.  
1975 India declared itself as a smallpox-free nation on 12 February 1975.  
1999 President's rule in Bihar.



2009 In 2009, the University of Cambridge announced the conferment of a DeLitt degree to India's renowned economist Amartya Sen.

## 13 FEBRUARY

1879 Birth of freedom fighter Sarojini Naidu.



1984 Former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi inaugurates the Mazgaon Dock in Mumbai for the Navy.

## 14 FEBRUARY

1989 Union Carbide, responsible for Bhopal gas scandal, agreed to give compensation to the government.



1881 In 1881, Rajendra Lal Dutt and Basu opened the country's first homoeopathic college in Calcutta.  
1967 In 1967, the 74th Lok Sabha elections were held.  
1999 The fifth National Games were inaugurated in Imphal in 1999.  
1970 The ordinance was passed by the President in 1970 about nationality.

## 15 FEBRUARY



1869 Mirza Ghalib, the famous Urdu poet, died.  
2017 On this day ISRO launched 104 satellites simultaneously.  
1967 Elections to the fourth Lok Sabha were held in 1967 in India.  
1976 The Central Agricultural Research Institute was established in 1976 in Bhopal, the capital of

Madhya Pradesh.

## 16 FEBRUARY

1944 Dada Saheb Phalke died.



1982 The Jawaharlal Nehru International Gold Cup football tournament was held in Calcutta for the first time in 1982.

1987 A missile with submarine capable of hitting the submarine was inducted into the Indian Navy in 1987.



2008 Tata Motors launched a vehicle for the Army on February 16, 2008, called a Light Specialist Vehicle, to allow the Army to show its power through it.

2009 On February 16, 2009, former President Pranab Mukherjee presented the Interim Budget for the year 2009-2010.

## 17 FEBRUARY

1915 Gandhiji visited Santiniketan for the first time.  
1931 Lord Irwin welcomed Gandhiji to the Viceroy's residence.  
2007 Veteran Gandhian Smt. Arunaveen Desai passed away in Gujarat.  
2014 On 17 February 2014, the Election Commission banned the transmission of exit polls until the last phase of voting was over.



# Guru Ravidas: Mystic poet-saint of the bhakti movement

The birth anniversary of socio-religious reformer, a thinker, a theosophist, a humanist and founder of Ravidassia sect falls on February 16

**G**uru Ravidas was a poet-saint of the Bhakti movement and founder of the Ravidassia religion. He was a suave socio-religious reformer, a thinker, a theosophist, a humanist, a poet, a traveler, a pacifist, and above all a towering spiritual figure. He stressed equality where every citizen will enjoy human rights-social, political, cultural, spiritual.

Guru Ravidas is by far the most revered among the scheduled castes, especially Dalits of Northwest and Central India. His devotional verses are included in the Sikh scriptures, Guru Granth Sahib. He was one of the leading saints of the Bhakti movement who was against the Hindu Caste-System. He propagated equality, human rights, and universal brotherhood, liberty, fraternity, and worship of one God.

## Early Life

Guru Ravidas was born in Seer Gobardhangaon near Varanasi on Magh Purnima. His mother was Kalsa Devi and his father was Santokh Dass. Everyone has their own opinion on the birth of Ravidas, some people believe that he was born around 1376-77, some say 1399 CE. According to some documents, Ravidas lived between 1450 and 1520. His birthplace is now called 'Shri Guru Ravidas Janam Asthan'.

Guru Ravidas was born in a lower caste family and his father was a sarpanch in the Raja Nagar state. He used to make and repair shoes. Ravidas Ji's father used to make leather from the dead animal's skin and then make sandals and shoes.

Ravidas was very brave and adored God very much since childhood. Ravidas had to suffer from the inferiority complex of high clans since childhood, they used to always keep in mind that this child is not of a high clan. Ravidas used his pen to change society, he used to explain to people about life through his creations. Teaching people that a person should love his neighbor as himself without any discrimination.

## Ravidas education

In childhood, Ravidas used to go to his Guru Pandit Sharda Nand's school for education. After some time, the upper caste people stopped him from attending school. Pandit Sharda Nand knew the talent of Ravidas, he did not believe in the great things of society, he believed that Ravidas is a child sent by God. After which Pandit Sharda Nand started teaching Ravidas in his own Pathshala. He was a very talented and promising student, more than his mentor taught him; He used to do education with his understanding. Pandit Sharda Nand was very impressed with Ravidas, seeing his



conduct and talent, he used to think that Ravidas would become a good spiritual teacher and great social reformer.

Along with Ravidas, the son of Pandit Sharda Nand used to study in Pathshala, both of them were good friends. Once both of them were playing hide and seek, after playing 1-2 times it became night, due to which they asked to play the next day. On the second day, Ravidas comes to play in the morning, but that friend did not come. Then he went to his house, and find that his friend has died in the night. Hearing this, Ravidas becomes numb, then his guru Sharada Nand takes him to a dead friend. Ravidas had supernatural powers since childhood, he tells his friend that this is not the time to sleep, get up and play with me. His dead friend stands upon hearing this. Seeing this, everyone present there is amazed.

## Sant Ravidas life

As Ravidas grows older, his devotion to Lord Rama increases. He always used the words Ram, Raghunath,

Rajaram Chandra, Krishna, Hari, Govind, etc., which gave proof of his religiousness. Ravidas Ji used to be the religious guru of Meera Bai. Meera Bai was the daughter of the king of Rajasthan and the queen of Chittor.

Guru Ravidas's education very much influenced her and she became a great follower of guruji. Meera Bai also wrote a few words in honor of her mentor, such as 'Guru Milaya Ravidas Ji...' Meera Bai was the only child of her parents, after her mother's death, her grandfather 'Duda Ji' raised her. Duda Ji was a great follower of Ravidas, Meera Bai along with her grandfather always used to meet Ravidas. Where she was very impressed by his education. After marriage, Meera Bai made Ravidas Ji her guru with the consent of her family. Meera Bai writes in her compositions that her Guru Ravidas Ji saved her several times from death.

Babur was the first king of the Mughal Empire, who after winning the battle of Panipat in 1526, sat on the throne of Delhi where he sacrificed millions for the trust of God. He was

already familiar with the divine powers of Sant Ravidas and decided that one day he would meet Guruji along with Humayun. He went there and touched his feet to honor Guru Ji however; Instead of blessing, he was punished by Guruji because he had killed millions of innocent people. Guruji explained to him deeply which influenced Babur very much and after that, he became a follower of Sant Ravidas and started doing social service by serving the poor of Delhi and Agra.

## Guru Ravidas teachings

People say, God sent Ravidas Ji into the earth to protect religion because at this time sin had increased a lot, people used to do caste, apartheid in the name of religion. Ravidas Ji bravely faced all the discrimination and explained the true definition of faith and caste to the people. He used to explain to people that man is not known by faith in caste, religion, or God, but he is recognized by his actions. Ravidas Ji made a lot of efforts to end the prevalence of untouchability in society.

At that time, those belonging to the lower caste were highly discouraged. They couldn't worship in the temple, studied in school, moved out of the village during the day, and were even forced to live in a raw hut instead of a pucca house in the village. Seeing this plight of the society, Ravidas Ji decided to remove untouchability, discrimination from society and started giving the right message to the people.

Ravidas Ji used to message people that 'God has created man, not a man has created God'. This means God creates every human being and everyone has equal rights on the earth. Saint Guru Ravidas Ji used to give various teachings to the people about universal brotherhood and tolerance. Guru Ravidas opposed all activities banned to the lower caste people like Shudras (untouchables) were not allowed to wear common clothes like Brahman such as Janev, tilak on forehead, and other religious practices.

Various religious songs and other compositions written by Ravidas Ji have been included in the Sikh scripture 'Guru Granth Sahib'. The fifth Sikh Guru 'Arjan Dev' included them in the book. The followers of Guru Ravidas Ji's teachings are called 'Ravidassia' and his collection of teachings is called 'Ravidassia Panth'.

He was a true messenger of God, and he came on earth when it was necessary to save the real Dharma as at that time when social and religious patterns were distressing because of the lots of human-made discriminations over social beliefs, caste, color, and etc.

Source: Ritiriwaz.com

## EIGHT KILLED AND FIVE INJURED IN ACCIDENT IN NEPAL: POLICE

**KATHMANDU (TIP):** A passenger vehicle carrying a newly-wed couple and some of the wedding attendants skidded off a hilly road in Western Nepal on February 5, killing eight people and injuring five others, police said.

The accident happened in the country's Pyuthan district when the jeep bound to Libang of Gaumukhi rural municipality from Lung of Naubahini rural municipality carrying the couple and their wedding attendants skidded off and fell 150 metres down the road. "At least eight people died and five others sustained injuries in the accident," a senior police official said. Six persons died on the spot and two others died while undergoing treatment in a local hospital. "Five people including the bride and groom were injured in the incident," the official said. Similar accidents are common in Western Nepal during winter due to the dense fog and slippery roads. Last year in November, a passenger bus skidded off the road in Western Nepal, killing at least 12 people and wounding nearly 20. (PTI)

## PAKISTAN OFFERS PR SCHEME FOR WEALTHY FOREIGN NATIONALS, INCLUDING SIKHS IN US AND CANADA, TO ATTRACT INVESTMENT

**ISLAMABAD (TIP) :** Pakistani lawmakers are mulling a proposed amendment to the civil service rules that will bar top government officials from holding dual nationality and could affect over 20,000 bureaucrats, according to a media report on Feb 11.

The Pakistan Citizenship Act 1951 explicitly allows a citizen of Pakistan to hold dual nationality. Pakistanis with dual citizenship are currently forbidden to run for public office, sit in parliament, contest elections or join the army. In a ruling in September 2012, the country's top court disqualified eleven lawmakers for failing to disclose their dual nationalities upon taking office. The amendment to the civil service rules came up before the Senate Standing Committee on Cabinet Secretariat on Thursday during a discussion on the 'The Civil Servants (Amendment) Bill, 2021' moved by Senator Afnan Ullah Khan in the sitting held on January 17, 2022.

The proposed amendment bars civil servants from holding dual nationality and suggests a timeline for dual national civil servants to relinquish their foreign nationality, the Dawn newspaper reported. Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs Ali Mohammad Khan was of the view that government servants should not hold dual nationality during service, arguing that one person cannot be loyal to two countries at the same time. (PTI)

# Pregnant Pakistani woman gets nail hammered into her head so that she gives birth to a son

**ISLAMABAD (TIP):** The belief that a son could provide better financial security to parents than daughters had this Pakistani woman do something, which was unbelievable.

A pregnant Pakistani woman, who had three daughters, had a nail hammered into her head by a faith healer who said it would guarantee that she gave birth to a boy.

The injured woman was admitted at the Lady Reading Hospital in northwestern Peshawar city where she underwent surgery to remove the nail from her skull, according to Pakistani media reports.

The woman's X-ray showed that the five-centimetre (two-inch) nail had pierced the top of the woman's forehead but missed her brain.

"The family said that she was at home



and became unconscious," Dr Suleman told the Dawn newspaper.

He added that attempts were also made

to remove the nail at her home.

The woman is a mother to three daughters. It is said that the victim was allegedly threatened by her husband to give birth to a boy, and that he would abandon her if she gave birth to a fourth girl.

Media reports claimed that the woman went to the faith healer after it was revealed through an ultrasound that she was about to give birth to a daughter again.

The Capital City Police Peshawar (CCPO) Abbas Ahsan told Geo News TV that the victim support officers have been directed to meet the woman to counsel her and get details of the incident, adding that "a legal action will be taken against her husband and the culprits involved." (TNS)

## Malaysia's ex-PM Mahathir discharged from heart hospital

**KUALA LUMPUR (TIP):** Former Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad was discharged on Feb 6 from the National Heart Institute two weeks after he was admitted and will recuperate at home, the hospital said.

**THE 96-YEAR-OLD TWO-TIME FORMER PREMIER, ONCE THE WORLD'S OLDEST LEADER, WAS ADMITTED TO THE CORONARY CARE UNIT ON JAN 20 FOR THE THIRD TIME IN JUST OVER A MONTH. THE LATEST HOSPITAL STAY FOLLOWED AN ELECTIVE MEDICAL PROCEDURE AT THE SAME FACILITY ON JAN 7. IN DECEMBER, HE WAS ADMITTED FOR A FULL MEDICAL CHECKUP AND OBSERVATION.**

The hospital said Mahathir will have to follow up for continuation of his medical treatment, without giving any details.

His prolonged stay at the hospital has sparked concerns over his health. But the nonagenarian said in a video message on Friday that he is recovering well.

The brief video posted on social media showed Mahathir walking into his house unassisted, reading a newspaper and having tea with his wife. Mahathir said in the video that he has been allowed to return home in the day but goes back to the hospital in the evening.

He looked frail and weaker than usual as he thanked those who had prayed for his recovery and sent him flowers and cards.

"My hope is that soon I would be able



to recover fully," he added.

**MAHATHIR HAS HAD TWO CORONARY BYPASS SURGERIES BUT WAS STILL ROBUST AND SHARP WITTED. HE LED THE OPPOSITION TO A HISTORIC ELECTION VICTORY IN 2018 THAT OUSTED A CORRUPTION-TAINTED GOVERNMENT IN THE FIRST PEACEFUL TRANSFER OF POWER SINCE MALAYSIA'S INDEPENDENCE IN 1957.**

Mahathir became the world's oldest leader at 92 for a second stint but that triumph lasted only 22 months as his government collapsed due to infighting. That didn't stop him, and Mahathir formed a new ethnic Malay party in 2020 to oppose the new leadership. AP

## MYANMAR PILES ON 11TH CORRUPTION CHARGE AGAINST SUU KYI

**BANGKOK (TIP):** Police in Myanmar have filed an 11th corruption charge against Aung San Suu Kyi, the country's elected leader who was ousted from power by a military takeover a year ago, state-controlled media reported February 11.

The Global New Light of Myanmar newspaper reported that Suu Kyi was being charged under the Anti-Corruption Law covering bribery, which carries a maximum prison term of 15 years.

Suu Kyi has faced a raft of charges since she was taken into custody when the military seized power on Feb. 1 last year. Her supporters and human rights groups say the cases against her are baseless, and have been contrived to bar her return to politics and participation in a new election the army has promised by 2023.

Suu Kyi has already been sentenced to six years' imprisonment after being convicted of illegally importing and possessing walkie-talkies and violating coronavirus restrictions.

She is also being tried on the charge of violating the Official Secrets Act, which carries a maximum sentence of 14 years. Australian economist Sean Turnell, who was her advisor, is a co-defendant.

A court session in the capital Naypyitaw in the secrets case was postponed Thursday because the 76-year-old Suu Kyi was suffering from low blood pressure, causing dizziness, said a person familiar with the proceedings, speaking on condition of anonymity because the hearings are closed.

But she was back in court Friday when hearings began on five corruption charges related to granting permission to rent and buy a helicopter. (AP)



# Valentine's Day



Valentine's Day, also called St. Valentine's Day, holiday (February 14) when lovers express their affection with greetings and gifts. Given their similarities, it has been suggested that the holiday has origins in the Roman festival of Lupercalia, held in mid-February. The festival, which celebrated the coming of spring, included fertility rites and the pairing off of women with men by lottery. At the end of the 5th century, Pope Gelasius I forbid the celebration of Lupercalia and is sometimes attributed with replacing it with St. Valentine's Day, but the true origin of the holiday is vague at best. Valentine's Day did not come to be celebrated as a day of romance until about the 14th century. Valentine's Day is celebrated on Monday, February 14, 2022.

Although there were several Christian martyrs named Valentine, the day may have taken its name from a priest who was martyred about 270 CE by the emperor Claudius II Gothicus. According to legend, the priest signed a letter "from your Valentine" to his jailer's daughter, whom he had befriended and, by some accounts, healed from blindness. Other accounts hold that it was St. Valentine of Terni, a bishop, for whom the holiday was named, though it is possible the two saints were actually one person. Another common legend states that St. Valentine defied the emperor's orders and secretly married couples to spare the husbands from war. It is for this reason that his feast day is associated with love.

Formal messages, or valentines, appeared in the 1500s, and by the late 1700s commercially printed cards were being used. The first commercial valentines in the United States were printed in the mid-1800s. Valentines commonly depict Cupid, the Roman god of love, along with hearts, traditionally the seat of emotion. Because it was thought that the avian mating season begins in mid-February, birds also became a symbol of the day. Traditional gifts include candy and flowers, particularly red roses, a symbol of beauty and love.

## What Do People Do?

Many people around the world celebrate Valentine's Day by showing appreciation for the people they love or adore. Some people take their loved ones for a romantic dinner at a restaurant while others may choose this day to propose or get married. Many people give greeting cards, chocolates, jewelry or flowers, particularly roses, to their partners or admirers on Valentine's Day.

It is also a time to appreciate friends in some social circles and cultures. For example, Valentine's Day in Finland refers to "Friend's day", which is more about remembering all friends rather than focusing solely on romance. Valentine's Day in Guatemala is known as Day of Love and Friendship). It is similar to Valentine's Day customs and traditions countries such as the United States but it is also a time for many to show their appreciation for their friends.

## Public Life

Valentine's Day is not a public holiday in many countries, including Australia, Canada, the United Kingdom and the United States. However, restaurants, hotels and shopping centers may be busy around this time of the year.

## Background

The origins of Valentine's Day are not clear but many



sources believe that it stems from the story of St Valentine, a Roman priest who was martyred on or around February 14 in the year 270 CE. How he became the patron saint of lovers remains a mystery but one theory is that the church used the day of St Valentine's martyrdom to Christianize the old Roman Lupercalia, a pagan festival held around the middle of February. The ancient ceremony included putting girls' names in a box and letting the boys draw them out. Couples would then be paired off until the following year. The Christian church substituted saints' names for girls' names in hope that the participant would model his life after the saint whose name he drew. However, it was once again girls' names that ended up in the box by the 16th century. Eventually the custom of sending anonymous cards or messages to those whom one admired became the accepted way of celebrating Valentine's Day. There was an increase in interest in Valentine's Day, first in the United States and then in Canada, in the mid-19th century. Early versions of Valentine cards fashioned of satin and lace and ornamented with flowers, ribbons, and images of cupids or birds appeared in England in the 1880s.

## The Legend of St. Valentine

The history of Valentine's Day—and the story of its patron saint—is shrouded in mystery. We do know that February has long been celebrated as a month of romance, and that St. Valentine's Day, as we know it today, contains vestiges of both Christian and ancient Roman tradition. But who was Saint Valentine, and how did he become

associated with this ancient rite?

The Catholic Church recognizes at least three different saints named Valentine or Valentinus, all of whom were martyred. One legend contends that Valentine was a priest who served during the third century in Rome. When Emperor Claudius II decided that single men made better soldiers than those with wives and families, he outlawed marriage for young men. Valentine, realizing the injustice of the decree, defied Claudius and continued to perform marriages for young lovers in secret. When Valentine's actions were discovered, Claudius ordered that he be put to death.





## When Amrita Rao rejected the offer to be an in-house YRF actor

Bollywood actor Amrita Rao recently shared in a YouTube video that back in 2011, she rejected an offer to be an in-house YRF talent. Amrita, along with her husband RJ Anmol, shared this part of her life on their YouTube show Couple of Things.

Amrita said that she really wanted to be in a YRF film and Aditya Chopra had previously offered her Neal 'n' Nikki and Bachna Ae Haseeno. She had to pass on both these offers as these films had kissing scenes and she was not comfortable performing them. In 2011, Aditya called Amrita to the YRF office and shared that he was creating a bank of actors who would be a part of YRF films and wanted Amrita to be a part of it.

"He asked if I still had those reservations that I had before, about performing intimate scenes," she recollected. After hearing Aditya's pitch, Amrita was quite impressed but that's when her dilemma started. Amrita recalled that she spoke to director Sooraj Barjatya, with whom she collaborated on Vivah, about the offer and he suggested that she should follow her heart.

# Ranveer joins Machine Gun Kelly, Tiffany Haddish for NBA All-Star Game

Bollywood actor Ranveer Singh is the official brand ambassador of NBA (National Basketball Association) for India. Taking his association forward with the NBA, the actor will now be flying to Cleveland to be a part of a star-studded NBA All-Star Celebrity Game that features basketball players and global musicians as well. For the unversed, Ranveer will be playing the game alongside Anuel, Machine Gun Kelly, Jack Harlow, Quavo and comedian Tiffany.

The Gully Boy actor confirmed his participation in the game during a Q and A on social media. Ranveer informed his fans that he has started preparing for the big match, which is set to take place on February 18, in Cleveland. "I'm flying to Cleveland to play the NBA Celebrity All-Star Game later this month. Better get some practice, varna naak kat jayegi," the actor said on social media.

Last year, in September, when Ranveer was declared as the brand ambassador for the NBA in India, the actor had confessed his love for basketball.

"I have loved basketball and the NBA since my childhood and have always been fascinated with its influence on popular culture, including music, fashion and entertainment. With the NBA tipping off its 75th season celebrations, there couldn't have been a better time to join forces with the league and support their efforts to grow basketball in the country," Ranveer said.

Talking about the big game that is set to take place next week, it will also feature Cleveland Browns player Myles Garrett, Las Vegas Aces player Dearica Hamby and Cleveland Cavaliers legends, Booby Gibson and Anderson Varejao.



## Farhan's mom Honey Irani is 'very excited' for his wedding with Shibani

Farhan Akhtar's mother Honey Irani has said she finds his girlfriend Shibani Dandekar "gorgeous and madly in love" with her son. Farhan and Shibani are all set to tie the knot on February 21 after four years of relationship.

Farhan is the son of lyricist and writer Javed Akhtar and his first wife, screenplay writer Honey Irani. The latter said Farhan and Shibani informed them about their plans to get married at a dinner outing some time back.

Talking to ETimes about Shibani, Honey Irani said, "Shibani is lovely, pleasant and gorgeous; she is madly in love with Farhan. Farhan too is madly in love with her. I just hope they make and keep each other happy."

Javed Akhtar had earlier said that the wedding will be a simple affair due to the present situation of the coronavirus pandemic. Sharing her excitement for the same, Honey Irani added, "It's a joyous occasion and I am looking forward to it. In fact, everyone in the family is looking forward to it. We are very excited."

She also said that they as parents are not the interfering types and would have approved of whatever they wanted. "The most important thing is that they are both very happy. I just hope they have a wonderful life; it's really nice to see they are tying the knot now. They were very serious about each other," she added.

Source: HT



## Akshay Kumar-Manushi Chhillar's Prithviraj to release in theatres in June

Prithviraj starring Akshay Kumar, Sonu Sood, Sanjay Dutt and Manushi Chhillar is all set to release in theatres. The YRF film, which was first scheduled to release in 2020, got postponed due to the pandemic. Directed by Chandraprakash Dwivedi, Prithviraj will now release in theatres on June 10. Akshay Kumar shared a few character posters with a caption that read, "The grand Samrat #Prithviraj Chauhan's historic journey is coming to the big screen on 10th June in Hindi, Tamil & Telugu." In November 2021, the film released the first teaser that gave a glimpse into the magnum opus. The film also stars Ashutosh Rana, Sakshi Tanwar, Manav Vij and Lalit Tiwari. The film marks Miss World 2017 Manushi's debut in the movies. "It is truly an honour that I will be playing the role of one of the most fearless and courageous kings of India, Prithviraj Chauhan. As a nation, we should always celebrate our heroes and immortalize what they did to propagate the values that Indians lived by. Prithviraj is our attempt to bring to light his valour and daredevilry," Akshay said.

Source: The Indian Express







*Adam Driver, Penelope Cruz, Shailene Woodley to star in Michael Mann's 'Ferrari'*

Filmmaker Michael Mann has roped in actors Adam Driver, Penelope Cruz, and Shailene Woodley to star in his upcoming racing drama 'Ferrari'. Driver, who replaced Hugh Jackman in the project, will star in the film as ex-racecar driver and auto manufacturing giant Enzo Ferrari.

Set in the summer of 1957, the story follows Ferrari's life both on the track and at home that started to fall apart.

The company he and his wife Laura had built was struggling and his stormy marriage had been rocked by the death of their son, Dino, and his affair with Lina Lardi, with whom he had a second son, Piero.

Meanwhile, Ferrari was preparing for a gruelling and dangerous race across Italy, the Mille Miglia. According to the reports, Cruz will play the role Enzo's wife, Laura Ferrari, while Woodley will feature as Lina Lardi. *Source: PTI*

**Jimmy Kimmel slams Oscars for snubbing No Way Home in Best Picture category**

When the nominations for the 94th Academy Awards were announced on Tuesday, fans were disappointed to see that the Marvel-Sony blockbuster Spider-Man: No Way Home failed to win a nomination for Best Picture. The critically acclaimed and commercially successful film was tipped to be one of the rare superhero films to earn a Best Picture Oscar nod. But in the end, it failed to find a place among the ten nominees.

Talk show host Jimmy Kimmel is among those who feel the film has been unjustly 'snubbed'. The late-night chat show host used the February 8 episode of his show Jimmy Kimmel Live to attack the Academy Awards. During his monologue, he referred to No Way Home and said, "How did it not get one of the 10 nominations for best picture? Forget the fact that the movie made \$750 million [in the US] and is still going. This was a great movie. It wasn't in the top 10 best movies of the year?"

Jimmy particularly took offence to satirical comedy Don't Look Up pipping No Way Home in the nominees' list. "There were three Spider-Men in it. You're telling me Don't Look Up was better than Spider-Man? It most certainly was not," he said.

The host argued that the voters of the Academy of Motion Pictures, Arts & Sciences, who determine the nominees, were swayed by Don't Look Up's heavyweight cast, including Leonardo DiCaprio and Meryl Streep.



**Chris Pine all set to make his directorial debut with mystery-comedy film Poolman**

Hollywood star Chris Pine is set to make his directorial debut with a mystery-comedy film, titled Poolman. According to Deadline, the 41-year-old actor will also star in the movie along with veteran actors Annette Bening and Danny DeVito.

Poolman is being touted as a cross between Jeff Bridges-starrer The Big Lebowski and classic LA noir films, with a hint of Damian Chazelle's La La Land.

Pine will play Darren Barrenman, a hapless dreamer and would-be philosopher who spends his days looking after the pool of the Tahitian Tiki apartment block in sunny Los Angeles and crashing city council meetings with his neighbours Jack (DeVito) and Diane (Bening).

"When Barrenman uncovers the greatest water heist in LA history since 'Chinatown', he makes uneasy alliances with a beautiful and connected femme fatale while following every lead he can with corrupt city officials, burned out Hollywood types, and mysterious benefactors, all in the name of protecting his precious Los Angeles," reads the official plotline. *Source: PTI*



*I have a special place in my heart for rom-coms: Jennifer Lopez*

Hollywood star Jennifer Lopez says she has a soft spot for romantic comedies and that is why she has done several films in the genre, including her upcoming movie Marry Me.

Between 2000 and 2010, the singer-actor has starred in popular rom-coms such as The Wedding Planner, Maid in Manhattan, Shall We Dance?, Monster-in-Law and The Back-up Plan.

"Yes, I do have a special place in my heart for rom-coms. That's why I've done so many of these throughout my career," Lopez said in response to a question asked by PTI during the virtual press conference for Marry Me from Los Angeles.

As a movie goer, the pop icon said she loves romantic comedies especially the ones starring Meg Ryan and Julia Roberts.

"They are some of my favourite movies of all time whether it is 'When Harry Met Sally' or 'Prelude to a Kiss', any of these kinds of movies of Meg Ryan era, Julia Roberts, all of those movies are what I grew up on in a way. I love them so much," she added.

Jennifer Lopez's last rom-com was 2018's Second Act. *Source: PTI*



**PHILIPPINES OPENS DOORS TO VISITORS AFTER TWO YEARS**

**MANILA (TIP):** The Philippines welcomed back more than 200 foreign tourists on February 10, becoming the latest Southeast Asian nation to reopen in a bid to revive a battered tourism sector after its borders shut to visitors nearly two years ago.

Popular for its white sand beaches and rich marine life, the Philippines has seen a sharp drop in Covid cases. — Reuters

**UK, RUSSIA DIPLOMATS CLASH OVER UKRAINE**

**MOSCOW (TIP):** Britain's top diplomat urged Russia on February 10 to defuse tensions over Ukraine and take the path of diplomacy even as thousands of Russian troops engaged in sweeping manoeuvres in Belarus as part of a military buildup near Ukraine that has fueled Western fears of an invasion.

UK Foreign Secretary Liz Truss warned Russia that attacking its neighbour would "have massive consequences and carry severe costs", urging Moscow to de-escalate the tensions.

Facing Truss across the table, the grim-faced Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov set a stern tone for the talks, emphasising that Moscow won't accept Western lecturing. — AP

**PRINCE CHARLES ISOLATING AFTER TESTING POSITIVE FOR COVID-19**



**LONDON (TIP):** Britain's Prince Charles has tested positive for Covid-19 and is self-isolating, his office said February 10. A message on the royal's official Twitter page said Charles tested positive on Thursday morning and was "deeply disappointed" not to be able to attend a scheduled visit in Winchester, England.

No other details were immediately available.

Charles, 73, met dozens of people during a Wednesday evening reception at the British Museum.

The heir to the throne previously contracted the coronavirus in March 2020. Officials said he had mild COVID-19 symptoms then. Charles and his wife, Camilla, isolated at Queen Elizabeth II's Balmoral estate in Scotland at the time. Spain's King Felipe VI, 54, and Denmark's Queen Margrethe II, 81, also tested positive for the coronavirus this week. AP

**Photos indicate North Korea may be preparing military parade**

**SEOUL (TIP):** Satellite photos show hundreds of people in formation at a training ground in North Korea's capital in a possible sign the country is preparing for a military parade amid heightened animosities over its recent missile tests.

The 38 North website, which specialises in North Korea studies, said on February 9 the February 5 imagery taken on the Mirim airfield in Pyongyang—where rehearsals for past military parades occurred—likely signals a forthcoming parade.

North Korea often marks important anniversaries with parades and other displays, and the website noted several upcoming occasions, such as next week's 80th birthday of Kim Jong Il, the late father of current leader Kim Jong Un, and April's 110th birthday of Kim Il Sung, the late grandfather of Kim Jong Un.

The three Kims, who have been ruling North Korea successively since its foundation in 1948, are the subject of a strong personality cult among its 25 million people.

The birthdays of the two late Kims are the country's most important



holidays, and its powerful Politburo recently decided to celebrate their upcoming birth anniversaries "with splendor" and make them as "the great festivals of victory and glory to shine long in the annals of the country".

North Korea hasn't disclosed what

events it would hold to mark the upcoming birth anniversaries. But on past birthdays and other key state anniversaries, North Korea often staged massive military parades featuring goose-stepping soldiers and new weapons systems to bolster unity and intimidate its rivals. (AP)

**UK Chancellor Rishi Sunak admits attending Downing Street lockdown party**

**LONDON (TIP):** UK's Indian-origin Chancellor Rishi Sunak has admitted to attending Prime Minister Boris Johnson's lockdown birthday party in 2020 but refused to say what happened when he entered the room and claimed that he was there for a meeting to discuss the Covid-19 situation.

His comments came after Johnson's five aides, including longstanding policy chief Munira Mirza, chief of staff Dan Rosenfield, principal private secretary Martin Reynolds and communications director Jack Doyle, resigned from their posts within hours of each other on February 10.

They stepped down after a damning investigation revealed that multiple parties took place at Downing Street while the rest of the United Kingdom was living under strict Covid-19 lockdown rules.

Sunak, who lives next door to the Prime Minister in Downing Street, is also reported to have attended a surprise birthday party for Johnson in No. 10's Cabinet Room in June 2020.

He admitted to attending Johnson's lockdown birthday party in 2020 but refused to say what happened when he entered the room, the Mirror newspaper reported.

The Chancellor said that he was in the



Cabinet Room for Johnson's lockdown birthday party but insisted he was there for a meeting to discuss the Covid-19 situation.

He acknowledged that the scandal surrounding parties during lockdown at Downing Street has damaged the public's trust in the government, the BBC reported.

The Chancellor, however, said that he believed his plans to deal with the cost of living crisis would help restore it.

Sunak, 41, insisted that Prime Minister Johnson, who is facing growing calls for his resignation, has his "full support." Dismissing talk of him replacing Johnson, the Chancellor said that the Prime Minister had always told the truth about the parties.

"Yes, of course he does. He is the

Prime Minister of the United Kingdom," he said.

Asked whether the parties held in violation of Covid-19 lockdown rules damaged the public's confidence in the government, Sunak said "Yes, I think it has. I can appreciate people's frustration. And I think it's now the job of all of us in government, all politicians, to restore people's trust".

As an embattled Johnson faces intense pressure to step down from the opposition and Conservative MPs, some Tory MPs believe that Sunak, as one of the most powerful figures in the government, is the frontrunner to replace Johnson.

But Sunak quelled such talk.

"Well, that's very kind of them to suggest that. But what I think people want from me is to focus on my job.

"I know a few of my colleagues have said that and they'll have their reasons for doing that. But I don't think that's the situation we're in. The Prime Minister has my full support," he told the BBC.

Asked whether he would run to be the next Tory leader and Prime Minister, should there be a vacancy, Sunak said "No, that's not what I'm focused on." Officers from the Met Police are investigating a total of 12 Downing Street parties. (PTI)

# UK PM Johnson reshuffles Cabinet; appoints Rees-Mogg as minister for Brexit Opportunities

**LONDON (TIP):** Embattled British Prime Minister Boris Johnson, under pressure to resign over parties in Downing Street during lockdown, on February 8 reshuffled his Cabinet and appointed Jacob Rees-Mogg as the minister for Brexit Opportunities and Government Efficiency.

Rees-Mogg, 52, currently leader of the House of Commons, will be based in the Cabinet Office.

Mark Spencer, the current Chief Whip, will replace Rees Mogg as the Leader of Commons.

Rees-Mogg, a prominent Leave campaigner during the 2016 EU referendum, will be a full member of the Cabinet, having previously only attended it. Spencer, who was previously chief whip, will continue to attend.

Chris Heaton-Harris has become the new Chief Whip, in charge of disciplining Conservative MPs.

Stuart Andrew, former Deputy Chief Whip, will be the minister for housing.

Andrew, the MP for Pudsey since 2010, previously held the position of Treasurer of HM Household and was a Deputy Chief Whip in the House of Commons.

The shake-up of the ministerial team follows the appointment of Stephen Barclay as the Prime Minister's chief of staff.

It also comes as Johnson, 57, seeks to relaunch his administration following the 'Partygate' row. He is facing intense pressure to step down from the Opposition and Conservative MPs.

The Prime Minister has already changed many of his advisers and other staff of 10 Downing Street, as he attempts to ward off calls from the Opposition and some of his own MPs, to resign.

At the sub-cabinet level, Stuart Andrew has moved from being deputy chief whip to housing minister.



In her report on gatherings that took place in 10 Downing Street during lockdowns, published last week, senior civil servant Sue Gray criticised "failures of leadership and judgement".

In response, Johnson has promised a "change" in culture and to consult Conservative MPs more on setting policy.

Meanwhile, Johnson's office said that the prime minister has no intention of apologising after falsely claiming that Labour leader Sir Keir Starmer had failed to prosecute serial sex offender Jimmy Savile when he was director of public prosecutions.

The reshuffle follows several backbench Tory MPs criticising his leadership.

If 54 MPs write letters to Sir Graham Brady, chairman of the Conservative Party's 1922 Committee, this will prompt a vote of no-confidence in the prime minister.

If he lost this, there would be a full leadership contest, in which Johnson

could not run.

At the last Cabinet reshuffle in September last year, Nadine Dorries became culture secretary and Liz Truss became foreign secretary, while Dominic Raab was moved from the Foreign Office to become the deputy prime minister.

Last week, Prime Minister Johnson's five aides, including longstanding policy chief Munira Mirza, chief of staff Dan Rosenfield, principal private secretary Martin Reynolds and communications director Jack Doyle, resigned from their posts within hours of each other.

They stepped down after a damning investigation revealed that multiple parties took place at Downing Street while the rest of the United Kingdom was living under strict Covid-19 lockdown rules.

Officers from the Met Police are investigating a total of 12 Downing Street parties.

It is believed that as many as six of those could have been attended by the Prime Minister. (PTI)

## IRAN UNVEIL NEW MISSILE WITH REPORTED REGION-WIDE RANGE

**TEHRAN (TIP):** Iran unveiled a new missile on February 9 with a reported range that would allow it to reach both US bases in the region as well as targets inside its archfoe Israel.

State TV reported that the missile has solid fuel and a range of 1,450 kilometers, or 900 miles. It is called the Khaibar-buster, a reference to a Jewish castle overrun by Muslim warriors in the early days of Islam.

It said the missile has high accuracy, is manufactured completely domestically, and can defeat missile shield systems. The information has not been independently verified.

Israel's closest point to Iran is some 1,000 kilometers, or 620 miles, away.

The report comes as negotiations continue in Vienna to revive Tehran's tattered nuclear deal with world powers. Iran, which has long said it does not seek nuclear weapons, insists its missile program is only a deterrent.

Iran has missiles that can travel up to 2,000 kilometers, 1250 miles.

Earlier in January Iran tested an engine for a solid-fuel rocket designed to launch satellites. AP

## AUSTRALIA TO REOPEN BORDERS TO VACCINATED TOURISTS FROM FEB 21



**CANBERRA (TIP):** Australia will open its borders to all vaccinated tourists and business travellers from February 21 in a further relaxation of pandemic restrictions announced February 7.

Australia imposed some of the world's toughest travel restrictions on its citizens and permanent residents in March 2020 to prevent them from bringing Covid-19 home.

When the border restrictions were relaxed in November in response to an increasing vaccination rate among the Australian population, international students and skilled migrants were prioritised over tourists in being welcomed back to Australia.

Prime Minister Scott Morrison said his senior ministers agreed on Monday that the border would reopen to all vaccinated visa holders from February 21. He referred to Serbian tennis star Novak Djokovic being deported by the Australian government last month because he was not vaccinated against Covid. Home Affairs Minister Karen Andrews said visitors who could provide proof of a medical reason why they could not be vaccinated could apply for a travel exemption. — AP

# Camilla will get Kohinoor once Prince Charles becomes king, says report

**LONDON (TIP):** Duchess of Cornwall Camilla will be given the priceless Kohinoor crown at Prince Charles's coronation, the Daily Mail reported in an exclusive story.

On February 6, Queen Elizabeth announced that the Duchess of Cornwall would become Queen Consort when her husband, the Queen's son Prince Charles, finally accedes to the throne. To put this into context, the throne is inherited and those who marry into the royal family cannot take it. This means that although Camilla will take the title "Queen Consort" she could never be made "Queen".

The Queen's announcement came on a day that marked the 70th anniversary of her accession to the throne.

The Daily Mail report on Sunday said Camilla will have the



Queen Mother's priceless platinum and diamond crown placed on her head when Charles is made king.

The Kohinoor, also spelled as Koh-i-noor or Koh-i-nur, is a precious 105.6 carat diamond of indeterminable origins whose recorded history goes back to the Mughal era when Babur mentions it in his diary. Babur mentions in his diary entry that Alauddin Khalji of the Khilji dynasty of the Delhi Sultanate had acquired the diamond in one of his invasions of the kingdoms of southern

India in the 14th Century and that it passed to succeeding dynasties of the Sultanate. Babur received the diamond in 1526 as a tribute to his conquest of Delhi and Agra in the Battle of Panipat. (TNS)

# Try natural exfoliants from your kitchen



You may be surprised to learn about a super-affordable and effective DIY exfoliant that you probably already have in your kitchen.

## Honey

A healthy and sweet addition to your skin care routine, unprocessed honey is a superb antiseptic. This is because it has anti-bacterial, anti-fungal and anti-viral benefits. Loaded with antioxidants, honey helps in protecting and repairing the skin, by reducing skin inflammation too. Mix it in your hydrating facial scrub and it acts as a great moisturiser too.

## Yogurt

An excellent staple food in your kitchen and healthy diet regimen, yogurt is full of lactic acid, which contains alpha hydroxyl acid (an acid present in prescription skin care treatments). Combine it with milk, and yogurt works as an excellent skin-smoothing exfoliant. All you have to do is apply yogurt on any part of your body, let it stay for 20 minutes and then rinse.

## Baking soda

A must-use in baking and odor control procedures, baking soda is used extensively in high-end spa treatments. Now they may not leak it to you, but baking soda is used extensively in microdermabrasion

treatments, which contains sodium bicarbonate. However, do note that the amount of baking soda you should be using on your skin should be quite moderate, as sensitive or mature skin can suffer from its harsh effects. Best would be to add a pinch of it to your facial cleanser in the morning and enjoy a spa-worthy treatment at home.

## Ground fruit seeds and nuts

Go for blackberry seeds or raspberry or ground almonds mixture and exfoliate your skin with these easily available ingredients. These ingredients help in removing dead cells, when massaged onto the skin in a smooth, circular motion. Avoid using sharp edged ingredients. Infact, make a puree of the nuts, almonds and readily available fruit seeds and then apply them to your skin for a softer, smoother skin.

## Sea salt

If you are looking for a facial scrub that really helps in opening your pores, then mixing sea salt with water is a great idea. Scrubbing your face with it in the morning is a great homemade exfoliation procedure. An inexpensive and quite popular body treatment at spas, sea salt scrubs help in detoxifying the body by stimulating blood circulation through vasodilation of blood capillaries inside the skin.

# Get prettier feet without a pedicure

## Avoid all acetone products on your feet

Acetone is highly harsh on your nails, as it dries out the natural oils from them. Say no to acetone nail polish removers and opt for the acetone-free options for stronger and healthier nails.

## Don't soak your feet

Remember all those times you soaked your feet in water, brimming with pride as to how careful you were about your care regimen? The truth is, you were only stripping the natural oils from your feet. Next time, just wash your feet with some mild soap instead.

## Exfoliate all the way

Exfoliation is a mandatory process when it comes to caring for your feet. It helps in getting rid of all those pesky dead skin, to leave your feet feeling smooth and soft. Just use a pumice stone on your feet regularly for softer, prettier feet.

## Get a foot massage

If you're really looking into taking proper care of your feet, we urge you to go for regular foot massage. Massaging some moisturiser onto your feet



everyday helps lock in moisture and keeps your feet feeling supple for longer.

## Change your diet

Make sure your diet includes a lot of calcium to walk your way to healthier feet. Foods like green leafy vegetables, fish and almonds are great for adding calcium to your diet, and will help tremendously in taking you one step closer to the feet of your dreams.

## FOOD CORNER



## Chocolate Barbeque Chicken wings

### INGREDIENTS

- 12-15 no Chicken wings
- Salt to taste, 1 tsp black pepper powder, 1 tsp garlic powder, 1 tsp Kashmiri red chili powder/ paprika
- Oil for frying

For Chocolate Barbeque Sauce

- 1 tsp onion powder, 1 tsp garlic powder, ½ cup gms semisweet chocolate, chopped
- 1 1/2 cups ketchup, 1/3 cup packed brown sugar
- 2 tbsp. honey, 2 tbsp. vinegar, 2 tbsp. unsweetened cocoa powder, 1 tbsp. Worcestershire sauce
- 2 tsp. dry mustard, 2 tsp. chili powder
- 2 tsp. salt, 1 tsp. ground black pepper
- 1/2 tsp. ground coriander

### METHOD

- Apply garlic powder, onion powder, black pepper powder and salt to the chicken wings for 2 hours.
- Coat marinated wings in refined flour then dip in egg wash and finally coat with breadcrumbs.
- Deep fry them into hot oil until crisp and golden in color. -To make sauce mix everything in sauce pan; cook, stirring occasionally, until thickened, about 3 minutes. Coat cooked chicken wings with the sauce and serve immediately with celery sticks

## Cabbage Cutlet

### Ingredients

- 2 Cups Grated cabbage
- 3 tbsp Chopped coriander
- 1 tsp Chopped garlic
- 1 Onion (Finely Chopped)
- 1 tsp Chaat masala
- 3/4 tsp Red chilli powder
- 3/4 tsp Cumin Seeds
- 1 tsp Salt
- 1/4 tsp Pepper powder
- 1 tsp Corn flour
- 7 tsp Sooji

### Method

- Wash and strain the grated cabbage, add the chopped coriander, onion and garlic. Mix it well.
- Next, add all the masalas – chaat masala, red chilli powder, cumin seeds, salt and pepper powder.
- Add the corn flour and half of the sooji at first, mix it well. Then gradually add the rest. Combine the mixture well and let it rest for at least 10 minutes.
- Make round-shaped cutlets and shallow fry them till both sides are golden brown.
- The cabbage cutlet is ready!



# Healthy food swaps that will help manage blood sugar, diabetes

People with prediabetes or diabetes need to be extremely careful with her eating habits. As such, sometimes it can get tricky to ascertain which foods and drinks make for the best choices. But worry not, here are 10 picks by Dr Ganesh Kadhe, associate director, nutrition medical and scientific affairs, Abbott, that will ensure that your blood sugar levels are always maintained.

## Beans (of any kind)

Lentils, kidney, black or chickpea beans are low glycemic index foods. It means that their carbohydrates are gradually released, and hence they're less likely to cause blood sugar spikes. They're so beneficial that a recent study found that eating a daily cup of beans for three months as part of a low-glycemic diet lowered (hemoglobin A1c) HbA1c level by half a percentage point.

## Apples

You might think there's no room for fruits in a diabetic meal plan, but apples are also low glycemic. Aiming for foods that are low or medium on the glycemic index is one way to manage blood sugar levels. Eating an apple a day has its benefits – they are high in fibre, vitamin C and fat-free! Not to mention a portable and easy snack option.

## Almonds

These crunchy nuts are rich in magnesium, a mineral that helps the body use its own insulin more effectively. Try adding more almonds



Source: Getty Images/Thinkstock

into your diet to have your daily dose of this blood sugar-balancing mineral. Plus, almonds are high in monounsaturated fatty acids, protein, and fibre, which makes them a great way to help manage blood glucose levels.

## Spinach

This leafy green vegetable has just 21 calories per cooked cup and is filled with blood sugar-friendly magnesium and fibre. Additionally, you can enjoy spinach raw, sautéed with olive oil, in your favourite palak paneer or even blended, making it a versatile choice!

## Chia seeds

Losing or managing weight is one of the best things you can do to improve your blood sugar. Chia seeds can help with that. In one study, people with diabetes who

added about an ounce of chia seeds to a calorie-controlled diet for six months shed four pounds and trimmed an inch-and-a-half from their waistlines. Aside from being packed with fibre, these gems also contain protein and provide 18 per cent of your recommended daily intake of calcium.

## Blueberries

Blueberries contain compounds that have been shown to help reduce the risk of heart disease and improve how the body uses insulin. One study showed that eating the equivalent of about 2 cups of blueberries daily improved insulin sensitivity in overweight people with insulin resistance. They're also a great source of fibre and other nutrients such as vitamin C and antioxidants.

Source: The Indian Express



## New HIV variant more contagious, doubles rate of immune system decline

The newly-detected HIV variant from the Netherlands is more transmissible and damaging, according to research.

The study, led by researchers from the University of Oxford's Big Data Institute, showed that people living with the newly revealed subtype-B of HIV experience double the rate of immune system decline (CD4 count).

They have higher viral loads (amount of virus in the blood) and are also vulnerable to developing AIDS two to three times faster after diagnosis than if they were living with other strains of the virus.

The study also revealed that the variant has been circulating in the Netherlands for years and remains receptive to HIV treatment.

While the newly identified variant does not represent a major public health threat, it "underscores the urgency of speeding up efforts to halt the HIV pandemic", the UNAIDS said in a statement. The HIV pandemic continues to take a life every minute and scientists have long worried about the evolution of new, more transmissible, variants of HIV.

"Ten million people living with HIV worldwide are not yet on treatment, fuelling the continued spread of the virus and potential for further variants," said Eamonn Murphy, UNAIDS Deputy Executive Director, Programme, in the statement.

Murphy also called for urgent "need to deploy cutting-edge medical innovations in ways that reach the communities most in need".

"Whether it's HIV treatment or Covid-19 vaccines, inequalities in access are perpetuating pandemics in ways that harm us all," Murphy added.

With an estimated 79 million people infected, HIV remains the deadliest pandemic of our time, the UNAIDS said.

It still has no vaccine or cure. The treatment is only antiretroviral therapy, which keeps them alive and well and prevents transmission of the virus.

But the Covid pandemic has affected the treatment, leading to the death of some 36 million people from AIDS-related illnesses since the start of the pandemic.

About 1.5 million people were newly infected with HIV in 2020. Of the 38 million people living with HIV today, 28 million are on life-saving antiretroviral therapy.

Source: IANS

# Sleeping more reduces calorie intake

Fitness enthusiasts and those dealing with obesity try out every possible weight loss method under the Sun to get the desired results. But what if one's sleep can do the trick just as good? Now, a new study on how getting sufficient sleep affects caloric intake in a real-world setting attempted to change how we think about weight loss.

The study was published in 'JAMA Internal Medicine'.

Understanding the underlying causes of obesity and how to prevent it is the best way to fight the obesity epidemic, according to Esra Tasali, MD, Director of the UChicago Sleep Center at the University of Chicago Medicine. "The current obesity epidemic, according to experts, is mostly explained by an increase in caloric intake, rather than lack of exercise," she said.

In a randomized clinical trial with 80 adults, Tasali and her colleagues at UChicago and the University of Wisconsin-Madison found that young, overweight adults who habitually slept fewer than 6.5 hours a night were able to increase their sleep duration by an average of 1.2 hours per night after a personalized sleep hygiene counselling session. The sleep intervention was intended to extend time in bed duration to 8.5 hours -- and the increased sleep duration compared to controls also reduced participants' overall caloric intake by an



average of 270 kcal (calories) per day.

"Over the years, we and others have shown that sleep restriction has an effect on appetite regulation that leads to increased food intake, and thus puts you at risk for weight gain over time," said Tasali. "More recently, the question that everyone was asking was, 'Well, if this is what happens with sleep loss, can we extend sleep and reverse some of these adverse outcomes?'"

Source: ANI

PAGE SPONSORED BY

## DR. SATISH AND GITANJLI ANAND



**DR. SATISH ANAND**  
Former Chairman, Board of Trustees, AAPI National  
E-Mail: sanandmd@gmail.com

**GITANJLI ANAND**  
Former President, India Association of Long Island (IALI)  
E-mail: gitanjlianand@gmail.com

## Google introduces smarter search history to Chrome browser

Google has announced a couple of updates to Chrome that bring, among other things, a new way to resume your past searches in the browser. This new feature, dubbed "Journeys," is now rolling out to Chrome on the desktop and will smartly group past searches by topic. The browser will automatically highlight this new experience when you start searching for a related term, or you can head directly to the new Chrome History Journey page once it's enabled on your browser.

"Journeys will even take into account how much you've interacted with a site to put the most relevant information front and center, while also bringing you helpful suggestions on related searches you may want to try next," Yana Yushkina, a product manager on the Chrome team, explains in today's announcement.

If you've ever started researching something and then had to abort that to work on another project, you know how hard it is to find your way back to the sites you previously visited. Any browser's history list quickly becomes unwieldy after a while and until now, no browser vendor has really given it a lot of attention. In an increasingly competitive browser market, we'll likely see vendors continue to innovate in exactly these kinds of areas that were long left untouched.

Google stresses that users can turn this feature off completely if they are uncomfortable with the browser building these clusters for them. Google says Journeys will only group your history on your device and the clusters are generated on the device. Nothing is saved to your Google account.

These topics, by the way, are completely unrelated to Topics, Google's latest proposal to replace cookies for advertising purposes. Those Topics group the sites you visited into clusters around about 300 pre-set topics and there's clearly some overlap in basic functionality here, but a Google spokesperson confirmed to me that they are not connected at all.

# How China got blue skies in time for Olympics

The blue skies greeting Olympic athletes here this month are a stark change from just a decade ago when the city's choking air pollution was dubbed an "Airpocalypse" and blamed for scaring off tourists.

Beijing's air still has a long way to go, but is measurably better than past years when smog often made it difficult to see nearby buildings and people wore masks to protect themselves from pollution, not COVID-19. The city's notorious pollution also made news in 2016, when Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg posted a photo of himself jogging in the haze through Tiananmen Square with a smile on his face. Some mused on social media that he was trying to ingratiate himself with Chinese authorities.

Yet at this month's Beijing Games, the air is clear enough for athletes to see the mountains surrounding the city.

### WHAT CHANGED?

After pollution hit record levels in 2013 and became a source of international attention and widespread public discontent, China launched an ambitious plan to improve its air quality and said it would fight pollution "with an iron fist," according to a recent report from the Energy Policy Institute at Chicago. That was also around the time the country bid on this month's Winter Games.

The ensuing efforts were similar to the measures China had previously taken to ensure clear skies for the 2008 Summer Games in Beijing, but on a larger scale, the report notes. Tougher emissions standards were imposed on coal-fired plants and the number of cars on the road was curbed to cut vehicle emissions. Local officials were given environmental targets, and coal-fired boilers in homes were replaced with gas or electric heaters.

The government's reporting of air quality data



Beijing's air still has a long way to go, but is measurably better than past years when smog often made it difficult to breathe.

Photo: AP

also improved.

### IS BEIJING'S AIR CLEAN NOW?

Despite the progress, Beijing's annual average air pollution last year was still more than six times the limit laid out by the World Health Organization's guidelines.

And the concentration of coal-burning industries that still surrounds the city means it remains susceptible to bad air days, said Lauri Myllyvirta at the Center for Research on Energy and Clean Air in Helsinki, Finland.

When those happen can depend on factors like car traffic or how much wind there is to blow away smog.

Still, Chinese officials hail the country's achievements. Last year, they say there were 288 days of good air quality days in Beijing, compared to 176 days in 2013. Source: AP

## How to take Google's security checkup

### Step 1: Go to Google Security Checkup page

You can find a quick shortcut to this page right below the Google homepage search bar. If you don't see it, you can always navigate to the same options by clicking on your profile picture on the top-right, choosing 'Manage your account' and then navigating to the Security tab.

Google will segregate your security checkup page under various subsections like 'Your devices', 'Sign-in and recovery' and 'Third-party access'. Look for sections that are marked with the yellow alert icon. These are areas where Google suggests you take some security measures.

### Step 2: Remove access from older devices

Remove access of your Google account from older devices that are no longer in use. These may be older smartphones and tablets.

### Step 3: Add updated alternative ways of signing in

Google allows you to add alternative ways of signing in and recovering your Google account. This is important as adding an alternative email address (which doesn't have to be a Gmail one) can help you recover your Google account if you ever forget your password.



### Step 4: Review recent activity

If any settings with your Google account have been changed, update or if the account has been added to a new device recently, you will see it here. If you see any unfamiliar activity, Google will let you quickly take action like signing out from an unidentified device and/or changing your password.

### Step 5: Review third-party access

If you have used your Google account to log in into games and services, this section is where you will find a log of all such data. Look for services you don't use or games you don't play anymore and sign out of them.

### Step 6: Have a look at saved passwords

Check out the saved passwords to various websites if you have any. You may want to update or delete some of these listings if you don't use them anymore. Source: The Indian Express

## Twitter tests playback speed options for videos

Twitter is testing a new feature that provides users with different playback speed options for videos.

The test, being rolled out to users on Android and web will let them speed up or slow down a video while playing.

"In 2x, 1x, 0.5x...now testing more options in playback speed for videos. Some of you on Android and web will have different sets of playback speeds to choose from so you can slow down or speed up videos and voice Tweets," Twitter wrote from its official Support account.

Users will have playback speed options ranging from 0.25x to 2x, as per the image shared by Twitter.

Separately, the microblogging platform also started testing a new direct messages (DM) button on tweets to make it easier for users can reply directly to a tweet's author. The feature is being tested on iOS.

"As we test this with a small group, safety is always a priority. You can limit who can DM you. That setting, plus quality filters, applies to all DMs. More on these features," it said. Source: IANS



## RBI MAINTAINS STATUS QUO, KEEPS KEY RATES UNCHANGED

NEW DELHI (TIP)

In its first monetary policy of the current calendar year, the RBI on Thursday, Feb 10, held its key lending rates steady at record low levels for the tenth straight time. The move led to the rupee sliding by 10 paise against the US dollar as the market was expecting a hike in reverse repo rate to withdraw excess liquidity.

The RBI has projected GDP growth of 7.8% in FY23 as against the Economic Survey's 8-8.5% forecast and IMF's projection of 9%. The conservative estimate is due to the uncertainties on account of pandemic and elevated global commodity prices, explained RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das. The RBI anticipated a lower inflation rate of 4.5% for FY23 as against 5.3% expected in the current year, assuming that the monsoon will be normal.

The RBI's Monetary Policy Committee also decided to keep the repo rate unchanged at 4% and the reverse repo rate at 3.35%.

## INDIA WEIGHING 5% STAKE SALE IN LIC'S MEGA IPO: REPORT

NEW DELHI (TIP)

India is considering selling about 5% of the shares it holds in a state insurer as it prepares to file documents for the country's biggest initial public offering, according to people familiar with the matter.

The government plans to offer 31.6 crore shares of the 632 crore shares it owns in Life Insurance Corp. of India, and no fresh stock will be issued, the people said, asking not to be identified discussing confidential information. The draft prospectus is expected to be filed this week, they said.

The embedded value of the company is estimated to be about ₹ 5.4 lakh crore (\$72 billion), though officials are still firming up the figures, the people said. The insurer's board is likely to meet Friday to ratify the decision, one of the people said. Deliberations are still ongoing and details could change, the people said. Representatives for the company, known as LIC, didn't immediately respond to requests for comment. A finance ministry spokesman in New Delhi was unavailable for comment.

The first-time share sale by the insurer is part of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's efforts to mop up cash and help rein in a budget deficit that's widened in the midst of the pandemic.

# Why US inflation is so high, and when it may ease

WASHINGTON (TIP)

Last year, it was a nasty surprise. And it wasn't supposed to last. But now, inflation has become an ongoing financial strain for millions of Americans filling up at the gas station, lined up at a grocery checkout lane, shopping for clothes, bargaining for a car or paying monthly rent.

For the 12 months ending in January, inflation amounted to 7.5% — the fastest year-over-year pace since 1982 — the Labor Department said Thursday. Even if you toss out volatile food and energy prices, so-called core inflation jumped 6% over the past year. That was also the sharpest such jump in four decades.

Consumers felt the price squeeze in everyday routines. Over the past year, prices rose 41% for used cars and trucks, 40% for gasoline, 18% for bacon, 14% for bedroom furniture, 11% for women's dresses.

The Federal Reserve didn't anticipate an inflation wave this severe or this persistent. In December 2020, the Fed's policymakers had forecast that consumer inflation would stay below their 2% annual target and end 2021 at around 1.8%.

But after having been an economic afterthought for decades, high inflation reasserted itself last year with brutal speed. In February 2021, the government's consumer price index was running just 1.7% ahead of its level a year earlier. From there, the year-over-year price increases accelerated steadily — 2.7% in March, 4.2% in April, 4.9% in May, 5.3% in June.

By October, the figure was 6.2%, by November 6.8%, by December 7.1%.

For months, Fed Chair Jerome Powell and others characterized higher consumer prices as merely a "transitory" problem — the result, mainly, of shipping delays and temporary shortages of supplies and workers as the economy rebounded from the pandemic recession much faster than anyone had anticipated.

Now, many economists expect consumer inflation to remain elevated well into this year, with demand outstripping supplies in numerous areas of the economy. "Inflation remains the single largest near-term challenge to the economy," said Jim Baird, chief investment officer at Plante Moran Financial Advisors.



AP Photo

"Although price pressures are expected to ease as the year progresses, inflation will remain above the Fed's 2% target for some time to come."

So the Fed has radically changed course. Last month, the central bank signaled that it will begin a series of rate hikes in March. By doing so, the Fed is moving away from the super-low rates that helped revive the economy from 2020's devastating pandemic recession but that also helped fuel surging consumer prices.

Good news — mostly. When the pandemic paralyzed the economy in the spring of 2020 and lockdowns kicked in, businesses closed or cut hours and consumers stayed home as a health precaution, employers slashed a breathtaking 22 million jobs. Economic output plunged at a record-shattering 31% annual rate in last year's April-June quarter.

Everyone braced for more misery. Companies cut investment and postponed restocking. A brutal recession ensued.

But instead of sinking into a prolonged downturn, the economy staged an unexpectedly rousing recovery, fueled by vast infusions of government aid and emergency intervention by the Fed, which slashed interest rates, among other things. By spring of last year, the rollout of vaccines had emboldened consumers to return to restaurants, bars, shops and airports. *Source: AP*

## Invest in crypto at your own risk, cautions RBI Governor

NEW DELHI (TIP)

Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Governor Shaktikanta Das has cautioned investors on cryptocurrencies stating that they should invest in the same at their own risk.

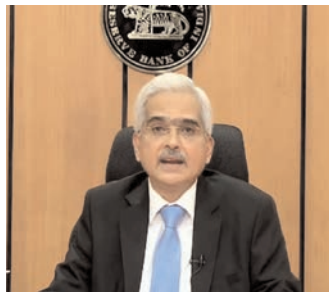
Das said it is his "duty" to caution investors, and told them to keep in mind that they are investing at their own risk.

He also added that cryptos are a threat to macroeconomic and financial stability while comparing it with the historical 'tulip mania' which was widely considered to be the first financial bubble. He said that the cryptocurrencies do not even possess the value of the exotic flower.

"Private cryptocurrencies or whatever name you call it are a threat to our macroeconomic stability and financial stability. They will undermine RBI's ability to deal with issues of financial stability and macroeconomic stability," Das added.

The 'tulip mania' of the 17th century is often cited as a classic example of a financial bubble where the price of something goes up, not due to its intrinsic value but because of speculators wanting to make a profit by selling a bulb of the exotic flower.

In the Union Budget for 2022-23 presented in Parliament on February 1, the government proposed levying a 30 per cent tax on gains made on cryptocurrency trades by investors and the announcement was welcomed by cryptocurrency industry players, saying it legitimises their trades.



## \$113 billion in 2021: India-US goods trade marks new record

WASHINGTON/ NEW DELHI (TIP)

In yet another sign of the deepening economic relationship between India and the United States (US), bilateral trade in goods between the two countries crossed the \$100 billion mark in 2021, making it the largest volume of goods trade in a calendar year in India-US economic history.

This also represents an almost 45% jump from 2020, and while US trade with its top 15 partners increased over the past year, the single biggest jump was with India.

India retains a trade surplus in the relationship.

According to figures released by the US Census Bureau, India-US bilateral goods trade was worth \$113.391 billion from January to December 2021. India exported goods worth over \$73 billion, and imported goods worth a little over \$40 billion dollars. In 2020 — an unusual year because of the pandemic and subsequent economic restrictions — trade fell to a little over \$78.2 billion, from the high of \$92.1 billion in 2019. India had then exported goods worth \$57.8 billion and imported goods worth \$34.2 billion.

Placing the figures in perspective, Richard M Rossow, the Wadhvani chair in US-India Policy Studies at the Centre for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) and the foremost expert of the bilateral economic relationship in Washington DC, said that bilateral trade has been on an upward trajectory for 20 years, and shrunk year-on-year only thrice since 2002. "While we should certainly pause to celebrate the milestone of crossing \$100 billion in bilateral trade, it is not far off the overall trajectory of the trade relationship in this period." The 45% jump, he said, was due to the "deep trough" in 2020, as both India and the US dealt with the initial onslaught of the coronavirus pandemic.

*Source: HT*

Shree Ganeshaya Namah



VEDIC ASTROLOGER NASTUR BEJAN DARUWALLA

**Nastur Bejan Daruwalla is available for astrological consultations. He can be reached at [info@bejandaruwalla.com](mailto:info@bejandaruwalla.com) and on phone +91-9638770377 [www.bejandaruwalla.com](http://www.bejandaruwalla.com)**

**The Indian Panorama brings you Weekly and Birthday Horoscope by NASTUR BEJAN DARUWALLA**

WEEKLY HOROSCOPE - 14TH FEB TO 20TH FEB 2022



**Aries**

Ganesha says it's going to be a productive week for you. This week, you'll emerge from your challenges with a smile on your face. You think positively, which will benefit you in the long term. Important family traditions are passed down to you, and this will come in handy this week. In the second half of this week, you could feel worried. Deep breathing can help you relax. This week, concentrate on meditation every day. Is this week will start with an already romantic vibe around, your relationship will improve and your partner will try hard to overlook your past and build better bonding with you. Your health will demand just a little care this week. Try not to indulge in any unethical practices this week.



**Taurus**

You will improve your interpersonal interactions this week. Your desire to mingle with strangers will eventually bear fruit. This week, you could get a token of gratitude. This week, you could learn about several economic strategies. In the midst of the week, setbacks might make you quite irritated. You could lash out at someone, so it's best if you avoid engaging in fights with others. In the first half of the week, you will put financial issues under the rug. Your romantic fronts will thrive this week as you will start your week celebrating Valentine's Day with your partner. Your relationship will stay stable this week. your health will suffer a minor setback by the end of the week. Overall, you will have a nice time spending this week.



**Gemini**

This is a great week to get early and do anything that will keep you engaged as Sun will bless you throughout the week. Right now, any sort of physical exercise will benefit you greatly. You'll receive fantastic results at the end of the week because you'll be working a lot this week. You will feel sluggish of mind in the middle of the week, making it hard to accomplish tasks. You must get out and engage in some physical activity. You will expect a lot from your partner this week. you must try to lay a little low on your romantic fronts this week as Venus will not transit favorably for you this week. You might suffer from issues related to joint aches due to B12 deficiency.



**Cancer**

This week, you could be in a flexible mood. This week, your consciousness will be reinforced. This week, you'll be viewing everything in a favorable light. This week, you'll emphasize spending time with the

people you care about. This week will be enjoyable for you. This week, you should be extra cautious when traveling because there's a possibility you'll get into a mishap. Don't be in a rush to be somewhere on time. As suggested by the seventh house of your zodiac, you will make major progress in your marital relationship. you will also prioritize your personal life over other obligations this week. Health will be fit and fine.



**Leo**

This week, you'll be focusing on your goals. This week, you'll be more able to concentrate on your goals. It's satisfying to concentrate on your goals when the effort is worthwhile. You may acquire knowledge that has a significant influence on your life. It's possible that just when things are going well, something may go wrong. However, despite the setbacks, your future appears to be bright. Your partner and you we'll spend a lot of time together in the first half of the week. You will need to forgive your partner's mistakes in order to maintain stability in your relationship this week. your health will not go through even minor issues. Just keep exercising every day this week.



**Virgo**

This week, you'll be in the desire to interact. This week, socializing will be a part of your responsibilities. This week, you're going to learn a lot of new stuff and learn a lot about people's whereabouts. This week, you could be asked to a social gathering. This week, you'll find yourself in the midst of a significant issue, and it'll be tough to get out of it. Calm down and you'll see what the best course of action is. Monetary issues will affect your marital relationship. giving your spouse some personal space throughout the week will improve things between you both. The adverse position of the moon will affect your mental health this week. try to keep yourself calm.



**Libra**

This week, you'll have plenty of vitality and will be able to handle all of the tough labor. Others will be greatly influenced by your attitude. This week, you'd be ideal for leading a company and coordinating everyone to operate together. This week, you'll have extra obligations at home. You may not be taking your obligations seriously this week, and as a consequence, your work may suffer. Take your job seriously and put it into practice this week. As suggested by the transition of Venus in your zodiac, you will enjoy the romantic feel of Valentine's festival in the first half of the week. do not rush into talks of marriage this week.



**Scorpio**

Avoid eating cold food this week as your immunity will be a little weaker this week. This week's subject is Commuqué. This week, you might be able to open up to your pal. This week, you'll uncover remedies to your difficulties at the workplace. This week, there's a possibility you'll spend some time with animals. Because of your actions, you will feel more hopeful than previously. This is not a good week to invest income since there is a risk you could lose wealth. Before you purchase this week, get professional advice. You are more likely to find a romantic interest in your professional circle this week. avoid getting indulged in this relationship or you might regret it later. Venus does not motivate the base of this relationship. your health will be fine.



**Sagittarius**

You've got a lot of abilities, and you'll place them to excellent service this week. You are likely to motivate those near you to become more active. You're brimming with creativity and ideas. This week, you will be of tremendous assistance to your older neighbors. You could receive an opportunity in the middle of the week, but you might blow it due to your lunacy. You must take matters properly and separate yourself from the enjoyment. You need to get serious about your profession this week. Your relationship will stay stable this week. your partner/spouse will motivate you a lot and their ideas will prove to be very advantageous for you. Your health will be fine. Do not overthink minor B.P. issues you might face.



**Capricorn**

This week, you'll be in an extremely forgiving mood. You will consider the recommendations of others. This week, you're likely to be busy on a few instances. By the end of the week, your family will have pleasant news for you. This week, you will uncover weaknesses in the people around you and make them feel bad. This week, you could wind yourself hurting people's feelings. Consider what you're saying before you say it. Your partner will prove to be the lucky charm for you this week. Your new ideologies will improve your relationship. your health issues will need attention this week. Donations will bring you good luck this week.



BIRTHDAY HOROSCOPE : 14TH FEB TO 20TH FEB 2022

CONTD FROM PAGE 32

**Feb 14**

Ganesha says today you and your partner will both realize how important communication is in your relationships. Your partner will appreciate your generosity and help a lot today and will thank you many times. You will experience today how good it is to be the bigger person and to let go of issues and feelings that no longer create a positive impact in your life hence you will learn a lot of life lessons today which will play a crucial role in your feeling better with yourself today.

**Feb 15**

Ganesha says you will be on the correct path in terms of your career today and your love life today. You will work very hard to impress the decision-makers at work as well as your partner today by bringing in gifts and being very diligent and caring. You will be given a lot of love and appreciation from your colleagues today. You feel appreciated for your efforts. You will have great confidence from today in your work and it will only keep getting better and better. Do not rush and get overwhelmed by today's events.

**Feb 16**

Ganesha says you will realize who your true people

are today. You will receive a lot of help from those who genuinely care for you. Today might be a challenging day in the beginning but your well-wishers will help you get through today and be with you till you start feeling better. You will have a very positive day today. You will get what you're trying to accomplish by practicing gratitude and staying content, a feeling of gratitude and love will be consistent throughout the day.

**Feb 17**

Ganesha says love is in abundance for you today as the moon is in your sign today. This means today will go far better than the past few days for you. You will experience a new positive transition. You will enter into a beautiful phase today. You will experience a positive shift in your emotions. You will receive a lot of love and care from your family today. You will feel extremely secure regarding your connection with someone whom you can trust and count on to be there for you at any time.

**Feb 18**

Ganesha says you will look at the world with a fresh new insight today. You will notice that if you lookout for the little good things that keep happening throughout the day, it is advised to not get into heated arguments with them as it may negatively impact the

relationship which in turn will negatively impact your health as well. You will be awarded for your proficiency regarding a project that you have been working on for a long time. This will make you and your family super proud of you today.

**Feb 19**

Ganesha says your hard work and dedication will prove fruitful to you in terms of business prospects as well as love interests today. Today will leave you feeling like the best person in the world and yourself worth and self-image will skyrocket today. You will feel a lot of love and care coming towards you from family friends as well as your partner. Your day will be a tough one today but you will feel supported and cared for in all ways, at the end of the day you will feel very satisfied with where you are in your life currently.

**Feb 20**

Ganesha says luck is on your side when it comes to business and finances today. You will be relaxed in terms of your work to the point of being bored as things will simply work out without requiring your time or effort. Your bold and confident nature will come to your rescue in all circumstances. Today will be fruitful for students and professionals, provided they stay focused and do not get involved in meaningless relationships.

CONTD FROM PAGE 32



**Aquarius**

You're probably going to devote most of your week focusing on yourself. You'll improve and spend much of your time establishing your objectives. You'll be more concentrated than you've ever been. You've learned a lot from life, and you're an excellent student. You've learned valuable lessons from your blunders, and now it's time to put those lessons into practice. It's easy to lose hope. This has a significant influence on you and may even have an influence on your profession. This week, you must strengthen yourself and have trust in yourself. Your partner and you will get into an ugly fight in the first half of the week as your partner's mental health will be affected by the transition of the Moon. Try to be supportive of them. Visit the temple on Wednesday and Friday this week.



**Pisces**

This week is going to be an exciting one for you. You'll get up early and eagerly anticipate each day. This week, you'll be in the mood to accomplish anything. This week, you may host a dinner party with your pals. You'll be brimming with energy, and you'll have a fantastic week as a result. Someone's intentions are likely to cause you harm this week. You will ponder about issues that are unimportant to you, but you will overlook them and go on. You will restrain yourself from getting into a relationship this week but your need to confide in someone will bring you closer to your friend. Make sure you take proper care of yourself this week.

|| SHREE GANESHAY NAMA ||



Know/Buy your Lucky Gemstones

From the House of Astrologer Bejan Daruwalla

To buy any Gemstone, visit [www.BejanDaruwalla.com](http://www.BejanDaruwalla.com)

Contact us for all kind of Astrology Services

Call/ Whatsapp +91 8141234275

Email: [info@bejandaruwalla.com](mailto:info@bejandaruwalla.com)



World Famous Astrologer Bejan Daruwalla



Nastur Bejan Daruwalla

# R & R Dental Lab

86-24 Whitney Ave. Elmhurst, NY 11373

Tel. (718) 533-1611; (347) 808-7258

Email: rbarua1953@gmail.com



- We make all kinds of Acrylic, Metal and Flexite Dentures, applying high quality technology by experienced technicians.
- We repair, reline night guards etc.
- We do delivery and pick up. Quick delivery on the same day.
- EMERGENCY new dentures SAME DAY service

**We are in Dentures Work for the last 40 years.**  
We **GUARANTEE** full satisfaction



# SONU INSURANCE AGENCY INC.

**Insurance, Money Transfer, Tax Preparation**

**Specializing in:**

- Auto ● Home ● Business
- Construction
- Workers Compensation

TAX PREPARES- PERSONAL RETURNS (1040)  
MONEY TRANSFER: Send money to India, Pakistan, Bangladesh



**MASTER MOHINDER SINGH**  
Licensed Real Estate Salesperson  
Licensed Mortgage Loan Originator  
Cell: 646-523-5092

**CALL TODAY**  
**OPEN 9 AM to 6 PM**

**113-09 101st Avenue (Opposite Gurdwara),  
Richmond Hill, NY 11419**  
**Phone: 718-847-1878/ 1885 Fax: 718-847-1879**  
**Email: sonuinsurance@yahoo.com**



77 North Broadway Hicksville, NY 11801  
127-24 101 Ave. Richmond Hill, NY 11419  
(516) 932-3400  
www.hprealty1.com

- **Residential & Commercial Real Estate**
  - Single Family, Multi-family, Investment properties
  - Hotels/Motels, Gas Stations, Restaurants
  - Relocation Assistance - brokers licensed in
  - New York and Indiana
- **Insurance Services**
  - Home Life and Health
- **Mortgages** (provided by affiliate lenders)
  - New Purchase Refinance
  - Hard Money Loans Business/SBA Loan

**ARE YOU BEHIND ON YOUR MORTGAGE PAYMENTS?**  
**IS THE BANK GIVING YOU A HARD TIME FOR MORTGAGE DEFERRAL OR FORBEARANCE?**  
**STOP FORECLOSURE!**

**CALL THE EXPERTS AT HP REALTY FOR MORTGAGE RELIEF ASSISTANCE**



**Pal Singh Dhillon**  
Licensed Real Estate Broker  
QA Software Engineer, E-Pro Certified  
Notary Public  
**(516) 304-2630**

**Jeet Dhillon**  
Licensed Real Estate Broker  
New York and Indiana

**(516) 830-0352**

**hprealty1@gmail.com**



# Magha Purnima

**M**agha Purnima is an important day for Hindus that falls on the 'purnima' (full moon day) in the month of 'Magha' in the traditional Hindu calendar. This date roughly corresponds to the months of January-February in the Gregorian calendar. This year, it falls on Wednesday, 16 February.

Magha Purnima is also popularly known as 'Maghi Purnima' or 'Maha Maghi' and is the last and most important day of the Magha Maas. In the Hindu legends Purnima is known to be an important day for performing religious and spiritual rituals, and of these the Magha Purnima is one of the most auspicious.

On this day Hindu devotees in thousands perform the ritualistic bath at the Triveni Sangam in Prayag. During this time the famous 'Kumbha Mela' and 'Magha Mela' is also held in which devotees flock from each and every corner of the country. Even in southern states of India like Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu, it is celebrated with utmost enthusiasm and gaiety. In Tamil Nadu on this day the spectacular 'float' festival is held wherein beautifully decorated idols of Meenakshi and Lord Sundeshwara are mounted on floats. Magha Purnima also holds special significance for followers of Buddhism as it is believed that Gautama Buddha pronounced his impending death on the same day.

## Rituals during Magha Purnima

- On the day of Magha Purnima, devotees must get up early and take a holy dip in any water body, before sunrise. For those who cannot take a dip in the river, can take bath at home by mixing Gangajal in water.
- After the ritualistic bath, devotees begin to make preparations for the puja. On this day, they worship Lord Vishnu and Hanuman Ji. Also along with the 'Ishta Devatas', the day of Magha Purnima is also dedicated to worshipping Goddess Parvati and Lord Brihaspati' (as Brihaspati is the God of Magha Nakshatram).
- Devotees perform the Satyanarayana Puja with full devotion and also recite the Satyanarayana Katha. The idol of the lord is worshipped with banana leaves, sandalwood paste, til, supari, moli and fruits. In the most of Lord Vishnu's temples across India, special arrangements for this puja are made. Hence people also visit the temples in the evening.
- Fasting on the day of Magha Purnima is also considered to be rewarding. The observer of this vrat, fasts during the day and eats only after offering 'ardhya' to the moon in the evening. Only Single meal is allowed in a day.
- Making donations in the form of clothes, food, cereals, ghee, jaggery and fruits is highly beneficial. Donations can be any form and should be made to Brahmins and those in need. In the Hindu scriptures, it is believed to be very auspicious to donate 'til' (sesame seeds) in the entire month of Magha.
- In some regions ancestor rituals are also held on Magha Purnima. Devotees offer tarpan for the



peace of the deceased souls.

## Significance of Magha Purnima

The importance of Magha Purnima is mentioned in Brahma Vaivarta Purana. According to the Hindu mythology, on this sacred day, Lord Vishnu resides in the River Ganga and therefore it is strongly believed that by mere touching the holy water of River Ganga, devotees can attain salvation. Taking a holistic bath in the sacred rivers like Ganga, Saraswati and Yamuna on Magha Purnima is very beneficial. By piously observing the Magha Purnima vrat devotees can gain freedom from their sins and also acquire purity and peace of mind. Doing charity on Magha Purnima gives same benefits as observing Maha Yagyas.

Besides, religious significance, the day of Magha Purnima is also holds importance in the science of astrology. It is held that on this day Sun enters into the Capricorn Sign and Moon moves in the Cancer constellation. Hence it is believed that taking a holy dip on Magha Purnima can put an end to all the problems correlated with Sun and Moon. The month of Magha is also beneficial from scientific point of view. It is believed that this month helps the human body to adjust with the changing seasons. Therefore taking a bath on Magha Purnima will provide strength and power to the body.

## Magh Purnima Vrat Katha

According to a legend, a poor Brahman named Dhaneshwar lived in a village called Kantika. He

sought alms and thus took care of his wife. He was married for many years but remained childless. People in the neighbourhood mocked Dhaneshwar's wife and taunted her for not bearing a child. Once, a Yogi asked Dhaneshwar and his wife to pray to Goddess Kali for 16 consecutive days.

Dhaneshwar and his spouse worshipped the Goddess and got blessed by her on the 16th day. The Goddess appeared and asked them to light lamps and observe vrat on 32 Purnima Tithis.

After thirty-two Purnima Tithis, Dhaneshwar's wife, conceived and gave birth to a son. The child was named Devidas.

Dhaneshwar and his wife's happiness knew no bounds. Days, weeks, months and years passed. On Devidas's sixteenth year, Dhaneshwar and his wife sent him to Kashi with his maternal uncle. When the two were on their way to Kashi, circumstances compelled Devidas' uncle to get his nephew married to a girl. A few days later, the God of death arrived to take Devidas along with him, but he couldn't succeed in his mission because the latter's parents had observed the Purnima Vrat.

Furthermore, Dhaneshwar and his wife reaped the benefits of keeping the Purnima Vrat for thirty-two consecutive times in the past. As a result of their devotion, they could guard their child against death and sufferings.



PAGE SPONSORED BY

**ARISH K. SAHANI**

Serving Since 1972

Please Call or Write for Your Insurance Needs

**Arish K Sahani (Father)**

**Shiv Sahani (Son)**

**Priya Sahani Sood (Daughter)**

**718 - 271 - 1906**



[arish.sahani@gmail.com](mailto:arish.sahani@gmail.com)

"If Hindus don't maintain Hinduism, who shall save it?"

"If India's own children don't cling to their faith, who shall guard it?"

"Indians alone can save India, and India and Hinduism are one."



Shiv Sahani

**Call for All your Life Insurance Needs!**  
"Making Friends Through Service"

**SAHANIS: Shiv, Arish & Priya**

Office: (718) 271-0453

Cell: (646) 644-0174

Email: [sksahani@ft.nyl.com](mailto:sksahani@ft.nyl.com)

Agent, New York Life Insurance Company



Rohan Handa  
Executive Partner  
New York Life

**Do you want to succeed in a very rewarding career?**

NEW YORK LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY

**IS HIRING**

Do you want to capitalize on your ability to produce?

**COME CHECK IT OUT!**

CALL MR. R. HAN HANDA **718-286-1132 | 516-435-6120**

Conveniently located at:  
95-25 Queens Blvd., 4th Floor  
Rego Park, N.Y. 11374



**LADOO MATRIMONIAL**

ਰਿਸ਼ਤੇ ਹੀ ਰਿਸ਼ਤੇ RISTHE HI RISTHE

We Provide Worldwide Services



**Jetander Sapra**

212-470-7175, 516-309-0236

[ladoomatrimonial@gmail.com](mailto:ladoomatrimonial@gmail.com)

[jetandersapra@gmail.com](mailto:jetandersapra@gmail.com)

261-03, Hillside Ave, Floral Park-11004

[www.ladoomatrimonial.com](http://www.ladoomatrimonial.com)

WE THANK OUR CUSTOMERS FOR THEIR TRUST & LOYALTY

26 YEARS OF EXCELLENT CUSTOMER SERVICE



**INDO US EXPRESS, INC**

HICKSVILLE, NEW YORK

WORLDWIDE COURIER FREIGHT-FORWARDER  
DOMESTIC & LOCAL DELIVERY

CALL US AT: 212-447-5720 or FAX 516-932-3750

ALTERNATE NUMBER: 347-538-7041

OR EMAIL US: [INDOUSEXPRESS@GMAIL.COM](mailto:INDOUSEXPRESS@GMAIL.COM)

[www.indousexpress.com](http://www.indousexpress.com)

GREAT SERVICE, 7 DAYS A WEEK, 365 DAYS A YEAR!

**CALL ABOUT OUR SPECIAL RATES**

**TO INDIA/WORLDWIDE**



**MAKE YOUR  
BRAND ROAR  
IN THIS  
FEROCIOUS  
MARKET**



Advertise for as little as

\$10.00.

**Call 646-247-9458**

**Indian Visa Center**

VISA / OCI PIO / PASSPORT  
APPLICATION ASSISTANCE CENTER

349 S. Broadway, Hicksville, NY 11801

**DEEPAK BANSAL**

Email: [deepakbansalny@gmail.com](mailto:deepakbansalny@gmail.com)

Cell: 516.304.8808 Fax: 516.218.8009



**SACH  
Law Firm**

- > Immigration
- > Accidents
- > Divorce
- > Real Estate

"Whole Truth and  
Nothing But The Truth."

**Call at (516)-499-9779**

Our legal team at Sach Law Firm has a well-deserved reputation of excellence in providing smart, sensible, and cost-effective legal and business solutions for our clients.

We serve a wide range of clientele, and every client relationship is valued greatly and treated with dignity and respect. Each engagement benefits from the depth and breadth of expertise of Sach Law Firm.



# History This Week Feb 11 to Feb 17

**"PEACE BY PERSUASION HAS A PLEASANT SOUND, BUT I THINK WE SHOULD NOT BE ABLE TO WORK IT. WE SHOULD HAVE TO TAME THE HUMAN RACE FIRST, AND HISTORY SEEMS TO SHOW THAT THAT CANNOT BE DONE." - MARK TWAIN**

### February 11

February 11th - Celebrated in Japan as the founding date of the Japanese nation, which occurred with the accession to the throne of the first Emperor, Jimmu, in 660 BC.

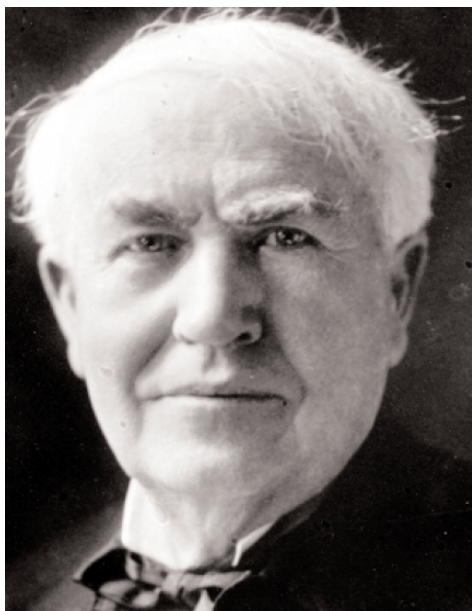
February 11, 1929 - Italian dictator Benito Mussolini granted political independence to Vatican City and recognized the sovereignty of the Pope (Holy See) over the area, measuring about 110 acres.



Nelson Mandela

February 11, 1990 - In South Africa, Nelson Mandela, at age 71, was released from prison after serving 27 years of a life sentence on charges of attempting to overthrow the apartheid government. In April 1994, he was elected president in the first all-race elections.

February 11, 2011 - In Egypt, President Hosni Mubarak resigned amid a massive protest calling for his ouster. Thousands of young Egyptians and others had protested non-stop for 18 days in Cairo, Alexandria and elsewhere. Mubarak had ruled Egypt for nearly 30 years, functioning as a virtual dictator.



Thomas Edison

Birthdays - American inventor Thomas Edison (1847-1931) was born in Milan, Ohio. Throughout his lifetime he acquired over 1,200 patents including the incandescent bulb, phonograph and movie camera. Best known for his quote, "Genius is one percent inspiration and ninety-nine percent perspiration."

### February 12

February 12, 1999 - The impeachment trial of President Bill Clinton in the U.S.

Senate ended. With the whole world watching via television, Senators stood up one by one during the final roll call to vote "guilty" or "not guilty." On Article 1 (charging Clinton with perjury) 55 senators, including 10 Republicans and all 45 Democrats voted not guilty. On Article 2 (charging Clinton with obstruction of justice) the Senate split evenly, 50 for and 50 against the President. With the necessary two-thirds majority not having been achieved, President Clinton was thus acquitted on both charges and served out the remainder of his term of office lasting through January 20, 2001.



Abraham Lincoln

Birthdays - Abraham Lincoln (1809-1865) the 16th U.S. President was born in Hardin County, Kentucky. He led the nation through the tumultuous Civil War, freed the slaves, composed the Gettysburg Address, and established Thanksgiving.

Birthdays - Author and naturalist Charles Darwin (1809-1882) was born in Shrewsbury, England. Best known for his work Origin of the Species concerning the theory of evolution.

### February 13

February 13, 1635 - Boston Latin School, the first taxpayer supported (public) school in America was established in Boston, Massachusetts.

February 13, 1945 - During World War II in Europe, British and American planes began massive bombing raids on Dresden, Germany. A four-day firestorm erupted that was visible for 200 miles and engulfed the historic old city, killing an estimated 135,000 German civilians.

Birthdays - American artist Grant Wood (1892-1942) was born near Anamosa, Iowa. Best known for his painting American Gothic featuring a farm couple.

### February 14



Saint Valentine

February 14th - Celebrated as (Saint) Valentine's Day around the world, now one of the most widely observed unofficial holidays in which romantic greeting cards and gifts are exchanged.

February 14, 1849 - Photographer Mathew Brady took the first photograph of a U.S. President in office, James Polk.

February 14, 1929 - The St. Valentine's Day massacre occurred in Chicago as seven members of the Bugs Moran gang were gunned down by five of Al Capone's mobsters posing as police.

### February 15

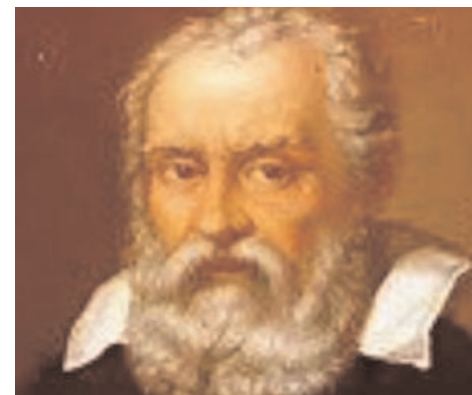
February 15, 1898 - In Havana, the U.S. Battleship Maine was blown up while at anchor and quickly sank with 260 crew members lost. The incident inflamed public opinion in the U.S., resulting in a declaration of war against Spain on April 25, 1898, amid cries of "Remember the Maine!"



Franklin D. Roosevelt

February 15, 1933 - An assassination attempt on newly elected U.S. President Franklin D. Roosevelt occurred in Miami, Florida. A spectator deflected the gunman's aim. As a result, Chicago Mayor Anton Cermak was shot and killed instead. The gunman, an Italian immigrant, was captured and later sentenced to death.

February 15, 1989 - Soviet Russia completed its military withdrawal from Afghanistan after nine years of unsuccessful involvement in the civil war between Muslim rebel groups and the Russian-backed Afghan government. Over 15,000 Russian soldiers had been killed in the fighting.



Galileo Galilei

Birthdays - Astronomer and physicist Galileo Galilei (1564-1642) was born in Pisa, Italy. He was the first astronomer to use a telescope and advanced the theory

that the sun, not the earth, was the center of the solar system.

Birthdays - Inventor Cyrus McCormick (1809-1884) was born in Rockbridge County, Virginia. He invented the horse-drawn mechanical reaper, a machine that freed farmers from hard labor and contributed to the development and cultivation of vast areas of the American Great Plains.



Susan B. Anthony

Birthdays - Susan B. Anthony (1820-1906) was born in Adams, Massachusetts. A pioneer in women's rights, she worked tirelessly for woman's suffrage (right to vote) and in 1872 was arrested after voting (illegally) in the presidential election. She was commemorated in 1979 with the Susan B. Anthony dollar coin, thus became the first American woman to have her image on a U.S. coin.

### February 16

Birthdays - Entertainer and politician Sonny Bono (1935-1998) was born in Detroit, Michigan. Following a career as a popular singer, he became mayor of Palm Springs, California, then became a Republican congressman, serving until his accidental death from a skiing mishap.

### February 17

February 17, 1865 - During the American Civil War, Fort Sumter in South Carolina was returned to the Union after nearly a year and a half under Confederate control. The fort had been the scene of the first shots of the war.



Apache Chief Geronimo

February 17, 1909 - Apache Chief Geronimo (1829-1909) died while in captivity at Fort Sill, Oklahoma. He had led a small group of warriors on raids throughout Arizona and New Mexico. Caught once, he escaped. The U.S. Army then sent 5,000 men to recapture him.

contd from page 1

### U.S. urges Canada to use federal...

The White House said Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas and Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg spoke with their Canadian counterparts and urged them to help resolve the standoff.

Federal Public Safety Minister Marco Mendicino said Royal Canadian Mounted Police reinforcements are being sent to Windsor, Ottawa and Coutts, Alberta where another border blockade is happening.

A federal government official said they are not ruling out any options. The official spoke on condition of anonymity as they were not authorized to speak publicly.

Mr. Trudeau met virtually with leaders of Canada's opposition late Thursday and said he spoke with Windsor's mayor. He said it is causing real harm to workers and economies on both sides of the border.

Conservative Ontario Premier Doug Ford, meanwhile, moved to cut off funding for the protests by successfully asking a court to freeze millions of dollars in donations to the convoy through crowd-funding site GiveSendGo. Ford has called the protests an occupation.

Canadian officials previously got GoFundMe to cut off funding after protest organizers used the site to raise about 10 million Canadian dollars (\$7.8 million.) GoFundMe determined that the fundraising effort violated the site's terms of service due to unlawful activity.

With political and economic pressure mounting, Windsor Mayor Drew Dilkens announced the city will seek a court injunction to end the occupation.

"The economic harm is not sustainable, and it must come to an end," he said.

In the U.S., authorities braced for the possibility of similar truck-borne protests inspired by the Canadians, and authorities in Paris and Belgium banned road blockades to head off disruptions there, too.

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security said in a bulletin to local and state law enforcement agencies that it has received reports that truckers are planning to "potentially block roads in major metropolitan cities" in a protest against vaccine mandates and other issues.

The agency said the convoy could begin in Southern California as early as this weekend, possibly disrupting traffic around the Super Bowl, and reach Washington in March in time for the State of the Union address, according to a copy of Tuesday's bulletin obtained by The Associated Press.

The White House said the department is "surging additional staff" to the Super Bowl just in case.

The ban on road blockades in Europe and the threat of prison and heavy fines were likewise prompted by online chatter from groups calling on drivers to converge on Paris and Brussels over the next few days.

The Ambassador Bridge is the busiest U.S.-Canadian border crossing, carrying 25% of all trade between the two countries, and the effects of the blockade there were felt rapidly.

Ford said its Windsor engine plant reopened Thursday after being shut down on Wednesday because of a lack of parts. But the factory and the company's assembly plant in Oakville, Ontario, near Toronto, were operating at reduced capacity, the automaker said.

On the U.S. side, GM sent the first shift home two hours early Thursday at its Flint, Michigan, heavy-duty pickup truck plant due to parts shortages.

Stellantis cut short the first shift Friday at its Jeep plant in Toledo, Ohio, due to parts shortages

Also, Honda will temporarily stop production on one assembly line during the day shift Friday at its plant in Alliston, Ontario. It's because of border delays. U.S. Plants are scheduled to run normally Friday.

Toyota said three of its plants in Ontario closed for the rest of the week because of parts shortages, and production also had to be curtailed in Georgetown, Kentucky.

Michigan Gov. Gretchen Whitmer urged Canadian authorities to quickly resolve the standoff, saying: "It's hitting paychecks and production lines. That is unacceptable."

Hundreds of demonstrators in trucks have also paralyzed the streets of downtown Ottawa for almost two weeks now and have now closed three border crossings: at Windsor; at Coutts, Alberta, opposite Montana; and at Emerson, Manitoba, across from North Dakota.

The protesters are decrying vaccine mandates for truckers and other COVID-19 restrictions and are railing against Mr. Trudeau, even though many of Canada's precautions, such as mask rules and vaccine passports for getting into restaurants, theaters and other places, were enacted by provincial authorities, not the federal government, and are already rapidly being lifted as the omicron surge levels off.

Mr. Trudeau continued to stand firm against lifting vaccine mandates, including a requirement that all truck drivers entering the country be fully vaccinated. But because an estimated 90% of the nation's truckers are already inoculated, some conservatives have called on the Prime Minister to drop the mandate.

The convoy has been promoted and cheered on by many Fox News personalities and attracted support from the likes of former President Donald Trump and Texas Sen. Ted Cruz.

The Associated Press identified more than a dozen Facebook groups encompassing roughly a half-million members that are being used to drum up support for the Canadian protests or plan similar ones in the U.S. and Europe.

To get around the blockade and into Canada, truckers in the Detroit area have had to drive 70 miles north to Port Huron, Michigan, and cross the Blue Water Bridge, where there was a two-hour delay leaving the U.S.

The blockade is happening at a bad time for the U.S. auto industry. Supplies of new vehicles already are low across the nation because of the global shortage of computer chips, which has forced automakers to temporarily close factories.

"The disruptions we are seeing at the U.S.-Canada border - at the Detroit-Windsor Ambassador Bridge and at other crossings - are adding to the significant supply chain strains on manufacturers and other businesses in the United States," The U.S. Chamber of Commerce, National Association of Manufacturers and Business Roundtable said in a joint statement.

"We respectfully urge the Canadian government to act swiftly to address the disruption to the flow of trade and its impact on manufacturers and other businesses on both sides of the border."

### Supreme Court refuses to intervene...

But the CJI refused to oblige him. "We are also watching what's happening in the state... Constitutional rights are for everybody, and this court will protect it. We will list at appropriate time," the CJI said.

Solicitor General Tushar Mehta opposed Kamat's submission, saying the issue shouldn't be politicized. The high court order was not available, he pointed out.

One of the advocates pointed out that examinations were scheduled to commence from February 15 and the petitioners had to choose between the examinations and their faith. But the Bench wasn't impressed.

This is the second time in as many days that the top court has refused to intervene.

On Thursday, February 10, senior advocate Kapil Sibal had urged CJI Ramana to take up a petition filed by Fatima Bushra - a student of Government PU College, Udupi - in view of its pan-India ramifications.

"The problem is that schools and colleges are closed...Girls are being stoned. It's spreading across the country," Sibal had said.

"Please wait...let the high court decide... They're hearing it," the CJI had told Sibal, refusing an urgent listing.

After hearing the matter on Thursday, a three-judge Bench led by Karnataka High Court Chief Justice Ritu Raj Awasthi had asked students not to go to educational institutes in religious dress.

"It's a matter of a few days. Please cooperate, Chief Justice Awasthi had said, posting the matter for Monday. (Read full story at [www.theindianpanorama.news](http://www.theindianpanorama.news))

### India slams UN terror report for...

India has been consistently highlighting the threat of terrorism in its neighborhood.

It has said these security fears have been further exacerbated by the changed political situation in Afghanistan

The '14th report of the Secretary-General on the threat posed by ISIS to international peace and security and the range of United Nations efforts in support of member states in countering the threat' notes that the security landscape in Afghanistan changed dramatically on August 15, following a Taliban military campaign that took control in the country, including Kabul.

(Read full story at [www.theindianpanorama.news](http://www.theindianpanorama.news))

### Russia launches Belarus military...

Columns of Russian missile systems rolled across snow-carpeted fields on the eve of the start of the drills in footage released by the Defense Ministry.

Russia has also sent six warships through the Bosphorus for naval drills on the Black Sea and the neighboring Sea of Azov.

Kyiv denounced their presence as "unprecedented" attempt to cut off Ukraine for both seas.

Moscow and Minsk have not disclosed how many troops are taking part in the military exercises in Belarus.

"The objective of the exercises is to practice suppressing and repelling external aggression with a defensive operation," the Russian Defense Ministry said in a statement.

Answering Western concerns, the Kremlin has insisted the Russian troops in Belarus will go home after the exercises.

But Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelensky said "the accumulation of forces at the border is psychological pressure from our neighbors".

Kyiv has launched its own military drills expected to mirror Russia's games in Belarus, but officials have said little about them out apparent fear of escalating tensions.

The diplomatic crisis has spurred weeks of talks between Russian, Western and Ukrainian officials.

Those efforts have drawn cautious optimism for negotiated solution, with French President Emmanuel Macron saying he had secured a pledge from Russian leader Vladimir Putin that Moscow "would not be the source of an escalation".

Russia has put sweeping security demands to the United States and the Washington-led NATO military alliance with the aim of reducing their role in eastern Europe and former Soviet states. (Read full story at [www.theindianpanorama.news](http://www.theindianpanorama.news))

### Indian-origin cop Neil Basu in...

occupy the position, resigned after London Mayor Sadiq Khan lost confidence in her.

Son of an Indian doctor father from Kolkata and Welsh mother, Anil Kanti 'Neil' Basu, 53, assistant commissioner rank, has been a rising star at the Yard, a highly rated officer, for some time.

An economics graduate from Nottingham University, he joined the Met Police in 1992 and was head of counterterrorism and specialist operations, before becoming director of the College of Policing.

The widely read Mail on Sunday in a profile of him said he is "well-liked within the force and by intelligence officials at MI5 (Britain's internal intelligence gathering body)".

The Guardian wrote: "He is widely seen as capable and is mostly well thought of. If appointed, he will be the first ethnic minority person to become London's police commissioner, one of the most coveted jobs in policing in the world." But the paper said he may not be in Johnson's good books after he told this publication as counter-terrorism chief in an August 2019 interview that a no-deal Brexit would mean Britain's safety and security would suffer. (Read full story at [www.theindianpanorama.news](http://www.theindianpanorama.news))



## HAVE SET MYSELF AN 18-MONTH TARGET TO PLAY FOR SR INDIA, SAYS U-19 WORLD CHAMPION SKIPPER YASH DHULL

**Y**ash Dhull has lost count of the number of flights he has taken in the past 48 hours.

He had spent the previous day in Ahmedabad where the entire team was felicitated following a tiring journey in which the squad had to take as many as four flights to reach India from the Caribbean.

Having lived out of suitcase for the past two months, which could potentially be life-changing, when Dhull finally met his parents, it was just a mere 30 minutes of reunion for the sleep-deprived captain of the World Cup winning India U-19 team.

Dhull arrived in Delhi early morning and went straight to his alma mater Bal Bhavan in West Delhi to meet the people who played a big role in him becoming the cricketer he has become.

Two hours later, he had a flight to catch and next destination was Guwahati, where he is set to make his Ranji debut for Delhi next week. So between the school visit and ride back to the airport, Dhull got just enough time to go home for a shower.

He has no time to rest as the real journey into the men's world started with the flight that he took to Guwahati to join the Delhi Ranji Trophy squad.

Having hardly slept since lifting that trophy in Antigua last week, Dhull has no complaints though. He knows it is only the start of his life as a professional cricketer.

"I have hardly slept the last few days but it is not something I can complain about. What I have done till now is done, I need to focus on what lies in the immediate future," Dhull told PTI referring to his Ranji Trophy call-up.

Most of the World Cup winning squad members won't go on and play for India but Dhull showed in the Caribbean that he could move up the ladder and play at the highest level. He has set himself an 18-month target to play for India.

"That is my target but if I am not able to do that in the 18 month time frame, I will keep working hard till I attain my goal," said the soft-spoken cricketer.

The 19-year-old is third captain from Delhi to win the title after Virat Kohli and Unmukt Chand, who both had contrasting career graphs post their exploits in the U-19 World Cup. He is inspired by Kohli and his achievements but there is also the story of Chand, who succumbed to pressure of expectations he set with his performance in the 2012 edition. *Source: PTI*

# Ajinkya Rahane takes dig at 'someone' for taking credit for Aussie tour win

NEW DELHI (TIP)

A central figure in India's epic turnaround during the 2020-21 tour of Australia, stand-in captain of that series Ajinkya Rahane says "someone else took the credit" for decisions he made to resurrect the team after the nightmarish 36 all out in the first Test in Adelaide. As regular captain Virat Kohli flew out on parental leave, leaving in his wake the disappointment of the humiliating loss in the series-opener in Adelaide, Rahane took over the reins in difficult circumstances.

What followed was one of the most incredible turnarounds in sport as India rebounded to win the second match in Melbourne by eight wickets, with Rahane leading the comeback with a magnificent hundred. "I know what I've done there. I don't need to tell anyone. That's not my nature to go and take credit. Yes, there were some things that I took the decisions on the field or in the dressing room but someone else took the credit for it," Rahane said in a TV interview.

Rahane did not take any names but his comments could well be a veiled attack on then head coach Ravi Shastri, who was widely acclaimed for the team's performance and dominated the media space for being the architect of the turnaround, given that the dressing room resembled a hospital ward at one point. In fact, Shastri became the voice of the team after that brilliant victory, and the one in Brisbane.

India missed three frontline players in Melbourne and continued to lose key players but still emerged triumphant at the end. "After that, the reactions from people or those who took credit or what was said on the media, 'I did this' or 'this was my decision', or 'this was my call', it



Rahane did not take any names but his comments could well be a veiled attack on then head coach Ravi Shastri, who was widely acclaimed for the team's performance and dominated the media space for being the architect of the turnaround.

was for them to talk about," Rahane said.

## Shikhar Dhawan returns to add to firepower

**Ahmedabad:** The returning Shikhar Dhawan will add more firepower to a ruthless India, who are faced with the problem of plenty as they eye a clean sweep of West Indies in an inconsequential third ODI.

The hosts head into the final match of the ODI series after having ticked almost all the boxes in the first two, which they won comfortably.

Senior opener Dhawan was among the four players, including a reserve bowler,

who had tested positive for Covid just four days before the start of the ODI series. But now that the southpaw is back, India could be forced to make a few changes to their winning combination.

In his absence, the team management had opened with Ishan Kishan in the first game and the flamboyant Rishabh Pant in the second. This means that vice-captain KL Rahul would continue to bat in the middle-order along with Virat Kohli, whose search for his 71st international hundred continues. Pant will go back to the middle-order with Suryakumar Yadav, who is likely to retain his place after emerging as the team's highest scorer in the second match. *Source: PTI*

# US sprint great Justin Gatlin retires

US sprinting great Justin Gatlin on Thursday, Feb 10, announced his retirement, hence drawing curtains to what was a career tinged by doping controversies.

The 40-year-old sprinter, who had clinched the Olympic gold in 2004 Athens Games in 100m, announced his retirement in a post on Instagram titled "Dear Track."

"I have loved you track. You gave me tears of sadness and of joy, lessons learned that will never be forgotten," Gatlin wrote.

"The torch is passed but the love will never fade. On your mark, get set ... Gone!"

Gatlin's retirement was on the cards after his failure to make the Tokyo Olympics last summer following a hamstring injury at the US trials.

Gatlin's career triumphs include, a 100m and 200m sprint double at the Worlds in Helsinki in 2005, and a 100m gold at the 2017 Worlds in London, where he had managed a rare victory over Jamaican legend Usain Bolt, en route.

He was also part of the USA's gold-medal winning 4x100m relay team at the Doha World Championships in 2019.

However, the veteran sprinter has twice been suspended for doping offenses, the first one happening back in 2001 following the use of Adderall, which contains amphetamine. Gatlin claimed that he had been using the same since childhood to treat attention deficit disorder and the US arbitration panel ruled him a "certainly not a doper."



# Kollam: Gateway to the backwaters of Kerala

A treasure trove of natural wonders and historical edifices, Kollam is an enchanting town with backwaters and picturesque landscapes. Located 70kms away from Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala, Kollam is a commercial centre and home to India's cashew producing industry. Popularly known as Quilon, it is often regarded as the gateway to the backwaters of Kerala.

It sits on the bank of the Ashtamudi Lake, hence, cruising along the Alappuzha route is one of the main highlights of the region. With a history dating back to the 9th century, Kollam was a prominent spice trading centre. It is one of the oldest ports in the Arabian Sea that lies on the southwest coast which was frequented by iconic merchants, missionaries and explorers including Marco Polo, Ibn Battuta, Vasco da Gama, Henrique Henriques and many more. Venture the lesser-known path, and this beautiful city on India's Malabar Coast is sure to enchant you.

## Places To Visit

### Thevalli Palace

A place of great historic importance, Thevalli Palace is situated on the banks of Ashtamude Lake. Once served as the home of Maharaja of Travancore, it was constructed under the rule of Gauri Parvathi Bai between 1800 and 1819. The striking feature about the palace is that it presents an intriguing fusion of Dutch, English and Portuguese style of architecture.

### Amritapuri

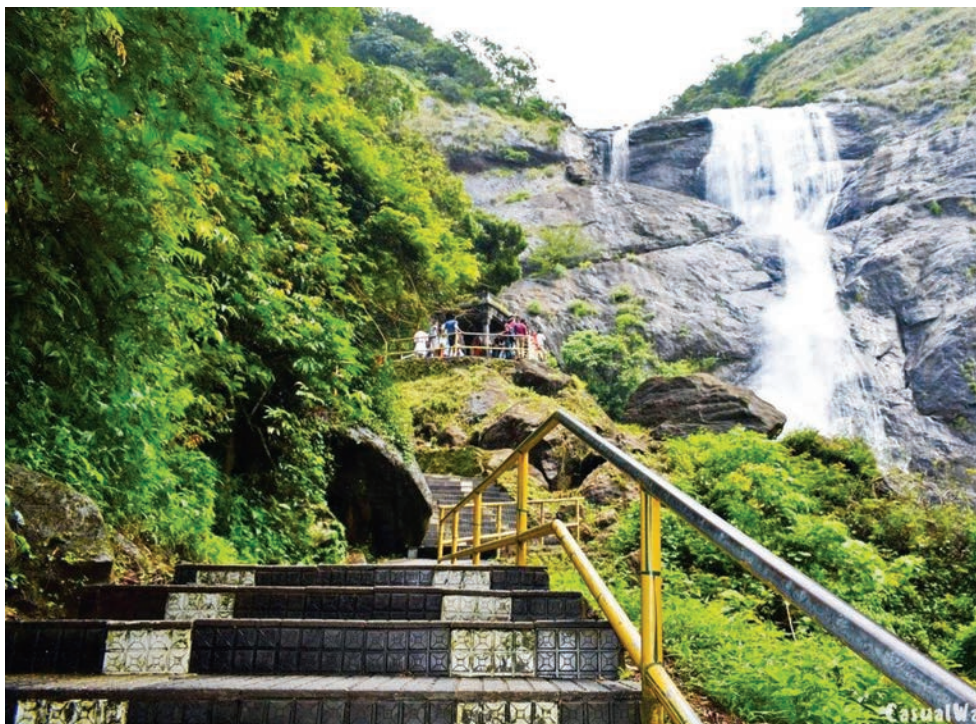
Ashram of Amritapuri has been constructed at the same place where Sri Mata Amritanandamayi Devi was born. People from all over the world, flock in to seek the blessings of Amma. The people residing in the ashram and all the disciplines of Amma have given up their life in the salvation of God and making the world a better place to live in. Amma makes sure to listen to each and every child who comes to her 'darshan' and solve each of their problems with an effective solution.

Looking at Amritapuri, one can relive the ancient saying of 'the entire world is one family'. It is a collection of people from different cultures, speaking different languages and following different religions. Diverse people from different environments live together under a single roof in search of a meaningful life.

Amritapuri Ashram is a small village remotely located on a small island which is surrounded by the backwaters and the Arabian Sea. It has now become a famous location for people seeking spirituality and inner peace. The Ashram is home to the international disciplines as well, almost 3000 of them.

### Mahatma Gandhi Beach and Park

Lying at a distance of just 2 km from Kollam town is Mahatma Gandhi Beach and Park which is quite popular as a



picnic spot among locals and tourists. The park was introduced in year 1961 and offers an ideal location for mindless

strolling along the shore.

### Jatayu Earth's Centre

Jatayu Nature Park is a rock-themed park which got opened on November 25, 2017. Built to promote mythology and adventure tourism, the tourism centre boasts of 6D theatre, a digital audio-visual room, cable car and ayurvedic cave resort. It is also home to umpteen adventure activities including paintball, laser tag, archery, bouldering, rock climbing, air-rifle shooting etc. The primary attraction of the park, however, is the world's largest stone-cut bird sculpture replicating Jatayu, the mythical bird from Ramayana.

### Punalur

Punalur, lying along the border of Tamil Nadu and Kerala in the district of Kollam, derives its name from two words one Tamil and one Malayalam. Tamil word 'punal' means water and Malayalam word 'ooru' means place together making Punalur the place of water. Indeed Kallada flows right through the heart of the city with the famous suspension bridge hanging over it, stretching for 400 metres across its width. Punalur is known as "Pepper Village of Kerala" and is also houses a major Paper Mill established in 1850's.

### Palaruvi Waterfalls

Palaruvi Falls, cascading downstream from the height of 300 ft, is one of the prime attractions in Kuttallam or as some call it Courtallam, Tamil Nadu. Owing to its height; it is the 32nd highest fall in our country. The name Palaruvi means 'Stream of Milk' in the regional language.

Ironically it seems to be a glittering stream of milk as it flows down. Hence, the beauty of this fall stands unimaginable till witnessed with own eyes. The roaring sounds of the fall stand in stark contrast to the silence of the forests and mist-kissed mountains around it.

### Mayyanad

A hub of many popular shrines for Hindus and Muslims, Mayyanad is situated about 10 km from Kollam town. The major attraction of the place being Lord Subramaniam Temple, one can also visit an old mosque and several old churches in the area. However, the temple is said to be blessed by Shri Shankaracharya of Kalladi.

### Ashtamudi Lake

The second largest lake in Kerala, Ashtamudi Lake is situated in the Kollam district. The lake runs over a length of 16 kilometres and covers almost 30% of the town of Kollam. Its name, Ashtamudi has been derived from two words 'Ashta' meaning eight and 'Mudi' meaning branch, thereby stating the fact that lake has eight branches. All the eight branches converge into a single channel that meets with the Arabian Sea. The lake is fed by the major river, Kallada. Coconut trees and palms surround the entire vicinity of the lake adding to its beauty.



# EAST WEST OPTICIANS



**\*Eye Exam**  
**\*Contact Lens**  
**\*Eye Glass**  
**\*Sunglass**

Authorized Dealer of  
Rayban, Prada, G.A.,  
Versace, Flexon  
& Much More.....

**MOST INSURANCES ACCEPTED**



**263-18 Hillside Avenue, Floral Park, N.Y. 11004**  
**Phone: 718-335-6000; 718-533-6664**  
**Phone / fax: 718-457-5988, Phone /Text:718-514-0025**

Order Online: [www.eastwestopticians.com](http://www.eastwestopticians.com)  
Email: [anilguptaus@yahoo.com](mailto:anilguptaus@yahoo.com)  
Mon to Sat : 12.00 P.M to 7.00 P.M. Sunday with Appt.

## Full Service Unisex Salon

# Rita's Beauty Parlor

**THREADING SPECIALIST**  
**SPECIALIZING IN :**

- Eyebrow Threading
- Ayurveda Herbal Facials • Mini Facials
- Full Body Waxing • Brazilian Waxing
- Bridal Makeup • Mehendi
- Unisex Hair Cuts and Hair Styling
- Fruit Based Color Highlights and Ladies Body Massage

Soothing Relaxing Atmosphere  
Quality Services  
High on Hygiene & Sanitized Parlor



Open Tuesday to Sunday  
10.00 am to 7.30 pm

454 S BROADWAY, HICKSVILLE, NY 11801  
**516-622-9300 / 347-608-9424**

Email: [ritabeautyparlor@aol.com](mailto:ritabeautyparlor@aol.com)  
[www.ritasbeautyparlor.com](http://www.ritasbeautyparlor.com)

**Call now**  
and say coupon TIP50FF  
to avail discounts  
**BOOK ONLINE APPOINTMENT**

## Dr. Frederick M. Ruffen Audiologist

**Restoring your ear power**

**CELEBRATE THE SOUNDS OF YOUR LIFE**




**\*Hearing Aid Evaluation \* Hearing Aid Repair**  
**\*Tympanometry \* Ear Wax Removal**

- Complete Audiological Evaluations
- Tympanometry and Acoustic Reflex Testing
- Hearing Aid Evaluations
- Advanced Ear Mold Selection Skills
- Swim Plugs, Musician Plugs, etc.
- Wide Selection of Hearing Aids
- Hearing Aid Accessories
- Assistive Listening Devices
- Amplified Telephones
- Complete Hearing Help Care for Hearing Aids
- Quarterly Cleanings and Hearing Aid Checks
- Hearing Aid Repair, Loss/Damage and Loaner Services
- Yearly Evaluations
- Computerized Expert Fitting of Hearing Aids

If you are missing the sounds of your life call to schedule a **FREE** hearing screening.  
**TOLL FREE: 1-800-924-7413**

**LOCATIONS**

<b>Nassau University Medical Center</b> 2201 Hempstead Turnpike, East Meadow, NY 11554 Phone: 516-296-2704 Fax: 516-572-8885	<b>30 Roosevelt Street,</b> Glen Cove, NY 11542 Phone: 516-759-0008 Fax: 516-759-0013	<b>680 Broadway,</b> Massapequa, NY 11758 Phone: 516-541-4353
--	--	---

**OFFICE HOURS BY APPOINTMENT / WALK INS WELCOME**

## ATLAS ROLL OFF CORP.

# DISPOSAL SITE

**OPEN Monday - Friday 6.30 AM to 4.00 PM**  
**Saturday 6.30 AM to 1.00 PM**

**For construction Debris, Demolition & Cleanouts**



Located at 895 Essex Street, Brooklyn, NY 11208  
Just 5 minutes from JFK

## Roll Off Dumpster Service

**10, 15, 20, 30 & 40 Yards**

Serving all the five boroughs of New York Since 1983  
NYC BIC LIC #711

Reasonable low rates \*\* All major credit cards accepted

# 718-345-6451



## A World without Childhood Blindness

Only by doing good can one benefit  
-Rig Veda



An Eye Institute in Rajahmundry, Andhra Pradesh to prevent avoidable childhood blindness

Vision of Dr. V.K. Raju, the Eye Foundation of America and Goutami Eye Institute

- \* 3.5 million + served
- \* 350 thousand + surgeries
- \* 30 thousand + on children

**Message from Peter J. McDonnell, M.D. Director Wilmer Eye Institute, Johns Hopkins University, USA on the occasion of laying the foundation stone on December 10, 2020**



"On behalf of all my colleagues of the Wilmer Eye Institute in Baltimore, MO, I send my best wishes and congratulations to our friends in Goutami on this extremely important occasion. This beautiful facility will match the wonderful world class work of your doctors, nurses and staff in preserving and restoring the vision of so many patients. We in the United States are inspired by your dedication and admire your tireless efforts to serve so many who need your skills and compassion. Best wishes, Peter"

"There can be no keener revelation of a society's soul than the way in which it treats its children". - Nelson Mandela



**POST SURGERY**



**PRE SURGERY**

Triplets Prasanth, Susanth and Nisanth, who were treated by Goutami Eye Institute three years ago and gifted vision for life, as ROP babies under GEMROP (Goutami Eye tele Medicine Retinopathy Of Prematurity).

- Treating disease and vision problems
- Performing free cataract surgeries
- Screening infants and children
- Distributing glasses and visual aids
- Conducting Research
- Providing Education

Be a part of the movement. Donate now at [www.eyefoundationofamerica.org](http://www.eyefoundationofamerica.org)  
Tax Exempt # 55-0621735

The work by the Eye Foundation of America team started in 1977 and has spread from India to 21 different countries. Additionally, EFA focuses on teaching and training of health professionals who receive the Foundation's support at every level.  
<https://youtube/B23VvUaloN4> <https://youtube/KiCzqLQe2VE>

To know more about the work of Eye Foundation of America or to donate, visit [www.eyefoundationofamerica.org](http://www.eyefoundationofamerica.org)

ॐ सर्वे भवन्तु सुखिनिः Sarve Bhavantu Sukhinah,  
सर्वे सन्तु नरिमयाः । Sarve Santu Niramayah  
May all be prosperous and happy!  
May all be healthy!

The Eye Foundation of America  
695, West View Avenue, Morgantown, WV 26505  
Phone: 304-599-0705  
[www.eyefoundationofamerica.org](http://www.eyefoundationofamerica.org)