

### Biden to meet Modi at Quad summit in May



US President Joe Biden will meet Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the Quad summit in Tokyo in late May. File photo

WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP): Top leaders of the Quadrilateral, or Quad, comprising India, US, Australia and Japan will meet in Japan in the second half of May.

US President Joe Biden would travel to South Korea and Japan from May 20 to 24 and attend the Quad summit in Tokyo, during which he would also meet Prime Minister Narendra Modi, White House Press Secretary Jen Psaki said, adding that details of the meeting were awaited. The last meeting of the top Quad leadership was held in September last year.

While Prime Minister Modi, Biden and Australia PM Scott Morrison have attended Quad meetings together, Japanese PM Kishida Fumio would be making his maiden appearance at the summit.



Giani Harpreet Singh, Akal Takht Officiating Jathedar.

File photo

### GURBANI TELECAST FROM GOLDEN TEMPLE: SGPC FAILS TO COMPLY WITH AKAL TAKHT DIRECTIVE

AMRITSAR (TIP): The SGPC has failed to comply with the directions of the Akal Takht to prepare its Information Technology (IT) wing to facilitate world-wide live telecast of Gurbani from the Golden Temple 'within a stipulated time'.

Akal Takht Officiating Jathedar Giani Harpreet Singh had ordered the SGPC to work on the modalities of launching its channel, and written directions were issued on April 8.

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# Emmanuel Macron wins a second term; vows to 'heal divisions' in France

PARIS (TIP): In a victory speech, a mere 90 minutes after he was projected re-elected as French President for a second term on Sunday, April 24 evening, Emmanuel Macron, 44, with a twinkle in his eye and a smile on his face, assured those who did not vote for him: "I am no longer the candidate of one camp, but the President of all."

Many in this country voted for me not because they support my ideas but to keep out those of the far right. Emmanuel Macron, French president

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi was among the world leaders who congratulated Macron on his victory. Modi tweeted: "Congratulations to my friend Emmanuel Macron on being re-elected as the President of France! I look forward to continue working together to deepen the India-France Strategic Partnership. Narendra Modi, Prime Minister"

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Emmanuel Macron with First Lady Brigitte Macron and admirers after his victory. Photo / Courtesy Tribune

## New Yorkers witness an impressive Sikh Day Parade



The surging crowds march behind their Guru, the Holy Shri Guru Granth Sahib. Photo / Jay Mandal-on assignment

INDRAJIT S SALUJA

NEW YORK CITY (TIP) The Sikh Community took out a massive and impressive Parade in New York City in celebration of the community's birthday which was on April 14, on Saturday, April 23. Sikhism is the youngest and the fifth largest religion of the world, with a following of about 30 million across the

world. Organized by the Sikh Cultural Society, Richmond Hill, New York, in cooperation with Sikh Temples and Sikh organizations of the Tri-States of New York, New Jersey, and Connecticut, the Sikh Day Parade on April 23 in Manhattan, New York attracted large crowds of Sikh men, women and

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## BIDEN TO SEEK \$33 BILLION FOR UKRAINE; TO SEIZE MORE MONEY FROM RUSSIAN OLIGARCHS TO PAY FOR THE WAR EFFORT

WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP): President Joe Biden asked Congress on Thursday, April 28, for \$33 billion to support Ukraine -- a dramatic escalation of U.S. funding for its war against Russia -- as well as new legal tools to tighten sanctions and siphon assets from Russian oligarchs, U.S. officials said. The vast funding request includes over \$20 billion for weapons, ammunition and



US President Joe Biden. File photo

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Andy Singh

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### GUEST COMMENT

# Victory and challenge: On re-election of Emmanuel Macron

## MACRON WILL HAVE TO ADDRESS THE DISAFFECTION AMONG THE WORKING CLASSES TO DEAL WITH THE FAR-RIGHT

The re-election of Emmanuel Macron in Sunday's presidential race is a relief not just for France's political centrists but also for its allies in Europe and America. The election took place amid crises - high inflation; Russia's invasion of Ukraine that pushed France into a difficult choice of imposing sanctions on Moscow even at the cost of higher energy prices; and growing political disillusionment among the country's youth. The first round had seen the far-right rising to its highest ever levels - Marine Le Pen and Éric Zemmour together gathered more than 30% of votes. Yet, Mr. Macron secured a decisive victory in Sunday's run-off, with 58.5% vote share against Ms. Le Pen's 41.5%, showing that the center can still hold in France. The banker-turned politician, who emerged as the surprise champion of French Republican values against an upsurge of far-right populism five years ago, managed to rally the anti-populist base once more. He went to the voters with three broad themes: his

administration's economic performance, a defense of France's Republican values and support for European sovereignty. While France's quick return to growth and low unemployment rate helped him project a convincing macroeconomic picture, his attack on Ms. Le Pen as a threat to the French Republican values and the tough line he took on Ukraine allowed him to mobilize the liberal, center-right and pro-European sections of voters.

Mr. Macron's victory offers stability for both France and the EU. But a closer look at the two rounds of elections provides a more complicated picture. The French political landscape, historically dominated by the center-right conservatives and center-left socialists, has undergone a major transformation. Mr. Macron has emerged as the poster boy of the centrist bloc, the largely status-quoist voters. And his key challengers are from the far-right, which has anti-Semitic and Islamophobic roots. The third bloc is led

by leftist Jean-Luc Mélenchon, who finished third in the first round. The surge of the far right and leftist candidates suggests that there is widespread voter anger towards the establishment. And the far-right populists, with their cocktail of anti-establishment welfarism and anti-immigrant rhetoric, seem to be better-equipped to tap this anger than the leftists. Ms. Le Pen may not be strong enough, as of now, to capture power, but she was strong enough to pose a credible challenge to Mr. Macron. In his victory speech, Mr. Macron admitted that there is growing anger among sections of the voters towards the political establishment and promised to tackle it. Going forward, his biggest challenge would be to reach out to the disaffected sections of society, address the growing anger in the underbelly of the working classes, and build credible alternatives to the far-right problem.

(The Hindu)

### GUEST COMMENT

# Preventing hate speeches

## ONUS ON OFFICIALS TO TAKE PRE-EMPTIVE ACTION

In an enough-is-enough reaction, the Supreme Court has pulled up state governments for failing to prevent hate speeches at 'Dharam Sansads' and other religious events and warned that it would hold top officials responsible in case of lapses. The court has expressed concern that such speeches are becoming a commonplace despite its guidelines on measures to be taken by the authorities. Hours after the SC directed the Uttarakhand Chief Secretary to give an undertaking that no untoward statement would be uttered at a proposed 'Hindu Mahapanchayat' at Dada Jalalpur village in Roorkee, the Haridwar district administration imposed prohibitory orders under Section 144 of the CrPC and placed the main organizer under house arrest,

beside deploying a large number of police personnel in the area on Wednesday in a bid to prevent recurrence of communal disturbances. A Hanuman Jayanti procession had been pelted with stones in this village on April 16. Timely intervention by the local authorities scuttled the mahapanchayat organizers' plans to fan the flames.

Inflammatory remarks have been part for the course at religious conclaves held in Uttarakhand and Delhi over the past several months. The brazenness of the rabble rousers was starkly evident when Yati Narsinghanand, the head priest at a Ghaziabad temple, stoked communal emotions recently while out on bail in a case pertaining to an inciteful speech made at a 'Dharam Sansad' in December. With the judiciary taking a tough stand,

the law enforcement agencies are left with no fig leaf to conceal their laxity or inefficiency. Last week, the apex court told the Delhi Police to file a 'better' affidavit, not satisfied with the one which stated that 'no specific words against any community were uttered' at an event organized in December.

Pre-emptive action is a must to ensure that religious congregations do not degenerate into platforms for spreading communal hatred. Empowering the local police to nab troublemakers before they spew venom can help keep the situation under control. It's not worthwhile to conduct a routine investigation after the damage has been done. The priority should be to nip the menace in the bud.

(Tribune, India)

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# New Yorkers witness an impressive Sikh Day Parade



A display of the Sikh martial art- Gatka.



A view of the massive gathering at the conference

TIP photo

Photo / Jay Mandal-on assignment



Senate majority leader Chuck Schumer addressing the gathering

TIP photo

38th Street and Madison Ave, wound its way through the city and ended up at 26th Street and Madison Ave for the conference on 23rd Street.

There were a dozen or so floats depicting Sikh history, culture and religion, and hundreds marched behind each of them.

An impressive feature of the parade was langar (free food). The whole 26th Street between Madison and Park was dedicated to food stalls where free food was served to the thousands irrespective of color or creed.

A conference was held as the closing part of the parade. Apart from the many

community leaders, the gathering was addressed by many politicians who included Senate majority leader Chuck Schumer, NY State Senator John Liu, and NY City Public Advocate Jumaane D. Williams, among others.

Earlier, Senate majority leader Chuck Schumer, New York City Mayor Eric Adams, and New York State Assemblywoman Jenifer Rajkumar joined the parade at the starting point.

The event is held annually to mark the day the Tenth Master of the Sikhs, Guru Gobind Singh, created the order of Khalsa in 1699.



State Senator John Liu addressed the gathering

TIP photo



NY City Public Advocate Jumaane D. Williams addresses the gathering

TIP photo

contd from page 1

children, and contingents of Sikhs from as far as Philadelphia, Pennsylvania and Maryland. While the

organizers claimed an attendance of 25000, the independent sources put the number at around 10,000.

The parade that started at 12 PM from

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## Book on Indian Community leader Dr. Sambhu Banik's life and times launched

**MARYLAND (TIP):** A book on the life and times of Dr. Sambhu N. Banik, a prominent Indian American community leader in the Washington, DC, area, was released at a glittering ceremony in National Harbor, MD, just outside the U.S. capital, on April 10.

Several influential members of the community from the Greater Washington, DC, area, as well as friends and family members of Banik, attended the event, hosted by local Indian American television network GTV and the Janki Ganju Foundation at the MGM National Harbor.

GTV host Nilima Mehra and president of the Janki Ganju Educational Foundation Lalita Kaul presented a copy of the book to Aruna Miller, running mate of Maryland Democratic gubernatorial candidate Wes Moore, and former member of the state's House of Delegates.

"From Padma to Potomac: My Life's Creative Journey" is a collection of newspaper stories on Banik published over several decades, as well as articles by the Bethesda, MD, resident.

Besides Mehra and Kaul, speakers included Aziz Haniffa, former executive editor of India Abroad, Washington-area physician Mandira Mehra and Virginia Republican Punit Ahluwalia.

Recently, Banik had won the Presidential Lifetime Achievement Award for his longtime service to the



A book on the life and times of Dr. Sambhu N. Banik, a prominent Indian American community leader in the Washington, DC, area, was released at a glittering ceremony in National Harbor, MD, just outside the U.S. capital, on April 10.

community. The award was presented to him by Maryland Secretary of State John P. McDonough.

Banik's wife of six decades, Pramila, and their two daughters, Sharmila Banik-Albrechtsen and Kakali Banik, were among those present.

Banik-Albrechtsen, who had recently won the Woman of the Year Award by Wentworth Technical Institute in Boston, delivered the vote of thanks.

Banik, a clinical psychologist, has served in two administrations in the 1980s and '90s. During his second term, President Reagan nominated him as a member of the National Advisory Council on Drug Abuse.

In 1989, President George H.W. Bush tapped him to lead the President's Committee on Mental Health and Mental Retardation, as its executive director.

Banik was born in Joypara, now part of Bangladesh, on November 7, 1935, to Padma Lochan and Kadambini

Banik. His family moved to Calcutta during the Partition of India in 1947.

After obtaining a master's degree in psychology from Calcutta University in 1958, he pursued a career in business for two years before enrolling for PhD at University of Bristol, in England.

Following the completion of PhD, Banik came to the United States, in 1964, for a post-doctoral program at Norwich Hospital in Connecticut.

In 1966, he moved north of the border to Canada to work as a professor of psychology and director of psychological services at university hospital in Saskatchewan. The same year, he married Pramila, then a young nurse.

Four years later, he moved back to United States after accepting a position at Glenn Dale Hospital in Washington, DC, a city that would become his home for the next 52 years.

In the early '70s, he joined the District of Columbia Mental Health Administration, where he served till joining the Bush administration.

After leaving the administration in 1992, Banik started his own practice, a family diagnostic and therapeutic center, in Washington, DC.

A lifelong teacher, Banik taught at Bowie State University in Maryland for 41 years.

## Indian American Texas hotelier Nishant Patel is new AAHOA chairman



Austin, Texas based Nishant (Neal) Patel is the new chairman of the Asian American Hotel Owners Association.

**BALTIMORE (TIP):** Texas hotelier Nishant (Neal) Patel, who grew up in Surat, India, and came to Mississippi with his family nearly 20 years ago, is the new chairman of the Asian American Hotel Owners Association.

Patel became chairman at the conclusion of the 2022 AAHOA Convention & Trade Show in Baltimore from April 12 to 15. It was the second major convention AAHOA has held since the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic.

"If you've ever wondered to what extent AAHOA serves its membership, I am a perfect example," said Patel, a second-generation hotelier, in a statement as cited by hotelmanagement.net.

"My parents didn't have the opportunity to have AAHOA as a resource, but thankfully, when I took over the family business, AAHOA was there for me as I navigated the hospitality industry. AAHOA provided me with the educational tools I needed to run a hotel successfully."

"Like the majority of AAHOA Members, we were in search of the 'American Dream,'" said Patel, who

grew up in the industry, wearing many hats as he helped his family run their first 20-room independent property in Laurel, Mississippi.

"My parents wanted to create a better life for their children and leave a legacy that generations to come would be proud of."

"My parents always told me that if you don't try, you won't succeed. If you talk too much, you're not learning," Patel said. "As I step into my new role, my focus is on our members and serving them well. Going forward, I will be the facilitator to make things happen."

"AAHOA helped us create generational success," Patel said. "After all that AAHOA has given me and my family, I'm looking forward to serving this great organization and giving back to the AAHOA community through listening, learning, bringing new ideas to the table, and enacting change at every level of the organization."

These days, Patel calls Austin home and is the managing partner of Blue Chip Hotels, which owns and operates multiple hotels. Blue Chip Hotels has more than 1,200 rooms in several states among both branded and independent properties.

Patel became an AAHOA member in 2012 and soon volunteered to serve as an AAHOA Ambassador. He joined AAHOA's board of directors in 2016 after being elected as the young professional director, Western division—a position he held for three years.

Patel also serves on the HITEC Advisory Council and promotes organ donor awareness through his volunteer work with Samaj Saves Lives.

**RECOGNITIONS AND AWARDS :** The association also recognized six hoteliers for achievement and excellence in the hospitality industry with its annual awards. The 2022 award winners are:

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

## INDIAN ORIGIN TRAINEE LAWYERS WHO CHEATED IN BAR EXAMS, 2020 NAMED BY SINGAPORE HIGH COURT

**SINGAPORE (TIP):** Singapore High Court Judge Choo Han Teck on Wednesday, April 27, rescinded an order to have their names redacted, the Channel News Asia reported.

The six persons named in the ex-tempore judgment are Monisha Devaraj, Kushal Atul Shah, Sreeram Ravenderan of Indian-origin, as well as Lynn Kuek Yi Ting, Matthew Chow Jun Feng and Lionel Wong Choong Yoong of Chinese origin.

Justice Choo said he had allowed an application by the Attorney-General to rescind the redaction and sealing orders following "tremendous public interest" in the matter.

"Initially I believed that redacting the names of the applicants would let them go about the process of recovery quietly and uneventfully, but I am now of the view that it is better to face the publicity than to hide from it," said the judge.

"In a profession in which every member must be like Caesar's wife, beyond reproach, dishonesty is a big problem. But it would also be harsh to have one's professional career ended before it has even begun," said the judge last week.

Five of the trainee lawyers shared answers for six of the exam papers through WhatsApp, while the last one colluded with another candidate to cheat in three of the papers, according to the Channel report.

Justice Choo granted a six-month adjournment for the Bar applications of the five trainee lawyers, and a year's adjournment for the application of the remaining trainee lawyer.

Justice Choo added, "Strong sentiments may sometimes interfere with the proper understanding of the idea of second chances."

To practice law in Singapore, law graduates must be admitted to the Bar by passing a set of exams known as Part B. Law graduates from approved overseas universities must also take another conversion examination known as Part A. (Source: PTI)

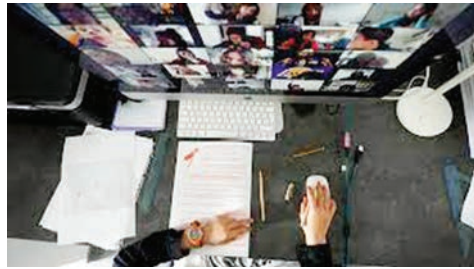


Photo for representation only.



# Indian American group launches new video platform to screen movies, hold mega shows

WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP): A group of Indian American entrepreneurs has launched an online platform which transcends the borders of regular video-conference towards screening of online movies to hosting political rallies, town halls and concerts simultaneously which can be accessed by up to 30,000 people at the same time.



**We Must Meet' technology is community-based. It will change the way people will host business meetings, fund raising political rallies, town halls, concerts, screen online movies, impart education and conduct medical research**

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Christened 'We Must Meet' by a group of Indian-American entrepreneurs from diverse professions, ranging from investors, real estate, doctors, educationists and young fashion designers, the proponents of the new platform say the technology has been entirely developed in the United States.

"We Must Meet' technology is community-based. It will change the way people will host business meetings, fund raising political rallies, town halls, concerts, screen online movies, impart education and conduct medical research," New York-based founder and creator of We Must Meet, Al Mason, said in a statement on Wednesday.

'We Must Meet' is the first video-conference platform to have features to screen Bollywood and Hollywood films online. It acts as an over-the-top (OTT) platform - as an online theatre where filmmakers can screen their own cinematic content," said founder Manju Mason.

"Today the majority of top Bollywood and Hollywood filmmakers are making content for the OTT- exclusively for

online screening. India's OTT market is the fastest growing and has potential to become the largest in the world," said Rahil Manji, the technical advisor for the tech project.

'We Must Meet' is powered and managed by a technology company, Iotum.

Indian-American Raj Bhayani, a renowned medical professional and surgeon having held various leadership positions in the health care and leading hospitals in New York said, 'We Must Meet' makes health care easy and secure and manageable for providers equipped with state-of-the-art features.

"Medical students get full access to selected real-time surgery without having to be in the operating room, connecting them to seminars, meetings, and classes across the country or on another continent," he said.

The company announced that 'We Must Meet' is soon going to launch theme parks, boutique hotels, resorts and restaurants under the same brand.

## INDIAN AMERICAN HIGH SCHOOL SENIOR GIRLS AMONG 30 IN THE LIST OF 2022 EDISON SCHOLARS



**Two Indian American high school senior girls Rhea Jethvani and Monica Pal are among 30 in the list of 2022 Edison Scholars**

EDISON, CA (TIP): : Two Indian American girls, Rhea Jethvani and Monica Pal are among 30 high school seniors in Southern California Edison's service area named 2022 Edison Scholars by one of America's largest electric utility holding companies.

Edison International will award a total of \$1.2 million in scholarships intended to help these students pursue

science, technology, engineering or math (STEM) studies, according to a press release.

Jethvani, a student of Oxford Academy, Cypress, California plans to dedicate herself to cybersecurity safety to protect her community and spread awareness of this danger.

She led a team in creating IOTAnet, a centralized security management platform, which placed in the top five finalists of the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs' Apps for Digital Peace Competition.

Jethvani is also co-founder of her school's first Hackathon Learnathon, where she hosted the Basics of Cryptography workshop to highlight the importance of password encryption.

"My pursuit of applying cybersecurity skills to help build a more resistant society is just beginning and I'm excited to protect my community from the evolving danger," she says. Jethvani plans to major in computer science.

Pal of San Joaquin High School studied computer science all four years in high school and has plans to continue in college.

Pal credits her goal of pursuing a degree in computer science to her two mentors: her mother, a former chemistry professor, who has supported and inspired women in science, and her cousin, currently completing his medical residency, who has mentored and advised Monica with programming skills. She too plans to major in computer science.

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

## INDIAN AMERICAN INTERNATIONAL TRADE POLICY EXPERT ARUN VENKATARAMAN SWORN IN AS KEY COMMERCE OFFICIAL



**Confirmed by the US Senate on 7 April, Venkataraman was sworn in by Secretary of Commerce Gina Raimondo, on Monday, April 25.**

WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP): Arun Venkataraman, a leading Indian American expert on international trade policy, has been sworn in as the Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Global Markets and Director General of the US and Foreign Commercial Service for the International Trade Administration.

Confirmed by the US Senate on 7 April, President Joe Biden' nominee was sworn in by Secretary of Commerce Gina Raimondo, on Monday, April 25.

"His expertise in trade law & policy is an invaluable asset as we help businesses recover from the economic toll of Covid-19," she tweeted later.

"His experience and leadership helping the US public and private sector navigate and overcome critical trade challenges has earned him respect both inside and out of government as well as with the team he is now assigned to lead. I look forward to working with him in his new role," Raimondo added. Venkataraman will lead a team of over 1,400 employees strategically located in 106 offices across the US and 78 markets abroad, supporting US companies in markets representing 95 percent of global GDP and 97 percent of US trade.

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

## INDIAN HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT DROWNS IN POND IN NEW JERSEY POLICE SAY HIS DEATH APPEARS TO BE AN ACCIDENT

NEW MILFORD, NJ (TIP): In a tragic incident, an 18-year-old Indian high school student drowned in a pond in the US state of New Jersey after he went into the frigid water to retrieve a soccer ball for children playing nearby, according to media reports.

Clinton G Ajit, who hailed from Niranam in Kerala, went into Hardcastle Pond in New Milford on Friday, April 22, around 7 pm to retrieve the soccer ball and apparently drowned after he suddenly went underwater, northjersey.com, a digital news content provider, reported.

However, NJ.com, another digital newspaper quoting police, said emergency officers responded to a call at around 7:15 pm that someone went swimming in the pond and did not return. First responders recovered Ajit's body in about three hours.

"The water went up to his waist. Then it went up to his neck. Then he had his whole, full body in the water," CBS news channel quoted 10-year-old Sam Rueda, who saw the tragedy unfold with his family, as saying.

"After he put his hands down, that was the last we ever saw of him. Then his friends started to panic," Sam said.

Borough police confirmed Ajit's identity late on Saturday afternoon.

The Bergen County Medical Examiner's Office and New Milford Police Department are partnering to determine the cause of death, according to a news release from the Borough Police Department.

Police say his death appears to be an accident.

"There are no words that can describe the pain that this family is going through right now," New Milford Mayor Michael Putrino said. "Our hearts are broken." Ajit was studying at New Milford High School.

Friends and strangers stopped by the pond on Saturday to leave flowers at a small memorial.

A GoFundMe fundraiser campaign was organized by Gabriella George, a family friend from Weehawken, according to NorthJersey.com.

George described Ajit as a "loving son ...and brother".

The GoFundMe for the family raised over USD 50,000 as of Sunday morning.

According to NJ.com, the pond in which Ajit died has a depth of about 12 to 15 feet and swimming is banned.

A funeral service for Ajit was held on Monday, April 25.

(Source: PTI)



# AAPI COALITION CELEBRATES \$20M IN NEW STATE FUNDING

**AFTER YEARS OF ANTI-ASIAN HATE, COALITION KICKS OFF AAPI HERITAGE MONTH WITH ACTION PLAN FOR FUTURE**

NEW YORK CITY, NY (TIP): After years of nonstop anti-Asian hate, the AAPI Equity Budget Coalition, a coalition of over 50 AAPI community leaders and organizations, kicked off AAPI Heritage Month by celebrating the historic \$20 million investment in AAPI communities in the Fiscal Year 2022-23 state budget. This allocation represents a significant improvement over last year's first-ever allocation by doubling the state's investment in AAPI communities. The coalition gathered on April 28 to celebrate this marked progress, and to renew its call for a sustained fair and equitable funding stream for AAPI communities throughout the state.

Earlier this year, a coalition of over 50 AAPI groups formed the AAPI Equity Budget Coalition, and issued a statement of needs for an AAPI Equity Budget to address the horrific surge in AAPI hate crimes, the disproportionate impacts of COVID-19, and the historic underfunding of AAPI communities. The coalition envisioned funding for programs and services ranging from operational support for AAPI community organizations to AAPI curriculum designed for students in Pre-K through 12th grade. Funds would also go toward the creation of an AAPI State Commission, which would serve to advise the governor's office on the needs of the



New York State Senator John Liu makes an announcement of NY State's budget allocation of \$20 Million for the Asian American and Pacific Islanders Coalition (AAPI) and the start of AAPI Heritage Month celebration in New York. Photo / Jay Mandal-On Assignment



State Assemblyman Zohran Mamdani speaks about the budget allocation of \$20 Million for the Asian American and Pacific Islanders Coalition (AAPI) and the start of AAPI Heritage Month. Photo / Jay Mandal-On Assignment

AAPI community and examine critical issues like language access among state agencies, departments, and commissions.

In May 1990, President George H.W. Bush signed a law designating the month of May as AAPI Heritage Month to recognize the historical and cultural contributions of Asian American and Pacific Islanders. Today, the

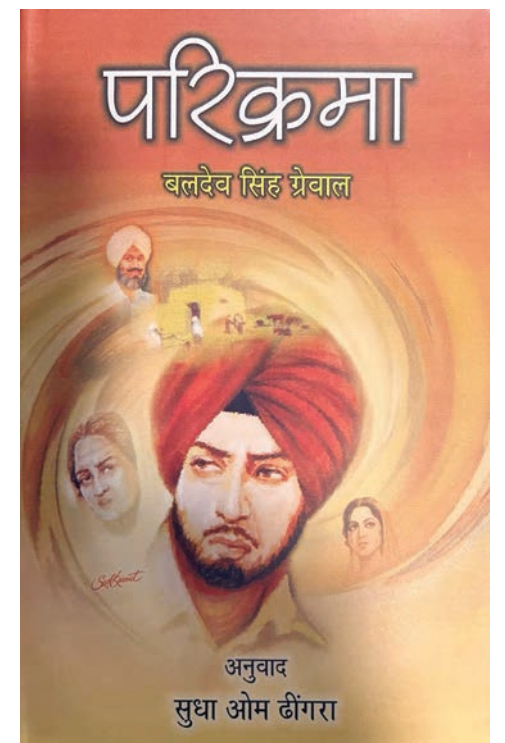
coalition commemorated the start of AAPI Heritage Month by celebrating this year's \$20 million budget allocation, and recommitted to pushing for even greater budget parity in coming years in order to achieve true equity within AAPI communities.

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

## BOOK REVIEW Parikarma



**Baldev Singh Grewal**  
Author



Baldev Singh Grewal's Parikarma (108 pages), originally written in Punjabi has been translated into Shahmukhi with the title Twaaf, and in Hindi with the title Parikrama. The work of fiction is part of the syllabus of Post graduate course in Punjabi in Kurukshetra University and Chaudhary Devi Lal University, Sirsa, Haryana. The original Punjabi version has seen three reprints.

Baldev Singh Grewal is a senior New York-based author who has a number of novels to his credit. His novella "Twaaf", transliterated from Gurmukhi into Arabic-based Shahmukhi script by Ziaullah Zaheer Sara, has been published by Sanjh Publications, Lahore.

The original title "Parikarma" meaning circumambulation has been

changed into Twaaf which has the same meaning but is more familiar with the readers on this side of the border. It's a story of a village, of an extended family, to be exact, narrated in the first person singular. Old debate whether first person singular is more suitable or third person singular for fiction is still inconclusive. Both have successfully been employed by writers. In the novel in question, the first person singular is the narrator through and through and doesn't seem jarring. His tone and tenor engage you and create a sense of intimacy with the non-judgmental account of his life.

The author's use of flashback as a literary technique seems effective. The entire story is told in flashback, rather in a series of flashbacks. Reverie, visitation from the past, imaginings and actual

happenings intermingle but in no way interrupt the smooth flow of the narrative. The major characters in the story are a father and his son, a mother and a young woman and her husband. Son, the main protagonist, falls in love with a girl in the village. The son's father in cahoots with the girl's father bribes the area police who pick him and severely torture him as a dangerous Naxalite in a fake case. The girl is married off against her will to the father's nephew who is impotent but violent in his sexual behavior. The husband in what one should call his impotent rage commits suicide. The father holds his son responsible for the tragic event and banishes him from the home. The son goes to the USA and now after forty years has come back to his

home which is no more than a ruin guarded by a locked gate. What remains of the past is an old weather-beaten mango tree.

The story is remarkable for some unremarkable reasons; a ruthless patriarch in connivance with the girl's father deprives his son of happy future life and ends up unjustly supporting his sister's family which leads to the destruction of his own nuclear family.

Baldev Singh perhaps subtly tries to debunk the myth of moribund patriarchy by showing what it is; odious and repressive. The narrative is simply gripping as it's familiarly unfamiliar and unfamiliarly familiar. Don't miss it. - soofi01@hotmail.com

(Dawn, Karachi. February 7th, 2022)





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# Hindutva to the fore in BJP's scheme of things

BY RADHIKA RAMASESHAN



**"THE BJP HAS TRAVELLED A LONG WAY FROM THE EARLY 2000S, WHEN VAJPAYEE HAD TO BE MINDFUL OF HIS ALLIES' SEEMING DISTASTE FOR COMMUNAL POLITICS. THE MAHARASHTRA AND DELHI CIVIC POLLS WILL TEST THE BJP'S REINVIGORATED HINDUTVA PROGRAMME. IN MAHARASHTRA, IT HAS TIED UP WITH RAJ THACKERAY'S MAHARASHTRA NAVNIRMAN SENA AND BACKED ITS CALL TO REMOVE LOUDSPEAKERS FROM MOSQUES. IN DELHI, THE HINDU-MUSLIM FAULT LINES EVIDENT AFTER THE JAHANGIRPURI VIOLENCE MIGHT RESONATE ACROSS THE CITY."**

It is incomprehensible what program of action the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) and its cohorts will spring upon the country each day. For decades, the BJP grappled with the dilemma of whether a linear progression of Hindutva best suited its politics, although the paterfamilias, residing at Nagpur, was clear that the doctrine of Hindu supremacy should be at the heart of the agenda it laid out for its political progeny. The BJP cut the first turf every now and then, but only just because it never lost sight of the fact that as it grew through childhood and adolescence, it relied on the parent for mid-course correction.

When Atal Bihari Vajpayee advocated Gandhian socialism and JP's legacy after the BJP lost elections serially, his theories were rebuffed once the party was routed in the 1984-85 elections. Vajpayee was critiqued for missing the mark. Sikh militancy had overrun north India and the Congress played to Hindu angst and anger. LK Advani stepped in to lead the Rath Yatra across the country and create a narrative against Islamic rule, symbolized by the 'destruction' of hallowed places, notably the birthplace of Lord Ram in Ayodhya. Of course, he was fortunate in that the RSS and the Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP) had done the spadework before his chariot rolled. Advani put his finger on the pulse and handed out the BJP's initial victories, enabling it to reach that critical mass which made it a contender to lead an anti-Congress Opposition. However, when it came to heading a coalition government, Vajpayee was chosen as the BJP/NDA's PM candidate because his 'moderate' visage, in contrast to Advani's militant Hindu image, appealed to allies who had to rationalize their decision to go with the BJP before their 'secular' constituents.

Everything has changed unrecognizably now. Like Vajpayee's socialism of 1985, Advani's project to refurbish perceptions about himself by endorsing Muhammad Ali Jinnah publicly in Karachi almost broke the BJP's back. The BJP's architect had to go.

Narendra Modi, Advani's successor, resolved every dilemma confronting the BJP and the Parivar seamlessly to take the party to heights the RSS never imagined. He was so powerful as the Gujarat chief minister - a position he consolidated by



The BJP's recent second-time triumphs were determined by using Hindutva laced with populist welfare.

Photo / courtesy Tribune

pursuing and embracing a radicalized stream of Hindutva without qualms, unlike Advani - that he could put down the occasional transgressions by the VHP or another Parivar member with ease. Modi successfully persuaded voters in northern and western India to give the Gujarat admixture of radical Hinduism - underpinned with deep-rooted antagonism towards the minorities - and 'development' fashioned after his notions of capitalism (welfare and populism were remarkably absent from the model because he often said he subscribed to people's empowerment and not their entitlement) a chance to 'prove' itself at the Centre.

Modi's 2014 campaign astutely centered 'development' (signified by the promise of investments and infrastructure) over Hindutva but he allowed the others in the BJP to talk up his credentials as the 'Hindu hriday samrat' (monarch of the Hindu heart) so that voters were convinced that they were in for a double bonanza: economic prosperity and Hindu asmita (identity) which 'vanished' during colonial rule. The formula worked quite successfully, although its limitations were exposed in the eastern and southern regions where the BJP still struggles to break through. The BJP might not have won every state election but once victory came its way, it fought hard to retain it in a successive election. However, the BJP's recent second-time triumphs were determined by using Hindutva

Assam and Uttar Pradesh are examples of the BJP's determination to hold on to states wrested the hard way. The outcomes in both cases are similar. Assam is characterized by multiple ethnic, religious and linguistic identities. Even a party in pole position such as the Congress earlier and now the BJP had perforce to weave a coalition by making common cause with smaller entities with a niche following. The BJP's use of Hindutva did not prevent the latest incarnation to emerge from the Adivasi-dominated Bodo region from joining hands and trumping its adversaries. Likewise,

in UP, the leadership by an individual in saffron robes, who unabashedly swore by and deployed Hindutva to fulfil his agenda, never deterred identity-based outfits from taking shelter under the BJP umbrella and looking the other way when minorities were hunted down and victimized. Obviously, the party has travelled a long way from the 1990s and early 2000s, when Vajpayee had to be mindful of his allies' seeming distaste for communal politics.

Modi's victories in Gujarat were the tipping point of the BJP's ascendancy. The social sanction for the 2002 violence spurred an active debate on the secular-communal issue and tilted the ideological balance in the latter's favor. Therefore, it is highly improbable that the BJP will go back on the path it walked since 2019. In his first tenure, Modi mixed 'governance' and Hindutva almost in equal measure and was a tad defensive when the Parivar's cattle vigilantes and 'reconversion' (shuddhikaran) crusaders showed their intent through lynching and coerced conversion.

Post 2019, the Hindutva zealots felt so empowered that when the police tried to crack down on the VHP after the recent Jahangirpuri occurrences in Delhi, the VHP protested, and the cops promptly pulled back. Contrast the VHP's withdrawal with Modi's clampdown on Parivar constituents, notably the VHP, in Gujarat whenever they disagreed and protested government policies.

The Maharashtra and Delhi civic polls scheduled to be held this year will test the BJP's reinvigorated Hindutva programme. In Maharashtra, it has tied up with Raj Thackeray's Maharashtra Navnirman Sena and backed its call to remove loudspeakers from mosques. In Delhi, the Hindu-Muslim fault lines evident after the Jahangirpuri violence might resonate across the city.

(The author is a senior journalist)



# Macron's re-election, a victory with challenges

BY RAKESH SOOD



**FRANCE HAS VOTED, EUROPE IS RELIEVED, AND THE FRENCH PRESIDENT NEEDS TO MOVE FAST TO DOUSE THE FLAMES OF POLARIZATION**

**"Having secured his second term, Mr. Macron urgently needs to douse the flames of polarization. The 72% turnout on Sunday is the lowest in a presidential run-off since 1969. In addition, of the 34.5 million votes cast, the three million blanks or spoiled ballots reflect disenchantment with both candidates. Mr. Melenchon has declared that Macron's presidency 'is floating in a sea of abstentions and blank or null ballots'. Over a third of the voters did not vote for Mr. Macron and many left-leaning voters only did so because they hated the far-right Ms. Le Pen more."**

Last Sunday, French voters gave President Emmanuel Macron his second term and Europe heaved a collective sigh of relief. Though Mr. Macron scored a convincing victory over his far-right-wing challenger, Marine Le Pen, his victory margin diminished when compared to the 2017 run-off, from 66% to 58.5%, while Ms. Le Pen improved her score from 34% to 41.5%, reflecting the changing character of French politics. Nevertheless, given that only two popularly elected Presidents have won second terms (François Mitterrand in 1988 and Jacques Chirac in 2002), Mr. Macron has reason to feel chuffed. European Union leaders, facing twin challenges of the Russian war in Ukraine and a tepid recovery from COVID-19, have enthusiastically welcomed Mr. Macron's victory given Ms. Le Pen's overt Euroscepticism.

## A changing politics

France's two-step voting process means that in the first round, voters express their real preferences; in the second round, with the field narrowed to two, they reject the one they dislike more.

At the beginning of the campaign in February, there were a dozen candidates, but by the end of March, most were fizzling out. The first round, held on April 10, showed the decimation of the two traditional parties that have ruled France since the 1960s, the center-right Republicans and the center-left Socialists. Republican candidate Valérie Pécresse, who had been part of Jacques Chirac's team and was later a Higher Education Minister, managed a 4.8% vote share, while Socialist candidate Anne Hidalgo, mayor of Paris since 2014, got a mere 1.7%. From the days of Socialist Presidents like Mitterrand and Hollande, and Republican Presidents like Sarkozy, Chirac and Valéry Giscard d'Estaing, this was a rout.

These two parties have been losing ground, from a collective 56% of the vote in the first round in 2012, to 27% in 2017 when Mr. Macron emerged on the scene and captured the imagination of voters as a pro-Europe, business-friendly, forward-looking liberal. In 2017, this enabled him to redefine the Centrist vote, successfully poaching from both the Republican and Socialist bases.

Five years later, Mr. Macron had a record to defend

and counter the image of being a pro-rich, aloof and elitist President. His response to the gilets jaunes (yellow vest) protests lacked empathy. Ms. Le Pen capitalized on this by seeking to appear more human and approachable, a single mother and a cat lover.

## A rough campaign

In the first round on April 10, Mr. Macron led with 27.8%, followed by Ms. Le Pen with 23.1% and left-wing populist Jean Luc Mélenchon (France Unbowed) with a credible 21.9%. Extreme-right-wing journalist turned candidate Éric Zemmour, whose presence helped Ms. Le Pen appear relatively moderate, also got 7% vote. Other mainstream candidates Jean Lasalle, formerly MoDem (Democratic Movement) and Yannick Jadot (Greens) only managed 3.1% and 4.6%, respectively. The fact that far-right and far-left parties accounted for 58% of the vote in the first round reflects the growing polarization in domestic French politics. Centre-left voters switched from Ms. Hidalgo and Mr. Jadot to Mr. Melenchon and center-right from Ms. Pécresse to Mr. Macron.

The slow rightward drift in French politics has sharpened since the terrorist attacks in 2015 and the consequent debates on identity and laïcité (French version of secularism) emerged as key themes in the early weeks till the Ukraine war and rising cost of living assumed priority.

Mr. Zemmour's campaign exploited the 'great replacement' theory, (originally propounded by Renault Camus) - that the non-white, non-Christian and non-French are gradually replacing the white Christian French population. Mr. Zemmour grew his base by asking young French people if they were willing to live as a minority in the land of their ancestors. Ms. Le Pen, conscious of the need to retain her base lest they drifted to Mr. Zemmour, promised a ban on the hijab (headscarf) and a constitutional amendment that would distinguish between "native born French" and "others" for access to education, housing and other social benefits, and restricting citizenship to only those who have "earned it and fully assimilated."

Mr. Macron was late to join the campaign, thinking that he could ensure support by appearing presidential, involved with the geopolitics of the war in Ukraine. Since December when tensions began rising, he has had nearly two dozen telephone conversations with Russian President Vladimir Putin, visited Moscow and Kyiv and had multiple exchanges with North Atlantic Treaty Organization and European Union (EU) leaders. He filed his candidature on March 3, a day before the deadline and spent little time on the campaign trail before the first round. His poll ratings slipped from 30% in early March by five points leading to a strategy shift.

It was only in April that Mr. Macron realized that the "progressive liberal centrist" platform that had delivered victory in 2017 was no longer working. The field was dominated either by a utopian extremism of the Left or a nationalist extremism bordering on racism on the Right. Mr. Macron began to talk about building a 'dam' to preserve the Centre. To shift the debate from 'identity', he promised full employment in five years, tax cuts for households and small businesses and softened his stand on raising the retirement age from 62 years to 65, spreading it over a nine-year timeframe.

For the second round, the debate turned personal. Mr. Macron highlighted Ms. Le Pen's ties with Mr. Putin, describing him as her 'banker', called her a 'climate sceptic', blamed her policy as 'spelling the end of the EU' and made the election a 'referendum on secularism



Celebrations at the Eiffel Tower Photo / Courtesy Tribune and Europe'

Ms. Le Pen blamed him for ignoring the rising cost of food and fuel and declining pensions, sought a 'Europe of nations' rather than an EU, called him 'a climate hypocrite', and the election a referendum on "Macron or France'.

## The obstacles, from June

Having secured his second term, Mr. Macron urgently needs to douse the flames of polarization. The 72% turnout on Sunday is the lowest in a presidential run-off since 1969. In addition, of the 34.5 million votes cast, the three million blanks or spoiled ballots reflect disenchantment with both candidates. Mr. Melenchon has declared that Macron's presidency 'is floating in a sea of abstentions and blank or null ballots'. Over a third of the voters did not vote for Mr. Macron and many left-leaning voters only did so because they hated the far-right Ms. Le Pen more.

National Assembly elections are due in June and if the Left take the Assembly, Mr. Melenchon could become Prime Minister; a prospect of co-habitation that ensures policy gridlock. In such a scenario, polarization will only increase and Mr. Macron's centrist experiment would be a short-lived reprieve from the rightward shift.

That is why at his victory speech at the foot of the Eiffel tower, Mr. Macron struck a conciliatory note, thanking those who helped defeat Ms. Le Pen and "promising to be a president for all."

## Relief in Europe, India

Such was the concern in Europe about the election that in an unprecedented move, the Portuguese and Spanish Prime Ministers, António Costa and Pedro Sánchez, and German Chancellor Olaf Scholz co-authored an Op-Ed in the Le Monde on April 21, urging French voters to reject Ms. Le Pen. The congratulatory messages pouring in from western capitals reflect relief as a Le Pen victory would have severely damaged western unity, at a critical moment in Europe.

India too has reason to be happy with Mr. Macron's victory. India and France have enjoyed a solid strategic partnership, established in 1998 that has expanded to cover cooperation in defense, nuclear and space sectors, climate issues and renewables, cybersecurity and counterterrorism. A French presence in the Indo-Pacific has prodded the EU too to shift towards an Indo-Pacific strategy.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will be travelling to Germany and Denmark on a bilateral visit in the first week of May. It provides a welcome opportunity to spend a day in Paris to congratulate Mr. Macron and impart new momentum to the relationship.

(The author is a former diplomat who served as India's Ambassador to France and is presently Distinguished Fellow at the Observer Research Foundation)



# Mission politics started from Mission in BC

BY PRABHJOT SINGH



It was not easy. The early migrants from South Asia were not welcome to Canada. They not only suffered numerous hardships but were also denied the right for a decent living. They had no voting rights.

In fact, the concept of the Nagar Kirtan processions, or the Sikh Parades, proved to be an effective tool for the overseas Sikh community to introduce itself as a peaceful and hard-working group that had no qualms of making countries of their present abode as their homes.

The first ever-Sikh Parade or Nagar Kirtan procession was organized on January 19, 1908, along Second Avenue in Vancouver.

It has been this commitment that has helped them to script an unprecedented success story the world over. Though the Punjabis - initially described as Hindus - started reaching Canada in early 1900, they were denied voting rights in British Columbia from 1907 onwards. They had to wait for 40 long years to win back the right to vote. In 1947, the requirement to be a voter was changed to Canadian citizenship in addition to being a British subject. It was in 1950 that the first Sikh - Naranjan Singh Grewal - was elected to the City Council of Mission in British Columbia.

He became the first "Hindu" (the colloquial term for South Asians at the time) elected to any political position in Canada. Later, he became the first South Asian migrant to become Mayor of the Mission City Council in 1954. Grewal's run for a seat in the BC Legislature as a member of the CCF surprised no one. He was first and foremost a man of the people. He lost the assembly election in a close battle.

The Indo-Canadian community was waiting for the break Naranjan Singh Grewal had provided. Once the process of its assimilation in mainstream politics started, the Punjabi migrant community set its goals high. And before the turn of the century, it had three of its nominees - Gurbax Malhi, Herb Dhaliwal, and Jag Bhaduria - sitting in the House of Commons in Ottawa.

And long before their journey to Ottawa started, the beginning, though unsuccessful, was made in late 60s and early 70s. In 1970, a new party was born. It was headed by an Indo-Canadian. Called Communist Party of Canada (Marxist-Leninist), it was founded by Hardial Singh Bains, a trained Bacteriologist. Born in Mahilpur in Hoshiarpur, Hardial moved to Vancouver when he was 19.

Much before Jagmeet Singh became the President of the NDP, Hardial Singh Bains had earned the distinction of leading a national political party in Canada.

After studying in Canada, England, and Ireland, Hardial Singh Bains returned to Canada and spearheaded the workers movement. Since Elections Canada does not allow the use of the word "communist" in the name of any party, Hardial Singh Bains got his party registered as Marxist-Leninist Party of Canada in 1974. Before his death in 1997, the Marxist-Leninist Party contested the 1974, 1979, 1980, 1993 and 1997 federal elections. Though the party has never succeeded in sending any of its members to the House of Commons, it fielded its largest number of candidates, 177, in 1980. Many of these candidates were migrants, including those from India. Amarjit Dhillon, who was the party candidate from Vancouver South, both in 1979 and 1980, polled only 91 and 63 votes. Overall, though the party never aggregated 0.20 per cent of total votes polled, still it never gave up its fight and contested the last federal elections in 2021 by fielding 36 candidates.

It was in 1974 when Hari Singh, a teacher, contested on Liberal ticket from Okanagan-Kootenay. Though it was a Liberal stronghold, but Hari Singh lost. After his



Some Indo-Canadian politicians

defeat, he accused the majority community of Liberals of voting against him. Subsequently, the Liberals retained the seat.

Ten years later in 1984, another teacher, Harkirpal Singh Sora, contested from Vancouver South. He too was unsuccessful.

Deepak Obhrai was the longest serving MP from Calgary East. Long before he emerged on the scene, in 1988 this riding had tried to elect Anil Giga, a Liberal, to the House of Commons. He, however, was defeated by Alex Kindy by 18,227 votes.

The Bramalea-Gore-Malton Riding has always remained a stronghold of the Punjabi migrants. The first attempt by the community to get into the House of Commons was in 1988, when the Liberals put up Gurjit Grewal, who lost by 2,185 votes to Harry Chadwick of the CP.

Palbinder Shergill, a young amritdhari Sikh and a practicing lawyer, was one of the first Punjabi women to contest federal elections. She was unsuccessful along with another Punjabi Indo-Canadian candidate from the Surrey Central Riding. The other candidate was Charan Gill who had earlier made an attempt to get into the House of Commons in 1988 but was defeated by Benno Friesen of the PC. He represented the NDP.

## Sikh Turban has become an integral part of Canadian Parliament



Two turbaned Sikh politicians - one from yesteryear, and another from now - Gurbax Singh Malhi and Jagmeet Singh

October 25, 1993 would go down in the annals of history of the Canadian House of Commons as a golden letter day. It was on this day that Canada earned the distinction of electing the first turbaned Sikh MP to any Parliament outside India. The honor went to Gurbax Singh Malhi as he was declared successful from Bramalea-Gore-Malton riding.

Though two more MPs of Indian origin - Harbance

(Herb) Singh Dhaliwal and Jagdish Bhaduria - also made their debut in the Canadian House of Commons simultaneously, the spotlight was on Gurbax Singh Malhi. Since then, no Canadian Parliament has been complete without a turbaned Sikh represented on it.

Starting with three MPs in 1993, now the Indo-Canadian community has grown six times in its strength in the House of Commons. It represents all three major parties - the ruling Liberals, the main Opposition party the Conservatives, and the third major party NDP headed by an Indo-Canadian Jagmeet Singh. Incidentally, Jagmeet Singh is the lone Indo-Canadian NDP in the current House of Commons.

Of 42 MPs of Indian origin elected to House of Commons since 1993, Navdeep Singh Bains, Tim Uppal, Jagmeet Singh, Randeep Sarai, Harjit Singh Sajjan, Darshan Singh Kang, Raj Grewal, Jasraj Singh Hallan and Iqwinder Singh Gaheer, are among those who earned special limelight because of their colorful turbans.

Incidentally, Gurbax Singh Malhi has till date remained the longest serving Sikh MP representing the Liberals. He was elected five times starting in 1993 till he lost the 2011 elections. Otherwise, Deepak Obhrai, who was born in Tanzania, earned the distinction of longest serving Canadian MP of Indian origin. He retained his House of Commons seat for seven consecutive terms mostly as a nominee of Conservatives.

While Gurbax Singh Malhi, Jag Bhaduria and Herb Dhaliwal were the first representatives of Liberals in Canadian Parliament, the honor for giving representation to Indo-Canadians in the House of Commons on behalf of Conservatives went to Deepak Obhrai and Gurmant Grewal. Subsequently, Jasbir Singh Sandhu and Jinny Jogindera Sims were the first Indo-Canadians to represent NDP in the Canadian Parliament.

Women of Indo-Canadian descent did not take along to reach Ottawa's Parliament Hill. Ruby Dhalla (Liberal from Ontario) and Nina Grewal (Conservative from British Columbia) became the torch bearers. They were followed by Jinny Jogindera Sims (NDP).

Sonia Sidhu, Ruby Sahota, Kamal Khara, Bardish Chagger and Anju Dhillon created ripples when they all made their entry into the 42nd Parliament and are all continuing in the current 44th Parliament. In the 43rd Parliament they were joined by Anita Anand, the first Indo-Canadian woman politician to hold the important portfolio of Defense. Also, a new entrant was Jag Sahota, the ninth woman of Indian origin to enter Canadian Parliament.

These Canadian MPs of Indian origins have several other firsts to their credit. For example, Gurmant Singh Grewal and Nina Grewal were the first couple to sit in the same House. Herb Dhaliwal was the first from the group to be inducted in the Canadian Cabinet as a Minister for Oceans. Many of them have remained Parliamentary Secretaries attached with important ministries.

In the previous Liberal Government, Harjit Singh Sajjan, became the toast of not only the Indo-Canadian community but also of the rapidly growing Indian Diaspora after he was named the Defense Minister of Canada.

Bardish Chagger hawked media headlines on becoming the first woman leader of the House of Commons. And late last year, Anita Anand stole the limelight as the first Indo-Canadian woman to hold the portfolio of Defense Minister. Incidentally, the last two Liberal Governments had an Indo-Canadian as Defense Minister.

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# USCIRF recommends to designate India, 14 others as 'Country of Particular Concern'

WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP): A US Congress-constituted quasi-judicial body on Monday, April 25, recommended to the Biden Administration to designate India, China, Pakistan, Afghanistan and 11 other nations as "Country of Particular Concern" in the context of status of religious freedom.

India has in the past said that the American body on international religious freedom has chosen to be guided only by its biases on a matter on which it has no locus standi.

The recommendations of the US Commission for International Religious Freedom (USCIRF) are not binding on the US Government.

Other countries recommended for this designation by the USCIRF in its annual report are Burma, Eritrea, Iran, Nigeria, North Korea, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Vietnam.

The USCIRF had made a similar recommendation to the US government



USCIRF has recommended that India be designated as a "country of particular concern" in the context of status of religious freedom

last year which was not accepted by the Biden Administration.

India has previously rejected the reports by USCIRF.

"Our principled position remains that we see no locus standi for a foreign entity to pronounce on the state of our citizens' constitutionally protected rights," the ministry of external affairs had said in the past.

"We have a robust public discourse in India and constitutionally mandated institutions that guarantee protection of religious freedom and rule of law," the MEA had said.

Among its recommendations last year, five countries -- Afghanistan, India, Nigeria, Syria, and Vietnam - are not designated as Country of Particular Concern by the US Government.

"In 2021, religious freedom conditions in India significantly worsened. During the year, the Indian government escalated its promotion and enforcement of policies-including those promoting a Hindu-nationalist agenda-that negatively affect Muslims, Christians, Sikhs, Dalits, and other religious minorities," USCIRF said.

"The government continued to systemize its ideological vision of a Hindu state at both the national and state levels through the use of both existing and new laws and structural changes hostile to the country's religious minorities," it said.

Established by the US government in 1998 after the inaction of the International Religious Freedom Act, recommendations of USCIRF are non-binding on the state department. Traditionally, India does not recognize the view of USCIRF. For more than a decade, it has denied visas to members of the USCIRF.

## U.S. REPORTS ITS FIRST HUMAN CASE OF H5 BIRD FLU



Health workers don protective gear prior to a chicken culling operation. H5N1 viruses have been found in U.S. commercial and backyard birds in 29 states and in wild birds in 34 States. File photo / The Hindu

WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP): The person was involved in the culling of poultry presumed to have had H5N1 bird flu, the CDC said in a statement.

The first known human case of H5 bird flu in the United States has appeared in a person in Colorado, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) said on Thursday, April 28, 2022.

The person tested positive for avian influenza A(H5) virus and was involved in the culling of poultry presumed to have had H5N1 bird flu, the CDC said in a statement.

"This case does not change the human risk assessment for the general public, which CDC considers to be low," the agency added.

The patient reported fatigue for a few days as the only symptom and has since recovered, the CDC said, adding that the person was being isolated and treated with the influenza antiviral drug oseltamivir.

H5N1 viruses have been found in U.S. commercial and backyard birds in 29 states and in wild birds in 34 States since the CDC started monitoring for illness among people exposed to the viruses in late 2021.

"CDC has tracked the health of more than 2,500 people with exposures to H5N1 virus-infected birds and this is the only case that has been found to date. Other people involved in the culling operation in Colorado have tested negative for H5 virus infection, but they are being retested out of an abundance of caution," the CDC said.

Globally, this is the second human case associated with this specific group of H5 viruses, which are currently predominant, the CDC said. The first was reported in Britain in December 2021. (Agencies)

## USCIRF report on religious freedom work of 'Hinduphobic' people, alleges Hindu body

WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP): A Hindu body here called the USCIRF report on religious freedom a work of "Hinduphobic" commission members while Muslim and Christian groups hailed the observations made in it, demanding that the US declare India as a "country of particular concern".

The US Commission for International Religious Freedom (USCIRF) report recommended to the Biden Administration to designate India, China, Pakistan, Afghanistan and 11 other nations as "countries of particular concern" in the context of religious freedom.

The recommendations are not binding on the US government.

HinduPACT, an initiative of the World Hindu Council of America, in a statement alleged that the USCIRF has been taken over by "Indophobic and Hinduphobic members".

The American Muslim Institution (AMI) and its associate organizations applaud the USCIRF recommendation, saying religious freedom conditions in India "significantly worsened" in 2021.

The Federation of Indian American Christian Organizations and the Indian American Muslim Council in separate statements also applauded the USCIRF recommendation.

During a special virtual congressional briefing, a day after the release of the report, USCIRF Commissioner Anurima Bhargava had alleged that Indian government officials were tolerating and engaging in religious persecution of Muslims and Christians with prolific mob violence.

India has dismissed such allegations. Senior US government officials have told lawmakers that India has a vibrant civil society, an independent judiciary and a mature functional democracy, which has enough mechanisms to address the internal human rights concerns if any.



HinduPACT, an initiative of the World Hindu Council of America, in a statement alleged that the USCIRF has been taken over by "Indophobic and Hinduphobic members".

### HinduPACT in a statement slammed the USCIRF

"This year's report follows a pattern of reports that have appeared in previous years. Based on publicly available information on topics like the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) and Kashmir, the USCIRF report is a copy-and-paste of talking points peddled by an agglomeration of Islamist groups working with radical Islamist group Justice for All on whose platform USCIRF commissioners appear regularly," alleged Utsav Chakrabarti, executive director of HinduPACT.

"It is now obvious that the USCIRF has been taken over by the Indophobic and Hinduphobic members. Many of these members have attended India and Hindu bashing events. It is no surprise that their selective observations are meant to promote a political agenda and further their electoral reach in select communities," said Ajay Shah, president of the World Hindu Council of America (VHPA). In a statement, Koshy George, Federation of Indian American Christian Organizations, recommended that the president and the US Administration accept the USCIRF recommendations and name India as a "country of particular concern" while it could still help protect American interests in that region for the long-term.

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



# US Senator seeks clarity from Biden Admin on CAATSA sanctions waiver to India

WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP): A powerful Democratic Senator on Tuesday sought clarity from the Biden Administration on CAATSA sanctions waiver to India on purchase of S-400 missile defense system from Russia.

"In South and Central Asia, we need clarity on whether the administration will waive CAATSA sanctions for India's purchase of the Russian S-400 missile defense system and what role, if so, are they going to continue to play in the QUAD," said Senator Bob Menendez, Chairman of the powerful Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

Menendez, a Democratic Senator from the State of New Jersey, said this in his opening remarks during the Committee's hearing on the annual budgetary proposals of the State Department by Secretary of State Antony Blinken.

The Countering America's Adversaries Through Sanctions Act (CAATSA), which was brought in 2017, provides for punitive actions against any country engaged in transactions with Russian defense and intelligence sectors.

In October 2018, India had signed a USD 5 billion deal with Russia to buy five units of the S-400 air defense missile systems, despite a warning from the then Trump administration that going ahead with the contract may invite US sanctions.

The US has already imposed sanctions on Turkey under the CAATSA for the purchase of a batch of S-400 missile defense systems from Russia.

Following the US sanctions on Turkey over the procurement of S-400 missile systems, there were apprehensions that Washington may impose similar

punitive measures on India.

Menendez said that he would like to hear the administration's plans for countries in NATO eastern flank and for Taiwan, for that fact, which is facing a similar threat from China.

"Whether it is Japan, South Korea, or Australia, when it comes to countering China, a strong alliance with our partners is vital. Xi Jinping's hyper nationalism is more assertive around the globe than ever before," he said.

"The State Department must work on a pragmatic appraisal of how to best combat China's predatory economic and trade practices, so we have the ability to outcompete China in the generation ahead, bilaterally and through robust presence and action in regional and international institutions," the Senator said.



Senator Bob Menendez, Chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee has sought clarification on CAATSA sanctions waiver to India on purchase of S-400 missile defense system from Russia.

# India's Eminent Parliamentarian Suresh Prabhu honored in Chicago

CHICAGO, IL (TIP): Indian American Business Council [IABC] hosted a rousing reception in honor of distinguished visiting Member of Parliament & Former Central Minister Suresh Prabhakar Prabhu at a ceremony held in Downer's grove, Illinois on April 20, 2022. The reception attracted a great host of community's prominent organizational leaders who paid glowing tributes to Suresh Prabhu for his exemplary services as the former central minister and as a renowned Indian parliamentarian who leaves behind indelible footprints for his sterling reputation as a man of impeccable integrity.

Ajeet Singh, IABC President & principal host - welcoming the gathering of the distinguished guests - heaped a generous measure of praise on Suresh Prabhu for his illustrious record of accomplishment of remarkable distinction and the honor with which he served the government of India spanning decades with spotless integrity coupled with unwavering devotion to the principles of honesty. Dr. Sreenivas Reddy, Chair of the Illinois Medical Board - in his remarks - extolled the yeoman leadership of Suresh Prabhu and described him as a highly admired Indian statesman who played a significant role serving as the Indian Emissary and Sherpa at the G20 & G7 Summit. Dr. Sreenivas Reddy added that he leaves behind enduring footprints with his groundbreaking program initiatives that are directed towards the welfare of the citizens and the



Former Central Minister Suresh Prabhakar Prabhu with Vishwa Hindu Parishad team  
Photo / Asian Media USA

betterment of the poor.

Dr. Bharat Barai speaking 'live' from a remote location hailed Suresh Prabhu for his exceptional leadership and his vision and thanked him for his extraordinary services to the people of India. Dr. Bharat Barai thanked Suresh Prabhu for presiding over some of the most significant portfolios of Railways, Civil Aviation and Commerce & Industry with absolute distinction.

Dr. Suresh Reddy, Trustee Oakbrook Village introduced Suresh Prabhu as a visionary who presided over as central minister with remarkable honor and lauded him for his distinguished credentials that propelled him to the league of top three Indian leaders in Asia.

Shweta Baid, Alderwoman, City of Aurora, Meghna Bansal, Trustee, Wheatland Township and Judge Kavita Athanikar joined with their gracious remarks extolling the leadership of

Suresh Prabhu.

Suresh Prabhakar Prabhu in his comprehensive remarks thanked Indian American Business Council [IABC] for hosting such a warm reception and said he is deeply touched by the lavish outpouring of honor and acclamation. He commended the role of NRI's in fostering historic Indo-US relations, which he added largely due to your unwavering ambassadorial efforts.

Suresh Prabhu presented a detailed historical overview that shaped India and he delved extensively on education. Suresh Prabhu indicated that he is collaborating with American universities to foster a larger and wider scope of learning in the University he founded. He said India's role in a 21st-century world is that of immense responsibility and it is our duty to align the objectives of our institutions to the larger vision of the nation. Suresh Prabhu added that the university he

founded is based on the principles of social impact and development. As an institution, my focus is on high-impact areas such as entrepreneurship, healthcare, creativity, education, and leadership. Our great ethos and culture of inquiry have to be explored and applied in a modern sense. Education is the medium to do this, he added.

Earlier, Keerthi Kumar Ravoori, IABC's Chair in his remarks described Suresh Prabhu a passionate votary of reforms who relentlessly strived to redefine the parameters of growth ushering positive transformation in the Indian society. Gerard Moore, Staff Director for Congressman Danny Davis presented Suresh Prabhu with the congressional proclamation that chronicled his invaluable contributions to the people of India. Vinesh Virani, IABC's Executive Vice President conducted the question & answer session and while proposing the vote of thanks recognized and acknowledged the presence of many organizational leaders for their presence to honor Suresh Prabhu.

Several other prominent organizational leaders who spoke at the reception including Dr. Vemuri Murthy, Harish Kolasani, Krishna Bansal, Harendra Mangrola, Rakesh Malhotra, Sanjay Shah, Shiveda, Hema Virani, Nirav Patel, Subu Nagasubramaniam, Manoj Singamsetti., Ganesh Kar, Hema Virani, JD Digsker and Rohit Joshi.

(Photographs and Press release / Asian Media USA)





## GOVT REINSTATES IAS OFFICER SHAH FAESAL 3 YEARS AFTER HE QUIT

NEW DELHI (TIP)

Former IAS officer Shah Faesal, who had tendered resignation from government service to join politics, has been allowed to rejoin his job.

Faesal, who was the first UPSC topper from Jammu and Kashmir, had resigned in 2018 citing personal reasons but later formed his own political party and was planning to contest elections. He was detained at the Delhi airport on August 4, 2019, a day before Parliament pushed through constitutional changes, revoking Articles 370 and 35A that granted special status to Jammu and Kashmir and bifurcating the erstwhile state into two UTs of J&K and Ladakh.

Faesal has now been allowed to join the government service and his name figures at serial number 35 on the list of IAS officers in J&K. He himself had dropped hints about his return to government service in some form after his resignation wasn't accepted.

"Eight months of my life (Jan 2019-Aug 2019) created so much baggage that I was almost finished. While chasing a chimera, I lost almost everything that I had built over the years. Job. Friends. Reputation. Public goodwill. But I never lost hope. My idealism had let me down," he tweeted.

"But I had faith in myself. That I would undo the mistakes I had made. That life would give me another chance. A part of me is exhausted with the memory of those 8 months and wants to erase that legacy. Much of it is already gone. Time will mop off the rest. In believe," he added.

"Just thought of sharing that life is beautiful. It is always worth giving ourselves another chance. Setbacks make us stronger. And there is an amazing world beyond the shadows of the past. I turn 39 next month. And I'm really excited to start all over again," he wrote.

# Working towards removing AFSPA from Northeast: PM

DIPHU (ASSAM) (TIP)

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday, April 28, said efforts are on to remove AFSPA completely from the northeast region.

Addressing a 'Peace, Unity and Development' rally here, he said the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act could be withdrawn from various parts of the region as the law and order situation has improved in the last eight years.

"As the (law and order) situation improved with 75 per cent decrease in violence in the region, there have been changes in the imposition of laws. The AFSPA was first revoked in Tripura and then in Meghalaya," he said.

The previous governments in Assam in the last three decades had extended it again and again as there was no improvement in the law and order situation, Modi said.

"Due to the proper control of the situation in the last eight years, the AFSPA has been removed from most parts of the state. We are trying to withdraw it from the remaining parts too.

"The Act is applicable in some areas of Nagaland and Manipur, and we are working speedily to revoke it completely," he said.

In a major outreach to the northeast region, the Centre had announced reduction of the disturbed areas imposed under the AFSPA in Nagaland, Assam and Manipur from April 1, after decades.

PM Modi also said the effect of the BJP's "double engine" government is evident in the return of permanent peace and speedy development in Assam.

The term "double engine" is used by BJP leaders to refer to the party being in power at the Centre as well as in a state.

The government has entered into peace agreements in Assam's Karbi Anglong and in Tripura, while efforts are on to ensure permanent peace and speedy development in the entire region, he said.

"Several outfits of Karbi Anglong returned to the mainstream to march forward in the path of peace and development. The Bodo Agreement in 2020 paved the way for peace in the region and in Tripura, the NLFT also came forward for the peace, while the two-and-a-half decade long Bru-Reang



Prime Minister Narendra Modi arrives to address the 'peace, unity and development rally' at Diphu in Karbi Anglong, Assam. PTI

issue was resolved," he said.

Permanent peace returned to the region, and speedy development in the northeastern states was ensured due to a collective effort of the Centre and the state governments, PM Modi said.

He stated that this process is "on and will continue in the future."

"Earlier, the northeast was known for bomb blasts and violence and the worst sufferers were our mothers, sisters and children. Now as I see the smile on their faces when the youths have given up their arms, I feel God is showering blessings on me," PM Modi said.

The Centre has always tried to resolve difficulties of people in Karbi Anglong and other tribal areas with the policy of 'Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas and Sabka Vishwas', he said.

"I have tried to understand each problem of the region as a member of your family and respect your dreams and aspirations. People have explained their problems and I have tried to resolve them sensitively as a member of your family," Modi said at the rally.

Besides, efforts have been made to solve border disputes among states in the region in a cordial manner, he said.

"I want to especially thank Chief Minister of Assam (Himanta Biswa Sarma) along with his counterparts from the northeastern states as their efforts are helping the region emerge as a strong

economic power," PM Modi said.

The recent boundary agreement between Meghalaya and Assam will encourage the others to resolve the issues and help them march forward, he said.

The prime minister also laid the foundation stone for colleges of veterinary science and agriculture and a model government college in Karbi Anglong and also launched 2,985 'Amrit Sarovar' projects across Assam. (PTI)

The Rs 1000-crore projects for Karbi Anglong will give new opportunities to youths, particularly those who have returned to the mainstream to participate in the nation-building process, the PM said. (PTI)

"These foundations are not just that of any building or institution but are the foundations for the bright future of the youths of Karbi Anglong," he said.

Speaking on 'Amrit Sarovars' in the state, as a part of the Azadi ke Amrit Utsav to commemorate 75th anniversary of India's Independence, the prime minister said he had started this in Jammu and Kashmir last week, and in Assam, "these facilities will not only be a source of water but also of income generation".

He also pointed out that people should focus on the concept of 'vocal for local' for economic development of the region.

Source: PTI

## Covid-19: 3,377 new cases in India in highest daily surge since mid-March

NEW DELHI (TIP)

India on Friday, April 29, reported 3,377 new Covid-19 cases in the last 24 hours, the highest tally since mid-March. The country also reported 60 covid-19 related deaths, the ministry of health affairs said.

The 60 new fatalities include 42 from Karnataka, 14 from Kerala, and two each from Delhi and Maharashtra. The overall death count across the country stands at nearly 5.24 lakhs, with Maharashtra reporting nearly 1.50 lakh deaths. Kerala reported 68,966 fatalities.

The active cases increased by 821 while

2,496 people recovered from the contagious virus. The total number of infections now stand at 4,30,72,176. The active cases comprise 0.04 per cent of the total infections, while the national COVID-19 recovery rate was recorded at 98.74 per cent, the ministry said.

The health ministry bulletin pegged the daily positivity rate at 0.71 per cent and the weekly positivity rate at 0.63 per cent. The number of people who have recuperated from the disease surged to 4,25,30,622, while the case fatality rate was 1.22 per cent.

Delhi continues to report over 1,000



cases daily. On Thursday, the national capital witnessed 1,490 new infections.

Two fatalities related to the contagious disease were reported, while the positivity rate soared to 4.62 per cent.

Maharashtra recorded 165 new coronavirus cases including 90 in Mumbai alone, the health department said.

India's COVID-19 tally had crossed the 20-lakh mark on August 7, 2020, 30 lakh on August 23, 40 lakh on September 5 and 50 lakh on September 16. It went past 60 lakh on September 28, 70 lakh on October 11, crossed 80 lakh on October 29, 90 lakh on November 20 and surpassed the one-crore mark on December 19.





### BIHAR WOMAN MADE TO MASSAGE COP INSIDE POLICE STATION

**PATNA (TIP):** A senior police official in Bihar has been suspended after a viral video showed him receiving a massage inside a police station from a woman who had gone there, reportedly to file a complaint.

The incident took place in the state's Saharsa district.

Shashibhushan Sinha, a senior official at the Darhar outpost of Nauhatta police station, was seen in the clip speaking on the phone while receiving the massage without his shirt on. He was heard putting in a word for the woman's case over the call.

The video was shot inside the residential quarters at the police outpost, reports said.

NDTV could not independently verify the authenticity of the video.

Saharsa Superintendent of Police Lipi Singh suspended the official after the video went viral. *Source: NDTV*

## Ayodhya: 7 held for dumping objectionable items outside mosques

NEW DELHI (TIP)

The Uttar Pradesh (UP) Police arrested seven people on Thursday, 28 April, for throwing objectionable items, such as pages of holy books and inflammatory posters, outside three mosques and a shrine in Ayodhya.

The police were able to nab the suspects through evidence captured by CCTV cameras.

"While seven persons have been arrested, four others are absconding. We will arrest them soon. During questioning of those arrested, it came to light that they wanted to ruin the amicable atmosphere and peaceful tradition of this city," said Senior Superintendent of Police (Ayodhya) Shailesh Kumar Pandey.

Pandey said that 11 people were involved in the incident, adding that action under the Gangsters Act and the National Security Act will also be initiated against them, according to news agency ANI.

The accused persons include Mahesh Kumar Mishra, Pratyush Srivastava, Nitin Kumar, Deepak Kumar Gaur alias Gunjan, Brijesh Pandey, Shatrughan Prajapati, and Vimal Pandey. They are all residents of UP's Ayodhya.

The police also said that Mahesh



Objectionable items, such as pages of holy books and inflammatory posters, were thrown outside three mosques and a shrine in Ayodhya.

Kumar Mishra was the "mastermind" behind the incident, and that the plan was implemented by the group to take revenge for the communal violence in Delhi's Jahangirpuri.

"A total of eight persons on four motorcycles, led by Mahesh Mishra, threw objectionable posters and objects at the mosques and the shrine. The objects

which they had thrown were recovered, and the vehicles used by them have been impounded. After collecting the evidence, police teams were able to figure out the whole chain of events," Pandey added.

The SSP also said that the accused had gathered at Brijesh Pandey's house on the night of 26 April to finalise the plan.

*Source: The Quint*

## Skeletons found in Punjab's Ajnala are of soldiers from Gangetic plain killed by British in 1857, reveals study

PUNE (TIP)

Latest DNA-based evidence confirm the human remains found dumped in an abandoned well in the Ajnala town of Punjab's Amritsar belonged to 246 young Indian soldiers who were brutally killed after they revolted against the British during the 1857 Indian uprising and belonged to the Gangetic plains, researchers said Thursday, April 28.

The study, published in the journal *Frontiers in Genetics* on Thursday, identified the individual remains as belonging to that of soldiers of the 26th Native Bengal Infantry regiment of the British Indian Army. The new evidence has put a lid on all hypotheses and folklore swirling around the Sepoy Mutiny in this Punjab district.

Archaeologists have called the site the largest possessing skeletal remains linked to any single event during the 1857 Indian rebellion.

Underneath the present-day religious structure in this Punjab town, the abandoned well-turned-dumping site in Ajnala had found a detailed mention in a textbook authored by a British official. The book, written by the then serving deputy commissioner of Amritsar in 1857, narrated how British officers forcing the use of beef and pork-greased cartridges met with strong opposition from the Indian soldiers stationed at Mian Mir cantonment (in present-day Lahore in Pakistan). After killing some British officers, a few hundred Indian soldiers fled toward Punjab (present day India) but were eventually captured, imprisoned, and later killed near Ajnala. As many as 282 Indian soldiers were killed, the book stated.

With the mass killing being a highly sensitive issue with the potential to trigger socio-political tensions in 1857, the concerned British officers decided to immediately dispose of their bodies by dumping them in the well at Ajnala. For several years following this 1857 mass killing, the incident never attracted much attention though it preceded events like the 1919 Jallianwala Bagh massacre involving General Reginald



The skeletal remains were found in a well in Punjab's Ajnala.

Dyer. Later, some historians hypothesised that these skeletal remains at Ajnala well belonged to individuals killed during the violence after the India-Pakistan Partition in 1947.

The interest in tracing the origins of the dead stemmed in 2014 after an amateur group of local archaeologists unscientifically exhumed some skeletal remains from this well. The same year, the government tasked a group led by anthropologist J S Sehrawat from Panjab University to scientifically investigate the matter.

Teeth, jaw fragments, vertebrae, skulls, phalanges (bone of the finger or toe), femur (thigh bone), clavicles (collar bone), bones of arms along with some coins, jewellery, and medals were unearthed from the well site. As many as 9,646 teeth samples—the world's largest teeth remain from a single archaeological site—were recovered. Of these, over 4,000 have been analysed so far. Apart from the fact that bone remains were available in abundance, the researchers performed a thorough study of the teeth samples also because the 165-year-old bone remains were not well preserved, and had severe damage making them unfit for the scope of a proper scientific study.

DNA was extracted from 50 good quality teeth

samples and subjected to mitochondrial DNA (mtDNA) analysis to determine the genetic origins from biological samples. In addition, 85 teeth samples were subjected to oxygen isotope analysis. Researchers said that the composition of tooth enamel with respect to elements like lead, zinc, and carbon increases with the person's age whereas there are certain other elements whose composition decreases with growing age.

"Food we eat regularly leaves some deposits on the tooth enamel. Upon analysis of such recovered teeth samples, it is possible to trace the plant or animal foods that were consumed. In the present study, the foods like legumes and lentil traces were found in the enamel. Thus origins of these killed soldiers were straight traced to the Gangetic plains," said co-researcher Gyaneshwar Chaubey from the Department of Zoology at the Banaras Hindu University (BHU).

The numerous research methods supported that the human skeletons found in the well were not of people living in Punjab or Pakistan, as commonly believed. "Rather, the DNA sequences matched with the people from Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, and West Bengal," said senior investigator K Thangaraj, the chief scientist at CSIR – Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology, and the director of the Centre for DNA Fingerprinting and Diagnostics, Hyderabad.

Speaking to *The Indian Express*, Sehrawat said, "On the basis of trace elements and ancient DNA analysis, the average age of the soldiers was calculated to be between 21 to 49 years, with an average of 33 years. As the element deposition in bone varies with age, more than 89 per cent of tooth samples were found to be in the 21 to 49 years age bracket."

In order to establish that the 246 Indians were soldiers, the group also performed a detailed dental pathology analysis. The dental assemblages of teeth samples were compared with existing data sets of skeletal remains of German soldiers of the same age group who were killed during World War II.

*Source: The Indian Express*



# India in history this Week

APRIL 29, 2022, TO MAY 5, 2022

## 29 APRIL

1848 Birth of well-known painter Raja Ravi Varma.  
1939 Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose resigned from the Congress.



1639 The foundation of the Red Fort was laid in Delhi.

1997 The ban on chemical weapons has been in force since 1997.

1547 Bhamashah, a friend, colleague and trusted advisor of Maharana Pratap of Mewar was born on this day in 1547.

1919 Birth of Indian tabla player Alla Rakha in 1919.

## 30 APRIL

1908 Khudiram Bose and Prafulla Chaki threw a bomb to kill the Kingsford magistrate in Muzaffarpur, but two were killed by innocent bombs.

1863 The Indian naval of the East India Company was sent to the British Navy.

1991 The volcano was active in Andaman.

2006 The Indian subcontinent hosted the 2011 Cricket World Cup in 2006.

2008 The driverless aircraft "Lakshya" was successfully tested in 2008 from Chandipur beach in Balasore district of Odisha.



2010 Dev Anand, an evergreen actor of Hindi films, was honored with the Dadasaheb Phalke Award in 2010 and Franco "Phalke Icon" in Mumbai.

1870 The birth of Dadasaheb Phalke, the famous film producer-director and screenwriter of India.

## 01 MAY

1897 Swami Vivekananda established the Ramakrishna Mission.



1908 Prafulla Chaki shot himself after executing the Muzaffarpur bombings.

1914 Carmaker Ford became the first company to implement an eight-hour rule for its employees.

1923 Start of celebrating May Day in India.

1960 Maharashtra and Gujarat became separate states.

1972 Nationalization of the country's coal mines.

1914 Carmaker Ford became the first company to implement an eight-hour rule for its employees.

## 02 MAY

1907 There was a fire of riots in Rawalpindi which spread from West Bengal to Punjab.

1926 Hindu women had the right to take elected office.

1968 The Public Provident Fund Act was approved in the Lok Sabha.



1996 The famous Guru Chandraswami was sentenced to Tihar Jail on charges of cheating.

1998 10.5 kg of Charas was captured by the Indian Army from Bandipura market.

1921 Birth of filmmaker, director and writer Satyajit Ray, ornamented with Padma Bhushan, Padma Vibhushan, Bharat Ratna, and Oscar Award.

1922 Birth of India's professional billiards player Wilson Jones.

1929 Birth of Indian politician and litterateur Vishnu Kant Shastri.

1949 Trial of Mahatma Gandhi murder case begins.

1985 Banarsidas Chaturvedi passed away. He was a famous journalist and litterateur.

2003 India announced to re-establish diplomatic relations with Pakistan. The relationship was severed following the December 2001 terrorist attack on Parliament.

## 03 MAY

1764 Nawab Mir Qasim of Bengal was defeated by the British.

1896 India's nationalist, politician, diplomat and former Defense Minister of India V.K. Birth of Krishna Menon

1913 The first Indian feature film Raja Harishchandra was released.



1919 The invasion of British India by Amanullah Khan which led to the Anglo-Afghan War.

1930 Birth of famous woman politician Sumitra Singh of Rajasthan.

1969 Third President of India Zakir Hussain passed away.

1977 The birth of the first female mathematician Maryam Mirzakhani to receive the 'Fields Medal', a prestigious world mathematics award.

1981 Indian cine actress Nargis died.

1989 Launch of country's first 50 kW solar power plant in Haryana.

2008 Tata Steel Limited got its first coal mining license in the UK.

1939 Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose established the All India Forward Block.

## 04 MAY

1980 Cole Mines Day was announced.

1799 Tipu Sultan died during a war.



1854 The country's first postage stamp was released in Kolkata.

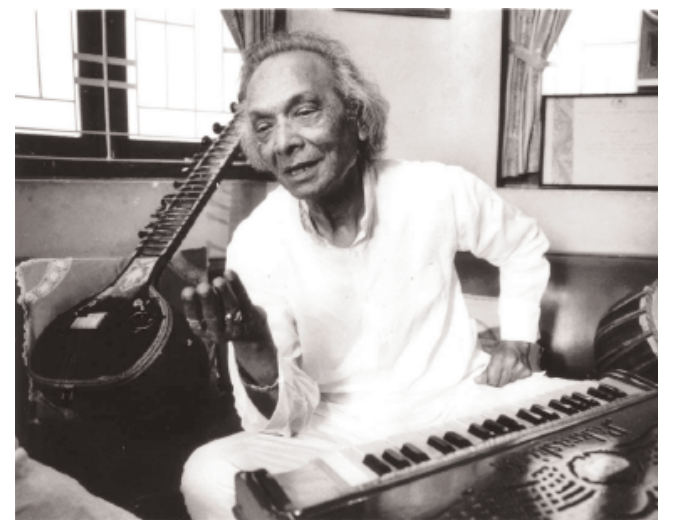
1923 Renowned filmmaker Mrinal Sen was born.

1959 Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru refused the treaty between India and Pakistan.

1980 Mazdoor Day was observed for the laborers working in the coal mines.

## 05 MAY

2006 Music director Naushad Ali, who is said to be the right mix of music and success, said goodbye to the world on this day.



1883 Surendra Nath Banerjee became the first journalist to go to jail.

1479 The third Sikh Guru, Guru Amar Das was born.

1888 Birth of the great revolutionary Triloknath Chakravarty.

1916 Former President Gyani Zail Singh was born.



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# HARLEM I (Hi) FILM FEST

## KRISHNA ASHU BHATI'S "THE UGLY TRUTH" AND SWAPNA KURUP'S "ELA: BREAKING BOUNDARIES" AMONG THEM

BY MABEL PAIS

The Harlem International Film Festival (Hi), New York takes place May 5-15. This 17th Edition is a hybrid presentation of the annual event.

Harlem International Film Festival's Program Director, Nasri Zacharia, said, "We are excited to once again have screenings at the New York Public Library and Columbia University, which both hold wonderful memories for this film festival. At the same time, we look forward to sharing so many wonderful films virtually to introduce our audiences throughout the state of New York to films from around the world. And, of course, we'll continue our efforts to truly showcase the filmmakers and the setting of our beloved home neighborhoods of Harlem, Upper Manhattan and the Bronx, which we call the HUB."

### 2022 HI FILM LINEUP

#### OPENING NIGHT SELECTIONS

##### A Gorgeous Mosaic

DIR: Jamal Joseph | USA | 25m | World Premiere

A portrait of David Dinkins, the first Black mayor of New York City.

##### An American Street Mural in Harlem

DIR: Ano Okera | USA | 39m | World Premiere

##### Love is in the Legend

DIR: Myra Lewis | USA | 1h 50m | World Premiere

##### Friday Screenings at Columbia University

##### Clarisa

DIR: Philip Knowlton | USA | 17m

##### Let's Talk Mental Health in Color

DIR: Camille Bradshaw | USA | 56m

##### Swimming Against the Current

DIR: Aminah Salaam | USA | 55m

##### Saturday Screenings at the AMC Magic Johnson

##### Theater Harlem 9

##### Blurring the Color Line: Chinese in the Segregated South

DIR: Crystal Lee Kwok | USA | 1h 17m

Preceded by

##### Shot in Italy

DIR: Mirko Bischofberger | Switzerland | 16m

Sign the Show DIR: Cat Brewer | USA | 1h 36m

##### Saturday Shortcuts #1

##### Uptown Shorts From Harlem to the Bronx

(TRT: 1h 6m)

B-Box : DIR: Xavier Michael Griffiths | USA | 10m

En Avant : DIR: Sarah Jean Williams | USA | 13m

1 East Coast Premiere

##### If My Voice Rang Louder Than My Skin

DIR: Kyra Peters | USA | 4m | East Coast Premiere

Lowlife : DIR: Alexandra Hinojosa | USA | 9m

Pécho : DIR: Luis Villanueva, Pier Paolo, Mason Coburn | Philippines | 2m

##### Silent Partner

DIR: Aristotle Torres | USA | 16m

Sheila : DIR: Gabri Christa | USA | 8m

##### Saturday Shortcuts #2

Black Love Matters : (TRT: 91 min)

##### An American Street Mural in Harlem

DIR: Ano Okera | USA | 39m | World Premiere

Black.Eco : DIR: Shauna Davis | USA | 12m

##### Black Love Manifesto

DIR: Liza Jessie Peterson | USA | 20m

Black Rainbow : DIR: Zig Dulay | Philippines | 20m | International Premiere

### VIRTUAL SCREENING SELECTIONS

#### NARRATIVE FEATURES

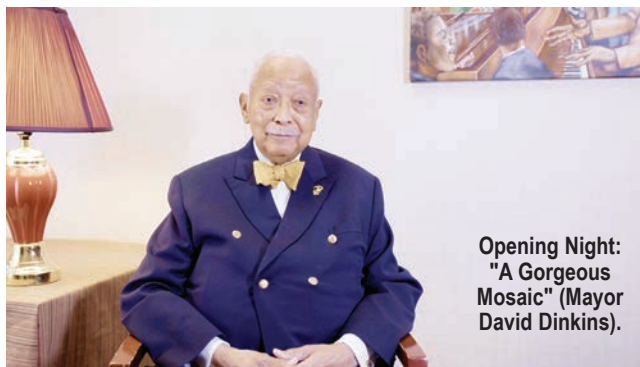
##### Broken Blooms

DIR: Luisito Lagdameo Ignacio | Philippines | 1h 43m | East Coast Premiere

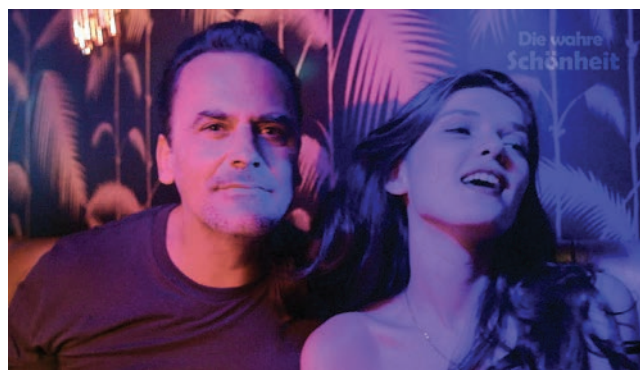
##### Maya And Her Lover

DIR: Nicole Sylvester | USA | 1h 46m

##### Never Better :



Opening Night: "A Gorgeous Mosaic" (Mayor David Dinkins).



"The Ugly Truth."



Ela: Breaking Boundaries."

Photos / Hi Film Fest

DIR: Julianne Fox | USA | 1h 21m | World Premiere

##### Person Woman Man Camera TV

DIR: Niav Conty | USA | 1h 17m

##### Playing Through

DIR: Balbinka Korzeniowska | USA | 1h 27m

##### Raise Your Hand

DIR: Jessica Rae | USA | 1h 31m

##### Ranch Water

DIR: Sophie Miller | USA | 1h 20m

##### The Ugly Truth

DIR: Krishna Ashu Bhati | Germany | 1h 36m

##### The Walk

DIR: Daniel Adams | USA | 1h 44m

##### What is Buried Must Remain

DIR: Elias Matar | Lebanon | 1h 35m | World Premiere

### DOCUMENTARY FEATURES

#### CINEMA AND SANCTUARY - Hans Richter &

America's First Documentary Film

DIR: Dave Davidson | USA | 60m

##### City of a Million Dreams

DIR: Jason Berry | USA | 89m

Dying for Gold : DIR: Catherine Meyburgh & Richard Pakleppa | South Africa | 1h 39m

##### Ela: Breaking Boundaries

DIR: Swapna Kurup | USA | 53m

Exclusion U : DIR: Ginger Gentile | USA | 1h 25m

##### Girls for Future

DIR: Irja von Bernstorff | Germany | 1h 22m

##### Hiroshima: City of Water

DIR: Chris John Brooke | UK | 1h 8m

##### Landis, Just Watch Me

DIR: Eric Cochran | USA | 1h 35 min

##### Leveling Lincoln :

DIR: Arden Teresa Lewis | USA | 1h 19m

##### Manzanar, Diverted: When Water Becomes Dust

DIR: Ann Kaneko | USA | 1h 24m

##### My Mother's Son

DIR: Jose Batista-Ayala | USA | 1h 27m

##### Samira's Dream/Ndoto ya Samira

DIR: Nino Tropiano | Ireland | 1h 28m

##### Stateless

DIR: Michéle Stephenson | Haiti | 1h 34m

##### The Rumba Kings

DIR: Alan Brain | Peru | 1h 35m

Tonton Manu : DIR: Patrick Puzenat & Thierry

Dechilly | France | 1h 30m

##### Truth Tellers

DIR: Richard Kane | USA | 58m

Ushiku : DIR: Thomas Ash | Japan | 1h 27m

##### Why We Walk

DIR: Eric Bishop | USA | 55m

### WEBISODES

#### Bronx'ish

DIR: Danielle Alonzo | USA | 9m

#### How Did That Happen?!

DIR: Laurence Shanet | USA | 27m

#### How to Hack Birth Control

DIR: Sassy Mohen | USA | 27 m

#### Lost/Found

DIR: Brian Christopher White | USA | 24m

#### QauranDream!

DIR: Jeffrey Elizabeth Copeland

### SHORTS

#### American Justice on Trial

DIR: Andrew Abrahams & Herb Ferrette | USA | 40m

#### Birdie

DIR: Andrew Edison | USA | 13m | East Coast Premiere

#### Just a Moment

DIR: Djigui Diarra | France | 28m

#### Last Laugh

DIR: Paul Lewis Anderson | USA | 25m

#### Out of Tune

DIR: Portlynn Tagavi | USA | 15m

#### Pat! A Revolutionary Black Molecule

DIR: Lupe Tofaceit | USA | 9m

#### Resurrection! Airtto Moreira & the Preservation

#### Hall Jazz Band

DIR: Dale Djerassi | USA | 21m

#### The Mason Ring

DIR: Terry Dawson | USA | 15m

#### Think Like a Filmmaker

DIR: Eli Berliner | USA | 5m

#### When I Get Grown - Reflections of a Freedom

#### Rider

DIR: Chris Preitauer | USA | 32m

#### Wildcat

DIR: Cat Dale | USA | 15m

### TICKETS

For Film festival passes, tickets, and more information on the Harlem International Film Festival, go to [HarlemFilmFestival.org](http://HarlemFilmFestival.org)

### THE HARLEM INTERNATIONAL (Hi) FILM FESTIVAL

Celebrating the art of cinema in the home of the Harlem Renaissance, The Harlem International Film Festival (Hi) inspires and entertains by honoring dynamic films by anyone about anything under the sun. Conceived from the belief that we all have unique experiences and perspectives to share, the Festival actively seeks and exhibits fresh work. He is committed to exemplifying the eminence that Harlem represents and is dedicated to bringing attention to the finest filmmakers from Harlem and across the globe.

(Mabel Pais writes on The Arts and Entertainment, Social Issues, Cuisine, Health & Wellness and Spirituality)





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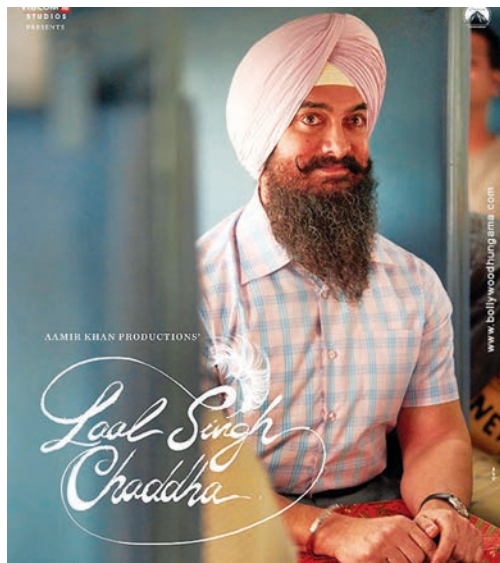
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## Aamir releases first song from 'Laal Singh Chaddha'

After making the audience go gaga over his 'Kahani' with his curiosity raising videos, superstar Aamir Khan finally revealed it on Thursday, April 28. 'Kahani' is the first song to be released from his upcoming film 'Laal Singh Chaddha' where he stars opposite Kareena Kapoor Khan.

'Kahani', crooned by Mohan Kannan, has been composed by Pritam, who enjoys the solo credit for the entire album of 'Laal Singh Chaddha' with lyrics penned by Amitabh Bhattacharya. The song encapsulates the movie and in essence introduces the audiences to the film.

Interestingly, in a game changing move, Aamir Khan has chosen to not release the video of the song, but instead only the audio so that the audiences' attention is diverted to the actual hero of the music - the music itself and the team that put these pieces together. The actor-producer decided to put the musicians and the music of the film centre stage.

# Taapsee Pannu on bagging a Rajkumar Hirani film with Shah Rukh Khan

Taapsee Pannu's happiness and excitement knew no bounds after she bagged a Rajkumar Hirani film co-starring Shah Rukh Khan. "It is probably that the biggest ever I could have got," exclaims the actor, adding "It's too good to be true. I never even thought that I'll eventually someday reach this, forget about so soon. So, I myself wasn't announcing or talking about it because I just didn't want to jinx it in any way."

Asked about her first reaction on knowing that she's going to star in such a big project, Pannu says, "There's no shying away from accepting that I don't know if it can get bigger than this ever for me. Hence, the disbelief of being a part of it was lingering one till the time I reported on set and the first day of shoot was done."

Pannu reveals that not just her, even her sister, Shagun, kept asking even after the first day of the shoot was done that whether she was still on board the film. "Each time I went for the meeting with Raju sir, or reading or any conversation I had with him on phone, every time I came back home, she asked me, 'Tu abhi bhi hai na film mein?' My parents, however, didn't give me any noticeable reaction, also maybe they've also understood that till the time it happens, let's not celebrate too early."

Source: HT



## Bollywood filmmakers are scared of south films' success: Manoj Bajpayee

Actor Manoj Bajpayee is the latest name from the Hindi film industry to acknowledge how the success of films from the south film industries has affected those in Bollywood. In a recent interaction, the actor claimed that the success of films like KGF: Chapter 2, RRR, and Pushpa: The Rise has "sent a shiver down the spine" of Bollywood filmmakers. The actor also spoke about what makes these films more successful than their Bollywood counterparts. Also read: Ram Gopal Varma asks if 'north stars are insecure, jealous of south stars' because of KGF Chapter 2 success



In the post-pandemic era, it was Allu Arjun's Telugu film Pushpa: The Rise that started the trend of south films dominating in the Hindi belt. The film's Hindi-dubbed version grossed ₹106 crore. If that was impressive, then SS Rajamouli's RRR and Yash-starrer Kannada film KGF: Chapter 2 broke new ground. The Hindi versions of both films have grossed over ₹300 crore each and are still running in theatres. Many, including filmmaker Ram Gopal Varma, have remarked that this has disturbed several people in Bollywood.

Talking about the success of these south films, Manoj Bajpayee told Delhi Times, "Itni blockbuster ho rahi hai (there are so many blockbusters)... forget about Manoj Bajpayee and the likes of me for a minute, it has sent a shiver down the spine of all the mainstream filmmakers from the Mumbai film industry. They really don't know where to look."

## Adivi Sesh's 'Major' to clash with Akshay Kumar-starrer 'Prithviraj'

Actor Adivi Sesh's multilingual film Major will now hit theatres on June 3, the makers said on Wednesday, April 27. Based on the life of Major Sandeep Unnikrishnan, the film was previously scheduled to open in cinema halls on May 27. The release of Major has been postponed multiple times in the past due to the coronavirus pandemic.

Sesh, who plays the titular role in the film, shared its new release date poster on Twitter.

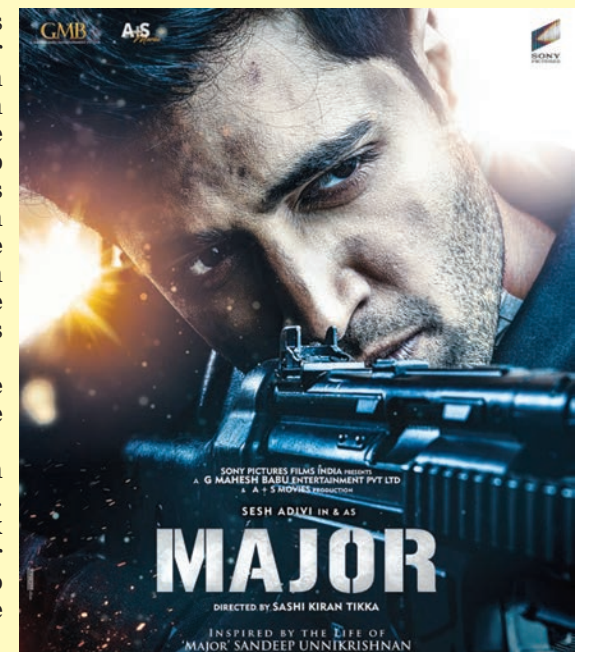
Major will be released in Telugu, Hindi and Malayalam. The film will clash at the box office with Akshay Kumar-starrer period drama Prithviraj, also scheduled to be released on June 3.

The Sashi Kiran-helmed action drama traces the journey of Major Sandeep Unnikrishnan, who selflessly fought to save the lives of people during the 26/11 Mumbai attacks.

Major is produced by Sony Pictures Films India in association with Mahesh Babu's GMB Entertainment and A+S Movies.

The film also stars Sobhita Dhulipala, Saiee Manjrekar, Prakash Raj, Revathi and Murali Sharma in pivotal roles.

Source: PTI







### Andrew Garfield Plans Time Off

Actor Andrew Garfield, who has appeared in 'Spider-Man: No Way Home', 'The Eyes of Tammy Faye', 'Tick, Tick a Boom!', and the crime series 'Under the Banner of Heaven', said he's going to take some time off from work.

According to 'Deadline', the 38-year-old actor told People magazine that he's looking forward to being out of the spotlight.

"I'm actually really happy and excited to be very quiet and very still and take some time to just be," Garfield said.

"It feels very important right now, especially after a lot of output, a lot of being out in the world, and giving a lot of energy to things that I'm very passionate about, but I have to kind of refill the well so that I can carry on authentically carry on without it feeling like I have to keep up with the Joneses in some way.

"Like it's so tempting to live in that way of just always onto the next thing. But actually, and I know it's a privilege that I get to even consider that, to actually take time," says the actor.

Garfield credited gymnast Simone Biles as a beacon for the time off, noting: "I'm very inspired by her saying, 'Bope, I'm not going to do that vault. I'm going to endanger myself if I vault today'. I find that really an incredible example."

He also said American rapper Kendrick Lamar's hiatus was important in his decision.

## Megan Fox reveals she and fiancé Machine Gun Kelly 'consume each other's blood'

Megan Fox and Machine Gun Kelly "consume each other's blood" during rituals. The two followed the practice on their engagement too. In fact, in the engagement video that Megan shared on Instagram, she wrote, "Just as in every lifetime before this one and as in every lifetime that will follow it, I said yes... And then we drank each other's blood."

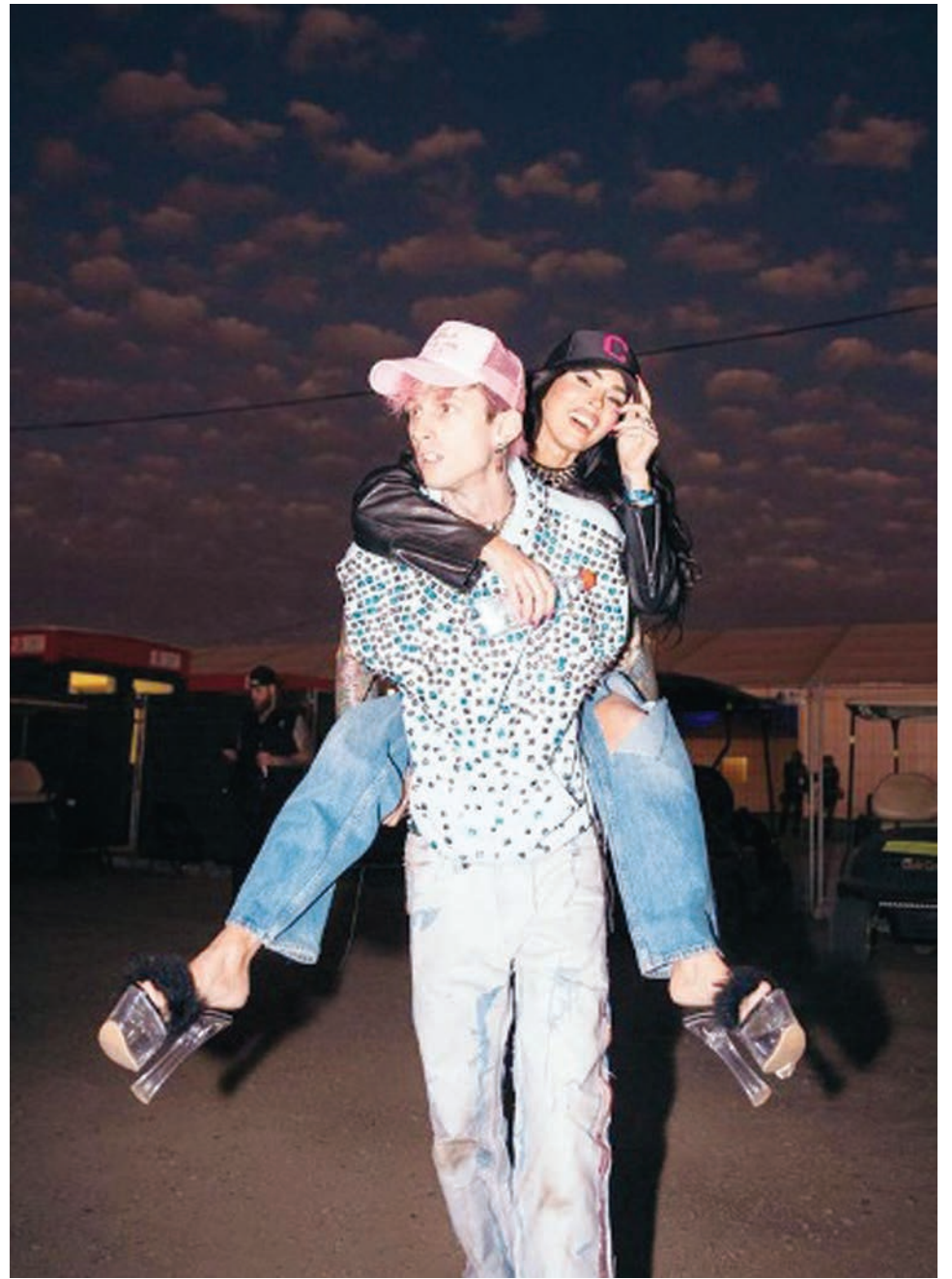
The actor has now opened up about the practice, that previously left many wondering whether she and MGK actually did that. Megan told Glamour magazine, "I guess to drink each other's blood might mislead people or people are imagining us with goblets and we're like Game of Thrones, drinking each other's blood. It's just a few drops, but yes, we do consume each other's blood on occasion for ritual purposes only."

Megan also revealed in the interview of reading tarot cards, practicing astrology and other "metaphysical practices and meditations." Apart from this, she also accepted of doing rituals on new moon and full moon.

"When I do it, it's a passage or it is used for a reason. And it is controlled where it's like, 'Let's shed a few drops of blood and each drink it.' He's (MGK) much more haphazard and hectic and chaotic, where he's willing to just cut his chest open with broken glass and be like, 'Take my soul,'" Megan said.

"It doesn't not happen. Maybe not exactly like that, but a version of that has happened many times," she added.

Megan Fox and Machine Gun Kelly announced their engagement through a video on Instagram in January this year. Megan's rockstar partner later told Vogue that her engagement ring had thorns, but for a reason. "If she tries to take it off, it hurts. Love is pain!" Machine Gun Kelly said.



## 'Doctor Strange' actress Zara Phythian, husband accused of sex with teen



An actress who appeared in "Doctor Strange" has been accused, along with her husband, of having sex with a teenage girl, a report said.

Zara Phythian — a martial artist who played a sorcerer in the 2016 Marvel movie — has been accused of sex crimes along with husband Victor Marke for "repeatedly having sex" with a 13-year-old girl, according to the Nottinghamshire Post.

The girl, who is now an adult, claims Phythian, 36, and Marke, 59, plied her with alcohol and had sex with her between 2005 and 2008. She also said they filmed some of the encounters.

"I knew it was wrong but I just didn't know how to get out of the situation or say anything," she told cops, according to the outlet.

"I remember trying to copy Zara's reaction at the time because I looked up to her and tried to be like her in every way."

Both Phythian and Marke were martial arts instructors in the UK when the teenager reached out to them. The woman now claims that Phythian asked her to play a game of "dare" and give Marke oral sex.

Phythian and Marke both denied the allegations in court.



## THIS IS WHAT BRITISH PM BORIS JOHNSON SAID ON MP 'WATCHING PORN' IN PARLIAMENT

**LONDON (TIP):** Watching pornography would be unacceptable in any workplace, British Prime Minister Boris Johnson said on April 28 when asked about an investigation into allegations a lawmaker was seen watching explicit videos on his phone in the House of Commons.

Some male politicians 'behave like animals': British Indian minister over MP 'watching porn' in Parliament

"It's obviously unacceptable for anybody to be doing that kind of thing in the workplace. It'd be the same for any kind of job up and down the country," Johnson told reporters when asked about the allegations during an election campaign visit.

He said the specific case reported on Wednesday, involving an unnamed member of Johnson's Conservative Party, would need to go through the appropriate complaints procedure. (Reuters)

## RUSSIA SAYS PUMPING UKRAINE WITH WEAPONS IS THREAT TO EUROPEAN SECURITY

**LONDON (TIP):** The Kremlin said on April 28 that Western arms supplies to Ukraine, including heavy weapons, posed a threat to the security of the European continent.

The comment from Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov added to a pattern of escalating rhetoric on both sides as the West has stepped up weapons supplies to Ukraine and Moscow has accused it of waging a proxy war against Russia.

"In itself, the tendency to pump weapons, including heavy weapons, to Ukraine and other countries are actions that threaten the security of the continent and provoke instability," Peskov told reporters.

He was responding a question about remarks by British Foreign Secretary Liz Truss, who said on Wednesday that countries opposed to Russia's invasion of Ukraine must double down on their support, including by supplying heavy weapons, tanks and planes.

Russia, whose invasion of Ukraine has killed many thousands of people and displaced millions, has consistently portrayed NATO and the West as aggressors who have forced it into defending its own security.

President Vladimir Putin said on Wednesday: "If someone intends to intervene in the ongoing events from the outside, and create strategic threats for Russia that are unacceptable to us, they should know that our retaliatory strikes will be lightning-fast." Reuters

# Minimum age for marriage raised from 16 to 18 in England, Wales

**LONDON (TIP):** The minimum age for marriage in England and Wales has been raised from 16 to 18 years, making it illegal for anyone facilitating underage marriages.

Under a new law that cleared the UK Parliament on April 27 and will become law after Queen Elizabeth II's Royal Assent later this week, religious or cultural marriages not registered with a couples' local council will also fall within the legal age remit.

Until now, girls and boys aged 16 and 17 could get married as long as they had parental consent. The Marriage and Civil Partnership Bill, tabled in June last year, was introduced as part of efforts to combat cases of child marriages and also forced marriages.

"So, thrilled that my Marriage Bill has been approved by the House of Commons, and is on its way to becoming law. Thank you to all those who have supported the campaign to end child marriage once and for all in this country," said Conservative Party MP Pauline Latham, who had sponsored the Bill with House of Lords peer Liz Sugg.

"This Bill will finally end child marriage in England and Wales — and not before time," said Sugg in the House of Lords.

"I thank the many campaigners — organisations and individuals — who have worked so hard to highlight the



issue of child marriage and got us to where we are today," she said.

Charities such as Karma Nirvana, set up by an Indian-origin campaigner to combat forced marriages, have been campaigning for the change for many years. They celebrated the new law for making it illegal for adults to take children abroad to get married, resulting in a jail term and fines.

Under the new Marriage and Civil Partnership Act, children will not face penalties but adults who are involved with their marriage could face up to

seven years in jail and a fine. The same rules would apply for civil partnerships between couples.

In Scotland, the minimum marriageable age is still 16 and couples do not need parental consent. In Northern Ireland, the minimum age also remains 16, but couples aged 16 or 17 do require parental assent.

It is expected that the changes raising the age to 18 in England and Wales may eventually be replicated in other parts of the United Kingdom. (PTI)

# China reports first human case of H3N8 bird flu

**BEIJING (TIP):** China has recorded its first human infection with the H3N8 strain of bird flu, but the risk of its spread among people is low, the health authority said.

The variant was found in a four-year-old boy from the central province of Henan province who showed fever and other symptoms on April 5, the National Health Commission said in a statement on Tuesday.

The child had been in contact with chickens and crows raised at his home, it added in a statement.

The H3N8 variant is common in horses and dogs and has even been found in seals. No human cases of H3N8 have been reported, said the NHC.

Whole genome sequence analyses indicate that the H3N8 virus in this human case is a reassortant, with genes from viruses that have been detected



"a major concern for the risk of the virus", he added.

China's huge populations of both farmed and wild birds of many species provide an ideal environment for avian viruses to mix and mutate. Some sporadically infect people, usually those who work with poultry.

Last year, China reported the first human case of H10N3.

The health commission said an initial study showed the variant did not yet have the ability to effectively infect humans, and

the risk of a large-scale epidemic was low.

Though rare, infections in humans can lead to adaptive mutations that potentially allow these viruses to more easily spread in mammals, said Karlsson.

"We need to be concerned about all spillover events," he said. - Reuters

previously in poultry and wild birds, said Nicola Lewis, an influenza expert at the Royal Veterinary College in Britain.

The virus warrants expanded surveillance, said Erik Karlsson, deputy head of the virology unit at the Institut Pasteur in Cambodia.

Its implication in the 1889 influenza pandemic, known as the Russian flu, was



# Ukraine can attack Russian logistics, unlikely to use its weapons: UK

**LONDON (TIP):** British Defence Secretary Ben Wallace said on April 28 it would be legitimate for Ukrainian forces to target Russian logistics to cripple their supply of food, fuel and munitions but they were unlikely to use British weapons to do so.

Tensions between Britain and Russia increased this week when Moscow accused London of provoking Ukraine to strike targets inside Russia, saying there would be an immediate "proportional response" if it continued.

Wallace said under international law Ukraine had every right to defend itself.

"Part of defending itself in this type of invasion is obviously where Ukraine will go after the supply lines of the Russian army because without fuel and food and ammunition, the Russian army grinds to a halt and can no longer continue its invasion," he told BBC TV.

Britain has been a vocal supporter of Ukraine since it came under attack in late February, sending aid and arms to help it repel its larger neighbour.

Wallace said Britain had sent artillery to Ukraine that was being used within Ukraine on Russian forces, but he added



that it had not, and was unlikely, to send weapons that could be used for longer-range attacks.

He said that it was not clear if attacks seen in Russia in recent weeks had come from the Ukrainian state. He added that Ukraine did not have British weapons

that could do that.

Ukrainian forces, he said, tend to use mobile launchers while the British army would deliver them from the air or sea.

"They currently don't have British weapons that could do that, so it's unlikely that it is our weapons," he said.

"We're very unlikely to supply that to anyone simply because of the technology and also the scarcity we have of those capabilities.

So it is very unlikely."

Wallace also denied that NATO was locked in a proxy war with Russia but said the West would provide increasing support to Ukraine if the Russian attacks continued. "Sometimes that will include planes and tanks," he told Times Radio.

Russia on Wednesday reported a series of blasts in the south of the country and a fire at an ammunition depot.

Russia has repeatedly criticised Britain's military support for Ukraine, accusing it of wanting to prolong the conflict to weaken Moscow.

Responding to a similar British statement on Tuesday which said Russian military targets inside Russia were fair game for Ukraine, Russian Foreign Ministry spokesperson Maria Zakharova suggested that British logic meant Russia was also theoretically entitled to strike targets in NATO countries like Britain if they were related to arms deliveries for Ukraine. Reuters

## Russia steps up assault on east Ukraine, Putin threatens countries that intervene

**KYIV (TIP):** Russia stepped up its assaults on eastern and southern Ukraine, Kyiv said on April 28, and President Vladimir Putin threatened "lightning-fast" retaliation against any Western countries that intervene on Ukraine's behalf.

More than two months into an invasion that has flattened cities but failed to capture the capital Kyiv, Russia has mounted a push to seize two eastern provinces in a battle the West views as a decisive turning point in the war.

"The enemy is increasing the pace of the offensive operation. The Russian occupiers are exerting intense fire in almost all directions," Ukraine's military command said of the situation on the main front in the east.

It said Russia's main attack was near the towns of Slobozhanske and Donetsk, along a strategic frontline highway linking Ukraine's second-largest city Kharkiv with the Russian-occupied city of Izyum. The Kharkiv regional governor said Russian forces were intensifying attacks from Izyum, but Ukrainian troops were holding their ground.

Although Russian forces were pushed out of northern Ukraine last month, they are heavily entrenched in the east and also still hold a swathe of the south that they seized in March.

Ukraine said there were strong explosions overnight in the southern city of Kherson, the only regional capital

Russia has captured since the invasion. Russian troops there used tear gas and stun grenades on Wednesday to suppress pro-Ukrainian demonstrations, and were now shelling the entire surrounding region and attacking towards Mykolaiv and Kryvyi Rih, President Vladimir Zelenskiy's southern home city, Ukraine said.

Kyiv accuses Moscow of planning to stage a fake independence referendum in the occupied south. Russian state media quoted an official from a self-styled pro-Russian "military-civilian commission" in Kherson on Thursday as saying the area would start using Russia's rouble currency from May 1.

Western countries have ramped up weapons deliveries to Ukraine in recent days as the fighting in the east has intensified. More than 40 countries met this week at a U.S. air base in Germany and pledged to send heavy arms such as artillery for what is expected to be a vast battle of opposing armies along a heavily fortified front line.

Washington now says it hopes Ukrainian forces can not only repel Russia's assault on the east, but weaken its military so that it can no longer threaten neighbours. Russia says that amounts to NATO waging "proxy war" against it.

"If someone intends to intervene in the ongoing events from the outside, and create strategic threats for Russia that are unacceptable to us, they should know

that our retaliatory strikes will be lightning-fast," Putin told lawmakers in St Petersburg.

"We have all the tools for this, things no one else can boast of having now. And we will not boast, we will use them if necessary. And I want everyone to know that." 'CANCEROUS GROWTH'

British Defence Secretary Ben Wallace said Putin's remarks were a sign of "almost desperation, trying to broaden this either with threats or indeed, with potential false flags or attacks".

"Having failed in nearly all his objectives," Putin was now seeking to consolidate control of occupied territory, Wallace said. "Just be a sort of cancerous growth within the country in Ukraine and make it very hard for people to move them out of those fortified positions."

Ukrainian troops are still holed up in a giant steel works in Mariupol, the ruined southeastern port where thousands of people have died under two months of Russian siege and bombardment. Putin claimed victory in the city last week, ordering the steel works blockaded. Kyiv has pleaded for a ceasefire to let civilians and wounded soldiers escape.

"As long as we're here and holding the defence... the city is not theirs," Captain Sviatoslav Palamar, deputy commander of Ukraine's Azov Regiment, told Reuters in video link from an undisclosed location beneath the huge factory.

(Reuters)

## ISRAEL BOOSTS SECURITY AROUND PM BENNETT AND HIS FAMILY AFTER DEATH THREAT

**JERUSALEM (TIP):** Israeli police have beefed up security around Prime Minister Naftali Bennett and his family after a letter addressed to them was found to contain a live bullet and a death threat.

The Israeli police and internal security agency Shin Bet have launched an investigation into the death threat made against Prime Minister Bennett and his family, the police said on April 28.

The letter intended for Bennett and his family included a bullet, the brief police statement said.

"Following a letter with a death threat and a live bullet inside that was addressed to the Prime Minister and his family, security officials in the Prime Minister's Office have decided to reinforce the security of the unit responsible for protecting Prime Minister Bennett's family," a statement issued by the PM's media adviser said on Tuesday.

Israeli newspaper Ha'aretz online quoted an informed source as saying that the letter was not sent to Bennett's Ra'anana home nor to the official residence of the prime minister in Jerusalem, but to the former workplace of Gilat Bennett, the prime minister's wife.

They informed the family of the letter, which was passed on to the Shin Bet, the source reportedly said. (TNS)



## EXPLOSIONS IN NORTHERN AFGHANISTAN KILL AT LEAST 9, WOUND 13

**KABUL (TIP):** Two explosions, within minutes of each other, killed at least nine people and wounded 13 in northern Afghanistan on April 28, a spokesman for a Taliban-appointed police chief said.

The blasts targeted two separate vehicles in Mazar-e-Sharif, the capital of Balkh province, according to Mohammad Asif Waziri, the spokesman.

The source of the blasts was not immediately clear and the spokesman provided no further details. No one claimed responsibility for the attack. Taliban security cordoned off the area.

Residents in the area said members of the Shiite minority Hazara ethnic group appeared to be the target. They spoke on condition of anonymity, fearing for their safety.

The attacks are the latest in a series of deadly bombings to rattle Afghanistan. Last week, 33 Shiite worshippers were killed when a bomb ripped through a mosque and an adjacent religious building school.

The Islamic State group's regional affiliate — a top foe of Afghanistan's new Taliban rulers — claimed responsibility for that bombing. AP

## LANKAN TRADE UNIONS ON STRIKE DEMANDING RAJAPAKSAS' OUSTER OVER ECONOMIC CRISIS

**COLOMBO (TIP):** Nearly 1,000 trade unions in Sri Lanka staged a one-day nationwide strike on April 28 demanding the immediate resignation of the government, including President Gotabaya Rajapaksa and Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa, over its failure to tackle the country's unprecedented economic crisis.

Sri Lanka is currently in the throes of unprecedented economic turmoil since its independence from Britain in 1948.

The crisis is caused in part by a lack of foreign currency, which has meant that the country cannot afford to pay for imports of staple foods and fuel, leading to acute shortages and very high prices.

The unions from a number of sectors, including the state service, health, ports, electricity, education and postal joined the strike under the theme 'Bow to the people - government go home', urging the President, the Prime Minister and the government to 'go home'.

Teachers' trade union spokesman Joseph Stalin said that the Rajapaksa government tries to hang on to power when the people have got into the streets and demanded them to go.

Ravi Kumudesh from the health workers' trade union said that after Thursday's strike, they would give the government a week to resign. (PTI)

# Pak PM Shehbaz Sharif leaves for Saudi Arabia on his maiden three-day official visit

**ISLAMABAD (TIP):** Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on April 28 left for Saudi Arabia on his maiden three-day official visit abroad during which he will hold wide-ranging discussions with the top Saudi leadership, with particular focus on advancing economic, trade and investment ties.

The 70-year-old leader was sworn in as Pakistan's 23rd prime minister on April 11 after his predecessor Imran Khan was ousted in a no-confidence vote.

Sharif, who has been invited for the trip by Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, is accompanied by a high-level delegation including key members of the Cabinet.

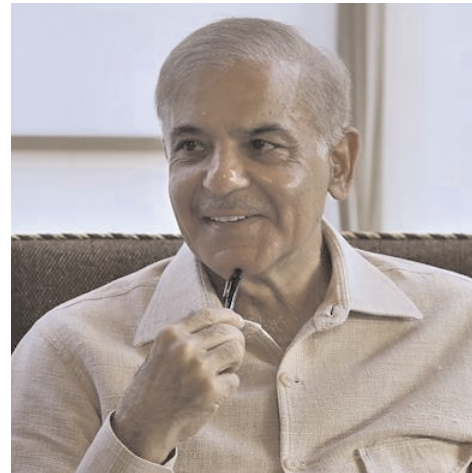
"Today I am embarking on a visit to Saudi Arabia to renew & reaffirm our bonds of brotherhood & friendship. I will have wide-ranging discussions with Saudi leadership. KSA is one of our greatest friends & as Custodian of the Two Holy Places, has a special place in all our hearts," Sharif tweeted.

Separately, his office issued a video message of the prime minister. The video, played on all TV channels, showed Sharif making a commitment to take the ties with the kingdom to new heights.

On Wednesday, the Foreign Office said that Prime Minister Sharif will have bilateral interaction with the Saudi leadership during the visit, with particular focus on advancing economic, trade and investment ties and creation of greater opportunities for the Pakistani workforce in Saudi Arabia.

"This would be the Prime Minister's first visit abroad after assuming Office earlier this month. The Prime Minister will be accompanied by a high-level delegation, including key members of the Cabinet," it said.

The two sides will also exchange views



on a range of regional and international issues of mutual interest.

The bilateral relationship is complemented by close mutual collaboration at regional and international fora. Saudi Arabia is a member of the Jeddah-based Organisation of Islamic Cooperation contact group on Kashmir.

In December 2021, Pakistan had taken a USD 3 billion loan from Saudi Arabia on very tough conditions after its official gross foreign exchange reserves dipped below USD 16 billion. Saudi had also approved oil on deferred payment equal to USD 1.2 billion annually.

Citing sources, The News reported that Pakistan has decided to seek an additional package of USD 3.2 billion from Saudi Arabia to jack up the total facility to USD 7.4 billion from the existing USD 4.2 billion during the current visit of Prime Minister Sharif, in order to avert further depletion of foreign currency reserves.

"We are going to request the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to increase the amount of the deposit from USD 3 billion to USD 5 billion and double the Saudi Oil

Facility (SOF) from USD 1.2 billion to USD 2.4 billion, so the total package could be increased up to USD 7.4 billion during the visit of premier Sharif," a source said.

"We are requesting for deferred payment facility and enhancing the credit extended for forex support," the paper quoted one of the top officials of the Finance Division as saying.

Cash-strapped Pakistan is passing through a phase of political and economic uncertainty, and the newly-formed Sharif government is struggling to deal with spiralling inflation and an economy that simply refuses to rebound.

Earlier this week, Pakistan and the IMF agreed to extend the stalled bailout package by up to one year and increase the loan size from the existing USD 6 billion to USD 8 billion, giving a breathing space to the Sharif government.

In his first address to the parliament soon after election as the prime minister of the country, Sharif had highlighted special ties with Saudi Arabia.

Saudi King Salman and Crown Prince Mohammad bin Salman earlier sent congratulatory messages to Shehbaz on becoming Pakistan's new prime minister and wished him success.

On the sidelines of the visit, Sharif would also visit Mecca to perform Umrah pilgrimage.

Minister for Information and Broadcasting Marriyum Aurangzeb earlier said that Prime Minister Sharif will travel to Saudi Arabia on a commercial flight at his own expense. "Even during his 10 years as CM Punjab during 2008-18, he always travelled commercially and at his own expense," she added. (PTI)

## Nepal to implement 2-day public holidays to cut fuel consumption

**KATHMANDU (TIP):** From May 15, the Nepal government will increase regular public holidays to two days in a week in an effort to cut the consumption of fuels whose prices have skyrocketed in recent months in the country, a cabinet minister said.

"A Cabinet meeting on April 26 decided to implement the two-day public holidays in a week effective from May 15 on a trial basis," Gyanendra Bahadur Karki, minister for communication and information technology, told reporters.

Currently, Nepal is implementing a one-day public holiday in a week on Saturday, the new rule adds Sunday as an extra off-day, reports Xinhua news agency.

As per the Cabinet decision, the five-day work hours will be rescheduled to 9.30 a.m. to 5.30 p.m., from the existing office hours of 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Earlier, Nepal's central bank had advised the government to implement two-day public holidays to reduce the consumption of fuels on the grounds that public mobility is reduced substantially during holidays.

Fuels are the largest import item for Nepal, accounting for over 14 per cent of the total merchandise imports in the first eight months of the current fiscal year that began in mid-July 2021, according to the Trade and Export Promotion Centre.

As in other parts of the world, Nepal has seen the prices of fuels hike in

recent months over the Russia-Ukraine conflict and other factors.

Meanwhile, Nepal's gross foreign exchange reserves had decreased by 18.5 percent to \$9.58 billion in mid-March, from \$11.75 billion at the beginning of the current fiscal year, according to central bank statistics.

In response to falling forex reserves, the government has imposed a ban on the import of some products, and the fuel allowance for government bodies has been cut by 20 per cent until the end of the current fiscal year.

In the late 1990s, Nepal had experimented with two-day weekly holidays with a view to increasing the efficiency and productivity of government employees. (IANS)



# International Labor Day

**M**ay Day, also called Workers' Day or International Workers' Day, commemorates the historic struggles and gains made by workers and the labour movement, observed in many countries on May 1. In the United States and Canada a similar observance, known as Labor Day, occurs on the first Monday of September. May Day is celebrated on Sunday, May 1, 2022.

In 1889 an international federation of socialist groups and trade unions designated May 1 as a day in support of workers, in commemoration of the Haymarket Riot in Chicago (1886). Five years later, U.S. Pres. Grover Cleveland, uneasy with the socialist origins of Workers' Day, signed legislation to make Labor Day—already held in some states on the first Monday of September—the official U.S. holiday in honour of workers. Canada followed suit not long afterward.

In Europe May 1 was historically associated with rural pagan festivals (see May Day), but the original meaning of the day was gradually replaced by the modern association with the labour movement. In the Soviet Union, leaders embraced the new holiday, believing it would encourage workers in Europe and the United States to unite against capitalism. The day became a significant holiday in the Soviet Union and in the Eastern-bloc countries, with high-profile parades, including one in Moscow's Red Square presided over by top government and Communist Party functionaries, celebrating the worker and showcasing Soviet military might. In Germany Labour Day became an official holiday in 1933 after the rise of the Nazi Party. Ironically, Germany abolished free unions the day after establishing the holiday, virtually destroying the German labour movement.

With the breakup of the Soviet Union and the fall of communist governments in eastern Europe in the late 20th century, large-scale May Day celebrations in that region declined in importance. In dozens of countries around the world, however, May Day has been recognized as a public holiday, and it continues to be celebrated with picnics and parties while serving as the occasion for demonstrations and rallies in support of workers.

## Labor Day in the U.S.

While much of the world observes a workers' holiday on May 1, the United States holds Labor Day on the first Monday in September. This was made a national holiday in 1894, following workers' rights movements in the U.S. in the decades leading up to its creation as an official federal holiday.

The movement was fueled by labor unions and their members, especially in industrial sectors of the economy such as manufacturing, mining, textile makers, and construction workers.

## Understanding International Workers' Day

Although Americans celebrate Labor Day in September and associate it with barbecues rather than class struggles, International Workers' Day has strong links to events in the U.S.



In July 1889, Second International, a global organization of socialist parties and trade unions, established May 1 as International Workers' Day and planned protests demanding an eight-hour workday.

May 1 was chosen because an American delegate said the American Federation of Labor had planned a demonstration on that day the following year. The Americans were commemorating the pivotal Haymarket Square Rally held in May 1886 in Chicago, U.S.

International Workers' Day wasn't intended to be an annual event, but due to its remarkable success in 1890, Second International made it one. Although it started with demands to reduce the number of hours of manual labor required of workers, it continued to be observed even after that goal was achieved in many major industrial nations.

## Ancient Spring Celebrations

May 1 is also May Day, an ancient celebration of spring and the rebirth taking place in nature in the Northern Hemisphere. Many ancient customs associated with the day come from the old Roman festival of Floralia, where the people wore colorful clothes and were pelted with beans and flowers; symbols of fertility.

Also the ancient Greeks had traditions to welcome spring: Protomagia. It's still celebrated on May 1 in Greece. Traditions include decorating doors with wreaths made from handpicked flowers to welcome the power of nature and upcoming summer into the home.

## Beltane Bonfires in the UK

In the United Kingdom, more than 2000-year-old May Day traditions are still alive in many towns and villages. The



ancient Celts welcomed spring during Beltane by lighting bonfires or the 'fire of Belt.' Its fertility rituals have carried through to today, including crowning a May Queen and dancing around a Maypole.

The May Day Bank Holiday was instituted in the UK in 1978 for trade unionists to celebrate. It was, however, held on the first Monday in May to minimize the damage to businesses.

## Spring and Workers Combined in Finland

It seems like the Finns have perfected the amalgamation of pagan spring celebrations, Catholic traditions, and the celebration of students and workers in a holiday they call vappu. The name Vappu comes from the saint Walpurga. She was made a saint on May 1, 870 CE, and the night between April 30 to May 1 became Walpurgis Night. May 1 is

International Workers' Day in Finland and the end of the school year for students. To keep things simple, the Finns have combined all of the traditions into a day to dress up in outrageous outfits, drink sima (fruity alcohol), and eat munkki (flavored doughnuts) and tippaleipä (funnel cakes). In other words, a day off to party.

## In India

In India, the first formal celebration of Labour Day was instigated by the Labour Kisan Party of Hindustan in Chennai (known as Madras) on 1 May 1923. It is observed as a holiday in Assam, Bihar, Goa, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Kerala, Manipur, Tamil Nadu, Tripura and West Bengal.

It is celebrated as Antarrashtriya Shramik Diwas and is also known as Kamgar Din in Hindi, Kamgar Divas in Marathi and Uzhaipalar Dhinam in Tamil.



# Ramadan for Non-Muslims: Eid Mubarak

BY DR. MIKE GHOUSE

Photo / courtesy Boston Globe and the Atlantic



Ramadan is also known as Ramzan in South Asia and Hari Raya Pauso in Indonesia which has the largest Muslim population in the world. Indeed, about 50% of the world's Muslims (800 million) live in South and Southeast Asia.

The Eid (pronounced like Eel with D) also known as festivities will be on Monday, May 2, 2022.

Whether you are an Atheist, Baha'i, Buddhist, Christian, Hindu, Jain, Jewish, Native American, Pagan, Shinto, Sikh, Wicca, Zoroastrian, or from any other tradition, you may feel a sense of connection with the spirit of Ramadan as you read through it.

There is a cause or a causer (Brahma) who created the universe to come into existence, sustain (Vishnu) and recycle (Shiva) it, and the word for that causer is "God" in different languages (or faiths). There (she/ it) cannot be different causers for the same universe. No matter how and what name you call upon him -he is one.

The physical aspect of the human journey from the sperm and an egg through death is programmed precisely. The formula is the same for all humans, and there is no such thing as a Christian, Jewish, Hindu, Sikh, or other genes.

When the universe came into being; the two products were Matter and Life. The matter functions precisely as designed, like the Sun, Jupiter, Earth, or the Moon playing their part. On the other hand, humans' interactions are not pre-programmed; they have complete freedom, guidance (religion), and intelligence to create their balance to live securely and in relative harmony.

## Rituals are a part of every Religion

You may note that identical spiritual wisdom emerges in different parts of the world simultaneously. The best example is how a mother figures out what to do with her crying baby in the jungles of Amazon or Hollywood; she knows the child is hungry and needs to be fed.

Rituals are a part of our everyday life - when we get up in the morning, go to the office, have dinner, wear clothes, and go to the gym or visit a place of worship, we follow certain rituals. They are the milestones of our accomplishments in our lives.

They say, beauty is in the eyes of the beholder, and I would say faith is in the heart of the believer, and every religion is dear to its believer. Religion is like a mother who is dear to each one of us.

Religions were established to create cohesive societies where each one of the members of the community feels secure about their faith, race, ethnicity, culture, or other uniqueness. Religion is never the problem; it is the individual who doesn't get his religion is the problem.

## RAMADAN IN THE LIFE OF A MUSLIM



Ramadan is the 9th month of the Muslim calendar, and it begins with the Moon Sighting. Here comes the

politics of Ramadan. One group insists that they have to see the Moon themselves, while the other accepts if someone else has seen it. In the United States, most Muslims go by Nasa's calendar so they can plan the festivities. However, it is a joy to wait and watch for the pencil-thin Moon to appear in the sky. Parents place their kids on their shoulders, and kids get excited to watch that Moon from the top of their parent's shoulders.

## Chandni Raat

When one sees the Moon or hears an announcement, they dash to the marketplace to shop and celebrate. It was initially a South Asian tradition but has become universal. It is like shopping for Dussehra, Rosh Hashanah, Christmas, and other festivities.

## Special Ramadan Prayers



Muslims observe diverse practices - Special Prayers called Taraweeh are prayed in the late evening, followed by nightly prayers called Isha. Taraweeh is usually performed in a congregation, generally a Mosque or a large hall. Most Muslims pray, 20 to 22 units of prayers; some pray fewer, and some don't. They complete reciting 30 chapters of the Quran in 30 days (or 29).

## The Night of the Power known as Laylat al Qadr

Laylat al Qadr is also known as Shab-e-Qadr and is considered one of the mighty nights during Ramadan. It was the night God first revealed the words of the Quran and concluded and completed it in the last ten days of Ramadan over 23 years.

Shia Muslims consider the 19th, 21st, or 23rd of Ramadan as the most critical nights, while the Sunnis and Ahmadiyya look up to the odd days in the third part of the month.

## A TYPICAL DAY IN THE LIFE OF A MUSLIM (Times are approximate)



### 4:00 AM

The entire family rises in the morning, and together they prepare the food for Sahri/ Suhoor - the meal before fasting.

My family had a routine; I would chop the onions, my sister would flatten the dough to make Rotis (flatbread), one brother would wash the dishes, and the others would sit around and talk. My mother would sit by the stove (Chula), and my father would make sure all the

ingredients were available. It is a family affair and brings families closer. I am sure, it is nostalgic to most Muslims.

Food habits vary from region to region; we made Rotis (Flatbread) with Subzi and Keema (minced meat) and Rice with Daal (Lentil) or Goat Curry and capped it off with a good cup of tea or lassi.

The cut-off time to stop eating is about 30 minutes before sunrise or around 5 AM- depending on time zone to time zone.

### 5:30 AM



It is time to pray! It is called "Fajr Prayer" the first of the 5 daily prayers. We pray together as a family or go to the mosque if it were near.

### 6:00 AM

Sleep for a few hours (Ramadan only) and go to work. A few choose to study the Quran in a group called Halaqa. This is a month of reflection and connection with family members.

### 1:30 PM

The prayer in the afternoon called "Zohar" is followed by the one in the late afternoon "Asr". One can pray individually, but a congregational prayer is a good option. Remember, it is about bringing the communities together. The Shia Muslims usually combine two prayers and the Sunnis and Ahmadi do it one by one.

### 6:30 PM - IFTAAR



## Iftar is breaking day-long fast.

Sunset - some follow the times prescribed for the evening, and some keep looking at the sky (if it is a clear sky) to see the sunset. I like this ritual, life does not have to be functional or mechanical, it has to be a joy.

A prayer call (Azan) goes out at sunset; while the Sunnis and Ahmadi Muslims take the first bite of the date fruit and sip some water, the Shias will wait until after the prayer.

Since the observers have not had anything to drink or eat for the whole day, they will start with fruits and light snacks and let the stomach get ready for the entire meal after the evening (Maghrib-4th of the 5) prayers. It is a



CONTD FROM PAGE 26

thoughtful process.

Did I tell you Muslims abstain from everything from water, food, ill-talk, ill-thought and ill-conversation, and every temptation that comes their way? Of course, I did. Fasting is a learning process to bring self-discipline. It is suitable for all, particularly for procrastinators, smokers, alcoholics, or any addictions or unpleasant habits.

**Iftar Parties**



Muslims invite their non-Muslim friends to join them for the Iftar parties. The parties are community-building events. An entire range of foods is available to eat. Indian Muslims offer vegetarian and non-veg foods (Hindu and Jain) to honor their guests. Originally, the Iftar was to help the poor people join the community and be a part of it, but like all other religions, it is for friends, politicians, and community members, you'll find very few poor people. I wish it changes; they deserve to eat a good meal.

In a given Mosque, you will find Muslims from at least 20 to 30 countries, and as such, the variety of dishes increases by number: Biryani (Vegetarian for Hindu and Jain friends, Goat Biryani for all others) Biryani is the King of South Asian cuisine, and Naan, Keema, Korma, Rooh Afza, Sweet Lassi, Mango Lassi, and Gulab Jamun are on the plates. One universal item consumed worldwide is the dessert made out of vermicelli; the South Asians call it Seviyaan, and the Shir Khurma is very popular it has chipped Almonds, Raisins, crushed cashew nuts, and other dry fruits. I love to drink in a teacup. If you have not tried it, try it once.

Politicians and corporations also organize the Iftar parties. The tradition was started by President Bill Clinton and carried through President Obama, and we hope Biden will re-start it. There is no religious tone to it, it is purely a social and community affair.

**LAST DAY OF RAMADAN**

On the evening of the 28th or 29th day of Ramadan, everyone is out looking for that Pencil thin Moon again; once an announcement comes out, celebrations begin. Chand Raat (Moon Night) opens up, and people go shopping; it is like shopping on the last day of Christmas, Rosh Hashanah, Diwali, or other festivities. It is a good tradition of excitement and joy for successfully observing the entire month of Ramadan dutifully.

Children and adults paint Mehendi (henna) on their hands with various designs. They look forward to it. Typically, new clothes are worn on Eid (pronounced Eed - like an eel with a D) as our Hindu friends wear on Diwali.

**Zakat**

Every Muslim takes out 2.5% of his/her wealth and passes it on to the needy. Most people pay in advance, but as usual, some pay on the last day, like we file our IRS tax returns on April 15th. Zakat is one of the five obligatory duties of a Muslim.

**Eid- the big celebration**

Everyone in the family gets up in the morning, and it



is the dawn of a new era. Eat breakfast and go for the mass or congregational prayers, also known as Jamaat. Since a Mosque cannot accommodate all the people in the area, they rent convention halls or big banquet halls.

Dallas, Texas is my hometown, and the community rented the Convention Center, where some 20,000 people (some ten years ago) gathered for the congregational prayers. Yelahanka, my town, and perhaps in other places, they all go to the cemetery grounds, where they have a dedicated place made for Namaz (prayers). Generally, the Eid committee arranges the long mats to be spread on the floor, and some people carry their own personal prayer rugs.



It is the day to celebrate and includes forgiving each other and starting afresh by hugging three times. My interpretation of the three hugs is "forgive me," "I forgive you," and "Let us forgive each other" and begin the relationship afresh.

The Jains say "Michami Dukkadam," meaning, let's forgive each other and start the new year with a clean slate.

In the late '70s, Amitabh Bachchan, Rajesh Khanna, Asrani, Mehmood, and other Bollywood actors participated in Eid prayers in Yelahanka, my town of birth, a suburb of Bangalore. Comedian Mehmood lived a mile or two from the grounds and brought those movie stars to the prayers in his tractor. The movie stars enjoyed the different ways one can worship the creator.

**Praying for the deceased**

It's like Memorial Day, almost every Muslim visits the cemetery to pray for their loved one buried there. You will always find yourself connected to them. You can pray for them from anywhere, and on this day of joy, you feel their absence even more. Every time I have been to the cemetery, I pray for my parents, family members, and friends, and invariably I cry. I love the Muslim universal prayer, which seeks forgiveness for all humanity and is recited when you depart from the cemetery. It is a good feeling to reflect on life and death, it makes you a better human.

**EIDI**

It is a gift you generally present to kids and family members as we do during Christmas, Diwali, and other holidays. Traditionally the head of the household, man or woman, presents the gifts to the family members; it

is usually cash to spend. During my childhood, my father gave me one Anna (like 25 Paise), my friend and I dashed to the store behind our home and drank Orange Soda which was half Anna. That was the greatest pleasure we had.

**Eid Parties**

It is usually an open house for families, friends, and community members to visit for lunch. A typical family visits at least three homes and of course the practices vary from Muslim to Muslim. Back in India, and I am sure in other nations, we walked from home to home, but in the US, we drive to at least three homes.

**Exceptions:**

Fasting is exempt for individuals with diabetes and other difficulties, pregnant women, and even people traveling. If you miss it, you have the option to make it up.

Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) said that God has no need for the hunger or thirst of someone who hurts others, violates their dignity, or usurps their rights. The fasting of the limbs must match the fasting of the stomach. The eyes, ears, tongue, hands, and feet all have their respective fasts to undergo. For example, the tongue's temptations - lies, backbiting, slander, vulgarity, and senseless argumentation - must be curbed to maintain the integrity of the fast.

The consciousness of behavior and vigilance over action are the most profound dimensions of fasting: the heart's fasting focuses on the attachment to the divine. Ramadan becomes a source of peace and solace, just as Christmas, Rosh Hashana, or Dussehra go beyond the rituals to bring forth kindness, charity, and caring.

True fasting is self-purification. From this comes a rich inner life that brings about values such as justice, generosity, patience, kindness, forgiveness, mercy, and empathy - values that are indispensable for the community's success.

Knowing about hunger is different from knowing it. Empathy is not an intellectual equation; it is a human experience. Our hardness of heart often springs from our distance from the human condition of others.

The poor, sick, disenfranchised, oppressed - we rarely walk a mile in their shoes, not even a few steps. "Rest assured," cautioned one teacher, "if you do not taste what it feels like to be hungry, you will not care for those who are."

Ramadan will come and go with such stealth; what do we value, and why? We can change our habits and customs, including obsessive behavior, in the face of a higher calling.

Fasting imparts a sense of what it means to be truly human. Its observance reflects its universality in Baha'i, Buddhist, Christian, Hindu, Jain, Jewish, Sikh, Zoroastrian, and other faiths. For fasting to be truly universal, its benefits must extend beyond the fraternal ties of Muslims and must extend to forging a common humanity with others.

Let the spirit of Ramadan develop an understanding and respect for each one of God's creations - that is, all of humanity.

The most common greetings of the Ramadan festival are Ramadan Mubarak, Eid Mubarak, and Ramadan Kareem, and then there is variation depending on the language you speak.

(Dr. Mike Ghouse is Social Scientist, Public Speaker, thinker, author, newsmaker, and an Interfaith Wedding Officiant. He is deeply committed to Pluralism in Religion, Politics, Societies, Human rights, and religious freedom. He is the founder and president of the Center for Pluralism, Director at the World Muslim Congress, a think tank, and a wedding officiant at Interfaith Marriages. His new book American Muslim Agenda is available on Amazon, and "Standing up for others" and "Madame President" are coming soon. He is committed to building cohesive societies and offers pluralistic solutions to issues of the day. His mission is to open people's hearts and minds toward fellow humans. More about him at TheGhouseDiary.com)



# Homemade substitutes for beauty products

Here are some natural substitutes for your common beauty products that can be easily made at home. You may have not known but some simple kitchen ingredients can work wonders.

## Natural Dry Shampoo for Oily Hair

Do you feel the need to wash your hair every other day? Or do you have an oily scalp? Here's what you can do instead of using shampoo too often. Ingredients: 2 and a 1/2 tablespoons of cornstarch (preferably organic), 3-4 drops of essential oil (lavender or rose)

Procedure: Mix both ingredients and lightly dust it on your scalp. Wait for 5 minutes and remove the excess powder with a brush. Cornstarch will soak in almost all the oil and dirt leaving your hair feeling clean and fresh.

## Natural Blackhead Remover

Baking powder is great to exfoliate and loosen up dead skin and remove blackheads, and dirt lurking underneath the surface. Ingredients: 1 tablespoon baking soda, water (preferably mineral).

Procedure: Mix the two ingredients to obtain a slightly wet paste-like consistency. Apply it on your nose and let it dry completely. Leave it on for 10-15 minutes and then rinse.

## Natural Face Pack for Glowing Skin

This is one of my grandmother's secrets for bright and glowing skin. Gram flour is great for improving uneven skin tone and milk has a very soothing effect on the skin. Ingredients: 2 tablespoons gram flour (besan), 1 tablespoon milk (raw).

Procedure: Mix all ingredients to make a paste and apply the mixture evenly on your face. Let it sit for 10 minutes and then rinse your face with lukewarm water. (Also read: 7 Natural Face Packs Our Grandmothers Used)

## Natural Teeth Whitener

Baking soda is a humble kitchen ingredient that can be used to solve many beauty problems. It is great to remove any kind of stains from your teeth. Ingredients: 1 tablespoon baking soda



1/2 tablespoon lime juice Procedure: Mix the ingredients to form a paste and apply the mixture on your teeth. Let it rest for 1-2 minutes and rinse it off. You should do this daily to get cleaner, whiter teeth.

## Natural Skin Toner

A toner is required to clean the skin. A good toner is one that hydrates, clears and energizes your skin and there's nothing like fresh aloe vera gel to do all these three things. Cut open the leaf and scoop all the gel out. Massage the gel on your face and neck and let it dry for 15 minutes. Rinse your face with lukewarm water and pat it dry.

Source: NDTV

## FOOD

# Mewari Paneer

## INGREDIENTS

- 1 litre full cream milk
- 2 gm chopped raisins
- 2 gm chopped pistachios
- 1 pinch saffron, 3 gm red peppers, 125 gm chopped onion, 5 gm sliced onion pearl, 10 gm garlic paste
- 25 ml refined oil, 10 gm cumin powder, 8 gm fresh cream, 5 gm white butter
- 10 gm chopped coriander leaves, 2 gm chopped almonds, 2 gm chopped walnuts, 2 gm chopped cashews, 4 ml lemon juice, 3 gm capsicum ( green pepper)
- 150 gm tomato, 10 gm ginger paste
- 25 ml tomato puree, 10 gm coriander powder, 6 gm garam masala powder, 2 pinches salt
- 10 gm powdered deggi chilli
- 3 gm black cumin seeds.

## Method

- To prepare the homemade paneer, boil milk in a handi and curdle with lemon juice.
- When the milk is curdled, add chopped dry fruits and saffron in it. Strain the mixture in muslin cloth and let it stand at least for an hour.
- When the paneer is prepared, dice the paneer pieces.
- Now, heat oil in a saucepan over medium flame and put all the ground spices in it. When the seeds starts to crackle, put black cumin add chopped onion in it.
- When it's brown, add ginger and garlic paste, chopped tomatoes, sliced white onion (white pickled onion).
- Then add all the dry spices and stir it when leaves the oil on the top, add diced paneer and bell pepper in it.
- Garnish with fresh cream and chopped green coriander.



# Foods To Boost Collagen Production

Collagen is a large protein that is used to make the connective tissue, which in turn keeps all the other tissues together. Collagen is present in bones, joints, blood, muscles, and cartilages. It is the most important protein for a healthy-looking skin as it gives it elasticity and strength. Collagen makes up a third of the total body protein. As we grow older, our processes start to slow down and this affects the production of collagen too.

## AMINO ACIDS

There are 20 amino acids that make up all the proteins in our body. Of these 9 are termed essential as they are not produced in our body and need to be consumed through our food. Amino acids are important to produce collagen and are abundantly found in protein-rich foods like meats, poultry, legumes like peanuts and Tofu, cottage cheese, soy proteins, organ meats, Fish, and dairy.

## VITAMIN C

The vitamin regulates the synthesis of Collagen. In addition, Vitamin C is a strong antioxidant and its role in maintaining and promoting skin health is well documented. Consuming foods rich in Vitamin C on a daily basis helps maintain not just a healthy skin but also a strong immune system. Vitamin C is abundant in citrus

fruits, papaya, green leafy vegetables, tomato, berries, red and yellow peppers.

## ZINC

The mineral needed in small amounts is a critical nutrient for collagen production. It boosts production, repairs cell and protects against damage. It also activates the proteins for collagen formation. Oysters, dairy, pumpkin seeds, cashew nuts are some of the best sources of zinc.

## MANGANESE

It helps in collagen production by activating enzymes that boost the production of amino acid - Proline present in collagen. Needed in small amounts, Manganese is found in foods like, whole grains, nuts, legumes, brown rice, leafy vegetables and spices.

## COPPER

It works by activating enzymes that are needed for collagen production; these enzymes also help connect collagen fibers with other fibers, creating a wire frame that supports tissues. Whole grains, beans, nuts, shellfish, organ meats, green leafy vegetables and dried prunes are all good sources of copper.



# Natural food items to consume for a healthy gut

Being at your best means being able to maintain your energy levels and feeling great all summer, and it all starts in the gut. A healthy gut microbiome - the community of microorganisms living in your digestive system - is of utmost importance to your health. These sets of healthy bacteria are essential for a healthy metabolism, energy levels, digestion and much more. However, they can also be potentially harmful due to the change in their composition when the gut ecosystem undergoes abnormal changes due to the use of antibiotics, illness, stress, ageing, bad dietary habits, and lifestyle.

Check out the list of foods that you must feed these bacteria to optimise your health during summers.

## Fruits

Summers are all about fruits and fruits that are high in fibre serve as the easiest way to maintain a favourable pH balance in the colon. The colon must be slightly acidic to support good bacteria and to prevent harmful bacteria from thriving. The pH value of the colon should range from 6.7 to 6.9 for good gut health. Fruits like pears, raspberries, apples, kiwis and blueberries are all rich in fibre and hence are the best foods to eat for a healthy gut during scorching sunny days.

The skin of pears is particularly beneficial as it has three to four times as many phytonutrients as the flesh while the fibrous kiwi binds with toxins in the colon and removes them, thus reducing the risk of colon cancer. Kiwis are low in fat but rich in nutrients. Blueberries are a major source of prebiotics like bifidobacteria which improve gut health.

## Mushrooms

Mushrooms are edible fungi that have numerous prebiotic components like alpha and beta-glucans, chitin, mannans, xylans and hemicellulose. Mushrooms act as prebiotics, thus feeding the



beneficial gut microbes. They further create nutrients like vitamin K and SCFA (short-chain fatty acids) that help repair the cells of the intestinal walls.

Various researchers from Hong Kong conducted a study which revealed that mushrooms can contribute to building our immunity against tumours, and pneumonia. Even simple white button mushrooms are known to increase microbial diversity and change the composition of the gut flora while stimulating local inflammatory responses. Not to miss out on the anti-cancer, anti-allergy and cholesterol-lowering attributes of mushrooms.

## Green bananas

Green bananas are very high in resistant starch. A medium-sized green banana has as much as 38 g of resistant starch. Not only are they an excellent source of soluble fibre, but also keep your stomach full during summers while keeping your gut microbiome healthy and well-composed.

(By: Dr. Surendra K Chikara; Source: NDTV)

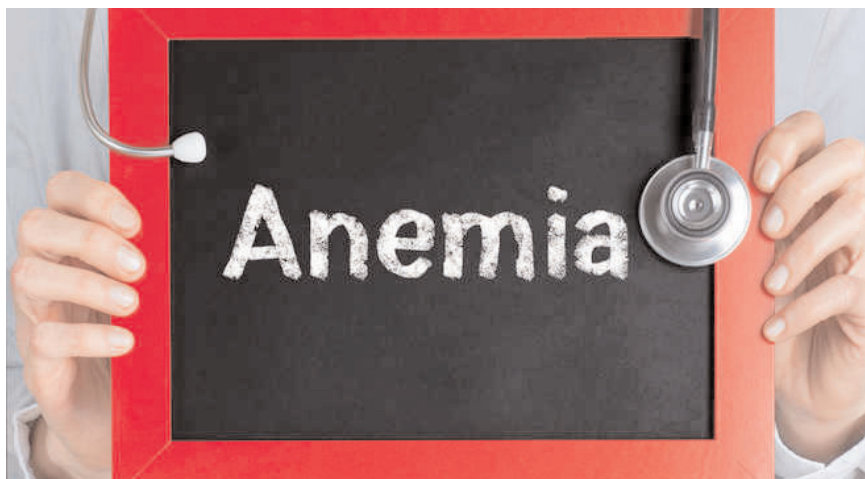
# Screen and treat with iron-folic acid approach efficacious in reducing prevalence of anaemia

The 'screen and treat with iron-folic acid' approach is efficacious in reducing prevalence of anaemia among women of reproductive age, and significant treatment effects persist for a period of one year, found a study by the ICMR's National Institute of Nutrition.

Anaemia remains a public health problem in India, particularly among women, Dr Raghu Pullakhandham, a senior scientist at the National Institute of Nutrition (NIN) and lead investigator of the study, told PTI.

"The population approach to anaemia has been prophylactic iron-folic acid (IFA) supplementation since the last four decades, yet, the prevalence of anaemia has remained stubbornly above 50 per cent among Indian women," Pullakhandham said.

In an attempt to strengthen anaemia control, the government recently launched the 'Anemia Mukta Bharat (AMB)' programme, which, in addition to the existing prophylactic IFA supplementation for women of reproductive age, advocated an additional screening for blood hemoglobin levels and



treatment with IFA tablets.

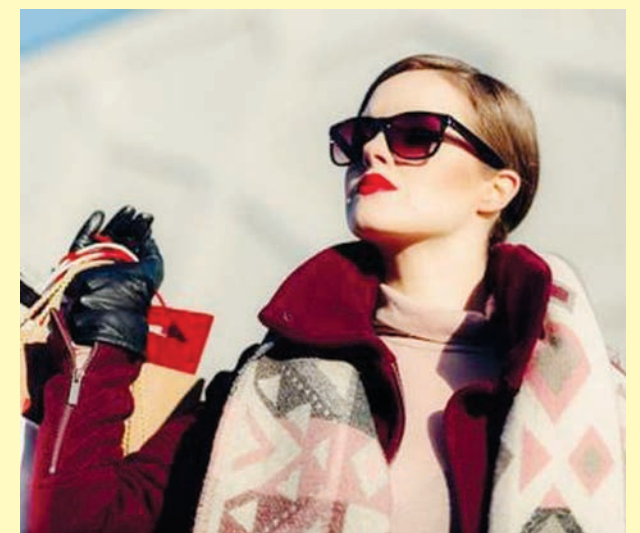
This approach was evaluated by ICMR-NIN, Hyderabad, among 470 women of 17-21 years in age.

Screening for hemoglobin followed by treatment with IFA for 90 days reduced the prevalence of anaemia by 40 per cent—reduced from 70 to 30 per cent—and improved the body iron stores as estimated by serum ferritin, an iron storage protein, Pullakhandham stated.

When the same women are followed up again in one year time,

there is a small decline in hemoglobin levels (by 0.5g/dL) and an increase in anaemia prevalence (by 10 per cent), which is still lower compared to anaemia at the start of the study (70 per cent), he explained.

"This study, therefore, demonstrates that screening followed by IFA supplementation as suggested by 'Anemia Mukta Bharat' guidelines is efficacious in reducing the prevalence of anaemia among WRA, and significant treatment effects persist for a period of one year," he said. Source: PTI



## How summer heat can harm your eyes?

As the temperature continues to soar, we ensure to take care of our health, skin and hair. However, we often miss paying attention to one of the most important parts of the body affected by the summer heat - our eyes. Just like our skin and health undergo immense pressure in summers, so do our eyes.

According to Dr Tushar Grover, Medical Director, Vision Eye Centre, New Delhi, "The sun's scorching heat is extremely harmful to the eyes. Summertime exposure to the sun's ultraviolet rays can increase the risk of cataracts and retinal damage."

"It can also cause eye allergies, which range from mild itching and redness to severe watering and swelling of the eyelids, sties, and bacterial and viral conjunctivitis. Excessive heat exposure can result in ocular burns, cataracts, macular degeneration (a leading cause of blindness), and cancer," he added.

This is mainly due to the fact that the heat and the high levels of pollutants and irritants in the air make our eyes prone to allergic reactions such as redness, itching and burning sensation, explained Dr Chikirsha Jain, Senior Consultant Retina and Ophthalmology, Ujala Cygnus Rainbow Hospital, Agra.

## How to take care of your eyes during summer season?

Taking care of your eyes is just as important in the summer as it is the rest of the year, shared Dr Grover. "You should still follow the same eye care precautions."

- Wash your hands before handling contact lenses and wearing protective eyewear when participating in certain sports and activities.
- Wearing sunglasses with UVA and UVB protection is essential. "Sunglasses are still recommended even if your contact lenses have UV protection built-in because they protect the surrounding eye area and act as a barrier between your eyes and the summer heat, preventing dry eye," he said.
- During the summer season, dehydration is more likely, affecting your body's ability to produce tears. So, it's critical to stay hydrated by drinking plenty of water. Source: The Indian Express

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## Study shows Mars had less water than previously thought

Mars, which was once known to contain a massive body of water, may have less water, suggests new research. According to researchers at the University of Texas at Austin, the Red Planet faced a collision with a huge astral entity around four billion years ago.

The collision known as Late Heavy Bombardment refers to a period where it is believed that a disproportionately large number of asteroids collided with Mercury, Venus, Earth, and Mars.

Many meteors and meteorites impacted Mars resulting in the large number of massive impact craters on the surface of the Red Planet. The event is also believed to have created its northern lowland - so large it's visible from space - where a significant tract of Martian land appears to be literally sliced off.

This basin is also believed to have once contained a massive body of water.

"Mars used to have a lot of water and it still has ice likely before this collision," said Mohammad Afzal Shadab, a CSEM graduate student at the Oden Institute at the varsity.

Shadab's team developed a very simple mathematical formula for predicting just how high that groundwater table would have been.

# Latest astronaut crew of 4 welcomed aboard International Space Station

Four astronauts, three from NASA and one from the European Space Agency, arrived at the International Space Station (ISS) on Wednesday and docked their SpaceX capsule, just two days after the last crew to depart the orbiting outpost returned to Earth.

Rendezvous of the Crew Dragon capsule with the station less than 16 hours after launch from NASA's Kennedy Space Center in Cape Canaveral, Florida, marked one of the fastest flights by Elon Musk's SpaceX to the ISS from liftoff to docking, NASA webcast commentators said.

The fully automated docking took place at about 7:37 p.m. EDT (2337 GMT) while the Crew Dragon capsule, dubbed Freedom, and the space station were flying about 260 miles (420 km) above the central Pacific Ocean, according to NASA.

The Freedom crew consists of three American NASA astronauts - flight commander Kjell Lindgren, 49; mission pilot Bob Hines, 47; and mission specialist Jessica Watkins, 33 - as well as Italian astronaut Samantha Cristoforetti, 45, of the European Space Agency (ESA).

After docking ahead of schedule to the station's Harmony module, crew members spent two hours conducting standard leak checks and pressurizing the chamber between the capsule and the ISS before opening the entry hatches.

A live NASA video feed showed the smiling new arrivals floating headfirst through the padded passageway one by one into the station. They were greeted with hugs and handshakes by the four-member team they will be replacing - three Americans and a German ESA crewmate due to end their mission next week.



A SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket lifts off carrying three NASA astronauts and one ESA astronaut on a six-month expedition to the International Space Station, at Cape Canaveral, Florida, U.S. April 27, 2022. (REUTERS/Steve Nesius)

Three Russian cosmonauts currently sharing the station but preparing for a spacewalk on Thursday were not present for the welcome.

The four latest astronauts, designated Crew 4, are the fourth full-fledged ISS crew NASA has launched aboard a SpaceX vehicle since the California-based rocket company began flying U.S. space agency astronauts in 2020. Source: Reuters

## You can now ask Google to remove personal info from Search results

Google has allowed people to request removals of additional types of information from its Search results, including personal contact information like a phone number, email address, or physical address.

Google Search currently allows people to request the removal of certain content, with a focus on sensitive content that can cause direct harm to them.

"Under the policy expansion, people can now request removals of additional types of information when they find it in Search results, including personal contact information like a phone number, email address, or physical address," Michelle Chang, Global Policy Lead for Search at Google, said in a statement late on Wednesday, April 27.

The policy also allows for the removal of additional information that may pose a risk for identity theft, such as confidential log-in credentials, when it appears in Search results.

"It's important to remember that removing content from Google Search won't remove it from the internet, which is why you may wish to contact the hosting site directly," the company informed. People have been asking Google to remove certain sensitive, personally identifiable information from Search in cases of doxxing, or information like bank account or credit card numbers that could be used for financial fraud.

"The availability of personal contact information online can be jarring, and it can be used in harmful ways, including for unwanted direct contact or even physical harm," said Google.

Google said that when it receives removal requests, it will evaluate all content on the web page to ensure that it is not limiting the availability of other information that is broadly useful, for instance in news articles. Source: IANS



## FB has no idea how to manage user data: Report

Meta-owned Facebook is reportedly unable to account for much of the personal user data under its ownership, including what it is being used for and where it is located, media reports say.

According to the tech website Engadget, privacy engineers on Facebook's Ad and Business Product team wrote a report last year, intending it to be read by the company's leadership.

It detailed how Facebook could address a growing number of data usage regulations, including new privacy laws in India, South Africa and elsewhere.

The report's authors described a platform often in the dark about the personal data of its estimated 1.9 billion users, citing an internal report leaked to Motherboard, the report said.

The engineers warned that Facebook would have difficulty making promises to countries on how it would treat the data of its citizens.

"We do not have an adequate level of control and explainability over how our systems use data, and thus we can't confidently make controlled policy changes or external commitments such as 'we will not use X data for Y purpose,'" the authors were quoted as saying.

"And yet, this is exactly what regulators expect us to do, increasing our risk of mistakes and misrepresentation," they added.

The report stated that Facebook's main obstacle to tracking down user data appears to be the company's lack of "closed-form" systems. Source: IANS







### PVR TIES UP WITH OMA CINEMA OF FRANCE; TO INTRODUCE 'CINEMA PODS' AT THEATRES

Film exhibition company PVR Cinemas on Thursday, April 28, announced that it has entered into a tie-up with Oma Cinema of France to introduce the concept of "cinema pods" in the Indian market.

The announcement was made at CinemaCon 2022 at Las Vegas, a gathering of movie theatre owners from around the world, a joint statement said.

Through its vertical architecture, Oma provides the audience with an intimate cinematic experience with tiered balconies, or "pods", enabling viewers to enjoy a sociable cinema experience whilst enjoying a perfect view of the screen.

PVR's chief growth and strategy officer Pramod Arora said PVR is keen on building cinemas with more experiential elements, which is not possible in a home environment setting. Having "an option to have a private movie party with friends and family, OMA pods shall be your own space offering an unmatched bespoke experience of watching a film on a very large screen alongside specially-crafted F&B options. Many corporates have been used to their own box at sporting events in stadia, and now they shall have an option to have one in a cinema too," Arora added.

### APPLE DELIVERS STRONG QUARTERLY RESULTS, BUT WARNS OF TROUBLE AHEAD

Apple on Thursday reported strong quarterly results despite supply shortages, but warned that its growth slowdown is likely to deepen. The company said it's still struggling to get enough chips to meet demand and contending with COVID-related shutdowns at factories in China that make iPhones and other products. Although initial results for the January-March period topped analysts' projections, the good news was quickly eclipsed when management warned of trouble ahead during a conference call.

The main takeaway: Apple's sales will be squeezed by the supply problems much harder in the current April-June quarter than in its previous one. The company estimated it would take a hit to revenue of \$4 billion to \$8 billion as a result. "It will affect most of the product categories," Apple CEO Tim Cook told analysts.

Apple's stock price fell 4% in extended trading, reversing a positive response after the Apple report initially came out.

# Twitter revenue climbs to \$1.2 billion, daily users grow 16 percent

SAN FRANCISCO (TIP)

Twitter on Thursday, April 28, posted quarterly earnings of \$513 million days after it agreed to be sold to billionaire Elon Musk. The social media company said Thursday that revenue rose 16% to \$1.2 billion in the three months to March compared with the same period last year.

Twitter, based in San Francisco, reported an average of 229 million daily active users in the quarter, up 16% from last year.

Musk's \$44 billion deal to buy Twitter was announced earlier this week and the deal is expected to close later this year.

Twitter cancelled the conference call with executives and industry analysts that usually accompanies its results, so there will be little further insight into the company's current financial condition.

Musk's purchase of Twitter is expected to close sometime this year. But before the deal is completed, shareholders will have to weigh in, as well as regulators in the US and in countries where Twitter does business. So far though, few hurdles are expected, despite objections from some of Twitter's own employees, along with users who worry about Musk's stance on free speech and what it might mean for harassment and hate speech on the platform.

Musk, who also runs the electric car company Tesla, as well as SpaceX and other ventures, says he plans to take Twitter private. If he does, the company will no longer be beholden to shareholders or publicly report its financial results, which



have been mixed at best since the company went public in 2013.

Twitter has struggled to consistently post profits as a public company while generating lackluster revenue growth compared to the two dominant forces in digital advertising, Google and Facebook.

On one hand, going private could give Twitter more room to experiment while focusing less on short-term profit and its stock price. On the other hand, even the world's richest man is likely to want the company to make money.

"I think there is nothing better for Twitter than Elon Musk buying it and ideally replacing the board, and also doubling down on investments into products and new revenue-generating sources," John Meyer, a technology entrepreneur and investor, told AP.

**Musk told banks he will rein in Twitter pay, make money from tweets: Sources**

SAN FRANCISCO: Elon Musk told

banks that agreed to help fund his \$44 billion acquisition of Twitter Inc that he could crack down on executive and board pay at the social media company in a push to slash costs, and would develop new ways to monetize tweets, three people familiar with the matter said.

Musk made the pitch to the lenders as he tried to secure debt for the buyout days after submitting his offer to Twitter on April 14, the sources said. His submission of bank commitments on April 21 were key to Twitter's board accepting his "best and final" offer. Musk had to convince the banks that Twitter produced enough cash flow to service the debt he sought. In the end, he clinched \$13 billion in loans secured against Twitter and a \$12.5 billion margin loan tied to his Tesla stock. He agreed to pay for the remainder of the consideration with his own cash.

Musk's pitch to the banks constituted his vision rather than firm commitments, the sources said, and the exact cost cuts he will pursue once he owns Twitter remain unclear. The plan he outlined to banks was thin on detail, the sources added. Musk has tweeted about eliminating the salaries of Twitter's board directors, which he said could result in about \$3 million in cost savings. Twitter's stock-based compensation for the 12 months ending Dec. 31, 2021 was \$630 million, a 33% increase from 2020, corporate filings show. *Source: AP and Reuters*

## Crisis looms as Indonesia export ban halts palm oil shipments

MUMBAI (TIP)

Indonesia's wider palm oil export ban has trapped at least 290,000 tonnes of the edible oil meant to be headed to India at ports and oil mills in the world's top producer, four industry officials said on Thursday, April 28.

The disruption in shipments after Indonesia widened its export ban to include crude and refined palm oil will create a vegetable oil shortage in top importer India, the officials said. Second-biggest exporter Malaysia is already struggling to meet higher demand levels and is asking for near record prices for prompt shipments, they said.

"Our vessel of 16,000 tonnes is stuck at Kumai port in Indonesia," said Pradeep Chowdhry, MD of Gemini Edibles & Fats India Pvt Ltd., which buys around 30,000 tonnes of Indonesian palm oil every month.

"We don't know when Indonesia will lift the ban, and stuck shipments will be delivered."

India is the world's biggest importer of palm oil and relies on Indonesia for nearly half of the 700,000 tonnes it takes in every month. Buyers are now rushing to make purchases from Malaysia, but Kuala Lumpur cannot fill the demand, said Sandeep Bajoria, chief executive of Sunvin Group, a vegetable oil brokerage and consultancy firm. Malaysian sellers are obliged to meet their old commitments and cannot provide palm oil for prompt shipments, he said. *Source: Reuters*

## US economy shrinks in first quarter of 2022; trade, inventories mask underlying strength

WASHINGTON (TIP)

The U.S. economy unexpectedly contracted in the first quarter amid a resurgence in COVID-19 cases and drop in pandemic relief money from the government, but the decline in output is misleading as domestic demand remained strong.

The first decrease in gross domestic product since the short and sharp pandemic recession nearly two years ago, reported by the Commerce Department on Thursday, was mostly driven by a wider trade deficit as imports surged, and a slowdown in the pace of inventory accumulation.

A measure of domestic demand accelerated from the fourth quarter's rate, allaying fears of either stagflation or a recession. The Federal Reserve is expected to hike interest rates by 50 basis points next Wednesday. The U.S. central bank raised its policy interest rate by 25 basis points in March, and is soon likely to start trimming its asset holdings. "The economy is still showing some resilience, but the first-quarter GDP report signals the start of more moderate growth this year and next, largely in response to higher interest rates," said Sal Guatieri, a senior economist at BMO Capital Markets in Toronto. "Despite the contraction, the Fed has little choice but to hike aggressively in May to corral inflation." Gross domestic product fell at a 1.4% annualized rate last quarter, the government said in its advance GDP estimate. *Source: Reuters*



Shree Ganeshaya Namah



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MONTHLY HOROSCOPE - MAY 2 TO MAY 8, 2022



**ARIES** : Ganesha says, all your relationships will flourish in the right direction this month. You will be able to balance your professional and personal life very well this month. Although you will not be able to make very higher profits in the first half of the month, things will get better on the financial and economic front in the latter half of the month due to the presence of Venus in your 10th house. As far as your relationship with your partner is concerned, a discussion of marriage is on the card this month. If you are already married, rebounding with your spouse will surely happen this month. Your health will have to be taken care in the 3rd and 4th week of the month as you might suffer from periodic headaches as part of your reaction to changing environment.



**TAURUS** : Dear Taurus, you'll accept yourself and let go of whatever resentment you've harbored towards others this month. This is also an excellent time to start a new business. This month, you'll make a career leap. You'll also be focused since you have a lot of work on your plate. As a result of Jupiter's beneficial influence, you will be able to make a lot of money in the third week. Your love life will not demand any kind of turn-of-the-head as a mutual understanding of your partner and you will keep things on track. Your health will have to be taken care of in the first half of the month as you will suffer from exhaustion and dehydration very often. Try to drink more water and keep yourself hydrated.



**GEMINI** : This month, you will mold yourself into a higher standard of yourself dear Gemini. Today is a wonderful day to create a blueprint for your objectives and take the steps necessary to achieve them. You'll think about how to investigate yourself and how to prioritize your mental wellness. As a result of the Moon's unfavorable influence on your thoughts, you may also spend time building a castle in the air, which will make you forget about your critical tasks. This month, your partner and you will get to indulge in creative interests which will strengthen your bond. As far as your Wellness is concerned, you will pay more attention to your mental well which will automatically have a good effect on your physical health too.



**CANCER** : Your dedicated attitude toward everybody and everything will provide you with the reward of receiving assistance from everyone with whom you were loyal this month. You have excellent self-control and are a responsible person. All of your feelings are elevated in the second week of the month, so you'll need to let things go on their own and let them go pleasantly and happily. This month, Jupiter will transit in your 11th house which will lead to major changes in your occupation or business. People dealing in the clothing



**LEO** : This month, you will experience seclusion, which will make you feel fantastic. Create your own area and show up. This month, you will have a deep awareness of people's suffering and will be able to empathize with them entirely. This month, your professional fronts will be very powerful. You will not only earn good profits but you will also join hands with the right kind of people this month who will become an important step on your professional ladder. Your love life will have to be looked at in the latter half of the month as minor differences between you and your partner will create big problems. This month, there are no significant health difficulties for you to cope with.



**VIRGO** : Dear Virgo, this month, your search for someone to partner with or to join hands with for professional up-gradation or to commence a new business venture will end. You will find a very reliable team for your goals this month. you may find a real ally who will not abandon you for the long - term, so rejoice. You are a daring and fearless individual. This month, you'll discover new ways to create money that can help you become financially secure. Your love life will be alright and stable this month and you will hardly pay any attention to it this month. This month, you'll be consuming a lot of sweets, so keep it to a minimum. Your blood pressure may become unbalanced as well, so watch what you consume. This month, avoid drinking too much coffee.



**LIBRA** : This month, you'll be in pleasant spirits Dear Libra. With your family and friends, you will discuss a lot. Cooperation, fairness, and an inquisitive mind will open numerous doors for you. You are still bound by your past actions; therefore, you must move on, and when making decisions, you must remain cool and collected. Overall, this month is going to be very fine for your professional and career fronts. Your love life will demand attention in the first half of the month as Venus will not be in your favor and this will make your partner emotionally weak. This month, take it easy on your body because you're likely to have discomfort in your knees, joints, and back.



**SCORPIO** : You will be able to communicate with people from other places which will help you expand your business. You'll also get the opportunity to learn new things, and the day will be really exciting. Your tenacity will serve you well throughout the month. Your life path is altering, and you may not accept the changes; thus, you must accept the changes with an open heart. This month, you will progress in terms of your disposition and personality. As far as your relationship is concerned, this month is certainly going to be fortunate and very well equipped with love



and care from your partner or spouse. Try to do your daily tasks, exercise on a regular basis, eat nutritious foods, and keep your surroundings clean this month.

**SAGITTARIUS** : This month, you will take off to go touring or discover a lovely destination. There is a potential that you will accomplish something. Your compassionate disposition will be admired and loved by those close to you.

You must entirely manage your emotions during the first part of the month. You will also get promoted in the latter half of the month. You become emotionally weak while you are under the influence of the moon. This will also affect your relationship with your partner but things will get better by the end of the month. Rather than being haughty, try to remain silent and pleasant. Take care of yourself this month and spend some quality time with yourself.



**CAPRICORN** : Because your disposition is inquisitive, you can learn a great deal this month Dear Capricorn. You will adjust to things that you haven't accepted in a long time, which might be beneficial. Being kind is a quality you possess, and it might benefit you at work. As a positive effect of Ketu on your eighth house, your job fronts will see positive changes this month. You will also crack a good deal today. Your partner will be able to help you with your professional obligations and they will also help you manage your personal life well this month. In the latter half of the month, you might not be able to spend enough time with her partner but that will be very well understood by them. This month, your job and life are moving at a breakneck pace, which may cause issues such as heartburn, congestion, and other digestive issues.



**AQUARIUS** : This month, you will be brave, joyful, and full of confidence and excitement. This month, it's best to travel with your friends. This month, you might be able to finish the task you've been putting off. This month, you should avoid traveling alone since it will be hazardous to your health. In the first half of the month, your romantic life will be all well. You will be able to make things right between your partner and you by the end of the month. You should be cautious when eating this month since you may have headaches and stomachaches.



**PISCES** : If you are patient and responsible with your job, this month will be fantastic for you Dear Pisces. Apart from that, this month you can rely on someone you don't trust too much. This month is a good time to go to new destinations for business. You may put a stop to your negative behaviors this month. This month, your obstinacy may lead to a slew of obstacles on the road that you might have avoided. As far as your relationship is concerned, this month will be very fortunate for you as you will be able to meet someone like minded and compatible for yourself. This month would be too soon to discuss marriage or engagement but it will give you a nice time with someone you can share your heart out with. Your health will need minor attention this month but do not worry. Overall, everything is going to be alright.



Shree Ganeshaya Namah



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

WEEKLY HOROSCOPE - MAY 2 TO MAY 8, 2022



**ARIES** : Ganesha says, this week, your 6th house is in charge; fresh employment prospects will present themselves to you. You will be entrusted with sensitive information and assigned to projects with significant business ramifications. This week, be prepared to take on a leadership position. This week, you may have periods of hesitation, finding it difficult to pick amongst the possibilities available to you. your relationship will be all well this week, you do not need to worry about it at all. Your limits were put in place for medical reasons, and it's a good idea to remember them when enjoying a cheat meal.



**TAURUS** : This week, you will learn as much as feasible from the past. This week, retracing your steps can help you be more productive. Try pondering on the benefits and drawbacks of your previous comments and acts; you'll notice several key points that will help you better manage your judgments. In terms of your connection, make an effort to reconnect with someone you haven't seen in a long. Allow them to feel heard, respected, and valued. This week, your health will be OK.



**GEMINI** : For a long time, you've been fascinated with a single aspect of your life dear Gemini. This week, your dedication will pay off as you feel yourself getting closer to your objectives with each passing hour. Your attention to detail and concentration will be critical in achieving these goals. This week, you'll come across a few unexpected charges. Make sure you spend your money properly and prudently. Your partner and you both will need to spend a lot of time together in order to make things right between you this week. An unsettled stomach might cause you to lose focus on your job and other objectives. Make sure you eat well and exercise regularly to burn calories and fat.



**CANCER** : It's your turn on the spotlight Dear Cancer. This week is your time to shine, and the world will conspire to bring you your moment of triumph, no matter how big or tiny that may be. Your patience, benevolence, and sportsmanship will be rewarded. Prepare to reap the benefits of your years of hard work. This week, you appear to be jealous of those close to you. Make sure you explain your goals to them in a clear and concise manner. This week, the blessing of Venus will help you improve your love life. In terms of health, the latter half of the week will worry you a little bit but do not worry, you will be fine before beginning of the next week.



**LEO** : It appears to be the ideal week for gifting dear Leo natives. You'll come across possibilities to aid others by assisting them with their chores or supplying them with the materials they require. You may quickly become exhausted and worn out. This week, your relationship will not need any attention as such, but you might not be able to connect well with emotional bonding you share due to weaker Moon. Your health will need attention this week as you might not be able to deal with frequent headaches this week.



**VIRGO** : You're going to make an investment in yourself dear Virgo, but it won't necessarily be monetary. It will be something that will spiritually enhance you. This week's decisions will pay off handsomely for you. You'll allow yourself enough time, space, and energy to discover the zing that allows you to stay in a condition of constant flow. In the second part of the week, you'll fall a bit short of your goals. Make sure you make try to keep yourself focused well. As far as you're your relationship is concerned, you will have a good time with your partner and your relationship will flourish this week. people who are not finding the right match to marry, you might have to wait a little longer. Your health will need to be attended this week as you will go through issues related to blood pressure.



**LIBRA** : Dear Libra natives, your children will give you a wonderful and emotional gift this week, as your 5th house rules your horoscope. With their actions and words, they will make you feel unique. The relationship you share with them is something to treasure, and the memories you'll build this week will prove it. As a result of the Moon's unfavorable impacts, your proclivity for overthinking will halt you in your steps when you need to make a critical decision. Your partner will help you align your goals this week. They will act as a catalyst for you!! You might feel lazy and this will divert you from your health goals, make sure you keep yourself focused and strict in terms of your health routine.



**SCORPIO** : Your tribe will be drawn to you because of your vibe Dear Scorpio natives. You will exude good energy in such a way that connecting with others who share your opinions, values, and beliefs will be easier. You'll meet folks who seem to be cut from the same cloth as you throughout the day. You'll get chastised if you're too forthright. You're renowned for being open and honest in your conversations, which may make you appear a touch too invasive or domineering this week. Your health will be alright this week.



**SAGITTARIUS** : You'll get the aid you need at the right time and in the right place Dear Sagittarius. This week, the stars have cooperated to guarantee that you enjoy a smooth voyage in all aspects of your life. The stars will align to make it easier for you to achieve your chosen goal, and you will experience few if any obstacles along the way. You could be surprised by some news from your buddies that you weren't expecting. This week your relationship will bloom differently as you will be able to strengthen your bond. Your health will need attention as deficiency of Vitamin D will cause issues.



**CAPRICORN** : Dear Capricorn, there were whispers in your brain advising you to put your aspirations on the back burner. You'll fight hard to conquer your own self-doubt and self-criticism, restoring your faith in your talents. You'll be a touch too reliant on external validation in the second part of the week, which will stymie your own decision-making for a while. This week, people who are married will find it difficult to deal with each other's busy schedules but a common ground of understanding will help them. Your wellness fronts will be all settled this week.



**AQUARIUS** : This week, your assertiveness will increase Dear Aquarius. It appears to be an excellent opportunity to increase your personal or professional network. Your persona will radiate the appropriate metaphysical energies, attracting people to you. With zeal and vigor, you will meet someone new or reconnect with an old acquaintance. Your planetary motions indicate that they are waiting with bated breath to cause a slight annoyance. This week, you can avoid it by being especially cautious in your actions and judgments. Your health will be alright this week, but you will have to make sure that the elderly in the house are well taken care of.



**PISCES** : This week, you will exude the most captivating energy to people around you Dear Pisces. People will be drawn to you because of your brilliance and proactive attitude. You'll contact them to cooperate and aid them with anything they require. Your help and understanding will be extremely beneficial to them. You are free to put together that particular concept for your spouse that you have been storing. During the first half of the week, make sure to use your charisma to entice your date. Your partner and you will get a chance to put things under the rug this week. Your health will be all well and perfect this week, make sure you take good care of the elderly people this week.



**BIRTHDAY HOROSCOPE : MAY 2 TO MAY 8, 2022**

**BY ASTRO FRIEND CHIRAG - SON OF ASTROLOGER BEJAN DARUWALLA**

**May 2**

Ganesha says you will be blessed by new job opportunities and you may get what you want soon. New money making opportunities that will be highly promising, but will require you to give in your best. Relationships with your partner during this period will be great. Children will bring you good news and you will be proud of their achievements. Investment in a house or land will bring you long term benefits.

**May 3**

Ganesha says you may get new proposals and assignments that will boost your morale and confidence. Property transactions will bring you good returns and will also help raise money. Wedding bells will ring for some later in the year, and others will find romance to keep them going. Chronic patients need to take extra care for their health. Travel will be undertaken for building important relationships and monetary gains. Overseas journey or business transaction for some.

**May 4**

Ganesha says you may get new ideas and plans materializing to work on your further projects.

Perfect year that will improve your earning power and let you establish important relationships. Partner will provide love and care, but behave highly possessive and unpredictable. A journey preferably to a distant location towards the year end cannot be ruled out. Support from your seniors and colleagues will boost your morale and generate new confidence.

**May 5**

Ganesha says you will get rewards and recognition from your work place soon. Your financial position will also improve and you will feel more secure and satisfied with whatever you do. Family and friends will be there for you when you need them. Legal matters will be complicated and you should avoid standing guarantee for others, as it will cause embarrassment and many legal problems. Matrimonial alliances for you may come. Pilgrimage and religious activities will bring peace of mind.

**May 6**

Ganesha says there will be moments when your achievements will exceed your expectations, but most of the time you will have to put in your maximum effort to achieve the bare necessary results. People who have stood besides you till now will continue

their support. Relationships with your partner will be highly cordial and on an even footing, but you need to control yourself from being too stubborn, which will create uneasy moments at home. Romantic alliances will prosper and strengthen.

**May 7**

Ganesha says you will enjoy a great time with your family. You need to concentrate your maximum efforts into career improvement, as it will yield desired results. You will do extremely well socially if you travel and get involved in clubs and social events. Distant pilgrimage is on the cards for some of you. Your partner and children will be supportive but the health of your parents will be a matter of concern.

**May 8**

Ganesha says you will be on the verge of exploring a new horizon for you, something for which you have ever dreamt of. You are a productive and profitable resource for your company. You need to be transparent and expressive while confronting your blood relatives. It is a favourable time for children to excel in their career. Your concern for your health may force you to join yoga or gym classes soon.

|| SHREE GANESHAY NAMAH ||



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# Parashurama Jayanti

Parashurama Jayanti is celebrated as the birth anniversary of Lord Vishnu's sixth incarnation. The birth anniversary of Parashuram ji every year comes during the month of Vaishakh during the Shukla paksha Tritiya. Bhrigureshtha Maharishi Jamadagni was done Yajna for the son and pleased Devraj Indra and got a boon for his son. Maharishi's wife Renuka gave birth to Mahabahu Parashuram in Vaishakh Shukla paksha Tritiya

It is believed that Lord Vishnu took the incarnation of Parshuram as its form. When evil on earth was spread everywhere. The warrior class, with weapons and powers, abused his power and started torturing people. Lord Parshuram had kept the cosmic balance by destroying these wicked warriors.

In Hindu scriptures, Lord Parashuram is also called Rama Jamadagnya, Rama Bhargava and Veerarama. Parashurama is worshipped as mool purush, or founder, of the Niyogi Bhumihar Brahmin, Chitpavan, Daivadnya, Mohyal, Tyagi, Anavil and Nambudiri Brahmin communities.

Unlike all other avatars, Parashurama still lives on the earth according to Hindu faith. Therefore, Parashurama is not worshiped unlike Ram and Krishna. In southern India, near the Udipi, at the sacred place of the Pajka, there is a large temple that remembers Parashurama. There are several temples on the west coast of India which are dedicated to Lord Parshurama.

According to Kalki Purana, Parshuram will be the Guru of Vishnu, the tenth Avatar of Kalki and will teach him the Martial art. Parashuram will ask Kalki to receive Lord Shiva's penance and Divine weapon. This is not the first time that the six incarnations of Lord Vishnu will meet another incarnation. According to the Ramayana, Parshuram came to the wedding ceremony of Sita and Lord Rama and met Lord Vishnu's 7th incarnation.

## The killing of Jamadagni – Why Parashuram killed his mother Renuka & cut her head

Parshuram's parents were spiritual people and his father Jamadagni had his ashram on the bank of the river. It was there that he imparted education to his sons and disciples. One day, while he was performing yajna, he asked his wife Renuka to fetch some water from the river for oblation. Renuka went as asked to fetch some water but she lost track of time and missed oblation as celestial singer Chitraratha was indulging in leisure activities with his wife in the river.

Sage Jamadagni was so angry at his wife's carelessness that he asked his sons to behead her. No son came forward. Seeing this, Lord Vishnu Avatar Parshuram picked his axe and killed his mother. His father was very impressed and offered him a boon. Parshuram asked for the life of his dead mother's back. By then, Jamadagni's anger had subsided and thus he brings his wife back to life.

## The incident with the cow

Jamadagni and Renuka had a magical cow called Kaamdhenu that was the symbol of abundance. It had emerged out of the ocean during the great churning. One day when the sage and his sons were away and Renuka was alone, a few Kshatriyas came to visit, Renuka offered them food and delicious milk from the cow. The Kshatriyas on seeing this and finding out about the cow decided to take it to king Arjuna. They asked for the cow and Renuka refused. However, while leaving, The Kshatriyas seized the cow and took it with them anyway.

Parshuram came back to his mother wailing and was very angry. He at once stormed to Mahishmati, the capital of Arjuna. Seeing him, Arjuna mocked him and told him that his father and he should only indulge in Penance and forget about Kaamdhenu as only Kshatriyas deserve the best of all things. He sent his army to face Bhagwaan Parshuram who is the Avatar of God Vishnu and not one did survive. Arjuna was too furious to see his army destroyed. So, he went on his own to fight Parshuram.

Arjuna completely forgot about the curse that was spelled upon him by Muni Vashisth after Arjuna had once burnt a forest down. The curse was meant for him to be killed by a very powerful man and he was to cut off all the thousand arms of Arjuna. The curse did turn into reality and Arjuna's all thousand arms were cut off by Parshuram followed by his beheading.

Parshuram brought Kaamdhenu back and handed it



## Important information

**Parashurama Jayanti 2022**

**Tuesday, 03 May 2022**

**Tritiya Date Start : May 03, 2022 at 05:18 AM**

**Tritiya Date ends : May 04, 2022 at 07:32 AM**

**Did you know: According to Kalki Purana, Parshuram will be the Guru of Vishnu, the tenth Avatar of Kalki and will teach him the Martial art.**

over to his mother. Jamadagni was not very happy with his son's adventures as it seemed he had given air to an enmity between the Brahmins and the Kshatriyas. Jamadagni, in order to atone for Parshuram's sins, asked him to go for a pilgrimage. Parshuram obeyed his father's command.

## Kartavirya Arjuna killed by Parashuram Avatar

That incarnation of God is known as Jamadagnya (Parashurama). For what and when did he take incarnation in Bhrigukul, he tells the episode, listen. King Yudhishtira! Parshuram, the son of Maharishi Jamadagni, is very powerful. Parashurama, the best among the strong men, killed the Haihayavansh. Mahaparakrami Kartavirya did not keep his life in the Arjuna force but was killed by Jamadagninandan Parashurama because of his improper behavior. ShatruSudan Haihayaj Kartavirya was sitting on the Arjuna chariot, but in the battle, Parashuramaji killed him by knocking him down. It was Lord Govind who emerged in the Bhrigu dynasty as Parashuram. This is the one who disguises the head of Jambasur and is fatal to Shatdubhi. He incarnated only to kill Sahasrabahu Arjuna, who had won thousands of battles, in the war. Mahayashasvi Parashurama had conquered the six hundred and forty thousand Kshatriyas gathered on the banks of the Saraswati river with the help of a bow.

## The tale of the bloody revenge

Meanwhile, the sons of Arjuna were seeking their father's revenge and while Parshuram was away, they came to the ashram and killed Jamadagni. Renuka fainted as she was grief-stricken and scared. Parshuram came back to find out what had happened. This angered and devastated him. He swore to avenge his father's death and annihilate the entire Kshatriya race.

With his axe in his hand and blood on his mind, he went to the Prince's palace and went on a killing spree. He started by killing all the Kshatriyas in the palace, then he killed every single Kshatriya king and did not stop until not one Kshatriya was left. He finally avenged his father's death by killing all the Kshatriyas and filling five ponds with the blood of all Kshatriyas. This pond came to be known as Samant-panchaka. Later, Parshuram took a dip in the blood-filled pond and performed rituals to honor his father's death.

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**"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."**



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# History This Week April 29 to May 5

**"WE CAN ONLY KNOW WHERE WE'RE GOING IF WE KNOW WHERE WE'VE BEEN". - MAYA ANGELOU**

**April 29**

April 29, 1992 - Riots erupted in Los Angeles following the announcement that a jury in Simi Valley, California, had failed to convict four Los Angeles police officers accused in the videotaped beating of an African American man.



William Randolph Hearst

Birthdays - American publisher William Randolph Hearst (1863-1951) was born in San Francisco. The son of a gold miner, in 1887 he dropped out of Harvard to take control of the failing San Francisco Examiner which his father had purchased. He saved the Examiner, then went to New York and bought the New York Morning Journal to compete with Joseph Pulitzer. Hearst's sensational style of "yellow" journalism sold unprecedented numbers of newspapers and included promoting a war with Cuba in 1897-98. He expanded into other cities and into magazine publishing, books and films. He also served in Congress and nearly became mayor of New York City.



Emperor Hirohito

Birthdays - Japan's Emperor Hirohito (1901-1989) was born in Tokyo. In 1926, he became the 124th in a long line of monarchs and then presided over wartime Japan which was led by militarist Prime Minister Hideki Tojo. Following the dropping of two atomic bombs

by the U.S., he made a radio address urging his people to stop fighting. After the war, he remained the symbolic head of state in Japan's new parliamentary government. In 1946, he renounced his divinity and then pursued his interest in marine biology, becoming a recognized authority in the subject.

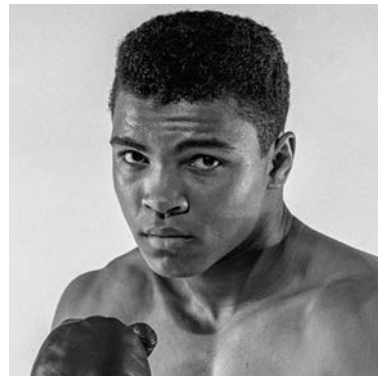
**April 30**



George Washington

April 30, 1789 - George Washington became the first U.S. President as he was administered the oath of office on the balcony of Federal Hall at the corner of Wall and Broad Streets in New York City.

April 30, 1948 - Palestinian Jews declared their independence from British rule and established the new state of Israel. The country soon became a destination for tens of thousands of Nazi Holocaust survivors and a strong U.S. ally.



Muhammad Ali

April 30, 1967 - Boxer Muhammad Ali was stripped of his world heavyweight boxing championship after refusing to be inducted into the American military. He had claimed religious exemption.

**May 1**

May 1st - Observed as May Day, a holiday and spring festival since ancient times, also observed in socialist countries as a workers' holiday or Labor Day.

May 1, 1707 - Great Britain was formed from a union between England and Scotland. The union included Wales which had already been part of England since the 1500's. The

United Kingdom today consists of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

May 1, 1960 - An American U-2 spy plane flying at 60,000 feet was shot down over Sverdlovsk in central Russia on the eve of a summit meeting between President Dwight D. Eisenhower and Soviet Russia's Premier Nikita Khrushchev. The sensational incident caused a cancellation of the meeting and heightened existing Cold War tensions. The pilot, CIA agent Francis Gary Powers, survived the crash, and was tried, convicted and sentenced to 10 years in prison by a Russian court. Two years later he was released to America in exchange for an imprisoned Soviet spy. On his return to America, Powers encountered a hostile public which apparently believed he should not have allowed himself to be captured alive. He died in a helicopter crash in 1977.

May 1, 2004 - Eight former Communist nations and two Mediterranean countries joined the European Union (EU) marking its largest-ever expansion. The new members included Poland, Hungary, the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Slovenia, Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia, along with the island of Malta and the Greek portion of the island of Cyprus. They joined 15 countries already in the EU, representing in all 450 million persons.



Mary 'Mother' Jones

Birthdays - Irish-born American labor leader Mary 'Mother' Jones (1830-1930) was born in County Cork, Ireland. She endured misfortune early in life as her husband and four children died in the yellow fever epidemic of 1867. She also lost all of her belongings in the Chicago Fire of 1871. She then devoted herself to organizing and advancing the cause of Labor, using the slogan, "Join the Union, boys." She also sought to prohibit child labor. She remained active until the very end, giving her last speech on her 100th birthday.

Birthdays - World War II General Mark Clark (1896-1984) was born in Madison Barracks,



General Mark Clark

New York. He commanded the U.S. Fifth Army which invaded Italy in September of 1943, fighting a long and brutal campaign against stubborn German opposition.



Archie Williams

Birthdays - African American Olympic athlete Archie Williams (1915-1993) was born in Oakland, California. Williams, along with Jesse Owens, defeated German athletes at the 1936 Berlin Olympics and helped debunk Adolf Hitler's theory of Aryan racial superiority. Williams won a gold medal in the 400-meter race. After the Olympics, he went on to earn a mechanical engineering degree from the University of California-Berkeley but faced discrimination and wound up digging ditches. He later became an airplane pilot and trained Tuskegee Institute pilots including the black air corp of World War II.

**May 2**

May 2, 2011 - U.S. Special Operations Forces killed Osama bin Laden during a raid on his



Osama bin Laden

secret compound in Abbottabad, Pakistan. The raid marked the culmination of a decade-long manhunt for the elusive leader of the al-Qaeda terrorist organization based in the Middle East. Bin Laden had ordered the coordinated aerial attacks of September 11th, 2001, in which four American passenger jets were hijacked then crashed, killing nearly 3,000 persons. Two jets had struck and subsequently collapsed the 110-story Twin Towers of the World Trade Center in New York, while another struck the Pentagon building in Washington, D.C. A fourth jet also headed toward Washington had crashed into a field in Pennsylvania as passengers attempted to overpower the hijackers on board.

Birthdays - Pope Leo XIII (1810-1903) was born in Carpino, Italy (as Gioacchino Pecci). He was elected Pope in 1878 at age 67 and lived to govern the church another 25 years, laying the foundation for modernization of Church attitudes toward a rapidly industrializing and changing world.

**May 3**

Birthdays - Italian writer and statesman Niccolo Machiavelli (1469-1527) was born in Florence, Italy. He offered a blunt, realistic view of human nature and power in his works *The Prince* and *Discourses on Livy*.

Birthdays - Golda Meir (1898-1978) was born in Kiev, Russia. She was one of the founders of the modern state of Israel and served as prime minister from 1969 to 1974.

**May 4**

May 4, 1494 - During his second journey of exploration in the New World, Christopher Columbus discovered Jamaica.

**(Read more on [www.theindianpanorama.news](http://www.theindianpanorama.news))**



contd from page 1

## EMMANUEL MACRON WINS A SECOND TERM; VOWS TO 'HEAL DIVISIONS' IN FRANCE

But on a more emotional note, on a brightly lit stage in the Place de la Republique in central Paris, his wife Brigitte with him, thousands of people as his audience and the iconic Eiffel Tower glowing in the background, Macron vowed "to heal the divisions that have been expressed in these elections, by ensuring respect for everyone, every day". He said: "The years to come will certainly be difficult, but they will be historic and we will have to write them, together, for the new generations." According to Ipsos-Sopra Steria, computing the result, Macron won with 58.8 per cent votes in his favor compared to 41.2 per cent for his far Right challenger, the 53-year-old Marine Le Pen. The second and final round of the French presidential election, which this was, is a straight contest between two candidates, after a first round eliminates others in the fray a fortnight earlier.

The margin of Macron's win was narrower than five years ago, when he attracted 66 per cent of votes to the same opponent's 34 per cent.

This was the first time since Jacques Chirac of the right-of-center Republican party in 2002, that a sitting president has been granted dual terms by French voters, whose preferences have been quite volatile in recent years. Macron's En Marche movement was enthusiastically endorsed the following year at the expense of the long established Republican and Socialist parties. (Source: IANS)

## BIDEN TO SEEK \$33 BILLION FOR UKRAINE; TO SEIZE MORE MONEY FROM RUSSIAN OLIGARCHS TO PAY FOR THE WAR EFFORT

other military assistance, as well as \$8.5 billion in direct economic assistance to the government and \$3 billion in humanitarian and food security aid.

Biden is also seeking the ability to seize more money from Russian oligarchs to pay for the war effort.

His proposal would have lawmakers hand his administration new capabilities, letting U.S. officials seize more oligarchs' assets, give the cash from those seizures to Ukraine and further criminalize sanctions dodging, the White House said.

The steps include letting the Justice Department use the strict U.S. racketeering law once deployed against the mafia, the Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations (RICO) Act, to build cases against people who evade sanctions.

Biden also wants to give prosecutors more time to build such cases by extending the statute of limitations on money laundering prosecutions to 10 years, instead of five. He would also make it a criminal act to hold money knowingly taken from corrupt dealings with Russia, according to a summary of the proposals.

The measures are part of U.S. efforts to isolate and punish Russia for its Feb. 24 invasion of Ukraine, as well as to help Kyiv recover from a war that has reduced cities to rubble and forced more than 5 million people to flee abroad.

The new request represents the full amount U.S. officials expect to need through September, the end of the fiscal year.

U.S. military aid to Ukraine alone has topped \$3 billion since Russia launched what it calls a "special military operation" to demilitarize and remove fascists in Ukraine. Kyiv and its Western allies reject that as a false pretext.

The United States and its European allies have frozen \$30 billion of assets held by wealthy individuals with ties to Russian President Vladimir Putin, including yachts, helicopters, real estate and art, the Biden administration has said. (Agencies)

## GURBANI TELECAST FROM GOLDEN TEMPLE: SGPC FAILS TO COMPLY WITH AKAL TAKHT DIRECTIVE

In response, the SGPC had sought a week to equip its IT wing as cameras, wiring and other relevant infrastructure were to be arranged, but to no avail.

Irked, some SGPC members submitted a complaint with the Takht Secretariat over non-compliance of its directions. A complainant, SGPC executive member Gurpreet Singh Randhawa, said contrary to Takht's directions, neither could the SGPC start its IT's web channel nor take steps to stop the controversial private channel from broadcasting Gurbani. Takht had ordered the SGPC to make stopgap arrangements by equipping its existing web channel being run by the IT wing to telecast the Gurbani. Even CM Bhagwant Mann had offered to bear the cost of setting up the infrastructure. Rejecting the offer, SGPC chief Harjinder Singh Dhani had termed it politically motivated.

Dhani said a five-member panel was formed to study the feasibility of launching a channel. "It had conducted two meetings. Since it required raising of technical infrastructure, the panel is working on it. It will also look into legal aspects as the SGPC is in a pact with the channel on telecast rights till February 2023. As soon as we receive its report, we will table it in the executive and take further action," he said. (Source: TNS)

CONTD FROM PAGE 10

## MISSION POLITICS STARTED FROM MISSION IN BC

There have been Indo-Canadians who created history both in provincial and federal politics. The shining example has been of Ujjal Dosanjh who after his phenomenal rise as the first Indo-Canadian Premier of British Columbia later held the portfolio of the Canadian Health Minister.

A couple of MPs, including Jinny Jogendra Sims and Parm Gill, later made their debut in provincial politics and held positions as Cabinet Ministers in British Columbia and Ontario, respectively.

Amarjit Sohi, who held an important cabinet portfolio in the previous Justin Trudeau government is now a Mayor of Edmonton in Alberta since last year.

### MPs of Indian origin

GURBAX SINGH MALHI

HARBANCE (HERB) SINGH DHALIWAL

JAG BHADURIA

DEEPAK OBHRAI

GURMANT GREWAL

RAHIM JAFFER

NINA GREWAL

RUBY DHALLA

UJJAL DOSANJH

NAVDEEP BAINS

SUKH DHALIWAL

TIM UPPAL

JINNY JOGINDERA SIMS

DEVINDER SHORY

JASBIR SANDHU

BAL GOSAL

PARM GILL

JOE DANIEL

AMARJIT SOHI

JAGMEET SINGH

GAGAN SIKAND

SONIA SIDHU

JATI SIDHU

BOB SAROYA

RANDEEP SINGH SARAI

RAMESH SANGHA

HARJIT SINGH SAJJAN

RAJ SAINI

RUBY SAHOTA

KAMAL KHERA

DARSHAN SINGH KANG

RAJ GREWAL

ANJU DHILLON

BARDISH CHAGGER

CHANDRA ARYA

MANINDER SIDHU

JAG SAHOTA

JASRAJ SINGH HALLAN

ANITA ANAND

IQWINDER SINGH GAHEER

GEORGE CHAHAL

PARM BAINS

-To be concluded

(Prabhjot Singh 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). He can be reached at [prabhjot416@gmail.com](mailto:prabhjot416@gmail.com))





# Hill stations near Coimbatore

Coimbatore can get quite hot during the summer months. It is best to get on a weekend getaway and escape the heat at one of the numerous hill stations near Coimbatore. With places located all over South India, you can pick and check off places from your bucket list this summer!

Here some amazing hill stations near Coimbatore:

## Coonoor

One of the three beautiful Nilgiri hill stations, Coonoor is the second largest hill station of the Western Ghats. It is situated at an altitude of 1930 meters and just 19 km from Ooty. With slopes of tea plantations, dotted with many attractions and blessed with chilly weather throughout the year, this place is a perfect summer retreat.

Coonoor is a delightful location to have a panoramic view of the Nilgiri Hills and Catherine Falls. It is a dreamy destination for its rich greenery, the manicured hills, the Colonial culture and amazing sceneries. Coonoor also has some heritage homes and guesthouses that's perfect for a vacation or a staycation.

## Ooty

Nestled amidst Nilgiri hills, Ooty, also known as Udagamandalam, is a hill station in Tamil Nadu which serves as a top-rated tourist destination. Once regarded as the summer headquarters of the East India Company, the Queen of the hills is a picturesque getaway.

Dotted with tea gardens, serene waterfalls, winding country lanes, and charming colonial architecture, Ooty is the perfect respite everyone. Popular among couples and honeymooners, Ooty allures its visitors with the panoramic views of the Nilgiri mountains.

The Nilgiri mountain railway is the steepest track in all of Asia. Remember the hit song 'Chaiyya Chaiyya' where Shahrukh Khan and Malaika Arora matching steps on top of a train? Remember the breathtaking locales as the train chugged its way across lush greenery? Yes, that was the Nilgiri Mountain Railways, and the Nilgiri Mountains all along.

## Yercaud

Nestled in the Shivaroy Hills of Tamil Nadu, Yercaud is a hill station in the Eastern Ghats steeped in abundant greenery. Commonly called 'Ooty of the Poor', this region has a history dating back to the time of the British. Located at an altitude of 4970 feet, Yercaud is known for its vast expanses of coffee plantations and great weather.

Yercaud lake is the main point of attraction of the region. One of the many highlights is the summer festival that takes place in May. It is dedicated to Lord Seravarayan, the supreme god of the ranges and gives visitors a glimpse into the rich heritage of this region.

## Kotagiri

Snuggled in the Nilgiris District, Kotagiri is a gorgeous hill station frequented by tourists from different parts of the country. It is one of the oldest hill stations in the Nilgiris and rests at an altitude of 5882 feet. Once served as a site of coffee plantation, today the town is a tea plantation covering a huge area of 30,000 acres. Steeped in vast expanses of greenery and rolling hills, Kotagiri offers plenty of trekking and hiking opportunities for adventure lovers.

Home to the famed Kota tribe, Kotagiri is commonly known as the 'mountains of the



Kotas'. It is packed with European style houses and has a history dating back to the British rule in India. The 8 kilometres long trek to the Catherine Falls is one of the many highlights of this hill station. With a jagged terrain backed by a peaceful setting, this region is also ideal for rock climbing. Kotagiri is wild and pristine and there is no better way to experience the destination without staying in a homestay.

## Bellikkal

Bellikkal is one of those places where you can completely relax, without having to worry about a 'to-do' list for your vacations and yet experience mountains that will steal your breath away. Instead of having a hundred places to offer, it will take you by its beauty, calmness and serenity.

Bellikkal is a small village in the south of Sigur Plateau in Tamil Nadu. This small and elusive hill station is as beautiful as those in the Himalayas, and has yet managed to retain its old world charm. Anyone who has gone to Bellikkal will pine to go back.

## Kodaikanal

Located in the state of Tamil Nadu, Kodaikanal is one of the most famous honeymoon destinations in India. A Lakeside resort town of Tamil Nadu, Kodaikanal has a beautiful climate, mist-covered manicured cliffs and waterfall that come together to create the ideal setting for a perfect getaway. Kodaikanal means 'the gift of the forests'.

Nestled amidst the rolling slopes of the Palani Hills, Kodaikanal stands at an altitude of 7200 feet above sea level, and once you visit this hill station, you will find that every bit of what you have imagined it to be is real. Kodaikanal is a place you can go to take a break from the rigours of daily city life, and this hill station lets you sit back and connect with nature as you head out on biking or trekking trails or take a stroll through the vast forests surrounding the town.

Source: [Holidify.com](http://Holidify.com)







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Liverpool's Sadio Mane makes it 2-0 against Villarreal. Reuters

## LIVERPOOL OVERWHELM VILLARREAL AT ANFIELD

Liverpool look like being one European giant too many for Villarreal.

Wins in the Champions League semifinals are rarely as routine as Liverpool's 2-0 first-leg victory on Wednesday over the Spanish underdogs, appear to have finally come unstuck on a fairytale run that has already accounted for European football royalty in Juventus and Bayern Munich.

Liverpool, still on course for an unprecedented quadruple of major trophies, proved to be a bigger test. The six-time European champions slowly dismantled the limited challenge of Villarreal on another night when they were swept along by the power of Anfield. The goals came early in the second half — and within 133 seconds of each other — as Villarreal left-back Pervis Estupinan unwittingly deflected a cross by Jordan Henderson into his own net in the 53rd minute, with goalkeeper Geronimo Rulli only managing to tip a looping ball into his own net.

## BEN STOKES NAMED ENGLAND TEST CAPTAIN

Ben Stokes has been named as England men's Test captain. Stokes was the preferred candidate to take on the job after Joe Root's resignation following five years in the role.

England's leading allrounder, and one of the few players sure of their place in the XI, Stokes becomes the 81st captain of the men's Test team. His appointment was recommended by Rob Key, the new managing director of men's cricket, and approved by the ECB on Tuesday evening. "I had no hesitation in offering the role of Test captain to Ben," Key said. "He epitomises the mentality and approach we want to take this team forward into the next era of red-ball cricket. I am delighted that he has accepted, and he is ready for the added responsibility and the honour. He thoroughly deserves the opportunity."

Stokes takes charge of an England side that have won just one of their last 17 Tests, going five series without a victory for the first time in history. They are currently bottom of the 2021-23 World Test Championship.



# IPL: Delhi Capitals beat Kolkata by four wickets

MUMBAI (TIP)

Delhi Capitals survived a scare before recording a comfortable four-wicket victory over a lacklustre Kolkata Knight Riders here on April 28 and kept their IPL playoffs qualification hopes alive.

Chasing an easy target of 147, DC were 84/5 and 113/6 at various stages of the innings before Rovman Powell (33 not out) once again displayed his big-hitting prowess to get DC past the target with an over to spare. The hero of the win certainly was Kuldeep Yadav, with a game-changing 4/14 when KKR batted.

Defending a total of 146 wasn't easy but Umesh Yadav (3/24) did try his best as he started brilliantly with a diving return catch off the very first delivery of the DC innings to sent Prithvi Shaw (0) back. David Warner (42 off 26 balls) was in fine touch, adding 65 for the third wicket with Lalit Yadav (22 off 22 balls), as DC cruised along at 82/2. But it soon became 84/5 as both the set batters were removed in quick succession and KKR were allowed to come back into the game.

## Rashid Khan's last-ball 6 trumps Umran Malik's 5

Sunrisers Hyderabad's Umran Malik tore through the Gujarat Titans top-order with his searing pace but the IPL debutant team still got over the line after some late fireworks from Rahul Tewatia and Rashid Khan. In pursuit of Sunrisers Hyderabad's 195/6, Titans were off to a flyer with Wriddhiman Saha (68) blazing his way to a flurry of boundaries while putting on 69 runs for the first wicket with Shubman Gill (22). Kane Williamson, as a last resort, introduced Malik into the attack in the eighth over. The youngster provided the breakthrough by bowling out Gill. Malik followed it up by dismissing the dangerous Hardik Pandya and Saha before bowling out David Miller and



Delhi Capitals' Kuldeep Yadav gave 14 runs in his 4-wicket haul. PTI

Abhinav Manohar off successive deliveries. The youngster from Jammu & Kashmir finished with incredible figures of 5/25, four of which were bowled, to take Sunrisers to the brink of a sixth successive win. But Tewatia (40 not out off 21 balls) and Khan (31 not out off 11) had other ideas. The duo knocked off the required 56 runs off the last 24 balls. Khan hit three of his four sixes in the last over, including one over the fine-leg boundary off the last ball. Earlier, opener Abhishek Sharma and Aiden Markram struck sparkling half-centuries as Sunrisers Hyderabad posted 195/6 after being asked to bat first. Abhishek blazed away to 65 off 42 deliveries, while Markram made a 40-ball 56.

## Rajasthan Royals beat Royal Challengers Bangalore

Riyan Parag smashed a match-defining

half-century before the bowling unit lived up to its reputation to hand Rajasthan Royals a 29-run win over Royal Challengers Bangalore in an Indian Premier League match here today.

Parag single-handedly took his side to 144/8 with his unbeaten 56 off 31 balls, which is his highest score in IPL. He struck three fours and four sixes. Parag marshalled the RR lower-order brilliantly.

RCB's chase never got going as RR bowlers, led by young Kuldeep Sen (4/20), Ravichandran Ashwin (3/17) and Prasidh Krishna (2/23), bundled out the Faf du Plessis-side for 115 in 19.3 overs. Opening the innings on the back of two consecutive first-ball ducks, Virat Kohli started on a cagey note but lit up the stadium and raised hopes of his fans when he struck two back-to-back boundaries off Trent Boult to start his innings.

## Badminton Asia Championships: Sindhu, Satwik-Chirag enter quarterfinals, Srikanth and Saina sent packing

MANILA (TIP)

Star Indian shuttler PV Sindhu notched up a straight-game win over lowly-ranked Yue Yann Jaslyn Hooi of Singapore to advance to the quarterfinals of the Badminton Asia Championships here on April 28.

The Indian men's doubles pair of Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty also made it to the quarterfinals, but it was curtains for London Olympics bronze medallist Saina Nehwal and World Championships silver winner Kidambi Srikanth.

Fourth seed Sindhu, winner of a bronze in the 2014 edition of the tournament in Gimcheon, defeated world No. 100 Jaslyn Hooi 21-16 21-16 in 42 minutes. Sindhu next meets third seed He Bingjiao, whom she had beaten for a bronze at the Tokyo Olympics. World No. 7 Sindhu, a double Olympics medallist, has a 7-9 head-to-head record against Bingjiao, whom she has beaten twice in the last two meetings.

The third-seeded doubles duo of Rankireddy and Shetty produced a fine performance to sail into the last-eight stage with a 21-17 21-15 win over Japan's Akira Koga and Taichi Saito.

Saina's dream of claiming her fourth medal in the prestigious tournament ended after she ran out of steam to lose 21-12 7-21 13-21 to 22-year-old Chinese Wang Zhi Yi, ranked 16th in the world.



Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty beat Akira Koga and Taichi Saito 21-17 21-15. PTI

Srikanth, seeded seventh, too couldn't raise his game when it mattered, going down 16-21 21-17 17-21 to China's Weng Hong Yang in a second round match that lasted an hour and 17 minutes.



# Gift of Life USA Gala 2022

**SUPPORTING DISABILITIES - DIFFERENTLY-ABLED INDIVIDUALS - "WINGS WITHOUT LIMBS"**

**HUNTINGTON, NY (TIP):** Gift of Life USA, is a 501 (C) (3) non-profit organization, founded by Paresh, Flora and Dr. Harshil Parekh, with the aim to help the specially-abled and nurture acceptance and empathy, bridging the gap across the various communities that form our society. The organization celebrated its Annual Gala this past weekend under the theme "Wings without Limbs" followed by unique message of "Celebrating Life".

The Gala highlighted the compassionate work of the organization, over the years - advocating, supporting and raising awareness of the exceptional talent and will-power of several distinguished differently-abled individuals with various disorders - Autism, Epilepsy, Cerebral Palsy, Asperger, Visual & Hearing Impaired etc. Their differently-abled abilities have not stopped them achieving the impossible and The Gala serves as a unique platform where sponsors, donors and supporters get the opportunity to meet inspiring Differently-abled Speakers, Entrepreneurs, employers, performers and beneficiaries they will be supporting and see for themselves the beautiful talents these individuals bring to the world.

Emceed by Dr. Harshil Parekh and Heeta Thakkar, the Gala advocated, raised awareness and honored the support of our own Double amputee Suffolk County Police Officer Matias Ferreira and 14 World Records as well as 3 Guinness Books Records Maker Amputee Athlete Amy Palmiero-Winters who are true role models with the message that "Life without Limbs Is Limitless." Epileptic Kidney Donor Honoree Sheila Carpenter gave a confident message that we all have an extra kidney and should consider donating and saving lives.

With the mission of accumulating resources in support and benefit of specially-abled individuals, the organization conducts various programs and activities, namely, "Save a Child" Support, "We are



Gift of Life USA Founders Flora, Paresh and Dr. Harshil Parekh with Kanak Golia, Sunil Jain, Shashi Malik, Mrs. Purnima & Tejal Desai, Kamlesh & Mrudula Parekh, Amarish Kachhy, Honorees, Sponsors and Supporters

Special" Talent & Skill Recognition, "Health & Education," "Awareness", "College Scholarships for Differently-Abled" and "Service Dog Support Program". The organization awards Scholarships to Autistic College going students, promote and showcase talent of the differently abled, help special needs community with health and education needs and much more.

Apart from combatting social stigma by raising awareness about different disorders, the true strength of Gift of Life USA lies in the funding and support it

gives to individuals with these various physical and mental disorders. The Indian American community is whole heartedly appealed to embrace and share the organization's vision of acceptance and compassion of the differently abled.

The organization functions with generous donations from the community and is operated by volunteers. Gift of Life USA appeals donors to come, see, believe and support these true abilities and beyond.

For donations and further information visit our website at [www.giftoflifeus.org](http://www.giftoflifeus.org).



## NYC DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS' SERVICES SATELLITE OFFICE AT QUEENS BOROUGH HALL REOPENS

**COVID-19 had caused a two-year closure**

**QUEENS, NY(TIP):** Queens Borough President Donovan Richards Jr. announced on April 28, that the New York City Department of Veterans' Services' (DVS) Veteran Resource Center satellite office located inside Queens Borough Hall is reopening today after a COVID-19 pandemic-caused closure of more than two years. Established in 2016 to serve the nearly 42,000 military veterans who call Queens home, the largest such population in the five boroughs, the satellite office at Queens Borough Hall will once again offer information and one-on-one consultations for veterans seeking information about the benefits and services available to them. *(Read full story at [www.theindianpanorama.news](http://www.theindianpanorama.news))*

## 23 NEW JERSEY SCHOOL DISTRICTS TO CLOSE ON DIWALI IN 2022: HINDUS CALL FOR DIWALI HOLIDAY IN ALL NJ SCHOOLS

**EDISON, NJ (TIP):** Welcoming 23 New Jersey public school districts closing schools on Diwali this year, Hindus are urging all public school districts and private-charter-independent schools in the state to close on their most popular festival Diwali.

Hindu statesman Rajan Zed, in a statement in Nevada, said that it was simply not fair with Hindu pupils of most of the New Jersey schools, as they had to be at school on their most popular festival while there were holidays to commemorate festivals of other religions.

Rajan Zed indicated that since it was important for Hindu families to celebrate Diwali day together at home with their children; closing schools on Diwali would ensure that and would also display how respectful and accommodating New Jersey schools were to their faith.

If schools had declared other religious holidays, why not Diwali, Zed asked. Holidays of all major religions should be honored and no one should be penalized for practicing their religion, Zed added.

Rajan Zed suggested that all New Jersey schools, public-private-charter-independent, to seriously look into declaring Diwali as an official holiday, thus recognizing the intersection of spirituality and education. Zed noted that awareness about 'other' religions thus created by such holidays like Diwali would make New Jersey students well-nurtured, well-balanced, and



enlightened citizens of tomorrow.

Zed urged New Jersey Governor Philip D. Murphy, New Jersey Acting Education Commissioner Dr. Angelica Allen-McMillan and New Jersey State Board of Education President Kathy Goldenberg; to work towards adding Diwali as an official holiday in all the state's public schools, and persuading the private-charter-independent schools to follow. Zed also thanked Boards of Education of school districts, which closed schools for students on Diwali, for understanding the concerns of Hindu

community.

Rajan Zed further says that Hinduism is rich in festivals and religious festivals are very dear and sacred to Hindus. Diwali, the festival of lights, aims at dispelling the darkness and lighting up the lives and symbolizes the victory of good over evil.

"The List of Religious Holidays Permitting Student Absence from School" of the New Jersey State Board of Education contains 21 Hindu holidays; which include Guru Purnima, Onam, Naga Panchami, Raksha Bandhan, Krishna Janmashtami, Ganesh Chaturthi, Navaratri, Diwali, Goverdhan Puja, Makar Sankranti, Pongal, Vasant Panchami, Maha Shivaratri, Govinda Dwadashi, Meena Sankranthi, Holika Dahan, Holi, Souramana Yugadi, Chandramana Yugadi, Ramnavami, Hanuman Jayanti. Onam is listed here for 12 days, Navaratri for nine, and Diwali for five.





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