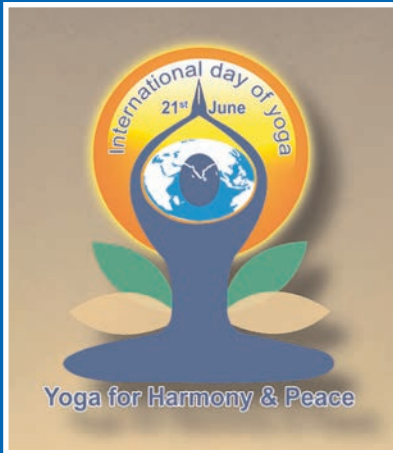




The INDIAN PANORAMA

Will bring out a profusely illustrated special edition to mark the International Day of Yoga on June 17, 2022.



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## The day parents want their kid to become a sports person, India will produce all champions: Kapil Dev

**KAPIL IS ON A US FUNDRAISING TOUR FOR HIS NON-PROFIT KHUSHII, WHICH HELPS EDUCATE UNDERPRIVILEGED CHILDREN**



NEW YORK (TIP): As India's sportspersons increasingly win accolades and script history in international arenas, cricket legend Kapil Dev credited parents of children and youngsters for their achievements at sporting events, saying the day parents want their kid to become a sportsperson, India "will produce" champions.

With India scripting history by lifting its maiden Thomas Cup, the first time ever in over 70 years that the country won the prestigious badminton trophy, and also adding medals to its tally in other international sporting events such as the Olympics, Dev said he

**CONTD ON PAGE 34**

Kapil Dev answered questions posed by the audience. An amused Randhir Jaiswal, Consul General of India is seen on the left

## Biden on Asia trip with global issues and tech on agenda



US President Joe Biden walks with South Korean President Yoon Suk-yeol during a tour of a semiconductor factory at the Samsung Electronics Pyeongtaek Campus in Pyeongtaek, South Korea, on May 20. Photo / Reuters

**PYEONGTAEK, SOUTH KOREA (TIP):** US President Joe Biden on Friday, May 20, opened his Asia trip by highlighting the computer chip shortage that has bedeviled the world economy, touring a Samsung computer chip plant that will serve as model for a USD 17 billion semiconductor factory the Korean electronics company plans to open in Texas, a report published in The Hindu says.

The Samsung visit was a nod to one of Biden's key domestic priorities: increasing the supply of computer chips.

A semiconductor shortage last year hurt the availability of autos, kitchen

**CONTD ON PAGE 34**

## Navjot Singh Sidhu sentenced to 1-year rigorous imprisonment in 1988 road rage case: surrenders

**NEW DELHI/ PATIALA /NEW YORK (TIP):** Congress leader Navjot Singh Sidhu surrendered before a court in Patiala on Friday, May 20, a day after being sentenced to one-year rigorous imprisonment by the Supreme Court in a 1988 road rage death case.

"He surrendered before the court of Chief Judicial Magistrate Amit Malhan," said senior advocate HPS Verma, who accompanied Sidhu to the court. The former Punjab Congress president surrendered shortly after 4 pm, and was taken for the mandatory medical examination, conducted at the

**CONTD ON PAGE 34**



Navjot Singh Sidhu surrenders in a Patiala court, May 20. Photo / PTI

## 29 PHONES TESTED FOR PEGASUS SPYWARE: SUPREME COURT

**COURT GIVES MORE TIME TO ITS PANEL TO SUBMIT PROBE REPORT**



Supreme Court of India File photo

**NEW DELHI (TIP):** The Supreme Court on Friday, May 20, said its technical committee had so far received and tested 29 mobile devices suspected to be infected by Pegasus malware and gave it four weeks to submit a report to Justice R.V. Raveendran, a retired apex court judge overseeing the panel's inquiry into reports that the government used the Israel-based military-grade

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GUEST COMMENTS

Sanctions may not succeed

BY VEN PARAMESWARAN



Sanctions may not succeed because Europeans cannot afford to give up \$104 billion exports to Russia. Europe will be pressuring USA to go for peace with Russia to lift sanctions. If sanctions are not lifted, oil and gas price will keep on going up adding up inflation. Russian economy and EU economy are integral parts. EU exports

\$105 billion whereas US exports only \$10 billion to Russia.

Ultimately, every country will be fighting for its national interests. It is not in the interest of world peace to exclude any large country. Even tiny North Korea has not been affected by sanction so far and daring to send missiles now and then.

I think the US is making a big mistake by shoring up Ukraine to keep fighting.

NATO is a paper tiger. SEATO, CENTO were failures - paper tigers.

World economy is shrinking because of Ukraine war and sanctions. The stock

markets have lost almost 10% from their highs in the world. Euro is now equal to the Dollar for the first time.

Inflation and Recession aggravated by Ukraine crisis and sanctions. Artificially arresting international trade will hurt not only Russia but the world economy.

How long can Americans afford to pay \$4+ per gallon for gas?

IMF recommending govt should subsidize poor citizens - another handout!

(The author is a former diplomat with the United Nations)

American nightmare: Deep-rooted racism, lax gun laws fueling violence

The killing of 10 black people by a gun-toting white teenager in Buffalo, New York, indicates that not much has changed in the US even two years after a nationwide outrage over George Floyd's murder had revitalized the Black Lives Matter movement. 'Terrorism, terrorism, domestic terrorism,' that's how US President Joe Biden has described the Buffalo incident, while the authorities have termed it an act of 'racially motivated violent extremism'. In a strongly worded statement, Biden has condemned white supremacists, the media, the Internet and politics for spreading racist conspiracy theories. The assailant was reportedly using social media to convince netizens about the 'Great Replacement' theory, which contends

that white people are being deliberately replaced by minorities through immigration in the US and elsewhere.

Violence incited or perpetrated by white supremacists is regarded as one of the biggest terror threats the US is facing, but the country is not doing enough to stem the rot. Instead, the alarming trend of 'copycat' gunmen getting influenced by previous massacres and carrying out deadlier mass shootings appears to be on the rise. Online radicalization is fanning the flames of racial intolerance and injustice - two monstrous evils rooted in America's troubled history. Even as various minorities in the US have been targeted after the 9/11 attacks, African-Americans continue to comprise the most vulnerable group.

The rate of gun deaths in America rose by 35 per cent in 2020 to the highest point since 1994. With the gun lobby holding sway, the US is way ahead of other countries in terms of the scale of firearm possession. Its ratio is at least 120 firearms per 100 residents, significantly higher than what it was a decade ago (88:100). Americans are using guns not only to kill others but also to end their own lives. A 2016 study published in the American Journal of Public Health found a strong link between gun ownership and firearm suicide rates. Gun laws, racism, mental health - these issues are inseparable and the US badly needs a multi-pronged strategy to ensure the safety of its citizens. The superpower should first set its own house in order. (Tribune, India)

TWO MORE PAK SIKHS KILLED

GLOBAL ATTENTION TO THE SLOW ETHNIC CLEANSING MISSING

The recent brutal murder of two Sikh traders by Islamic State terrorists at Peshawar in the restive Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province marks another low in the unrelenting saga of ethnic cleansing of minorities in Pakistan. The joining of the locals in the protests by the enraged Sikhs demanding protection for the beleaguered non-Muslims is a heartwarming development. However, the sad truth is that be it in Pakistan or the adjoining Afghanistan, the oppressed Sikh community has had little support from the international community. Their slow decimation in their home countries over the past seven decades has not attracted enough deterring attention of the UN, Amnesty International or other human rights watchdogs which are

quick to condemn communal strife elsewhere.

This apparent lack of global support has only emboldened successive regimes and the xenophobic majoritarian society to give their tacit approval to discriminatory tactics and misuse of the stringent blasphemy law. Many gurdwaras, churches and temples have been destroyed. Young Sikh girls are routinely abducted and forced to convert and marry Muslim boys. Sikh men are killed with impunity. Pakistan's first Sikh policeman Gulab Singh Shaheen has been missing under mysterious circumstances for nearly a month now. A Sikh Member of the Provincial Assembly of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Soran Singh, was shot in 2016. Aasiya Bibi, a Christian in

Pakistan who was on death row for blasphemy, could fly safely to Canada after her conviction by the apex court only because her case got global media limelight.

The targeted killings of Pakistan's minority communities - Sikhs, Shias, Hindus, Ahmadiyyas, Christians and Parsis - have meant that either large sections of them have converted to Islam or sought asylum and left the country. Today, they have dwindled to just 3-4 per cent of the population, down from 23 per cent in 1947. The Sikhs' rights must be protected in the two countries that have been a proud home to them since the time of Guru Nanak's western sojourns, marked by His teachings of communal harmony.

(Tribune, India)

# Satinder Sartaaaj wins hearts of the audience in New York

**QUEENS, NY (TIP):** Satinder Sartaaaj won the hearts of the audience at the concert organized by Super Entertainment at Colden Center in Queens on May 15. The famous singer, songwriter, actor and poet of Punjabi language films and songs regaled the 1000 strong audience with his exquisite singing.

Sartaaaj gained fame with his song "Udaarian". Since then, he has performed across the world. He made his film debut as Maharaja Duleep Singh in The Black Prince in 2017.

A handsome person with a winsome smile and a rich voice, Sartaaaj easily attracts the attention anywhere, as it was at the concert on May 15 when each pair of eyes was fixed on him, and each pair of ears was just lapping up his melodious singing.

Sartaaaj is not like other ordinary Punjabi singers who attempt to entertain without any substance in their songs and totally unaware of the traditional Punjabi music and musical instruments. So, when Sartaaaj sang the rich poetry and the folk songs in the pure Punjabi tradition of music, the audience simply loved it, and the applause was indicative of how happy they were.

Ace photographer Jay Mandal who has photographed celebrities from every walk of life and in most part of the world was at hand to capture the singer's moods as also the response of the audience.

**We bring here to our readers glimpses of the concert in Jay Mandal's photographs.**



Satinder Sartaaaj at the Colden Center, Queens on May 15

Photo / Jay Mandal-on assignment



All photos by Jay Mandal/ on assignment



# Indian-origin nurses drive UK's health service foreign intake

**LONDON (TIP):** Indians are driving a rise in foreign nurses coming in to boost the workforce of the UK's National Health Service, according to official figures released in London on Wednesday, May 18.

The Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC) data for 2021-22 shows 37,815 Indian nurses on the council's register of those qualified to work in the UK, up from 28,192 the previous year and a jump from 17,730 four years ago. The Philippines remains the top-most source country with 41,090 nurses and Nigeria is third with 7,256 nurses on the register.

"Our register is at the highest level ever. This is good news considering all the pressures of the last two years. But a closer look at our data reveals some warning signs," said Andrea Sutcliffe, Chief Executive and Registrar at the NMC.

"The total number of people leaving the register has risen, after a steady and welcome fall over the previous four years. Those who left shared troubling stories about the pressure they've had to bear during the pandemic. A focus on retention as well as attracting new recruits needs to be part of a sustainable workforce plan to meet rising demands for health and care services," she said.

In total there were 48,436 joiners, up from 34,517 the previous year and 38,317 in 2019-2020, which was seen as



Indian origin Nurses drive UK's health

a welcome sign for the health service coping with nursing staff shortages.

The NMC found that of all the joiners almost half (48 per cent) had trained overseas and of those, 66 per cent had trained in India or the Philippines. This means growth of the UK nursing and midwifery workforce has become more reliant than ever on internationally trained professionals joining the register, the NMC notes.

"Another note of caution is that growth of the

workforce has become more reliant on internationally trained professionals joining our register. These professionals make a welcome and vital contribution to our nation's health and wellbeing. But we can't take them for granted," warns Sutcliffe.

The UK's Royal College of Nursing (RCN) also called for radical action to boost the nursing workforce in a sustainable way.

"We again question how sustainable it is to recruit half of all new nurses from around the world. The UK's health and care workforce is proudly diverse, but it must be done ethically and come at the same time as increased investment in education and domestic workers," said Pat Cullen, RCN General Secretary and Chief Executive.

"When we have tens of thousands of vacant nurse jobs, a sharp rise in leavers should not be overlooked while we welcome new recruits. Nursing staff tell us these shortages are biting more than ever," she said.

The UK government says the NHS follows ethical recruitment practices by not recruiting from a red list of countries, which have declared shortages of healthcare staff. All parts of the UK have set out plans to increase the number of nurses and midwives in the NHS, with a target to boost numbers domestically and be less reliant on foreign staff.

## Indian-origin Sikh traders shot in Pakistan; punish assailants, says MEA



Ranjeet Singh (42) and Kuljeet Singh (38).

**PESHAWAR (TIP):** In yet another case of targeted killing, two Sikh traders were shot dead in broad daylight by unidentified armed men in Pakistan.

The deceased have been identified as Ranjeet Singh (42) and Kuljeet Singh (38). Both had spices and grocery business at Batatal Bazaar in Sarband area of Peshawar district in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KPK) province.

India has asked Pakistan to sincerely investigate the brutal killing of the Sikh traders and take strict action against those responsible for the "shocking and deplorable" incident. External Affairs Ministry spokesperson Arindam Bagchi said India had registered its "strong protest" with Pakistan on the continued "targeting" of members of the minority community in that country.

Talking to The Tribune on the phone, Pakistan Sikh Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee (PSGPC) president Ameer Singh said the attack appeared to be a conspiracy to target the minorities.

He said the deceased were at their shops when the miscreants came and opened fire on them. Both the victims

were only earning members of their families. "In Pakistan, every Sikh shares integrity with Pakistan but such types of incidents have a negative global impact. I appeal to the KPK authorities to arrest the accused and take stern action. There are forces which attempt to harm the brotherhood of Sikhs and Muslims by indulging in such crimes," he said.

Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif condemned the incident and directed KPK Chief Minister Mahmood Khan to ensure immediate arrest and punishment to the culprits. Mahmood Khan has directed police chief Ijaz Khan to arrest the accused as soon as possible. "We have full faith in KPK authorities. The police reached the spot instantly and shifted the bodies for autopsy. An FIR has been registered and the police are investigating. We hope justice will be done," he added.

Meanwhile, confusion prevailed over the name of one of the deceased - Kuljeet Singh. In a statement, Peshawar Capital City Police Office identified one of the deceased as 'Suljeet Singh' instead of 'Kuljeet Singh', as mentioned in some Pakistan media reports. The police are looking into the CCTV footage of the spot to collect evidence that could lead it to the accused.

Expressing grief over the incident, SGPC president Harjinder Singh Dhami said the governments of Pakistan and India had failed to ensure the safety of Sikhs in Pakistan. **(Read full story at [www.theindianpanorama.news](http://www.theindianpanorama.news))**

## Indian-origin man faces 21 cheating charges in Singapore

**SINGAPORE (TIP):** An Indian-origin man was charged in a Singapore court on Thursday, May 19, for cheating two others of SGD 1.6 million (around USD 1.1 million) under a timeshare recovery scheme that was linked to a payout agency in Bangalore.

Murlidharan Muhundan, 45, faces 21 charges of cheating, two charges of abetting cheating and another two charges of attempted cheating, according to a report by The Straits Times.

He is alleged to have cheated Chinese-origin Ooi Phaik Cheng and Indian-origin Marimuthu Therumalai in the timeshare recovery fraud.

Murlidharan deceived Ooi on 13 occasions into believing that "Bhagyam Agencies Bangalore" would provide a payout for her timeshare agreement, the broadsheet reported, citing court documents.

She was duped into paying Murlidharan sums ranging from SGD 5,000 (USD 3,619) to SGD 100,000 (USD 72,391) between July 2020 and January last year.

Murlidharan also allegedly deceived Marimuthu on 12 occasions, including making him believe that he had to pay a fine of SGD 250,000 (USD 1,80,979) for taking photos at an office in Collyer Quay in November last year.

Marimuthu was also deceived into paying between SGD 20,000 (USD 14,478) and SGD 150,000 (USD 1,08,587) to Murlidharan between July and November last year to receive payouts from his timeshare agreement, according to the Singapore daily report.



Those convicted of any of these offences face an imprisonment term of up to 10 years and a fine.

On Thursday, the police urged members of the public to be vigilant when receiving unsolicited calls from companies or individuals purporting to help them recover monies from their timeshare memberships.

Individuals are advised to be wary when someone calls them regarding their timeshare membership. They should refrain from providing any personal information or details on their timeshare membership to the caller.

They are also urged to conduct background checks on the company's track record before engaging its services and request a copy of the documentation on its proposals, representations, contracts and agreements.

The police also advised the public to be wary if the company is reluctant to provide documentation. They should check with the timeshare developer if the company had dealt with the former in the recovery of timeshare membership fees, and exercise extra caution if asked to make upfront payments. (Source: PTI)

# Indian American Tech Giant Bakul Patel to lead Google's global digital health strategy

**MOUNTAIN VIEW, CA (TIP):** Tech giant Google has hired Bakul Patel, a former Indian American Food and Drug Administration (FDA) leader as its new senior director of global digital health strategy and regulatory.

Patel spent over a decade at the FDA and most recently was the chief digital health officer of global strategy and innovation.

"I am excited to announce that I am joining Google Health to be part of an incredible mission - 'To Help Billions of People Be Healthier,'" he wrote in a LinkedIn post Monday, May 16, announcing the move.

"I am looking forward to learning from the teams in health across Google and Alphabet and helping build a unified digital health and regulatory strategy," Patel added.

Indian American CEO Sundar Pichai led Google has pushed further into health and healthcare over the past few years. Its ambitions range from mining big data for algorithms to developing disease-detecting tools to pumping wearables full of health features.

"As a 'technology person' first (before becoming a policy wonk @FDA) working on leading-edge solutions has been a key focus throughout my career," Patel wrote.

"This technology-oriented mindset has continued to guide my efforts towards helping turn digital health from a hopeful concept to a reality," he said. "Throughout my tenure at FDA, my biggest northstar has been to make digital healthcare accessible and equitable for all."

Patel said he had talked often about the potential of digital health to be a gamechanger in heralding a new



Google has hired Bakul Patel as its new senior director of global digital health strategy and regulatory.

era for healthcare generally-one that is ubiquitous and poised to deliver care to all individuals, including preventing and predicting disease and keeping people healthy and out of the hospital.

"We are in the early stages of this journey, and there is a lot of work ahead," he wrote. "But the potential of applying technology to improve health at scale can mean better health for everyone in our lifetime. The power of technology, when coupled with a unified digital health and regulatory approach, promises to transform people's lives."

Patel said he wanted to continue to build a world in which we use technology to engage individuals, caregivers and communities globally in care delivery, enabling us to reach populations that have long been overlooked, marginalized and underserved.

"A world where we use digital information and technology to identify and predict the onset of disease before symptoms appear, literally changing, improving, and protecting people's lives," he wrote.

Patel said Google's commitment to help billions of people be healthier aligns with his goal to move digital healthcare and technology forward together.

"This means building upon the work Google has already done in health-from providing authoritative Covid-19 information during the pandemic, to using AI and machine learning to build and provide solutions for caregivers and communities to tackle the world's toughest health challenges."

Patel said he was "thrilled and excited to continue furthering my mission to improve healthcare for all and be part of an organization that is committed to delivering products and services to help people along their health journey."

Prior to joining FDA, Patel held key leadership positions in the telecommunications industry, semiconductor capital equipment industry, wireless industry and information technology industry.

His experience includes Lean Six Sigma, creating long and short-term strategy, influencing organizational change, modernizing government systems, and delivering high technology products and services in fast-paced, technology-intensive organizations.

Patel earned an MS in Electronic Systems Engineering from the University of Regina, Canada, and an MBA in International Business from The Johns Hopkins University.

## INDIAN-ORIGIN GIRL FOLLOWS IN MUM'S FOOTSTEPS, JOINS ROYAL AUSTRALIAN AIR FORCE



Photo caption: "Manjit and Khushroop are the first mother-daughter duo from Punjab who have got an opportunity to serve in the Air Force of any other country"

**MUKTSAR (TIP):** Five years after Manjit Kaur from Muktsar got selected in the Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF), her daughter Khushroop Kaur Sandhu has also made a mark by getting enlisted as an officer in the force.

**GURSAHIB SINGH,** Khushroop's maternal uncle,

said it was a double delight for the family. "Manjit and Khushroop are the first mother-daughter duo from Punjab who have got an opportunity to serve in the Air Force of any other country. They have set an example for others."

He said after completing Class XII, Khushroop cleared the RAAF test. She has chosen the cybercrime wing after finishing her training. "People should not consider girls any lesser than boys. We have never stopped the women of our family from doing anything," said Paramjit Kaur, Khushroop's grandmother.

Manjit is working as an aircraftwoman in the medical wing of the RAAF at the Darwin air base. Roop Singh Sandhu, her husband, is also an Australian Government employee. The couple had gone to Australia on the study visa in 2009. After getting the Australian PR in 2013, they took along their two daughters too.

## INDIAN-ORIGIN STUDENT DROWNS IN CANADA

**ONTARIO (TIP):** A 20-year-old youth, hailing from Badhni Kalan

village in Nihalsinghwal subdivision of Moga district of Punjab, drowned in Eldorado Park at Brampton in Ontario province of Canada.

The deceased has been identified

as Navkiran Singh, who went to Canada last year for higher studies.

The family members have urged the Punjab government to facilitate in bringing his body back for performing the last rites.

## Indian American boy bullied at Texas school

**DALLAS (TIP):** An Indian American boy was held in a chokehold and allegedly bullied by a white student in a school in the state of Texas, according to a media report.

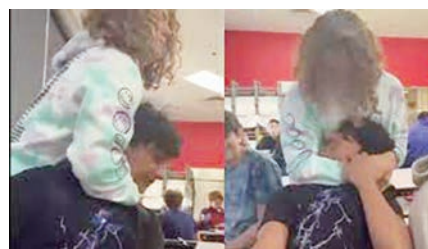
The incident happened during lunch at Coppell Middle School North in Texas on May 11, according to NBC 5.

In a viral video, the Indian-American student sitting at a table is seen being put in a headlock by a white student, the report said.

In the video, a student can be seen asking the Indian-American boy to get up from his seat. When the Indian-American boy refused, he was choked and forcefully removed from the seat.

Meanwhile, other students could be heard reacting to the violence but not stopping it, according to the video.

"It was horrible. I couldn't sleep for three nights straight. It felt like I was being choked. I cried many times watching it," said Sonika Kukreja, mother of the student put in the headlock.



The victim is seen being held in a chokehold

The authorities, however, chose to punish the Indian-American student harshly by suspending him for three days while the aggressor received a suspension of one day, parents Sonika and Kamlesh Pritmani said.

"I am deeply concerned about the safety of our children and the message our school board, our police department, is sending out by not acting on this," said Kukreja.

"We need fair treatment for every kid and we need that bullying to be stopped," said Pritmani.

In an email to parents, Coppell ISD's Superintendent Dr Brad Hunt said in part, "Coppell ISD is aware of a video circulating on social media showing an incident at Coppell

Middle School North involving a physical altercation between two students. Bullying, both verbal and physical, as well as physical acts of aggression are never acceptable and do not align with who we are at CISD and our core values."

The email said the incident is being investigated and addressed by the school and the district according to the CISD Student Code of Conduct.

Marwa Elbially, the attorney for the Pritmani family, denies the accusations and says the violence should never have happened.

"The school can preach all it wants that they're antibullying and place it on their website, but they are sending a message to this kid and the rest of the student body that this behavior is acceptable," said Elbially.

Mark Lassiter, the attorney for the family of the other student, told NBC 5 that the student was responding to vulgar and violent threats against his family.

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

# AIA Organizes a conference on "What is Awareness and Empathy and How Can We Increase Them In Us"

**NEW YORK (TIP):** On May 16th, "The Association of Indian In America" (AIA) National Executive Committee organized a conference on What is Awareness and Empathy and How Can We Increase Them In Us. The idea for this conference was conceived by Mr. Gobind P. Munjal, President of National AIA, Asmita Bhatia, Trustee of AIA and Professor Shivaji Sengupta of Boricua College. He has recently retired from there as Professor of English and its Academic VP. Boricua is a small, private, not for profit liberal arts institution in New York City. As vice president, he worked with the full-time faculty to develop awareness and empathy so that they may be better facilitators of learning. He was thus invited to lead the discussion.

The meeting opened at 8:30 PM. There were over 42 attendees, all participating via Zoom. Ms. Gunjan Rastogi, the National AIA Secretary, introduced National AIA President Gobind Munjal.

Mr. Munjal said in his introduction to Dr. Sengupta that we are living in a sharply divided world. There is the war in Ukraine which shows no signs of abating. Internally, sharp differences between the political parties and social groups were tearing the country apart with unrest and violence. These are all happening because of lack of communication between people. In this milieu, Gobind Munjal said, it would be a good idea to discuss awareness and empathy, how developing them may help others.

Shivaji Sengupta began the discussion by explaining what he means by awareness and empathy. Awareness is being conscious, not only of the environment around us, the atmosphere, the people, nature, but also conscious of how we are feeling as we are aware of them. It is the latter - how we are feeling - that is hard for us to be aware of, Sengupta said. Empathy is the



Gobind Munjal



Professor Shivaji Sengupta

ability to gauge the feeling of a person one is in the company of. This ability to "be in someone else's shoes," as they say, the ability to communicate with feeling and self-awareness, is empathy.

But awareness and empathy cannot happen without contact. Sengupta explained contact as not only being in touch with someone but being aware of the nature of the contact itself. Are we happy, sad, troubled, anxious about being in contact with a particular person? Contact, he said, is not instantaneous and sudden. It is a process. Awareness is its consequence. We need to nurture contact if we are to develop empathy.

Empathy, unlike sympathy, is active. When in empathy, we reach out to help. Sympathy is more intellectual, aloof; empathy is affective. Affect is our ability to monitor our feelings, be aware of them before we react. Empathy is functional; sympathy, inert.

Thus, Professor Sengupta established a continuum between Contact, Awareness and Empathy. He said there are other elements that we need to know to enhance awareness and empathy such as field and energy that the Bhagwat Gita calls kshetra. There is also the notion of control and difference. All of this help someone to work with differences among people, to bring about mutual understanding and empathy and resolve conflicts. However, given the complex subject, he said he would explain these terms at a subsequent session.

The presentation lasted about 20 minutes. It was followed by lively discussions by most of the participants. Some of the questions were about Covid. Since Covid has affected so many millions of people in the world, for well over two years, and counting, could it have affected people's awareness, since awareness depends on contact? It was an excellent question. Sengupta responded that theoretically, yes. But there needs to be thorough research to prove his hypothesis. Other questions were about explanations of terms. Participants asked for clarifications and examples.

It was decided at the end of the meeting to hold another session roughly in about a month. The audience were enthusiastic and receptive to the idea. The three moderators, Ms. Gunjan Rastogi, Mr. Santosh Pandey and Ms. Nilima Madan handled the conference with awareness and sensitivity. Secretary Gunjan Rastogi thanked all the former National AIA Presidents, Chapter Presidents, National Executive Committee and Chapters members, community leaders and invited guests for attending and participating in this conference and making it a huge success.

(Based on a Press Release by Gobind Munjal, National President AIA)

# The Hector Fontanez School in the Bronx Receives NYC Emergency Management's Ready School of the year Award

**NEW YORK (TIP):** Students and staff were honored during NYC Emergency Management's "Ready School of the Year" award ceremony, presented to P.S. 103, the Hector Fontanez School in the Bronx on Wednesday, May 18. Throughout the year, students at P.S. 103 participated in emergency preparedness and fire safety presentations, providing them with information and resources that not only assist in their individual preparedness, but can help equip their families for an emergency.

Each year, NYC Emergency Management and the NYC Department of Education present the "Ready School of the Year" award to a school that demonstrates an outstanding commitment to emergency preparedness. New York City Emergency Management Commissioner Zach Iscol and Department of Education Senior Advisor to the Chancellor Camille Varlack attended the event to deliver remarks at the ceremony.

"The students and staff at the Hector Fontanez School epitomize the mission behind New York City Emergency Management's Ready New York program," said NYC Emergency Management Commissioner Zach Iscol.



"The COVID-19 pandemic has brought along a lot of unforeseen challenges, but these students were able to use lessons learned to not only become more prepared individuals, but also provide support to their greater communities. We are proud to honor P.S. 103 with the 2022 'Ready School of the Year' award."

"The students and staff at P.S. 103, The Hector Fontanez School, are so grateful for being able to partner with NYC

Emergency Management during this school year. We are beyond excited to have been honored as the NYC Emergency Management's Ready School of the Year. Students and staff loved seeing Ready Girl and came away from this Ready School of the Year event with knowledge, pride, and satisfaction that in case of emergency we are all better prepared," said Dean Glaser and Farid Reyes, principal of the Hector Fontanez

School.

Staff at P.S. 103 worked with NYC Emergency Management to integrate emergency preparedness lessons into the classroom, providing students with a range of learning opportunities and emphasizing the importance of emergency preparedness in school and at home. Ready Girl, the City's emergency preparedness superhero, taught students how to prepare for various emergencies, including floods, hurricanes, and blizzards. Students also learned how to write an emergency plan, pack a Go Bag, and gather emergency supplies. During the year, the school also partners with FDNY to help educate students on fire safety.

This year marks the 13th anniversary of the Ready New York School of the Year award. During the award presentation, students performed emergency preparedness-themed songs, poems, skits, and presentations. They also had the opportunity to tour NYC Emergency Management's Incident Command Center (ICC) response vehicle.

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

# Mayor Adams Announces Appointment Of New Member To Panel For Educational Policy

**NEW YORK (TIP):** New York City Mayor Eric Adams announced on May 18 appointment of Kyle Kimball to the Panel for Educational Policy (PEP). The newly appointed member brings a diverse range of experience spanning the public sector, education policy, the private sector, and, most importantly, firsthand knowledge as a public school parent.

"New York City families deserve to be represented by a board reflective of the diversity that makes this city great," said Mayor Adams. "Our PEP appointees reflect that diversity and our administration's priority for enhancing parent and community engagement, as we reimagine our schools and improve education for every child from every background."

"As a parent of a public school student, the husband of a teacher, and a deep history serving our city, Mr. Kimball brings critical insight to the Panel," said New York City Department of Education Chancellor David C.

Banks. "I look forward to working with him to uplift our schools in the coming years."

The PEP replaced the former Board of Education in 2002 and is part of the governance structure responsible for the city's public schools. Established under State Education Law, the PEP is responsible for approving standards, policies, and objectives directly related to educational achievement and instruction and the Chancellor's Regulations, significant changes in school utilization, budgetary items, and department contracts.

Mayor Adams is responsible for nine appointments on the PEP. Kimball joins Dr. Vasthi Acosta, Tom Allon, Gregory Faulkner, Dr. Angela Green, Anthony Lopez, Alan Ong, Karina Taveras, and Gladys Ward as mayoral appointees to the PEP.

## About Kyle Kimball

Kyle Kimball currently serves as the vice president of Government Relations

for Consolidated Edison (Con Ed), joining the company in June 2015. In 2013, Kimball was appointed president of the New York City Economic Development Corporation (NYCEDC) by Mayor Michael Bloomberg and later reappointed by Mayor Bill de Blasio. In that position, he oversaw billions of dollars in capital infrastructure investments and implemented several of the city's most ambitious commercial and housing real estate development projects. He also led efforts to strengthen the city's economy by attracting new industries, growing local companies, and expanding entrepreneurship and educational opportunities. Before joining NYCEDC, Kimball worked at Goldman, Sachs & Co. as vice president in the Americas Financing Group, and at J.P. Morgan, as a vice president, in corporate capital markets.

Kimball is a 1995 graduate of Harvard. He also received a master's degree in Public Policy from Harvard's John F. Kennedy School of Government in 1998.



Mayor Eric Adams has appointed Kyle Kimball to the Panel for Educational Policy (PEP)

Originally from Lawrence, Kansas, Kimball lives in Park Slope, Brooklyn with his husband Doug, a public school teacher, and their daughter, Isadora, a public school student.

## NYC Administration For Children's Services And Citi Partner On Virtual Book Drive In Support Of Children And Teens Across The City

**Citi Volunteers Will Choose from Thousands of Books that Reflect the Diversity of NYC, Written by or about Black, Hispanic/Latinx, Asian, Middle Eastern, North African and LGBTQIA+ Individuals**

**NEW YORK, NY (TIP):** The New York City Administration for Children's Services (ACS), on May 19, announced a virtual book drive, in partnership with Citi, that will result in the delivery of thousands of books to children and teenagers across New York City. As part of Citi's annual Global Community Day, Citi volunteers will choose from a list of over 2,500 books curated by ACS staff that are written by or about Black, Hispanic/Latinx, Asian and LGBTQIA+ individuals. Each book that is donated will be matched by Citi, with the goal of collecting at least 2,500 books by the end of June.



Anne Williams-Isom. "This is such a special initiative that reflects the beauty and diversity of our city. Thank you to ACS and to Citi for coming together to make this possible. Happy reading to all of our kids!"

"The Administration for Children's Services is committed to ensuring children and youth have the resources they need to reach their full potential and literacy is one of the greatest gifts we can give," said ACS Commissioner Jess Dannhauser. "Books help teach children about the world, which is why our virtual book drive with Citi includes thousands of empowering books that represent the diversity of New York City and that are written by and about Black, Hispanic/Latinx, Asian and LGBTQIA+ individuals. Thank you to Citi for partnering with us on this book drive, which will benefit thousands of children and teenagers."

"Reading opens a window to the world, transporting young New Yorkers to new places and exposing them to diverse people and cultures," said Edward Skyler, Head of Global Public Affairs at Citi and former Deputy Mayor of New York City. **(Read full story at [www.theindianpanorama.news](http://www.theindianpanorama.news))**

"Today's reader is tomorrow's leader," said New York City Mayor Eric Adams. "By placing thousands of books that reflect the diversity of our city in the hands of our youth and children, we are planting the seeds to foster a more inclusive future generation to lead our city."

"New York City is made up of so many immigrant families; that is why it is so important for children and young people to have the chance to read and learn from books that have heroes and sheroes that look just like them," said Deputy Mayor for Health and Human Services

## Schools Chancellor David C. Banks announces launch of DOE grades, attendance, and messaging applications

**NEW YORK (TIP):** Schools Chancellor David C. Banks announced on May 19 that the New York City Department of Education's Division of Instructional and Information Technology (DIIT) is launching the DOE Grades, Attendance, and Messaging applications. These applications will be available at no cost to all NYC public schools this summer in anticipation of the 2022-23 school year. The Department of Education is recommending that schools currently using third-party vendors for these purposes transition to the free DOE Grades, Attendance, and Messaging applications in the upcoming school year.



David C. Banks, NYC Schools Chancellor

"This new platform is safer and was designed alongside our outstanding educators to ensure it meets their needs and frees them from spending time on unnecessary administrative busy work," said Schools Chancellor David C. Banks. "I am so thrilled to announce the launch of this exciting new, free for schools, platform, and grateful to our DIIT team's steadfast dedication to our children and families."

Integrating data from across DOE systems, the Grades, Attendance and Messaging applications will give teachers the ability to record period and daily attendance, collect grades for all assignments, quizzes, and exams, and allow them to easily submit final grades. Grading integrations between the DOE's learning management systems (Google Workspace and iLearnNYC) are also in

the initial release of the system, providing even more efficiency to schools. The Department of Education will also be launching a Messaging application that will allow schools to create and send communications to families, students and staff via email, text, and robo-call.

Because there is no cost to schools, this grading, attendance and messaging solution represents a shift to a more equitable technology ecosystem. Additionally, because the DOE Grades, Attendance and Messaging applications are built, owned, and managed by the Department of Education, the DOE can ensure they meet the rigorous requirements for protecting personally identifiable information (PII), particularly given the ongoing risk of security incidents when working with outside vendors.

"The idea to build the application arose from conversations we had directly with schools, who needed a custom DOE grading and attendance application that could replace burdensome manual processes and the ongoing costs of using third-party software tools," said Anuraag Sharma, the DOE's Chief Information Officer. "Between March 8 and April 6, 2022, we provided demos of the DOE Grades, Attendance and Messaging Applications to a range of stakeholders, including teachers, principals, central office staff, and regional office staff."

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

# 'Numbers don't lie'

**THE BUFFALO KILLINGS ARE PART OF A PATTERN: MOST EXTREMIST VIOLENCE IN THE U.S. COMES FROM THE POLITICAL RIGHT**

BY JUSTICE  
MARKANDEY KATJU



BY DAVID  
LEONHARDT



**"IT'S IMPORTANT TO EMPHASIZE THAT NOT ALL EXTREMIST VIOLENCE COMES FROM THE RIGHT - AND THAT THE PRECISE EXPLANATION FOR ANY ONE ATTACK CAN BE MURKY, INVOLVING A MIXTURE OF IDEOLOGY, MENTAL ILLNESS, GUN ACCESS AND MORE. IN THE IMMEDIATE AFTERMATH OF AN ATTACK, PEOPLE ARE SOMETIMES TOO QUICK TO CLAIM A DIRECT CAUSE AND EFFECT. BUT IT IS ALSO INCORRECT TO PRETEND THAT RIGHT-WING VIOLENCE AND LEFT-WING VIOLENCE ARE EQUIVALENT PROBLEMS."**

**"THERE IS OFTEN OVERLAP BETWEEN THESE VIOLENT THREATS AND WHITE SUPREMACIST BELIEFS. WHITE SUPREMACY TENDS TO TREAT PEOPLE OF COLOR AS UN-AMERICAN OR EVEN LESS THAN FULLY HUMAN, VIEWS THAT CAN MAKE VIOLENCE SEEM JUSTIFIABLE. THE SUSPECT IN THE BUFFALO MASSACRE EVIDENTLY POSTED AN ONLINE MANIFESTO THAT DISCUSSED REPLACEMENT THEORY, A RACIAL CONSPIRACY THEORY THAT TUCKER CARLSON PROMOTES ON HIS FOX NEWS SHOW."**

Over the past decade, the Anti-Defamation League has counted about 450 U.S. murders committed



New York Gov. Kathy Hochul at the memorial for the Buffalo shooting victims

Photo / courtesy The New York Times

by political extremists.

Of these 450 killings, right-wing extremists committed about 75 percent. Islamic extremists were responsible for about 20 percent, and left-wing extremists were responsible for 4 percent.

Nearly half of the murders were specifically tied to white supremacists.

The data collected by the Anti-Defamation League shows that the American political right has a violence problem that has no equivalent on the left. And the 10 victims in Buffalo this past weekend are now part of this toll. "Right-wing extremist violence is our biggest threat," Jonathan Greenblatt, the head of the ADL, has written. "The numbers don't lie."

The pattern extends to violence less severe than murder, like the Jan. 6 attack on Congress. It also extends to the language from some Republican politicians - including Donald Trump - and conservative media figures that treats violence as a legitimate form of political expression. A much larger number of Republican officials do not use this language but also do not denounce it or punish politicians who do use it; Kevin McCarthy, the top House Republican, is a leading example.

It's important to emphasize that not all extremist violence comes from the right - and that the precise explanation for any one attack can be murky, involving a mixture of ideology, mental illness, gun access and more. In the immediate aftermath of an attack, people are sometimes too quick to claim a direct cause and effect. But it is also incorrect to pretend that right-wing violence and left-wing violence are equivalent problems.

## Fears in Washington

If you talk to members of Congress and their aides these days - especially off the record - you will often hear them mention their fears of violence being committed

against them.

Some Republican members of Congress have said that they were reluctant to vote for Trump's impeachment or conviction partly because of the threats against other members who had already denounced him. House Republicans who voted for President Biden's infrastructure bill also received threats. Democrats say their offices receive a spike in phone calls and online messages threatening violence after they are criticized on conservative social media or cable television shows.

People who oversee elections report similar problems. "One in six election officials have experienced threats because of their job," the Brennan Center, a research group, reported this year. "Ranging from death threats that name officials' young children to racist and gendered harassment, these attacks have forced election officials across the country to take steps like hiring personal security, fleeing their homes, and putting their children into counseling."

There is often overlap between these violent threats and white supremacist beliefs. White supremacy tends to treat people of color as un-American or even less than fully human, views that can make violence seem justifiable. The suspect in the Buffalo massacre evidently posted an online manifesto that discussed replacement theory, a racial conspiracy theory that Tucker Carlson promotes on his Fox News show.

"History has taught us that what begins with words ends in far worse," Representative Liz Cheney, one of the few Republicans who have repeatedly and consistently denounced violence and talk of violence from the right, wrote on Twitter yesterday. "The House GOP leadership has enabled white nationalism, white supremacy, and antisemitism," Cheney wrote, and called on Republican leaders to "renounce and reject these views and those who hold

them."

A few other Republicans, like Senator Mitt Romney, have taken a similar stance. But many other prominent Republicans have taken a more neutral stance or even embraced talk of violence.

Some have spoken openly about violence as a legitimate political tool - and not just Trump, who has done so frequently.

At the rally that preceded the Jan. 6 attack, Representative Mo Brooks suggested the crowd should "start taking down names and kicking ass." Before she was elected to Congress, Marjorie Taylor Greene supported the idea of executing Barack Obama, Nancy Pelosi and other top Democrats. Representative Paul Gosar once posted an animated video altered to depict himself killing Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez and swinging swords at Biden.

Rick Perry, a former Texas governor, once called the Federal Reserve "treasonous" and talked about treating its chairman "pretty ugly." During Greg Gianforte's campaign for Montana's House seat, he went so far as to assault a reporter who asked him a question he didn't like; Gianforte won and has since become Montana's governor.

These Republicans have received no meaningful sanction from their party. McCarthy, the Republican leader in the House, has been especially solicitous of Brooks and other members who use violent imagery.

This Republican comfort with violence is new. Republican leaders from past decades, like Ronald Reagan, Bob Dole, Howard Baker and the Bushes, did not evoke violence.

"In a stable democracy," Steven Levitsky, a Harvard political scientist, told me, "Politicians unambiguously reject violence and unambiguously expel from their ranks antidemocratic forces."

(Source: The New York Times)



# Rise of 'bulldozer academics'

BY AVIJIT  
PATHAK



IN NEW INDIA, CAN'T ASK STUDENTS TO ENQUIRE, RELATE THEORY TO SOCIO-HISTORICAL REALITY



UNIVERSITY OF DELHI

Learning Outcome: Academic bureaucrats seem to be on a mission to transform students into consumers, and teachers into service providers. Photo / Courtesy Tribune

**"RECENTLY, A PRIVATE UNIVERSITY IN UP SUSPENDED A FACULTY OF POLITICAL SCIENCE. IN THE FIRST-YEAR BA POLITICAL SCIENCE PAPER, HE ASKED HIS STUDENTS TO SHARE THEIR OBSERVATIONS ON PARALLELS BETWEEN 'FASCISM/NAZISM AND HINDUTVA'. IN NEW INDIA, YOU CANNOT ASK YOUR STUDENTS TO ENQUIRE, RELATE THEORY TO CONCRETE SOCIO-HISTORICAL REALITY, AND PROBLEMATIZE THE WORLD THEY SEE AND EXPERIENCE EVERY DAY, AS THE NON-REFLEXIVE BUREAUCRATS WHO RUN THE UGC THINK A QUESTION OF THIS KIND GOES AGAINST 'THE SPIRIT AND ETHOS OF OUR COUNTRY WHICH IS KNOWN FOR ITS INCLUSIVITY AND HOMOGENEITY'. AND THE UNIVERSITY CONCERNED DID NOT HESITATE TO CONSTITUTE A THREE-MEMBER COMMITTEE TO LOOK INTO THE 'POSSIBILITY OF BIAS IN THE QUESTION'."**

**B**ulldozer politics' is a new idiom we are getting used to in the age of decadence that normalizes brute instincts, arrogance of power, insensitivity to the plight of the poor, and denial of democratic/humanistic sensibilities. This violence is infectious; and even the academic world - a realm that is supposed to celebrate the spirit of free enquiry - is finding it difficult to free itself from the logic of 'bulldozer politics', or its aggressive, non-dialogic and totalitarian practice. It would not be wrong to say that some of our Vice-Chancellors (VCs), Rectors and Registrars are always ready with their 'bulldozers' to annihilate the creative space that the learners endowed with the spirit of critical pedagogy seek to inhabit.

**Are we teachers convinced of the beauty of our calling? Or are we just paid employees without any voice and reflexivity?**

Recently, a private university in UP suspended a faculty of political science. In the first-year BA political science paper, he asked his students to share their observations on parallels between 'Fascism/Nazism and Hindutva'. In new India, you cannot ask your students to enquire, relate theory to concrete socio-historical reality, and problematize the world they see and experience every day, as the non-reflexive bureaucrats who run the UGC think a question of this kind goes against 'the spirit and ethos of our country which is known for its inclusivity and homogeneity'. And the university concerned did not hesitate to constitute a three-member committee to look into the 'possibility of bias in the question'.

What sort of 'inclusivity' is the UGC talking about, and that too at a time when the might of majoritarianism, the aggression of the terribly demonstrative religious nationalism and the all-pervading toxic propaganda machinery are destroying the art of democratic living characterized by heightened sensitivity to heterogeneity, plurality, fusion of horizons and shared humanism? At a time when 'apolitical' and 'fact-centric' MCQs tend to kill the interpretative and hermeneutic art of understanding

the complex social reality, any sensitive academic or pedagogue would appreciate the professor for raising this controversial or 'out of the box' question, and encouraging his students to think, interrogate and problematize what the UGC-dictated 'official truth' seeks to hide. It is quite possible for the UGC Chairperson, or the academic bureaucrats of the university to disagree with the professor's worldview. However, they are not supposed to interfere in his pedagogic practice because it is not homogeneity, but the diversity of thoughts and worldviews that enhances the ethos of epistemological pluralism in a university. The harsh reality is that we have entered the age of bulldozer academics, and our academic bureaucrats have begun to suspect even the slightest trace of critical consciousness.

Why is it so? First, as the neoliberal assault on education goes on, these academic bureaucrats behave like techno-managers with the mission to reduce education into a marketable skill, and transform students into consumers, or teachers into service providers. This instrumental and market-driven approach to education robs the culture of learning of what all great educators have always striven for - education as awakening and critical consciousness. Why should students and teachers bother to think about communalism, rising authoritarianism and everyday violence in the name of caste, gender and religion when there is nothing beyond the mythology of placement and salary package?

Second, with the steady rise of militant nationalism in the country, we see a visibly naked political appointment of many of our VCs in leading public universities. They are already compromised; it is almost impossible for them to approve of the culture of learning that encourages students and researchers to question the prevalent discourse of power, or see the violence implicit in militant nationalism. I wonder how these VCs would react if they find a professor of political sociology encouraging her students to study Wilhelm Reich's *The Mass Psychology of Fascism* or Erich Fromm's *The Escape From Freedom*, and enquire whether these classic texts have some relevance in contemporary India. When these academic bureaucrats demand absolute loyalty to the official discourse of nationalism, they kill the spirit of critical pedagogy and free enquiry. I would not be surprised if they issue a circular, and compel students and teachers to listen to the PM's Mann Ki Baat!

Amid this despair, I would still plead for the pedagogy of hope. As a teacher, how can I forget the likes of Paulo Freire and bell hooks? They wanted us to realize the healing power of a dialogic classroom - a living/vibrant space that encourages the articulation of lived experiences, conversations, art of listening and imagination of a new world free from structural/psychic/cultural violence. However, even to imagine this possibility in this dystopian age, we as teachers have to unite, and realize that we are thinkers, communicators and healers; and we are not docile servants to be monitored through biometric devices and CCTV cameras, and bombardment of circulars that ask us to measure the utility of the courses, or the mathematics of publications for enhancing the ranking of the university.

However, the moot question is: Are we convinced of the beauty of our calling? Or, are we just paid employees without any voice and reflexivity? What has happened to the faculty of the private university, it should not be forgotten, can happen to anybody who has not yet lost his/her creatively nuanced critical thinking. Hence, it is important for all those who love the vocation of teaching to unite, raise their voice, stand with the victim, and resist the growing violence of 'bulldozer academics'.

(The author is a sociologist)

# 'Videshi' Punjab is all set to go to polls

BY PRABHJOT SINGH



**"PUNJABIS LOVE DIVERSITY, BE IT IN MAKING A CHOICE OF THEIR IMMIGRANT DESTINATION OR POLITICS. THEIR ABILITY TO RELOCATE AND ADJUST TO NEW ENVIRONMENTS ARE TREMENDOUS. MANY OF THEM MAY NOT BE ABLE TO READ OR WRITE LOCAL LANGUAGES OF THEIR NEW COUNTRIES OF ABODE BUT THEIR MATCHLESS ABILITY TO CONVERSE IN LOCAL LANGUAGES FACILITATES THEIR QUICK ASSIMILATION IN ALIEN LANDS."**

Once Jagrup Brar, a sitting member of the British Columbia Assembly, told me that every migrant Punjabi in Canada has two hearts. While one beats for Canada, the other throbs for Punjab. Jagrup, a former international in basketball, had a point. It gets corroborated every time there is an election in either "Desi" or Indian Punjab or "Videshi" Punjab i.e., Canada.

Like "Desi" Punjab has two parts - "Lehnda" and "Charhdha" Punjab - "Videshi" Punjab, too, has two parts. One is in Ontario and the other one in British Columbia. Going by the growing influence of Punjabis and their clout in provincial and federal politics, a third part of "Videshi" Punjab is fast emerging on the Canadian horizon in Calgary of Alberta province. Last weekend, when Sikh Day Parade dedicated to "Khalsa Divas" was organized, its massive



turnout was as good as it is in Toronto or Vancouver.

While "Desi" Punjab had its assembly elections in February, the Ontario based "Videshi" Punjab is now in election mode. It will elect its new Assembly on June 2.

Of a record number of 900 candidates, representing 25 different political parties, 60 of the contestants are of South Asian origin. More than one third of them are Punjabis.

"Videshi" Punjabis of Ontario are as democratic as their counterparts in "Desi" Punjab by sharing their loyalties with all major political parties.

A couple of them are also testing their political acumen as Independents.

It is interesting to study the election process in "Desi" and "Videshi" Punjab.

Punjabis love diversity, be it in making a choice of their immigrant destination or politics. Their ability to relocate and adjust to new environments are tremendous. Many of them may not be able to read or write local languages of their new countries of abode but their matchless ability to converse in local languages facilitates their quick assimilation in alien lands.

Studies conducted from time to time reveal that political influence wielded by the Punjabi community overseas remains mostly confined to suburbs of major cities. In Canada, for example, if the community has made inroads into provincial and federal politics, it is through the suburbs. There are not many South Asian migrants in general and Punjabi in particular, who made it to provincial or federal politics from major cities like Toronto. On doing analysis of their phenomenal growth in politics, one can safely infer that suburbs of big towns have helped them to script their success stories.

A total of 900 candidates and 25 parties are running in this election. In 2018, there were 825 candidates and 28 parties

on the ballot. This represents a 9% increase in the number of candidates and a 10.7% decrease in the number of parties participating.

The coming June 2 election is no different. Five ridings in Brampton - North, South, East, West, and Centre - are dominant Punjabi Ridings. From Brampton East, for example, all the three major political parties - ruling Conservatives, NDP and Liberals - have put up Sikh candidates. The NDP is represented by Gurratan Singh, younger brother of the federal NDP leader Jagmeet Singh. Then Jannat Grewal is from Liberal while Hardeep Grewal represents the ruling Conservatives.

From Brampton North, it is Harinder Malhi contesting on Liberal ticket. Her father, Gurbax Singh Malhi, was the first turbaned Sikh to sit in House of Commons. He remained MP for five consecutive terms. She is facing Sandeep Singh of NDP while the third candidate of South Asian origin is Aneep Dhade contesting on the Green Party ticket.

Mississauga and Scarborough are the other important parts of the Greater Toronto Area that are represented both in provincial and federal parliaments by South Asian migrants. Eight South Asian migrants are contesting from three different Mississauga Ridings.

Bampton West presents a unique picture. Of the four Punjabi contestants, the community has shown excellent gender equality by fielding an equal number of men and women candidates. Rimmy Jhaggi (Liberal), and Navjit Kaur (NDP) represent the women while Amarjot Sandhu, a sitting MLA of ruling Conservatives, and Manjot Sekhon of Ontario Party, are men candidates.

From five Brampton Ridings, there are 13 Punjabi candidates. One of them, Sara Singh (NDP), the first Canadian of Indo-Caribbean origin to sit in Ontario Provincial Assembly, has an opponent from Pakistani Punjab, Safdar Hussain

(Liberal).

Another candidate from Pakistan Punjab is Zaigham Butt from Hamilton East-Stoney Creek. He is a candidate of the NDP. A sizable section of Pakistani Punjabis in Ontario has been a supporter of Jagmeet Singh.

Among the South Asian migrants contesting the June 2 Ontario assembly elections are Sara Singh, Gurratan Singh, Sandeep Singh, Navjit Kaur, Aisha Jahangir, Faheem Alim, Zaigham Butt, Farina Hassan, Khalid Ahmed, Raymond Bhushan, Neethan Shan, Doly Begum, Jasleen Kambo, and Pasma Chandra (all from NDP), Abhjeet Manay, Aneep Dhade, Fatima Faruq, Mini Batra, Nira Dookeran, Priyan De Silva, Rizwan Khan, Shanta Sundarason, Sheefaza Esmail and Syam Chandra (all from Green Party), Aman Gill, Anita Anandarajan, Dipika Damerla, Harinder Malhi, Imran Mian, Jannat Grewal, Kaviz Mouli, Lisa Patel, Mohammed Adil, Manpreet Brar, Mazhar Shafir, Rimmy Jhaggi, Ruby Toor, Safdar Hussain, Sam Bhalesar, Sameera Ali, Shubha Sandil, Surekha Shenoy, Zeba Hashmi, and Aziz Choudery (all from Liberals), Hardeep Grewal, Prabhmeet Singh Sarkaria, Amarjot Sandhu, Goldie Ghamari, Logan Kanapathi, Parm Gill, Kaled Rasheed, Deepak Anand, Nina Tangri, Vijay Thangasalam, and Husain Neemuchwala (all from Progressive Conservative), Manjot Sekhon (Ontario Party), Sadiq Nadia (Ontario Provincial Confederation), Hiten Patel and Birinder Singh Ahluwalia (Independents).

(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))



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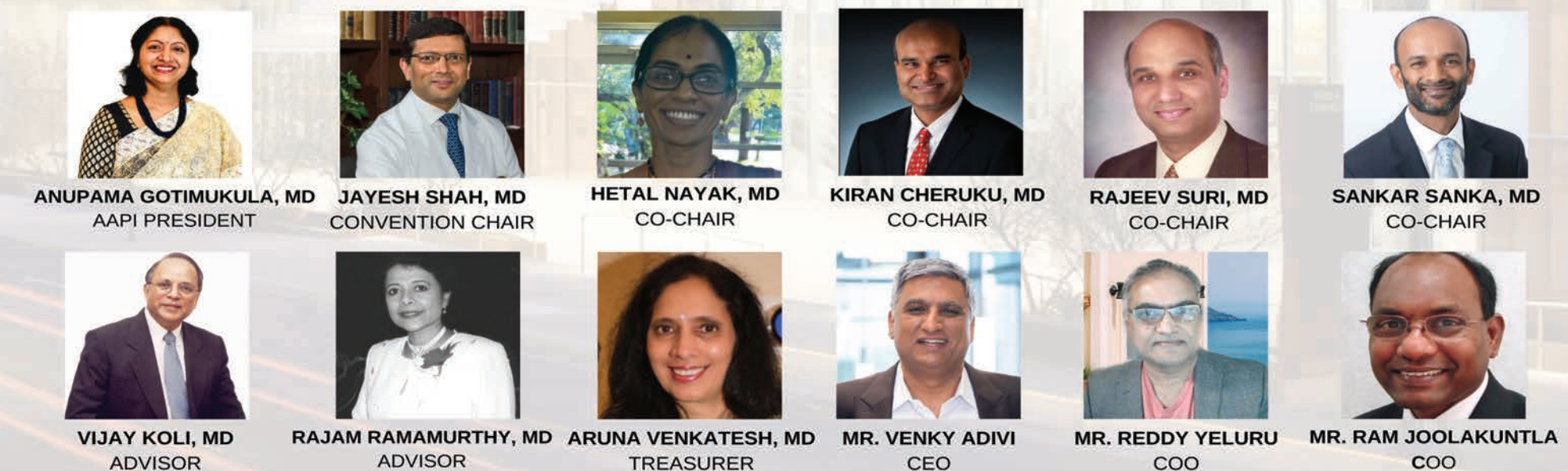
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**AMERICAN FAMILY CONVICTED OF FORCING PAKISTANI WOMAN INTO FORCED LABOUR**



Image for representation only

**WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP)** An American family of Pakistani origin was convicted on Friday, May 13, of domestic forced labour on a Pakistani woman for 12 years, federal prosecutors said.

A federal jury found the family members -- Zahida Aman, Mohammad Nauman Chaudhri and Mohammad Rehan Chaudhri -- subjecting the victim to physical and mental abuse for more than 12 years. They now face a prison term ranging from five to 20 years.

They slapped, kicked and pushed the victim, even beat her with wooden boards, and on one occasion, hog-tied her hands and feet and dragged her down the stairs in front of her children, according to a media release.

Even after the victim's husband moved away, the defendants kept her in their Virginia home, often forcing her to perform increasingly laborious tasks, including stripping and staining a deck by hand, mowing the one-acre lawn with a push mower, hand-washing and line-drying area rugs, painting the inside and outside of their two-story home, picking out debris from car carpets with a tweezer and constructing a concrete walkway in front of the home -- a task that required the victim to haul 80-pound bags of concrete before mixing and pouring cement, it alleged.

"The defendants exploited the victim's trust and inflicted cruel and inhumane physical and mental abuse on her, all so they could keep her working in their home as their domestic servant," said Assistant Attorney General Kristen Clarke.

"The defendants exploited someone who should have been a loved family member to force her to work in their home for over 14 years," said US Attorney Jessica D Aber for the Eastern District of Virginia.

"Forced labour, the modern-day equivalent of slavery, has no place in our country or district, and we will stop at nothing to prosecute those that commit these or similar crimes. Let this conviction serve as a light to survivors impacted by labour trafficking and as a deterrent to those conspiring to commit heinous labour trafficking crimes," Aber said.

(Source: PTI)

**Democratic US lawmakers seek pathway to citizenship for documented 'Dreamers'**

**WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP):** A group of eminent Democratic lawmakers on Wednesday, May 18, rejuvenated their push to provide a pathway to citizenship to some 250,000 documented 'dreamers', a significant majority of whom are Indian Americans.

Led by California Senator Alex Padilla and Congresswoman Deborah Ross, the lawmakers urged their colleagues in the United States Senate and the House of Representatives to pass the bipartisan America's Children Act, which will allow to stay children of those who immigrated to the country legally, but are yet to get green card because of a massive backlog.

The so-called documented dreamers, who are estimated to be about 250,000, grew up legally in the US but risk deportation when they turn 21 years old.

"For these young people, turning 21 means facing an impossible choice. Either to leave your family and self-deport to a country that you barely remember, or to stay in the United States living, undocumented, in the shadows," Padilla told reporters at a news conference here.

Indian American Congressman Dr Ami Bera said that documented dreamers were raised in America and they know this country as their only home. "Yet, they risk having to self-deport by the age of 21



Dreamers at the US Capitol

File photo

because of backlogs in the immigration system. Congress must pass the America's Children Act to extend protections to these young people," he said.

More than 40 of these children, who have created the group "Improve the Dream" joined these lawmakers at the US Capitol press conference. "These talented young people have been left out of conversations about immigration reform for too long. We're ready to change that," Congresswoman Ross said.

"Documented Dreamers represent the

very best of America. Let's give them the chance to stay in the country they love and call home," she said.

Senator Richard Durbin, chairman of the Judiciary Committee, told reporters that the legislation would most likely need to move as part of a broader package that addressed Republican concerns about border security.

"I have heard no pushback on this bill. All they've said is, 'we want to deal with the border challenges,'" he said. (Source: PTI)

**CHICAGO PREMIER LEAGUE OPENS SEASON WITH A SPECTACULAR CEREMONY, CONCLUDES DRAFT FOR 2022 SEASON**



Opening Ceremony at Holiday Inn, Skokie

**CHICAGO, IL (TIP):** Chicago Premier League announced the Five Teams that will be participating in an IPL format Franchise Cricket Tournament. Guest of Honor, Toni Preckwinkle (President of the Cook County Board of Commissioners), and other Chicagoland Dignitaries, Jesal Patel (Mayor, Village of Lincolnwood), Mary Oshana (Commissioner, Skokie Park District) Pramod Shah (Clerk, Village of Skokie) was also present for the ceremony.

"Franchise Cricket will take cricket to the next level in Chicago," said Adil Azeem Khan, President of Chicago Premier League.

"I believe in team sports.," Customer Name, President of Cook County Board

of Commissioners said, during her brief reminiscence of her athletic life in school. She also thanked Adil Azeem Khan who has championed the sport of cricket in Chicagoland.

"You learn that when you contribute as a team you can together be successful," continued Customer Name. "These are valuable life lessons that you learn."

Chicago Premier League is committed at its core to cricket and will provide the best cricketing experience in Chicago, he added. Founded in 2022, Chicago Premier League is an extension of United Cricket League that Adil Azeem Khan has been using as a tool to bring communities together through cricket.

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

**Chicago entrepreneur jailed for a year for illegally exporting computer equipment to Pakistan**



Image for representation only

**WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP):** A Chicago-based executive of Pakistani origin has been sentenced to a year in prison for illegally exporting computer equipment to a Pak nuclear research agency, the Department of Justice said on Wednesday, May 18.

Obaidullah Syed, 67, had last year pleaded guilty to conspiring to export goods from the US without a license from the Department of Commerce and to submit false export information.

US District Judge Mary Rowland on Tuesday, May 17, sentenced Syed to a year and a day in federal prison. Prior to sentencing, Syed forfeited USD 247,000 of criminally derived cash to the US government.

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

# Biden expresses support for Sweden and Finland to join NATO

WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP): President Biden on Thursday, May 19 expressed unequivocal support for Sweden and Finland to join the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, saying that the two democratic countries "meet every NATO requirement and then some" and that their addition to the alliance would strengthen U.S. security, says a Washington Post report.

The Post's Amy B Wang reports that Biden, flanked by Finnish President Sauli Niinisto and Swedish Prime Minister Magdalena Andersson in the Rose Garden, said his administration is immediately submitting the reports needed for the Senate to approve NATO expansion, a necessary step for Finland and Sweden to join the alliance. He urged the Senate to "efficiently and quickly" move on giving its consent.

"In recent years, doubts began to arise: Was NATO still relevant? Was it still



President Biden walks with Swedish Prime Minister Magdalena Andersson and Finnish President Sauli Niinisto to the Oval Office at the White House on Thursday, May 19.

effective? Is it still needed in the 21st-century world?" Biden said. "Today there is no question NATO is relevant, it is effective, and it is more needed now than

ever. The indispensable alliance of decades past is still the indispensable alliance for the world we face today and, I would argue, tomorrow, as well."

## GIULIANI MEETS WITH JANUARY 6 COMMITTEE



Former Mayor of New York Rudy Giuliani

File photo

WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP): Rudy Giuliani, former President Donald Trump's onetime personal attorney and a lead architect of his attempt to overturn the 2020 election results, on Friday, May 20, met with the House select committee investigating the January 6, 2021, insurrection, CNN said quoting two sources.

Giuliani's original deposition with the committee had been postponed after the former New York City mayor asked to record the interview, with both audio and video. At the time, Giuliani's attorney Robert Costello said the committee rejected that request.

Despite Giuliani backing out of the original deposition, the two sides continued to negotiate an appearance, which led to a virtual appearance Friday that lasted for more than nine hours, sources said.

Costello declined to comment Friday. A spokesperson for the select committee also declined to comment on Giuliani's deposition.

A central figure in Trump's failed bid to overturn the 2020 election, Giuliani was subpoenaed by the committee in January and has been engaging with lawmakers, through his lawyer, about the scope of the subpoena and whether he may be able to comply with some requests.

(Read full story at

[www.theindianpanorama.news](http://www.theindianpanorama.news))

## CONGRESSMEN, INDIAN AMERICANS LAUNCH 'AZADI KA AMRIT MAHOTSAV' AT US CAPITOL



: Indian American community members with Congressmen at the Capitol, Washington D.C. on May 12  
Photo / Jay Mandal -on assignment

WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP): Over a dozen influential Congressmen attended the formal launch of the nationwide "Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav" event by Indian Americans to celebrate the 75th anniversary of India's independence, a remarkable achievement of the world's largest democracy.

Coinciding with the Asian Heritage Month, the event attracted several hundred Indian Americans from various parts of the region, wherein they announced measures and festivities across the country to celebrate the momentous occasion of 75th anniversary of India's independence.

Congressman Raja Krishnamoorthi called on the community leaders to help elect other Indian Americans to the US Congress and other elected bodies as well.

"If you do not have a seat at the table, you are on the menu," he said.

Over a dozen and a half eminent lawmakers attended the event held at the US Capitol organized by the Federation of Indian Associations of New York, New Jersey and New England.

Prominent among them included Congressman Frank Pallone and Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee.

FIA is planning a major festivity in New York around Independence Day, including flag hoisting at the Times Square, said Ankur Vaidya from the federation.

"Today was a historical moment for Indian Americans to celebrate the 75th anniversary of India's Independence Day at the US Capitol," said Kenny Desai, FIA president. FIA is one of the oldest and largest non-profit grass-root umbrella organizations of Indian Americans.

"It was a great celebration of Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav in the presence of US Congressmen. FIA's community services have been recognized by Congressional Record," said Srujal Parikh, FIA secretary.

Alok Kumar, former president of FIA and the chairman of Bihar Foundation USA, said the event was inspired by the call given by Prime Minister Narendra Modi to celebrate the momentous occasion across the world. (Source: PTI)

## US PRESIDENTIAL COMMISSION VOTES TO PROCESS ALL GREEN CARD APPLICATIONS WITHIN 6 MONTHS



Image for representation only

WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP): A presidential advisory commission has unanimously voted to recommend President Joe Biden to process all applications for green cards or permanent residency within six months.

To be sent to the White House now for approval, recommendations of the President's Advisory Commission on Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders (PACAANHPI) if adopted is likely to bring cheers to the hundreds and thousands of Indian Americans and those waiting, some for even for decades, for a Green Card.

A proposal in this regard was moved by eminent Indian American community leader Ajay Jain Bhutoria during the meeting of the PACAANHPI, during which all its 25 commissioners unanimously approved it.

The proceedings of the meeting here in the national capital was webcast live last week.

To reduce, pending green card backlog, the advisory commission recommended US Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) to review their processes, systems, policies and establish new internal cycle time goals by streamlining processes, removing redundant steps if any, automating any manual approvals, improving their internal dashboards and reporting system and enhancing policies.

The recommendations aim to reduce the cycle time for processing all forms related to family based green card application, DACA renewals, all other green card applications within six months and issue adjudicate decisions within six months of application received by it.

The commission recommended National Visa Center (NVC) State Department facility to hire additional officers to increase their capacity to process green card applications interviews by 100 per cent in three months from August 2022, and to increase Green card applications visa interviews and adjudicate decisions by 150 per cent - up from capacity of 32,439 in April 2022 -- by April 2023.

"Thereafter Green Card visa interviews and visa processing timeline should be a maximum of six months," it said.

(Read full story at

[www.theindianpanorama.news](http://www.theindianpanorama.news))



## ACTIVE COVID CASES IN COUNTRY DIP TO 15,044

NEW DELHI (TIP)

India logged 2,259 new coronavirus infections taking the total tally of covid-19 cases to 4,31,31,822, while the active cases declined to 15,044, according to the Union Health Ministry data updated on Friday, May 20.

The death toll climbed to 5,24,323 with 20 fresh fatalities, the data updated at 8 am stated.

The active cases comprised 0.03 per cent of the total infections, while the national covid-19 recovery rate was 98.75 per cent, the ministry said.

A decrease of 375 cases has been recorded in the active covid-19 caseload in a span of 24 hours.

The daily positivity rate was recorded at 0.5 per cent and the weekly positivity rate at 0.53 per cent, according to the health ministry.

The number of people who have recuperated from the disease surged to 4,25,92,455, while the case fatality rate was recorded at 1.22 per cent.

The cumulative doses administered in the country so far under the nationwide covid-19 vaccination drive has exceeded 191.96 crore.

Source: PTI

# Sunil Jakhar joins BJP days after leaving Congress

NEW DELHI (TIP)

Sunil Jakhar, a prominent face of Punjab politics who quit the Congress recently, joined the BJP on Thursday, May 19, a development being seen as a big gain for the saffron party that aspires to get a toehold in the border state.

Jakhar, unlike many other Congress deserters, has expressed sorrow at breaking ties with the Grand Old Party, saying it was not easy to snap a 50-year-old relationship that spanned three generations of his family. He stressed on Thursday that the Congress for him was not a party but "family".

"I had a 50-year-old relationship with the Congress. Three generations of my family have been with the party since 1972. Considering the party my family, we stayed with it in good and bad times," Jakhar said, claiming he quit not because of "fundamental disputes" with the party or any "personal dispute".

BJP president J.P. Nadda was personally present to welcome Jakhar, underlining the importance the party was according to the latest catch from the Congress. Nadda claimed that Jakhar left the Congress owing to a "dispute over nationalism" and "Punjab's unity and brotherhood".

Claiming that the BJP was leading the "nationalist forces" in Punjab, Nadda said it was essential that people aligning with such an ideology joined the party. He said Jakhar would play a key role for the BJP in Punjab. After Jakhar, another key Congress deserter, Hardik Patel from Gujarat, is set to join the BJP soon, BJP leaders said. Hardik, who quit the Congress on Wednesday, has slammed the leadership in general and



Former Punjab Congress President Sunil Jakhar being greeted by BJP President J P Nadda as he joins the party (PTI)

Rahul Gandhi in particular and dropped enough hints that he was headed towards the BJP.

Jakhar quit the Congress after the party's disciplinary committee recommended that he be suspended for two years and removed from all posts for criticising then chief minister Charanjit Singh Channi. The Congress lost the Punjab elections earlier this year.

Jakhar holds a lot of importance for the BJP that has a marginal presence in Punjab. In the Sikh-dominated state sharing a border with Pakistan, the BJP had for years played second fiddle to then ally Akali Dal. The BJP was left

virtually orphaned in the state after the Akali Dal snapped ties over the farm laws. Jakhar is a prominent non-Sikh politician from the state who commands a lot of goodwill. Led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the BJP has been running a determined campaign to woo the Sikhs after the Centre was forced to withdraw the three new farm laws, bowing to a prolonged struggle by farmers primarily led by the community.

BJP insiders said Jakhar could soon be rewarded with a Rajya Sabha berth and a key responsibility in the effort to strengthen the BJP in Punjab.

Source: The Telegraph

## SC won't interfere with Gyanvapi mosque survey order, transfers case to Varanasi court

NEW DELHI (TIP)

The Supreme Court on Friday said it would not interfere with the survey order passed in the Gyanvapi mosque case and asked the Varanasi district judge to decide whether the suit by the Hindu side was maintainable.

The top court was hearing a petition of the Anjuman Intezamia Masjid Committee, which managed the mosque, against the Varanasi district court order directing videographic survey of the masjid complex, adjacent to the famous Kashi Vishwanath Temple in the UP town. Hindu groups had claimed worshipping rights inside the mosque amid reports of a Shivling being found inside the complex.

While stating that it was on a mission to preserve the balance of the nation, the SC said its May 17 order of protecting the site where the Shivling was reportedly found will continue, while the Varanasi district

magistrate will make arrangements for 'wuzu' (ablution) inside the mosque. The top court will hear the case next in the second week of July. During the hearing, Justice Chandrachud said, "Please don't forget that we are on a joint mission to preserve the balance of the nation."

"Another thing which weighed with us, the interim order passed by us, we are weighed with a need to have a sense of balance on ground and to have a sense of calm. There is a certain degree of healing touch with the interim order of the Supreme Court," the SC judge said.

Regarding its suggestion on the case being heard by the district court, the SC said, "A slightly more seasoned and mature hand should hear this case. We're not making aspersion on trial judge. But more seasoned hand should deal with this case and it'll benefit all parties," the SC said.

Source: HT

## SC orders release of Rajiv Gandhi assassination accused Perarivalan

NEW DELHI (TIP)

India's Supreme Court has ordered the release of one of the men convicted of involvement in the 1991 murder of former prime minister Rajiv Gandhi.

AG Perarivalan had spent over 30 years in jail. In 1998, he was given a death sentence, but it was later commuted. Arrested aged 19, Perarivalan was convicted of procuring batteries that were used in the bomb to kill Gandhi. The ex-PM was assassinated by a female suicide bomber as he addressed an election rally in Tamil Nadu state.

Gandhi's killing was widely seen as retaliation for his having sent Indian peacekeepers to Sri Lanka



AG Perarivalan

in 1987 when he was prime minister. Perarivalan was a supporter of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), a rebel group fighting for a separate Tamil state in Sri Lanka. The rebels were finally defeated by Sri Lankan troops in 2009.

On Wednesday, May 18, a three-judge bench of the Supreme Court invoked a

section of the Indian constitution that grants it extraordinary powers "for doing complete justice in any cause" to release Perarivalan, one of seven people convicted in the case, considering that he had been in jail for more than 30 years. Over the years, governments in Tamil Nadu state had asked for those found guilty over the killing to be released.

In 2000, the state governor had commuted the death sentence of Nalini, the only woman convicted in the case, and in 2014, the Supreme Court had commuted the death sentences of all the others on account of an 11-year delay in deciding their mercy petitions.

## LALU PRASAD YADAV BOOKED BY CBI IN FRESH CORRUPTION CASE

The Central Bureau of Investigation on Friday, May 20, filed a fresh case of alleged corruption against Rashtriya Janata Dal chief Lalu Prasad Yadav, PTI reported.

The former Bihar chief minister has already been convicted in five cases in the alleged fodder scam. The scam pertains to the embezzlement of around Rs 1,000 crore from the state exchequer to buy medicine and fodder for cattle that did not exist. Yadav is currently out on bail.

The CBI, in the new case, has accused Yadav of taking land from job aspirants in return for employment with the railways, according to The Times of India reported. The land-grabbing had allegedly taken place when he was the railway minister in the Congress-led United Progressive Alliance government.

The investigative agency has begun searches at 17 places in Delhi and Bihar. Visuals by ANI showed police personnel standing outside Yadav's house.

RJD leader Alok Mehta alleged that the new case was an attempt to muzzle a strong voice and that the CBI's actions were "completely biased". Party leaders and workers held protests in Patna against the registration of the case, ANI reported.

# Separatist leader Yasin Malik convicted in terror funding case

NEW DELHI (TIP)

Yasin Malik, a separatist leader from Jammu and Kashmir, was convicted by a National Investigation Agency court in Delhi on Thursday in a case related to terror funding, news agency PTI said. Special Judge Praveen Singh directed the NIA authorities to assess Malik's socio-economic situation to determine the amount of fine to be imposed. Malik was also directed to file an affidavit disclosing all sources of his income and assets - movable and immovable. Arguments on the quantum of sentence will be heard on May 25, PTI reported. The court also formally framed charges against other separatist leaders who are accused in the case, including Farooq Ahmed Dar alias Bitta Karate.

"The analysis reflects that the statements of witnesses and documentary evidence have connected almost all the accused with each other and to a common object of secession, to the commonality of means they were to use, their close association to terrorist/terrorist organizations under the guiding hand and funding of Pakistani establishment," the judge said.

During arguments the court noted none of the accused argued that individually they do not have a secessionist ideology or agenda, or that they have not worked for secession or advocated for the secession of the erstwhile State of Jammu and Kashmir from Union of India, PTI said.

Earlier, Malik, chief of the banned Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF), had pleaded guilty to all charges - under sections 16 (terrorist act), 17 (raising funds for the terrorist act), 18 (conspiracy to commit terrorist act), and 20



The court directed the National Investigation Agency (NIA) to assess Malik's financial condition to determine the amount of fine that could be imposed and posted the matter for May 25 to announce the quantum of punishment.

(being member of terrorist gang or organisation) of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act and sections 120-B (criminal conspiracy) and 124-A (sedition) of the Indian Penal Code (IPC). Malik told the court that he was not contesting the charges against him.

A day before Malik's conviction Pakistan had summoned India's Charge d'Affaires to the ministry of foreign affairs and handed over a demarche to him conveying Islamabad's strong condemnation.

# 'Parivarvad, Vanshwad' damaged democracy after Independence, says PM Modi

Dr Yash Goyal

Special Correspondent

**JAIPUR (TIP):** In an indirect attack on the Congress, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday vehemently said 'Pariwarvad aur Vanshvaad' (familism & dynasty) have caused a terrible damage to the nation and democracy since independence, but it was the BJP alone that brought the lost faith of country's youth in last 8-years after 2014.

"These Parivarvadi and VanshVadi parties have facilitated corruption, scams, nepotism and mismanagement in democracy, and they made it their basis and have ruined the valuable time of the nation", virtually addressing an inaugural session of the National Executive Meeting of BJP being held at a 7 star hotel at Kukus since yesterday, the PM lambasted.

"Desh mein Parivarvadipartiyan ka aajbhisarvajanikjeevnparivar se shuruhotahai, parivar ki khatirchaltahai, parivarkeliyechaltahai (Famailism parties' public life starts with parivar, run for them, and run for their sake)", he described.

"Hence BJP has to continuously compete with them because parivard-vanshavad is a disastrous for democracy, if we have to save democracy, make it valuable, compactable then we have to continuously struggle against it specially during 75th year of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav", Modi warned.

In his 48 minutes of speech (which was virtually not only to the BJP Executive Members but and also turned out to be a national telecast), PM further lamented,



"Everyone of you have to reach to janta against this parivarvad-vanshavad, so that they could reject them, uproot them so that we win public faith. We have to remember that it is BJP alone that would bring back the lost faith and confidence of youth who fell victim to Parivarvad-Vanshavad. We have to strengthen values of democracy and its tradition".

Reciting former PM AB Vajpayee's poetry "Kaal kekapal par likhta, mitatahoun, geetnayagatahoun", Prime Minister said, "The party is moving ahead with this couplets. BJP is not a stagnant water but it is continuous flowing water. And amidst dirty Parivarvad-Vanshavad, the lotus has been blooming everywhere and will spread its roots and take new growth in the country". Stressing on

'Politics of/on Development', PM commented that the political parties barring BJP were doing 'khilwad' (messing up) and made it hollow in the name of national development for their vested interests. These political parties for their selfish interest search and blow up pity issues and weaknesses of the government, and try to pour poison in the name of caste, religion, and regionalism. They try to flare up and incite people on such non-issues".

Having 'Ek Bharat, Shresth Bharat' (One nation, Best nation) concept, the BJP party workers and leaders have to alert people on such moves of other political parties engaged in dirty propaganda, and take the nation towards all round development in all sectors, PM advised.

"We do not have to take any short cut in

politics nor we should feel complacent that BJP has got 18 states in its hand, 400 MP in Parliament. Never lose confidence, divert from the path of development, nor indulge in slip of tongue. You always work for the welfare of the poor, to make him compatible in society. Some political parties would mislead you from your objectives and delivery system, we do not have to entangle with them at any cost. Do not get nervous, if you do not get any media and print coverage.. wait one day they (media) will come itself for your developmental works", he further taught.

Despite the party has got crores of members in its fold, but the membership drive should be expanded to every nook and cranny of the society regardless of rich or poor, literate or illiterate, those who are interested in politics or not, and caste/religion, Modi emphasised on the new membership drive.

Saying that the BJP has given respect to new and ancient 'sanskar' (sacrament), PM said the other political parties were only naming and remembering Mahatma Gandhi on his birth and death anniversaries, but they never thought that Gandhiji wanted 'self-reliance' in every sector in the country. In previous Congress regimes, he alleged that from policy to practice the nation was never made self-reliant but made dependent on foreign nations' policies and imports. In last 8-years the BJP/NDA government made India self-reliant, respected every regional language and included it in the National Education Policy, he said.

# India in history this Week

MAY 20, 2022, TO MAY 26, 2022

## 20 MAY

1900 Famous poet Sumitranandan Pant of Hindi world was born on this day.



1918 Piru Singh, a valiant soldier of the Indian Army who was instrumental in the 1947 Indo-Pak war, was born.

1929 Rajkumar Shukla died. He was a freedom fighter and one of the prominent people of Champaran Satyagraha.

1932 Vipin Chandra Pal, leader of the Garam Dal in India and the father of revolutionary ideas, passed away.

1957 T. Prakasam died. He was a famous freedom fighter and the first Chief Minister of Andhra State.

1972 Famous poet of Brajbhas Gaya Prasad Shukla 'Sanehi' dies

2012 Renowned anthropologist and feminist scholar Leela Dubey died.

2011 Mountaineer Premlata Agarwal of Jharkhand created a new history in mountaineering, having the distinction of being the oldest Indian woman to climb Mount Everest, the world's highest mountain peak.

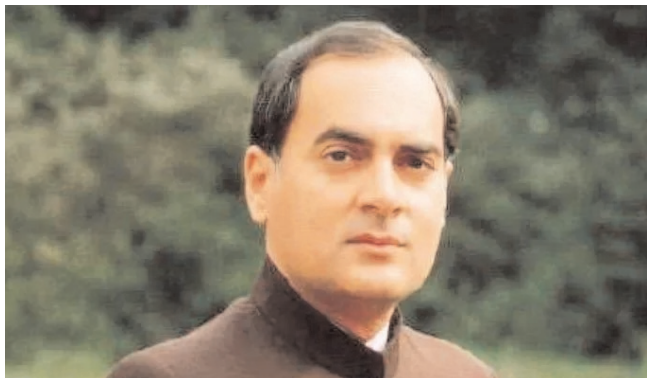
2011 Prime Minister Manmohan Singh dedicated the oil refinery at Bina in Madhya Pradesh to the country at a cost of thousands of crores. It is a world class project with the efforts of Bharat Petroleum Limited, Oman Oil Company and Government of Madhya Pradesh.

## 21 MAY

1960 Indian actor Mohanlal Vishwanath Nair was born.

2006 Attack on Congress rally in Srinagar on 21 May.

1971: Famous director, script writer Aditya Chopra was born.



1991 Former Prime Minister of India Rajiv Gandhi died in a suicide attack in Sriperumbudur in Tamil Nadu.

1994 Sushmita Sen won the title in the 43rd Miss Universe competition held in Manila.

## 22 MAY

1772 Raja Rammohun Roy, one of the socio-religious

reformers, was born on this day in 1772. He started the Brahmo Samaj movement and raised his voice against evils like child marriage and sati system.

1987 The heartbreaking Hashimpura massacre took place on this day in 1987, in which 19 jawans of Uttar Pradesh were tried for murder.

1963 India's first glider Rohini took off.



1984 Bachendri Pal became the first Indian woman to conquer Everest, the world's highest peak.

1988 India successfully tested the indigenously developed intercontinental ballistic missile Agni.

1936 Foundation stone of India's first stadium Brabourne Stadium in Bombay

1949 West Germany formally came into existence after adopting the constitution.

2010 Air India Express Boeing 737 crashed while landing in Mangalore. In which 158 people died.

## 23 MAY

1919 Birthday of Maharani Gayatri Devi, Rajmata of Jaipur royal family.

1967 The country had taken a step forward in the field of education. Under which the South Gujarat University was established on this day.

1995 The TADA rule was abolished. Along with this, a proposal was made in the Lok Sabha to implement the Anti-Terrorism Activities Act.

1998 At that time LK Advani, who was the Home Minister, was assigned the issue of Kashmir.



2008 India successfully test-fired the surface-to-surface missile Prithvi-2.

2014 The Supreme Court did not consider it a crime for women and men to live together without marrying.

2016 The Indian Space Research Institute (ISRO) launched the space shuttle RLV-TD made entirely in India from Sriharikota Space Center in Andhra Pradesh in 2016.

1895 Sitar-e-Bhahad Shivprasad died.

## 24 MAY

1896 Kartar Singh Sarabha, who gave his life for the

country, was born.



2000 Famous lyricist and poet of Hindi films Majrooh Sultanpuri died.

1959 Empire Day was renamed Commonwealth Day.

1956 On the occasion of the 2500th birthday of Gautam Buddha, a huge program was organized.

1993 India and Uzbekistan had made five treaties.

2000 The Supreme Court denied the proposal for an out-of-court hearing.

## 25 MAY

2005 Actor and successful leader Sunil Dutt said goodbye to the world on this day.

1611 The Mughal ruler Jahangir married Mehrunnisa, known in history as Nur Jahan.

2010 59-year-old Indian-born Kamala Prasad Bisesar was elected the first female Prime Minister of Trinidad and Tobago, defeating outgoing Prime Minister Patrick Manning.

## 26 MAY

1926 A major terror came to an end in Garhwal settled in the lap of the Himalayas. The terror was that of a cannibal leopard, which was made cannibalistic by novice hunters.

1739 Afghanistan was once a part of India, but the Mughal Emperor Mohammad Shah signed an agreement with Nadir Shah of Iran which separated it from the Indian Empire.

1957 Janta Insurance Policy started in Bombay (now Mumbai).

1999 ISRO successfully orbited three satellites from India, Germany and South Korea.

1999 Sourav Ganguly and Rahul Dravid set a world record of 318 runs in a one-day international cricket match against Sri Lanka.

2014 Narendra Modi was sworn in as the 15th Prime Minister of India.





# In Peshawar, locals protest killing of 2 Sikhs

**PESHAWAR (TIP):** The brutal killing of two Sikh traders by the Islamic State terrorists has saddened the people of northwest Pakistan's restive Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province and sparked protests by the community members as well as locals who demanded protection for minorities in the country.

Two Sikh businessmen, Kuljeet Singh, 42, and Ranjeet Singh, 38, were shot dead by the Islamic State terrorists in Peshawar on Sunday, the latest targeted attack against the minority community in Pakhtunkhwa province bordering Afghanistan.

The victims were in the business of spices and had shops in Sarband, about 17 km from Peshawar. The Islamic State's Khorasan unit (ISKP) claimed that it carried out the attack.

On Monday, Sikh community members were joined by local people who held a protest outside the Assembly building and blocked main GT Road in the city.

Police have registered a case of target killings and terrorism. Peshawar police chief Ijaz Khan held a meeting with the representatives of the Sikh community and assured them full protection. The city police chief said the killers fled towards the Bara area where police



Members of the Sikh community stage a protest in Peshawar

Photo / PTI

operation is underway against the terrorists.

The incident is also trending on social media in Peshawar. A local resident, Iqbal Khan, wrote on Twitter that "the killings of two Sikh traders have bowed our heads in shame". Some people demanded immediate and quick justice

for the affected families.

About 15,000 Sikhs live in Peshawar, mostly in the Jogan Shah neighborhood. Most are involved in business, while some also have pharmacies. This is the second big attack on Sikhs in the last eight months.

(With inputs from PTI)

## New Pakistan Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto to visit Beijing on May 21; China upbeat on outcome of trip

**ISLAMABAD/BEIJING (TIP):** Pakistan's new Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari will visit China on May 21 at the special invitation of his Chinese counterpart Wang Yi to review the entire gamut of bilateral relations, with a particular focus on stronger trade and economic cooperation between the two all-weather allies, the Foreign Office announced here on May 20.

Bilawal's visit between May 21 and 22 will coincide with the 71st anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Pakistan and China, it said.

"This would be Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari's first bilateral visit abroad since assuming office last month," the Foreign Office said, adding that the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Hina Rabbani Khar and senior officials will also be part of the minister's delegation.

The foreign minister during his visit will hold extensive consultations with Wang Yi.

The two leaders will review the entire gamut of bilateral relations, with a particular focus on stronger trade and economic cooperation between Pakistan and China.

"Fast-tracked progress on the transformational China-Pakistan



Economic Corridor, flagship project of President Xi Jinping's visionary Belt and Road Initiative, will also feature in the discussions," the FO said.

"The two sides will also have a wide-ranging exchange of views on major regional and international issues," it said.

In Beijing, Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Wang Wenbin noted that it will be Bilawal's first official bilateral visit since he assumed the office of foreign minister.

"It will see his hope of taking China as the first destination of his overseas visits realised and also marks the first in-person high-level interaction between the two countries since the new Pakistani government was formed.

"As all-weather strategic cooperative

partners, it is necessary for China and Pakistan to strengthen communication and coordination on major strategic issues and jointly respond to new developments in the international and regional situation and various risks and challenges," Wang Wenbin said.

He said State councillor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi will hold talks with Bhutto to have comprehensive and in-depth exchange of views on bilateral relations and issues of common interest.

"China hopes to take this visit as an opportunity to renew our traditional friendship, consolidate strategic mutual trust, further deepen our all-weather strategic cooperative partnership and build a closer China-Pakistan community with a shared future in the new era," the spokesman said.

Wang Yi had earlier written a letter of congratulations to Bilawal on his assumption of the office of foreign minister. The two foreign ministers had previously held a virtual meeting on May 11.

The Pakistani minister's visit is part of the high-level exchanges between the two sides, which included a message of felicitations to the Prime Minister from Premier Li Keqiang, and a telephone conversation between the two Premiers on May 16. (PTI)

## SRI LANKA CLOSES SCHOOLS, LIMITS WORK AMID FUEL SHORTAGE

**COLOMBO (TIP):** Sri Lankan authorities on May 20 closed schools and asked public officials not to come to work in a desperate move to prepare for an acute fuel shortage that is expected to last days amid the nation's worst economic crisis in decades.

The Public Administration Ministry asked the public officials — except for those who maintain essential services — not to come to work on Friday "in a view of current fuel shortage and issues in transport facilities" across the country.

State- and government-approved private schools also closed Friday amid the worsening fuel shortage, with thousands of people waiting in queues at fuel stations across the country for days at a time.

Sri Lanka is now almost without gasoline and faces an acute shortage of other fuels as well.

The government has been struggling to find money to pay for the importation of fuel, gas and other essentials in recent months as the Indian Ocean island nation is on the brink of bankruptcy.

Its economic woes have brought on a political crisis, with the government facing widespread protests and unrest.

For months, Sri Lankans have endured long lines to buy those essentials, most of which come from abroad. Shortages of hard currency have also hindered imports of raw materials for manufacturing and worsened inflation.

Protesters blocked main roads to demand gas and fuel, and television stations showed people in some areas fighting over limited stocks. Authorities have announced nationwide power cuts of up to four hours a day because they can't supply enough fuel to power generating stations.

Sri Lanka has suspended repayment of about \$7 billion in foreign loans due this year out of \$25 billion to be repaid by 2026. The country's total foreign debt is \$51 billion.

The finance ministry says the country currently has only \$25 million in usable foreign reserves. Protesters have occupied the entrance to the president's office for more than a month, calling for President Gotabaya Rajapaksa to resign.

Months of anti-government rallies have led to the near-dismantling of the once-powerful ruling family, with one of the president's brothers resigning as prime minister, and other siblings and a nephew leaving their Cabinet posts.

Protesters accuse the Rajapaksas of triggering the crisis through corruption and misrule.

Sri Lanka's new Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe said Monday that about \$75 billion is needed urgently to help provide essential items, but the country's treasury is struggling to find even \$1 billion. (AP)



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# NYIFF 2022 CELEBRATES CLOSING WITH AWARDS NIGHT

BY MABEL PAIS

## CLOSING FILM

A celebratory gesture distinguished the close of the 22nd annual New York Indian Film Festival (NYIFF) 2022 with the screening of the film 'The Beatles and India: An Enduring Love Affair' on May 14, 2022! The final night of the Festival was held at Cinema Village East by Angelika at 181-189 2nd Ave, New York, NY 10003. This was followed by a Q & A moderated by Festival Director Aseem Chhabra.



(R to L) - Aseem Chhabra moderates Q&A with Ajoy Bose & Reynold D'Silva of Closing Film - 'The Beatles and India.' Photo / laruphoto.com

On the 75th year of India's independence, NYIFF manifested the worldwide influence Indian cinema has made while recognizing the talent and works that celebrate the country's acclaimed cinematic traditions.

"Tonight's closing event was truly an unprecedented look at the global impact of Indian culture and cinema in recent years with the screening of 'The Beatles and India: An Enduring Love Affair'," added Suman Gollamudi, IAAC Executive Director. "It was wonderful to bring this community back together tonight with a star-studded awards ceremony and to celebrate in-person

after a gap of two years."

## AWARDS & WINNERS

The Awards Ceremony followed the Closing Night film.

"On behalf of the entire board, I applaud all the winners and nominees. We are proud to continue our tradition of supporting and recognizing this stellar talent and bringing these acclaimed works to a new audience. This year, our aim was to resonate a lasting dialogue about the ongoing, world-wide impact of Indian culture on the 75th Anniversary of Independence," said Dr. Nirmal Mattoo, Indo-American Arts Council (IAAC) Chairman.

**The winners of each category are as follows:**

### BEST FILM



Best Film 'Shoebox,' Poster.

Photo / nyiff.us 2022.

'Shoebox' (Hindi), dir. Faraz Ali, 98 mins., 2021

"Faraz Ali's film Shoebox explores themes of family and community that truly capture this moment in cinematic history and elevates Indian film and art within the U.S.," said Aseem Chhabra, NYIFF Festival Director.

**BEST DIRECTOR** : Aditya Vikram Sengupta for 'Once Upon a Time in

Calcutta' (Bengali), 131 mins., 2021

**BEST ACTOR** : Jitendra Joshi for 'Godavari' (Marathi), dir. Nikhil Mahajan, 113 mins., 2021

**BEST ACTRESS** : Sreelekha Mitra for 'Once Upon a Time in Calcutta' (Bengali), dir. Aditya Vikram Sengupta, 131 mins., 2021

**BEST SCREENPLAY** : Kuldip Patel for 'Powai' (Hindi), dir. Kuldip Patel, 126 mins., 2021

**BEST CHILD ACTOR(S)** : Reyaan Shah & Hiranya Zinzuwadia for 'Gandhi & Co.' (Gujarati), dir. Manish Saini, 101 mins., 2022

**BEST DOCUMENTARY (FEATURE)** : 'Taangh/ Longing' (English, Punjabi, Hindi and Urdu), dir. Bani Singh, 100 minutes, 2021

**BEST SHORT (NARRATIVE)** : 'Succulent' (Hindi, English), dir. Amrita Bagchi, 29 mins., 2021

**BEST SHORT (DOCUMENTARY)** : 'Kicking Balls' (Hindi), dir. Vijayeta Kumar, 36 mins., 2020

**Best Debut Film (Presented by the Film Critics Circle of India):**



Best Debut Film, 'The Brittle Thread.'

Photo / nyiff.us 2022.

'Jhini Bini Chadariya/ The Brittle Thread' (Hindi), dir. Ritesh Sharma, 97 mins., 2021

The NYIFF hosted 60 film screenings, including both full-length feature and short narratives and documentaries between May 7-14, 2022. For more information and a full list of all films, visit nyiff.us.

**THE NEW YORK INDIAN FILM FESTIVAL (NYIFF):** NYIFF is the oldest, most prestigious film festival screening premieres of feature, documentary and short films made from, of, and about the Indian subcontinent in the independent, arthouse, alternate, and diaspora genres. Seven days of screenings, post-screening discussions, industry panels, award ceremonies, special events, nightly networking parties, red carpet galas, media attention, and packed audiences build an awareness of Indian cinema, entertain and educate North Americans about the real India, and add to the amazing cultural diversity of New York City. For more information, visit nyiff.us.

**THE INDO-AMERICAN ARTS COUNCIL (IAAC):** The IAAC supports all the artistic disciplines in classical, fusion, folk and innovative forms influenced by the arts of India. IAAC works cooperatively with colleagues around the U.S. to broaden its collective audiences and to create a network for shared information, resources and funding. The focus is to help artists and art organizations in North America as well as to facilitate artists from India to exhibit, perform and produce their work here. For more information, visit iaac.us.

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

## NYC COUNCIL SPEAKER ADAMS WITH FTH "CELEBRATE OUR COMMUNITY" IN CHARLES DREW PARK

BY MABEL PAIS

Enjoy the best of the borough of Queens' cultural diversity and talent at the "Celebrate Our Community" (flushingtownhall.org/celebrate-our-community) Arts Festival on May 21, 2-5 pm. The free Festival takes place at Jamaica's Charles Drew Park.

The FREE, family-friendly festival will take place outdoors (with a rain date set for May 28 in the event of inclement weather) and will feature:

**A Bollywood and Indian folk fusion concert by Artiste Anjali;**

Queensboro Dance Festival performances by Natraj Center for Performing Arts, Wendy Kamal and David Ali Dance Academy, and Ghungaroo Dance Company;

A dance party and DJ workshop for kids and families with DJ Nett and the Network Inc Youth DJs;



'Celebrate Our Community' banner

Photo / fth.org 2022.

A PulpMobile papermaking workshop by Rejin Leys; and A canvas bag design workshop by Black Village Arts.

"We are excited to celebrate and showcase the brilliance of our diverse community," says Speaker Adrienne Adams. "I invite everyone to take part in this free, family-friendly festival. I thank

Flushing Town Hall and all of our community participants for your partnership on this event."

"We are thrilled to program this FREE festival with support from Speaker Adams and NYC's Cultural Immigrant Initiative," says Ellen Kodadek, Flushing Town Hall's Executive & Artistic Director. "Spring is a

great time of year to bring the arts outdoors and to spend time with our neighbors in New York City parks! We look forward to presenting a variety of music and dance performances, along with hands-on art making activities for kids and adults of all ages. It will be a lively and joyful afternoon."

The Charles Drew Park (nycgovparks.org/parks/dr-charles-drew-park) is located at 116th Avenue and 140th Street in the neighborhood of Jamaica, Queens.

**FLUSHING TOWN HALL**

To learn more about Flushing Town Hall programs and events taking place this spring and summer, visit flushingtownhall.org/events

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



### Nawazuddin Siddiqui To Star In US Indie Film 'Laxman Lopez'

Indian actor Nawazuddin Siddiqui will be seen in the lead role of the upcoming US indie film 'Laxman Lopez'. The film is a Christmas-themed movie to be directed by Mexico's Roberto Girault, director of local hits including 2017's 'La Leyenda Del Diamante', 2015's 'Los Arboles Mueren de Pie' and 'El Estudiante' from 2009, reports 'Variety'.

The project is led by New York-based Imagine Infinite Productions. Filming, beginning at the end of this year, will take place entirely in the US.

Further casting details are to be announced closer to the start of production. The producer is Lalit Bhatnagar, writer and co-producer of horror project 'Little Darling'.

Nawazuddin is in Cannes as part of the Indian government delegation to the festival and the rights market, where India has been named as the first country of honour.

## Tamannaah says she had equal belief in Himmatwala and Baahubali

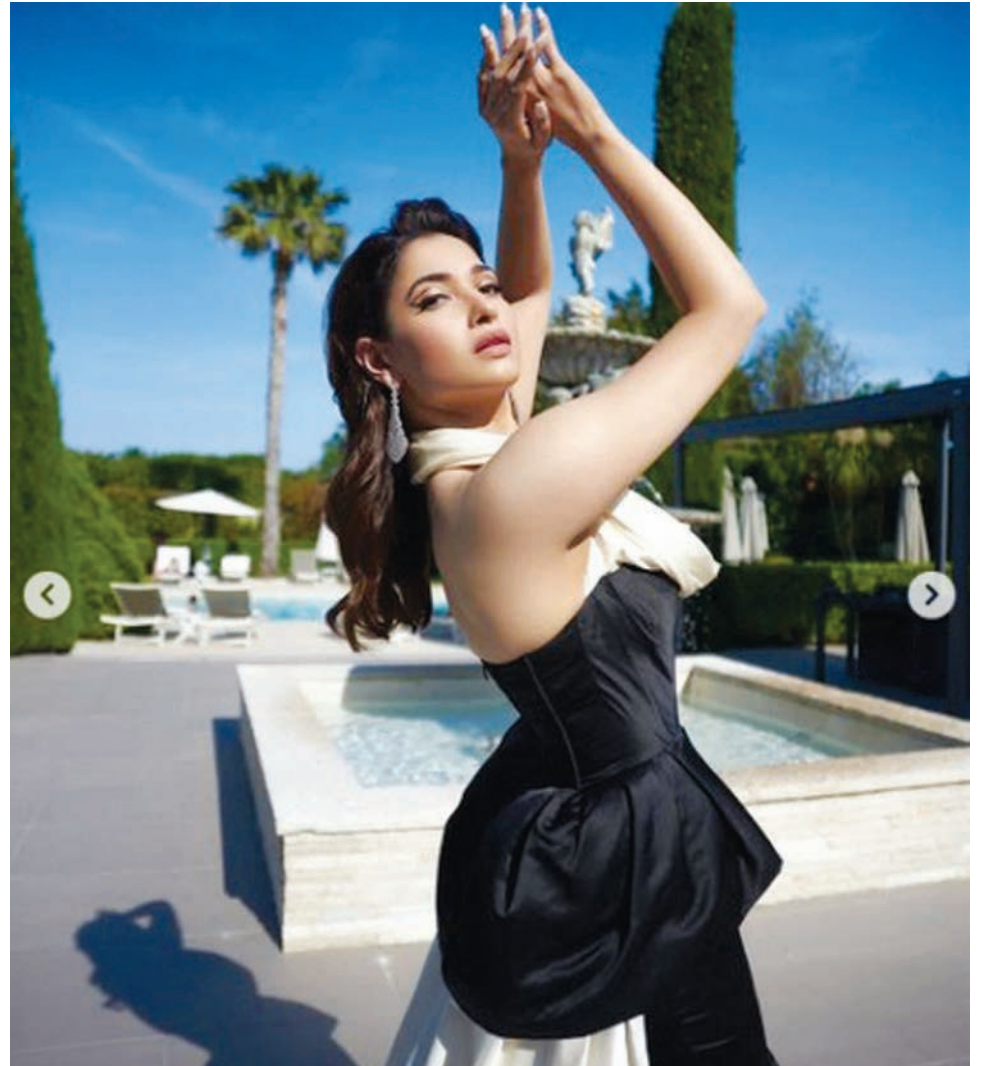
Opening up about the missteps she took in the Hindi film industry, Tamannaah has said that she believed in Himmatwala as much as she did in SS Rajamouli's Bahubali. Tamannaah also said in a new interview that she is open to say it if she didn't like her own film.

Tamannaah featured in Sajid Khan's Himmatwala that was widely panned by the critics when it released in 2013. A remake of Jeetendra-Sridevi starrer 1983 film by the same name, Himmatwala also featured Ajay Devgn, Mahesh Manjrekar and Paresh Rawal, among many others.

Asked about the missteps she took in Bollywood and her success in South Indian film industry, Tamannaah told Film Companion in an interview, "I feel like the best and the worst decisions I have made in my film career, both I wasn't really planning on doing and I didn't know where that would go. Both seemed equally correct at that point. Like a film like Himmatwala, and I am very open if I don't like a film of my own. I'll say it. It didn't do what it should have done. I believed in it as much as I believed in Baahubali."

She added, "But the one thing about those films is, I don't think I was prepared for either. But I learnt on the job and that's the beauty of being an actor that you are discovering constantly and you are evolving constantly. You are constantly evolving, I am not the same person who did Bahubali or the same person who did Himmatwala."

Talking about the poor box office performance of Himmatwala, Tamannaah had told Bollywood Hungama in 2020 that it was "very



difficult period" of her life. The film collected less than Rs50 crore.

Tamannaah is at the 2022 Cannes Film Festival as part of the Information and Broadcasting Minister Anurag Thakur

led Indian delegation for India Pavillion. "I am so excited about this, it's such an honour and I am really looking forward," she had told ANI about her Cannes appearance. *Source: HT*

### Rajesh Khanna, Amitabh Bachchan starrer 'Anand' set for remake

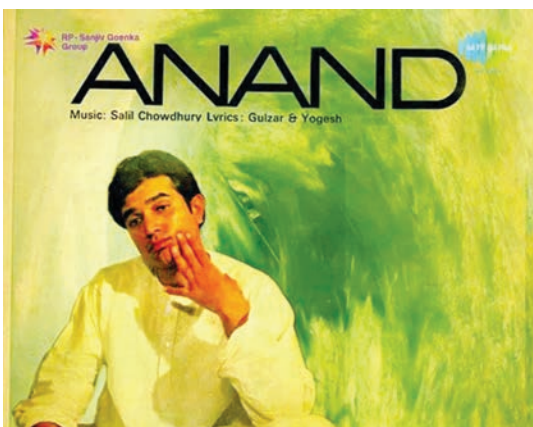
Filmmaker Hrishikesh Mukherjee's classic 'Anand', starring the then superstar Rajesh Khanna and Amitabh Bachchan, is set for a remake helmed by Sameer Raj Sippy, grandson of the film's original producer, N.C. Sippy, and Vikram Khakhar.

The director and cast of the film, which is in its scripting stage, are yet to be finalised.

Sharing his excitement on the development, producer Vikram Khakhar said in a statement:

"Digging into our own classics, we will find invaluable gems rather than scouting for stories, internationally or regionally. Placing Anand in the post-Covid era, where we emphasise on the value of life, will enhance the story of Anand."

The 1971 original featured Rajesh Khanna as a terminally ill cancer patient, Anand Sehgal, the onus of whose treatment is taken by Amitabh. However, destiny has its own plans as Anand's cancer reaches its final stage and he passes away but not before touching the lives of many people whom he spent time with, including a total stranger Isa Bhai Suratwala played by the legendary Johnny Walker. Producer Sameer Raj Sippy feels that such stories need to be told to the new generation, as they should be made aware of our cinematic heritage. He said: "Keeping in mind the sensibilities of the original film and the emotions attached, I felt the current generation needs to be retold many stories that are so relevant today and especially when there is a great appetite for good content."



### Cannes: Deepika Padukone stuns in Sabyasachi ensemble

Deepika Padukone, who will represent India as a jury member at the 75th Cannes Film Festival in 2022, looked stunning in a Sabyasachi ensemble for the jury photocall on the first day of the festival. Sabyasachi began his post with a quote, "I love that moment of storytelling where looking back at the past reveals the future. For me the best stories of India are always told in these moments".

He added that the Tamasha actress wore "clothing and high jewellery" from his Tropic of Calcutta collection "the global resort series, where Indian heritage gets a contemporary update".

Deepika wore a printed Mysore silk shirt "with a digital rendering of hand-painted vintage flora inspired by Company paintings made by the Sabyasachi Art Foundation," as described in the post.

She wore the shirt with monogrammed buttons and pleated wool trousers. Paired with the Lucknow Rose, a deconstructed Maharani necklace that has been crafted with extensively sourced multicoloured gemstones and uncut diamonds. She also wore the Bengal Trophy belt by Sabyasachi Accessories.

Sharing a second bold and glam look of the 75th Cannes Film Festival jury member Deepika dressed in Bengal Tiger couture sari conceptualised by Sabyasachi. *Source: IANS*





**Tom Cruise breaks into tears at surprise Cannes award, gets a standing ovation**

Tom Cruise was the star of the Cannes Film Festival on Wednesday, May 18, as he not just made a grand entry with fighter jets zooming over the venue but also won a long standing ovation from the audience at the screening of his film, Top Gun: Maverick. Tom was moved to tears as he saw the response for his action film at the screening.

According to The Hollywood Reporter, the Tom Gun: Maverick team's entry included eight fighter jets zooming above the event, expelling smoke in red and blue to match the colours of the French flag. After the actor spent several minutes posing for pictures with fans and signing autographs, he finally joined his team for the screening. The tabloid reports that after the film's screening, the audience responded with a six-minute standing ovation that moved Tom to tears.

Earlier in the day, having taken part in a MasterClass Conversation in the 1,000-seat Debussy Theatre, he was gifted with another tribute before the screening, led by festival director Thierry Fremaux.

**Thor: Love and Thunder new pic shows Natalie Portman with Tessa Thompson**

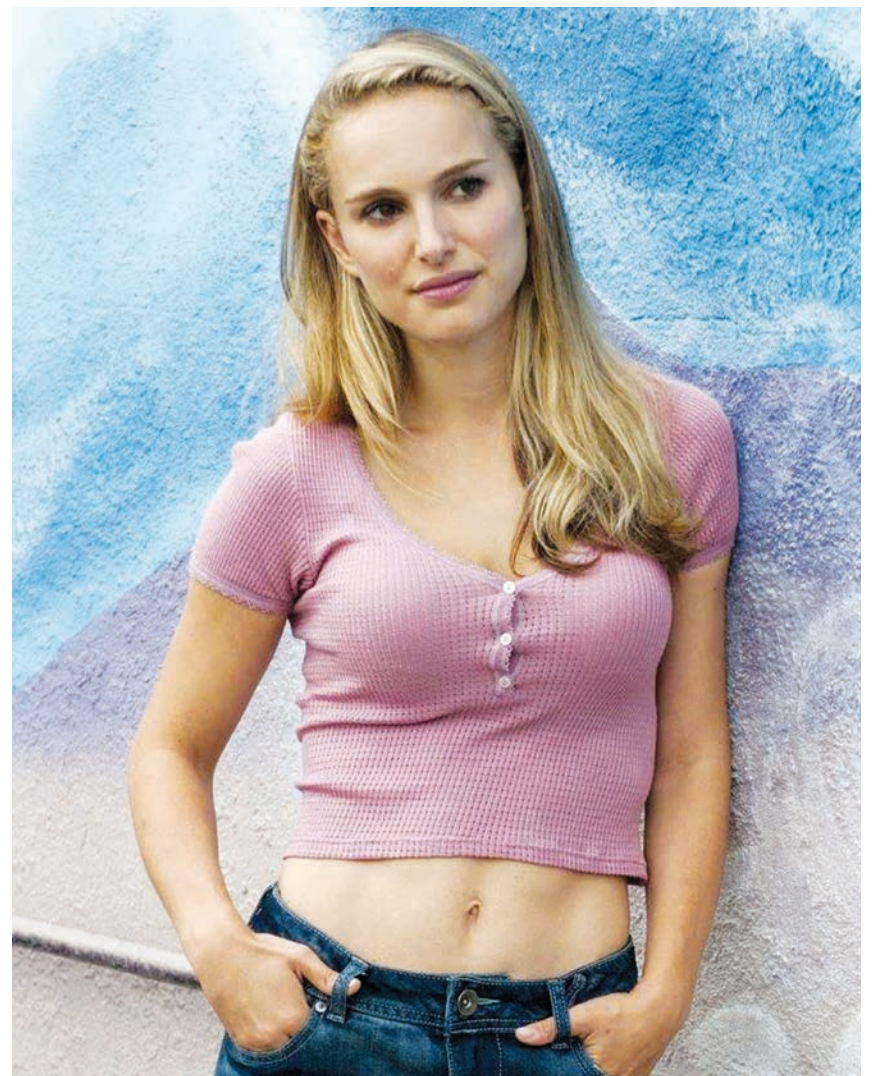
A new image for Thor: Love and Thunder has confirmed the upcoming Marvel movie has close ties to Moon Knight and Black Panther: Wakanda Forever. A new still from the film made its way online on Monday, showing a convening of the gods. In it, Natalie Portman's Jane Foster/Mighty Thor is seen taking a seat alongside Tessa Thompson's Valkyrie. It's not clear where the two exactly are. Interestingly, at the bottom right of the picture, another character appears, in what looks to be a panther-like costume. Read more: Thor 4 teaser has fans shipping Chris Pratt and Chris Hemsworth's characters

Fans on social media were quick to point out that this could be Bast, the Egyptian god who has ties to Moon Knight and Black Panther: Wakanda Forever. Bast is part of the Ennead, the group of Egyptian gods we were introduced to in Moon Knight's Disney live-action series. In the Marvel Cinematic Universe (MCU), Bast is also the goddess who led the first Black Panther – Bashenga – to the Heart-Shaped Herb, the source of the Black Panther's superpowers.

Thor: Love and Thunder will release in theaters worldwide on July 8. In the fourth instalment of the Thor series, following the events in Avengers: Endgame, Thor (played by Chris Hemsworth) declares that his "superhero-ing days are over" as he looks to start a new chapter of self-discovery. On April 18, Marvel Studios released the first teaser trailer for the forthcoming film, giving us a brief glimpse of what's in store for Thor.

The minute-and-a-half clip — set to the tune of Guns N' Roses' Sweet Child O' Mine — begins with Thor declaring his retirement, just after the fall of his kingdom Asgard in the last Avengers film.

Source: HT



**Ariana DeBose, Jennifer Jason Leigh join the cast of Chris Pine's directorial debut Poolman**



Oscar-winner Ariana DeBose and The Hateful Eight star Jennifer Jason Leigh are set to star in Poolman, a mystery-comedy which marks the directorial debut of actor Chris Pine. The duo joins the previously announced cast of Pine, Annette Bening and Danny DeVito, reported Deadline. Pine will play Darren Barrenman, a hapless dreamer and would-be philosopher who spends his days looking after the pool of the Tahitian Tiki apartment block in sunny Los Angeles and crashing city council meetings with his neighbours Jack (DeVito) and Diane (Bening).

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

Pine will direct the film from a script he co-wrote with Ian Gotler, a partner at the actor's production banner Barry Linen Motion Pictures.

The duo will also produce along with Stacey Sher for Shiny Penny Productions and Jenkins for Wicious Pictures.

Filmmaker Patty Jenkins, who worked with Pine on two Wonder Woman films as well as the series I Am the Night, will serve as one of the producers on the film.

The cameras will start rolling next month in Los Angeles.

Source: PTI



## RUSSIA HALTS GAS TO FINLAND TODAY

**HELSINKI (TIP):** Russia's Gazprom has informed Finland that it will halt flows of natural gas from Saturday morning, Finnish state-owned gas wholesaler Gasum said on May 20.

Gasum has refused to pay Gazprom Export in roubles as Russia has requested European countries to do.

"It is highly regrettable that natural gas supplies under our supply contract will now be halted," Gasum CEO Mika Wiljanen said in a statement.

"However, we have been carefully preparing for this situation and provided that there will be no disruptions in the gas transmission network, we will be able to supply all our customers with gas in the coming months," he said. The cut-off is scheduled to take place at 0400 GMT on May 21. — Reuters

## CHINA, CLIMATE DOMINATE AS AUSTRALIA GOES TO POLLS

**CANBERRA (TIP):** Australians will go to the polls on May 21 following a six-week campaign that has focused on pandemic-fuelled inflation, climate change and fears of a Chinese military outpost being established less than 2,000 km off Australia's shore. PM Scott Morrison's conservative coalition is seeking a rare fourth three-year term. He began the campaign in April by urging voters to stick with a government that delivered one of the lowest Covid deaths in the world. — AP

## POLICE BUST GANG FOR TRICKING OLD MEN WITH LOVE IN ITALY

**BRUSSELS (TIP):** Police in four European countries have busted a crime gang accused of using young women to trick elderly Italian men out of their savings, the European Union's law enforcement agency said on May 20.

Europol said the gang was mostly composed of members of one Romanian family and used young women hired as domestic workers to defraud men between the ages of 70 and 90. The agency said one of the victims lost almost 20,000 euros (\$21,176). Another suffered two heart attacks after a young woman secretly slipped him Valium so accomplices could rob his house.

The gang targeted elderly men who were isolated from their families, mostly in the southern Italian region of Calabria, Europol alleged.

The women usually began a physical relationship with the men, then asked for money, often on the pretext of needing it for health problems or to help a sick family member, the agency said. Some of the men were blackmailed if they refused. Europol said the gang managed to rake in more than 1 million euros (\$1.1 million), and laundered the money through investments in real estate, cars and gold. (AP)

# Ukraine's Donbas 'destroyed' as Russian artillery and aircraft step up strikes

**KYIV, UKRAINE (TIP):** Russian forces bombarded areas of Ukraine's eastern Donbas region from land and air on May 20, destroying houses in residential districts and killing a number of civilians, Ukrainian officials said.

President Volodymyr Zelenskiy said the assaults had turned the Donbas into "hell".

As the war neared its three-month mark, the Ukrainian general staff said massive artillery barrages, including multiple rocket-launchers, had hit civilian infrastructure.

Russian aircraft had also struck at targets, the general staff said in a statement.

"The Russian army has started very intensive destruction of the town of Sievierodonetsk, the intensity of shelling doubled, they are shelling residential quarters, destroying house by house," Luhansk governor Serhiy Gaidai said via his Telegram channel.

"We do not know how many people died, because it is simply impossible to go through and look at every apartment," he said.

Earlier reports had put the civilian death toll in the Luhansk area of the Donbas at 13 in the past day, with 12 of them in Sievierodonetsk, which lies on a river about 110 km (70 miles) northwest of the regional capital.

"The Donbas is completely destroyed," President Zelenskiy said in an address on Thursday night. "It is hell there - and that is not an exaggeration."

Reuters could not independently verify the reports and Russia denies targeting



civilians.

In Moscow, Russian Defence Minister Sergei Shoigu said the "liberation of the Luhansk People's Republic" would be completed soon.

The industrial region comprises the Donetsk and Luhansk areas, parts of which are controlled by Moscow-backed separatists.

"Groupings of the Russian Armed Forces, together with units of the people's militia of the Lugansk (Luhansk) and Donetsk people's republics, continue to expand control over the territories of the Donbas," Shoigu said in a speech.

Russia's focus on the Donbas follows its failure to capture the capital Kyiv in the early stages of the invasion launched by Russian President Vladimir Putin on Feb. 24.

In the weeks of warfare pitting Russia's military might against dogged

Ukrainian resistance, thousands of people have been killed and whole towns and cities shattered in the gravest crisis in Europe in decades.

Almost a third of Ukraine's people have fled their homes, including more than 6 million who have left the country in a refugee exodus, while others remain trapped in cities pulverised by Russian bombardments.

British military intelligence said on Friday Russia is likely to further reinforce its operations in the Donbas once it finally secures the southern port city of Mariupol - scene of a weeks-long siege and Russia's most significant success in a campaign of mixed fortunes for the Kremlin.

In a sign of Russia's need to bolster its war effort, the parliament in Moscow said it would consider a bill to allow Russians over 40 and foreigners over 30 to sign up for the military. (Reuters)

## Red Cross visits prisoners of war from Ukraine, Russia

**GENEVA (TIP):** The international Red Cross says it has been visiting prisoners of war on "all sides" since the start of the war between Russia and Ukraine almost three months ago.

The International Committee of the Red Cross didn't specify what "all sides" meant, but it is believed to mean Russian and Ukrainian government forces, as well as pro-Russian separatists who have been waging an armed struggle in eastern Ukraine against the Kyiv government since 2014. It could also include foreign fighters who might have been captured.

A Red Cross statement Friday said the POW visits had enabled it to pass on information to hundreds of families about their loved ones.

The ICRC did not specify how many families had been informed about their relatives, or where the visits took place. It said only that the visits had taken



place "in recent months." The statement came a day after the humanitarian

agency broke its silence about prisoners of war in the nearly three-month-long conflict, announcing it has registered "hundreds" of Ukrainian prisoners of war this week from the Azovstal steel plant in Mariupol who ended their defense against a weeks-long siege by Russian forces.

"Many more families need answers; the ICRC must have full access to POWs and civilian internees, wherever they are held, in order to provide those answers," the Geneva-based organisation said.

Some humanitarian law experts have questioned why the ICRC took so long to announce its POW visits, a key part of its mandate.

The ICRC often operates confidentially in its role to help protect civilians, prisoners of war and other noncombatants in conflicts, and ensure the respect of the rules of war. AP

# Turkey opposes inclusion of Sweden, Finland in NATO

**ISTANBUL (TIP):** Turkey will oppose Sweden and Finland joining NATO, the country's president flatly stated in a video released May 19.

"We have told our relevant friends we would say 'no' to Finland and Sweden's entry into NATO, and we will continue on our path like this," President Recep Tayyip Erdogan told a group of Turkish youth in the video for Commemoration of Atatürk, Youth and Sports Day, a national holiday.

## Erdogan's concerns

**Recep Tayyip Erdogan has said Turkey's objection stems from grievances with Sweden's – and to a lesser degree with Finland's – perceived support of the banned Kurdistan Workers' Party. Turkey also accuses Sweden and Finland of harbouring the followers of Fethullah Gulen, a US-based Muslim cleric whom the Turkish government blames for 2016 military coup attempt**



Turkey's approval of Finland and Sweden's application to join the Western military alliance is crucial because NATO makes decisions by consensus. Each of its 30 member countries has the power to veto a membership bid.

Erdogan has said Turkey's objection

stems from grievances with Sweden's — and to a lesser degree with Finland's — perceived support of the banned Kurdistan Workers' Party, or PKK, and an armed group in Syria that Turkey sees as an extension of the PKK. The conflict with the PKK has killed tens of thousands of people since 1984. — AP

## Teen pilot reaches Kenya in round the world quest

**NAIROBI (TIP):** A 16-year-old British schoolboy who is on a quest to become the youngest person to fly around the world solo, landed his small plane in Kenya's capital, Nairobi, on May 18.

Mack Rutherford, who started his journey near the Bulgarian capital Sofia in March, is looking to clinch a Guinness World record currently held by compatriot Travis Ludlow, who was 18 when he completed a circumnavigation last year.

"I'm hoping, with this journey, to inspire young people to follow their dreams," Rutherford said after clambering out of his two-seater single prop ultralight aircraft, at Wilson Airport. The plane's manufacturer, Shark Aero, deemed the journey too risky and declined to partner with Rutherford's project.

"Mack is no doubt a skilled pilot. However, we do not feel comfortable pushing the age limit to the lowest possible point for journeys where a certain level of risk cannot be avoided," the company said on its website.

Rutherford's journey will see him visit four more African and Indian Ocean countries, before heading to the Middle East, Asia and North America and finally returning to Europe.

Coming from a family of pilots, Rutherford first took the controls of an aircraft at the age of seven, sitting alongside his father. At 15 he became the youngest pilot in the world and is now following in the footsteps of his older sister Zara, the youngest woman to fly around the world at age 19.

Visibility was a challenge while flying across the Sahara desert, he said, but the scenery more than made up for it. "It hasn't let me down, I've absolutely loved the views both around the Sahara desert and in Kenya," he said. (Reuters)

## 13-year-old held for Islamist terror offence in Britain

**LONDON (TIP):** A 13-year-old boy has been arrested in Britain for a terrorism offence as part of an ongoing investigation related to the alleged sharing of extreme Islamist material online, Scotland Yard said here on May 18.

The Metropolitan Police said its Counter-Terrorism Command arrested the teenager at a west London address on Tuesday on suspicion of dissemination of terrorist material contrary to Section 2 of the UK's Terrorism Act 2006.

"The investigation relates to the alleged sharing of extreme Islamist material online," the Met Police said. If he goes on to be charged and convicted, the teenager will become the youngest person in the UK to be found guilty of a terror offence.

"While it is still very rare for such a young person to be arrested for a terrorism offence, in recent times we have seen a worrying increase in the number of teenagers being drawn into terrorism," said Commander Richard Smith, head of the Met's Counter Terrorism Command.

"This particular investigation remains ongoing, but more broadly, we work closely with a whole range of partners to try and protect and divert young, vulnerable people away from extremism and terrorism," he said.

The boy was detained under the Police and Criminal Evidence Act (PACE) and taken into custody before being bailed to appear in court in mid-June. A PACE warrant to search the west London address was obtained by officers and has now been carried out. The Met Police said its officers will work closely with partners from child safeguarding agencies as the investigation continues.

Commander Smith said the public have an important part to play, as he urged anyone who thinks a friend or relative is becoming "radicalised or drawn into a path towards terrorism" to contact the force as part of the ACT Early strategy – or Action Counters Terrorism Early. There is also an app called iREPORTit for people to report such terror related concerns. (PTI)

## RUSSIAN SOLDIER ASKS FOR FORGIVENESS IN UKRAINE WAR CRIMES TRIAL

**KYIV (TIP):** A 21-year-old Russian soldier asked a Ukrainian widow to forgive him for the murder of her husband, as a court in Kyiv met for a second hearing on May 19 in the first war crimes trial arising from Russia's Feb. 24 invasion.

Vadim Shishimarin, a tank commander, pleaded guilty on Wednesday to killing an unarmed 62-year-old civilian in the northeast Ukrainian village of Chupakhivka on Feb. 28.

"I acknowledge my blame ... I ask you to forgive me," he told the widow, Kateryna Shalipova, on Thursday.

Boyish, dressed in a tracksuit and with his shaven head lowered, Shishimarin cut a forlorn spectacle in a glass booth for defendants. He spoke calmly, but looked frightened.

The Kremlin has said it has no information about the trial and that the absence of a diplomatic mission in Ukraine limits its ability to provide legal assistance.

The widow told the court she had heard distant shots fired from their yard and that she had called out to her husband the day he was killed.

"I ran over to my husband, he was already dead. Shot in the head. I screamed, I screamed so much," she said.

Shalipova told the court she would not object if Shishimarin was released to Russia as part of a prisoner swap to get "our boys" out of the port city of Mariupol, a reference to hundreds of Ukrainian soldiers who have given themselves up to Russia.

The trial takes place as much of Ukraine is gripped by the fate of its soldiers that it hopes Russia will hand over as part of an exchange. Some Russian voices are calling for them to be put on trial for crimes.

Shalipova said her husband had been unarmed and was dressed in civilian clothes. They had a 27-year-old son and two grandchildren together, she added.

Ukraine has accused Russia of atrocities and brutality against civilians during the invasion and said it has identified more than 10,000 possible war crimes. Russia has denied targeting civilians or involvement in war crimes.

Shishimarin is accused of firing several shots with an assault rifle at a civilian's head from a car after being ordered to do so.

Asked if he had been obliged to follow an order that amounted to a war crime, Shishimarin said "no".

"I fired a short burst, three or four bullets," he told the court.

"I am from Irkutsk Oblast (a region in Siberia), I have two brothers and two sisters ... I am the eldest," he said.

Shishimarin could face up to life imprisonment if convicted. Reuters

# Protect your lips from the sun

Once you get to know about some lip care tips for sun damage reversal, you need to be consistent with practising them in order to maintain healthy, happy lips. Here are a few things to keep in mind about sun protection for lips.

## Reduce the Use of Lip Gloss

Lip gloss or other such shiny and glittery lip products can damage your lips on hot sunny days. In fact, wearing lip gloss daily can make your lips prone to sun damage. So, if you plan to stay out in the sun for long, reduce the use of such shiny lip products. This is one of the most basic lip care tips for sun damage reversal.

## Use a Lip Balm With SPF

Nowadays, most lip balms contain a bit of SPF that act as sun protection for lips. The only problem is that some lip balms only have a UVB filter (that is responsible for producing sunburn), which isn't enough to protect your lips from the UVA rays (that penetrate deeper into your skin). Hence, you must look for a lip balm that contains paraffin or beeswax with an SPF of 30. You can also get a sunscreen lip balm with a lower SPF but it won't work as effectively. Also, always make sure to check that the sunscreen lip balm protects your lips from both UVA and UVB rays.

## Blend Your Lip Products

If you really can't quit applying



lip gloss or lipstick in the sun, make sure to at least apply a layer of sunscreen lip balm underneath. This will protect your lips from the sun and protect your lips from any harm. You can also invest in lipsticks that come with sun protection for lips. But to guarantee that your lips are protected from the sun, it's better to wear a sunscreen lip balm underneath first.

## 4. Always Reapply

Just how you reapply sunscreen on your face after a few hours, it's crucial to reapply the sunscreen lip balm every couple of hours too. Because when you eat, drink any beverage or wear a mask, the lip

balm can get wiped off. Hence, reapplying it will ensure that the sensitive skin on your lips stays protected all day long.

## What is Lip Sunscreen?

Lip sunscreen is a product that is meant to protect the sensitive skin on your lips. The harsh rays of the sun can damage your lips quite badly, so you need to protect them from any kind of sun exposure. This is where lip sunscreen comes into the picture. It is nothing but a lip balm with a bunch of nourishing natural ingredients that make your lips soft, supple and resistant to damage, while protecting it from the sun. *Source: Puresense*

## FOOD

### Chicken Burritos

#### Ingredients

- Chicken - 300 gms, cooked, shredded, skinless, boneless, Sweet corn kernels - 150 gms, boiled, drained
- Black beans (or red kidney beans) - 150 gms, rinsed, boiled, drained, Tomatoes - 150 gms, finely chopped
- Flour tortillas - 4, Green chillies - 2 to 3, chopped
- Jalapenos - 1 tblsp, chopped, Red chilli flakes as per taste, Garam masala powder - 2 tsp
- Black pepper powder as per taste
- Salt as per taste, Coriander leaves - handful, chopped
- Cheese - 100 gms, grated

#### Optional ingredients

- Sour cream lettuce - handful, shredded, Tomatoes - 1/2 cup, chopped

#### Method

- In a large bowl, combine the corn, black beans, tomatoes, green chillies, coriander leaves and jalapenos. Add the cooked chicken and mix well.
- Add the red chilli flakes, garam masala powder, black pepper powder, salt and toss gently.
- Warm the tortillas and place them on a flat surface.
- Divide the chicken mixture equally among the 4 tortillas. Sprinkle some cheese on top.
- If desired, add some sour cream, lettuce and chopped tomatoes.
- Fold from the sides and roll tightly.
- Heat a nonstick pan over medium flame.
- Place the burritos on the pan and warm them up for 3 to 5 minutes, turning gently once or twice. Serve.



# Beauty essentials to carry when you're travelling



When you are out for a holiday, the last thing you want is your skin and hair to react to the change in the weather and for it to go bad. Beauty products that suit your skin and are essential for your hair should be handy at that time. Packing all your beauty and skin care regime essentials should be on the top of your priority while packing for a vacation you are more than excited for.

## Overnight masks

Ditch the same boring moisturiser or night cream that you slather on every night before going to bed. Overnight masks are the latest beauty hack that women across the world are opting for. These masks work wonders on your skin and replenish your skin overnight.

## Dry shampoo

As much as we'd like to pamper ourselves while on holiday, washing your hair every other day can be a pain especially if you have long tresses. Simply use Dry shampoo to clean your hair and you're good to go.

## Bright lipsticks

Nothing can brighten up your face more than a dash of red or pink lipstick. Even if you don't want

to apply any other makeup, the lipstick alone is enough to brighten up your face.

## Hair clips

Carry extra hair clips and hair bands in a small pouch so that you can tie your hair up in a neat top knot or braid before you embark for your sightseeing tours.

## Concealer

Instead of spending precious minutes applying foundation, skip that part and simply dab some Concealer on your face.

## Sunscreen

Unless you want to return from your trip looking like a fried lobster, it's important to carry and apply Sunscreen every couple of hours.

## Travel Manicure Kit

The last thing you should be focusing on rather than enjoying your holiday is a chipped nail or an extra brow hair. The travel manicure kit has essentials to take care of this because it takes over your mind. You could also add an extra needle and thread to sew if something in your perfect vacation outfit goes wrong.



# Monkeypox: So far, this is what scientists know about the disease

A handful of cases of monkeypox have now been reported or are suspected in the United Kingdom, Portugal and Spain while one was confirmed in the US on Thursday, May 19.

The outbreaks are raising alarm because the disease mostly occurs in west and central Africa, and only very occasionally spreads elsewhere.

Here's what scientists know so far.

## 'Highly Unusual'

Monkeypox is a virus that causes fever symptoms as well as a distinctive bumpy rash. It is usually mild, although there are two main strains: the Congo strain, which is more severe – with up to 10% mortality – and the West African strain, which has a fatality rate of more like 1% of cases. The UK cases are least have been reported as the West African strain.

"Historically, there have been very few cases exported. It has only happened eight times in the past before this year," said Jimmy Whitworth, a professor of international public health at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, who said it was "highly unusual".

Portugal has logged five confirmed cases, and Spain is testing 23 potential cases. Neither country has reported cases before.

## Transmission

The virus spreads through close contact, both in spillovers from animal hosts and, less commonly, between humans. It was first found in monkeys in 1958, hence the name, although rodents are now seen as the main source of transmission.

Transmission this time is puzzling experts, because a number of the cases in the United Kingdom - nine as of May 18 - have no known connection with each other. Only the first case reported on May 6 had recently travelled to Nigeria.

As such, experts have warned of wider transmission if cases have gone unreported.

The UK Health Security Agency's alert also highlighted that the recent cases were predominantly among men who self-identified as gay, bisexual or men who have sex with men, and advised those groups to be alert.

Scientists will now sequence the virus to see if they are linked, the World Health Organization (WHO) said



An image created during an investigation into an outbreak of monkeypox, which took place in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, 1996 to 1997, shows the arms and torso of a patient with skin lesions due to monkeypox, in this undated image obtained by Reuters on May 18, 2022. Photo: Reuters

this week.

## Why now?

One likely scenario behind the increase in cases is increased travel as Covid restrictions are lifted.

"My working theory would be that there's a lot of it about in west and central Africa, travel has resumed, and that's why we are seeing more cases," said Whitworth.

Monkeypox puts virologists on the alert because it is in the smallpox family, although it causes less serious illness.

Smallpox was eradicated by vaccination in 1980, and the shot has been phased out. But it also protects against monkeypox, and so the winding down of vaccination campaigns has led to a jump in monkeypox cases, according to Anne Rimoin, an epidemiology professor at UCLA in California.

## But experts urged people not to panic.

"This isn't going to cause a nationwide epidemic like Covid did, but it's a serious outbreak of a serious disease – and we should take it seriously," said Whitworth.

Source: Reuters



## Robotic surgery improves patient recovery time, reduces complications: UK study

Robotic surgery may reduce the chance of hospital readmission by over 50 per cent, and prevalence of blood clots by 77 per cent, when compared to patients who undergo an open surgery, according to a study conducted in the UK.

The research, published in the Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA), also found that patients' physical activity—assessed by daily steps tracked on a wearable smart sensor—stamina and quality of life also increased after a robotic surgery.

The findings provide the strongest evidence so far of the patient benefit of robot-assisted surgery and researchers are now urging National Institute of Clinical Excellence (NICE) to make it available as a clinical option across the UK for all major abdominal surgeries including colorectal, gastrointestinal, and gynaecological.

"This is an important finding. Time in hospital is reduced and recovery is faster when using this advanced surgery," said study co-chief investigator James Catto, a professor at the University of Sheffield in the UK.

"Ultimately, this will reduce bed pressures and allow patients to return home more quickly. We see fewer complications from the improved mobility and less time spent in bed," Catto said in a statement.

Despite robot-assisted surgery becoming more widely available, there has been no significant clinical evaluation of its overall benefit to patients' recovery.

"In this study we wanted to establish if robot-assisted surgery, when compared to open surgery reduced time spent in hospital, reduced readmissions, and led to better levels of fitness and a quality of life; on all counts this was shown," said study co-chief investigator, John Kelly, a professor at the University College London (UCL).

"An unexpected finding was the striking reduction in blood clots in patients receiving robotic surgery; this indicates a safe surgery with patients benefiting from far less complications, early mobilisation and a quicker return to normal life," Kelly said.

Source: PTI

# Pineapple extract may help treat Alzheimer's disease, animal study suggests

An extract derived from pineapple stem may potentially improve the symptoms of Alzheimer's disease, according to a study conducted in mice.

Alzheimer's is a neurodegenerative disease generally characterised by gradual memory loss due to increased levels of amyloid-beta protein in the brain.

The affected patients are not able to remember things. In severe cases, people lose the ability to respond to their environment, carry on a conversation and, eventually, control movement.

Researchers at Lovely Professional University in Phagwara, Punjab noted that the current treatment is not effective in managing the long-term effects of Alzheimer's disease on patients' quality of life.

The study, recently published in the journal NeuroToxicology, found



that the compound bromelain could improve Alzheimer's disease-related behaviour symptoms in mice.

The behaviour symptoms were supported by the results of biochemical and histopathological—microscopic examination of tissue—studies, the researchers said.

Biochemical studies included evaluation of activity of acetylcholinesterase, an enzyme that regulates neurotransmission

and antioxidant parameters in mice brains which were significantly improved by the treatment with bromelain, they said.

"We also found significant amelioration of levels of the beta-secretase enzyme, beta-amyloid, brain-derived neurotrophic factor, tumour necrosis factor- $\alpha$  and interleukin-6 in the mouse brain after treatment with bromelain," said study corresponding author Navneet Khurana, Professor at the School of Pharmaceutical Science, LPU. "The histopathological analysis also suggested amelioration of structures of mouse brain neurons by treatment with bromelain. All these results suggested the possible potential of bromelain for the treatment of Alzheimer's disease," Khurana told PTI.

The researchers first induced Alzheimer's disease in mice using a combination of A $\beta$ 1-42 and D-galactose.

Source: PTI

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## Google to remove nearly 900K abandoned apps from Play Store

Tech giant Google is preparing to purge nearly 900,000 apps, which have been abandoned or not been updated, from the Play Store. According to Android Authority, the Google Play Store could see the number of available apps drop by nearly a third.

Google and Apple have both unveiled measures to deal with abandoned apps or apps that have not been updated in two years. In Google's case, that amounts to 869,000 apps, while Apple has some 650,000.

According to CNET, Google is preparing to hide those apps, making it impossible for users to download them until the developers update them. The main reason both companies are taking these measures is to protect their users' security.

Older apps do not take advantage of changes in Android and iOS, new APIs, or new development methods that bring enhanced protection. As a result, older apps can have security flaws that newer apps don't have, the report said. *Source: IANS*

# Apple's new 'privacy' ad for iPhone makes you seriously think about your data

Apple on Wednesday dropped a new ad, but not to promote the iPhone 13. It's about privacy. The one-minute 34-second commercial shows the journey of Ellie who goes to a record shop and discovers a data auction where her personal information is being sold.

The ad highlights the different ways in which apps on one's phone gather and share personal data. The ad may seem a bit exaggerated but the idea is to build the narrative that the iPhone offers a way to stop the tracking, something a smartphone running on Google's Android operating system perhaps doesn't do so well.

Apple's advertising has always delivered a core 'message' that connects with consumers. From the time of Steve Jobs, Apple figured out what aspects of technology make consumers frustrated and the ads reflect that through 'simple' messaging.

The new ad, seen above, does not forcefully try to feed the features or the camera that make the iPhone 13 Pro so unique. It's all about "privacy" and how users should start caring about their data.

Under the leadership of CEO Tim Cook, Apple has been vocal about privacy and it wants users to believe what its competitors do with their data. Apple has differentiated itself with its unique approach to consumer information through software features baked in iOS. This has been in sharp contrast to others such as Google or Facebook and its array of apps, both of whom are dependent on advertising and collecting personal data.

Most significantly, Apple's recent App Tracking Transparency (ATT) feature, which was originally introduced in iOS 14.5 and built further in iOS 15, requires developers to request permission before they are able to track users across apps and websites.



Because of the changes Apple made to its iOS, Facebook parent Meta announced earlier this year that Cupertino's move will cost the social network upwards of \$10 billion.

In recent months, Apple has gone aggressive on privacy and data protection by bringing its Mail Privacy protection feature to the Mail app. This limits the amount of data senders collect from a user when one opens their promotional emails or even newsletters.

To be specific, the feature will give users the option to hide their IP address, so it can't be linked to other online activity or used to determine their location. Apple also announced that paid subscribers to iCloud Plus will get a slew of new privacy features, including Private Relay, which keeps their browsing data private. *Source: The Indian Express*

## Twitter now has exclusive Spaces, only for Super Followers

Twitter has announced a new feature called exclusive Spaces that allows users to host special Spaces that can only be joined by paid followers, or Super Followers. The feature will be a new way for user accounts with Super Followers to further incentivise Super Following them by hosting exclusive Spaces.

Twitter has said that the feature has begun rolling out to all creators with Super Followers. Check out the tweet below.

The new feature is basically Twitter Spaces and Super Follows smashed together, something the animation in the tweet above also suggests.

Note that the feature is separate from the Ticketed Spaces feature, that allows creators to charge ticket prices for individual Spaces, which can be accessed by anyone who pays for a ticket, similar to how a real-life session would work.

The new exclusive Spaces feature is more targeted at Super Followers, who until now, had only one advantage over regular followers and that is exclusive tweets. Now they will also have dedicated Spaces that only Super Followers can attend, allowing creators to host a smaller, more personal Space if he/she wishes to.

Further, promoting their exclusive Spaces could become another way for creators to attract more Super Follows.



## SpaceX launches Starlink satellites from California

A SpaceX rocket carried 53 satellites for the Starlink internet constellation into orbit after blasting off from California.

The Falcon 9 booster lifted off from the Vandenberg Space Force Base at 3:07 pm and minutes later, the first stage landed on a droneship in the Pacific Ocean while the second stage continued toward low Earth orbit.

SpaceX later tweeted that the satellites were successfully deployed.

Starlink is a space-based system that SpaceX has been building for years to bring internet access to underserved areas of the world.

Hawthorne, California-based SpaceX has hundreds of Starlink satellites orbiting Earth at an altitude of 340 miles (550 kilometres).

*Source: AP*



This video image provided by SpaceX shows a SpaceX Falcon 9 mission to launch 53 Starlink satellites to low-Earth orbit from Space Launch Complex 4 East (SLC-4E), takes off from Vandenberg Space Force Base, Calif.

*Photo: AP/PTI*

## PATANJALI AYURVED SELLS FOOD RETAIL BUSINESS TO RUCHI SOYA FOR RS 690 CR

Baba Ramdev-led Patanjali Ayurved Ltd will sell its food retail business to group firm Ruchi Soya Industries Ltd for Rs 690 crore as part of its strategy to focus on non-food, traditional medicine and wellness business.

Patanjali Ayurved Ltd had acquired Ruchi Soya through an insolvency process.

In a regulatory filing, Ruchi Soya informed that it has entered into a "Business Transfer Agreement" with Patanjali Ayurved Ltd to acquire the food retail business of the latter as a going concern on a slump sale basis.

The food retail business consists of manufacturing, packaging labelling and retail trading of certain food products along with manufacturing plants located at Padartha, Haridwar, and Newasa, Maharashtra.

## LPG PRICE HIKED BY RS 3.50 PER CYLINDER IN INDIA, 2ND INCREASE THIS MONTH

Domestic cooking gas LPG price was on Thursday, May 19, hiked by Rs 3.50 per cylinder, the second increase in rates this month. Non-subsidised LPG now costs Rs 1,003 per 14.2-kg cylinder in the national capital, according to a price notification of state fuel retailers. The hike comes on the back of a Rs 50 per cylinder increase effected on May 7. Prior to that, prices were increased by the same amount on March 22.

## INDIA'S WHOLESALE INFLATION AT RECORD HIGH OF 15.08%

Wholesale price index (WPI)-based inflation rose to a record high of 15.08 per cent in April, up from 14.55 per cent in March, due to rising prices of crude, food products and chemicals.

The wholesale inflation has been in double digits for 13 straight months since April last year. Besides, the inflation rate for April is the highest in the current series introduced in 2013. Considering the old series as well, the last time WPI inflation higher than this was 16.06 per cent in August 1991.

Fuelled by similar factors, retail inflation too was at a record 7.79 per cent in April from 6.95 per cent in March. It has remained above the RBI's tolerance band of 6 per cent for four consecutive months.

In the WPI basket, the index for fuel and power group was 2.8 per cent higher in April as compared to March, that for manufactured products (accounting for 64.23 per cent of the WPI basket) rose 1.7 per cent, but worryingly, the food index rose the fastest, 3.4 per cent month-on-month. "The high rate of inflation in April was primarily due to rise in prices of mineral oils, basic metals, crude and natural gas, food articles, non-food articles, chemicals and chemical products," said a Commerce Ministry statement.

# Musk says 'Tesla on my mind 24/7' amid concerns about Twitter distraction

Tesla CEO Elon Musk said on Thursday, May 19, that "Tesla is on my mind 24/7," trying to soothe investor worries about him being distracted by a Twitter deal that has depressed stocks at the electric car company.

Posting a picture tweet showing a woman (Tesla) who is upset by her boyfriend (Elon) checking out another woman (Twitter), he said, "So may seem like below, but not true." "To be clear, I'm spending <5% (but actually) of my time on the Twitter acquisition. It ain't rocket science!" he tweeted. "Yesterday was Giga Texas, today is Starbase. Tesla is on my mind 24/7."

Tesla this year opened its new car factory in Texas, and Musk's rocket company SpaceX has a launch site known as Starbase in Boca Chica, Texas.

Tesla shares have lost one third of their value since the billionaire disclosed his stake in Twitter in early April and sold \$8.5 billion worth of Tesla stocks in a move seen to help finance his \$44-billion Twitter deal.

Further hurting stocks are China lockdown measures that dampened Tesla's production and an exclusion of Tesla from a widely-followed S&P sustainability index.

Tesla bull Daniel Ives, an analyst at Wedbush, on Thursday cut the target share price of Tesla due to the China production disruption and warned of "distraction risks" from Musk's Twitter deal. Leo KoGuan, a major individual investor in Tesla, on Thursday called on the electric carmaker to buy back shares. "Tesla must announce immediately and buy back \$5 billion of Tesla shares from its free cash flow this year and \$10 billion from its free cash flow next year, without effecting its existing \$18 billion cash reserves with ZERO debt," KoGuan said in a Twitter message to Tesla's head of investor relations, Martin Viecha.

Viecha was not immediately available for comment.

Last year, KoGuan, the third largest individual shareholder of Tesla, said he was investing billions in Tesla because he believes in Musk's "great mission that I share." He said in March that he was buying more Tesla shares, not selling during the stocks' dip.



PHOTO: REUTERS

## Tesla cut from S&P 500 ESG Index

S&P Dow Jones Indices has removed electric carmaker Tesla from its widely-followed S&P 500 ESG Index, citing issues including racial discrimination claims and crashes linked to its autopilot vehicles.

Tesla chief executive Elon Musk responded with harsh tweets, including that "ESG is a scam".

Other contributing factors to the changes, effective May 2, included Tesla's lack of published details related to its low carbon strategy or business conduct codes, said Ms Margaret Dorn, the organisation's head of environmental, social, and governance (ESG) indexes for North America, in an interview.

The back-and-forth over the index changes reflects a wider debate about the metrics used to judge corporate performance on ESG issues, a growing area of investing.

Source: Reuters

## UK consumer morale hits lowest since records began in 1974: Report

Pessimism weighing on Britain's households has hit unprecedented levels as the cost-of-living crisis pushed confidence in the economic outlook to its joint lowest, a survey showed.

Market research firm GfK said consumer morale gauge, dating back to 1974, touched an all-time low of -40 in May from -38 in April. Economists polled by Reuters had expected -39.

Past readings this low have presaged recessions and Friday's survey will further pressure finance minister Rishi Sunak to give more help urgently to households facing the highest rates of inflation since the early 1980s.

GfK's gauge of economic optimism for the coming 12 months matched a record low hit in April 2020 as the coronavirus pandemic swept the country.

While business surveys and jobs data show a healthier picture - one reason why the Bank of England has raised interest rates - this was also the case in 2008 when a severe downturn followed as the global financial crisis unfolded.

"Consumer confidence is now weaker than in the darkest days of the global banking crisis, the impact of Brexit on the economy, or the Covid shutdown," said Joe Staton, client strategy director at GfK. Even recessions in the early 1980s and early 1990s - a time of double-digit interest rates and high unemployment - produced less pessimism than the current crisis which is playing out against the backdrop of the war in Ukraine.

Source: Reuters

## Meta freezes hiring for several verticals; Zuckerberg says no job cuts

Meta (formerly Facebook) has paused hirings for several verticals, like shopping and Messenger Kids, which has triggered the fear of layoffs among employees.

According to The Verge, Meta has frozen hirings for a number of products. The company recently stopped hiring for certain engineering roles and also for low-level data scientists.

Meta CEO Mark Zuckerberg, however, allayed the fears of job losses at the company.

"I can't sit here and make a permanent ongoing promise that as things shift that we won't have to reconsider that (job cuts)," Zuckerberg told the staff during a meeting.

"Our expectation is not that we're going to have to do that. And instead, basically what we're doing is we're dialing growth to the levels that we think are going to be manageable over time," he was quoted as saying in the report that came out late on Wednesday.

According to the report, freezing hirings indicates that these products are not profitable as Meta's stock price is down 43 per cent this year. "Product teams are already impacted by an engineering freeze including Facebook Dating and Gaming, Messenger Kids, the Commerce team, and the Remote Presence team created during the pandemic," the report noted.

Meta is now banking upon its big-time foray into Metaverse, with plans to invest \$10 billion over coming years.

"As we alluded to in our recent earnings, we're evaluating key priorities across the company and putting energy behind them especially as they relate to our core business and Reality Labs," a Meta spokesperson told The Verge.

Source: IANS

Shree Ganeshaya Namah



VEDIC ASTROLOGER NASTUR BEJAN DARUWALLA

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

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

WEEKLY HOROSCOPE - MAY 23 MAY TO MAY 29, 2022



**Aries**

Ganesha says, you will take a constructive attitude to things this week since you will no longer be restless and unsatisfied. This week is an excellent week to begin the process of delving deeply into the causes of the problems. You can certainly resume the work you left unfinished this week. Workplace stress will exacerbate your hypertension problem. Your relationship fronts may suffer a little this week since you and your partner will be unable to manage time for each other, but everything will be OK by the end of the week. This week, your health will be OK, and you will be more inclined to begin a new exercise plan.



**Taurus**

This week, you'll concentrate on staying organized. You've been a little confused lately due to your hectic schedule, but this week you'll get your affairs in some kind of order. Additionally, monetary benefits will contribute to your satisfaction. This week, you'll realize you've misplaced something crucial. Instead of looking for aid on your own, you should ask for it. Your romantic situation appears to be improving this week. This week, your spouse and you will bond nicely. You and your spouse may have disagreements in terms of marriage. This week, your health will improve.



**Gemini**

This week, your capacity to think clearly will be stronger than normal dear Gemini. You'll be bursting with want to get up and start. This week, you'll be able to make sound decisions. This week, you'll be able to pay off your bills. This week, your anxieties will overwhelm you. You must maintain your composure and refrain from placing unnecessary trust in others. You and your tour companion will gain confidence in each other. This week, the topic of marriage will be discussed. This week will be fine for your health.



**Cancer**

Your inner self will encourage you to address minor issues Dear Cancer natives. This week, after being a little concerned, you will gain strength than before. People close to you will create arrangements for you, which will make you feel better. This week will provide many reasons; just be willing to accept them. This week, you're likely to worry a little when you become frightened by your surroundings. Avoid holding yourself accountable for anything that occurs.



**Leo**

People will be more open to your pleasant suggestions. You'll be able to get them to do what you want. This week, you'll receive some unexpectedly pleasant news, which will brighten your days. Jupiter predicts that your funds will be well-managed in the second part of the week. This week, you must keep your domineering attitude in check, or it might backfire. Take care. This entire week, your relationship will be in excellent shape thanks to Venus's favorable position. Your health will not be affected in any way, but you must be cautious of the changing environment.



**Virgo**

This week, you'll be relieved by some vital news. You will most likely receive favorable news regarding your legal issues. This week, you're likely to spend a lot of time with your family. This week, your financial situation will improve. Your children's health difficulties will cause you concern. Do not be alarmed and do not make assumptions on your own. This week, your relationship fronts will remain unchanged. You'll be able to make your spouse feel good about himself or herself. You must light the Diya in Ishaan corner on Thursday. In the first part of the week, your health will suffer a slight setback; take care of yourself.



**Libra**

This week, you will be the center of attraction in your surroundings. You'll also be able to tell who your foes and well-wishers are. This week, you'll fight toxic people and things and discover a healthier place to confide in. Nothing will affect your financial situation. You're likely to lose a few individuals you care about, but it will significantly reduce toxicity in your life. Your romantic prospects will not be ideal. Minor misunderstandings will occur between you and your companion. This week, your health will not be perfect. You may have a slight backache.



**Scorpio**

This week, fresh horizons and more scope will open up before you. A few nice surprises will encourage you to consider new possibilities. This week, you will make some positive changes in your character and will be well-liked by everyone. In the second half of the week, your professional fronts will take a hit. You will presume the outcomes of the adjustments you make this week since it is too early to do so. You must avoid making assumptions and allow things to unfold naturally. This week, your health will take a hit since you will be dealing with back discomfort.



**Sagittarius**

This week, you will experience the fulfillment that has eluded you for so long. You will clear out the superfluous clutter because your mind will choose freedom. This will allow you to try things you've always wanted to try. You will also establish new guidelines for yourself in the first part of the week that will improve your professional fronts. This week, you will fail to be responsible on the last three days of the week, when it will be most needed. Make sure you're cautious and don't take anything lightly. This week, your partnership will remain solid. You will make progress in your marriage life as well. This week will be fine for your health.



**Capricorn**

You are likely to receive positive feedback about your property Dear Capricorn. Whether it's your business or your house, you'll undoubtedly finish up this week. You will benefit from the pleasant vibes this week. You won't be able to handle a lot of fieldwork this week. Make sure you have a helping hand nearby and keep track of everything that happens. Your relationship may have small setbacks this week since you will be unable to effectively cope with your partner's concerns. This week, your health will be OK as you recuperate from your previous problems.



**Aquarius**

This week, your tenth house will have some favorable moments, indicating a significant improvement on the financial and professional fronts Dear Aquarius. This week, you'll be able to pick better for yourself among all the opposing influences in your life. This week, the stock market will rebound a little. Some materialistic items will cause a split between you and your family. Make sure you're careful with your choices this week. Your health will be poor this week, as you may get headaches on a regular basis.



**Pisces**

You will correct the discrepancy between your private and professional relationships this week, dear Pisces. This week, your dedication to the connections and your job will be evident. This week, separating items on your to-do list will be a lifesaver. Advice you avoid or fail to take this week will cause you problems in the second part of the week. Make sure you pay attention and follow directions. Your health will be OK this week. Your children must take good care of you in the second half of the week.

**BIRTHDAY HOROSCOPE : MAY 23 MAY TO MAY 29, 2022**  
**BY ASTRO FRIEND CHIRAG - SON OF ASTROLOGER BEJAN DARUWALLA**

**MAY 23 :** Ganesha says your shy nature may not increase the count of your social circle but your impregnable ideas and highly authoritative capability of taking your conclusions will help you to handle the steering of your life in a systematic way. Your associates and colleagues try to match up with your style of working but fail to get success in it. But the most important thing, you must abide by all the rules and regulations at your workplace so that nobody can ever have a chance to pinpoint you at your flaws. Don't indulge yourself into nasty office politics and gossiping as it could tarnish your image anytime.

**MAY 24 :** A reservoir of talent, potential and wit is you. When it comes to beating you at your workplace, nobody can do that as you are beyond comparison and simply invincible. Your organized risk taking abilities are good but high paid ventures may turn out to be inconsistent for you. Clashing of egos with your blood relatives may result in strain and irritation for both the parties. You are well versed with the pace of the competition as your communication skill which is the need of the hour is unbeatable.

**MAY 25 :** Ganesha says you will rise like a shining star in the year to come. Your supporting nature and simplicity leave a lasting impression on people you meet. At some point of time, you tend to behave

whimsically and that eccentric characteristic must have been controlled for your betterment. You would also raise your bar by doing consistently good work. At times you show your introverted side and that side of yours needs to be modified, so that your close ones won't misinterpret you. Go and express your feelings with any hesitation in love matters. You would also make some strong decisions independently this year.

**MAY 26 :** Ganesha says you love attending events/ parties, mingling with people and are quite comfortable in a big crowd of people. This year will provide you a lot of opportunities to attend some holy and spiritual ceremonies. Your quality to get well very easily with people around you will increase your networking and social circle. This year, you will get ample chances to change your job profile but a sense of satisfaction may not exist. Chances to move on from job to business are very high. A person of your love may add new wings to your life and may change your entire vision towards life.

**MAY 27 :** Ganesha says you always take time to move forward with friends. You will spend quality time with your family which soothes you. Luck will favor you from all the sides. You will get whatever you want without much delay and pain. You are always choosy to spend your time on your work

rather than for any materialistic thing. You are man of your words. Put together all your ideas to sort out your important matters. You need to check your perturbing nature else might have to bear some botheration.

**MAY 28 :** Ganesha says you are the person who is always in demand. You need to check your fluctuating and sprawling mode. You are as fast as a bullet train in taking the decision and all are likely to encourage you. Your needle always points to attain your aim by your sheer hard work. You are resolute by nature which clarifies all your doubts about any work assigned to you. Your way of working and way of talking are loved by everyone from your house to your gaffers. You will be ideal for your juniors.

**MAY 29 :** Ganesha says you are as fast as a bullet train in taking the decision and all are likely to encourage you. You are resolute by nature which clarifies all your doubts about any work assigned to you. Your way of working and way of talking are loved by everyone from your house to your gaffers. You will be ideal for your juniors. Your jolly nature infuses happiness in everybody's life. You are affirmative and amiable. You will get full support from your coworkers and seniors which take you on a placid ride.

|| SHREE GANESHAY NAMA ||



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**B**udhwa Mangal is a day dedicated to Lord Hanuman. This day holds an important place for Hindus. Budhwa mangal is also called big mangal. Lord Hanuman is worshiped on this day.

Budhwa Mangal is on the first Tuesday of Jyeshtha month i.e. 17 May 2022, however, all the Tuesdays coming in Jyeshtha month are called the days of Budhwa Mangal.

It is believed that worshipping Lord Hanuman on this day protects us from evil and brings wealth and prosperity. The festival is a symbol of Ganga-Jamuni tehzeeb of Lucknow and said to have originated during the Mughal rule some 400 years ago.

Bada Mangal is celebrated every Tuesday during the Hindu month of Jyestha which usually falls during the month of May and June, as per Gregorian calendar.

The Hanuman Temple in Aliganj is the focal point for all devotees. It is because the ritual is said to have started there.

**History and Significance**

The "Bada Mangal" has an interesting story behind it. According to historians, the Hanuman temple in Aliganj was constructed by Nawab Saadat Ali Khan in 1798 when his mother Aliya Begum's prayers were reportedly answered and the Nawab was blessed with a son. Aliya Begum insisted on building the temple and the Nawab complied.

Nawab Wajid Ali Shah, the last nawab of Awadh, continued the tradition by holding community feasts for Hanuman devotees.

The Aliganj temple has a star and a crescent on the dome and the "Bada Mangal" festival is a perfect example of Hindu-Muslim unity.

There are over 9,000 big and small Hanuman temples in Lucknow who open their doors at the stroke of midnight and devotees continue to offer prayers for the entire day.

**Celebrations**

People flock to the temples in large numbers during early morning and late evening to avoid long queues and heat.

Devotees set up large bhandaras across the city to distribute prasad and jal to everyone. From halwauri, aloo-kachori, chola-chawal, kadhi chawal to juice-- the bhandaras offer tasty prasad to everyone.

Overall, there are 4-5 Bada Mangal days in the month of Jyestha. Though you may be unable to reach out to temples on the first Tuesday due to coronavirus lockdown, you can still worship Lord Hanuman from your home.

Lord Hanuman is believed to be an incarnation of Lord Shiva. The son of Kesari and Anjana, Hanuman was born on the full moon day during the Hindu month of Chaitra on a Tuesday. Hence, devotees worship Sri Hanuman on Tuesdays. If you were to go by the gregorian calendar, then Hanuman Jayanti would coincide with a day in March or April. Moreover, Tuesdays are called Mangalvar in Hindi, meaning a day of auspiciousness. Interestingly, Hanuman is also called Chiranjeevi, meaning he is immortal. He exists in some form or the other even today.

More revered as the faithful devotee of Shri Rama, Hanuman is known for his strength and knowledge. He is also known as Pavan Putra because the God of the winds carried the blessings of Lord Shiva and conveyed the message about his birth to Mata Anjana.

Also known as Bajrangbali, Hanuman's unshakable faith in his Lord (Rama) inspires millions of people even today. He epitomises selfless service and devotion. There can be none like him. Here's a small story that proves his undying devotion for Shri Rama.

After the war against Ravana, Sita returned to Ayodhya with her husband, Rama. They honoured all those who contributed in the battle from their side by giving them a token of thanks. Mata Sita, gave Hanuman, the pearl necklace she was wearing, as a gesture of appreciation for his efforts. Hanuman accepted it respectfully but tore it soon after. Everyone who witnessed Hanuman's action wondered why he ruined the present given by Sita. But his answer left people speechless. He said that no matter how precious things are, they are meaningless to him if they don't have Shri Rama. Later, to prove what he meant, he tore his chest apart with his own hands to show an image of his Lord and his consort reflecting gloriously.

# Budhwa Mangal



**Important information**

- Budhwa Mangal Dates in Jyeshtha month 2022**
- First Budhwa Mangal - Tuesday, 17th May 2022**
- Second Budhwa Mangal - Tuesday, 24th May 2022**
- Third Budhwa Mangal - Tuesday, 31st May 2022**
- Fourth Budhwa Mangal - Tuesday, 7th June 2022**

One can worship Hanuman during any day of the week, but Tuesdays are considered more auspicious. Hence, people visit temples dedicated to Hanuman on Tuesdays. One can achieve success, peace, happiness, strength and courage by worshipping him.

**The reason behind the Lord Hanuman's name as "Bajrangbali"**

Once, seeing Goddess Sita applying sindoor, Lord Hanuman asked her "why does she apply it on her forehead". To this Goddess Sita replied that "since Shri Ram is her husband, I apply sindoor to wish her long life." Lord Hanuman thought that if Goddess Sita applied a little sindoor on her forehead, the age of Sri Ram can be prolonged, then if I apply it on the whole body, the life of Shri Ram will increase manifold. Thinking this, he applied sindoor all over his body. As sindoor is also called "Bajrang", from that day onwards Lord Hanuman came to be called as "Bajrangbali" and that is why whenever he is worshipped sindoor is offered to him.

**The Power of Devotion**

The character of Hanuman is used in the Hindu religion as an example of the unlimited power that lies

unused within each human individual. Hanuman directed all his energies towards the worship of Lord Rama, and his undying devotion made him such that he became free from all physical fatigue. And Hanuman's only desire was to go on serving Rama.

In this manner, Hanuman perfectly exemplifies 'Dasyabhava' devotion—one of the nine types of devotions—that bonds the master and the servant. His greatness lies in his complete merger with his Lord, which also formed the base of his genial qualities.

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"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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Rakhi Israni will speak on



a panel at the Gold Institute for International Strategy (GIIS) on May 25 titled, "How the Indian American Diaspora is Affected by Issues on the Indian Subcontinent."

"As the United States and the Indo-Pacific region become increasingly interconnected, the Indian American community will become an important player in the exchange of soft power between the two regions. At the same time the Indian American community has to watch out for growing efforts to vilify and marginalize them using disinformation, by India's geopolitical adversaries" said HinduPACT Executive Director Utsav Chakrabarti. "Mutual respect" and "greater interdependability" are going to be the watchwords in this growing relationship.

Issues affecting Indians on the subcontinent also impact the immigrant diaspora communities in the United States. More than 5 million Indian Americans now deal with the impact of geopolitical issues from the Indo-Pacific and South Asian regions in their everyday lives, on campuses, and in the public square.

"As Indian Americans are increasingly

being viewed and handled in America as an extension of the Indian subcontinent, it becomes increasingly important to talk about the other side of

that same region: Pakistan," said CHINGARI Director Rakhi Israni. "Until 1947, the people of both India and Pakistan were one people: sharing similar languages, food, and overall customs. The daily atrocities faced by Hindus, Christians, and Sikhs in Pakistan after partition should naturally affect all people from that region. The gross and severe injustices being committed against one part of a cultural people must be a part of any discussion about the region as a whole."

"As a daughter of immigrants, I understand all too well how issues in the homeland affect and impact the diaspora community," said Adelle Nazarian, Media Fellow at the Gold Institute for International Strategies. "I look forward to discussing this important topic so that we may find ways to improve the situation for immigrants here in the United States and to foster a healthier environment for all."

This panel discussion dives into some of those issues and how the Indian American community deals with them.

Register for the event here: <https://tinyurl.com/targetDisaspora>

contd from page 1

**29 phones tested for Pegasus spyware:  
Supreme Court**

spyware to snoop on journalists, parliamentarians, prominent citizens and even court staff, according to a report published in The Hindu.

Opening the interim report submitted by the committee in court, a Special Bench led by Chief Justice of India N.V. Ramana said the committee had developed its own protocol/software to test the devices for malware.

The committee also recorded the statements of petitioners, who had approached the court, journalists and other allegedly affected persons.

It has also contacted experts and agencies, including government ones, who could "potentially throw light on the subject of inquiry".

The committee has further undertaken a "public consultation exercise" to invite views and comments on the subject of inquiry, the CJI read out the interim report to lawyers, including senior advocate Kapil Sibal, for the petitioners, and Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, for the Centre.

The interim report said the committee had got a "large number of responses". It was awaiting responses from the agencies. It said the process of analyzing the responses was in progress.

The committee said its investigation would be completed by the end of May 2022.

The interim report said the overseeing judge, Justice Raveendran, assisted by two experts, would then require another 15 days to study the recommendations of the technical committee and add views and comments.

The interim report sought an extension of time till

June 20, 2022 to complete the entire exercise and file a comprehensive report before the Supreme Court.

"The process is on. We will give them time," the CJI told the lawyers, who agreed.

When the parties, including the Union, urged the court to make the interim report public, Chief Justice Ramana proceeded to summarize its contents.

The CJI said the interim report had divided its court-appointed task into two areas.

"One is regarding the inquiry itself. That is, the fact-finding report regarding the technical issues relating to the digital forensic aspects about the reported use of Pegasus malware to target mobiles of Indian citizens. Second is regarding recommendations about the enhancement of existing laws and procedures related to surveillance and securing rights including privacy, cyber security, etc.," Chief Justice Ramana explained.

He said the first part of the task was being done by the committee under the supervision of the overseeing judge. The second part was being taken care of by the judge and two other experts assisting him.

Once the technical committee submitted its report to the overseeing judge, he would add his own report on the laws to it.

"So, a comprehensive final report will come to us," the CJI observed orally.

Passing the order, the Bench, also comprising Justices Surya Kant and Hima Kohli, directed the technical committee to "expedite the examination of the mobile devices which they have received, preferably within a period of four weeks, and submit a report to the overseeing judge. Thereafter, we request the overseeing judge to send the report as early as possible".

The court posted the case for hearing in July. Chief Justice Ramana is retiring by the end of August.

In October 27 last year, the court had constituted the technical committee while observing in its 46-page order that there was a "broad consensus that unauthorized surveillance/accessing of stored data from the phones and other devices of citizens for reasons other than nation's security would be illegal, objectionable and a matter of concern".

The court had, in October, listed several concerns which led it to form the committee and direct an independent inquiry. Several petitions, including one by senior journalists N. Ram and Shashi Kumar, had sought a fair probe into the allegations.

The court had noted that it was compelled to examine the allegations, which if true, would affect the rights to privacy and freedom of speech. The Pegasus allegations pose a "potential chilling effect" on the entire citizenry. There was also the possibility of involvement of foreign agencies. Most of all, it said, the Union had not taken a clear stand in court on how it would address the apprehensions of the public about illegal surveillance.

Justice Raveendran is assisted by Alok Joshi, former IPS officer (1976 batch) and Dr. Sundeep Oberoi, Chairman, Sub-Committee in (International Organisation of Standardisation/International Electro-Technical Commission/Joint Technical Committee).

The three members of the technical committee are Dr. Naveen Kumar Chaudhary, Professor (Cyber Security and Digital Forensics) and Dean, National Forensic Sciences University, Gandhinagar, Gujarat; Dr. Prabaharan P., Professor (School of Engineering), Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham, Amritapuri, Kerala; and Dr. Ashwin Anil Gumaste, Institute Chair Associate Professor (Computer Science and Engineering), Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay, Maharashtra.



# History This Week May 20-May 26

## "IDEAS SHAPE THE COURSE OF HISTORY." - WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE

### May 20

May 20, 325 A.D. - The Council of Nicaea, the first ecumenical council of Catholic Church was called by Constantine I, first Christian Emperor of the Roman Empire. With nearly 300 bishops in attendance at Nicaea in Asia Minor, the council condemned Arianism which denied Christ's divinity, formulated the Nicene Creed and fixed the date of Easter.



Abraham Lincoln

May 20, 1862 - President Abraham Lincoln signed the Homestead Act opening millions of acres of government owned land in the West to "homesteaders" who could acquire up to 160 acres by living on the land and cultivating it for five years, paying just \$1.25 per acre.



Charles Lindbergh

May 20, 1927 - Charles Lindbergh, a 25-year-old aviator, took off at 7:52 a.m. from Roosevelt Field, Long Island, in the Spirit of St. Louis attempting to win a \$25,000 prize for the first solo nonstop flight between New York City and Paris. Thirty-three hours later, after a 3,600-mile journey, he landed at Le Bourget, Paris, earning the nickname "Lucky Lindy" and becoming an instant worldwide hero.



Amelia Earhart

May 20, 1932 - Amelia Earhart became the first woman to fly

solo across the Atlantic. She departed Newfoundland, Canada, at 7 p.m. and landed near Londonderry, Ireland, completing a 2,026-mile flight in about 13 hours. Five years later, along with her navigator Fred Noonan, she disappeared while trying to fly her twin-engine plane around the equator.



Theodore Herzl

Birthday - Founder of modern Zionism Theodore Herzl (1860-1904) was born in Budapest, Hungary. He advocated the establishment of a new land for the Jews rather than assimilation into various, historically anti-Semitic, countries and cultures.

### May 21



Clara Barton

May 21, 1881 - The American Red Cross was founded by Clara Barton. The organization today provides volunteer disaster relief in the U.S. and abroad. Community services include collecting and distributing donated blood, and teaching health and safety classes.



Rajiv Gandhi

May 21, 1991 - Former Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi

was assassinated in the midst of a re-election campaign, killed by a bomb hidden in a bouquet of flowers. He had served as prime minister from 1984 to 1989, succeeding his mother, Indira Gandhi, who was assassinated in 1984.



Andrei Sakharov

Birthday - Russian physicist and human rights activist Andrei Sakharov (1921-1989) was born in Moscow. Although he helped construct the first atomic and hydrogen bombs for Soviet Russia, he later denounced the Soviet government and was exiled from 1980 to 1986. He was instrumental in formulating the political reform concept called perestroika and in encouraging glasnost (openness) in restrictive communist countries.

### May 22

May 22, 1972 - President Richard Nixon became the first American president to visit Moscow. Four days later, Nixon and Soviet Russia's leader Leonid Brezhnev signed a pact pledging to freeze nuclear arsenals at current levels.

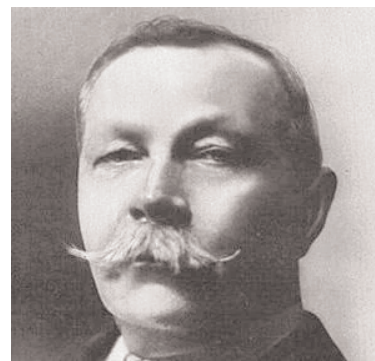
May 22, 1947 - Congress approved the Truman Doctrine, assuring U.S. support for Greece and Turkey to prevent the spread of Communism.



Richard Wagner

Birthday - German composer Richard Wagner (1813-1883) was

born in Leipzig, Germany. He made revolutionary changes in the structure of opera and is best known for The Ring of the Nibelung, a series of operas based on old German myths which include: Das Rheingold, Die Walkure, Siegfried, and Götterdämmerung.



Arthur Conan Doyle

Birthday - Sherlock Holmes creator Arthur Conan Doyle (1859-1930) was born at Edinburgh, Scotland. He was also deeply interested in and lectured on spiritualism.



Laurence Olivier

Birthday - Laurence Olivier (1907-1989) was born in Dorking, England. Considered one of the most influential actors of the 20th Century, he was honored with nine Academy Award nominations, three Oscars, five Emmy awards, and a host of other awards. His repertoire included most of the major Shakespearean roles, and films such as The Entertainer, Rebecca, Pride and Prejudice, The Boys from Brazil, Marathon Man and Wuthering Heights. He was knighted in 1947 and made a peer of the throne in 1970.

### May 23



Margaret Fuller

Birthday - Journalist Margaret Fuller (1810-1850) was born in Cambridgeport, Massachusetts. She became the first American woman to serve as a foreign correspondent, reporting for the New York Tribune. Her book Women in the Nineteenth Century, published in 1845, is considered the first feminist statement by an American writer, and brought her international acclaim. Sailing from Italy to the U.S. in 1850, she died, along with her husband and infant son, in a shipwreck off Fire Island, New York.



Arabella Mansfield

Birthday - The first American female attorney Arabella Mansfield (1846-1911) was born near Burlington, Iowa (as Belle Aurelia Babb). She was certified in 1869 as an attorney and admitted to the Iowa bar, but never practiced law. Instead, she chose a career as a college educator and administrator. She was also instrumental in the founding of the Iowa Suffrage Society in 1870.

### May 24



Samuel Morse

May 24, 1844 - Telegraph inventor Samuel Morse sent the first official telegraph message, "What hath God wrought?" from the Capitol building in Washington, D.C., to Baltimore.

(Read more on [www.theindianpanorama.news](http://www.theindianpanorama.news))

contd from page 1

**The day parents want their kid to...**

feels it is the parents and not the kids who should be credited with India's successful performances at global sporting events.

"I feel (it's) the parents, not the kids. We produce more doctors, scientists, engineers in our country because parents want them to. The day parents want their kid to become a sports person, we will produce all champions," Dev said here Tuesday.

Dev was responding to a question by PTI on what changes he has witnessed in Indian sports over the years that is propelling the country's sports persons to create history on the international sporting arena.

Dev was the Guest of Honor at a special event hosted by the Consulate General of India in New York as part of the 'Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav' celebrations to commemorate India's 75 years independence. The event, attended by members of the Indian diaspora and cricketing fans, marked India's cricketing achievements.

Dev, considered one of the greatest all-rounders of all times who helmed the Indian cricket team in its historic 1983 World Cup victory, gave an example that even if his daughter had to appear for a 10th grade examination and simultaneously play for junior India, he would tell her to "go and study. But in America or Europe or Australia, they will say drop this year, play for junior for your country and next year you give exam. That thought process in our country hasn't changed yet. But it's changing. That's why I said parents are more important than the kids in our society, the way we are."

Recalling his time as a young kid, Dev noted that he used to hide his sports clothes in his school bags and quietly go and play but today's parents are more keen to see their children take up sports. "Today I feel so proud to see the parents taking their kids to come and play."

In his remarks, Dev said that at 75 years, India is a "young country" which has achieved what not many in the world are able to achieve. "India has come a long way in such a short span, because the country's age is not 75," he said adding that the country has a rich culture and heritage built over thousands of years.

Dev also spoke about the work his NGO Khushii is doing in the field of children's education. He pointed out that when he was a young kid, a lot of people helped him and that enabled him to achieve success in his life.

"There are so many other young people out there. They need your help," he said adding that if people lent a helping hand to the children in need, they can grow up to become the prime minister of the country in future. "These young kids need encouragement. And when you give encouragement to the next generation, your country changes," he said.

Dev added that many people have been fortunate to have a lot in life and if they share their love, affection and money with those in need, it will make a huge difference in the lives of the country's young boys and girls. "Your small help will definitely make a lot of difference to those people."

He urged people to work together to raise the standard of the world, not just of one country. "If we can all collectively decide, we can change," he said adding that sports has the power to bring that change.

Consul General Randhir Jaiswal said the event celebrates the success of the legendary cricketer and "through his achievements, celebrates the contribution of cricket and sports in nation-building".

He said Dev's contribution to the game of cricket, his lifting of the 1983 Cricket World Cup as the Indian captain is "ever etched in our minds."

In December last year, New York State Governor Kathy Hochul signed a legislation that recognizes the sport of cricket as an important part of the social and cultural fabric of New York State, and expands the State's capacity to officially promote the sport. The legislation was sponsored by Senator Kevin Thomas, the first Indian-American to serve in the New York State Legislature, and Assemblymember Nily Rozic.

On the occasion, Thomas presented Dev with a copy

of the certificate signed by the Governor "proclaiming cricket as a sport that is worthy here in the state of New York."

Indiaspora, a nonprofit community of global Indian leaders, hosted events in honor of Dev and also organized a private screening of the movie '83' during his trip to the US.

Special videos on the work done by Khushii, particularly amid the COVID19 pandemic, Dev's cricketing achievements as well as efforts by the diaspora to promote cricket in the US were played on the occasion.

Kapil Dev is on a US fundraising tour for his nonprofit Khushii, which helps educate underprivileged children

The Indian Panorama publisher Prof. Indrajit S Saluja described Kapil as a great person on and off the field. Appreciating the work his organization Khushi is doing for children, Prof. Saluja offered to carry all advertising free of cost for ever.

There were quite a few others who offered their support and services for Khushii. (With inputs from PTI)

**Biden on Asia trip with global issues...**

appliances and other goods, causing higher inflation worldwide and crippling Biden's public approval among US voters.

Biden will grapple with a multitude of foreign policy issues during a five-day visit to South Korea and Japan, but he also crafted an itinerary clearly meant to tend to the concerns of his home audience as well. The president noted that the Texas plant would add 3,000 jobs and the construction would include union labor.

"These little chips," Biden said in remarks at the plant, "are the key to propelling us into the next era of humanity's technological development." Greeting Biden at the plant in South Korea was the country's new president, Yoon Suk Yeol, and Samsung Electronics Vice Chairman Lee Jae-yong.

Yoon is a political newcomer who became president, his first elected office, slightly more than a week ago. He campaigned on taking a tougher stance against North Korea and strengthening the 70-year alliance with the US. Yoon said in a speech before Biden spoke that he hopes the countries' partnership evolves into an "economic and security alliance based on cooperation in advanced technology and supply chains".

The chip plant showed the unique nature of manufacturing as visitors were required to don laboratory coats and blue booties to help keep the facility clean.

Biden and Yoon, who did not wear protective clothing, saw a demonstration of the machinery.

At one point during his tour, Biden received an in-depth explanation of a KLA inspection system on the Samsung plant floor. The California-based company is a major supplier to Samsung's semiconductor operations.

After a worker named Peter explained the ins and outs of the machinery, Biden quipped, "Don't forget to vote," when he returns home to the United States.

Part of the computer chip shortage is the result of strong demand as much of the world emerged from the coronavirus pandemic. But coronavirus outbreaks and other challenges also caused the closure of semiconductor plants.

US government officials have estimated that chip production will not be at the levels they would like until early 2023.

Global computer chip sales totaled USD 151.7 billion during the first three months of this year, a 23 per cent jump from the same period in 2021, according to the Semiconductor Industry Association.

More than 75 per cent of global chip production comes from Asia. That's a possible vulnerability the US hopes to protect against through more domestic production and USD 52 billion worth of government investment in the sector through a bill being negotiated in Congress.

The risk of Chinese aggression against Taiwan could possibly cut off the flow of high-end computer chips

that are needed in the US for military gear as well as consumer goods.

Similarly, the hermetic North Korea has been test-firing ballistic missiles amid a coronavirus outbreak, a possible risk to South Korea's manufacturing sector should the brinkmanship escalate.

In terms of chip production, China leads the global pack with a 24 per cent share, followed by Taiwan (21 per cent), South Korea (19 per cent) and Japan (13 per cent). Only 10 per cent of chips are made in the US, according to the Semiconductor Industry Association.

Samsung announced the plant in Taylor, Texas in November 2021. It hopes to begin operations in the second half of 2024.

The South Korean electronics giant chose the site based on a number of factors, including government incentives and the "readiness and stability" of local infrastructure.

The White House said in a fact sheet issued Friday, May 20, that semiconductor companies have announced nearly USD 80 billion in US investments through 2025. That sum includes USD 20 billion for Intel's plant outside Columbus, Ohio, up to USD 30 billion by Texas Instruments, a USD 1 trillion expansion by Wolfspeed in North Carolina and investments by Global Foundries and SK Group. (Source: Agencies)

**Navjot Singh Sidhu sentenced to...**

Mata Kaushalya Hospital. After the medical check-up, he was lodged in the Patiala Central Jail.

Some party leaders including Navtej Singh Cheema, Ashwani Sekhri and Sidhu's supporters accompanied him from his home to the court, which is close to his residence.

Cheema drove Sidhu, who was dressed in a blue-colored 'pathani suit', to the court in an SUV.

This came just hours after the former Punjab Congress president approached the Supreme Court seeking a few weeks to surrender to serve the imprisonment.

The top court bench of justices AM Khanwilkar and JB Pardiwala told senior advocate AM Singhvi, appearing for Sidhu, that the judgment on one-year rigorous imprisonment was passed by a special bench, and that he can file the application and mention it before the Chief Justice.

Singhvi said he will try and mention the matter before the Chief Justice.

Back in Patiala, some former MLAs and supporters turned up at Sidhu's residence in the morning to show their support, but no prominent Congress leader from the state unit was seen either at his home or at the court with him.

However, Punjab Congress chief Amarinder Singh Raja Warring and senior leader Partap Singh Bajwa expressed their support to Sidhu on social media, with both saying in their tweets that while they respect the Supreme Court verdict, they stand by Sidhu and his family.

The cricketer-turned-politician's wife Navjot Kaur Sidhu had reached their Patiala residence on Thursday, May 19 night.

The SC had on Thursday, May 19, sentenced Sidhu to one-year rigorous imprisonment in the case, saying any undue sympathy in imposing an inadequate sentence would do more harm to the justice system and undermine the public confidence in the efficacy of law.

A 65-year-old man, named Gurnam Singh, had died in the incident. When reporters sought Sidhu's reaction to the verdict on Thursday, he declined to comment. However, he later tweeted to say he "will submit to the majesty of the law".

Though the apex court had in May 2018 held Sidhu guilty of the offence of "voluntarily causing hurt" to the man, it had spared him a jail term and imposed a fine of Rs 1,000.

Gurnam Singh's family had sought a review of the judgement, which was allowed by the SC.

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

# Spiti Valley: A virgin paradise

Long winding roads and valleys that present unforgettable glimpses of cold desert and snow-crowned mountains welcome you when you set foot into Spiti Valley. Bordered on all sides by the Himalayas, Spiti Valley, located in Himachal Pradesh, has an altitude of 12,500 feet above sea level, and gets just around 250 days of sunshine in the year, making it one of the coldest places in the country. With the thick Himalayan snow cutting Spiti off from the rest of the country for around 6 months a year, the summer months are the only time Spiti is directly accessible via motorway.

The term Spiti means 'The Middle Land', as Spiti Valley separates India from Tibet. Scantily populated, Spiti is an adventure lover's paradise, with a number of trekking trails that tourists can choose from. All of these treks start from Kaza (Spiti's capital from where you make your base camp) to various peaks from where you can get panoramic views of the Himalayan mountains. An easy 1.5-kilometre trek along the Spiti River from Dhankar Monastery to Dhankar Lake promises gorgeous views of the villages below. The Dhankar Lake itself is a place where you can sit back and relax amidst the cool mountain air.

## Chandratal Lake

Chandratal Lake is often referred to as one of the most beautiful lakes located at an altitude of about 4300 m in the mighty Himalayas. The stunning lake is situated on the Samudra Tapu plateau in the Lahaul region of the Lahaul and Spiti district and is the source of the Chandra River. The name "Chandra Taal" (Lake of the Moon) comes from its crescent shape. This lake is also one of two high-altitude wetlands of India that have been designated as Ramsar sites. Once a tentative residence for Tibetan traders travelling to Spiti and the Kullu valley, it attracts thousands of adventure enthusiasts.

Legend has that the Chandratal Lake lies in the vicinity of a place from where God Indra's chariot picked up Yudhishthira, the eldest of Pandava brothers in Mahabharata. This fact renders the lake sacred and thus, is flocked by a lot of Hindu devotees. The colour of the water of this holy lake keeps changing from reddish to orange to blue to emerald green as the day ends. Vast stretches of green meadows house the best camping sites and an array of different wildflowers during springtime. The trek from Batal to Chandratal can be quite a tedious trail, but the captivating views and charm of the place will be worth it. The sun's light reflecting on the surface of the astounding Chandratal Lake makes it seem crystal clear.

## Key Monastery

The Key Monastery is a famous Tibetan Buddhist monastery in the Lahaul and Spiti District of India. Located at an altitude of 4,166 metres above sea level, the monastery is very close to the Spiti River in the Spiti Valley of Himachal Pradesh in India. Also known as the Kye Monastery and Ki Monastery, it is believed to have been founded by Dromton, who was a student of the famous teacher Atisha in the 11th century. It enshrines Buddha idols in the



Dhyana position and has a collection of ancient books and murals.

The stunning Key Monastery is over a thousand years old and is also the largest monastery to be found in the entire Spiti Valley. The magnificent monastery doubles up as a religious training centre for the Lamas, and about 300 lamas receive their education from here. It has a long and fascinating history attached to it: a long history that involves numerous attacks that the place had to face. Nevertheless, Kye Monastery survived and celebrated the completion of its thousand years in the year 2000 in the presence of the Dalai Lama.

## Kunzum Pass

Kunzum Pass or Kunzum La, as it is called by locals, is one of the highest motorable mountain passes of India, located at an altitude of 4,551m above mean sea level. It serves as a gateway to the beautiful Spiti valley Via Kullu and Lahaul. It lies on the eastern Kunzum Range of the Himalayas and is at a distance of 122 km from Manali. Kunzum La offers an incredible 360-degree view of Bara-Shigri Glacier (the second longest glacier in the world), a jaw-dropping vista of Chandrabhaga Range and a spectacular view of the Spiti valley. This enthralling view makes Kunzum Pass a photographer's dream.

There is a 15km trek to the famous Chandratal Lake (moon lake) from Kunzum Pass. It is believed that the visitors have to stop at the temple of Goddess Kunzum Devi, on their way to the pass, to pay their respect and seek the blessing to travel safely through the rugged terrain safely. The tradition is to take a complete circle of the temple in your vehicle.

## Pin Valley National Park

Set amidst semi-frozen rivers in the Pin Valley, the Pin Valley National Park is situated in the Cold Desert Biosphere Reserve situated in the Lahaul and Spiti District of Himachal Pradesh. The



elevation of the park ranges from about 3,500 metres near Ka Dogri to more than 6,000 metres at its pinnacle. One of the fascinating facilities of its kind, the Pin Valley National Park is home to the rare species of famous Himalayan snow leopards and their prey, the Ibex. The National Park is most famous for its incredible trek which is a delight for all its visitors. It snows for the most part of the year rendering the trek a thrilling and adventurous expedition. However, make sure you obtain the required permits. Also, foreign nations are not allowed inside the park.

The Pin Valley park's core zone is sprawled across a vast area of 675 sq km while its buffer zone is extended over almost 1150 sq km. Today it is home to almost more than 20 species of flora and fauna including the endangered snow leopard which is the most significant inhabitant of Pin Valley Park. There are also Siberian Ibex, Bharal, red fox, weasel and marten that call this place their home. Several species of birds also inhabit in the region such as pika, snow cock, bearded vulture, chukor, golden

eagle, griffon, Himalayan chough and raven.

## Suraj Tal

Located at an elevation of 4950 m above the sea level, Suraj Tal Lake is considered as the 3rd largest lake in India. Situated in Spiti Valley, Suraj Tale in literal sense means, 'The Lake of Sun God'. Just below the Baralacha pass, the stunning lake should definitely be visited while here, especially if they are into photography. The Suraj Tal, is one of the most dream-like and photogenic lakes.

Due to the belief that a dip in the Suraj Tal lake cleanses a person of his sins, it attracts a lot of people and is therefore considered spiritual. However, the major reason that the lake has gained popularity is that it comes en-route to the famous Manali-Leh path that is popular for trekking and biking trips, that also encompasses the Baralacha-La Pass on the way. Suraj Tal is, thus, meant for people who are mostly adventurous, and religious at the same time.

Source: [Holidify.com](http://Holidify.com)

# Thomas Cup : From first round exit to Gold Medal finish

BY PRABHJOT SINGH



After hockey and cricket, badminton is the third game in which Indian men have been crowned World champions. The gold medal triumph at Bangkok on May 15 was the culmination of a long journey that started with a first round exit in 1949. In between India made the penultimate round in 1952, 1955 and again in 1979 in this elite inter-nation team event that has morphed into a World Championship.

In 1949, two years after freedom, India embarked upon its first Thomas Cup journey, its team had taken 24 hours to fly from Bombay to London from where it travelled by road to Southampton.

The next phase was a cruise that took the Indian team to Halifax in Nova Scotia enroute to Toronto where it was to make its debut in the inaugural edition of the elite tournament. In its first edition, it had eight European and two teams from North America besides India and Malaya (now known as Malaysia).

India lost its first round to the hosts Canada 2-7. Canada in turn lost to the USA 1-8. Ultimately, in the final Malaya beat Denmark to become the first champion of the Thomas Cup.

In 2022, when 16 qualifiers for the finals were clubbed, India and Canada got into the same pool. In the quarterfinals, India had the 1949 champions Malaysia as its opponent. Denmark, the losing finalist of the first edition, was India's opponent in the semi-finals and Indonesia, winner of the Cup for 14 times - maximum by any nation - challenged the first time finalist India and lost.

I had my first exposure to this great badminton in 1975-76 when India played Malaysia at Ludhiana's Lal Bahadur Shastri Indoor Hall.

For me as a cub Reporter, it was a big event. I was not only assigned by The Tribune, the oldest and largest circulated English daily of north India at that time, but also Sportsweek, the then number one Indian sports weekly, besides a couple of other newspapers and magazines.

It was, needless to reiterate, a finest opportunity to see some of the top world badminton players in action at the only match played in Punjab in the history of the Thomas Cup. One of the architects to get this match to Ludhiana was the then Honorary Secretary of Punjab Badminton Association, Mr Naurattan Singh Bhalla.

Panch Gunalan, a great Malaysian badminton player, had come with his team as its manager. India had just beaten Pakistan 5-4 to earn the right to challenge the Malaysians.

The mainstay of the Indian team was young Prakash Padukone who not only masterminded India's exciting win over Pakistan but was also instrumental in building 4-0 lead for the home team at Ludhiana by winning both his singles.

His efforts, however, fell short of getting India the much needed fifth win as he and his partner Asif Parpia lost a crucial doubles game. India lost 4-5.

Also in that Indian team was Dinesh Khanna, who had in 1965 become the only Indian to win the Asian Badminton championship. Now when India has won the Thomas Cup and two of its former stars - Prakash Padukone and Pulella Gopichand - had been winners of the All-England badminton



Indian team members pose with the Tricolor after winning Thomas Cup title in Bangkok, Thailand, on Sunday, May 15

Photo / PTI

championship, no other Indian has in the last 57 years could repeat Dinesh Khanna's feat of winning the Asian title.

Born in Fatehgarh Churian, Dinesh Khanna studied at Punjab Engineering College, Chandigarh. He was also nick-named as "returning machine". Dinesh Khanna also had the distinction of reaching semi-finals of the All-England championship. Other outstanding Punjabi players on national horizon at that time included Devinder Ahuja and Satish Bhatia.

Satish Bhatia, a flyer in Indian Air Force, was known for his spin service and was perhaps the only player to have taken a game off great Rudy Hartono of Indonesia in all-England Badminton championship.

Though not many players of Punjabi descent are on view at national or international level, badminton still remains a popular game in Punjab. Some promising youngsters, both boys and girls, are now training at various academies in Bangalore and elsewhere.

For India's historic success at Bangkok, credit also goes to some promising and upcoming youngsters, including Lakshya Sen, who set the ball rolling with a win in the opening singles against Indonesia's Anthony Ginting.

Lakshya, who had become the fourth Indian after Parkash Nath, Prakash Padukone and Pulella Gopichand to reach all-England final early this year, could not perform well in earlier games, including semi-finals against Denmark, as he was down with food poisoning. After losing the first set to his more experienced and higher ranked opponent, Lakshya came back strongly to win the next two sets to give India a great start with a 1-0 lead. Lakshya won 8-21, 21-17, 21-16.

His success was followed by the Indian doubles pair of Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty as they overcame a stiff resistance from Mohammed Ahsan and Kevin Sanjaya Sukamuljo in a grueling three-setter at 18-21, 23-21 and 21-19.

Finally, it was Kidambi Srikanth, who clinched the issue for India by defeating Jonatan Christie at 21-15, 23-21.

India had created history. The journey started in 1949 was complete and India thus became the sixth nation after Indonesia, Malaysia, China, Japan and Denmark to inscribe its name on the Thomas Cup trophy.

The win, as Kidambi Srikanth, who won all his six matches in the finals, was a team effort. This was demonstrated at the award winning ceremony.

The young Priyanshu Rajawat, who played only in the 5-0 win over Canada, was sent to receive the Thomas Cup trophy by all the experienced stars, including Kidambi Srikanth and HS Prannoy.

Prannoy also played a stellar role. In the quarterfinals against Malaysia and semifinals against Denmark, he not only played the last crucial singles to take India from 2-2 to match winning 3-2 score, but also remained unbeaten. In the semis, after twisting an ankle, he continued heroically to see his team through. In fact, Prannoy had skipped the selections but was still included in the squad in spite of criticism in some quarters. But he performed to silence his critics.

Selector and former India coach Vimal Kumar called it a momentous win, which was built on how the team fought as one. "This is an achievement of pure team spirit which was never seen in the past," Kumar explained. "We always had talented and good players but would struggle. Now we also have a formidable doubles pair in Satwik and Chirag, who pulled it off in pressure matches. Similarly, both Srikanth and Prannoy delivered when it mattered," Kumar was quoted as saying in the media.

(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))

## FRANKFURT END 42-YEAR WAIT FOR EUROPEAN TITLE

Eintracht Frankfurt fans waited long enough. When Rafael Borre struck the decisive penalty for Frankfurt to win the Europa League with a 5-4 shootout win over Glasgow Rangers in Sevilla, Spain, late Wednesday, thousands of fans who packed Frankfurt's home stadium to watch in Germany flipped out. Some 60,000 supporters in and around Frankfurt's Waldstadion erupted in an ecstatic outburst of joy and relief, with fans screaming, jumping, pumping their fists in the air, hugging and roaring. Some lit flares in the center of the field, others flew giant Eintracht flags. Some even cried. City streets filled with honking cars as strangers wearing Frankfurt scarves spilled out of pubs, embraced each other and celebrated together.

## FEMALE REFEREES TO OFFICIATE MEN'S FIFA WORLD CUP FOR 1ST TIME

Female referees will make World Cup history this year by working games at a major men's tournament for the first time in Qatar. Three female referees and three female assistant referees were announced Thursday by FIFA among 129 officials selected for World Cup duty, including one man who caused controversy when refereeing a chaotic African Cup of Nations game in January while suffering with heatstroke.

French referee Stéphanie Frappart already worked men's games in World Cup qualifying and the Champions League, after handling the 2019 Women's World Cup final. She also refereed the final of the men's French Cup this month.

# IPL: Kohli finds form as RCB steamroll Gujarat

MUMBAI (TIP)

A fired-up Virat Kohli roared back to form with a fine half-century as Royal Challengers Bangalore stayed alive in the IPL playoffs race with a thumping eight-wicket win over table-toppers Gujarat Titans here on May 19.

This was after skipper Hardik Pandya scored a gritty 47-ball 62 to lift Gujarat to a competitive 168/5 after opting to bat.

Kohli (73 off 54) and captain Faf du Plessis (44 off 38) shared a match-winning 115-run opening stand before Glenn Maxwell (40 not out) went ballistic to ensure the team got home in 18.4 overs.

It took a long and winding road, but the big one did finally come along. And in their last league game where RCB couldn't afford another off-day. Kohli's 73 (54b, 8x4, 2x6), his second half-century this season, drove RCB to an eight-wicket victory at Wankhede Stadium against toppers Gujarat Titans (GT). It keeps them in the playoffs race with 16 points (Delhi Capitals, on 14, have a game in hand with a superior run rate).

Chasing GT's 168/5, anchored by Hardik Pandya's watchful 47-ball unbeaten 62, the former RCB captain dished out a typical Virat-like innings filled with glorious shots. A couple of drives off Mohammed Shami straight and over covers got him started, before a misjudged spill by Rashid Khan at deep square leg handed him the stroke of fortune he so desperately yearned throughout the season.

Having got that luck, there was no looking back. Even Rashid—who has troubled him in the past—was not



Virat Kohli of Royal Challengers Bangalore during T20 cricket match 67 of the Indian Premier League 2022 (IPL season 15), between the Royal Challengers Bangalore and Gujarat Titans, at the Wankhede Stadium in Mumbai.

spared, with Kohli using his feet for a sublime four straight back and then clearing his left leg to deposit him over midwicket. That shot got Kohli to his season's second fifty. His first, also against GT, took 45 balls. This one came off a breezy 33.

Skipper Faf du Plessis played his part in the opening act as the duo raced to a 115-run stand in 87 balls. Thus, even though Rashid dismissed du Plessis on 44 and eventually had Kohli—who completed 7,000 runs for RCB during the knock—stumped in the 17th over, the job was nearly done. Glenn Maxwell (40\*,

18b), with his straight-hitting power and reverse-sweeping touch, got them home with more than an over to spare.

RCB set the tone for their must-win game with a fine show on the field. After an expensive first over in which Wriddhiman Saha took Siddarth Kaul for 14 runs, Maxwell pulled off a brilliant one-handed catch to his right at second slip as the in-form Shubman Gill fell cheaply to Josh Hazlewood.

Matthew Wade took a liking to his compatriot and clobbered the pacer towards midwicket, but fellow Aussie Maxwell got him leg-before wicket.

## Zareen becomes World Champion, only 5th Indian woman boxer to achieve feat

NEW DELHI (TIP)

Indian boxer Nikhat Zareen lived up to the expectations as she clinched the coveted gold in flyweight (52kg) division with a facile 5-0 victory over Thailand's Jitpong Jutamas in the Women's World Championship final in Istanbul on Thursday, May 19.

Capping off a stupendous campaign that saw her dominate all her rivals, the Telangana boxer out-punched her Thai opponent to win via unanimous verdict with judges scoring the bout 30-27, 29-28, 29-28, 30-27, 29-28 in her favour.

With this win, Zareen, a 2019 Asian Championship bronze medallist, became only the fifth Indian boxer to be crowned world champion.

Six-time champion Mary Kom (2002, 2005, 2006, 2008, 2010 and 2018) Sarita Devi (2006), Jenny RL (2006) and Lekha KC (2006) are the other pugilists who have won the world title.

This is India's first gold medal in four years. Mary Kom (48kg) had won the last title in 2018.

The 25-year-old Zareen produced some beautiful combination of punches to outclass Jutamas.

Jutamas had a better start off the two



Nikhat Zareen with her World Championships gold medal (Source: BFI)

but Zareen soon made up and took the upper hand. The first round was fought on an even keel but Zareen's blows were more powerful and her punches eye catching.

The Indian took the first round comfortably but Jutamas made a strong comeback in the second.

The Thai boxer took advantage of her longer reach as she countered Zareen's

attacks from a distance, while landing punches herself to take to take the round via a split verdict.

There was very little separating the two boxers but strength proved to be a key factor as Zareen used her powerful right hand and some produced beautiful combinations in the final round to seal the deal.

As the winner was announced Zareen

was overcome by emotion and she jumped with glee and couldn't hold her tears back.

This is Zareen's second victory over Jutamas. She had got the better of the Thai boxer at the Thailand Open back in 2019 as well.

The Hyderabad pugilist has been in stellar form this year. She became the first Indian woman boxer to claim two gold medals at the prestigious Strandja Memorial in February.

Apart from Zareen's gold, Manisha Moun (57kg) and debutant Parveen Hooda (63kg) will return home with bronze medals.

A 12-member Indian contingent was sent to participate in the competition and while the medal haul has decreased by one, an Indian has been crowned world champion after four years. Mary Kom had last won the gold in the 48kg in the 2018 edition.

India's best performance in the event remains the one in 2006 when the country snared eight medals, including four gold, one silver and three bronze.

India now have won 39 medals, including 10 golds, eight silver and 21 bronze in the women's world championships. Source: PTI



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