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EVER TRUTHFUL

Will bring out a special edition to mark America's Independence on 4th of July. Articles and advertisements may please be submitted by June 25, 2022 to salujaindra@gmail.com For any questions, please call 646-247-9458

## Economy is already Collapsing, Majority of Americans Believe

**BIDEN BLAMES ECONOMIC DOWNTURN ON 'PUTIN GAS PRICE HIKE' AND TRUMP TAX CUTS MORE THAN HALF OF AMERICANS THINK THE U.S. HAS ALREADY ENTERED A RECESSION, NEW POLLING SHOWS: NEWSWEEK**

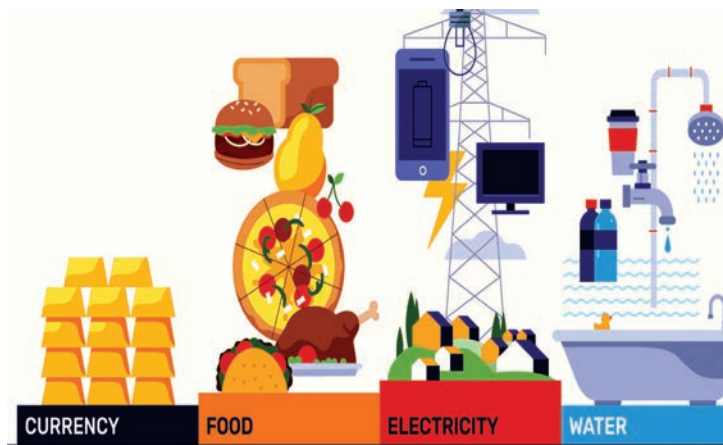


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**NEW YORK (TIP):** The latest IBD/TIPP Economic Optimism Index published on Friday, June 17, found that 53 percent of Americans think the economy has gone into a recession, and 25 percent say they're unsure. Only 20 percent believe the country is not in a recession., according to a report published in Newsweek. Even amid uncertainty, concerns have dramatically risen over the last month. Back in May, less than half of Americans-48 percent-said the economy was in a downturn while 23 percent said the U.S. was not in a recession.

Recession fears have surged in recent weeks, with inflation reaching a 40-year high last week and the Dow Jones Average falling below 30,000 for the first time in a year and a half on Thursday. This week, the U.S. entered a bear market for the first time since 2020, marking the first bear market of President Joe Biden's presidency.

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### UK TO ELECTRONICALLY TAG SOME ILLEGAL MIGRANTS TO TRACK MOVEMENTS



UK to electronically tag some illegal migrants to track movements

Photo for representational purposes only

**LONDON (TIP):** The UK government is to launch a 12-month pilot scheme that will involve some illegal migrants seeking asylum in the country being electronically tagged to keep track of their movements, it emerged on Saturday, June 18.

British Prime Minister Boris Johnson defended the plans as he said it was essential that people who arrived through dangerous routes on small boats and hidden in lorries could not simply "vanish".

Documents linked to the UK Home Office proposals suggest that the government wants to obtain data on how frequently asylum seekers abscond. "This is a very, very generous welcoming country. Quite right too. I am proud of it, but when people come

CONTD ON PAGE 48

### ANTI-AGNIPATH AGITATION SPREADS; RAILWAYS FACE THE BRUNT OF THE PROTESTS

**CENTRE ANNOUNCES 10 PC RESERVATION FOR 'AGNIVEERS' IN PARAMILITARY, PSUS BESIDES OTHER INCENTIVES**



Protesters at Ludhiana Railway station in Punjab State  
Photo / Courtesy Tribune

have also started parallel agitations against the scheme, though they distanced themselves from the violence witnessed during the protests. Tension mounted in Warangal town in Telangana during the funeral procession of Rakesh who was killed in Friday's police firing on a rampaging mob at Secunderabad railway station.

**NEW DELHI (TIP):** The protests against the Agnipath recruitment scheme to the armed forces continued for the fourth consecutive day in many parts of the country despite announcements of reservations for Agniveers in various government jobs. The Opposition parties have also started parallel agitations against the scheme, though they distanced themselves from the violence witnessed during the protests. Tension mounted in Warangal town in Telangana during the funeral procession of Rakesh who was killed in Friday's police firing on a rampaging mob at Secunderabad railway station.

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### SIKH GURDWARA IN KABUL ATTACKED- SIKH MAN AMONG 2 DEAD ; 3 ATTACKERS KILLED

**MODI, JAISHANKAR CONDEMN THE ATTACK AND DEMAND SAFETY OF THE SIKH POPULATION IN AFGHANISTAN**

**KABUL / NEW DELHI / NEW YORK (TIP):**

Afghan Interior Ministry spokesman Abdul Nafi Takor on Saturday, June 18, confirmed that attackers that stormed the Sikh gurdwara at Kart-e-Parwan area in Kabul have been killed.



The gurdwara building was hit by a bomb

Several blasts tore through the gurdwara, killing two persons, including a Sikh, and injuring seven others, while Afghan security personnel thwarted a bigger tragedy by stopping an explosive-laden vehicle from reaching the place of worship of the minority community in the war-torn country.

Takor also confirmed the death of a Sikh man in the gurdwara and an IEA soldier in the crossfire, while seven others were reported injured. Assailants belonging to ISIS Khursan had attacked the gurdwara early Saturday morning.

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Neeraj Chopra won the gold medal with his throw of 86.69 meters.

Photo Credit / PTI

### OLYMPIAN NEERAJ CHOPRA WINS SEASON'S FIRST GOLD IN FINLAND

**NEW DELHI / NEW YORK (TIP):** It is Neeraj Chopra's first gold this year after the massive 89.30m that bettered his national record earlier this week

Fighting rain and slippery conditions, Olympic champion Neeraj Chopra won the javelin throw gold with his opening effort of 86.69m at the Kuortane Games in Kuortane, Finland, on Saturday.

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Andy Singh

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# Playing with fire: On Agnipath

## THE AGNIPATH MUST BE PUT ON HOLD GIVEN THE FAILURE TO PUSH IT AS ANYTHING BUT A COST-CUTTING MEASURE

All non-officer appointments to the three wings of the Indian armed forces will be through the Agnipath (literally, the path of fire), the Centre announced on June 14. The Government has enumerated its reasons for the move that fundamentally disrupts not only the process of recruitment but also the character of the soldier. Almost on cue, a section of experts has jumped in praising the move as transformative for the country's defense. But many in the defense community and also political observers have not shied away from expressing their reservations and shock. Youth aspiring to join the forces are on the streets in protest in several States, and are even turning violent in many places. With no recruitment in the last two years due to COVID-19, these youngsters were already frustrated. With modest education and skills, they fear the new process stalls an accessible escape route from poverty. As opposed to the existing 15 years plus service followed by lifelong pension, the new

recruits, or Agniveers (literally, fire heroes) will have a four-year tenure including six months of training. Upon completion they will be given an opportunity to apply for permanent cadre and up to a fourth would be enrolled as regular cadre. The rest will exit with a tax-free purse of approximately ₹11.71 lakh and return to civil life to aid in 'nation building'. The process of recruitment will commence in 90 days with an intake of about 46,000 youngsters.

The Government claims the new scheme will help build a younger, fitter defense force, with personnel more trainable in the changing technological environment. It says it will also inculcate military discipline, ethos and skilling as a value addition, improving the prospects for those who return to civil society. To start with, there will be no permanent recruitment in the armed forces for the next four years. Critics who include many fellow travelers of the ruling BJP have raised concerns such as

potential damage to operational preparedness given the crises on the borders, with personnel hired for the short term, trained in a rush and lacking the camaraderie that professional forces possess. If a soldier's job is now turned into a contractual employment, it might not motivate aspirants who hope for job security, pension and honor. The argument that defense should not be treated as an employment guarantee scheme is rhetorically impressive, but the fact is that from the manufacturing of arms to the employment of soldiers, the sector plays a critical role in the economy. For a country like India, where unemployment remains a major policy challenge, the concerns cannot be dismissed easily. The Government also faces the very credible charge that this is nothing more than a cost cutting plan. Considering all this, the Centre must put the plan on hold and revisit it in consultation with political parties, and a wider range of experts.

(The Hindu)

# Free run for bulldozers

## BYPASSING OF DUE PROCESS A DANGEROUS TREND

The no-holds-barred demolition of the house of Mohammad Javed, the alleged mastermind of Friday's mob violence in Prayagraj, seems to be an instance of vindictive rather than administrative action. The bulldozer, which is fast becoming the most potent instrument of official high-handedness in one state after another, was brought into play barely a day after a notice was served on Javed to vacate his house, which had reportedly been built without getting its map approved by the local development authority. The brazenness of the exercise was summed up by the warning of Mrityunjay Kumar, UP Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath's media adviser, who tweeted a photo of a bulldozer demolishing a building and said, 'Rioters, remember, every Friday is

followed by a Saturday.' This comment made it obvious that a particular community was being targeted, with even the fig leaf of 'due process of law' being conveniently dispensed with in most cases.

A former Chief Justice of the Allahabad High Court, Justice Govind Mathur, has rightly slammed the illegality of the operation: 'Even if you assume for a moment that the construction was illegal, which by the way is how crores of Indians live, it is impermissible that you demolish a house on a Sunday when the residents are in custody.' The modus operandi of the authorities is becoming rather predictable - give the alleged offender little or no time to take legal recourse or reply to the notice, if at all it is issued.

There is a procedure laid down for dealing with encroachments and illegal constructions. The overzealousness of officials who act with feverish haste to raze such structures is in stark contrast to their general tendency to overlook the violations over years or even decades. Persons booked for inciting mobs or taking part in violent protests must face action as per law, but summarily 'punishing' them reeks of gross misuse of official machinery. The bulldozing of rights of citizens is a dangerous trend for our increasingly vulnerable democracy. The onus is on the judiciary to stop these sledgehammer demolitions from becoming par for the course.

(The Tribune)

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# WORLD VEGAN VISION ORGANIZES A YOGA CRUISE



Singing the American National Anthem



WVV Committee

**NEW YORK (TIP):** World Vegan Vision (WVV) organized Yoga Cruise with over 250 people onboard on Sunday June 12, 2022 from 11 AM to 4 PM in collaboration with the Indian Consulate to celebrate the International Yoga Day and the 75th Anniversary of India's Independence. World Vegan Vision also dedicated this cruise to celebrate its 30th anniversary, among other celebrations coming up at Thanksgiving.

Honorable NY State Senator Toby Ann Stavisky and Honorable Consul for Press, information and Culture Vipul Dev graced the occasion. Senator Toby Stavisky appreciated the efforts of World Vegan Vision in spreading the healthy lifestyle and presented the citation to the Founder and Chairman Mr. H.K. Shah. Consul Vipul Dev congratulated H K Shah and Mrs. Suman Munjal for conducting the Yoga cruise in celebration of the International Yoga Day coming up on June 21st as well as the 75th anniversary of India's independence.

World Vegan Vision is a 30-year-old non-profit organization with a mission to promote veganism and healthy lifestyle. The main mission of World Vegan Vision is to increase the public awareness about the 3 main aspects of Veganism: Health, Animal Welfare, and Environmental Conservation.

Cruise started from World's Fair Marina and went around Manhattan sightseeing and Statue of Liberty. The weather cooperated with God's grace and the rain stopped. Everybody enjoyed the cruise among the nice weather.

Main program started at 12 PM.



HK Shah, President WVV receiving citation from NY State Senator Toby Ann Stavisky



A view of the guests. Consul for Press, information and Culture Vipul Dev and his wife are seen seated on extreme right in the first row.

President of New York Chapter Suman Munjal in her speech welcomed and thanked all the dignitaries, trustees, past presidents, community leaders, executive committee members and the invited guests. She thanked people for coming and joined outlined the benefits of becoming Vegan. She said "There are enormous benefits of

becoming a vegan, which I personally experienced. As soon as I became vegan, I controlled my diabetes and cholesterol with vegan diet despite reducing my diabetes medicine. I want to encourage you all to become vegan. Many people feel that it is difficult to leave dairy products like milk, yogurt, butter, cheese and ghee, there are

now a variety of availability of vegan food, cookies, almond milk, coconut milk etc. and so are various delicious recipes". She urged people to at least try and see the benefits for themselves.

Founder and Chairman Mr. H.K. Shah in her speech thanked the people for their help and support for the last 30 years. He particularly thanked Mr. Deepak Shah, owner of about 25 pharma stores and Mr. Mukund Thakkar, owner of a few Indian seniors nursing homes for coming and supporting WVV with their generous donations.

Chandra Mehta Vice Chair of WVV and wife of the Trustee Mr. K. K. Mehta thanked everybody for coming and for their continued help and support, especially when she organized the 25th anniversary of Vegetarian Vision/World Vegan Vision.

Dr Shrenik Shah, President of NJ Chapter gave a talk on Yoga and Vegan Lifestyle.

Yoga and breathing exercises were conducted by Ms. Sweta Todai

Renowned Guru Dileep ji made people do Yoga.

Delicious lunch was served at 1 PM.

Cultural program related to 75th India's Independence, including Patriotic songs was conducted from 2 PM to 3 PM

Free Raffle was conducted with a lot of good prizes at around 3 PM.

People enjoyed Garba Dance, DJ music and Dance entertainment from 3 PM to 3:45 PM

Cruise Concluded at 4 PM with vote of thanks by the Secretary Tejal Raval.

(Based on a Press Release by Gobind Munjal)



"We are determined to single patrol," Mayor Eric Adams said Friday, June 17 morning - File photo

## NYC Mayor Eric Adams to bring back solo NYPD subway patrols

**NEW YORK (TIP):** Mayor Eric Adams wants the NYPD to walk patrols on city subways alone to cover more ground - which would end a safety protocol put in place in the wake of the assassination of two police officers nearly a decade ago. "We are determined to single patrol," Adams said Friday, June 17 morning. "What that is going to allow us to do is now utilize our resources in the omnipresence that we have been talking about.

"When we made every patrol a dual patrol, we cut our department basically in half," he added. Adams said the move was not a budget decision but came from Police Commissioner Keechant Sewell's internal review. The

partnered patrols were initiated in 2014 to add a layer of safety for cops after NYPD Officers Wenjian Liu and Rafael Ramos were ambushed in broad daylight while sitting in a marked police car on a Brooklyn street corner.

It was unclear when the shift would start, but the move was already facing blowback by Friday afternoon from the NYPD's largest police union in one of its first public criticisms of the Adams administration.

"Solo transit patrols were abandoned because they make it harder for cops to protect straphangers and ourselves," PBA president Patrick Lynch said. "They're even less effective now that criminals know there

are no consequences for fighting cops and resisting arrest."

One cop said the mayor's characterization was a bit misleading and believed it was a clear move to cut down on overtime in transit, where cops can log 40 to 60 hours of extra pay each month.

"They're really not single [patrols] since they're across the platform in view of their partner," the source said. "They can't stand next to each other and be on the same platform."

They added the change was aimed at reducing cops clustering on subway platforms.



**Indian American Sikh man sells fuel at \$500 loss a day to help people in difficult times**



"If you have something, you have to share it with other people," said Jaswinder Singh, owner of a Phoenix gas station.

**PHOENIX (TIP):** Amid rising costs, a Sikh gas station owner is selling fuel to his customers at a much lower price than he had purchased it.

Jaswinder Singh claimed that he was suffering a loss of about \$500 per day by selling nearly 3,785 liters of gas, reports media.

He said, "People don't have the money right now. My mother and my father did teach us to help if you have something," adding that, "he wanted to help people--not to make money--and that he was very happy doing so".

The losses have forced him and his wife to work overtime. In March, his selling price was 10 cents less than the cost of purchase. He said that it didn't matter, and that "God gave [him] the help."

Twitter users lauded Singh's gesture. "Some heroes wear turbans," one wrote.

This is not the first time Singh has helped his customers spend less money. In 2007, he reportedly bought the gas station and lowered prices during the recession the following year.

# Indian American techie Sowmyanarayan Sampath named Verizon Business CEO

**NEW YORK (TIP):** Yet another Indian American techie is set to become the CEO of the business arm of US telecom giant Verizon. Currently the chief revenue officer of Verizon Business, Sowmyanarayan Sampath will become Executive Vice President and CEO of Verizon Business, from July 1.

Sampath, who joined Verizon in 2014, will report directly to Hans Vestberg, Verizon Chairman and CEO, the company announced June 6.

"I come to this role from a very diverse background, a mindset to constantly learn and a mission to lead with kindness and integrity during this critical moment of radical digitization for our customers," said Sampath.

"The Verizon Business team is absolutely the best in the business and I am committed to ensuring we continue to build on the momentum and success we have shared together thus far. The time is now to disrupt the industry and stay laser focused on transformational outcomes for our customers and how Verizon serves their needs."

Sampath will succeed Tami Erwin, who will assume the role of Strategic Advisor to the CEO until the end of 2022.

"Sampath brings more than two decades of experience in digital transformation and critical network infrastructure on behalf of business customers to his new role at Verizon, plus extensive knowledge of products and their role in powering



Sowmyanarayan Sampath will become Executive Vice President and CEO of Verizon Business, from July 1.

enterprise growth and global security," said Vestberg. "I am proud of the Verizon Business team's drive and continued growth as part of our customer-facing transformation model. Given Sampath's distinguished Verizon tenure, this will be a seamless transition and I expect him to continue the business momentum."

Sampath who joined Verizon in 2014 has been a decisive driving force behind the organizations' commercial success, its culture of shared success and relentless focus on customer needs, a company release said. Over the years, Sampath has served in several strategic roles at Verizon. He joined as SVP of Business Transformation, transforming the

operating model of Verizon and creating two of the company's largest core initiatives - Network Transformation and OneFiber.it said.

As Chief Product Officer for the Consumer and Enterprise businesses, he led joint initiatives across networks, IoT, next-generation video, and developing the 5G product portfolio.

Sampath then operated as Chief Financial Officer at Verizon Media Group, focused on Strategy and Transformation, before becoming President of Global Enterprise, where he spearheaded the commercial launch of Verizon's 5G networks and multi-access edge computing (MEC) solutions.

## Indian-origin chef Chintan Pandya, Indian restaurant "Chai Pani" win top honors at America's most prestigious culinary awards

**NEW YORK (TIP):** A celebrated Indian-origin chef and an Indian restaurant in North Carolina serving "innovative and affordable" street food have won the top honors at America's most prestigious culinary awards that recognize exceptional talent in the food industry.

Chintan Pandya of the popular restaurant 'Dhamaka' in New York City won the James Beard Award for "Best Chef: New York State" while 'Chai Pani' in Asheville, North Carolina won the award for "Outstanding Restaurant" in the US on Monday, June 13.

The James Beard Foundation announced the 2022 Restaurant and Chef Award winners.

The James Beard Awards, "considered to be among the nation's most prestigious honors, recognize exceptional talent in the culinary and food media industries, as well as a demonstrated commitment to racial and gender equity, community, sustainability and a culture where all can thrive." CEO of the James Beard Foundation Clare Reichenbach said that the awards "recognize outstanding food and beverage professionals" and also "honor our entire industry-and the incredible resilience, fortitude, talent, and leadership so many have shown over the past two years" amid the COVID19 pandemic.

Pandya is considered among the leading and most celebrated Indian chefs in the US and has several successful restaurants and eateries under his belt.



Chintan Pandya of the popular restaurant 'Dhamaka' in New York City won the James Beard Award for "Best Chef: New York State" while 'Chai Pani' in Asheville, North Carolina won the award for "Outstanding Restaurant" in the US on Monday, June 13.

The 'Chai Pani' website states that the restaurant serves "Indian street food from five-time James Beard nominated chef Meherwan Irani.

During his acceptance speech at the awards ceremony, Pandya said it is "actually unbelievable and never imagined that I'll stand here at any point of time." Accompanied by his business partner Roni Mazumdar on stage, Pandya, referring to Mazumdar, said: "the reason he's over here is that I always came up with ideas which were very idiotic and stupid. And over the 22 years that I've been cooking, nobody believed in it.

"I met this guy five years back. And after a few years,

I realized that he's a bigger idiot and stupid than me because he believes in my ideas. And because he believed in my ideocracy and stupidity that I'm standing here, so big thanks to him." Irani, the Executive Chef and Chief Chaiwalla who was born in London and raised in India, has been nominated four times for the James Beard Award for Best Chef in the Southeast.

"His restaurants have been written up in the New York Times, Wall Street Journal, GQ, Food & Wine, Men's Health, USA Today, and Bon Appetit, among others. Not bad for a former car salesman - although his mother who still lives in India is not impressed," his profile on his website says.

In his acceptance speech at the award, Irani said that when he opened the Indian street food restaurant in Asheville, he had no formal culinary experience and had never managed a kitchen or restaurant.

"But the only guiding principle that we had was an Indian spiritual quote 'Mastery and servitude'. And this idea that if every day, every act you do is an act of service, that you can not only transform yourself, but transform the community, society around you and maybe even the world and it's been the greatest privilege of my life."

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



# Indian spiritual leader meets President Biden, suggests 'peace education' to tackle gun violence in US



Jain leader Acharya Lokesh Muni who met Joe Biden in Los Angeles on the sidelines of a Democratic Party event has suggested introducing "peace education" in American schools to tackle the rising incidents of gun violence in the country.

WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP): An Indian spiritual leader has met US President Joe Biden and suggested introducing "peace education" in American schools to tackle the rising incidents of gun violence in the country.

Jain leader Acharya Lokesh Muni, who is currently on a month-long trip to the

US, met President Biden in Los Angeles last week on the sidelines of a Democratic Party event.

"The problem is not only guns, but the problem is with the mindset, the real solution is to train that mindset inside our brain," Muni told Biden during the meeting.

"We need to introduce 'Peace Education' from the primary level itself, and if we are successful in doing this, then we will find a permanent solution," he asserted.

On May 24, a gunman stormed into an elementary school in Uvalde, Texas, killing 19 children and two teachers, in the deadliest school shooting in the US in nearly a decade.

Since that massacre, several celebrities from different walks in life have appealed for ensuring "gun responsibility" in the US.

But Muni offered a different take on this complex, deep-rooted and multifaceted issue.

"Gun is only an instrument, it is a tool, the real problem is the human brain. I am not saying this only being an Indian monk or a Jain saint. It is a scientific truth, medical science also accepts that it if the student's sympathetic nervous system is more active than either the parasympathetic nervous system, he or she will either go into an inferiority complex or become so aggressive as seen by students shooting several people in Texas and at the University of Virginia," he explained.

Gun violence is a leading cause of premature death in the US. Guns kill more than 38,000 people and cause nearly 85,000 injuries each year, according to the American Public Health Association.

## Indian American Jayathi Murthy appointed the President of Oregon State University



Jayathi Y. Murthy has been appointed Oregon State University's next president.

CORVALLIS, OR (TIP): Jayathi Y. Murthy, an Indian American leader in higher education engineering teaching, research and service, and advancing diversity, equity and inclusion, has been appointed Oregon State University's next president.

Murthy, 64, who has served as the Ronald and Valerie Sugar Dean at the UCLA Henry Samueli School of Engineering and Applied Science since January 2016, will become OSU's 16th president on Sep 9, the university announced.

Oregon State's Board of Trustees voted unanimously June 7 to approve Murthy's appointment and a five-year employment agreement to lead the state's largest public university.

A distinguished alumna of the Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur, from where she received a Bachelor of Technology degree in mechanical engineering before coming to the US, Murthy is the first woman of color to lead OSU. She will succeed Becky Johnson, who has served as OSU's interim president since May 1, 2021.

"Dr. Murthy is the right person and leader to guide this remarkable university that is enjoying tremendous momentum," said Kirk Schueler, chair of OSU's Board of Trustees.

"Under Dr. Murthy's leadership, OSU's incredible impact in Oregon, nationally and globally, and the university's commitment and progress in advancing diversity, equity and inclusive excellence will grow."

"This is the right place and right time," Murthy said. "I am very impressed by Oregon State University. OSU is well-positioned to address the many challenges in how higher education will be best provided in the years ahead thanks to the university's excellent faculty, staff and leaders, and its commitment to student success, inclusive excellence and its long experience and leadership in online education."

Murthy praised OSU for its growing national and global research prominence and its contributions to Oregon communities statewide through OSU Extension and engagement programs.

## INDIAN AMERICAN SECURITY EXPERT RADHA IYENGAR NOMINATED BY BIDEN TO TOP PENTAGON POSITION



President Joe Biden has nominated Radha Iyengar to the post of Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition and Sustainment

WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP): US President Joe Biden has nominated security expert Radha Iyengar Plumb to the post of Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition and Sustainment, the latest Indian-American to be named for a key position.

Currently serving as the Chief of Staff to the Deputy

Secretary of Defense, Plumb was nominated for the top Pentagon position on Wednesday. Prior to her appointment as Chief of Staff, Plumb was the Director of Research and Insights for Trust and Safety at Google, leading their cross-functional teams on business analytics, data science and technical research. She has also previously served as the Global Head of Policy Analysis at Facebook, where she focused on high-risk/high-harm safety and critical international security issues.

Plumb was also a senior economist at RAND Corporation where she focused on improving the measurement and evaluation of readiness and security efforts across the Department of Defense. She has also held a number of senior staff positions on national security issues at the Department of Defense, Department of Energy, and the White House National Security Council. At the outset of her career, Plumb was an assistant professor at the London School of Economics and did her postdoctoral work at Harvard. She received her Ph.D. and MS in Economics from Princeton University and holds a BS from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

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

## INDIAN AMERICANS PAY TRIBUTE TO SIDHU AT TIMES SQUARE ON HIS BIRTH ANNIVERSARY

NEW YORK (TIP): Videos of Sidhu Moosewala's songs being played at Times Square have taken the internet by storm. His fans in the United States came together to pay a heartfelt tribute to him on his birth anniversary.

Sidhu Moosewala would have turned 29 on Saturday, June 11. The viral videos show a large number of fans gathered at the New York City's iconic Times Square to celebrate the Punjabi singer-turned-politician.

Fans can be seen singing along outside the Nasdaq Market Site office, where his songs were played on the big screen. Some of these videos are also being shared with hashtag 'Justice for Sidhu Moosewala.'

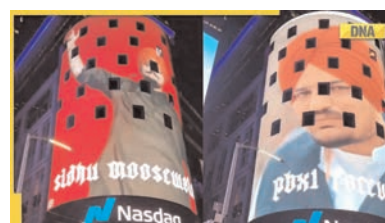
On Sidhu Moosewala's birth anniversary, several Punjabi stars remembered him through posts on social media.

### Here are some of the posts:

Singer-actor Ammy Virk had no right words to express his feelings on Sidhu Moosewala's birth anniversary. He shared a picture with the late singer and wrote, "Veeere yar nai samjh aaa rea ki likhaan... ajj de din jammeya c bhalwaan."

Sidhu Moosewala may have died but his art will continue to keep him alive and that's what actor Diljit Dosanjh believes. He wrote, "Creativity..Music Kitey Ni Jaanda HAPPY BIRTHDAY - ?????? - Shubdeep Singh Sidhu."

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



Sidhu Moosewala's pictures at the Times Square on June 11, the birthday of the star singer

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



# Vivekananda Yoga University to set up new campus on America's East Coast

WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP): Plans have been set in motion to open the East Coast campus of Vivekananda Yoga University, which had its first convocation at its Los Angeles campus over the weekend.

In a historic first, as many as 23 students received the Master of Science (yoga) degrees at the maiden convocation of the university on June 12.

"We are also planning to have something (campus of the Vivekananda Yoga University) on the East Coast," said Dr H R Nagendra, chairman of its board of trustees.

The top yoga guru, who is also Chancellor of SVYASA University, the world's first Yoga university in Bengaluru which he founded in 2002, said that he is in talks with New York-based eminent Indian-American Prem Bhandari to set up a campus of the university in the East Coast.

A decision has been taken given the increasing popularity of yoga in the US and growing demand for yoga practitioners, teachers and researchers in the country.

This is a result of the efforts being undertaken by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, he said.



Vivekananda Yoga University (VaYU), the world's 1st Yoga University outside India devoted to Yoga education and research, graduated its debut batch of 2022 Master of Science (Yoga) Program at a grand ceremony on Sunday June 12th, 2022 in Los Angeles, California where the university is located.

"Prem Bhandari has been one of our very close associates, one of the directors of the board," Nagendra said, adding that this could probably be in New York.

Welcoming the move to open the East Coast campus of the Vivekananda Yoga University, Bhandari said this will help in fulfilling the needs of this part of America.

"Dr Nagendra is a visionary leader. By establishing Vivekananda Yoga University, he is bringing yoga education

and research in a scientific way, which has never been done in the past," Bhandari said.

There is a need to bring academic dimension to yoga, said Dr Nagendra, adding that Prime Minister Modi has played a key role in the global popularity of yoga in the last one decade.

"Swami Vivekananda said that we have to bring our traditional things with a scientific approach. This is what we are doing, combining the best of the East with

the best of the West," said the top Indian yoga guru.

The Vivekananda Yoga University, jointly launched by Minister of State for External Affairs V Muraleedharan and Chairperson of the Standing Committee on External Affairs P Chaudhary during a virtual event at the Consulate General of India in New York in June 2020, is provisionally approved and licensed by the California Bureau of Private and Postsecondary Education.

According to the university, the said first batch of 23 students in the Master of Science (yoga) Programme are graduating.

This 30-credit, four-semester online programme is designed for the working professional as well as those seeking to deepen their knowledge of yoga with specialization available in Yoga Philosophy, Yoga Therapy or Yoga Research.

Dr Manjunath N K, pro vice chancellor and director research of S-VUASA also attended the convocation along with other dignitaries.

Vivekananda Yoga University is the first yoga university outside India.

(Source: PTI)

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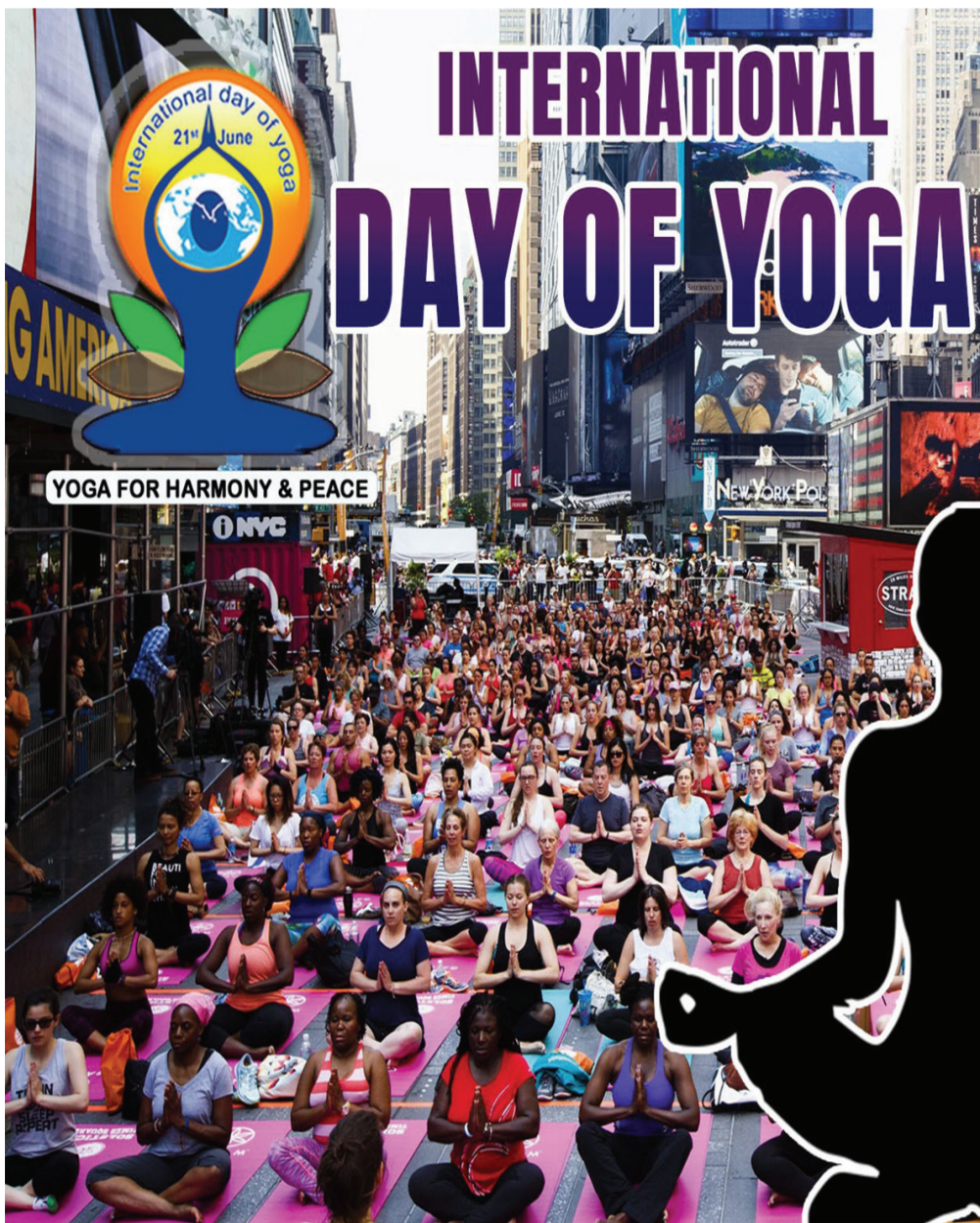
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# PM NEEDS NATION'S SYMPATHY

BY JULIO  
RIBEIRO



**"TO WIN HIM OVER, WE MUST EMPHASIZE MODI'S PERSONAL IMPORTANCE IN THE COUNTRY, AND IN THE WORLD, AND HOW IMPORTANT IT IS FOR HIM TO CHANGE TACK AND LEAD A UNITED COUNTRY INSTEAD OF AN ARMY OF 'FRINGE ELEMENTS'. MODI WILL LEAVE HIS FOOTPRINTS ON THE SANDS OF TIME ONLY IF HE GRASPS THIS OPPORTUNITY TO UNITE INSTEAD OF DIVIDE. INCIDENTALLY, THIS IS WHAT HE HIMSELF HAD SET OUT TO DO INITIALLY. ALL ARMCHAIR INTELLECTUALS, SECULAR LIBERALS, URBAN NAXALS, PSEUDO-SECULARISTS AND MINORITIES WILL WELCOME HIS CHANGE OF HEART, IF IT OCCURS. PERHAPS THE RSS SARSANGCHALAK WILL ALSO COME OUT OPENLY AND RENEW HIS ADVICE TO GOOD HINDUS NOT TO GO SEARCHING FOR SHIVALINGAS IN EVERY MOSQUE IN THE COUNTRY. AND THAT WOULD REALLY CAP OUR EFFORTS."**

And Pity Sultan Mahmud On His Throne - so wrote the great Persian poet, Omar Khayyam, in his Rubaiyat. It was the recurrence in my fading memory of that line in verse 10 of his epic that made me think. I have been mostly critical of my PM and I tried to figure out why. My world of friends today are divided between pro and anti-Modi. And since I disapprove of hate politics, I had placed myself squarely in the second lot, till the inevitable happened and Modi was compelled to distance himself and his party from its own spokespersons!

Modi will leave his footprints on the



The PM is in a serious catch-22 situation Photo / Facebook

sands of time only if he grasps this opportunity to unite instead of divide. This is what he himself had set out to do initially.

Spokespersons are a powerful lot. Many have been promoted to Cabinet rank, like Nirmala Sitharaman and Smriti Irani. Nirmala merited the lift in her political fortunes, but Nupur Sharma, despite her large and committed following, was consigned to the boondocks, along with a senior man whose name does not figure so frequently in the news.

The sidelining of Nupur is causing tremors in an otherwise well-oiled machine. Modi has the sagacity to weather that storm but what about its fallout? Will the BJP core constituency survive the shock of the swift action taken against Nupur to appease Muslim nations who employ tens of thousands of our nationals, supply the crude oil vital to our economy and import into their lands Indian products that we need to sell in order to survive?

And it is in this context that I felt genuine pity for my PM! On mature consideration of his achievements and failures I have concluded that like the Sultan Mahmud of Omar Khayyam, our PM needs his nation's sympathy and backing. Modi was elected by the people of India with an overwhelming majority, albeit in the 'first-past-the post' system where the majority of voters who cast their votes may not have supported his party's candidates. But the fact remains that in our system of

elections, planned on the Westminster model, he won hands down. Every Indian has to accept him as her or his PM and shore him up in a crisis.

My friends will argue that the crisis was of his own making. His deafening silence when venom was spewed on the minority community and bulldozers used to flatten their property was what led to this crisis. I will not be able to refute these arguments, but I have thought of many reasons to support him at this time of reckoning.

The first and foremost reason is that Modi is a born leader. His power of convincing the masses through his oratorical skills are unparalleled. No opposition leader on the political horizon today has this gift. True, the gift can be misused to turn black into white, at times, but the fact that he gets off with it is also a skill, though one may debate whether it is a sign of political cunning or mere skullduggery.

The second argument in his favor, and one which cannot be contradicted, is his commitment to the country and its progress. Modi works 18 hours a day, has no dependent except an old mother in Gujarat. Hence, pressure on civil servants from 'family' is nil and that is a true blessing in our version of democracy. Modi himself, like his predecessor, Manmohan Singh, has never been accused, or even remotely suspected of corruption. His party, like all parties, requires huge amounts of money to operate. It makes its pile from electoral bonds that big corporate

houses purchase from designated banks. There are many NRIs also who are happy to support his party.

The PM is in a serious catch-22 situation. He and his party have gained electorally from the hate they have disseminated in society. Besides the enthusiasm it engendered among core supporters, even the subaltern castes have been won over. A great mass of Hindus today support the BJP because each one of them has been fed on hate for the Muslims. As if a people thought to live on hate alone can prosper.

Modi is a shrewd politician. Single-handedly he has won the elections for the saffron party. From its committed, assured vote of 21 per cent of total votes cast countrywide, the BJP went up to 31 per cent in 2014 and 37 per cent in 2019. The incremental vote has come from the marginalized who he has won over with welfare measures that only far-left parties are known to take.

But Modi, like most populist politicians, is conscious of his own standing in people's hearts and his image in the popular lexicon. He knew immediately that he had slipped when the Gulf's Muslim sultans, who he had so assiduously cultivated, spoke up in unison against the hate spewed by his party spokespersons!

By suspending one and sacking the other, he managed to appease the Muslim rulers, but by virtue of the punitive action he took against those he incorrectly described as 'fringe elements', he opened simultaneously a can of worms. Nupur Sharma has a vast following among BJP's core supporters and this section has revolted. It is now the duty of the more enlightened population to wean Modi away from the politics of hate that is destroying this country and defend him against the fringe elements that he wittingly or unwittingly empowered.

To win him over, we must emphasize Modi's personal importance in the country, and in the world, and how important it is for him to change tack and lead a united country instead of an army of 'fringe elements'. Modi will leave his footprints on the sands of time only if he grasps this opportunity to unite instead of divide. Incidentally, this is what he himself had set out to do initially.

All armchair intellectuals, secular liberals, urban Naxals, pseudo-secularists and minorities will welcome his change of heart, if it occurs. Perhaps the RSS Sarsangchhalak will also come out openly and renew his advice to good Hindus not to go searching for Shivalingas in every mosque in the country. And that would really cap our efforts. Keep the fingers crossed.

(The author is a retired IPS officer)



# It is time for common sense politics: Tom Suozzi, a candidate for Governor of New York, fits the bill

By George  
Abraham



**"THEREFORE, WHAT IS LACKING IN ALL THESE POLICIES IS SIMPLY COMMON SENSE. POLICIES SHOULD BE MADE TO IMPROVE PEOPLE'S LIVES, NOT DISRUPT THEM. WHETHER DEALING WITH INCREASING CRIME IN THE NEIGHBORHOODS OR FIGHTING INFLATION AT THE GAS PUMPS, WE NEED POLITICIANS WHO USE COMMON SENSE. THAT IS WHERE TOM SUOZZI STANDS OUT FROM OTHERS WHO ARE VYING FOR THE JOB OF THE GOVERNOR OF NEW YORK STATE. HE TRULY BELIEVES THAT EVERY AMERICAN SHOULD HAVE THE SAME RIGHT TO LIFE, LIBERTY, AND PURSUIT OF HAPPINESS. IF SOMEONE IS OUT THERE TO DESTROY THAT AMERICAN DREAM, HE/SHE SHOULD BE HELD ACCOUNTABLE."**

Looking at the video, one can only witness with horror how a gang targeted Virani Jewelers on the Oak Tree Road in Iselin, New Jersey a few days ago, smashed and grabbed hundreds of thousands of dollars' worth of gold jewelry in a matter of minutes, and disappeared. We should not see this as an isolated incident, and it is not. What we are witnessing is not just crimes being normalized but the beginning of a total breakdown of the law enforcement mechanism around the country, a prelude to an end of civil society.

The Asian Indian community, known for its hard work and disciplined living, is increasingly wary of the rising crime in their neighborhoods. Even riding the subways in New York has become a life challenging experience as an ever-increasing number of people are pushed in front of the oncoming trains, and some have paid with their dear lives. Robberies are on the increase, and people are once again afraid to walk the streets.

As someone who has arrived on these



Jumaane Williams, Kathy Hochul, Tom Suozzi debating

shores five decades ago, I could recollect a timeframe in the past when one could not walk in the Time Square without being harassed by drug kingpins, pimps, or prostitutes. Morningside Park uptown was known as a killing field. It could have been considered a death sentence if one dared to walk at night in a certain part of the city. Yes, crime was rampant, and people were simply fed up. My own experience included three muggings and one at gunpoint, and I had to thank my parents for their prayers. Many of us know how that situation was turned around with the election of Rudy Giuliani as Mayor of New York. As an adage goes, it is obvious that an election has consequences.

However, once again, politicians are playing with people's lives. With the so-called progressive ideology, some appear to be sanctioning laissez-faire to commit the crime and disrupt the lives of innocent people who just want to live peacefully and bring up a family. Many immigrants who have come ashore have fled crime and violence in their own homelands. America was a breath of fresh air, a nation that was respectful of individual liberty and freedom. The constitution guaranteed protection for the lives and property of every citizen.

On unfreedom in a Laissez-faire state, a Cambridge study said the following: "when liberty is defined as a negative constraint or intrusion to the person, the most obvious threat to liberty comes from the powers of the State. In this view, the State, except when it enforces contracts and punishes crimes, is the negative agent of liberty: its inaction ensures a sphere of free action for individuals. A Laissez-faire state, the State that does not extend beyond the enforcement of criminal and

private law, seeks to justify its inaction on the grounds that it protects the liberty of individuals".

Defunding the police and deactivating law enforcement systems would only lead to chaos, as we are witnessing today. There is no doubt that there are underlying social issues to be tackled regarding why our young people are becoming increasingly violent. The country may also need to look at the increasing level of drug addiction, rising mental illness among the young, and the easy availability of guns. There should be a bipartisan effort to deal with such exigencies and find long-term solutions to these ever-simmering problems. History is there to learn from and be inspired or unlearn evil deeds of the past, never to repeat. However, it should not be used as a cover to avenge past grievances or exact concessions from a detached new generation.

A family who lost his loved one on the subway tracks of New York City to a vagrant is not interested in a lecture from a politician leading a privileged life in a safer neighborhood with high levels of security. What happened to common sense in dealing with day-to-day issues? The cash bail reform, as they call it, turned out to be a disaster for ordinary people who happen to live within the inner city who these repeat offenders increasingly terrorize. The New York Legislature passed bail reform in 2019, which eliminated cash bail and judge's discretion of setting bail for most misdemeanor and nonviolent crimes. The State says this is to keep people out of jail as they wait for their day in court.

America was mostly run by pragmatic visionaries who were willing to change their points of view if that would harm

the country. However, today, the country is so polarized that the ideological battles are waged with reckless abandon. Whether in State or national capitals, it has become a zero-sum game for politicians and bureaucrats. Rahm Emmanuel's famous line of 'you never want a serious crisis to go waste' has become the mantra for so many among the elites who run the country today.

Some say Fossil fuel is terrible, and they want to save the planet. They tend to forget that the earth has provided us with fossil fuel, and we should use it responsibly. We should go for it when we can safely switch to cleaner and renewable energy with enough supply to meet the demand. However, some ideologues want to wreak misery and havoc upon the nation to fulfill their utopian dreams. The ordinary people are once again becoming the guinea pigs for the ill-conceived policies and plans architected without public scrutiny.

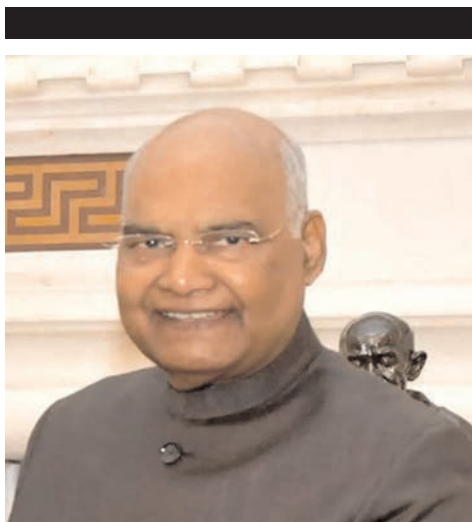
Therefore, what is lacking in all these policies is simply common sense. Policies should be made to improve people's lives, not disrupt them. Whether dealing with increasing crime in the neighborhoods or fighting inflation at the gas pumps, we need politicians who use common sense. That is where Tom Suozzi stands out from others who are vying for the job of the Governor of New York State. He truly believes that every American should have the same right to life, liberty, and pursuit of happiness. If someone is out there to destroy that American dream, he/she should be held accountable.

(The author is a former Chief Technological Officer, United Nations, and Vice Chairman of Indian Overseas Congress USA. He can be reached at gta777@gmail.com)



# Presidential election: Who will occupy Rashtrapati Bhavan?

BY PRABHJOT SINGH



**CONSIDERING THE DIVERGENT VIEWS AND CONFLICTING AMBITIONS, IT WILL BE A TALL ORDER FOR THE OPPOSITION TO DEVISE A UNITED FRONT AND COHERENT STRATEGY. ALL TOLD, THE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION WILL BE A DEMONSTRATION OF HOW POLITICAL FORCES ARE ALIGNED AND ITS OUTCOME DETERMINING THE POLITICAL FUTURE OF THE COUNTRY.**



In less than two months, India will decide on its new President. Who will succeed the incumbent Ram Nath Kovind? is a question that may not be very difficult to answer. The reason: the electoral college as it stands is structured on the basis of strengths of different political parties, both in Parliament and State assemblies. The ruling NDA is at a slight advantage.

President Ram Nath Kovind's term will end on July 24. The Constitution requires that the process to elect his successor has to be completed before the completion of his term.

The Election Commission that oversees the conduct of the Presidential election has already set in motion the process by announcing the schedule.

The electoral college for the presidential elections comprises 4,809 members, that includes 233 Rajya Sabha and 543 Lok Sabha members, and 4,033 MLAs of State Assemblies.

Each member has a certain vote value based on the strength of the population he or she represents.

According to the schedule, voting will be held on July 18. The total value of the votes that will be up for grabs is: 10,86,431.

The BJP-led NDA, based on its present strengths, has 5,25,706 votes, around 20,000 votes short of the majority mark.

Though there are efforts to bring all Opposition parties together for the Presidential elections but ideological differences may still keep them fragmented.

Who all are in the run for the Presidential election? Both the ruling and the opposition parties will formally start holding parleys soon to deliberate upon possible and commonly accepted choices for both President and Vice-President offices.

As of now, the possibility of the BJP-led NDP nominee occupying the Rashtrapati Bhavan looks strong.

Of the State parties, both the Biju Janata Dal with 31,686 votes and the YSR Congress with 43,450 votes have conveyed to the BJP-led NDA government their wholehearted support. The Odisha CM Naveen Patnaik, on May 30, and YSR Congress chief and Andhra Pradesh CM Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy, on June 2, met the PM, reportedly committing their votes to the BJP's choice for the highest office.

BJP president J.P. Nadda and Union Defense Minister Rajnath Singh have been authorized to hold consultations with the NDA partners, UPA constituents and Independent MPs regarding the Presidential election.

On the other hand, the West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee called upon leaders of all other political parties and Chief Ministers for an Opposition meeting at the Constitution Club in New Delhi on June 15. The agenda of the meeting is to put up a



Rashtrapati Bhavan, New Delhi

common nominee from the Opposition for the highest office. Even the Congress President Sonia Gandhi, now convalescing at a Delhi hospital after being diagnosed positive for Covid-19, has been getting in touch with leaders of other political parties, including NCP leader Sharad Pawar over the same issue.

Though the outcome of the Presidential election is more or less predictable, the contest will still be closely watched and monitored. Not only within the country, but all over the globe. India is still rated as one of the fastest growing economies and a new power on the world horizon. Its stand on the Russia-Ukraine war has given its own global identity.

The Presidential election will have many layers of political meaning and symbolism, as the new President will assume office at a time when the country is faced with a crippling religious polarization and other challenges.

Incidentally, it will be the second successive presidential election to be held without J&K's legislators. J&K had lost the status of a State as it became a UT in 2019.

In the last election, the BJP played the trump card of fielding a Dalit for the top post. What card it plays this time remains to be seen. Like last election, the election strategy of the BJP for the 2024 general elections will more or less get reflected in the choice of its candidates, both for President and Vice-President, for the ensuing polls. Will it be projecting Presidential candidate from one of the minorities to reiterate the party's endeavor to build its secular image or something else?

While the action of the Narendra Modi government will be watched with bated breath, it will also be a litmus test for the Opposition parties. Will they be able to put up a united show? is a million-dollar question.

Both Congress and AAP are ruling in two States each. The Congress, however,

has the highest number of votes among the non-BJP parties. The possibility of a Congress sponsored candidate getting approval of the Opposition looks remote.

The TRS chief and Telangana CM, K. Chandrashekar Rao, and the TMC leader and West Bengal CM, Mamata Banerjee, want to lead the Opposition coalition. They both may be unwilling to concede the leadership to the Congress. Till now, they have not taken any public stand but going by their immediate past relations with Congress, their choice may fall elsewhere.

Same is the case with the Aam Aadmi Party. The AAP convener and the Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal. Now working hard to get a foothold in both Haryana and Himachal Pradesh, has been relentless not only in his attacks on the BJP, but is strongly opposed to the Congress.

Also, the stand of Shiromani Akali Dal will be watched with tremendous interest. The party has been decimated to side-lines and is presently in alliance with Bahujan Samaj Party. Will it go be what Mayawati decides or take its own stance in the July 18 polls?

Considering these divergent views and conflicting ambitions, it will be a tall order for the Opposition to devise a united front and coherent strategy. All told, the presidential election will be a demonstration of how political forces are aligned and its outcome determining the political future of the country.

(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))



# Dancing as Artistic Yoga - Laura De La Garza Noble

BY  
ASHOK VYAS



When you meet Laura, the light of joy sprinkles near her as she talks about her fulfilling journey as a dancer. She started at a very early age and convinced her parents about her dream. The discovery for love a dancing as a toddler took her to competition studios in Mexico. She found her body movement as a way to discover and convey her feelings.

"Do what you want to do but have at least a college degree." This instruction by supportive parents led Laura to Rutgers University. She feels acceptance of artists and conviction about following your passion in the artistic field has more acceptance in the USA than Mexico.

Rutgers University gave her an exciting exposure to world dance forms. While she had practiced Belle and intuitively knew the movement of body and flow and how to lend after doing circles, observing her body in the space from within was needed to do it right in coordination with other dancers.

She also learnt about Bollywood dances, became aware of the story telling in Indian classical dance 'Kathak'. The rigorous practice to learn for four to five hours every single day after school prepared her for hard work. She looks at dance as a way to express herself, Laura gives credit to this artform for her personality traits. She is proud of being a dancer, choreographer, educator and Vinyasa Yoga trained fitness instructor.

While performance is the key experience for joy and satisfaction as a dancer, she conveys a theme through dance as a choreographer. Laura has been a part of the National Dance Water Project, which started in Florida. A prestigious project aimed at increasing awareness about the value of each and every drop.

She believes that the 'Whole is just as strong as the sum of its parts', when this idea is applied to a group dance and the vision of the choreographer, it means finding the right type of dancers for the mood of the dance. Laura explains that like voice, movement is a kind of voice for the dancer,

according to her, different textures and rhythms define different dancers. If the project is focusing on delicate movements with very straight forward lines, it should have artis, who complement that need.

Laura has worked on projects highlighting the domestic violence issue of women in Mexico. She is very clear in her mind about the difference in the dancing approach of different dancers, she says, as people express themselves differently, some are high pitched, some are low pitched, some talk fast, some talk slower; same with movements, body language of every individual is unique.

It is the choreographer's job to harness that texture. They need to make sure the movement is complementing the story or theme of the dance.

One scenario could be where movements may be created by the choreographer to highlight the music. In another scenario, if the goal is to highlight violence against women in Mexico.

She needs specific dancers to compliment the texture needed for the project.

She was a part of the National Dance Water Project, which started in Florida. This project works with different dancers . Awareness for water pollution and essential water. This project is movement specific, texture of movement mimicking the texture of water.

A lot of work ethic came from dance. She is trained to work with discipline and the world of dance has no place for laziness. Laura's professionalism comes from training in dance, she is a perfectionist. Laura explains, "everything has to be exact and perfect in the group dance with proper, well-practiced synchronization of movements.

When she reflects on her love for dancing, she recollects, her being good and consistent at school. The constant movement of her attention from school to homework to dance made her more flexible without losing the intensity of focus on moving forward with zeal.



Laura is always hungry to learn more, she feels that this curiosity has helped her in developing the focus and flexibility to keep reinventing herself.

Laura is always hungry to learn more, she feels that this curiosity has helped her in developing the focus and flexibility to keep reinventing herself.

She didn't let covid dampen her spirit. She redesigned her approach to meet and tailored herself as per the covid impacted structure in the art field.

Laura De La Garza Noble shared her understanding of Yoga with practical tips in one of her inspiring Instagram posts, " Actively engage (not only physically but mentally) in anything and everything you do today. Try and see if that changes the way you approach unassuming or unpleasant tasks in the future.", the post continues with this profound message, which becomes even more relevant around 'International Day of Yoga on 21st June', " Overcoming obstacles starts with breathing and calming your mind."

( Heramba Features, New York)

(Ashok Vyas, a well-known TV anchor with ITVGOLD is a poet and promoter of Indian Culture in multiple creative ways. He is Founder of Heramba Art and Culture Center, NY. He can be reached at [insight4creativity@gmail.com](mailto:insight4creativity@gmail.com))

## Pluralism in America

BY PROF.  
INDRAJIT SALUJA



The conflicts we have in society, among family members, communities, Republicans, and Democrats, are because we don't listen to each other. Whether we agree or disagree, at least we must know and value different points of view.

We were searching for information about Pluralism and came across the site Center for Pluralism, which defines Pluralism as "Respecting the otherness of the others in religion, politics, society and the workplace." Jainism calls it Anekantavada - "No-one-perspective-ism," resisting philosophical dogmatism and recognizing the good qualities of many different points of view. The Quran teaches how to conduct civil dialogue respectfully and never undermines the value of other religions, and it says in verse 109:6, "You have your religion, and I have mine." Indeed, almost all religions have similar teachings; the analogy would be, "My mother is dear to me as yours is to you" There are no

arguments about that, so should be the arguments about religions.

We came across an article, "Poisoning your kids," and reached out to Dr. Mike Ghouse, founder and the president of the Center for Pluralism. We asked him about how he raised his children. Ghouse said he took his children to different places of worship to familiarize them with other religions and cultures. He did not want his kids to grow up to be bigots. He adds, "If my kids were to run for a public office, they would have a smooth sail, as they are not biased towards any American."

Ghouse's daughter asked questions at every place of worship; she would nudge him and ask, "Dad, what are they saying?" Realizing that a six-year-old will not get the whole meaning, he would filter it into a six-year-old's language and say, "Sweetheart, they are saying God is great, parents are great, and we must thank them for the food, clothes, home, and good life." This nudging and explaining business went on at every place of worship.

Ghouse continued, "Finally, at the DFW Hindu Temple, Ekta Mandir in Irving, Texas, we were chanting the bhajans in the sanctuary along with some 50 others, the nudging came, and my standard response went out. She screams in the middle of the

hall, "Gee, Dad, God can be worshipped in so many different ways," to thunderous applause. That is Pluralism in religion, as we understand it.

Cultural Pluralism got currency after the 9/11 tragedy. When a few troublemakers were throwing epithets at the Sikh Turbans, Muslim women's Hijab, Arab dresses, and other wears, we did not have the proper education then. Every human being wears something or the other on their head to cover from heat, sandstorms, rain, snow, or for other reasons. The type of cover evolves out of the material availability, environment, and culture. None is inferior or superior. They all serve the intended purpose.

We loved the statement on their site, "If we can learn to respect the otherness of the others and accept the God-given uniqueness to each one of us, then conflicts fade and solutions emerge."

We asked him where the mingling of races, faiths, and ethnicities would lead to?

Dr. Ghouse replied, "Ten years from now, wherever you go, be it a place of work, worship, playground, school, bus, train, restaurant, theater, or other public gatherings, you will find a display of diversity in every which way. You will also see people of different faiths, races, and ethnicities interacting, working, studying, intermingling, playing, and marrying each other.



Dr. Mike Ghouse, the man behind Center For Pluralism

"These interactions lend to misunderstandings and are bound to create conflicts. As responsible members of the society, we must prevent such conflicts so that each member can live securely with their faith, culture, gender, race, sexual orientation, or ethnicity."

The website mentions its mission: "The Center for pluralism is committed to building cohesive societies, a society where every human feels secure about one's uniqueness, whatever that might be."

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# International Yoga Day 2022

International Yoga Day is observed every year on June 21st to raise awareness about the importance and benefits of yoga. This year, the world will commemorate the 8th International Yoga Day. Without a doubt, yoga brings body, mind, and spirit into balance.

Yoga is a form of exercise that entails eating a specific diet, keeping a specific physical posture, and practicing breathing techniques. World Yoga Day 2022 is also known as International Yoga Day 2022. Every year on this day, people gather in yoga studios or other public spaces to practice yoga together. International Yoga Day is observed every year to raise awareness about the many benefits of yoga.

## History of International Yoga Day 2022

Prime Minister Narendra Modi first presented the idea of an International Day of Yoga during his speech to the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) on September 27, 2014. On December 11, 2014, the United Nations General Assembly declared June 21 to be International Yoga Day or The World Yoga Day. International Yoga Day has been observed on June 21st since 2015.

## Theme of International Yoga Day 2022

'Yoga for Humanity' is the theme for this year's International Day of Yoga. Pandemics have not only been difficult for our physical health, but they have also had a negative impact on our mental health. As a result, health issues such as depression and anxiety are on the rise. Therefore, the need of addressing mental health concerns has risen, and adapting to yoga in such a situation has become a must.

## Significance

Yoga is incredibly beneficial to one's physical and mental health. Yoga focuses on the correct functioning of the body and mind. Yoga Asanas that help people become more flexible and strong, improve their health, and boosts confidence. Yoga is useful to a person's overall health. Anxiety, concerns, problems, and other issues can all be helped with yoga. It maintains the harmony of the body, soul, and mind. Yoga can help people overcome a number of health problems if practice on a regular basis. Yoga encourages self-awareness, personal power, and self-healing. It helps to reduce harmful thoughts in the head as well as toxins in the body, while also improving flexibility, brain function, and overall health. The United Nations has declared Yoga for Humanity as the theme for this year's International Day of Yoga which will be observed worldwide on Tuesday, 21 June. The COVID-19 pandemic had an unprecedented impact on human health. Apart from the high death toll, it brought with it psychological suffering and mental health issues such as depression and anxiety. It lifted the veil on the inherent mental health challenges faced by humans across the globe.

Yoga was a crucial method that the world adopted in order to stay healthy and fight social isolation during the pandemic.

## Yoga Day Celebrations by Permanent Mission of India in New York

Inauguration will be done by President



of General Assembly H.E. Mr. Abdulla Shahid on 20 June.

A Yoga-demo session titled "Yoga with the Masters" will be hosted at the North Lawns of the UN Headquarters from 5:30 p.m. Eastern Standard Time on 20 June.

Organizations such as Indian Raga, Isha Yoga, Bhakti Center and Integral Yoga Institute will host a yoga dance session, yoga sessions and a meditation session during the event, according to the official program published by the UN.

## International Day of Yoga on Washington Monument Grounds

The Embassy of India in Washington DC will celebrate this year's International Day of Yoga earlier than the official date set by the UN. Yoga celebrations at the Washington Monument Grounds will resume in-person after a two-year hiatus on 18 June at 8:30 a.m. EST. The UN's theme of "Yoga for Humanity" will be reflected through the yoga practices. Members of Friends of Yoga organization will lead the group in practicing different asanas.

"Over a billion people see yoga as an enhancer of the physical and mental well-being," said Ambassador Sudhakar Dalela, Embassy of India's Deputy Chief of Mission, according to media reports.

Chicago Indian Consulate's International Yoga Day Celebration

The Consulate General of India, Chicago will be hosting an event to commemorate International Yoga Day on Saturday, June 18 at 9:30 a.m. CST at Grant Park, Chicago, Illinois.

In partnership with Friends of Yoga, the consulate will host yoga sessions outdoors in order to create awareness about the advantages of performing yoga for the mind, body, and soul.

## International Day of Yoga in Mountain View, California

The Ananda Yoga Palo Alto organization will host an outdoor celebration of the International Day of Yoga on Tuesday, 21 June in Downtown



Mountain View in the outdoor plaza area.

The sessions will explore key concepts of yoga and explore the ways in which to achieve a healthy and happy life as taught by the Indian yoga master, Paramhansa Yogananda. Participants will learn tools and techniques to combat anxiety and stress, improve sleep quality, enhance meditation practice, and understand the nuances of a yogic diet.

## Yoga Day in Hamburg, Germany

The Consulate General of India in Hamburg, Germany will be celebrating the 8th International Day of Yoga at the Hamburg City Hall on Tuesday, 21 June from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. local time.

Sessions will pertain to tapping into the science and practice of yoga to not only understand the common yoga protocol but also manage stress with yoga. Other sessions include: Meditation & Relaxation by Yoga Vidya Center, Hamburg; Yoga for Kids by Dr. Mishra Academy, Hannover; Musical Yoga by Yoga Studio Akash Nair, Hannover and lectures on utilising the science of

Ayurveda for healthy living.

As a part of India's 75 years of independence or "Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav", special celebrations are being planned for the upcoming International Yoga Day, 2022. The country will host a mass Common Yoga Protocol (CYP) demonstration on 21st June 2022 in as many as 75 national-level iconic sites. Additionally, the states in India will host special yoga events in 75 important locations.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will lead the International Yoga Day celebrations from the Mysuru Palace Grounds on June 21, Ayush Minister Sarbananda Sonowal said on Friday.

The event will also witness the participation of Karnataka Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai.

Nearly 15,000 yoga enthusiasts will perform yoga, and the event will be organized with the support of members of parliament, departments of the Government of Karnataka, ministers, revered yoga gurus and some other institutions, Sonowal said at a press conference.



# YOGA ASANAS CHART

**SARVAUNGASANA (a)** Shoulder Stand

**SARVAUNGASANA (b)**

**MATSYAMUDRA** Fish Gesture

**MATSYASANA** Fish posture

**MATSYENDRASANA** Spinal Twist posture

**VIIRASANA** Brave posture

**CAKRASANA** Wheel posture

**DHANURASANA** Bow Posture

**UTKATA PASHCIMOTTANASANA** Difficult back-upwards posture

**DVISAMAKONASANA** Double right-angle posture

**SHIVASANA** Shiva posture

**VAJRASANA** Thunder posture

**SIDHASANA** Siddha posture

**KUKKUTASANA** Cock posture

**GOMUKHASANA** Cow's Head posture

**HALASANA** Plough posture

**VAJRASANA** Thunder posture

**BADDHA PADMASANA** Bound Lotus posture

**BHASTRIKASANA (c)** Bellows posture

**MAYURASANA** Peacock posture

**KURMAKASANA** Tortoise posture

**SAHAJA UTKATASANA** Simple chair posture

**SHALABHASANA** Locust posture

**BHUJAUNGASANA** Snake posture

**SHASHAUNGASANA** Hare posture

**BHASTRIKASANA (a,b)** Bellows posture

**JANUSHIRASANA** Head-to-knee posture

**ARDHASHIVASANA** Half Shiva posture

**DIIRGHA PRANAMA** Long Bowing posture

**YOGAMUDRA** Yoga posture

**TULADANDASANA** Balance posture

**USTRASANA** Camel posture

**UTKATA KURMAKASANA** Difficult Tortoise posture

**UTKATA VAJRASANA** Difficult Thunder posture

**JATILA UTKATASANA** Difficult Chair posture

**PADAHASTASANA** Arm and Leg posture

**PADMASANA** Lotus posture

**SHAVASANA** Corpse posture

**KARMASANA (part 1)** Action posture

**MANDUKASANA** Frog posture

**BHAVASANA** Ideation posture

**GRANTHIMUKTASANA** Knot-loosening posture

**GARUDASANA** Bird posture

**KARMASANA (part 2)** Action posture

**JINANASANA** Knowledge posture

**RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ASANAS**

1. Before practising asanas, do Vyapak Shaoca (half bath).
2. Do not practice asanas in an open place.
3. No smoke should be allowed to enter the room.
4. Practise Asanas on a blanket or mat.
8. After practising Asanas, you should massage your arms, legs and entire body, especially your joints.
9. After the massage is finished, remain in shavasana (corpse posture) for three minutes.

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*"If Hindus don't maintain Hinduism, who shall save it?"*

*"If India's own children don't cling to their faith, who shall guard it?"*

*"Indians alone can save India, and India and Hinduism are one."*



# Modi has externalized his domestic agenda of spreading Islamophobia in India

BY DAVE  
MAKKAR



**Right now, India's global reputation as a viable Democracy and a Secular nation is under scrutiny as it has descended into a major milestone of steep descent into darkness of bigotry and Islamophobia. Modi that is known to invoke values of pluralism abroad, has remained silent as Indian democracy is humiliated with international backlash. It looks like Modi has successfully externalized his domestic agenda of targeting minorities, especially the 205 million Muslims with impunity and hate speeches, and with official sanctions. Prime example is Anurag Thakur who was elevated from a Junior Minister to Independent Minister after he made a remark in Jan 2020 targeting Muslims for protesting against Citizenship (Amendment) Act, "Desh ke gaddaron ko, goli maaro saalon ko (Shoot the traitors of the country)"**



Hindu Heart Throb aka Hindu Hriday Samrat aka Hindu King aka Prime Minister Narendra Modi

For the first time in the 75 years history of Independent India, the government headed by BJP's Modi is on the biggest diplomatic firefighting mission of apology to 15 Majority-Muslim nations and 57-member Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) and the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) over the derogatory remarks made on Prophet Mohammed by leaders of the ruling BJP.

This time it was not just Indian Muslims speaking out and protesting on the streets all across India but on June 5, 2022 the governments of Qatar, Kuwait, Oman, Iran, Saudi Arabia, Jordan, Libya, Turkey, Maldives, Iraq, Indonesia, United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Pakistan and Malaysia issued stinging statements condemning the comments. Some countries are demanding written apologies besides calling the Indian Ambassadors to register their protest. In some countries, there were massive street protests, and in Qatar, "Boycott India" campaign was also trending on social media.

Dinner to be hosted by Deputy Emir of Qatar for India's VP Venkaiah Naidu was cancelled. VP Naidu was on a 3-day state visit to Qatar. Qatari Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Al Muraikhi warned in a statement that "insulting remarks would lead to incitement of religious hatred and offend more than 2 billion Muslims around the world."

In response to this diplomatic row, the Indian embassy in Doha released a statement insisting that the comments were made by "fringe elements" and "do not, in any manner, reflect the views of the Government of India".

The 57-member OIC . condemned the remarks and said it came in a "context of intensifying hatred and abuse toward Islam in India and systematic

practices against Muslims." OIC also urged the United Nations to take necessary measures to ensure that the rights of minorities are protected in India. The Spokesperson for UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres has called for a halt to any sort of violence, especially the one based on perceived religious differences and hatred, amidst protests in India over the controversial remarks against the Prophet by two now- suspended BJP leaders.

This gigantic diplomatic backlash comes on the heels of US Secretary of State Antony Blinken naming India while releasing the State Department's International Religious Freedom Report (USCIRF) on June 2, 2022. Blinken said: "in India, the world's largest democracy and home to a great diversity of faiths, we have seen rising attacks on people and places of worship." Rashad Hussain, the Ambassador-at-Large for IRF called out the Indian government officials, who he said are "ignoring or even supporting rising attacks on people and places of worship." The report also mentioned several Hindu extremist leaders; like Yati Narasinghanand, Maa Annapurna Bharti, Swami Paramatmananda, and BJP's UP CM Yogi Adityanath, a close ally of PM Modi.

USCIRF has recommended U.S. Government to designate India as a "country of particular concern," or CPC, for engaging in and tolerating systematic, ongoing, and egregious religious freedom violations, as defined by the International Religious Freedom Act (IRFA); Impose targeted sanctions on individuals and entities responsible for severe violations of religious freedom by freezing those individuals' or entities' assets and/or barring their entry into the United States.

## Shoot the Traitors of the Country

**Desh ke Gaddaron ko, Goli maaro Saalo ko**



Desh ke gaddaron ko, goli maaro saalon ko (Shoot the traitors of the country)": Anurag Thakur, Sports Minister of India

Right now, India's global reputation as a viable Democracy and a Secular nation is under scrutiny as it has descended into a major milestone of steep descent into darkness of bigotry and Islamophobia. Modi that is known to invoke values of pluralism abroad, has remained silent as Indian democracy is humiliated with international backlash. It looks like Modi has successfully externalized his domestic agenda of

targeting minorities, especially the 205 million Muslims with impunity and hate speeches, and with official sanctions. Prime example is Anurag Thakur who was elevated from a Junior Minister to Independent Minister after he made a remark in Jan 2020 targeting Muslims for protesting against Citizenship (Amendment) Act, "Desh ke gaddaron ko, goli maaro saalon ko (Shoot the traitors of the country)"

After assuming power in 2014, Modi has been allowing rather encouraging without punishment; Islamophobic remarks by members of his government, his Party BJP, state governments under BJP, Hindu organizations, Media & educational institutions. In all the BJP ruled states Muslims & Christians are openly being denied basic human rights, right to justice as well as right to worship. Muslims, especially male and female student leaders & activists are maliciously prosecuted under the directions from BJP ruled states or Modi's central government. They are beaten & lynched in broad daylight. Muslim Houses are demolished in (Israeli style) Collective Punishment for valid protests termed as riots or turned into riots by BJP or RSS or other Hindu organizations or as unauthorized structures even if they are there for 30-40 years & some have government documents. Hindu owned houses with similar or worst status in the same vicinity are left untouched. On social media, female Muslim journalists, activist and social workers have been ferociously trolled and issued threats of the worst kind, including rape. Muslim women have been put up for sale in fake auctions. Islamophobic memes and hashtags, taunting and tainting Muslims in India has become the norm.

Also, since 2014, Islamic structures including Mosques are being targeted under the excuse that they were built 5-9 centuries ago after demolishing Hindu Temples. UNESCO World Heritage Sites like Taj Mahal, Jama Masjid, Qutub Minar etc. are being disputed as built on Hindu temples. BJP ruled Karnataka that is referred as Silicon Valley of India has gone one step further and started doing surveys of Christian Churches also to establish if they were built after demolishing Hindu temples. Whereas "The 1991 Act says that a mosque, temple, church or any place of public worship in existence on August 15, 1947, will retain the same religious character that it had on that day - irrespective of its history - and cannot be changed by the courts or the government".

( Photo M 3 here)

Modi's government has maintained a studied silence or at the most has always blamed "fringe elements" for such actions. They do not hesitate even to include their own National Spokesperson currently Chairman of Tourism Department, "Sambit Patra as Fringe Element".

All this appears to have emboldened ordinary Hindus to beat Muslims in public, go online and tarnish Muslims with impunity. They publicly cry about being the victim and think they are entitled to revenge for what happened from 7 th to 17 th century. This itself



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**THE FRINGE ELEMENTS...??**



Fringe elements? Home Minister Amit Shah, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Chief Minister of UP Yogi Adityanath

constitutes a grave danger to the protection of human rights and may lead to further prejudice and marginalization, which will create a cycle of violence and hate against Indian Muslims including public lynching. Role of Indian Media in spreading Islamophobia in India:

**WHY "GODI MEDIA" IS SPREADING HATE & FAKE NEWS??**



The Godi Media of India

Prime Time debates in India since 2014 have become a platform to encourage Hindu hate mongers to speak ill about other religions. The anchors encourage hatemongering and allow BJP or RSS or other Hindu organizations spokesperson to speak rubbish that is corrupting the moral and social fiber of the society and can incite violence against believers of other religions.

These media houses are called as Modi's Godi (lapdog), bikau (saleable), dalal (agent) and bharkau (inflammatory) Media This is how a major section of India's mainstream media is labelled by most Indians, especially Muslims, Christians and low-caste Hindus, opposition parties, as well as 1/2 a dozen national media -- all because of their brazen support for the ruling party BJP, its ideological parent RSS and the government.

Their journalists and anchors routinely engage in spreading hatred towards the country's 205 million Muslim population and Islam, thus nourishing Islamophobia. They also demonstrate a clear bias against the country's low-caste Hindus, the poor, and less privileged and weaker sections of society. They openly favor the rich and powerful that owns or finance their channels. Shamelessly they promote Hindutva & Hindu Rashtra-- an ideology that seeks to establish the hegemony of Hindus and the Hindu way of life -- spearheaded by Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS), its ruling political front Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). Any criticism of the BJP is narrated as "anti-nationalist" and any individual challenging or demanding answers from the party is labelled "anti-Indian".

**Here is Media ranking in descending order in spreading Islamophobia in India:**

**REPUBLIC TV-** co-founded and majority-owner Arnab Goswami is the channel's editor and news anchor. Known for opinionated reporting in favor of BJP & RSS and their Hindutva-Hindu Rashtra agenda including uncritically reproducing government

narratives, avoiding criticism of BJP/RSS figures, and presenting their political opponents in a negative light. He shamelessly shows his bias. He is the King; "No one can beat him in spreading hatred against Muslims and fake news". On top of that no one can match him in shouting contest.

**CNN NEWS 18** owned by Poster Boy of Gangster Capitalism, billionaire Mukesh Ambani. A supporter & 2nd top financier of Modi, RSS, Hindu Rashtra; owns 65 channels: English, Hindi and 14 regional language news, business, entertainment, music, movies, youth, Kids, factual entertainment and shopping channels. Its star news anchor Amish Devgan is a Clone of Republic TV's Arnab in shouting and arrogance, and routinely indulges in Muslim bashing and spreading fake news.

**AAJ TAK** - Owned by Arun Purie's India Today Group, Aaj Tak has three of the worst Islamophobic anchors in the Indian media -- Anjana Om Kashyap, Rohit Sardana and Sweta Singh. They are notorious for their vitriolic attacks against Muslims and spreading communal hatred. They routinely indulge in Muslim bashing, while show deferential surrender to anything the BJP does.

**INDIA TODAY (ENGLISH)** Also owned by Purie's India Today Group with main anchors Rajdeep Sardesai and Rahul Kanwal. Rajdeep is mildly anti-BJP and a bit critical of Modi. Rahul Kanwal in 2020 became a full-time supporter of Modi, BJP & RSS and its ideology after a punishment for being openly critical of Modi.

**WION (WORLD IS ONE NEWS)** - operated by Essel Group, owns nearly two dozen Zee channels (some of them merged with Sony TV in Feb. 2022). Its chairman Subhash Chandra was a BJP supported Rajya Sabha MP till June 11, 2022. He has been promoting its Hindutva aka Hindu Rashtra agenda and anti-Muslim tirades. His star prime time news anchor Sudhir Chaudhary was jailed for demanding bribes for not publishing news; is also the editor-in-chief. He is the Hindi version of Republic TV's Arnab as he openly supports the BJP, RSS and Modi.

**TIMES NOW-** owned by Pro BJP/RSS Sahu Jain family of Times of India News paper's Group. Rahul Shivshankar Editor in Chief, Navika Kumar Gp Editor; openly support BJP and RSS by promoting its Hindutva aka Hindu Rashtra and anti-Muslim agenda

**INDIA TV** -- Founder Rajat Sharma and his wife Ritu Dhawan. Rajat was a member of ABVP (Student Wing of RSS) & very close friend of late Arun Jaitley, the most corrupt Modi's BJP Finance Minister in the history of India. He openly supports BJP and RSS by promoting its Hindutva aka Hindu Rashtra and anti-Muslim agenda.

**ABP NEWS** -- Owned Pro BJP Aveek Sarkar of Anandabazar Patrika Group. It used to be neutral, but it turned pro-BJP a couple of years ago. after the Modi government objected to criticism of the BJP and Baba Ramdev by its star journalists Punya Prasoona Vajpayee and Abhisar Sharma. Both were fired and Rubika Liyaquat joined to replace them to became the commander-in-chief of its news anchors. A Muslim, with angry rhetoric against Muslim leaders and do not allow any criticism of Modi or BJP or RSS or their policies.

**REPUBLIC BHARAT** -- This sister channel of Republic TV is funded by the BJP and RSS. Its anchor Sucherita Kukreti, a female version of Arnab Goswami in shouting and spitting the venom of hatred against Muslims.

**SUDARSHAN NEWS** -- Its chairman, Suresh Chavhanke, knowingly disseminates anti-Muslim content and manufactures fake news with communal overtones, which has earned him titles such as "bigot" and "dangerous". He was a long-term RSS volunteer and associated with ABVP. And prefers that the news programs over his channel be viewed as opinionated campaigns.

**NEWS NATION** -- Deepak Chaurasia, the consulting editor of this channel, which is owned by News Nation Network, is known as a "puppet" of Modi.

He always makes fun of all the political parties except the BJP and its allies. He is notorious for his over-the-top coverage of news issues and for being uncritical of the BJP government.

**NEWS24 (INDIA)** -- Owner B.A.G. Films and Media, promoters are Anurradha Prasad, sister of BJP Union Minister R S Prasad, along with her husband, Pro BJP Congress politician Rajeev Shukla.

**Ethnic Indian media in USA**

Unfortunately, 97% of the Ethnic Indian media in USA are like their counterparts in India. Their anchors are no less than Arnab Goswami or Amish Devgan or Sudhir Chowdhary or Navika Kumar or Anjana Om Kashyap etc. when it comes to spreading Islamophobia and fake news while promoting BJP & RSS's Hindutva & Hindu Rashtra agenda in USA.

A glance over the few important Islamophobic incidents in last 31/2 years that has led to the unprecedented international outcry against India for the Islamophobic comments made by ruling party BJP's 2 senior leaders about Prophet Muhammad.

**JUNE 2018**, Michelin-starred chef Atul Kochar was fired from JW Marriott Marquis, Dubai after he tweeted that followers of Islam had "terrorized" Hindus for 2,000 years.

**SEP. 2018** in a public meeting, India's Home (Interior) Minister Amit Shah compared the illegal Bangladeshi Muslims migrants with "Termites".

**APRIL 2019** Home (Interior) Minister Amit Shah in an election rally again said, "Infiltrators are like termites in the soil of Bengal." "A Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) government will pick up infiltrators one by one and throw them into the Bay of Bengal," referring to illegal Muslim immigrants from neighboring Bangladesh.

**APRIL 2019**, BJP's Communal & a Criminal Hindu Priest CM Adityanath Yogi of UP the most populous state of India, spoke about a "green virus" in an election speech in reference to Muslim voters who he said were being wooed by opposition parties. In another election speech he referred Muslims as the "Taliban"

**APRIL 2019**, BJP MLA Mayankeshwar Singh from UP's Siddharthnagar in an election speech threatened Muslims with bodily harm for effectively just existing. "If Hindus in Hindustan wake up the beard will be pulled and made into a choti (a tightened braid). If you have to live in Hindustan you have to say 'Radhe' (chant Hindu God's name), else, like those who went to Pakistan during the partition, you can go too... you have no use here,"

**DEC 2019**, PM Modi made a Islamophobic remark targeting Muslims protesting over Citizenship (Amendment) Act (CAA); "those indulging in arson & can be identified by their clothes"

**FEB. 2020**, Modi's Junior Minister Anurag Thakur while leading a pro CAA and National Register of Citizens (NRC) rally called a slogan, "Desh ke gaddaron ko, goli maaro saalo ko (Shoot the traitors of the country)" targeting the ongoing Muslim women's 24X7 sit in protest against CAA & NRC at Shaheen Bagh, Delhi. After Thakur's rally, the city saw deadly communal riots which left 53 dead and 700 injured - majority of them Muslims. Shaheen Bagh protest (Dec 15, 2019 to March 24, 2020) was a peaceful sit-in protest in Delhi lead by women only. Anurag Thakur was rewarded and elevated to a Minister with independent charge in July 2021.

**NOV. 9, 2019**, Travesty of justice in Babri Masjid vs Ram Janma Bhumi; in a unanimous verdict the Supreme Court of India under CJ Ranjan Gogoi who was retiring on Nov. 17, 2019; awarded the land of disputed Babri Masjid to Hindus. However, the court added that the demolition of the Babri mosque was against the rule of law but do not propose any prosecution for those responsible for the demolition; basically acquitting all the 49 accused high ranking leaders of instigating the mob. Babri Masjid was built in 1528-29 and demolished by the Hindu mob under the

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top leadership of BJP, RSS, VHP & other militant Hindu organization in 1992. It led to riots in different parts of India that killed nearly 2,000 people. All the Hindu organizations led by BJP had started instigating the Hindus from 1989 to demolish the Mosque by making them believe that the land is the "Birthplace of Lord Ram". On the other hand, Hindu scriptures say that "Kan Kan mei Vyape hein Ram" meaning "Lord Rama permeates every atom of this universe".

Ever since the Modi-led BJP came to power in 2014, India has seen deepening social and religious divisions. The demand for Ram Janam Bhumi became louder and clearer. Chief Justice Ranjan Gogoi was rewarded by Modi regime in March 2020 by making him Rajya Sabha (Upper House of Parliament) member after awarding a verdict in favor of Hindus in Dec 2019.

**APRIL 2020**, BJP MP Tejasvi Surya landed in a row for a tweet he had posted in 2015 with an "objectionable and disrespectful" comment about Arab Women. "95 percent Arab women never had orgasms in last few hundred years: Tarek Fatah." Prominent businesspeople, lawyers and commentators in Dubai and Kuwait condemned his remarks. He deleted the tweet.

**APRIL 2020**, When Indians living in Dubai began posting anti-Tablighi Jamaat congregation in Delhi as a super spreader of Covid, Princess Hend Al Qassimi warned that "anyone that is openly racist and discriminatory in the UAE will be fined and made to leave". Under Modi's Home Minister Amit Shah, attendees of Tablighi Jamaat congregation in Delhi were accused of spreading the Covid-19 virus. Criminal cases were registered against several attendees including foreign nationals in the courts across India. In August 2020, the Bombay HC quashed three FIRs against 35 petitioners – 29 of them foreign nationals. The court observed: "A political government tries to find the scapegoat when there is pandemic or calamity and the circumstances show that there is probability that these foreigners were chosen to make them scapegoats. Some of the charge sheeted Muslims neither attended the Delhi congregation nor were they inclined to the Tablighi ideology, as evidenced in the case of eight charge sheeted individuals, whose case was dismissed by the Delhi's Saket district court on 25 August 2020. The SC CJ Sharad Bobde observed "evasive" and "in that the Government of India's affidavit filed in response to petitions challenging the discriminatory and communal coverage of the Tablighi Jamaat incident by some sections of the media. He termed it as "unnecessary, nonsensical" averments. On 16 December 2020, Chief Metropolitan Magistrate of a Delhi Court, Arun Kumar Garg, acquitted the 36 foreign nationals from 14 countries of all the charges levelled against them.

**AUGUST 2021**, BJP leader and Supreme Court lawyer Ashwini Upadhyay made anti Muslim slogans including calling for Muslims to be murdered, in a rally in favor of the uniform civil code, at Jantar Mantar, Delhi.

**SEP. 2021**, BJP's UP CM Adityanath Yogi in a public rally said that prior to his government's formation in 2017, the ration (subsidized food grains) meant for the poor would get 'digested' by those who utter "Abba Jaan" as a communal reference to Muslims. In several parts of India, Muslims use the phrase "Abba Jaan" to refer to their fathers or as an endearment.

**OCT. 2021**, Uttarakhand BJP president Mandan Kaushik told the media, "Our party line is clear that no [religious] conversion [from Hinduism] will be tolerated."

**NOVEMBER 2021**, BJP Leader Ashwini Upadhyay was featured on a panel on the imaginary bogey of 'thook jihad (spit jihad)' where he said, these thook (spitting) jihadis are either being taught all this by their parents or at their madrassas (schools)." He even suggested that Muslim men may be mixing other body fluids in the food they prepare for sale to Hindus.

**DECEMBER 2021**, Upadhyay was a notable BJP presence at the now-notorious Dharma Sansad which took place at Haridwar. Known Islamophobic Militant Hindu Priest Yati Narsinghanand called Muslims demons threatened to eliminate them and said he is striving to create an India "free of Islam".

**SWAMI PRABODHANAND GIRI** said the country now belongs to Hindus. "This is why, like in Myanmar, the police here, the politicians here, the army and every Hindu must pick up weapons, and we will have to conduct this cleanliness drive," he said while referring to Muslims. "There is no solution apart from this."

**MAA ANNAPURNA BHARTI**, alias Pooja Shakun Pandey, "Nothing is possible without weapons. If you want to eliminate their population then kill them. Even if 100 of us are ready to kill 20 lakhs of them (Muslims), then we will be victorious, and go to jail."

**SURESH CHAVHANKE**, owner of Militant Hindu channel "Sudarhan News", administered an oath to turn India into a Hindu-first country. "We make a resolution until our last breath: We will make India a Hindu nation, and keep it a Hindu-only nation," he said. "We will fight and die if required, we will kill as well." He then tweeted a video of the oath to his half a million followers.

**The event concluded with an oath-taking which called for the "protection" of the Hindu religion against all those who might pose a threat to it 'by any means necessary.**

**FEB. 2022**, BJP MLA from UP's Dumariganj, in a video said, "Since I became an MLA, they (the Muslims) have stopped wearing skull caps. If you vote for me again, they will start wearing tilaks." Again on February 15, 2022 panel on India TV, he interrupted a Muslim panelist to hurl religious slurs and abuses against him, threatening to feed pig's milk (derogatory for Muslims) to the panelist, whom he described as a "b\*\*\*\*\*d dog and an illegitimate child of Hindus". He was seen in another video threatening Muslims and accused all Hindus who did not vote for him of being Muslims. He said, "Any Hindu who doesn't vote for me has Miyan (Muslim) blood in his veins. He's a traitor. He is a b\*\*\*\*\*d son of Jaichand. He's a sinner son of his father...I am warning you this time...traitors of Hindu religion will be destroyed." Further he goes on to threaten Muslims by saying, "Listen Muslims, if any Hindu is insulted and if you look at any Hindu girl, then I'll get you beaten so much and cut so much...that...". The latter part of his warning drowns out amidst 'Jai Shri Ram' chants.

**APRIL 2022**, Bihar BJP MLA Haribhushan Thakur Bachaul said that Muslims should be set ablaze just as Hindus burn Ravana effigies during the festival of Dussehra. Earlier in Feb 2022, he had also said that Muslims living in India should be stripped of "Voting Rights" and treated as second-class citizens.

**MAY 2022**, 3 BJP MLA's K.G. Bopaiah, Appachuranjan and Suja Kushalappa from BJP ruled Karnataka state Assembly were present at the "Arms training camp" organized by the anti-Islam militant Hindu "Bajrang Dal". A viral video on social media showed youths, appearing to be minors, in possession of airguns, trishuls (Tridents) and other weapons.

**MAY 2022** in BJP ruled MP, a 65-year-old Hindu with cognitive disabilities Bhawarlal Jain, was beaten to death by a BJP worker Dinesh Kushwaha suspecting him to be a Muslim.



**MAY 27, 2022**, BJP National Spokesperson & SC Lawyer Nupur Sharma's made derogatory and insulting comments against Prophet Mohammad during a debate on Times Now with Anchor Navika Kumar on the dispute over the Gyanvapi

**The now suspended BJP spokesperson Nupur Sharma whose comment on Prophet of Islam led to a tsunami of protests**

mosque. Pro BJP Navika Kumar allowed Sharma to make insulting remarks about the prophet and his marriage. The party's Delhi media head, Naveen Kumar Jindal, subsequently tweeted another offensive comment about Prophet Muhammad, the most revered figure in Islam. This has incensed Indian Muslims and a week later outraged more than a dozen Islamic nations. Hindus claim that the Gyanvapi Mosque in the Hindu holy city of Varanasi is built on the ruins of a grand 16th Century Hindu shrine - destroyed in 1669 by Mughal emperor Aurangzeb - and some are now seeking a court's permission to pray within the mosque complex.

**MAY 27, 2022**, Former Karnataka Deputy CM and present BJP MLA Eshwarappa issued a statement to media that 36,000 temples were destroyed to build mosques over them. He stated that all of them would be reclaimed by Hindus legally.

**JUNE 5, 2022**, repeat offender for Islamophobic comments including calling for genocide & derogatory comments against the Father of the Nation, Mahatma Gandhi; Maa Annapurna Bharti alias Shakun Pandey inked a letter "with her blood" to India's President Kovind, asking him to take action against Friday Muslim prayers, which she claims are an "anti-Hindu congregation". She said, "Friday is not a day for prayers. Instead, it is a day for terrorism. The Friday congregations by Muslims are not for worship but for the genocide of non-Muslims, loot, arson and sexual harassment. Hence, the Akhil Bharat Hindu Mahasabha demands that on Fridays, the entry of Muslims in small mosques should be restricted only to 10 Muslims while 25 Muslims should be allowed in bigger ones.

If all the above Islamophobic actions were done by the "Fringe Elements" then who is promoting and supporting "Islamophobia" in India? The answer is not difficult to find. It is India's internationally known Hinduwadi and domestically known as Hindu Heart Throb aka Hindu Hriday Samrat aka Hindu King aka Prime Minister Narendra Modi...!! Under parliamentary system fashioned after the Westminster system the prime minister is the presiding and actual head of the government and head/owner of all the departments and executive power. The head of the state, the president in India, holds a largely ceremonial position, although often with reserve powers. In case of current President Kovind, it is a well-known fact that he only speaks the language of PM Modi.



Poster Boys of Gangster Capitalism of India. L to R: Rattan Tata, Mukesh Ambani, and Gautam Adani

The next question is who is financing Islamophobia and Modi that is representing each and every Hindu organization that wants to make India a "Hindu Rashtra"? The answer is the gangster capitalist of India that is supporting Modi. The current top 3 Poster Boys of Gangster Capitalism of India are Gautam Adani, Mukesh Ambani, and Rattan Tata. Their net worth under Modi's 8 years rule has gone up by 175% to 350% and now they own all the major industries, including defense and service sector of India.

**Modi's eminence is due to the surrounding flatness of India** : Unfortunately, here the flatness means; illiterate, communal & criminal Modi's high reputation is only because of the terribly low morals, ethics, honesty and talents left in India these days. Since 2014, India under Modi has become a sad story. Over 60% Indians are gladly willing to pay Islamophobic Tax, even if it begets them unemployment, poverty, hunger and even starvation! No one can save a nation in death wish mode.

(Compiled by Devendra Makkar from various internet sources & writings of prominent journalists)



# US President Joe Biden says his relationship with India is 'very good'

WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP): US President Joe Biden said on Friday, June 17, said that he shared a "very good" relationship with India and has visited the country twice, as he left on a weekend trip to his home in Delaware.

The president told reporters at the White House that he had been briefed on the three Americans who have been missing in Ukraine.

"I don't know where they are. But I want to reiterate. Americans should not be going to Ukraine. I say it again. Americans should not be going to Ukraine," he said.

In response to a question on India, Biden said, "I have been to India twice and will be back. My relationship with (India is) very good".

Biden's remarks came a day after State Department spokesperson Ned Price said the US is there for India and reiterated that New Delhi's relationship with Moscow developed over several decades when Washington was "not prepared or able to be a partner of choice" for the Indian government.

Price was responding to a question on whether the US was talking with the Indian authorities as India and other Asian nations are becoming an increasingly vital source of oil revenues for sanctions-hit Russia, despite strong pressure from America.

"We have had a number of discussions



Biden said that he shared a "very good" relationship with India and has visited the country twice,

with our Indian partners, and the point that we have made is that every country is going to have a different relationship with Moscow," Price told reporters at his daily news conference on Thursday.

Russia has overtaken Saudi Arabia to become India's second-biggest supplier of oil behind Iraq as refiners snap up Russian crude available at a deep discount following the war in Ukraine, industry data showed recently.

India, the world's third-biggest oil-importing and consuming nation, has long defended purchases of crude oil from Russia following President Vladimir Putin ordering the invasion of Ukraine. The oil ministry had last month stated

that "energy purchases from Russia remain minuscule in comparison to India's total consumption." Price said India's relationship with Russia developed over several decades.

"It developed over the course of decades at a time when the United States was not prepared or able to be a partner of choice for the Indian government," he said.

"That has changed. This is a legacy of a bipartisan tradition now that has been the case for more than two decades. It goes back really to the Clinton administration, certainly to the George W Bush administration, where the United States has sought a partnership with India, including when it comes to the security realm," he said.

This is not a partnership built in the course of days, weeks, or months, Price said.

"I mentioned before that India's relationship with Russia was built up over the course of many decades, as countries reorient their relationship with Moscow, as we have seen many of them do. This will be a gradual process," he said in response to a question.

"But throughout it all, we have made clear to our Indian partners that we are there for them. We are ready and able, and willing to partner with them. And we've done just that," Price said. *(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)*

## TEXAS GOVERNOR REAPPOINTS INDIAN-AMERICAN BUSINESSMAN TO TOP UNIVERSITY POSITION



Texas Governor Greg Abbott has reappointed Ashok K Mago to the University of North Texas System Board of Regents.

AUSTIN, TX (TIP): Texas Governor Greg Abbott has reappointed eminent Indian-American businessman and philanthropist Ashok A K Mago to the University of North Texas System Board of Regents.

This is the second consecutive term for Mago, who is also the founding chairman of the Greater Dallas Indo-American Chamber, now known as the US-INDIA Chamber.

The Board of Regents is the governing body for the University of North Texas System.

Mago, who has roots in Haryana, is a recipient of the Pravasi Bhartiya Samman in 2010 and Padma Shri in 2014. He was instrumental in the founding of the Senate India Caucus, which is the only country-specific caucus in the United States Senate.

A board member of the Primary Care Clinic of North Texas, Salvation Army of North Texas Advisory Board, and UT Southwestern Simmons Cancer Centre Community Advisory Board, Mago has previously served as director on the Dallas Fort Worth International Airport Board and as a member of the Dallas Regional Chamber Board and Executive Board.

The Indian-American also previously served as the Commissioner of the City of Dallas Plan and Zoning Commission and is the past governor of District 2X1 Lions Club International.

A distinguished alumnus of Leadership Dallas and the University of Texas at Dallas, Mago received a bachelor's degree from Delhi University and a Master of Business Administration from the University of Texas at Dallas.

(Source: PTI)

# Achievements of Indian-Americans reflection of India-US relationship, says Ambassador Sandhu

WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP): Applauding the Indian Americans for their accomplishments in almost every walk of life in the United States, India's top Ambassador to the US said Saturday their achievements are a reflection of the bilateral relationship between the two countries.

Addressing a gathering of eminent Indian-Americans from across the country, the first-of-its-kind since the COVID-19 pandemic, at India House in Washington DC, India's Ambassador to the US Taranjit Singh Sandhu applauded the achievements of this influential ethnic community, which constitutes just one per cent of the population of the US.

"All you have played a very significant role in transforming the India-US relationship, especially in the last two-and-a-half decades. Your achievements are actually a reflection of the India-US relationship today," he said.

"The most wonderful part of this evening is that we have people across the United States, across the spectrum, who have come here," he said.

The largest gathering of Indian-Americans at the India House in recent years included people from the Biden Administration, from the US State,



Ambassador Taranjit Singh Sandhu applauded the Indian American community for their "very significant role in transforming the India-US relationship" Photo / Twitter

Capitol Hill, to those heading professional organizations, and also top entrepreneurs, scientists, academicians, civil servants, civil society, artists, and many students.

"I can see that there is hardly any sector which has not been represented here today. We have with us the cybersecurity czar of the White House. We have the global health security czar at the White House. We have the drug control czar of the administration,...all Indian-Americans," he said.

"We have a number of CEOs of multinational companies this evening, hardworking professionals, spirited entrepreneurs, self-made farmers from California and other states, members of the think-tanks, leading academics and scientists. We also have even nonprofit workers who are helping women in distress," he said.

"All this shows the strength of the Indian American diaspora in the United States. And we are very proud of your achievements," Sandhu said amidst applause from the gathering.

The reception was also attended by the Indian Consul Generals from its other diplomatic missions in the US in Houston, San Francisco, Atlanta, Chicago and New York.

In his address, the top Indian diplomat praised the community leaders for their support towards India.

Sandhu said the India-US relationship has solid bipartisan support. "I've seen this relationship closely for the last 25 years. Whether it was President Clinton or President George W, and President Obama, President Trump and now President Biden, there is a steady upward trajectory," he said. *(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)*



# Know how President of India is elected

On July 18, elected MLAs and MPs across the country will vote to elect India's 15th President. Under Article 62(1) of the Constitution, "an election to fill a vacancy caused by the expiration of the term of office of President shall be completed before the expiration of the term". President Ram Nath Kovind's tenure ends on July 24. The counting of votes will take place on July 21 and the new president will take oath on July 25.

The notification for the presidential election has been issued on June 15 and the last day of filing a nomination will be June 29. The papers will be scrutinised on June 30. The last day to withdraw the nomination papers will be July 2.

"The Election Commission, in consultation with the Central Government, appoints the Secretary General of Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha, by rotation, as the Returning Officer," the EC said.

"Accordingly, the Secretary General, Rajya Sabha will be appointed as the Returning Officer for the present election to the Office of the President," it added.

## Here's the process of electing a President

According to Article 55 of the Constitution, the President of India is elected by members of the Electoral College consisting of elected Members of Parliament and that of all the state assemblies including the National Capital Territory of Delhi and the Union Territory of Puducherry. It follows the system of proportional representation utilising a single transferable vote system and secret ballots.

Nominated members of Parliament, state assembly and members of legislative council are not eligible to vote.

Importantly, the members who are nominated to either House of Parliament or the Legislative Assemblies of State including NCT of Delhi and UT of Puducherry are not eligible to be included in the Electoral College.

This year, a total of 776 Members of Parliament and 4,033 MLAs will vote in the Presidential elections. The total value of votes is 10,86,431. The value of votes of MLAs is 5,43,231 and MPs are 5,43,200.

## Who is eligible?

To be eligible for the election, the person: must be a citizen of India; have completed the age of 35 years; and is qualified for election as a member of the House of the People (Article 58).

The person will not be eligible if he/she holds any office of profit under the Government of India or the Government of any State or under any local or other authority that is controlled by any of the state governments.

## What's the process?

The process starts with the nomination. The Presidential candidate



should get his nomination paper subscribed by at least 50 electors as proposers and at least 50 electors as seconders. Importantly, the elector should not subscribe to more than one nomination paper either as a proposer or as a seconder.

The candidate is required to deposit security, which is Rs 15,000. It is supposed to be made along with the nomination paper.

More than four nomination papers can not be filed by or on behalf of a candidate or received by the Returning Officer.

## Where does the voting take place?

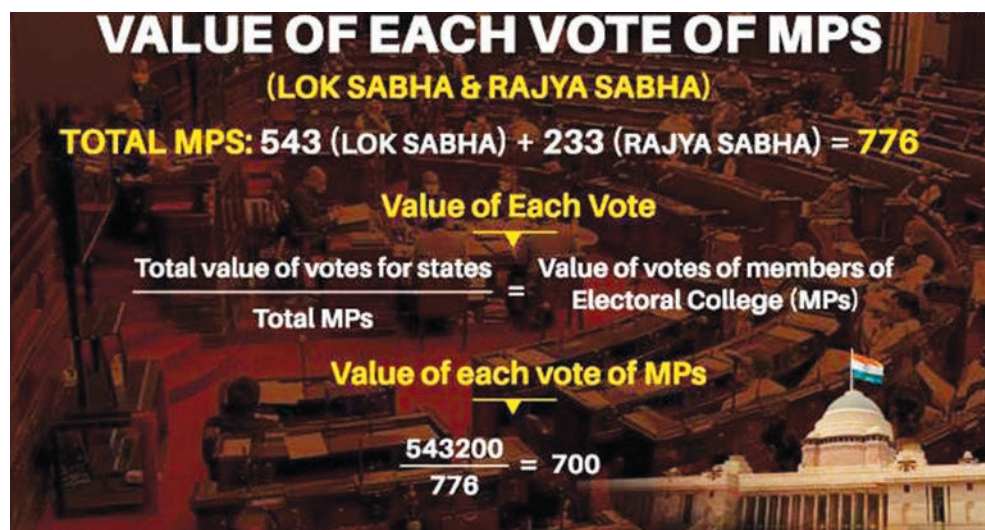
Voting for the Presidential election will take place in Parliament and the premises of state assemblies, while Rajya Sabha Secretary-General will be the returning officer. MPs cast their vote in Parliament and MLAs in their respective state assemblies.

## Process of voting

The election follows proportional voting which means that the value of each vote varies as it based on the post. The value of each vote based on the population is also predetermined for an MLA vote. This year, the total number of electors for the election will be 4,809 - 776 MPs and 4,033 MLAs.

## Who will be India's next President?

India's President does not exercise



executive powers, but all executive decisions are carried out in her name. She is required by the Constitution to act on the advice of the council of ministers led by the Prime Minister.

But the President can ask the government to reconsider actions and offer advice. In matters of legislation, for example. So, it would be wrong to say that the role is only ceremonial or that the President is a mere figurehead or rubber stamp.

Presidents like Pranab Mukherjee have been quite assertive, especially while dealing with mercy petitions from death row convicts. One of the most crucial roles of the President is seen when no party is able to get a

parliamentary majority in a national election.

So, the presidential election is crucial, and you should care about it. The election is indirect, but the result does indicate how much popular support both camps, the government and the opposition, have in the country.

On your mind could be several key questions, from the poll process to front-runners to the numbers game, and to possible scenarios. But first let's get some important dates out of our way.

The President is elected by members of the Electoral College comprising elected members of both Houses of Parliament, and elected members of the Legislative Assemblies of all states and the National



**From P18**

Capital Territory of Delhi and the Union Territory of Puducherry.

This means nominated members of the Rajya Sabha and the Lok Sabha or Legislative Assemblies of states are not part of the Electoral College. Similarly, members of Legislative Councils also do not participate in the election process.

The value of votes of MPs and MLAs varies based on the population of states they come from.

It is mandatory for 50 MPs to propose the candidate, followed by another 50 seconding the candidature.

Polling will be held in the Parliament House and on the premises of the State Legislative Assemblies.

The election is held by secret ballot. A single transferable vote is used per the system of proportional representation.

On the ballot paper, there are two columns. The names of candidates are listed in the first column, and the order of preference is listed in the second column.

**THE NUMBERS GAME**

The Electoral College has 4,809 electors, including 776 Members of Parliament (MPs) and 4,033 Members of Legislative Assemblies (MLAs).

The total value of votes will be 10,86,431. To win, a candidate must get at least 5,43,216 votes.

In the last election in 2017, Ram Nath Kovind of the NDA defeated joint Opposition candidate Meira Kumar. Kovind polled 7,02,000 votes compared with Kumar's 3,67,000, out of a total of 10,69,358 votes.

Roughly speaking, the ruling BJP-led National Democratic Alliance (NDA) has 48 per cent of the votes this time. It is 23 per cent for the Congress-led United Progressive Alliance (UPA).

So, the NDA should not have any problem in getting its candidate elected. But the contest will become tight if all non-BJP parties unite (this explains hectic consultations on both sides). Then the opposition will have about 51 per cent of the votes.

This is unlikely. Some reports say that "independents" such as Andhra Pradesh's ruling YSRCP and Odisha's ruling BJD may support the NDA. The BJP's Tamil Nadu ally, the AIADMK, may also do so.

The BJP has authorised its party president JP Nadda and Union minister Rajnath Singh to hold consultations with constituents of the NDA and the UPA, besides other political parties, as well as independent members. A consensus candidate is always preferable.

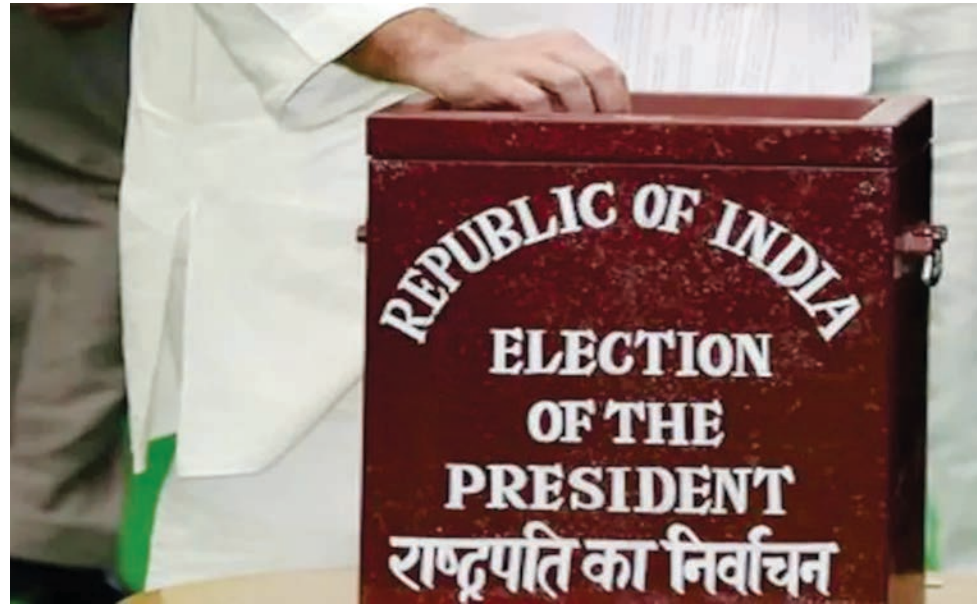
**PROBABLE CANDIDATES**

The general impression is that the BJP is unlikely to re-nominate Kovind. Rajendra Prasad was the only President to get two full terms. Both camps have not named their candidates yet. But that does not mean we're short of suggestions.

Former West Bengal Governor and Mahatma Gandhi's grandson, Gopalkrishna Gandhi, has been approached by some leaders to be a joint Opposition candidate. He is the Left's suggestion.

There is talk about NCP chief Sharad Pawar exploring the possibility of pushing dissident Congress leader Ghulam Nabi Azad as the Opposition nominee.

On the other hand, NDA probables may include Kerala Governor Mohammad Arif Khan, former Jharkhand Governor and



tribal leader from Odisha Draupadi Murmu, Chhattisgarh Governor and tribal leader Anusuiya Uikey, Telangana Governor Tamilsai Soundararajan, Karnataka Governor and Dalit leader Thawar Chand Gehlot, former Lok Sabha Speaker Sumitra Mahajan, and Odisha's tribal leader Jual Oram

A disclaimer: The BJP remains capable of surprising everyone, like when it nominated APJ Abdul Kalam in 2002. The name of TMC leader Yashwant Sinha (though Bengal's ruling party TMC has indicated none of its own members will be a candidate) is also being talked about.

Earlier reports said that the Congress, the TMC, the AAP and the Shiv Sena wanted Pawar to be the opposition's

candidate, but he has declined the offer.

JD(U) leader and Bihar minister Shравan Kumar has said party chief and Bihar CM Nitish Kumar could be a good candidate. Maharashtra minister and NCP spokesperson Nawab Malik has said Kumar's candidature as an opposition choice can be considered if the latter snaps ties with the BJP/NDA in Bihar. On his part, Nitish Kumar has clarified that he never wanted to, and will not, contest the President's election.

**CRACKS IN OPPOSITION**

Cracks have appeared in the opposition camp. The Congress is currently preoccupied with rallying support for its leader Rahul Gandhi, being questioned by

the Enforcement Directorate in the National Herald money-laundering case.

Actually, there is no one opposition camp. There is the Congress-led United Progressive Alliance (UPA). But that's mostly the Congress with non-ruling allies like the RJD of Bihar. The Congress rules Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh and is a junior partner in states such as Maharashtra, Jharkhand and Tamil Nadu.

West Bengal Chief Minister and TMC leader Mamata Banerjee has met Sharad Pawar, whose party NCP is part of Maharashtra's ruling coalition MVA, led by the Shiv Sena and also comprising the Congress.

Banerjee is trying to bring everyone on a single platform but Congress, while attending consultations driven by her, does not want to be overshadowed by a former Congresswoman. The grand old party is also holding its own meetings.

The Left is not happy with Banerjee's "unilaterally" organised deliberations. Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal's AAP (which is also ruling Punjab) has been a Congress critic and cautious of Banerjee in matters of national politics. On the other hand, Telangana Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao of TRS has his own ambitions.

The Congress has asked its leader Mallikarjun Kharge to hold talks with all like-minded parties on the possibility of fielding a joint candidate. Kharge met NCP chief Sharad Pawar at the latter's residence in Mumbai on June 9.

Congress president Sonia Gandhi has herself reached out to Opposition leaders, including DMK chief MK Stalin, Pawar, CPM's Sitaram Yechury.

Banerjee and Telangana CM K Chandrashekar Rao, both non-UPA leaders, have also met leaders of the MVA.

On June 15, Banerjee held a meeting with Opposition leaders in Delhi where no one from the AAP, the TRS and the BJD came despite invitations. Those who attended the meeting convened to prepare a joint strategy included Pawar, PDP's Mehbooba Mufti, NC's Omar Abdullah and SP's Akhilesh Yadav, besides some Congress leaders including Kharge.

Looks like a fractured opposition may again end up helping the BJP in an important election. Unless, of course, the mirage of oft-cited total opposition unity finally becomes a reality.

**PRESIDENTS OF INDIA AND THEIR TENURE**

						
Ram Nath Kovind 25 July 2017 Incumbent (Term ends on 25 July)	Pranab Mukherjee 25 July 2012 to 25 July 2017	Pratibha Patil 25 July 2007 to 25 July 2012	A. P. J. Abdul Kalam 25 July 2002 to 25 July 2007	K. R. Narayanan 25 July 1997 to 25 July 2002	Shankar Dayal Sharma 5 July 1992 to 25 July 1997	Ramaswamy Venkataraman 25 July 1987 to 25 July 1992
						
Zail Singh 25 July 1982 to 25 July 1987	Neelam Sanjiva Reddy 25 July 1977 to 25 July 1982	Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed 24 August 1974 to 11 February 1977	V. V. Giri 3 May 1969 to 20 July 1969	Zakir Husain 13 May 1967 to 3 May 1969	Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan 13 May 1962 to 13 May 1967	Rajendra Prasad 26 January 1950 to 13 May 1962



## GOVT OFFICES, SCHOOLS TO CLOSE AMID FUEL CRISIS IN SRI LANKA

**COLOMBO (TIP):** Crisis-hit Sri Lankan government has announced a shutdown of public sector offices from next week, beginning June 14, due to severe fuel shortages as the island nation continues to reel under its worst economic crisis.

The Sri Lankan Education Ministry has also asked teachers in all government and government-approved private schools in the Colombo city limits to conduct online classes from next week due to prolonged power cuts, the Daily Mirror newspaper reported.

With its existing fuel stocks fast depleting, Sri Lanka is under intense pressure to get foreign exchange to pay for its imports, which has brought several sectors of the country's economy to a grinding halt. Consequently, spontaneous protests have been reported at filling stations where consumers have been waiting in long queues for fuel for hours. — PTI

## PAKISTAN ALMOST OFF FATF GREY LIST

**ISLAMABAD (TIP):** removed from the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) list after the body said on June 17 that Islamabad had met all 34 items on two separate action plans.

The FATF will now schedule an on-site visit to verify the implementation and sustainability of the country's money laundering and counter-terrorism financing measures before formally removing it from the list of countries requiring increased monitoring, also known as the grey list.

The FATF said Pakistan's substantial completion of both its action plans showed that it had the necessary political commitment to sustain implementation and improvement in the future. "The FATF will continue to monitor the Covid situation and conduct an on-site visit at the earliest possible date," a statement said. "Pakistan demonstrated that terror-financing investigations and prosecutions target senior leaders and commanders of United Nations-designated terrorist groups and that there is a positive upwards trend in the number of money laundering investigations and prosecutions being pursued in Pakistan," it observed, adding that Pakistan also largely addressed its 2021 action plan ahead of the set times.

The Financial Action Task Force (FATF) decision was announced at a press conference after the conclusion of its four-day plenary session in Berlin. Pakistan has been on the grey list since June 2018 and its cause was helped by an anti-terrorism court that sent Lashkar-e-Toiba chief Hafiz Saeed to prison for 33 years on terrorism charges. (PTI)

# Pakistan energy crisis: Karachi markets to shut at 9 pm to save electricity

**KARACHI (TIP):** The vibrant nightlife in Pakistan's biggest city Karachi has been hit with the Sindh province government directing all shopping malls, markets, wedding halls and restaurants to close down early to save fuel and energy.

The move by the provincial government on June 18 was aimed to overcome the energy crisis in the country that has also affected Pakistan's economy.

"We are facing an ongoing energy crisis emergency and we need to take measures which might not be popular but necessary to control the situation," Home Secretary Dr Saeed Ahmed Mangnejo said.

Mangnejo said that all markets, bazaars, shops and shopping malls would have to close by 9 pm while wedding halls and restaurants have also been instructed to shut down by 10.30 pm.

Karachi, being a cosmopolitan city, is famous for its nightlife with restaurants, markets, malls, cineplexes, wedding halls all remaining outlets open till late into the night.

The official said these measures were being taken to not only reduce wastage of fuel and electricity but to find a solution to the prevalent power outages and load shedding so the shortfall between the



demand and supply of electricity could be reduced.

Karachiites in recent weeks have spent sleepless nights in the hot sweltering weather conditions due to prolonged power cuts and load shedding with angry residents even coming out on roads in many areas to protest the hours-long power cuts.

Mangnejo said that a notification from the Sindh government also authorised station house officers (SHOs) to register

complaints against people who violated the directives.

The federal government on Saturday also issued similar instructions for the Punjab province.

With the US dollar soaring to Rs 208 in recent days, the government is desperate to reduce the burden of importing fuel, energy and other items with import of many non-essential items already being banned in the just announced federal budget. (PTI)

## 41 dead, millions stranded as floods hit Bangladesh, India

**SYLHET (TIP):** Monsoon storms in Bangladesh and India have killed at least 41 people and unleashed devastating floods that left millions of others stranded, officials said Saturday.

Floods are a regular menace to millions of people in low-lying Bangladesh, but experts say climate change is increasing their frequency, ferocity and unpredictability.

Relentless downpours over the past week have inundated vast stretches of Bangladesh's northeast, with troops deployed to evacuate households cut off from neighbouring communities.

Schools have been turned into relief shelters to house entire villages inundated in a matter of hours by rivers that suddenly burst their banks.

"The whole village went under water by early Friday and we all got stranded," said Lokman, whose family lives in Companiganj village.

"After waiting a whole day on the roof of our home, a neighbour rescued us with a makeshift boat. My mother said she has never seen such floods in her entire life," the 23-year-old added.

Asma Akter, another woman rescued from the rising waters, said her family

had not been able to eat for two days.

"The water rose so quickly we couldn't bring any of our things," she said. "And how can you cook anything when everything is underwater?"

Lightning triggered by the storms has killed at least 21 people around the South Asian nation since Friday afternoon, police officials told AFP.

Among them were three children aged between 12 and 14 who were struck by lightning on Friday in the rural town of Nandail, said local police chief Mizanur Rahman.

Another four people died when landslides hit their hillside homes in the port city of Chittagong, police inspector Nurul Islam told AFP.

At least 16 people have been killed since Thursday in India's remote Meghalaya, the state's chief minister Conrad Sangma wrote on Twitter, after landslides and surging rivers that submerged roads. Next door in Assam, more than 1.8 million people have been affected by floods after five days of incessant downpours.

Assam chief minister Himanta Biswa Sarma told reporters he had instructed district officials to provide "all necessary

help and relief" to those caught in the flooding.

### 'The situation is bad'

Flooding in Bangladesh worsened on Saturday morning after a temporary reprieve from the rains the previous afternoon, Sylhet region chief government administrator Mosharraf Hossain told AFP.

"The situation is bad. More than four million people have been stranded by flood water," Hossain said, adding that nearly the entire region was without electricity. The flooding forced Bangladesh's third-largest international airport in Sylhet to shut down on Friday.

Around the regional capital, residents waded through waist-deep water along roads next to partially submerged stuck vehicles. Forecasters said the floods were set to worsen over the next two days with heavy rains in Bangladesh and upstream in India's northeast.

Before this week's rains, the Sylhet region was still recovering from its worst floods in nearly two decades late last month, when at least 10 people were killed and four million others were affected. (AFP)





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**'MAFIVEER PM WILL HAVE TO TAKE BACK AGNIPATH', WARNS RAHUL GANDHI**

Congress MP Rahul Gandhi on Saturday, June 18, continued his attack on the government over the controversial 'Agnipath' armed forces recruitment scheme, this time taking a swipe at 'Mafiveer' prime minister Narendra Modi and warning the government it will be forced to scrap the new military policy in the same way it was forced to withdraw the three farm laws.

"For 8 consecutive years, the BJP government has insulted the values of 'Jai Jawan, Jai Kisan'. I had said earlier also that the prime minister will have to withdraw the Black Agriculture Act. In the same way, he will have to obey the youth of the country by becoming 'Mafiveer' and 'Agnipath' will have to be taken back," the Lok Sabha MP from Kerala's Wayanad, tweeted.

The 'mafiveer' jibe was a reference to prime minister Modi offering farmers an 'apology' in November last year after the three farm laws were scrapped.

This is Rahul Gandhi's fourth 'Agnipath'-focused tweet-attack this week.

On Friday, June 17, he slammed Modi for listening only to his 'friends' and ignoring the voices of hundreds across several states who have staged violent protests against the 'Agnipath' scheme. Citing measures like demonetisation and the farm laws - he said: "The PM does not understand what the people of the country want, as he cannot hear anything except the voice of his 'friends'."

**GOVT ANNOUNCES AGE RELAXATION, 10% QUOTA IN CAPFS, ASSAM RIFLES FOR AGNIVEERS**

The Union ministry of home affairs (MHA) has decided to reserve 10% vacancies in the central paramilitary forces and the Assam Rifles for 'Agniveers' after their four years of service in the armed forces, Union home minister Amit Shah said on Saturday, June 18.

The home ministry has also decided to give three years' age relaxation beyond the prescribed upper age limit to Agniveers for recruitment in the paramilitary forces and Assam Rifles. For the first batch of Agniveers, the age relaxation will be for five years beyond the prescribed upper age limit, Amit Shah said on his Twitter account. The decision to reserve 10% seats in paramilitary forces or CAPFs (Central Armed Police Forces) and the Assam Rifles will somewhat give assurance of 'permanent job' to the youngsters, who have been violently protesting against the 'Agnipath' scheme across the country for the past two days, an official familiar with the development said. *Source: HT*

**Agnipath protests refuse to die down across India**



Vikramshila Express train set on fire by a mob in protest against the Centre's 'Agnipath' scheme, in Lakhisarai, Bihar, Friday, June 17, 2022. (PTI Photo)

**NEW DELHI/PATNA/HYDERABAD/BHOPAL (TIP)**

The protests against the military's new "Agnipath" recruitment scheme, which started from the East and North and spread to several other areas, on Friday, June 17, engulfed cities in South India too. In Secunderabad, one person died during firing by the police, which was forced to open fire at hundreds of protesters as the situation escalated into large-scale violence and arson. The mob, with their faces covered with handkerchiefs, barged into the railway tracks and torched everything in sight, besides looting the parcel office. In Bihar, the protesters targeted the homes of several BJP leaders, including its state chief Sanjay Jaiswal and deputy chief minister Renu Devi.

The main target for expressing anguish against the new recruitment policy remained the Railways as over 200 trains were affected due to the protests. Around 35 trains were cancelled and 13 short-terminated since the protests erupted on Wednesday. Railway minister Ashwini Vaishnaw urged the youths not to destroy railway property to vent their anger.

The worst-hit East Central Railways -- which covers Bihar, Jharkhand and parts of Uttar Pradesh, the states which have seen wide protests -- also decided to "monitor" the operations of eight trains due to the stir.

In Secunderabad, the Telangana police fired at least 10 rounds to disperse crowds, which left one person dead and 12 others injured. Three trains and several stalls were set on fire by the rampaging mobs. Besides, they vandalised trains, blocked railway tracks with two-wheelers, wooden boxes, garbage cans, gunny bags and wheelbarrows of railway porters, and stole goods kept in the parcel office. Around Rs 20 crores in property loss was expected, Railways DGP Sandeep Shandiliya said.

Angry mobs targeted trains and railway property in their protests against the Centre's Agnipath scheme for recruitment in the armed forces. The coaches of three running trains in ECR and one empty rake in Kulharia, Bihar (also in ECR) were damaged by violent protesters. One coach of a stationary train was also damaged in the washing line at UP's Ballia.

Officials said the protesters also erected barriers on the Agra-Lucknow Expressway to stop buses and pelted stones at them while the traffic also briefly came to a standstill on the Yamuna Expressway near Noida. The protests also erupted in Varanasi, Firozabad and Amethi, which caused damage to government and private buses, among others. Ballia SP Raj Karan Nayyar said the youths were being persuaded to call off their stir and sent back. "The incident has been videographed. So far, no arrests have been made," he said. In Bihar, the protests grew more aggressive and violent on the third day running, with the agitators damaging railway property and

targeting the houses of senior BJP leaders. Deputy CM Renu Devi, whose house was among those targeted, called the agitators "goons instigated by the Opposition". She said: "What else could be the reason behind this attack on BJP leaders? It's the Opposition which is behind those who have been targeting the houses of leaders of our party. My house in Bettiah town was attacked but thankfully no one was hurt in the incident."

Reports from various districts of the state also suggest that uncontrolled protesters on Friday ransacked and damaged rail property. Many bogies of express and passenger trains were torched by the protesting youths at various railway stations in the state.

Bihar has seen a violent agitation against the Agnipath scheme since the day it was announced. "What will happen after the completion of four years in the armed forces? We want the Central government to reinstate the previous recruitment system", the protesters said.

Meanwhile, the Opposition RJD has announced its "complete support" to the youths agitating against the "Agnipath" scheme. RJD state chief Jagdanand Singh said the party will also support the state-wide bandh called by youths on Saturday.

In Madhya Pradesh, the stir spread to new areas as protests were staged in Indore, Morena and Guna. However, no major incidents of violence were reported from anywhere on Friday, though in Indore some youths staged a protest at the railway station and pelted stones at the police. They tried to set fire to a train but were chased away by the police.

The demonstrators also staged a blockade on the Mumbai-Agra highway for some time. The police resorted to a mild lathi-charge to disperse them. A youth, identified as Yogendra Singh, in Morena was arrested for circulating messages on the social media to instigate youths to indulge in violence, the police said.

Some physical training clubs in Gwalior have come under the scanner in the wake of the vandalism. Gwalior collector Kaushalendra Vikram Singh directed the police to seek details on these clubs, saying that information was received on the involvement of some students of physical training clubs in some unwanted and unruly activities. Sources said 10 managers of these clubs in Gwalior were under the local administration's radar for Thursday's violence in the city and eight of them were questioned. As many as 37 people were arrested for the violence Gwalior so far.

In Gurgaon, Haryana, prohibitory orders under Section 144 CrPC have been imposed as a precautionary measure even though no fresh protest was reported from the city. In New Delhi, some Metro stations were shut due to the students' protests. *Source: DECCAN CHRONICLE*



**INDIA LOGS 13,216 NEW COVID CASES, 23 MORE DEATHS IN A DAY; POSITIVITY RATE 2.73%**

India's COVID-19 tally increased to 4,32,83,793 on Saturday, June 18, as 13,216 more people tested positive for the viral disease and the active caseload climbed to 68,108, according to Union health ministry data.

This is the first time in 113 days that India has recorded over 13,000 cases.

The death toll increased to 5,24,840 with 23 fresh fatalities, the data updated at 8 am stated.

The active cases comprise 0.16 per cent of the total infections. The national COVID-19 recovery rate was recorded at 98.63 per cent, the ministry said. An increase of 5,045 cases has been recorded in the active COVID-19 caseload in a span of 24 hours. The daily positivity rate was recorded at 2.73 per cent and the weekly positivity rate at 2.47 per cent, the ministry said.

The number of people who have recuperated from the disease surged to 4,26,90,845. The case fatality rate stood at 1.21 per cent, it said.

The cumulative COVID-19 vaccine doses administered in the country so far under the nationwide inoculation drive have exceeded 196 crore.

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

India crossed the grim milestone of 2 crore on May 4, 3 crore on June 23 and 4 crore on January 25 this year.

The 23 new fatalities include 13 from Kerala, three from Maharashtra, two from Karnataka and one each from Delhi, Meghalaya, Punjab, Uttarakhand and Uttar Pradesh.

Of the 5,24,840 deaths recorded so far in the country, 1,47,883 were from Maharashtra, 69,866 from Kerala, 40,112 from Karnataka, 38,026 from Tamil Nadu, 26,226 from Delhi, 23,526 from Uttar Pradesh and 21,207 from West Bengal.

**PRESIDENTIAL POLL**

**As BJP enjoys upper hand, opposition in search of a strong candidate**

NEW DELHI (TIP)

With the schedule for presidential polls out, hectic political activity has begun in both the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)-led National Democratic Alliance (NDA) and the opposition parties on the selection of their respective candidates to elect the 15th President of India.

While the BJP-led NDA has thus far not revealed its cards, party president J.P. Nadda and defence minister Rajnath Singh are said to be consulting with other political parties for the Presidential election due on July 18. Various opposition parties have also started convening meetings to decide on a common candidate.

All eyes are now on who the two primary groups would nominate to be their presidential candidate, as till now there have only been two occasions when a President of India has won without a contest.

The first occasion was when Dr Rajendra Prasad was sworn in as the first President of India in 1950, and the second was when Neelam Sanjiva Reddy won in 1977 after the nominations of all the 36 others were rejected.

This time around, the names of several prominent politicians and others in public life have already started doing the rounds as prospective candidates for both the NDA and the opposition.

**'Not in the race,' say Sharad Pawar and Nitish Kumar**

Two names had cropped up right in the beginning. One was that of Nationalist Congress Party leader and former



Union minister Sharad Pawar. However, Pawar is learnt to have turned down the offer. Following a meeting with him, CPI (M) general secretary Sitaram Yechury said: "I have been informed that Pawar will not be the opposition face for the presidential poll, other names are under consideration."

Likewise, the Janata Dal-United leader and Bihar chief minister Nitish Kumar also declared that he was not in the race. "I repeat I am not in the race to become the country's next President," he said, in response to a comment from Bihar rural development minister Shrawan Kumar that he was a worthy candidate for the post. *Source: The Wire*

**NCERT drops Gujarat riots, Mughal courts from books**

NEW DELHI (TIP)

The NCERT has removed portions of the 2002 Gujarat riots, Emergency, Cold War, Naxalite movement and Mughal courts from its Class 12 textbooks as part of "syllabus rationalisation," citing "overlapping and irrelevant" as reasons.

Many of these changes were announced earlier this year when the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) rationalised its syllabi in April. Besides schools under the CBSE, some state boards also use NCERT textbooks.

Listing the changes, the NCERT, in a note, said: "The content of the textbooks

has been rationalised for various reasons, including overlapping with similar content in other subject areas in the same class and similar content included in the lower or higher classes on the same subject." In the Class 12 political science textbook, pages on 'Gujarat Riots' have been excluded from the chapter titled 'Recent Developments in Indian Politics'. The mention of the National Human Rights Commission report on the 2002 violence and the "raj dharma" remark by then PM Atal Bihar Vajpayee have been dropped too.

Chapters on Mughal courts in a history textbook, a poem on the Dalit movement

and a chapter on the Cold War are among the exclusions from the political science textbook. In Class 10, the excluded chapters include verses of poet Faiz Ahmed Faiz. Also, chapters titled 'Democracy and Diversity', 'Popular Struggle and movements' and 'Challenges to Democracy' have been dropped.

In the social science textbook for Classes VII and VIII, references to Dalit writer Omprakash Valmiki have been removed. In the Class VII textbook titled 'Our Past-2', the topic 'Emperors: Major campaigns and events', has been removed. *Source: PTI*

**Fertilizer scam: FIR against Rajasthan CM Ashok Gehlot's brother Agrasain, 14 others**

NEW DELHI (TIP)

The CBI today said it had registered an FIR naming 15 persons, including Rajasthan CM Ashok Gehlot's brother Agrasain Gehlot, and conducted searches at 15 locations in Rajasthan, Gujarat and West Bengal for allegedly causing loss of Rs 52.8 crore to the government exchequer on account of alleged illegal export-import of fertiliser.

The Congress on its part, however, cried vendetta as party leaders Rahul Gandhi, Jairam Ramesh and KC Venugopal took to the Twitter to hit at the government.

The CBI in an official release said the agency had named 15 persons as accused in the FIR in the case, including Gehlot and entities.

A team of CBI sleuths also reached Agrasain's residence in Mandore, Jodhpur, to conduct searches, officials said, adding that the agency has also named Deen Dayal Vohra, Amrit Lal Bandi, Brijesh Jairam Nath, Nitin Kumar Shah, Sunil Sharma and Praveen Saraf among others as accused in the FIR.

Rahul said, "I stand in solidarity with @ashokgehlot51 ji and his family against politics of vendetta."



Ashok Gehlot's brother Agrasain Gehlot.

Reacting to the development, Ashok Gehlot said he had recently sought an appointment with the Director of the CBI and ED and the Chairman of the Income Tax Department. "Time was sought on June 13 and on June 15 the case was registered and raids conducted on June 17. What is this approach, it is beyond comprehension," he said.

AICC communication department chief Jairam Ramesh said, "This is vendetta politics beyond all bounds.@ashokgehlot51 was at the forefront of the protests in Delhi over the past three days, and this is Modi govt's brazen response!" *Source: TNS*



# India in history this Week

**JUNE 17, 2022, TO JUNE 23, 2022**

## 17 JUNE

1631 The Taj Mahal, one of the seven wonders of the world, was built in the memory of Mumtaz Mahal. She was married to Shah Jahan.



1674 Jijabai died. She was the wife of Shahaji Bhonsle and mother of Chhatrapati Shivaji.

1858 Rani Lakshmibai of Jhansi received Veergati by taking iron from the British.

1973 India's famous tennis player Leander Paes was born.

2008 The Tejas, a light combat aircraft developed in the country, was successfully tested in Bangalore.

2012 Saina Nehwal became Indonesia Open champion for the third time.

## 18 JUNE

1576 The battle of Haldi valley started between Maharana Pratap and Akbar.

1758 French General Bussi sought permission to leave Nizam Salabat Jung, which was the end of France's presence with India.

1946 The first Satyagraha movement was launched to liberate Goa from the Portuguese.

1956 The Hindu Succession Act passed.



1987 MS Swaminathan received the first World Food Prize.

## 19 JUNE

1716 The famous Sikh soldier Banda Singh Bahadur, who broke the illusion of the Mughals being invincible, was tortured to death at the behest of Emperor Farukhsier.

1947 The birth of the famous British-Indian writer and novelist Salman Rushdie.



1970 Birth of Congress leader Rahul Gandhi.

1981 India successfully launched its geostationary satellite Apple.

1871 Madhavrao Sapre, the freedom fighter of the national language, Unnayak of Hindi, was born

## 20 JUNE

1858 The capture of Gwalior by the British Army and the Sepoy Mutiny came to an end with it.

1873 YMCA in India establishment.

1887 Mumbai-based Victoria Terminus (Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminus) opened to the public. Today it is one of the busiest railway stations in the country.

1916 SNDT in Pune Establishment of Women's University.



1998 Vishwanathan Anand won the fifth Frankfurt Classic chess tournament by defeating Vladimir Kaimnik.

2014 Announcement of Jnanpith Award to eminent poet Kedarnath Singh.

1756 Siraj ud-Daula Nawab of Bengal sought Calcutta from the British.

1869 Laxman Kashinath Kirloskar, the founder of the famous industrialist Kirloskar Industry Group of India, was born.

1923 Proficient journalist and writer Gaur Kishore Ghosh was born.

## 21 JUNE

1912 Birth of famous Hindi litterateur Vishnu Prabhakar.

2004 China supported the India-Pakistan talks.

2009 India's badminton star player Saina Nehwal won the title of Super Series Badminton Tournament. She is the first Indian woman to do so.

1982 World Music Day was celebrated.

1862 Gyanendra Mohan Tagore became the first Indian to receive an advocacy degree from Lincoln's Inn.

1933 Birth of the famous writer, novelist, playwright, critic and satirist Mudrarakshaas of India.

1948 C. Rajagopalachari became the Governor General of India. He was the last Governor General of the country.



1991 PV Narasimha Rao became the ninth Prime

Minister of India.

2015 The first International Day of Yoga was celebrated. At the initiative of India at the United Nations, almost all the countries of the world are involved in this campaign of spreading yoga to stay healthy.

1932 Villain Amrish Puri, the star of Hindi cinema who ruled the hearts of fans for decades, was born on 22 June.

## 22 JUNE

1932 Villain Amrish Puri, the star of Hindi cinema who ruled the hearts of fans for decades, was born on 22 June.

2009 The longest solar eclipse of the 21st century appeared in India.

1939 Subhash Chandra Bose separated from the Congress and established the Forward Bloc.

1897 In Pune, the then District Magistrate Walter Charles Rand was shot dead by the Chafekar brothers in 1897.

1948 The title of Emperor of India has been removed in 1948 from His Excellency, King of the United Kingdom.

2007 Sunita Williams returned to Earth in 2007 with her team.

2008 Syed Faqir Hussain was appointed Vice-Chairman of the Central Advisory Board of Balashram in 2008.

2016 ISRO created history in 2016, launching 20 satellites.

1900 Indian freedom fighter Ganesh Ghosh was born.

1932 Famous actor and villain of Indian cinema, Amrish Puri was born.

1988 Buddhist monk, Paladin scholar and writer Bhadant Anand Kausalayan died on 22 June 1988.

## 23 JUNE



1980 Sanjay Gandhi, a member of the Nehru-Gandhi family, died in the plane crash.

1985 An Air India passenger plane crashed into the air near the coast of Ireland. All 329 passengers aboard the plane were killed in this accident.

1761 Death of Maratha ruler Peshwa Balaji Baji Rao.

1810 Construction of Duncan Dock of Bombay completed.

1953 Jana Sangh founder Shyama Prasad Mukherjee died in a hospital in Kashmir.

2008 JK Tire India Limited, the country's leading tire maker, acquired Mexico's tire company Tornal and its subsidiaries for \$ 270 million.

2008 The selection committee recommended in 2008 to confer the Dadasaheb Phalke Award on famous Bengali actor Soumitra Chatterjee.

2014 Gujarat's 'Rani Ki Vav' and Himachal's 'Great Himalayan National Park' were included in the 2014 World Heritage List.

1934 Gandhian thinker and social worker Chandni Prasad Bhatt was born.



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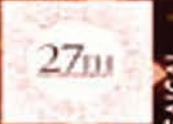
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## Kiara Advani on breakup rumors with Sidharth

Kiara Advani has opened up about the rumours of her breakup with Sidharth Malhotra. While both have never commented on their relationship or the alleged breakup, Kiara says she is nevertheless negatively affected by them.

In an interview with India Today, she said, "I am not completely immune to it, especially when it (rumour) is about your personal life. On the professional front, thankfully, I have never had an experience where something has been said that has affected me or my family, but on the personal front, when they add two and two, that's when I am like, where is this coming from?"

Kiara and Sidharth Malhotra starred in the film *Shershaah*, which was a biopic based on Captain Vikram Batra. While Sidharth played the titular role, Kiara played the role of his love interest, Dimple Cheema.

# Akshay, Aamir to have face off at box-office in August

Aamir Khan, on Tuesday, June 14 announced that his film *Laal Singh Chaddha* which was scheduled to hit the theatres on April 14, 2022, has been postponed. The Production house took to its social media handle to announce the news and also express gratitude to the makers and cast of *Adipurush*, for pushing their release date, so that *Laal Singh Chaddha* can release on August 11, 2022. However, it will still not have a solo release as Akshay Kumar's *Raksha Bandhan* is also scheduled to release on the same day.

Taking to their social media handles, the Production House of *Laal Singh Chaddha* wrote, "This is to announce that our film, *Laal Singh Chaddha*, will not be releasing on 14th April as planned. This is because we are unable to complete the film in time. The film will now be released on 11 Aug 2022 in theatres worldwide. We would like to thank Mr. Bhushan Kumar, T Series, and Om Raut, and the entire team of *Adipurush* from the bottom of our hearts. We would like to thank them for being so helpful and understanding, and for shifting the release date of their much-awaited, *Adipurush*, starring Prabhas, Kriti Sanon, and Saif Ali Khan, so that *Laal Singh Chaddha* can come on 11 Aug 2022." *Laal Singh Chaddha* directed by Advait Chandan is the Indian adaptation of Tom Hanks' *Forrest Gump*. The film also stars Kareena Kapoor Khan.

Meanwhile, in September last year, the team of *Raksha Bandhan* had finalised the date of August 11, 2022 for the release of their film. Directed by Aanand L Rai, the film also stars Bhumi Pednekar. The movie revolves around the brother-sister bond. Akshay wrapped the shoot of the film in October last year. Written by Himanshu Sharma and Kanika Dillan, the film is produced by Colour Yellow Productions and Cape Of Good Films in association with Zee Studios.



**Bollywood stars Akshay Kumar and Aamir Khan's upcoming films 'Raksha Bandhan' and 'Laal Singh Chaddha' will be seen clashing at the box office as their films are set to hit the screens on August 11.**



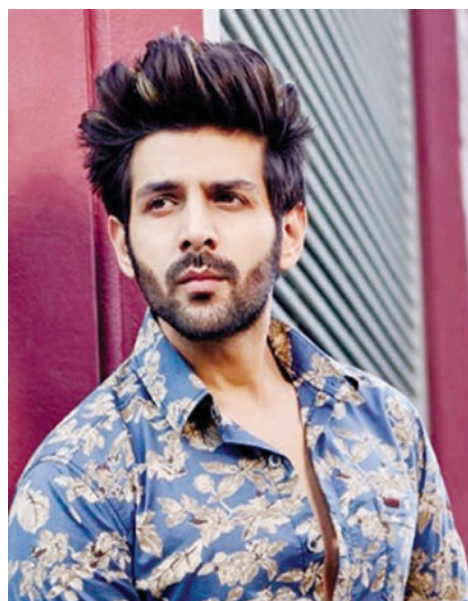
## Kartik celebrates Bhool Bhulaiyaa 2's success by dancing with young fans

On Thursday, June 16, actor Kartik Aaryan visited PVR Cinemas for the special screening of his film *Bhool Bhulaiyaa 2*. The screening was for the children of NGO CRY Foundation. In the pictures, Kartik is seen interacting with the kids as he watched the film and later danced with them.

In one picture, Kartik is seen dancing with the kids and in another one the actor is seen doing the film's title track *Bhool Bhulaiyaa*'s iconic move. In another picture, Kartik is seen sitting inside the theatre with the kids doing the iconic move.

On Thursday, June 16, *Bhool Bhulaiyaa 2* surpassed the Rs 175 crore mark at the domestic box office. The film, which opened in theatres on May 20 to positive response from the audience, had crossed the 100-cr mark within eight days of its release. The official Twitter account of T-Series shared a poster which revealed that the film's total collections currently stands at Rs 175.02 crore. "It's a blockbuster all over! #BhoolBhulaiyaa2 continues to take over," the tweet from the production house read.

Kartik's film *Bhool Bhulaiyaa 2* is a follow-up to the 2007 film *Bhool Bhulaiyaa*, which was directed by Priyadarshan and featured Akshay as a psychiatrist tasked with uncovering the truth of an ancestral palace believed to be haunted. The sequel, directed by Anees Bazmee, stars Kartik playing a character similar to Akshay's.



## Richa Chadha says women technicians facing sexism on film sets is 'default'

Richa Chadha has spoken about how sexism continues to be the default behaviour in not only the film industry but also the society at large. The actor recently turned into a producer as she, along with her partner Ali Fazal, started a production company Pushing Buttons Studios last year. They were trying to find an all-women team for their maiden production *Girls Will Be Girls* when they realised the lack of women in the lighting department.

The couple, along with *Girls Will Be Girls*' director Suchi Talati, have now started a workshop called the Undercurrent Lab to train 10 women in the lighting department, and will also be hiring two of them to work on their debut production. In a recent conversation with Hindustan Times, Richa said that she hopes to change things for off-the-camera women workers in the film industry by taking such steps.

Asked if she has ever witnessed women technicians facing sexism on the film sets, she said, "Sexist behaviour is the default setting of our society. It's very common behaviour. We hope to change that a bit by slowly and slowly by including women in the workplace. That's how change literally begins. That's what I want to do."

About their ongoing workshop teaching women to handle lighting equipment, the actor said, "The experience is great. This is basically a field where there were few women to no women. That's why we started this, and now because the girls are really learning, we are really feeling happy. We hope to continue this, not just for lighting, but maybe for some other department next."







### *Kim Kardashian accused of damaging iconic Marilyn Monroe dress*

**K**im Kardashian has been accused of inflicting “permanent damage” to the iconic Marilyn Monroe dress that the reality star sported at the Met Gala on May 2. According to *Variety*, Kardashian struck a deal with Ripley’s Believe It or Not to wear the gold “Happy Birthday” dress, which has been valued at nearly \$5 million, to the star-studded fashion event. The decision was met with pushback, initially because of Kardashian’s comments about losing weight for the event. Professional conservators at the time also spoke out, saying it was ill-advised to wear any clothing item with so much history, no matter the reason or the person.

“I’m frustrated because it sets back what is considered professional treatment for historic costume,” one conservator told the *L.A. Times*. Now, a Marilyn Monroe collector has claimed that “permanent damage” has been inflicted by the Kardashians star on the iconic dress Monroe wore to serenade John F Kennedy on his 45th birthday, shortly before the actor’s death.

## Equalizer 3: Dakota Fanning joins Man on Fire co-star Denzel Washington

**D**akota Fanning reunites her *Man on Fire* co-star Denzel Washington after nearly two decades to headline Antoine Fuqua-directed sequel *Equalizer 3* for Sony Pictures, slated for release in 2023.

According to *Deadline*, Fanning is set to headline the film alongside Washington who is already set to return as the star of the action series directed by returning filmmaker Antoine Fuqua. Written by Richard Wenk, the film is being produced by Escape Artists’ Academy Award nominee Todd Black, Jason Blumenthal, Steve Tisch and Washington.

While the plot is being kept under wraps, the film is the third installment in *The Equalizer* series. The first film earned over \$194 million worldwide, leading to a sequel, which grossed over \$190 million worldwide. Richard Wenk, who scripted the last two films in *The Equalizer* franchise, is writing the third entry. Fanning will likely play a character in need of McCall’s help to some degree, as the franchise formula goes.

*Man On Fire*, one of Denzel Washington’s earlier action outings followed his character, a former CIA operative named John W. Creasy, serving as a bodyguard for a young girl named Lupita (Dakota Fanning).

The film is just as well known for the heartfelt scenes between Washington and Fanning and Sony and Fuqua saw this as the perfect opportunity to reunite the two talents.

Dakota Fanning currently stars in Showtime’s *The First Lady* opposite Michelle Pfeiffer. She most recently finished production on limited series for Showtime, Steve Zaillian’s adaptation of *Ripley*. *The Equalizer 3* arrives in theaters on September 1, 2023.



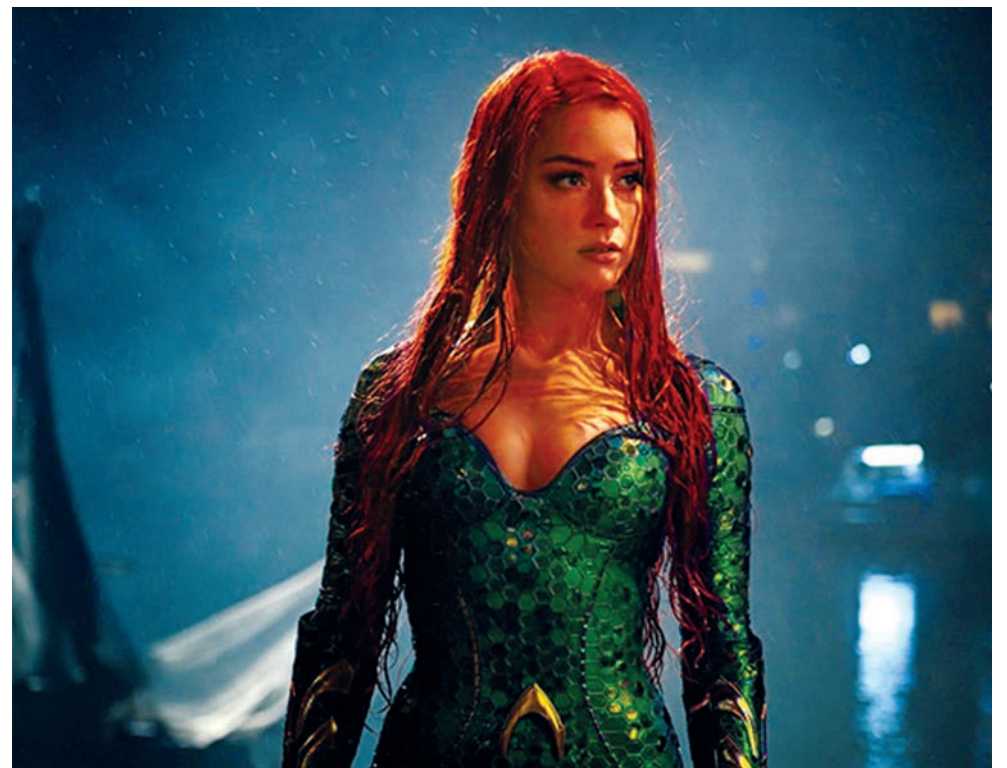
## Aquaman and the Lost Kingdom: Amber Heard not been recast in the sequel

**W**hile rumours around Amber Heard’s exit from the upcoming *Aquaman* sequel swirled earlier this week, it has now been reported that the actress is still a part of the upcoming DC film. Amidst the Johnny Depp defamation trial, petitions were signed for removal of Heard to be removed from the film.

According to *Variety*, a spokesperson for Heard said in a statement, “The rumor mill continues as it has from day one — inaccurate, insensitive and slightly insane.” In recent months, Heard’s reputation was tarnished due to the highly publicized defamation trial her former husband Johnny Depp filed against her over a 2018 *Washington Post* column which he said implied that he was physically abusive to her. The jury sided with Depp and ordered Heard to pay Depp \$10 million in compensatory damages and \$350,000 in punitive damages, given that the jury decided his reputation and career had been damaged as a result of the publication. As noted

by the outlet, during the weeks long televised trial, social media heavily favored Depp over Heard, painting him as a folk hero and her as a liar, leading to countless trolling of her testimony. She even brought up the “unfair” social media blowback this week during her latest public interview, a first after the trial ended. “Even somebody who is sure I’m deserving of all this hate and vitriol, even if you think that I’m lying, you still couldn’t look me in the eye and tell me that you think on social media there’s been a fair representation,” she said in the interview.

“You cannot tell me that you think that this has been fair.” During the trial, it was also revealed that *Aquaman* lead star Momoa also stepped in to save Heard’s role in the upcoming sequel alongside the movie’s director James Wan, as they were ‘committed to her’ and were ‘adamant she was in the film’. Heard had also testified that she was given a new script for *Aquaman 2* with a ‘very pared-down version’ of her role.





# Neha Kakkar- the artist and her art

**Neha Kakkar, one of the singing sensations of Bollywood, is currently on a US tour. She is scheduled to perform at the UBS Arena at Belmont Park in New York on June 25, 2022**

The journey of a small-town girl that became one of the leading playback singers of India is a truly inspirational story. Neha Kakkar belongs to a middle-class family. This girl also participated in Indian Idol in her early days. She, unfortunately, got eliminated in the beginning only. God had another plan for this girl. Who would have thought that a girl from such a small town could have dreams as big as hers? She broke all the barriers and created the path for herself.

## Early Days

Neha belongs to a small city in Uttarakhand. She is the youngest member of her family. She has two siblings, Tony Kakkar and Sonu Kakkar. Both of them are also playback singers in Bollywood. Her father was a samosa seller and, her mother is a homemaker. Their initial days were tough and, Neha also used to sing in the religious events to earn some side money for her family. Neha started singing at a very tender age of 4. The family suffered from a financial crisis, so they shifted to Delhi to try their kid's luck in singing. She used to attend 4-5 gatherings a day and sang only bhajans till she turned 16. This thing helped her in boosting her confidence and, people liked her

## Career

Neha is undoubtedly one of the most versatile singers that we have in Bollywood right now. You would be surprised to know that she has never had any formal training for her singing. After participating in Indian Idol, she failed to bag any singing contract from Bollywood. She started with singing on albums. Some of them got a little bit of recognition too. Meanwhile, she also acted in few movies and kept participating in various reality shows too.

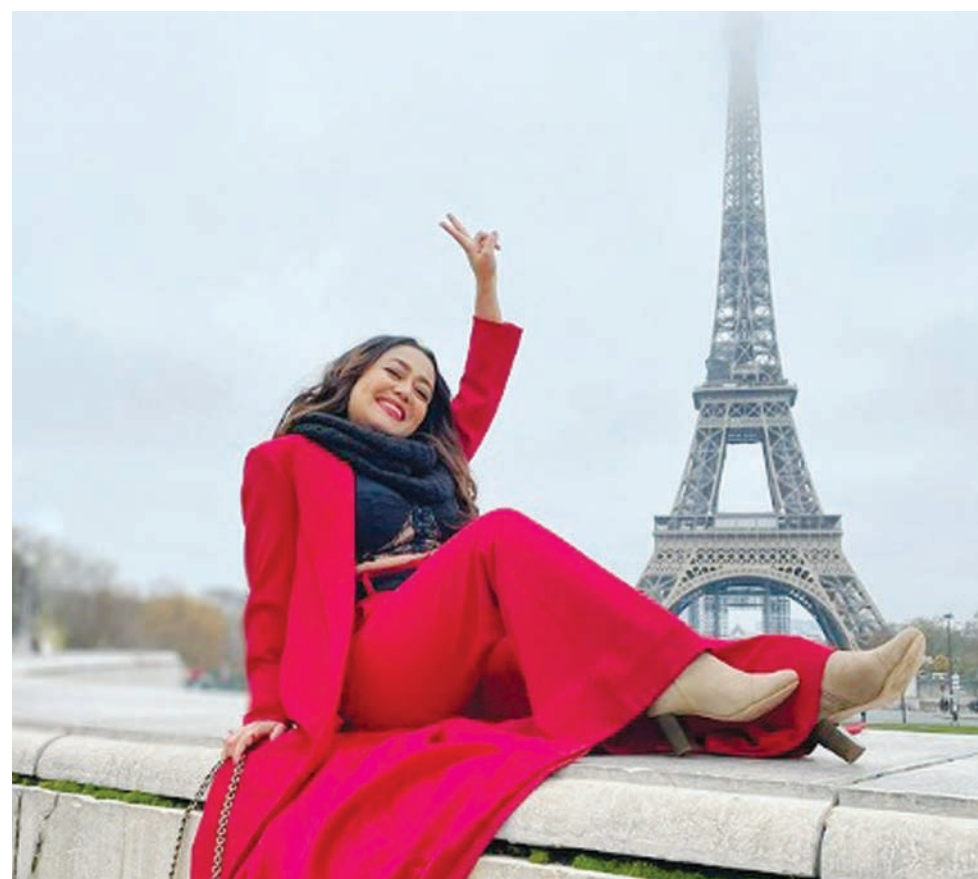
Her breakthrough was when she got to collaborate with Pritam for the movie Cocktail. She sang the song 'Second Hand Jawaani', and the listeners loved it. After that, there was no looking back for Neha Kakkar. She kept getting various singing contracts from famous music directors and lyricists. People loved her unique and fresh voice. She gave her voice to many Bollywood songs and, most of them were super hits.

## Net Worth

Coming from such a middle-class family, Neha Kakkar has made everything single handedly. She currently has a net worth of \$3.5 million and her vital sources of income are playback singing, reality shows, and endorsements.

Neha charges around INR 25 lakhs per song. She also charges INR 5 lakhs per episode as a reality show judge. She owns a bungalow in Rishikesh and has two luxurious cars. Neha is currently one of the highest-paid female playback singers in Bollywood. Her fame is just incomparable.

Neha Kakkar was in a relationship



with Himansh Kohli and, the couple broke up after a long time. Their breakup caught the eyes of the media. Himansh Kohli was cornered and suffered a

backlash from a lot of Neha's fans. But later, Neha cleared all the doubts and called their breakup a mutual decision.

Neha is now happily married to a 26-

years old Punjabi singer and actor. The two got married in 2020 and, both of them looked stunning at their wedding. The couple has also sung together for a couple of albums. Their recent song 'Khayal Rakhya Kar' has more than 110 million views on Youtube and people loved it. Their fans call them by the name 'NehuPreet' and, we think that's adorable.

Neha has received innumerable awards for her outstanding singing career. Every song she sings is a hit and crosses more than 100 million views on Youtube. Currently, she is the only female artist from India who is the most viewed female artist chart. She is standing high on the second position with 4.5 billion views. She has surpassed all the top artists like Selena Gomez, BlackPink, Billie Eilish, Ariana Grande, Nicki Minaj, and many more.

## Major awards she won are:

- Best Duet Vocalist - 4th PTC Punjabi Music Awards, 2017
- Bollywood Track of the Year (Dilbar) - Brit Asia TV Music Awards, 2018
- Mirchi Social Media Icon of the Year - 15th Mirchi Music Awards, 2020
- Favorite Judge Awards - Zee Rishtey Awards, 2017

## Brands Endorsements

Neha Kakkar is a brand herself. With her bewildering fame, companies love to keep her as their brand ambassador. Some of the brands endorsed by Neha Kakkar are: Samsung, Realme, GIVA family, Organic Harvest

## Fans and Following

Neha has sung over 50 songs for movies, albums, and TV shows. This girl has undoubtedly made a huge fan base for herself and, people adore her. She has a lot of followers on various social media platforms. On Instagram, she has over 57 million followers (as of May 2021). She is the only female playback singer of India to have such an immense number of followers on Instagram. Not only this, but she has also surpassed many A-list Bollywood actresses in the followers game. She is ahead of actresses like Katrina Kaif, Anushka Sharma, Kareena Kapoor, Kriti Sanon, etc. She is one of the top celebrities in India to have more than 55 million followers on Instagram. She is also one of the only female singers to have the highest number of live shows

## Neha Kakkar - Inspiration to all

Neha Kakkar is an inspiration for every individual. People can achieve anything they want if they are dedicated. Neha is the epitome of dedication and hard work. Her story teaches that you have to make opportunities for yourself rather than waiting for opportunities to come to you. She proved that with real perseverance, nothing is impossible. This girl has made it on her own. She fulfilled her big dreams on her condition. She is now one of the most loved celebrities in India and, her fame is unmatched.





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**7: 00 PM (EST) - 8: 00 PM**  
**(US AND CANADA)**

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# TRIBECA'S 'UNTOLD STORIES' HAS A \$1M WINNER

BY MABEL PAIS

**2021's WINNER Land of Gold**  
 (tribecafilm.com/films/land-of-gold-2022)  
**Director/Writer/Actor Nardeep Kurmi**  
**Premieres at TRIBECA'S FESTIVAL - Viewpoints Section**



'Untold Stories' \$1 Million Dollar winners So Young Shelly Yo & Guo Guo with Greenlight Committee & Festival Founders -

Front Row: (left) So Young Shelly Yo & Guo Guo

Back Row: (left to right) Kellyn Smith Kenny, Karen Horne, J.D. Dillard, Jane Rosenthal, Robert De Niro, DeWanda Wise and Leslie Cohen.  
 Photo / Courtesy R&CPMK

The Fifth annual 'Untold Stories' (an AT&T Award in collaboration with the Tribeca Festival) competition was held on June 10, 2022 at the Spring Studios at the Tribeca Center, Manhattan, New York.

The event featured 5 talented filmmakers selected as finalists with diverse voices and backgrounds vying for the opportunity to take their stories from untold to told.

## 2022 FINALIST FILMS

In order of presentation, the following were the 5 finalists:

**The Weight of Land**

Written and Directed by Daniel Drummond

Produced by Gia Rigoli and Esteban Zuluaga

When the Estradas, a family of Latino ranch hands, learn they've inherited one of the largest ranches in Arizona the promise of a better future seems certain. However, bitter feuds spurred by the inheritance drive a dangerous wedge between the Estradas and their small town.

## Paper Trail

Written and Directed by Rachael Moton

Produced by Gia Rigoli

In rapidly gentrifying North Philadelphia, two genius Black siblings at risk of eviction begin doing the coursework of local college students in exchange for cash. When one of their clients, a white woman, goes viral from an essay they wrote the siblings are faced with a moral dilemma: allow their client to publicly use their voices, or be caught at the center of a cheating scandal.

## Smoking Tigers

Directed and Written by So Young Shelly Yo

Produced by Guo Guo

Over one summer spent at an elite academic bootcamp, a lonely Korean American teenager hides her true identity to fit in, only to discover the

bittersweet pains of adulthood.

## Mutt

Written and Directed by Vuk LK

Produced by Alexander Stegmaier and Stephen Scott Scarpulla

Over the course of a single hectic day in New York City, three people from Feña's past are thrust back into his life. Having lost touch since transitioning from female to male, Feña must navigate the new dynamics of these old relationships while tackling the day-to-day challenges that come with living a life in-between.

## Under the Lights

Written and Directed by Miles Levin

Produced by Natalie Metzger

A boy with epilepsy, desperate to feel like a regular kid, goes to prom knowing that the lights will make him have a seizure.

The finalist-filmmakers during the live event, pitched their proposed feature film projects to an esteemed Greenlight Committee of industry professionals who decided who will be the next \$1 million dollar prize recipient. The winning film is guaranteed a premiere at the 2023 Tribeca Festival, subject to timely delivery of the film and be granted a dedicated "first look" opportunity with HBO Max. The additional 4 teams receive a \$10,000 grant for development support.

A "Fan Favorite" was also chosen by a vote during the livestream, and that project received an additional \$40,000 grant.

For the first time in the program's history, this year's 'Untold Stories' pitch event took place in front of a live audience. The Pitch Event was also available @ twitter.com/ATT on June 10th to tune into the livestream.

## WINNERS

SMOKING TIGERS won the Top Prize this year. The film tells the story of a lonely Korean American teenager who hides her true identity to fit in during a lonely summer at an elite academic bootcamp, only to discover the bittersweet pains of adulthood.

So Young Shelly Yo (Writer/Director) and Guo Guo (Producer) were awarded \$1 million to make their film, which will premiere at Tribeca Festival in 2023, mentorship, and distribution support. The additional four teams will receive a \$10,000 grant for development support. The \$1 million winner will premiere at the 2023 Tribeca Film Festival.

"It means so much for this program to support an intimate portrait like SMOKING TIGERS. This is a story we know, a story we love, and a story we have been carrying with us for a very, very long time. We truly can't wait to share SMOKING TIGERS with the world." said So Young Shelly Yo, SMOKING TIGERS Writer/Director, as she accepted the win.

During the event, a \$40,000 grant was presented to the Fan Favorite winner, Under The Lights, which was voted on by fans via twitter.com/ATT and will also provide a \$10,000 grant to each of the other 4 participating filmmakers to help achieve their film goals.

## 2022 AT&T UNTOLD STORIES GREENLIGHT COMMITTEE

Each filmmaker had the opportunity to pitch their project to the event Greenlight Committee, which included filmmaker J.D. Dillard, actress DeWanda Wise, AT&T Chief Marketing and Growth Officer Kellyn Smith Kenny, Warner Media SVP of Equity and Inclusion Karen Horne, acclaimed theater and film

actor Andre Holland, and HBO MAX SVP of Content Acquisition Leslie Cohen.

In addition to the filmmaker pitches and announcement of the winner and Fan Favorite films, the event also featured live remarks from Tribeca Festival Co-founders of the Festival, Jane Rosenthal and Robert De Niro.

For a replay of the pitch event, visit: youtube.com/user/ShareATT

## UNTOLD STORIES

'Untold Stories' was created (by AT&T with Tribeca) to help give the world access to stories from underrepresented filmmakers. In addition to the \$1 Million top prize, AT&T and Tribeca will mentor the filmmakers throughout the development process, assist with awards submissions, qualifying screenings, marketing and promotion of the film.

## ITS IMPACT

This unique partnership has already made an impact on inclusivity in film. Following its first three nationally-distributed films, Nigerian Prince (netflix.com/title/81014211), Lucky Grandma (gooddeentertainment.com/luckygrandma) and Marvelous and the Black Hole (filmrise.com/film/marvelous-and-the-black-hole) and 2021's winner Land of Gold (tribecafilm.com/films/land-of-gold-2022) will premiere at this year's Festival.

## PROGRAM IMPACT SINCE 2017

\$5 Million given to winning underrepresented filmmakers

\$200,000 in development funding to participants, resulting in 5 completed and distributed feature length films from new voices

Expansive exposure for unheard stories, opening doors to wider audiences

Project feedback and mentorship

Industry networking and connections, allowing 40% of participating films to be made

## 2021 WINNER



'The Land of Gold.'

Photo / tribecafilm.com

2021's winner Land of Gold (tribecafilm.com/films/land-of-gold-2022) by Director/Writer/Actor Nardeep Kurmi premieres at this year's Festival in the Viewpoints Section.

Congratulations to all the participants!

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



# YOGA FOR HUMANITY: SUSTAINABLE LIVING

**THE UN THEME FOR THE INTERNATIONAL DAY OF YOGA (IDY) - 21 JUNE THIS YEAR IS 'YOGA FOR HUMANITY.'**



BY MABEL PAIS

The International Day of Yoga aims to raise awareness worldwide of the many benefits of practicing yoga.

Yoga is an ancient physical, mental and spiritual practice that originated in India. The word 'yoga' derives from Sanskrit and means to join or to unite, symbolizing the union of body and consciousness.

The essence of yoga is balance - not just balance within the body or that between the mind and the body, but also balance in the human relationship with the world. Yoga emphasizes the values of mindfulness, moderation, discipline and

perseverance. When applied to communities and societies, Yoga offers a path for sustainable living.

Yoga can be an important instrument in the collective quest of humanity for promoting sustainable lifestyle in harmony with planet Earth. In keeping with this spirit, the theme for this year's Yoga Day celebrations is "Yoga for Humanity."

Recognizing its universal appeal, on 11 December 2014, the United Nations proclaimed 21 June as the International Day of Yoga by resolution 69/131.

The draft resolution establishing the International Day of Yoga was proposed by India and endorsed by a record 175 member states.

The proposal was first introduced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in his address during the opening of the 69th session of the General Assembly, in which he said: "Yoga is an invaluable gift from our ancient tradition. Yoga embodies unity of mind and body, thought and action ... a holistic approach [that] is valuable to our health and our well-being."

Yoga is not just about exercise; it is a way to discover the sense of oneness with yourself, the world and the nature."

The resolution notes "the importance of individuals and populations making healthier choices and following lifestyle patterns that foster good health." In this regard, the World Health Organization has also urged its member states to help their citizens reduce physical inactivity, which is among the top ten leading causes of death worldwide, and a key risk factor for non-communicable diseases, such as cardiovascular diseases, cancer and diabetes.

But yoga is more than a physical activity. In the words of one of its most famous practitioners, the late B. K. S. Iyengar, "Yoga cultivates the ways of maintaining a balanced attitude in day-to-day life and endows skill in the performance of one's actions."

## YOGA DURING COVID

People around the world embraced yoga to stay

healthy and rejuvenated and to fight social isolation and depression during the pandemic. Yoga is also playing a significant role in the psycho-social care and rehabilitation of COVID-19 patients in quarantine and isolation. It is particularly helpful in allaying their fears and anxiety.

In addition to the human suffering, the COVID-19 pandemic has also highlighted several key vulnerabilities of the economic and developmental models of countries around the world. Future prosperity demands that the UN member states rebuild differently as they recover from the COVID-19 pandemic.

## UN 2022 EVENTS

### Learn Yoga from the Masters

The Permanent Mission of India to the United Nations invites you to a celebration of the 8th annual International Yoga Day on 20 June 2022, from 5:30-7:30 pm EST at the North Lawn of UN Headquarters in New York, featuring a lecture and yoga demonstration. See the programme at [pminewyork.gov.in/IDYatUN](http://pminewyork.gov.in/IDYatUN)

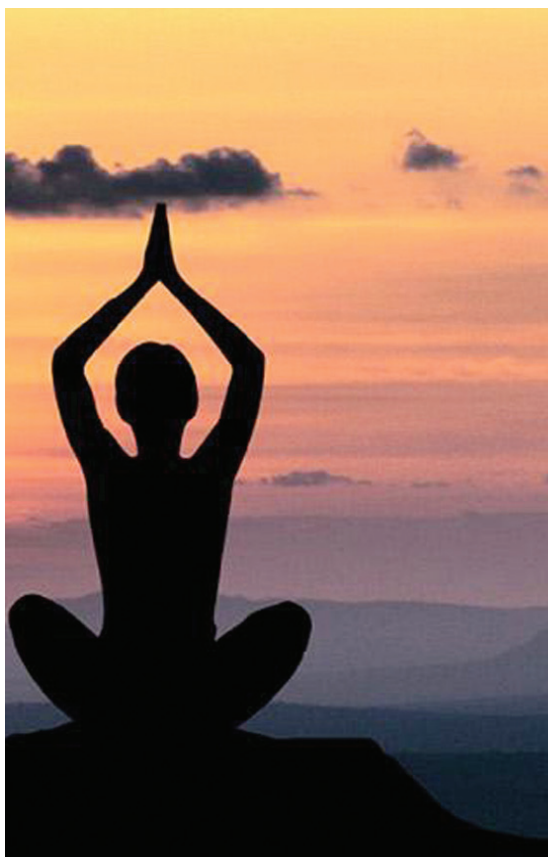
[Watch live on media.un.org/en/webtv.](https://media.un.org/en/webtv)

### The World of Yoga

The Permanent Mission of India to the UN presents "The World of Yoga" exhibition at the UN Delegates' entrance from 21 June - 1 July 2022. The digital exhibition offers a glimpse into the annual celebrations of the Day and presents a standardized set of Yoga practices, called the 'Common Yoga Protocol,' a good starting point for beginners to get inducted into the highly rewarding world of Yoga.

(Excerpted from UN.org)

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





# Zelenskyy vows Ukraine will prevail, British PM Boris Johnson promises lasting support

**KYIV (TIP):** With a blessing for its European Union ambitions and a pledge of unwavering support from Britain, Ukraine vowed on June 19 to prevail against Moscow as its troops battled the Russian assault near a pivotal eastern city and communities were pounded by more heavy shelling.

EU leaders are expected at a summit next week to grant Ukraine candidate status following Friday's recommendation from the bloc's executive, putting Kyiv on course to realise an aspiration seen as out of reach before the invasion, even if actual membership could take years.

British Prime Minister Boris Johnson, who made a surprise visit to Kyiv on Friday and offered training for Ukrainian forces, on Saturday stressed the need to keep supporting the country and avoid "Ukraine fatigue" after nearly four months of war.

On the battlefields, the industrial city of Sievierodonetsk, a prime target in Moscow's offensive to seize full control of the eastern Luhansk region, was under heavy artillery and rocket fire as the Russian forces attacked areas outside the city, the Ukrainian military said on Saturday.

The attack on towns just south of Sievierodonetsk was repulsed by Ukrainian forces, Luhansk Governor Serhiy Gaidai said on messaging app Telegram.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, whose defiance has inspired



Ukrainians and won him global respect, said on Saturday he had visited soldiers on the southern front line in the Mykolaiv region, offering a fresh message of hope on his return.

"Our brave men and women. Each one of them is working flat out," he said on his official Telegram account. "We will definitely hold out! We will definitely win!" A video posted on his account showed Zelenskyy in his trademark khaki t-shirt handing out medals and posing for selfies with the servicemen. Zelenskyy did not say when the trip took place.

Ukrainian authorities reported overnight shelling of multiple locations

in the eastern regions of Luhansk and Kharkiv and further west in Poltava and Dnipropetrovsk. Early on Saturday, Russian rockets rained on a suburb of Kharkiv, Ukraine's second-largest city, hitting a municipal building and starting a fire in a block of flats, but causing no casualties, a regional governor said.

Reuters could not independently confirm the battlefield accounts.

Moscow denies targeting civilians in what it terms a "special military operation" to disarm Ukraine and protect Russian speakers there from dangerous nationalists. Kyiv and its allies dismiss this as a baseless pretext for war.

## STRATEGIC RESILIENCE

"The Russians are grinding forward inch by inch and it is vital for us to show what we know to be true which is that Ukraine can win and will win," Johnson told reporters on his return to Britain from Kyiv.

"When Ukraine fatigue is setting in, it is very important to show that we are with them for the long haul and we are giving them the strategic resilience that they need," he said.

One of President Vladimir Putin's goals when he ordered thousands of troops into Ukraine on Feb. 24 was to halt the eastward expansion of the NATO military alliance and keep its southern neighbour outside of the West's sphere of influence.

But the war, which has killed thousands of people, turned cities into rubble and sent millions fleeing, has had the opposite effect.

It convinced Finland and Sweden to seek to join NATO and helped pave the way for Ukraine's EU membership bid.

"Ukrainians are ready to die for the European perspective," European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen said on Friday, while announcing its decision to recommend Ukraine and its neighbour Moldova as candidates for EU membership.

"We want them to live with us the European dream," she said, wearing a yellow blazer over a blue blouse, Ukrainian colours. Reuters

## 15,000 MILLIONAIRES ARE TRYING TO LEAVE RUSSIA: UK

**LONDON (TIP):** The UK's Defence Ministry said some 15,000 Russian millionaires were likely trying to leave Russia, as they refer to migration applications.

"Motivations highly likely include both personal opposition to the invasion and an intent to escape the financial impact of the sanctions imposed on Russia. Should this exodus continue, it'll likely exacerbate the war's long-term damage to Russia's economy," it added.

"Scepticism about the war is likely also particularly strong amongst Russia's business elite and oligarch community. Migration applications suggest that 15,000 Russian millionaires (in US dollars) are likely already attempting to leave the country," Ministry of Defence tweeted.

On the war front, Russia is likely trying to regain momentum in attempts to surround the Sievierodonetsk pocket from the south, it said.

Ukrainian officials have said their troops were holding out against massive Russian bombardment in the eastern city, and described new progress in a counteroffensive in the south. (TNS)

## CHINA TO HOLD THIS YEAR'S BRICS SUMMIT ON JUNE 23-24

**BEIJING (TIP):** The 14th summit of BRICS nations - Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa - will be hosted by Chinese President Xi Jinping here on June 23 via video link and would be followed by a high-level dialogue on global development the next day, the Foreign Ministry announced here on June 18.

China is this year's chair of the BRICS.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi along with Russian President Vladimir Putin, Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro and South African President Cyril Ramaphosa are expected to take part in the summit to be hosted by Chinese President Xi.

The Summit will be held in virtual format under the theme of 'Foster High-quality BRICS Partnership, Usher in a New Era for Global Development', Foreign Ministry spokesperson Hua Chunying said in a statement.

BRICS leaders and leaders of "relevant" emerging markets and developing countries will also attend a high-level dialogue on Jun 24 and hold a dialogue on 'Foster a Global Development Partnership for the New Era to Jointly Implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development', Hua said in a statement on Friday.

Xi will also take part in the opening ceremony of the BRICS Business Forum in virtual format on June 22 and deliver a keynote speech, she said.

In the run-up to the summit, China held a series of preparatory meetings, including the BRICS Foreign Ministers meeting followed by a meeting of the National Security Advisors (NSAs).

India's NSA Ajit Doval took part in the BRICS top security officials meeting held virtually on Wednesday.

The top security officials of the five countries held an in-depth exchange of views and reached a consensus on issues such as strengthening

multilateralism and global governance and responding to new threats and challenges to national security, according to the Chinese official media report.

Doval called for bolstering cooperation against terrorism without any reservations as he addressed the meeting of the five-nation grouping.

The meeting also discussed strengthening and improving governance in new frontiers, the state-run Xinhua news agency reported.

All parties expressed their readiness to work for fruitful outcomes of the 14th BRICS summit, it said.

The meeting reviewed the work of the working group on counter-terrorism and cyber security, agreed to jointly promote plans and roadmaps for international counter-terrorism and cyber security cooperation, and uphold the central coordinating role of the United Nations in the global counter-terrorism cause. (PTI)



# Remains of British journalist found in Amazon, police name new suspect

**SAO PAULO (TIP):** A forensic exam carried out on human remains found in the Amazon rainforest confirmed on June 18 that they belonged to British journalist Dom Phillips, Brazil's federal police said, adding that a search was underway for a man suspected of involvement in his killing.

The remains of a second person, believed to be that of indigenous expert Bruno Pereira, were still under analysis, a report by CNN Brasil said earlier on Friday.

Pereira and Phillips vanished on June 5 in the remote Javari Valley bordering Peru and Colombia. Earlier this week, police recovered human remains from a grave in the jungle where they were led by a fisherman, Amarildo da Costa Oliveira, who confessed to killing the two men.

Phillips, a freelance reporter who had written for the Guardian and the Washington Post, was doing research for a book on the trip with Pereira, a former head of isolated and recently contacted tribes at federal indigenous affairs agency Funai.

Police said their investigation suggested there were more individuals involved beyond Oliveira and that they were now looking for a man named Jeferson da Silva Lima.

He is the third suspect named by police after Oliveira and his brother, Oseney da Costa, who was taken into custody this week.

"There is an arrest warrant issued by the State Court of Atalaia do Norte against Jeferson da Silva Lima, aka



'Pelado da Dinha', who has not been located at this time," police said.

"The investigations indicate that the killers acted alone, with no bosses or criminal organization behind the crime." Local indigenous group Univaja, however, which played a leading role in the search, said: "The cruelty of the crime makes clear that Pereira and Phillips crossed paths with a powerful criminal organization that tried at all costs to cover its tracks during the investigation."

It said it had informed the federal police numerous times since late 2021 that there was an organized crime group operating in the Javari Valley.

INA, a union representing workers at Funai, shared that view.

"We all know that violence in the Javari Valley is linked to a wide chain of organized crime," it said in a separate statement.

Police said they were still searching for the boat Phillips and Pereira were traveling in when they were last seen alive. U.S. State Department spokesman Ned Price on Friday called for "accountability and justice," saying that Phillips and Pereira were murdered for supporting conservation of the rainforest and native peoples.

"Our condolences to the families of Dom Phillips and Bruno Pereira... We must collectively strengthen efforts to protect environmental defenders and journalists," Price said on Twitter. (Reuters)

## UKRAINIAN MEDIC WHO FILMED WAR HORRORS FREED

**TALLINN (TIP):** A Ukrainian medic whose footage was smuggled out of the besieged city of Mariupol was freed by Russian forces on June 18, three months after she was taken captive on the streets of the city.

The medic, Yuliia Paievskaya, is known in Ukraine as Taira, a nickname she chose in the World of Warcraft video game. Using a body camera, she recorded 256 gigabytes of her team's efforts over two weeks to save the wounded, including both Russian and Ukrainian soldiers.

Taira and a colleague were taken prisoner by Russian forces on March 16, the same day a Russian airstrike hit a theater in the city center, killing around 600 people, according to media probe.

"It was such a great sense of relief. Those sound like such ordinary words, and I don't even know what to say," her husband, Vadim Puzanov, said. He added that the couple had spoken with each other over phone and Taira was en route to a Kyiv hospital. — AP

## 2 DEAD IN MEXICO AFTER NETFLIX SERIES CAST, CREW VAN CRASHES

**MEXICO CITY (TIP):** Two actors on the Netflix series The Chosen One were killed and six other cast or crew members were injured after the van they were riding in crashed near Mulege on the Baja California Sur peninsula.

Local media reported the crash occurred June 17, and said the van flipped after running off the road in a desert area. The crew had apparently been working in the nearby Santa Rosalia area at the time.

The Baja California Department of Culture said Friday that Raymundo Garduño Cruz and Juan Francisco González Aguilar died.

Netflix describes The Chosen One this way: "A 12-year-old boy learns he's the returned Jesus Christ, destined to save humankind. Based on the comic book series by Mark Millar and Peter Gross." According to casting calls, the series is being taped by an independent production company. (AP)

## EU COMMISSION FOR CANDIDATE STATUS TO UKRAINE & MOLDOVA

**KYIV (TIP):** The executive arm of the European Union recommended on June 18 that Ukraine and Moldova be granted candidate status to join the 27-nation bloc.

The promise of membership in a union created to safeguard peace on the continent holds deep symbolism for the nation at war. But it is only the first step in a process that could take decades. (Agencies)

# Pioneering Russian journalist sells Nobel Peace medal for Ukraine

**MOSCOW (TIP):** Russian journalist and Nobel Peace laureate Dmitry Muratov is auctioning his Nobel medal for Ukrainian refugees, distraught at the eradication of independent media in his country, where he says fewer and fewer people support Moscow's military campaign.

Muratov is the bear-like co-founder and long-time editor-in-chief of Novaya Gazeta, a newspaper critical of the Kremlin that was itself established in 1993 with money from former Soviet president Mikhail Gorbachev's Nobel Peace Prize.

For years it defied tightening restrictions on dissenting media, but in March it finally suspended its online and print activities after it became a crime-punishable by 15 years in jail - to report anything on the conflict that veered from the government line.

"My country invaded another state,

Ukraine. There are now 15.5 million refugees ... We thought for a long time about what we could do ... and we thought that everyone should give away something dear to them, important to them," Muratov told Reuters in an interview.

Auctioning his golden medal would mean he shared in some way in the fate of refugees who had lost their mementoes and "their past", he said.

"Now they want to take away their future, but we must make sure that their future is preserved ... the most important thing we want to say and show is that human solidarity is necessary." Muratov's medal is being sold by Heritage Auctions on June 20, World Refugee Day, with the support of the prize committee.

It had called the award to Muratov and Maria Ressa, a journalist from the Philippines, an endorsement of the right

to free speech that was in jeopardy around the world.

Muratov dedicated his prize to six Novaya Gazeta journalists murdered for their work, among them some of the highest-profile critics of President Vladimir Putin.

## MEDIA CLAMPDOWN

He lamented the lack of a free media, and the severity of the state's crackdown on protest.

"The absence of real freedom of speech, of real exchange of opinions, of real freedom of expression is leading to the fact that people have no choice. They just have to believe what the state propagandists tell them," he said.

"There are no free media outlets. Rallies are actually banned, including in the regions. For any statement, an administrative or criminal case is initiated. (Reuters)



# Tamarind leaves for healthy hair

Tamarind is considered to be beneficial for hair. This spice is found in most Indian kitchens and has even been used for medicinal purposes. Loaded with minerals and vitamins, tamarind has uncountable benefits for hair and skin. While adding tamarind to the diet can help with various health issues, its leaves can be used to improve hair quality.

Tamarind leaves are rich in anti-dandruff and anti-bacterial properties. Including tamarind leaves can keep you away from scalp issues. Not only this, but they also help in hair growth and strength.

## Ways to use tamarind leaves:

You can use tamarind leaves as a hair pack or make tamarind spray. To make the tamarind spray, boil half a cup of tamarind leaves in 5 cups of water. After it cools down, wash the hair with water. At the same time, to make a hair mask, grind tamarind leaves and mix curd in them. Now, apply the paste to the hair and massage the head. After 15 minutes, wash the hair with clean water.

## Check out these amazing benefits of Tamarind here:

### Stops hair fall:

The anti-inflammatory and anti-bacterial properties present in tamarind leaves are helpful in making the hair stronger from the roots. The breakage of hair is reduced, and it becomes long and thick.

### Helps in getting rid of white hair:

Tamarind leaves have natural colouring agents in them. The regular use of tamarind leaves on the hair will eliminate the white hair problem.

### Get shiny hair:

A tamarind hair mask can be the best option to bring shine to your



hair. For this, grind tamarind leaves and make a paste. Now mix honey in it and apply it to the hair. Leave it for some time and wash it with clean water.

### No more oily scalp:

Tamarind pulp can help control

scalp sebum production which will help you get rid of a greasy scalp.

### Straighten hair naturally:

Mixing rice water with tamarind leaves can help you straighten your hair naturally.

Source: News18

## FOOD

### Kashmiri Lamb

#### Ingredients

4 dried red chile peppers (such as cayenne), 3 long, green fresh chile peppers (such as Indian Jwala), 1 teaspoon cumin seeds, 1 teaspoon Kashmiri garam masala, 1 (1 inch) piece fresh ginger root, peeled and grated, 5 cloves garlic, crushed, ¼ cup dried unsweetened coconut, 3 tomatoes, chopped, 6 tablespoons vegetable oil, 2 large onions, thinly sliced, 2 pounds lamb meat, cut into 1 1/2-inch cubes, salt to taste, ½ teaspoon ground turmeric, 1 cup plain yogurt, ½ teaspoon saffron threads, 20 whole blanched almonds, ¼ cup chopped fresh cilantro,

#### Method

- Place red chiles, green chiles, cumin seeds, garam masala, ginger, garlic, grated coconut, and tomatoes into a blender; pulse several times to chop, then blend into a smooth paste.
- Heat vegetable oil in a large skillet or Dutch oven over medium heat. Stir in onion; cook and stir until the onion has softened and turned translucent, about 5 minutes. Reduce heat to medium-low, and continue cooking and stirring until the onion is very tender and golden brown, 10 to 15 minutes more.
- Stir the spice paste into the onion and cook and stir until the oil separates from the mixture, about 3 minutes.
- Stir in lamb pieces and salt. Cook, stirring frequently over medium-high heat, until the lamb pieces are browned on all sides, about 8 minutes.
- Mix in yogurt, saffron, and blanched almonds until well combined.
- Reduce the heat to low and simmer, covered, until the meat is tender and the gravy is thick, about 1 hour.
- Garnish the curry with chopped cilantro before serving.



## Perk up your skin with coffee

Coffee can perk up your skin. The caffeine in coffee has a number of benefits for your skin, from treating redness and inflammation, to reducing the appearance of under-eye circles, to getting rid of cellulite. By incorporating caffeine into your skin care routine, you can reveal evenly toned, smooth skin all over your body.

### Reduces Inflammation

Caffeine has potent anti-inflammatory properties that make it ideal for reducing inflammation and redness in your skin. In a 1981 study performed at the Seoul National University, researchers found that caffeine is able to reduce inflammation

almost as well as aspirin in rats; in a 1978 performed at the University of Tennessee, researchers found that adding caffeine to anti-inflammatory creams significantly increased their effectiveness. Overall, use of skin care products containing caffeine will reduce and prevent inflammation and redness, leaving you with a beautiful, even skin tone.

### Helps get rid of under-eye circles

Dark under-eye circles can be caused by a number of factors, including dehydration, allergies, lack of sleep or genetics. Although caffeine cannot completely erase hereditary dark circles, applying caffeine under your

eyes will reduce the puffiness and inflammation associated with dark circles. Additionally, caffeine reduces the build-up of blood under your eyes which contributes to dark shadows. Several eye creams contain caffeine, or you can apply moist tea bags to your eyes for five minutes to reduce puffiness and give you a more alert appearance.

### Gets rid of cellulite

Caffeine can also reduce the appearance of cellulite. In a 2008 study performed at the University of São Paulo, researchers found that an application of skin cream containing caffeine to cellulite reduced the size of cellulite fat cells by 17 percent.



# Monkeypox only spreads through air during 'sustained' face-to-face contact: CDC

Amid the rising cases of monkeypox, the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has revealed that it can spread through the air but only through 'sustained' face-to-face contact with an infected person.

In a briefing on Friday, CDC chief Rochelle Walensky said monkeypox was being passed on through physical contact with symptomatic patients and by touching their clothing and bedding, reports the Daily Mail.

But attempting to clear up whether face masks are needed to avoid catching the rash-causing virus, the epidemiologist explained the rash-causing virus would not 'linger in the air' like Covid.

"The disease is not spread through casual conversations, passing others in a grocery store, or touching things like door knobs," she said.

"All of the cases we have seen to date in this outbreak have been related to direct contact." During the conference health officials also called on Americans with any sexually transmitted infection, including syphilis, gonorrhoea and chlamydia, to get tested for monkeypox.

They warned many patients were experiencing rashes and sores on the genitals and anus that looked like STIs.

Several cases of co-infection with monkeypox and a sexually transmitted disease have also been recorded.

Walensky stressed that the virus was only transmitted through the air via large droplets expelled from infected people that quickly fall to the ground.

The World Health Organisation (WHO) said it would hold an emergency meeting to determine if the Monkeypox outbreak should be classified as a public health emergency of international concern.

"The outbreak of monkeypox is unusual and concerning. For that reason, I have decided to convene



the Emergency Committee under the International Health Regulations next week, to assess whether this outbreak represents a public health emergency of international concern," said WHO chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus.

The emergency committee will meet on June 23 to discuss the designation, which is the highest alarm the UN agency can sound.

"WHO is also working with partners and experts from around the world on changing the name of monkeypox virus... and the disease it causes," Tedros said, adding, "We will make announcements about the new names as soon as possible."

Until a few months, Monkeypox had been mostly confined to western and central Africa.

Tedros said 1,600 confirmed Monkeypox cases and 1,500 suspected cases have been reported to the WHO this year from 39 countries, 32 of which have been recently hit by the virus.

While 72 deaths have been reported in countries where Monkeypox was already endemic, none have been seen in the newly affected countries, Tedros said.



## Prediabetes linked to heart attack risk; regular exercise can make difference

Prediabetes appears to be a substantial risk factor for heart attacks on its own, says a new study. The study, presented at ENDO 2022, showed that prediabetes was associated with 25 per cent increased odds of a heart attack, compared with patients without prediabetes.

"Our study serves as a wake-up to everyone to shift the focus to managing prediabetes, not just diabetes," lead author Kavin Raj from Saint Peter's University Hospital in the US.

"Based on our findings, we encourage everyone to make lifestyle changes, follow a healthy diet and regularly exercise for at least 150 minutes each week in patients with prediabetes to decrease the risk of heart attacks," Raj added.

Prediabetes is a condition in which blood glucose levels are higher than normal, but not high enough to be considered diabetes.

People with prediabetes are more prone to develop diabetes.

For the study, the researchers analysed data from 1.79 million hospitalisations of patients who had a heart attack. Of these patients, 1 per cent had prediabetes.

After adjusting for risk factors for heart disease including age, sex, race, family history of heart attack, high blood pressure, high cholesterol, diabetes, smoking and obesity, prediabetes was associated with a 25 per cent increased odds of a heart attack as compared to patients without prediabetes.

Those with prediabetes also were at 45 per cent increased odds of having percutaneous intervention (a heart treatment to open blocked blood vessels) and almost double the risk of having heart bypass surgery.

Source: IANS

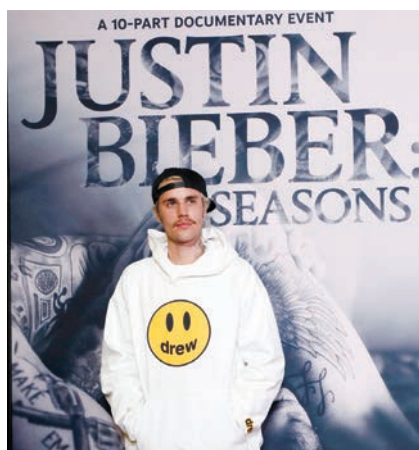
## What is Ramsay Hunt syndrome, the condition affecting Justin Bieber?

Justin Bieber has had to cancel future concert dates because of a viral infection that has paralysed one side of his face.

"As you can see, this eye is not blinking," Bieber told his fans in a video on Instagram. "I can't smile on this side of my face. This nostril will not move."

The 28-year-old Canadian popstar has a condition called Ramsay Hunt syndrome. It is caused by the varicella-zoster virus – the virus that causes chickenpox.

After a person has recovered from chickenpox, the virus can remain dormant in the body for decades. It usually hides in a structure called the dorsal root ganglion – a collection of nerve cells next to the spinal cord. While it is dormant, the virus causes no symptoms. In some people, it becomes reactivated. This can happen spontaneously or by a known trigger, such as another infection (including COVID-19), a weakened immune system or stress. All of these things change the working of the immune system, enabling the varicella virus to spring back into action and cause



disease. When the virus is reactivated, it typically appears in a single section of the body (often the torso) as a painful rash and blisters known as shingles.

However, when the reactivation affects a nerve in the head called the facial nerve, it is known as Ramsay Hunt syndrome, after James Ramsay Hunt, the doctor who first described the disorder in 1907. Ramsey Hunt syndrome typically affects five in 100,000 people each year, and anyone who has had chickenpox can

potentially develop it.

### How it causes damage

The facial nerve leaves the brain to get to the face via a very narrow channel called the facial canal. There is one on each side of the brain to supply the left and right sides of the face. This narrow, bony tunnel is inside a very dense piece of bone, so the slightest inflammation can lead to the nerve being pinched. And because it is located deep in the skull, it can be very difficult to treat.

For part of its journey, the facial nerve, travels with the vestibulocochlear nerve, which is involved in hearing and balance, which is why some people with Ramsay Hunt syndrome also have problems with hearing, such as tinnitus, and occasionally balance.

The symptoms of this syndrome vary from case to case, but there is usually paralysis of the facial nerve which supplies the muscles of facial expression, making it difficult to smile or frown. It may also limit the ability to blink, and some people have slurred speech and changes in their taste.

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## Snap tests new subscription feature called Snapchat+

Snap Inc, the parent company of photo messaging app Snapchat, is testing a new subscription service called Snapchat+ that would give subscribers access to exclusive and pre-release features, a Snap spokesperson confirmed on Thursday, June 16.

The subscription feature, which Snap said is being tested internally, was first revealed on Twitter by a user named Alessandro Paluzzi, a mobile developer and reserve engineer according to his Twitter bio.

Snapchat+ would cost 4.59 euros for a one-month subscription or 45.99 euros for one year, according to screenshots Paluzzi posted on Twitter.

It would be the first subscription product for Snapchat, which lets users post content stories, play games and scroll through a TikTok-like feature called Spotlight.

## Meta, Google, Twitter pledge to better fight fake news or risk fines

Meta, Alphabet unit Google, Twitter and Microsoft on Thursday, June 16, agreed to take a tougher line against disinformation including deep fakes and fake accounts under an updated EU code of practice or face hefty fines.

More than 30 signatories, including advertising bodies, have signed up to the updated Code of Practice on disinformation, the European Commission said. The signatories agree to do more to tackle deepfakes, fake accounts and political advertising while non-compliance can lead to fines as much as 6% of a company's global turnover, the EU executive said, confirming a Reuters report last week. The companies have six months to comply with pledges, with a progress report due at the beginning of 2023. *Source: Reuters*

## WhatsApp group admins to soon have more control over new members

WhatsApp Group links can be really convenient when you want to create large groups quickly. A shareable link allowed admins to simply share it while all relevant users could themselves join the group via the link. However, this convenience also opened a security vulnerability as the link could end up in the wrong hands and anyone could join the group.

A new WhatsApp update is now looking to rectify this issue. Among the new features, the latest WhatsApp beta update also includes an Admin Approval feature, that when enabled, will allow WhatsApp group admins to accept or deny requests of people who are joining via a link.

The news comes from WABetaInfo, and suggests that the feature — currently only limited to beta users— will soon be available for stable versions of the app on Android and iOS both.

# Scientists craft sweaty, self-healing living human skin for robots

Scientists from Japan have brought us one step closer to human-like robots by crafting living human skin on robots which gave their fingers skin-like texture, as well as water-repellent and self-healing functions.

While current silicone skin made for robots can mimic human appearance, it falls short when it comes to delicate textures like wrinkles and lacks skin-specific functions.

"The (new) finger looks slightly 'sweaty' straight out of the culture medium," said first author Shoji Takeuchi, Professor at the University of Tokyo, Japan.

"Since the finger is driven by an electric motor, it is also interesting to hear the clicking sounds of the motor in harmony with a finger that looks just like a real one," he added. In the paper, presented in the journal *Matter*, Takeuchi noted that to efficiently cover surfaces with skin cells, they established a tissue moulding method to directly mould skin tissue around the robot, which resulted in a seamless skin coverage on a robotic finger.

To craft the skin, the team first submerged the robotic finger in a cylinder filled with a solution of collagen and human dermal fibroblasts, the two main



The articulated robot finger covered with living skin tissue that can self-heal with the help of a collagen bandage is seen in Tokyo, Japan, in this undated handout photo released by Biohybrid Systems(Takeuchi) Laboratory, The University of Tokyo and obtained by Reuters on June 10, 2022. Biohybrid Systems(Takeuchi) Laboratory, The University of Tokyo/Handout via Reuters

components that make up the skin's connective tissues.

Takeuchi said the study's success lies within the natural shrinking tendency of this collagen and fibroblast mixture, which shrank and tightly conformed to the finger.

Like paint primers, this layer provided a uniform foundation for the next coat of cells -- human epidermal keratinocytes -- to stick

to. These cells make up 90 per cent of the outermost layer of skin, giving the robot a skin-like texture and moisture-retaining barrier properties.

The crafted skin had enough strength and elasticity to bear the dynamic movements as the robotic finger curled and stretched.

When wounded, the crafted skin could even self-heal like humans' with the help of a collagen bandage, which gradually morphed into the skin and withstood repeated joint movements. "We are surprised by how well the skin tissue conforms to the robot's surface," said Takeuchi. "But this work is just the first step toward creating robots covered with living skin." However, the developed skin is much weaker than natural skin and can't survive long without constant nutrient supply and waste removal.

Next, Takeuchi and his team plan to address those issues and incorporate more sophisticated functional structures within the skin, such as sensory neurons, hair follicles, nails, and sweat glands.

"I think living skin is the ultimate solution to give robots the look and touch of living creatures since it is exactly the same material that covers animal bodies," said Takeuchi. *Source: IANS*

# So long, Internet Explorer; the browser is finally retiring

Internet Explorer is finally headed out to pasture. As of Wednesday, June 15, Microsoft will no longer support the once-dominant browser that legions of web surfers loved to hate — and a few still claim to adore. The 27-year-old application now joins BlackBerry phones, dial-up modems and Palm Pilots in the dustbin of tech history.

IE's demise was not a surprise. A year ago, Microsoft said that it was putting an end to Internet Explorer on June 15, 2022, pushing users to its Edge browser, which was launched in 2015.

The company made clear then it was time to move on. "Not only is Microsoft Edge a faster, more secure and more modern browsing experience than Internet Explorer, but it is also able to address a key concern: compatibility for older, legacy websites and applications," Sean Lyndersay, general manager of Microsoft Edge Enterprise, wrote in a May 2021 blog post.

Users marked Explorer's passing on Twitter, with some referring to it as a "bug-ridden, insecure POS" or the "top browser for installing other browsers." For others it was a moment for 90's nostalgia memes, while *The Wall Street Journal* quoted a 22-year-old who was sad to see IE go.

Microsoft released the first version of Internet Explorer in 1995, the antediluvian era of web surfing dominated by the first widely popular browser, Netscape Navigator. Its launch signaled the beginning of the end of Navigator: Microsoft went on to tie IE and its ubiquitous Windows operating system together so tightly that many people simply used it by default instead of Navigator.

The Justice Department sued Microsoft in 1997, saying



it violated an earlier consent decree by requiring computer makers to use its browser as a condition of using Windows. It eventually agreed to settle the antitrust battle in 2002 over its use of its Windows monopoly to squash competitors. It also tangled with European regulators who said that tying Internet Explorer to Windows gave it an unfair advantage over rivals such as Mozilla's Firefox, Opera and Google's Chrome.

Users, meanwhile, complained that IE was slow, prone to crashing and vulnerable to hacks. IE's market share, which in the early 2000s was over 90%, began to fade as users found more appealing alternatives.

Today, the Chrome browser dominates with roughly a 65% share of the worldwide browser market, followed by Apple's Safari with 19%, according to internet analytics company Statcounter. IE's heir, Edge, lags with about 4%, just ahead of Firefox. *Source: AP*



## SPACE X FIRES SEVERAL EMPLOYEES WHO CRITICISED CEO ELON MUSK: REPORT

SpaceX, the rocket ship company run by Tesla CEO Elon Musk, has fired several employees involved in an open letter that blasted the colorful billionaire for his behavior, according to media reports.

The reports published Friday, June 17, cited an email from Gwynne Shotwell, SpaceX's president, saying the company had terminated employees who put together and circulated the letter. The letter writers denounced Musk for actions that they said are a "frequent source of distraction and embarrassment for us, particularly in recent weeks."

The New York Times was the first outlet to report the purge, based on information from three employees familiar with the situation. The employees were not named.

It's unclear how many SpaceX workers lost their jobs, but Shotwell left no doubt that the company believed they had crossed an unacceptable line.

"The letter, solicitations and general process made employees feel uncomfortable, intimidated and bullied, and/or angry because the letter pressured them to sign onto something that did not reflect their views," Shotwell wrote in her email, according to the Times. "We have too much critical work to accomplish and no need for this kind of overreaching activism."

The firings occurred Thursday — the same day Musk addressed Twitter employees for the first time about his \$44 billion deal to add that social media service to his business empire. The purchase is in limbo while Musk tries to determine whether Twitter has been concealing the number of fake accounts on its platform.

## INDIA'S FOREIGN EXCHANGE RESERVES FALL BY \$4.6 BILLION FOR WEEK ENDING JUNE 10

India's foreign exchange reserves for the week that ended on June 10, 2022, declined by \$4.59 billion to \$596.46 billion, Reserve Bank of India (RBI) data showed on Friday, June 17.

The previous week that ended on June 3, 2022, the total foreign exchange reserves were at \$601.05 billion.

The latest decline in the reserves was on account of a sizable fall in Foreign Currency Assets (FCA), which is a major component of the overall reserves.

The FCA declined by \$4.53 billion to \$532.24 billion during the week, the RBI data showed.

Gold reserves dipped marginally during the week, while the Special Drawing Rights (SDRs) with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) dropped by \$23 million to \$18.38 billion.

Further, the country's reserve position with the IMF decreased by \$40 million to \$4.99 billion.

# WTO agrees deals on fishing subsidies, food security, Covid vaccines

GENEVA (TIP)

In a landmark decision, more than 160 member countries of the World Trade Organization on Friday, June 17, agreed on deals curbing harmful fishing subsidies, waiving COVID-19 vaccine patents temporarily and tackling food insecurity following two nights of hectic negotiations.

"Not in a long while has the WTO seen such a significant number of multilateral outcomes," the global trade body's director-general Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala said after the package of measures was passed by 164 members at its headquarters in Geneva.

"The package of agreements you have reached will make a difference to the lives of people around the world," she said.

"The outcomes demonstrate that the WTO is in fact capable of responding to emergencies of our time," she added.

The talks at the global trade body's Geneva headquarters began Sunday and were due to wrap up on Wednesday. However, the discussions went through into Friday, finally concluding at around 5:00 am (0300 GMT).

A formal announcement on all these issues is likely to be announced anytime soon.

According to reports, for the first time, subsidies on overfishing, deep sea fishing and Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing has been addressed through the proposed pact.

Negotiations toward banning subsidies that encourage overfishing and threaten the sustainability of the planet's fish stocks have been going on at the WTO for more than 20 years.

Some delegations accused India of being intransigent on every topic under discussion at the WTO -- where decisions can only pass with the agreement of every member.

But Indian Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal insisted, "India is not a roadblock on anything... People are realising that we were the ones who actually helped create the sole consensus."

The second major issue on the table was the plan for a COVID-19 vaccine patents waiver.

Some countries that host major pharmaceutical companies, like Britain and Switzerland, were finding some of the draft wording problematic, while big pharma feared a deal that would strangle innovation.

But Britain's ambassador in Geneva, Simon Manley, told Okonjo-Iweala late Thursday that after clarification and improvements were achieved, London was "now ready to join the consensus".



World Trade Organization Director-General Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala is congratulated by Union minister of Commerce Piyush Goyal after a closing session of a World Trade Organization Ministerial Conference at the WTO headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland. REUTERS

## Success for India at WTO ministerial conference: Piyush Goyal

Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal on June 17 said that India has achieved spectacular success at World Trade Organization (WTO)'s ministerial conference (MC12) in Geneva, Switzerland. Goyal had led India's delegation to the four-day global summit which was extended for two additional days after differences among member nations on key issues, led to intense negotiations.

"India is 100% satisfied with the outcome of WTO's MC12 conference. India was successful in ensuring the livelihood of its farmers and fishermen," Goyal said. He further added that India was successful in convincing all nations to ensure a patent waiver for the manufacturing of Covid vaccines.

Goyal was speaking to the press after the once-in-two-year mega meeting of trade ministers from all 162 WTO member nations concluded in the early hours of Friday.

While India had pushed for more comprehensive measures in these areas, as well as for talks on agriculture, the final outcome has been backed by New Delhi as promising.

# RBI not behind curve, focus on inflation target could have been risky: Das

MUMBAI (TIP)

Governor Shaktikanta Das on Friday, June 17, refuted criticism of the RBI being behind the curve in its policies, making it clear that the consequences of focusing on the 4% inflation target would have been 'disastrous' for the pandemic-hit economy.

In comments that came two days after former Chief Economic Adviser Arvind Subramanian co-authored an article blaming the RBI for acting late on inflation and being behind the curve, Das said the central bank acted as per the evolving economic developments and also gave out a timeline of its actions to explain the shift.

"...tolerance of a higher inflation during the pandemic was a necessity, and



we still stand by our decision," Das said speaking at an event.

He said the RBI switched into ultra-accommodation as soon as the country went into the lockdown and shifted focus to inflation two years later in April 2022, when it saw the GDP had gone beyond the pre-pandemic level.

Despite its accommodative policies, the economy contracted by 6.6% in FY21 and

recovered to barely above the pre-pandemic levels in FY22, he said, stressing that a shift in policy management to focus on inflation even 3-4 months before April 2022 was not apt.

"I feel we are very much in line with the requirements of our time, the RBI has acted proactively and I would not agree with any perception or any sort of description that the RBI has fallen behind the curve," Das said.

Subramanian's article blamed the RBI for being behind the curve, pointing out that the 4% inflation target has not been met since October 2019 and in 18 of the 32 months since then, the headline consumer price inflation has breached even the RBI's ceiling of 6%. It also raised question marks over inflation forecasting.

Source: PTI



Shree Ganeshaya Namah



VEDIC ASTROLOGER NASTUR BEJAN DARUWALLA

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The Indian Panorama brings you Weekly and Birthday Horoscope by Nastur Bejan Daruwalla

WEEKLY HOROSCOPE - JUNE 20 TO JUNE 26, 2022



**Aries**

Dear Aries, on a competitive level, your employers and colleagues will appreciate your achievements this week. Be careful if you make investments since you may miss out on critical data. Your kids will be gifted both artistically and intellectually. Steer away from loud sounds and strive to have a peaceful atmosphere. Your love life will demand some attention this week as your partner and you both will have different perspectives on multiple things. Married people will have to be careful in the first half of the week. Today is a good day to pay attention to your health because you're likely to have mild headaches and backaches.



**Taurus**

You'll restore your vigor and return to your mundane schedule. Dear Taurus. You will be rewarded for something good you did previously. On the economic front, you'll be presented with a number of unforeseen chances. You will have the freedom to bargain on your own conditions, but you will be constrained in your advancement. Anyone at employment may have concerns about your approach, which can be frustrating initially, but they will ultimately come around. As far as your relationship is concerned, this week is going to be really fruitful for you as you will surely meet someone like-minded. Your health will need some attention this week as you might suffer from periodic headaches in the first half of the week.



**Gemini**

This week, you will celebrate togetherness as domestic issues are settled. On a competitive basis, this is not the greatest week to get involved in any regulatory issues relating to the company. You'll be more focused and have a greater sense of what's going on in your environment. Putting money into the apparel industry will repay off tremendously. Anyone will monitor your kids and try to safeguard them by compelling them to be good. This is going to be an amazing week as far as your romantic life is concerned as your partner will help you go through multiple problems which have been bothering you. This week, you must take care of your health especially if you are suffering from any cardiac issues.



**Cancer**

Professionally, you'll be burdened by the backlog of tasks you pushed aside before. Dear Cancer. Don't rush; one stride at a time will

enough. Somebody will damage the company's workplace diversity, causing you more pressure, but the excellent thing is that your week's experiences will educate you on ambidextrous skills. This week your love life will flourish. You'll be able to make your partner feel contented and secure in your presence. As far as your health is concerned, you will have to be really careful as the position of Rahu will affect your mental health this week. Ask your children to be careful this week.



**Leo**

Your management consultant is most likely to give you some good information this week. Lord Saturn is on your team when it relates to commerce, hence your revenues will increase this week, and you'll be able to make a bunch of income from unit trusts. Try to keep your legs rooted while savoring your vivid delights. A bride and groom will be on the identical path while addressing important events in their children's life. It is going to be an amazing week for newly wedded couples as they will spend a lot of time together. People who are looking for the right match to get married to will find it difficult to come to conclusions but, in the last three days of the week, you will receive the right guidance from your parents regarding the same. Your health will be alright this week.



**Virgo**

Despite the fact that your week will be demanding, you will be satisfied with how you handled it. You are susceptible to overpaying on modest things on a business basis, which you must prevent. People in business roles will be rewarded for their consistency and tenacity by their bosses and colleagues. If you concentrate carefully, you'll be less likely to make mistakes, but you'll also obtain greater results. It is going to be the week of affection and passion in terms of your love life. For people who have married recently, this week we will get time to settle in with your new family. Stirred by Venus, people are likely to find their companion this week. About your fitness, this week your health will demand least attention hence, you can stay carefree.



**Libra**

Your week will be tranquil and pleasant, although Saturn and Neptune will disrupt your tranquility in the first few days. Talk gently since you're much more than likely to damage one of your loved ones. You will find it difficult to ignore extreme opinions and keep

small conflicts to a minimum. On a technical level, this is an excellent week for equity marketplace and plan manager investing. This week, before accepting any official document, check the data, as one of your colleagues will try to deceive you. In terms of your love life, this week will bring so many changes in the equation between your partner and you. You both will drive in different directions which might lead to misunderstandings but, by the end of the week, better energies will make your love life better. This week your health will need minor attention as you might suffer from issues related to blood pressure.



**Scorpio**

You will actively perform and attentively this week. You'll face several challenges, but you'll be able to conquer them. Maintain an optimistic outlook and beam concentration. You can begin a new company right now, but it should not be related to food or clothing because the outcomes may be disappointing. This week, steadiness is crucial. This week, your love life will be blessed with better energies of Venus. You will not only convey your feelings to your partner but you will also settle in as well their expectations from you. Health of elderly people in the house will need attention in the latter half of the week.



**Sagittarius**

It's going to be a terrific week. You will be able to complete all of your outstanding chores this week. You will make some income and your fiscal condition will better. This week is the perfect time to make a big commitment. Bitter thoughts will surely enter your mind; however, try to squash them and continue on. Try not to be impulsive in making any decisions that might lead to disappointment. It is going to be the week of emotions and clarity in terms of your love life. People who have been holding feeling of heaviness in their heart for their partner will let things go which will improve the romantic equation. As far as your health is concerned, this week will be all well and you do not need to worry about anything!



**Capricorn**

You'll be fortunate to get the guts to stick up for yourself this week. You will be confronted with some difficult truths about your family; ensure that you manage them sensibly. This week appears to be a good week for your profession. You will eventually be able to make more money this week as Venus transits out of your fifth house. Drugs are the ideal field to participate in if you are

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**BIRTHDAY HOROSCOPE : JUNE 20 TO JUNE 26, 2022**  
**BY ASTRO FRIEND CHIRAG - SON OF ASTROLOGER BEJAN DARUWALLA**

**June 20**

Ganesha says its past time for you to get a gift from your parents that you will cherish for the rest of your life. Your grilling talents will keep you safe from your adversaries and con artists. Your lover proves to be a lucky charm for you, as your wedding is followed by a slew of surprises and financial boosts. You make the most of your time by honing your mental abilities to solve mysterious situations. You may generate a commotion as a result of your gambling, so play intelligently by bringing all of your previous experiences with you.

**June 21**

Ganesha says you can deal with both your work and personal lives simultaneously. It's time to put your previous experience and lessons learnt into practice in the next new arenas. You will be greeted with admiration and accolades. You should be a skilled manipulator with a technological background. Circumstances will drive you to work hard and relocate your company to an ever-expanding international market. Instead of preparing and discussing the strategy for the rest of your life, it's time to start a new business. People will be drawn to you because of your cheerful demeanor and a good sense of humor.

**June 22**

Ganesha says circumstances will compel you to pursue

your ideas in your business operations. You will effortlessly overcome all of your obstacles. A concrete indicator of distinction in your life is a hidden skill in the fields of art and music. You're probably going to start your own business in this well-known field. Your concepts will gain traction not only in the United States but also internationally. This assures a smooth and happy existence for you, both financially and physically.

**June 23**

Ganesha says this period promises to be a happy one for you. You have tremendous talent that was given to you by God, and all you have to do now is work hard to unlock it. Your retrieving abilities are amazing. Physically and mentally, you will be in good shape because your focus will be diverted to some fun and games. New prospects await you, which you will take advantage of wisely. You admire nature and bemoan its deterioration. Your buddies will assist you as soon as possible. You value the behavior of others, which makes you adored by your loved ones.

**June 24**

Ganesha says you are a highly intelligent individual who is well-versed in every field. Work is everything to you, so start whatever you want, whenever you want, and you will certainly finish it. Your first love will always be your work, with whom you will spend the majority of your time and who will reward you with incredible glory, honor,

and surprises. A friend in need is a friend indeed if they are always willing to aid others. You should understand that actions speak louder than words when it comes to love, so hurry up and wait for the tides to turn in your favor.

**June 25**

Ganesha says to achieve success and boost your financial well-being, you must establish and adhere to certain principles. Others will follow in your footsteps. You open up new possibilities that are likely to spark a revolution. You go about your task in your way. You're a one-man army. You are well aware of your rights and responsibilities, and you insist that others do the same. You are a responsible citizen of your country who keeps up with any changes in the law and order situation.

**June 26**

Ganesha says they have made a long-term investment for you, and it will be delivered to you soon. Academically, things will go your way, and you will most likely enroll somewhere. In the near future, your field of interest will bring you a lot of harmony, support, name, and fame. You make efficient and effective use of your time to achieve your objectives. Your advice is crucial for both you and others. You indirectly assisted others in getting on the correct course. Others' concerns will be alleviated by your outspokenness.

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interested in the financial markets. Singles are having a nice week. The person you've had a crush on for a long time will exhibit signs of engagement. Your marriage is in desperate need of treatment. If you've been disregarding your healthy eating practices for a while, this week is the time to get back on schedule and avoid sugary snacks.

**Aquarius**



You will be able to get rid of matters that have been dragging on your emotions for a long time this week. You will be able to focus on your task effectively. Your family's healthcare consultant will contact you with a few important issues. This week, you're more likely to hear about a raise. You will make more money than normal if you own a commercial and industrial firm. On interpersonal frontiers, misunderstandings are likely to develop. This week, get to the bottom of issues before they cause severe scars. People who have a cardiovascular problem will want particular attention, while others may need to keep to their regular regimen.

**Pisces**



You will experience a little more tranquility this week as most of the crazy aspects of existence will stay calm. Your friends will be able to help you out financially. This week, you'll be concerned about your children's schooling. Your employees and supervisors will devise a unique plan for your company, and you will be encouraged to participate. If you're in the industry, be sure you don't allow matters to go too far and become

too reliant on others. You and your lover will be able to spend some quality time apart. Addressing family matters

should be avoided. This week, make sure you only have nice conversations. Your wellness will be OK, but you will

need to be concerned about the health of your offspring.

|| SHREE GANESHAY NAMA ||



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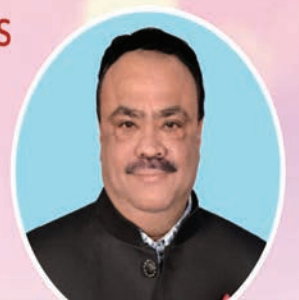


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# Shiva and Vishnu – The Legend of Badrinath



There is a legend about Badrinath. This is where Shiva and Parvati lived. It is a magnificent place at around 10,000 feet in the Himalayas. One day, Narada went to Vishnu and said, “You are a bad example for humanity. All the time you are just lying around on Adishesha, and your wife, Lakshmi, is constantly serving you and spoiling you silly. You are not a good example for other creatures on the planet. For all the other beings in the creation, you must do something more purposeful.”

To escape this criticism and also work for his own upliftment, Vishnu came down to the Himalayas looking for the right kind of place to do his sadhana. He found Badrinath, a nice little home, with everything just the way he thought it should be – an ideal place for his sadhana.

He found a house there and went into it. But then he realized this is Shiva’s abode – and that man is dangerous. If he gets angry, he is the kind who can cut off his own throat, not just yours. The man is very dangerous.

So, Vishnu transformed himself into a little child and sat in front of the house. Shiva and Parvati, who had gone out for a walk, returned home. When they came back, a little baby was crying at the entrance of their home. Looking at this child crying his heart out, Parvati’s maternal instincts came up and she wanted to go pick up the child. Shiva stopped her and said, “Don’t touch that child.” Parvati replied, “How cruel. How can you say that?”

Shiva said, “This is not a good baby. Why does he land up at our doorstep by himself? There is no one around, no footprints of parents in the snow. This is not a child.” But Parvati said, “Nothing doing! The mother in me will not allow me to let the child be like this,” and she took the baby into the house. The child was very comfortable, sitting on her lap, looking very gleefully at Shiva. Shiva knew the consequence of this but he said, “Okay, let’s see what happens.”

Parvati comforted and fed the child, left him at home and went with Shiva for a bath in the nearby hot water springs. When they came back, they found the doors were locked from the inside. Parvati was aghast. “Who has closed the door?” Shiva said, “I told you, don’t pick up this child. You brought the child into the house and now he has locked the door.”

Parvati said, “What shall we do?”

Shiva had two options: one was to burn up everything in front of him. Another was to just find another way and go. So he said, “Let’s go somewhere else. Because

it’s your beloved baby, I cannot touch it.”

This is how Shiva lost his own home and Shiva and Parvati became “illegal aliens”! They walked around, looking for an ideal place to live and finally settled down in Kedarnath. Did he not know, you may ask. You know many things, but you still allow them to happen.

## When Vishnu “Rescued” Shiva

There are many stories in the Yogic lore describing Shiva’s indiscriminate compassion and child-like response to one’s longing. Once, there was an asura whose name was Gajendra. Gajendra did many austerities and he earned a boon from Shiva that whenever he called him, Shiva was there with him. Seeing that Gajendra was calling Shiva for every little thing in his life, Narada, the ever mischievous sage of the three worlds, played some mischief with Gajendra.

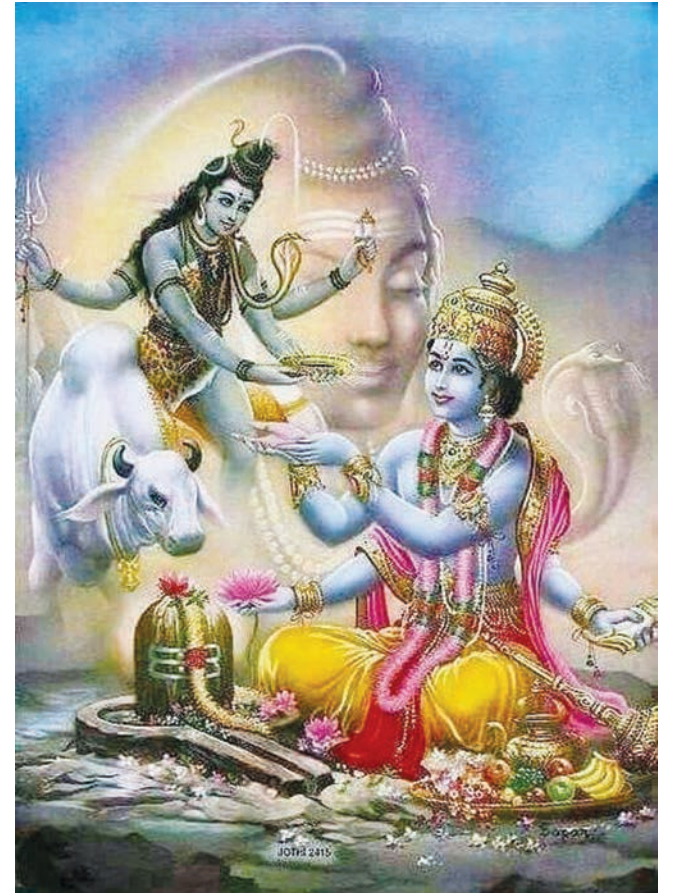
He told Gajendra, “Why are you calling Shiva off and on? He is responding to every call of yours. Why don’t you ask him just to enter you and stay there all the time so that he will always be yours?” Gajendra thought that was a good idea and accordingly he worshipped Shiva. When Shiva appeared to him, he said “You must stay within me. You should not go anywhere.” Shiva in his child-like response entered Gajendra in the form of a linga and stayed there.

Then as time passed, the whole cosmos was missing Shiva. No one knew where he was. All the devas and ganas started searching for Shiva. Then after much searching, when no one could espy as to where he was, they went to Vishnu to find the solution. Vishnu looked at the situation and said, “He is in Gajendra.” Then the devas asked him how they could get Shiva out of Gajendra because Gajendra had become immortal carrying Shiva within himself.

As usual, Vishnu came up with the right kind of trick. The devas dressed up as Shiva devotees and came about to Gajendra’s kingdom and started singing Shiva’s praises with great devotion. Gajendra, being a great devotee of Shiva, invited these people to come and sing and dance in his court. This group of devas dressed as the devotees of Shiva came and with great emotion, with great devotion, they sang and worshipped and danced for Shiva. Shiva, who was sitting inside Gajendra could not hold himself back, he had to respond. So he tore Gajendra into pieces and came out of him!

## Vishnu’s Devotion for Shiva

Shiva is worshipped both by the gods and the



rakshasas, the devas and the asuras, the highest and the lowest – for everybody he is the godhead. Vishnu himself used to worship him. There is a very beautiful story to describe how Vishnu was Shiva’s devotee.

Once, Vishnu promised Shiva that he will offer 1008 lotuses to Shiva. He went in search of lotus flowers, and after searching the whole world, he found only 1007 lotus flowers. One was missing. He came and placed everything in front of Shiva. Shiva did not open his eyes, he just smiled because one is missing. Then Vishnu said, “I am known as Kamala Nayana, that means lotus-eyed Lord. My eyes are as beautiful as any lotus. So I will offer one of my eyes”, and he immediately plucked out his right eye and placed it on the linga. Pleased with this kind of offering, Shiva gave Vishnu the famous Sudarshana Chakra.

Source: [isha.sadhguru.org](http://isha.sadhguru.org)

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“If Hindus don’t maintain Hinduism, who shall save it?”

“If India’s own children don’t cling to their faith, who shall guard it?”

“Indians alone can save India, and India and Hinduism are one.”





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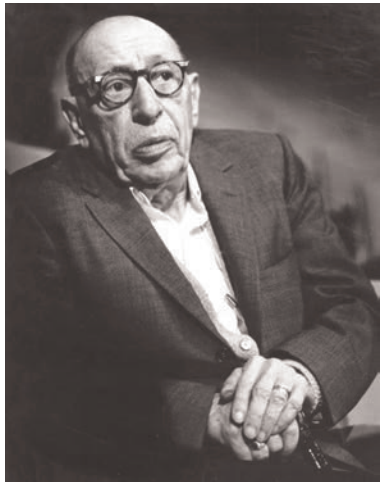


# History This Week June 17- June 23

**HISTORY IS THE VERSION OF PAST EVENTS THAT PEOPLE HAVE DECIDED TO AGREE UPON. - NAPOLEON BONAPARTE**

## June 17

June 17, 1972 - Following a seemingly routine burglary, five men were arrested at the National Democratic Headquarters in the Watergate complex in Washington, D.C. However, subsequent investigations revealed the burglars were actually agents hired by the Committee for the Re-election of President Richard Nixon. A long chain of events then followed in which the president and top aides became involved in an extensive cover-up of this and other White House sanctioned illegal activities, eventually leading to the resignation of President Nixon on August 9, 1974.



Igor Stravinsky

**Birthday** - Russian composer Igor Stravinsky (1882-1971) was born near St. Petersburg. Among his best known works, the ballets *The Firebird* (1910), *Petrushka* (1911) and *The Rite of Spring* (1913), and the choral work *Symphony of Psalms* (1930).

## June 18

June 18, 1812 - After much debate, the U.S. Senate voted 19 to 13 in favor of a declaration of war against Great Britain, prompted by Britain's violation of America's rights on the high seas and British incitement of Indian warfare on the Western frontier. The next day, President James Madison officially proclaimed the U.S. to be in a state of war. The War of 1812 lasted over two years and ended with the signing of the Treaty of Ghent in Belgium on December 24, 1814.

June 18, 1815 - On the fields near Waterloo in central Belgium, 72,000 French troops, led by Napoleon, suffered a crushing military defeat from a combined Allied army of 113,000 British, Dutch, Belgian, and Prussian troops. Thus

ended 23 years of warfare between France and the other powers of Europe. Napoleon was then sent into exile on the island of St. Helena off the coast of Africa. On May 5, 1821, the former vain-glorious Emperor died alone on the tiny island, abandoned by everyone.



Dr. Sally Ride

June 18, 1983 - Dr. Sally Ride, a 32-year-old physicist and pilot, became the first American woman in space, beginning a six-day mission aboard the space shuttle *Challenger*, launched from Cape Canaveral, Florida.



George Mallory

**Birthday** - British explorer George Mallory (1886-1924) was born in Mobberley, Cheshire, England. When asked why he wanted to climb Mount Everest, the highest mountain in the world, he simply answered, "Because it is there." He disappeared while climbing through the mists toward its summit on the morning of June 8, 1924. His body, perfectly preserved due to the cold conditions, was discovered by climbers in 1999, just 600 meters (2,030 feet) from the summit.

## June 19

June 19, 1865 - In Galveston, Texas, upon the arrival of Union troops, Maj. Gen. Gordon Granger read General Order No. 3: "The people of Texas are informed that, in accordance with a proclamation from the Executive of the United States [President Lincoln], all slaves are free. This involves an absolute equality of personal

rights and rights of property between former masters and slaves..." As a result, an estimated 250,000 enslaved African Americans in Texas were finally freed. The day is now celebrated as Juneteenth to commemorate Emancipation and to recognize the struggle for freedom and equality of African Americans.

June 19, 1953 - Julius and Ethel Rosenberg were executed by electrocution at Sing Prison in New York. They had been found guilty of providing vital information on the atomic bomb to the Soviet Union during 1944-45. They were the first U.S. civilians to be sentenced to death for espionage and were also the only married couple ever executed together in the U.S.



Lou Gehrig

**Birthday** - Baseball great Lou Gehrig (1903-1941) was born in New York City. He played in 2,130 consecutive games and seven World Series for the New York Yankees and had a lifetime batting average of .340. He contracted the degenerative muscle disease amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, now called 'Lou Gehrig's disease,' and died on June 2, 1941.

## June 20

June 20, 1782 - The U.S. Congress officially adopted the Great Seal of the United States of America.



Audie Murphy

**Birthday** - American military hero and actor Audie Murphy

(1924-1971) was born in Kingston, Texas. He was the most decorated American soldier of World War II, awarded 37 medals and decorations, including the Medal of Honor for single-handedly turning back a German infantry company by climbing on a burning U.S. tank destroyer and firing its .50-cal. machine gun, killing 50 Germans. He later became an actor in western and war movies and made 45 films including *The Red Badge of Courage* (1951), *Destry* (1954), and *To Hell and Back* (1955), based on his autobiography. He died May 28, 1971, in a plane crash near Roanoke, Virginia.

## June 21

June 21, 1964 - Three white civil rights workers - James Chaney, Andrew Goodman and Michael Schwerner - left Meridian, Mississippi, at 9 a.m. to investigate a church burning. They were expected back by 4 p.m. When they failed to return, a search was begun. Their murdered bodies were discovered on August 4th.



Jean-Paul Sartre

**Birthday** - French philosopher Jean-Paul Sartre (1905-1980) was born in Paris. Dubbed the "father of existentialism," in 1964, he rejected the Nobel Prize for Literature when it was awarded to him.



Prince William



**Birthday** - Britain's Prince William (William Arthur Philip Louis) was born in London, June 21, 1982.

## June 22

June 22, 1918 - A Michigan Central Railroad troop train struck the rear of the Hagenbeck-Wallace Circus train in Ivanhoe, Indiana. Fifty-three circus performers were killed. Of the circus animals not killed, most were maimed and had to be destroyed. The performers, of whom only three could be identified, were buried in a mass grave.

June 22, 1941 - Starting at 3:15 am, some 3.2 million German soldiers plunged headlong into Russia across an 1800-mile front, in a major turning point of World War II. At 7 am that morning, a proclamation from Hitler to the German people announced, "At this moment a march is taking place that, for its extent, compares with the greatest the world has ever seen..."

## June 23

June 23, 1865 - The last formal surrender of Confederate troops occurred as Cherokee leader and Confederate Brigadier General Watie surrendered his battalion comprised of American Indians in the Oklahoma Territory.



contd from page 1

## Economy is already Collapsing, Majority of Americans Believe

The term "bear market" is used when a stock market drops by at least 20 percent for an extended period, signaling an economic slump.

The new poll also suggested that most Americans don't think the economy will improve any time soon.

Only two in 10 Americans think that things are on the way up-the lowest confidence rating recorded when analyzing the index's monthly reports dating back to January 2021.

The nation is also concerned by Biden's ability to handle the economy. Even Democrats lack confidence in Biden, with only 45 percent giving the president a good grade-a precipitous decline from this time last year when 80 percent of Democrats thought he was doing a good job of handling the economy.

The poll also found that more than eight in 10 Republicans and nearly 6 in 10 Independents give Biden a failing grade on the economy.

These numbers could spell trouble for the Democrats, who will be hoping to hold onto as many congressional seats as they can in November when the GOP plans to take back the House.

Recent polls indicate that inflation and rising prices are a top issue for most Americans, with more than eight in 10 saying that the economy will be a key issue in determining how they'll vote in the midterm elections.

And if the state of the economy remains precarious after the midterms, a re-election win for Biden may be even more difficult than it already is.

"If inflation isn't marginally better by 2024, the Democrats will be forced to swim upstream against an electorate that is financially pressed," Brandon Rottinghaus, a political science professor at the University of Houston, previously told Newsweek. "That's never a good position for an incumbent party to be in." (Source: Newsweek)

## Anti-Agnipath agitation spreads; Railways face the brunt of the protests

The crowd in the procession barged into a BSNL office on the way and burnt a board. The crowd also tried to take the body towards Warangal railway station but police resorted to a baton charge to prevent the same.

In Bihar, things remained out of control as aspirants set a railway station and ambulances on fire and clashed with police personnel at several places. The Railways suspended movement of many trains till 8 p.m. on Saturday and said property worth ₹200 crore were damaged by protesting aspirants. In Patna, detained students leaders to disperse the protesters. When asked by media persons why the State police couldn't tackle the protest on time, Bihar Director General of Police S.K. Singhal replied, "that is your perception" and moved ahead in his official car.

Meanwhile, a Railway official Prabhat Kumar said, "Incidents of vandalism at railway premises have led to loss of over ₹200 crore in the State. As many as 50 coaches and five engines of trains have been burnt and are out of service. Platforms, computers and various technical parts too were damaged." The Railways on Saturday suspended movement of trains in the State till 8 p.m. to avoid any further damage. "Over 325 persons have been arrested and about 60 FIRs have been lodged for indulging in violent incidents at different places," said a senior police official of Bihar.

The protesting aspirants set Taregna railway station, about 30 kms away from Patna, on fire and vandalized police posts and some vehicles parked there. Some ambulances too were damaged at Arwal in Patna district. The protesters continued vandalism in Masaurhi, Jehanabad, Fatuha, Munger and other places.

Some students organizations like the All India

Students Association (AISA), Rojgar Sangharsh Sanyukt Morcha, Sena Bharti Jawan Morcha and others supported by Left parties had called for Bihar bandh on Saturday against the Central government's short-term contractual services in the defense forces. "We got wide support from people for our bandh call. A large number of people had come out to the street despite Internet suspension, Section 144 of Cr PC imposition and heavy deployment of security forces. It was a successful shutdown," said Communist Party of India (Marxist-Leninist) State secretary Kumar.

Seventeen trains originating from different stations of Eastern Railways were cancelled. While 15 trains that were scheduled on Saturday were cancelled, two Raxaul summer specials and the Kolkata-Jhansi Pratham Swatantrata Sangram Express scheduled on Sunday were cancelled.

Among the trains cancelled on Saturday were the Raxaul Mithila Express, the Gaya Express Kathgodam Bagh Express starting from Howrah Station, the Malda Town - Delhi Farakka Express starting from Malda and the Sealdah Ballia Express starting from Sealdah station. The route of some trains was also changed. Sealdah - Saharsa Hatebazare Express will be short-terminated at Malda Town and Saharsa Sealdah Hatebazare Express will be short-originated from Malda Town station, a press statement by Eastern Railway said. This was the second consecutive day that the train services were severely disrupted.

Hundreds of passengers who had arrived at different stations including at Howrah were seen waiting at the platforms. Some passengers also tried to take buses to reach their destination.

While there was no violence in Kolkata on Saturday, there were protests in the city and its suburbs. Supporters of the All India Democratic Students Organization, the student wing of SUCI (Communist), held protests at Hazra crossing in the city, only 100m from the residence of the Chief Minister. The protesters were picked up by the police. A group also tried to block Railway services by protesting on the tracks near Barrackpore Railway station.

Railway services along the Sealdah-Barrackpore route in North 24 Parganas district was disrupted for around an hour because of the protests. The protests were stopped at the intervention of the police. A large police contingent was deployed in front of the state headquarters of the Bharatiya Janata Party.

The Congress party in Punjab and Haryana on Saturday stepped up protests and the Leader of the Opposition in Punjab Assembly, Partap Singh Bajwa, asked the Punjab government to bring forth a resolution against the Agnipath scheme, during the upcoming session of the Punjab State Assembly. He also demanded the Punjab government take an all-party delegation to meet with Prime Minister Narendra Modi on the issue.

Mr. Bajwa said the Punjab government must take these steps immediately, if Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann is indeed interested in protecting the interests of the youth of Punjab. "We must stand united behind the future generations of Punjabis and protect their interests immediately," he said.

In Punjab, a group of protesters damaged windowpanes at the Ludhiana railway station, while in Jalandhar, protesters staged a march. In Haryana, some protesters set a vehicle on fire outside Mahendragarh railway station. Demonstrations were also held in Sonapat and protesters blocked the Rohtak-Panipat highway. In Kaithal, Fatehabad and Jind, protest marches were held.

Meanwhile, a delegation of Congress leaders submitted a memorandum to the representative of the Haryana Governor against the Agnipath scheme. A meeting of the Congress Legislature Party (CLP), chaired by former Chief Minister and Leader of Opposition Bhupinder Singh Hooda, was held.

Mr. Hooda said the Agnipath scheme is neither in the interest of the country nor in the interest of the youth. "Contract recruitment is playing with the future of the youth and the security of the country. Before doing

military reform, it is very important to consult with all the sections affected by it," he said. He said that the memorandum also maintained that the Enforcement Directorate is acting against Congress president Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi at the behest of the government due to political vendetta and the Congress party stands strongly against such vendetta.

Protests were held in Thiruvananthapuram and Kozhikode too against the scheme under the banner of various students and youth organizations. (With inputs from The Hindu and agencies)

## Sikh Gurdwara in Kabul attacked- Sikh man among 2 dead ; 3 attackers killed

Earlier in the day, Afghanistan-origin Sikhs living in the national capital, said they received calls from Gurnam Singh, president, Gurdwara Karte Parwan, informing them about the attack.

Manjinder Singh Sirsa of the BJP said he has spoken to Gurnam Singh who informed him that the incident occurred at 6 am local time when a granthi was going inside the gurdawara for morning 'parkash' of the Guru Granth Sahib. 'Parkash' is the first prayer in any gurdwara.

Reports also said, "hostages were on the second floor of the gurdwara". Puneet Singh Chandhok, president, Indian World Forum, said Gurnam Singh had informed that the terrorists had launched a major attack. He called for immediate repatriation of minorities from Afghanistan.

There were fewer than 700 Sikhs and Hindus in Afghanistan at the time of the 2020 attack. Since then, dozens of families have left but many cannot financially afford to move and have remained in Afghanistan, mainly in Kabul, Jalalabad and Ghazni. Saturday's incident is the latest targeted attack on a place of worship of a minority community in Afghanistan.

In March 2020, at least 25 worshippers were killed and eight others injured when a heavily armed suicide bomber stormed a prominent gurdwara in the heart of Kabul, in one of the deadliest attacks on the minority Sikh community in the country.

India expressed 'deep concern' over the attack, said "monitoring situation". In the latest targeted assault on a place of worship of the Sikh community in Afghanistan, Gurdwara Karte Parwan in Kabul's Baghe Bala neighborhood was attacked early Saturday morning and a gun battle lasting several hours between the terrorists and Taliban fighters ensued, said Abdul Nafi Takor, a spokesperson for the Interior Ministry.

The three attackers were killed by the Taliban forces, the Pajhwok news agency reported.

The attack is suspected to have been carried out by from ISIS Khurasan. Taliban forces are gearing to take them on. Many have been killed, but numbers are not known as gurdwara is out of bounds for civilians, says eyewitness to attack.

According to the statement from the Interior Ministry, an explosive-laden vehicle aiming to target the place was thwarted before reaching its goal.

The gurdwara was attacked early in the morning when up to 30 people were inside, the BBC reported.

Takor said a vehicle full of explosives was detonated outside of the gurdwara but that resulted in no casualties.

"First the gunmen threw a hand grenade which caused a fire near the gate of the gurdwara," the Associated Press quoted the Interior Ministry spokesman as saying.

Khalid Zadran, a spokesman for the Kabul police chief, said the police operation ended after the last attacker was killed several hours later.

"The security forces were able to act quickly to control the attack and eliminate the attackers in a short period of time to prevent further casualties," he said.

Local residents told the Afghan Islamic Press (AIP) news agency that four explosions occurred and the first one was comparatively heavy than rest of the three.

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



# Exploring Indian Vegan Gastronomy

By Murli Menon

I turned vegan on 2nd October 1996 after suffering a near fatal head-on collision with a truck driven by a drunk driver. After 14 years of being on a strict plant-based diet, I decide to research plant based street food for my forthcoming book ZeNLP vegan recipes Compassionate Cookbook. I decided to travel to the Kumbh Mela (pilgrimage) in 2010, which happens every 12 years. I knew that as millions of pilgrims gathered at the Kumbh Mela in Haridwar in 2010, street food vendors would follow and I could record and research many vegan recipes and photograph vegan street food at Haridwar, saving me time and money.

I planned to raft down the Ganges from Kaudiyala to Rishikesh while also going to the Kumbh Mela in Haridwar.

The journey from Ahmedabad to Haridwar was uneventful except for the beautiful sunset clicked over the hills of Mount Abu. The train was crowded with devotees proceeding to Haridwar for the Kumbh Mela to reach before 14th January, which was the most auspicious day to take a dip in the Holy Ganges since 1998. By a meaningful coincidence, at Haridwar station I met three young ladies, each from England, Netherlands and USA, who were seeking directions to go to Rishikesh! Soon, all four of us were in a taxi to Rishikesh. The journey took us through the outer fringes of the Rajaji National Park, where we could sight some stump-tailed macaques! After checking in at the Garhwal Mandal guest house at Rishikesh, we proceeded to Kaudiyala to complete the thrill of river rafting while returning to Rishikesh. Body surfing while hanging on to the raft in the ice-cold waters of the river in mid-January was a bone-chilling experience.

Kathy, Kristen and Naomi, who were teaching English in China, were travelling to Rishikesh for a break. After returning to Rishikesh, I headed to Haridwar for the Kumbh Mela. "Lakhs" (millions) of pilgrims from all over India had gathered for a once in a lifetime experience. Taking a dip in the freezing waters of the Holy Ganges at 4 AM in mid-January reminded me of my dip at Lake Mansarovar in Tibet! However, it was a boon to my immune system as all my cells got rejuvenated after swimming in the placid waters of this mighty river. It surely is one of the most powerful experiences to discover the power of mother nature. Exploring the impromptu food stalls at the Kumbh as a food detective, searching for 100 per cent vegan delicacies (food which does not contain any product of animal origin or even traces of any animal product) was another aim of my travels for my forthcoming book "ZeNLP-The Power of Veganism."

The food-stalls at the Kumbh had idlis (soft & fluffy steamed cake made of fermented rice & lentil batter) and dosas (rice and lentil crepe) jostling for space with samosas (triangular shaped dumplings), dhoklas (nutritious Indian meal with a base of rice and fermented chickpea paste), and theplas (latbread made with whole wheat flour, gram flour, millet flour and spice powders). The effects of the severe winter were compounded by the chilly winds and slight drizzle that seemed to pervade



Enjoying Indian vegan food at home.



Vegan Kaman and Dhokla.



Vegan Alu Paratha.

Rishikesh and Haridwar in January. Warming up near community bonfires and sipping hot ginger juice (as a strict vegan, I do not drink tea, coffee or consume sugar because of chances of adulteration of these commodities by products of animal origin). Also, I do not consume any factory manufactured food-stuffs, sold across supermarket shelves. As a strict vegan, I avoid all foodstuffs containing caffeine, chlorine, fluorine, nicotine and iodine. I prefer to eat fresh fruits, vegetables, seeds, nuts and grains! I never consume solids after sunset but instead stick to water fasting! Community bonfires are an ideal socialising venue to find out about the latest events and to know the directions to reach the hawkers who sell the most delicious street food in town.

The trip from Rishikesh to Haridwar was like moving in a caravan. Thousands of pilgrims walking barefoot to reach Haridwar on January 14. Along the way, I met peasants from Bhagalpur, Rabaris (Nomadic Pastoral community) from Gujarat, Bauls (Folk singers) from West Bengal, villagers from Andhra Pradesh, sadhus (Hindu monk or ascetic who abandons all his previous life and takes the path of penance and austerity to reach enlightenment) from Uttar Pradesh, and gypsies selling everything from sandalwood-paste to vermilion. It was a "mela" (large crowd) in the proper sense of the word! Most of the pilgrims braved the effects of the cold by sleeping outdoors. Many ingenious devotees slept on the shores of the river to avoid the early morning rush!



Vegan Bhel with pomegranate seeds.

After reaching Haridwar, I woke up at midnight to prepare for the trek to the ghats (staircase) for a dip before the crowd starts to pour in. It was extremely cold and visibility was limited to the first three steps one takes. However, I trudged along the narrow path to reach the holy river before dawn and take a rejuvenating bath in the rapids as the first rays of the sun strike the earth. The most exciting part of the experience was the feeling of numbness in the fingers which made buttoning one's kurta (traditional garment, similar to tunica) an achievement! At the ghats, pink-coloured ghagras (traditional outfits worn by women) of the Rabari women vied for attention with saffron Rajasthani turbans, which were a striking contrast to the sadhus smeared in grey ash. It was a free for all with everyone for himself. Hawkers selling towels had a field day. I planned to travel from Haridwar to Allahabad to complete the next phase of my research on vegan Indian street food.

Being a food detective, it was interesting to know the ingredients that went into Indian street food. I spoke to hawkers, cooks, waiters separately on different days just to reconfirm the ingredients that went into street food. Most of the hawkers were honest and were not aware of my aim in asking the questions, so they replied truthfully. Being a trained ZeNLP master, I could analyse their body language, eye movement and breathing patterns to reject the few outrageous liars. The proof of the banana is in its eating and as I am allergic to even micrograms or even picograms or nanograms of animal products in any food, I could make out the culprits from the aroma of the food.

One of the greatest advantages of being a pure vegan is to be gifted with an extremely sensitive olfactory sense. I can smell a minute gas leak in any apartment of my multi-story building with amazing accuracy. Also, there is an activation of

the latent DNA in every cell of the body which makes digestion efficient and increases the blood flow to the palate and activating the taste buds, to make eating a divine experience. Every morsel of food tastes heavenly, be it whole wheat puris (fried in oil) with alu-sabji (cooked in oil) I had in Benaras, hot steaming idlis and coconut chutney I had at Srisaillam, steamed vegetable momos, I had at Rishikesh or the mint coriander chatni (seasoning) I had at Jasidih. My taste-buds have taken a life of their own since I turned a strict vegan in 1995.

The wide array of street food being sold at the Kumbh Mela was mind-boggling. However, as I was looking for 100 per cent pure vegan food, I could ignore the vast majority of foods which contained animal products. But there were some small pockets which made lip-smacking vegan food, cooked the traditional way. Fruits and vegetables were aplenty. Be it the many stalls selling fresh sweet-lime juice, nimbu-pani (lime juice) vendors or shops selling almonds, walnuts and raisins. I had the vegan street food only as a part of my research on vegan food. During most of my travels, I opted for fresh fruits, walnuts, and raisins. This diet is known as a raw vegan diet in ZeNLP. Staying in a tent on the banks of the Holy Ganges was a great experience. Waking up at midnight to the soothing, gurgling sounds of flowing water, watching the starlit skies bathed in moonlight in biting cold will be etched on my psyche forever! Meditating on the tiny pebbles that carpeted the banks of the river made one connect to the primordial elements!

Taking a dip in the Holy Ganges on the day of the eclipse was a soothing experience. I could feel the cosmic energy pervading the air as I walked along the river banks to watch the crimson sunset. One could also see the play of the elements as fire, water and earth played their parts to perfection. The fog, mist and frost in the morning representing the earth element, the flowing waters at noon, in the sun's absence, representing the water element and the crimson sunset was a fitting finale for the fire element. The calmness, serenity, peace and quietness experienced while meditating on a bed of stones while watching the river rapids connect one to the macrocosm is unparalleled. It reminded me of my trek to Kailash Mansarovar along the banks of the Kali River, where I had meditated on giant slabs of stone which were strewn along the river banks. Impromptu showers were my constant companion during my trek through Rishikesh to Haridwar. After spending a week exploring the vegan food here, I returned to Ahmedabad. The photographs of the delicious recipes of street food explain my gastronomic experience at the Maha Kumbh Mela.

(Murli Menon, is a travel writer, stress management consultant and author-based at Ahmedabad, India. He is the author of "ZeNLP-Learning through stories" published by The Written Word Publications, "ZeNLP-the power to succeed" published by Sage publications and "ZeNLP-the power to relax" by New Dawn Press. He can be reached at [zenlp@rediffmail.com](mailto:zenlp@rediffmail.com))



# Father's Day: Honoring fatherhood and paternal bonds

Fathers play a crucial role in their children's life — from steering them towards the right path to bestowing endless love and care. As such, to honour and celebrate fathers across the globe, the third Sunday in the month of June is celebrated as Father's Day every year.

This year, it falls on June 19.

European countries celebrate Father's Day on St Joseph's Day to recognise the special role of the male parent. The story behind the celebrations dates back to Sebastian County, Arkansas, 1982, where Sonora Smart Dodd's mother passed away when she was 16. Dodd's father, William Smart, a civil war veteran, raised her and her five brothers. In order to honour and immortalise her father's selfless efforts, Dodd deemed fit to celebrate the same on her father's birthday — June 5. However, the day was later pushed to be the third Sunday of June.

On this day, children make their fathers feel special and loved by exchanging cards, preparing their favourite meals, baking cakes, or even presenting flowers and gifts as a token of their love and gratitude.

Whether he is a strict father, a cool dad or a stay-at-home dad, this Father's Day, show some love and thank him for being supportive and helping you mould your life.

## The history of Father's Day

The history of Mother's Day goes back to the 1860s, and Mother's Day was declared a national holiday in 1914. Then the celebration of moms paved the way for Father's Day. The history of Father's Day goes back to 1908, when a church in West Virginia held a sermon to honor 362 men who had been killed the previous year in a coal mining explosion. This was the country's first-ever event to strictly honor fathers, but it was just a one-and-done thing, at least in that community.

The following year, however, a woman named Sonora Smart Dodd started her quest to establish Father's Day as a national holiday. Dodd was one of six children raised by their single father, and she thought fathers should be honored in the same way as mothers.

After she'd petitioned her local community and government for a year, Dodd's home state of Washington celebrated its first official Father's Day on June 19, 1910. Over the years, the celebration of Father's Day spread from state to state, and after a long fight, it was finally declared a national holiday in 1972 when President Richard Nixon signed it into law. Now, we celebrate with funny Father's Day quotes, dad quotes, father-son quotes, and even stepdad quotes for the bonus dad in our lives.

It took more than 60 years from the birth of the idea to Father's Day actually being recognized as a federal holiday, and a lot happened to threaten the parent-celebrating holidays during that time. In the 1920s and 1930s, there was a national movement to get rid of both Mother's and Father's Day and replace them with



one "Parent's Day." Beyond that, some men didn't even want a Father's Day to begin with. They saw it as a "Hallmark holiday," invented for the sole purpose of a commercial gimmick, and as many fathers were the sole breadwinners at the time, they didn't particularly want their hard-earned cash spent on flowers and chocolates.

The Great Depression and World War II, however, helped boost the idea of Father's Day. Struggling retailers pushed the gift-giving holiday during the Depression, and during the war, Father's Day became a way to honor the many fathers serving overseas. By the time President Nixon signed the proclamation making Father's Day a holiday, it was already a national institution.

If you have trouble remembering dates, you can stop fretting about this one! Much like the Thanksgiving rule (it falls on the fourth Thursday in November), Father's Day has a set day, but there's no set date for dad's day (at least here in the United States). Each year, the date of Father's Day changes, but it always falls on the third Sunday in June. In 2022, it will share a date with Juneteenth and fall on June 19. So, all you need to remember is June, and where to find these free Father's Day cards if you're caught short on your way to dad's house come the third Sunday.

Father's Day is celebrated on different days in different countries. For example, in Europe, the United States, and the majority of other countries, the holiday is celebrated on the third Sunday in June. In many Catholic countries, especially in Latin America, fathers are celebrated on St. Joseph's Day, which falls on March 19. In many Pacific countries, including Australia, New Zealand, and Fiji, Father's Day occurs on the first Sunday in September.

Now that you know the history of



Father's Day, you're probably wondering how to celebrate with your dad. Spending time together is the best place to start, even if it's just watching one of these Father's Day movies together.

## Significance and celebration

On Father's Day each year, children acknowledge and appreciate their fathers and father figures who play an important role in their lives, be it emotionally, mentally or even financially. On this day, children understand the importance of the role of a father in one's life and

acknowledge the contribution of fathers to their own families and society at large.

Children buy or make presents for their father or father-like figure, write and draw cards, spend the day engaging in activities that can be enjoyed with one's father be it hiking, fishing or just sitting around watching some television series. Since most kids have a closer bond with their mothers, this day definitely helps forge a closer relation with one's dad. Father's Day is a celebration of fathers, honouring fatherhood, paternal bonds and the role fathers play in society.



# Juneteenth: Commemorating the end of slavery in the US

Juneteenth, official name of federal holiday Juneteenth National Independence Day, also called Emancipation Day, Freedom Day, Jubilee Day, Black Independence Day, and Juneteenth Independence Day, holiday commemorating the end of slavery in the United States, observed annually on June 19. Juneteenth is celebrated on Sunday, June 19, 2022.

In 1863, during the American Civil War, Pres. Abraham Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation, which declared more than three million slaves living in the Confederate states to be free. More than two years would pass, however, before the news reached African Americans living in Texas. It was not until Union soldiers arrived in Galveston, Texas, on June 19, 1865, that the state's residents finally learned that slavery had been abolished. The former slaves immediately began to celebrate with prayer, feasting, song, and dance.

The following year, on June 19, the first official Juneteenth celebrations took place in Texas. The original observances included prayer meetings and the singing of spirituals, and celebrants wore new clothes as a way of representing their newfound freedom. Within a few years, African Americans in other states were celebrating the day as well, making it an annual tradition. Celebrations have continued across the United States into the 21st century and typically include prayer and religious services, speeches, educational events, family gatherings and picnics, and festivals with music, food, and dancing.

Juneteenth became a state holiday in Texas in 1980, and a number of other states subsequently followed suit. In 2021 Juneteenth was made a federal holiday. The day is also celebrated outside the United States, being used by organizations in a number of countries to recognize the end of slavery and to honour the culture and achievements of African Americans.

President Biden signed legislation in 2021 that made Juneteenth, which falls on June 19, a federal holiday, after interest in the day was renewed during the summer of 2020 and the nationwide protests that followed the police killings of Black Americans including George Floyd and Breonna Taylor.

There has been a noticeable increase in Juneteenth celebrations across the United States over the past few years. With this year's holiday coming just over a month after a white gunman killed 10 Black people at a supermarket in Buffalo, one of the deadliest racist massacres in recent U.S. history, Juneteenth celebrations may resonate in new ways.

## How did Juneteenth begin?

On June 19, 1865, about two months after the Confederate general Robert E. Lee surrendered at Appomattox, Va., Gordon Granger, a Union general, arrived in Galveston, Texas, to inform enslaved African Americans of their



Alamy Stock Photo



Getty Images

freedom and that the Civil War had ended. General Granger's announcement put into effect the Emancipation Proclamation, which had been issued more than two and a half years earlier, on Jan. 1, 1863, by President Abraham Lincoln.

## How is it celebrated?

Early celebrations involved prayer and family gatherings, and later included annual pilgrimages to Galveston by former enslaved people and their families, according to Juneteenth.com.

In 1872, a group of African American ministers and businessmen in Houston purchased 10 acres of land and created Emancipation Park which was intended to hold the city's annual Juneteenth celebration.

Today, while some celebrations take place among families in backyards where food is an integral element, some cities, like Atlanta and Washington, hold larger events, including parades and festivals with residents, local businesses and more.

While celebrations in 2020 and 2021 were largely subdued by the coronavirus pandemic, some cities this year are

pressing forward with plans.

Galveston has remained a busy site for Juneteenth events over the years, said Douglas Matthews, who has helped coordinate them for more than two decades.

After dedicating a 5,000-square-foot mural last year, in 2022 Galveston will celebrate the holiday with a banquet, poetry festival, parade and a picnic. Organizers in Atlanta will hold a parade and music festival at Centennial Olympic Park, and similar events are scheduled in Baltimore, Brooklyn, Los Angeles and Tulsa, Okla.

## The path to a national holiday

In 1980, Texas became the first state to designate Juneteenth as a holiday. All 50 states and the District of Columbia now recognize the day in some form.

In the wake of the nationwide protests against police brutality in 2020, the push for federal recognition of Juneteenth gained new momentum, and Congress quickly pushed through legislation in the summer of 2021.

In the House, the measure passed by a vote of 415 to 14, with all of the opposition coming from Republicans,

some of whom argued that calling the new holiday Juneteenth Independence Day, echoing July 4, would create confusion and force Americans to choose a celebration of freedom based on their race.

On June 17, 2021, President Biden signed the bill into law, making Juneteenth the 11th holiday recognized by the federal government. At a White House ceremony, Biden singled out Opal Lee, an activist who at the age of 89 walked from her home in Fort Worth to Washington, D.C., and called her "a grandmother of the movement to make Juneteenth a federal holiday."

The law went into effect immediately, and the first federal Juneteenth holiday was celebrated the next day. (The holiday was observed on June 18, as June 19 fell on a Saturday.)

## Why has Juneteenth become so important?

Following the killing of George Floyd, a 46-year-old Black man who died in the custody of the Minneapolis Police in May 2020, thousands of people around the United States poured onto the streets in protest. Mr. Floyd's name, as well as the names of Ms. Taylor, Mr. Arbery, David McAtee and others, became a rallying cry for change across the country, effectively re-energizing the Black Lives Matter movement.

That change came in waves. In Minneapolis, officials banned the use of chokeholds and strangleholds by the police, and said officers must intervene and report any use of unauthorized force.

Democrats in Congress unveiled sweeping legislation targeting misconduct and racial discrimination by the police. The bill was the most expansive intervention into policing that lawmakers have proposed in recent memory.

Companies across the business spectrum voiced support for the Black Lives Matter movement and either suspended or fired employees who mocked Mr. Floyd's death or made racist remarks.

In April 2021, Derek Chauvin, a former Minneapolis police officer, was found guilty of two counts of murder in the death of Mr. Floyd. But two years on, many of the city's residents say that genuine change has been slow.

Mark Anthony Neal, an African-American studies scholar at Duke University, said there are some comparisons between the end of the Civil War to the unrest that swept the country, adding that the moment felt like a "rupture."

"The stakes are a little different," Mr. Neal said.

"I think Juneteenth feels a little different now," he said. "It's an opportunity for folks to kind of catch their breath about what has been this incredible pace of change and shifting that we've seen."



# Recollections: Flying into NY City from London

BY JAY  
MANDAL



It was mid-May of 1982. After cycling through different parts of England, finally, I reached London on my trusted bicycle. I was almost halfway through, traversing the world. London was the last leg of my European adventure before I would hop into New York City.

I was carrying a "Mandatory Order", issued by the Ministry of Civil Aviation, Govt of India. that clearly indicated to issue me a free Air Ticket on then National Carrier, Air India. Incidentally, it was a kind gesture extended by the Civil Aviation Ministry to support me in my worldwide cycling adventure, especially to crossing over the ocean.

I went to the Air India office in London with that note and met with the person concerned. He took that note to his senior officer and came back in a few minutes with a negative response, giving the reason, that it was an expired mandatory order. A fresh order was required from the ministry to get a free passage for NY City. I tried my best to explain that since I was riding a bicycle, I couldn't maintain the time limit but my effort to convince him was all in vain. Totally disheartened, I left the Air India office empty-handed.

I tried to get a free ticket from some other carriers too but no luck. Finally, I tried desperately to raise some funds from certain service clubs in London, so that I could buy an air ticket.



Jay Mandal during the course of world tour on a bicycle, in Washington D.C. in August of 1982

Photo / United Press International

Sure, it worked but a little differently, I visited one of the local Lions Clubs where I gave a talk about my cycling adventures and shared some of my harrowing experiences. After the meeting got over, one kind-hearted gentleman came up to me and offered any help that I would need. I didn't let the opportunity go, explained my situation to him, He gave me his visiting card and asked me to see him the next day.

I was skeptical, still, I went to his office to see him. Soon I realized that it was a Travel Agent's Office, and that gentleman was the owner. You guessed it correctly, he asked one of his employees to take care of me. In the meantime, as the ticket was being issued, the owner took me out for lunch at a nearby restaurant. When I returned the ticket was already issued. Of course, it was an Air India Ticket.

I didn't pay a penny however I saw the price mentioned on that ticket, was 124.00 Sterling Pounds...! I cannot imagine these days one getting a ticket that inexpensive to fly from London to NYC.

So finally, I flew over the Atlantic Ocean and landed at JFK airport with my bicycle precisely on June 16 of 1982.....! Of course, since then I had traveled through many more countries until I returned to NYC and started a different career as a "Lensman".

Yesterday it was June 16, 2022. it came to me like a flashback as if I arrived in NYC only the other day. Cannot imagine, how those 40 years went by.

## US Congressman Bera welcomes launch of Gandhi-King Scholarly Exchange Initiative

WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP): Indian-American Congressman Dr Ami Bera has welcomed the launch of the 'Gandhi-King Scholarly Exchange Initiative' by the State Department.

The program, championed by the late Representative John Lewis, brings together young leaders from India and the United States to advance social justice and civil rights by exploring the life and legacies of Mahatma Gandhi and Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

"As the longest serving Indian-American member of the United States Congress, I am very excited that the US State Department has officially launched the Gandhi-King Scholarly Exchange Initiative, which was championed by the late great Congressman John Lewis," Bera said on Friday.

Bera is the longest serving Indian-



Congressman Dr Ami Bera has welcomed the launch of the 'Gandhi-King Scholarly Exchange Initiative' by the State Department

American Congressman in the US House of Representatives.

"Like Lewis, Gandhi and Dr. King were towering figures who committed their lives to the advancement of civil rights and social justice. By exploring the legacies of Gandhi and Dr. King, this exchange program will empower young leaders in India and the United States to advance these values forward to future generations. The Gandhi-King Scholarly Exchange Initiative will also further strengthen the bonds between the people of India and the United States," he said.

Bera, who serves as Chairman of the US House Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on Asia, the Pacific, Central Asia, and Nonproliferation, has long advocated for the exchange program, including co-sponsoring and voting for the Gandhi-King Scholarly Exchange Initiative Act introduced by the late Congressman John Lewis. (Source: PTI)

## USAID chief meets Indian social activist Nikhil Dey



Nikhil Dey, a founding member of the Mazdoor Kisan Shakti Sangathan (MKSS) and the National Campaign For People's Right to Information (NCPRI) in India had a meeting with USAID Administrator Samantha Power. The two discussed challenges being faced by democracy, according to an official note.

WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP): USAID Administrator Samantha Power, a top Biden administration official, has met with an Indian social activist to discuss challenges being faced by democracy, according to an official note.

Power met Nikhil Dey, a founding member of the Mazdoor Kisan Shakti Sangathan (MKSS) and the National Campaign For People's Right to Information (NCPRI) in India.

Dey is also a former member of the Open Government Partnership Steering Committee. The meeting was held here on Thursday.

Power and Dey discussed challenges facing democracy and anti-corruption work in India and around the world, a statement said.

"They discussed the importance of protection and legal defense for activists and journalists operating in difficult environments and the need for continued progress on open government and social accountability," USAID said in a statement.

(Source: PTI)

contd from page 1

## UK to electronically tag some illegal...

here illegally, when they break the law, it is important that we make that distinction," Johnson told reporters on his return from Ukraine. "That is what we are doing with our Rwanda policy. That is what we are doing to make sure that asylum seekers can't just vanish into the rest of the country," he said. The Rwanda policy of flying out some migrants to the east African nation has proved contentious, with the first flight grounded by last-minute injunctions from the European Court of Human Rights (ECHR) earlier this week.

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

## Olympian Neeraj Chopra wins season's first gold in Finland

It was Chopra's first gold this year after the massive 89.30m that bettered his national record and brought him the silver at the Paavo Nurmi Games at Turku, also in Finland, earlier this week. The 24-year-old had just one legal throw and it was enough to take him to the gold. Chopra fouled his second attempt and slipped while finishing his next throw and did not attempt his other three throws.

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





England's Phil Salt in action against Netherlands at VRA Cricket Amsterdam, Amstelveen, Netherlands, on Friday. Reuters

### ENGLAND SMASH 498 AGAINST NETHERLANDS TO BREAK ODI RECORD

England broke their own world record for the highest team total in one-day international (ODI) history after they smashed 498-4 in 50 overs against a hapless Netherlands side to win a one-sided contest by 232 runs in Amstelveen on Friday, June 17.

Jos Buttler, Dawid Malan and Phil Salt notched up centuries while Liam Livingstone walked into bat in the 45th over and scored England's fastest ODI fifty as they eclipsed their previous record of 481 against Australia in 2018.

Malan (125) and Salt (122) laid the foundation for England's record score with a 222-run partnership before Buttler (162 not out off 70 balls) came in and accelerated the scoring in what was a brutal onslaught on the Dutch bowlers.

Buttler, who top scored in the Indian Premier League (IPL) this season with 863 runs, continued where he left off, smashing seven fours and clearing the ropes 14 times after he was let off twice by poor Dutch fielding early in his innings. "It certainly feels like I'm in the form of my life. The IPL couldn't have gone much better for me so I was feeling in good touch coming here," Buttler said after he was named the man of the match. "It was a really good wicket, we got off to a good start and that gave me the licence to really attack." Buttler brought up his century in just 47 balls, the second-fastest in England history and one ball shy of his own record.

Needing to score at an eye-watering 10 per over to win, the Dutch side barely managed to score at half the required run rate before they were bowled out for 266, with Moeen Ali picking up three wickets.

Source: Reuters

## In a first, 2026 FIFA World Cup to be co-hosted by 3 different countries

FIFA President Gianni Infantino warned Canada, Mexico, and the United States to prepare for a football "invasion" on Thursday, June 16, as the host cities for the 2026 World Cup were revealed.

The first-ever World Cup co-hosted by three different countries will also see a record number of teams taking part, increasing by 16 from 32 to 48 as the tournament returns to North America for the first time since the 1994 finals. The 16 venues named on Thursday include 11 in the United States, three in Mexico, and two in Canada. All of the US games will be held in venues that are home to NFL teams, with the likes of the \$5 billion SoFi Stadium in Los Angeles and the New York Giants' 82,000-seater MetLife Stadium in East Rutherford tipped to host the final.

A total of 60 of the 80 games in the tournament -- including all knockout games from the quarter-finals onwards -- will take place at US venues. Mexico City's iconic Azteca Stadium -- host of the 1970 and 1986 World Cup finals -- was included among three Mexican venues along with the cities of Monterrey and Guadalajara. Vancouver and Toronto will stage the Canadian games in the tournament. Infantino meanwhile said 2026 would eclipse the 1994 finals in the United States -- which holds the record for the highest total attendance -- in every respect. "2026 will be much, much bigger," Infantino said. "I think this part of the world doesn't realise what will happen in 2026.

"These three countries will be turned upside down and then flipped again. The world will be invading Canada, Mexico and the United States. "They will be invaded by a big wave of joy and happiness." Infantino said he hoped the World Cup would spur the development of football in the region further. "In this part of the world you are leading the world in many areas. But in the number one sport in the world, soccer or football, you are not, yet," he said. "The objective must be



that you are leading the world in the world's number one sport." A decision on which venues would host marquee matches such as the World Cup final and opening game had not yet been taken. "We still have to discuss that, we still have to analyse that," Infantino said.

"We will take a decision in due course." However Infantino revealed that given the vast geographical spread of staging the tournament across North America, FIFA was looking at basing teams in regional "clusters" to minimise travel. "When you're dealing with such a large region as North America we need to care about the fans and make sure that teams are playing in clusters, that fans and teams don't have to travel crazy distances," Infantino said. Super Bowl pedigree The list of US venues stretch from coast to coast, featuring several cities that hosted games in the 1994 World Cup finals. However no actual stadium venues from the 1994 tournament will repeat in 2026. Other venues include the Dallas Cowboys giant AT&T Stadium in Arlington and the Miami Dolphins' Hard Rock Stadium. Seven of the 11 venues named Thursday have hosted the Super Bowl. The Kansas City Chiefs' Arrowhead

Stadium -- the loudest stadium in the world according to the Guinness Book of World Records -- also made the cut.

NFL venues in Seattle, San Francisco, Atlanta, Houston, Boston and Philadelphia were also on the list. However there was no place for Washington D.C. on the venues list. It means the 2026 tournament will be the first World Cup since the 1974 finals in the then West Germany not to feature a host's capital city. Colin Smith, FIFA's chief competitions and events officer, acknowledged Washington's absence after an "incredibly competitive" bid process.

"This was a very very difficult choice," Smith said. "It's hard to imagine a World Cup coming to the US and the capital city not taking a major role." Smith meanwhile said some of the NFL venues would require slight modifications to widen "pinch points" but said stadium capacity would not be affected. "The number of fans who are going to be able to experience this World Cup will probably be double than what we've previously had," he said. "World Cup 1994 holds the record for attendance -- and that's going to be blown out of the water."

## India beat SA by 82 runs to take series to decider

RAJKOT (TIP)

Dinesh Karthik scored his maiden T20I half-century almost 16 years after making his debut in the format to lead India to a series-levelling victory against South Africa in the fourth game here on June 17.

Karthik and vice-captain Hardik Pandya took India to a fighting 169/6 before the bowlers skittled out South Africa for 87 in 16.5 overs.

The Indians were struggling at 81/4 before a 65-run stand between Pandya (46 off 31) and Karthik (55 off 27) brought the home team back into the game. India amassed 73 runs in the last five overs.

South Africa put the Indians on the back foot in the powerplay despite the absence of their lead bowler Kagiso Rabada due to an injury.

The other pacer who missed due to an injury was Wayne Parnell, while star opener Quinton de Kock made a welcome return at the expense of Reeza Hendricks.

The first ball after the powerplay made matters worse for India as the hosts were reduced to 40/3 in 6.1 overs. Ishan Kishan (27) was dismissed by Anrich Nortje. When India lost captain Rishabh Pant (17), the hosts were struggling at 81/4 after 12.5 overs. However, Karthik and Pandya turned the tide with a crucial partnership.

The Indian bowlers then kept the visitors in check to give India an 82-run victory. Pacer Avesh Khan picked up four wickets for 18 runs, while Yuzvendra Chahal (2/21) was at his miserly best. Harshal Patel and Axar Patel took one wicket each.



India's Dinesh Karthik hit a 27-ball 55 against South Africa. Photo: PTI





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**Message from Peter J. McDonnell, M.D. Director Wilmer Eye Institute, Johns Hopkins University, USA on the occasion of laying the foundation stone on December 10, 2020**



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