



We Wish Readers a **Happy 4th of July**



Let freedom never perish in your hands. - Joseph Addison

Ekhnath Shinde sworn in as Maharashtra's new CM with Fadnavis as Deputy CM



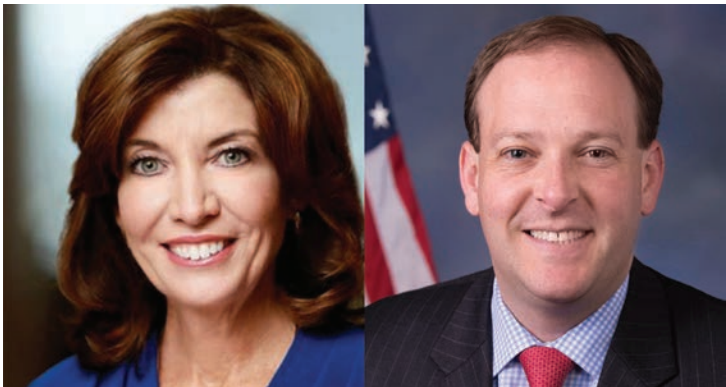
Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde (left) and his Deputy Devendra Fadnavis (right) flank Governor Bhagat Singh Koshyari during their oath-taking ceremony at the Raj Bhavan in Mumbai on June 30, 2022. Screen grab

MUMBAI (TIP): In what could be termed one of the biggest political surprises in the history of Maharashtra politics, the BJP on Thursday, June 30 announced that it will support rebel Shiv Sena leader Eknath Shinde as the new Chief Minister, who took oath in a simple ceremony in the Raj Bhavan on Thursday evening, officiated by Governor Bhagat Singh Koshyari. Former Chief Minister and BJP leader Devendra Fadnavis, who all believed was set to become Chief Minister for the third time, joined him as Deputy Chief Minister.

The trust vote of the new government will be held on Saturday. At a press conference prior to the swearing-in

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Gov. Hochul Wins Democratic Primary in New York



Ms. Hochul's victory sets the stage for a grueling general election contest against Representative Lee Zeldin

NEW YORK (TIP): Gov. Kathy Hochul of New York took a crucial step toward winning a full term on Tuesday, easily fending off a pair of spirited primary challengers and cementing her status as the state's top Democrat less than a year after she unexpectedly took office, says a New York Times report.

The runaway victory by Ms. Hochul, the state's first female governor, sets the stage for what could be a grueling general election contest against Representative Lee Zeldin, a conservative congressional ally of former President Donald J. Trump who

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Dr. Vishwa P Adluri and Shri Rajiv Malhotra conferred the ICCR Distinguished Indologist Award



Dr. Vishwa P. Adluri and Shri Rajiv Malhotra were conferred the ICCR Distinguished Indologist Award for 2019 and 2020 respectively by Dr. Vinay Saharsabudde, President of the Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) on June 28 at the Indian Consulate in New York. Seen in the picture, from L to R: Dr. Vishwa P Adluri, Dr. Saharsabudde, Shri Rajiv Malhotra, and Consul General Randhir Kumar Jaiswal

NEW YORK (TIP): President of the Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) Dr. Vinay Saharsabudde conferred the ICCR Distinguished Indologist Award for 2019 on Dr. Vishwa P. Adluri and for 2020 on Shri Rajiv Malhotra at the Consulate General of India in New York. The ICCR Distinguished Indologist Award was set

up in 2015 by the Indian Council for Cultural Relations to recognize and honor scholarly works on India undertaken abroad, one that illuminates her civilizational wealth and knowledge. The Awards for 2019 and 2020 were declared but could not be conferred due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

CONTD ON PAGE 7

KETANJI BROWN JACKSON SWORN IN AS FIRST BLACK WOMAN ON THE SUPREME COURT



WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP): Ketanji Brown Jackson has been sworn in as the 116th Supreme Court justice and the first Black woman to serve on the high court. She was sworn in on Thursday, June 30. *contd on page 46*

Justice Stephen G. Breyer (Retired) administers the judicial oath to Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson in the West Conference Room at the Supreme Court Building. Her left-hand rests on two Bibles held by her husband, Dr. Patrick Jackson.

Photo / Fred Schilling, Collection of the Supreme Court of the United States



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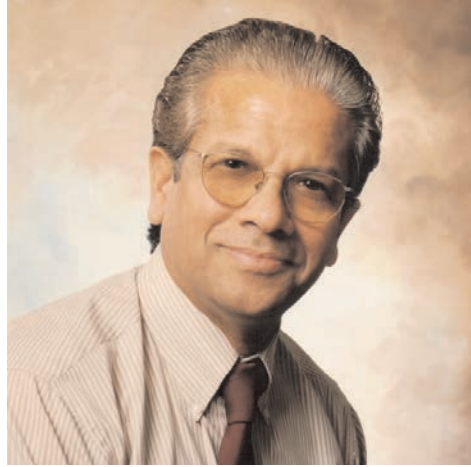
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V.K. Raju, MD, FRCS, FACS

President and Founder, Eye Foundation of America

Eyefoundationofamerica.org

The bond between the world's most powerful democracy and the world's most populous democracy is so deep and enduring that while Columbus obviously made a mistake in thinking that he had discovered India when he landed on the shores of America, it was a mistake of symbolic significance.

The United States and India are indentured to the same ideals and aspirations. The founding fathers of

Death of immigrants: 50 succumb to the dream of a 'better life' in Texas

The death of 50 people, believed to be illegal immigrants, in San Antonio in the USA is the latest in a string of migration tragedies that have left humanity badly shaken. At least 46 bodies were found in an abandoned tractor-trailer in a remote back road in San Antonio, Texas, some 240 km from the border with Mexico. They faced a horrible death, confined into a non-cooled tractor-trailer without water for an unspecified period of time, in temperatures nearing 38°C. Though the nationalities of the victims and the survivors were not officially confirmed, reactions from Mexico suggest that they were Mexicans. Indeed, over the past few months, there has been a spurt in migrant crossings at the US-Mexico border.

As the mayor of San Antonio said, the people who died "were likely trying to find a better life" - migrants are driven towards the USA or Europe due to conflict or lack of opportunities in their home countries. Hope and desperation make them disregard the very real risks they undertake, the least of which is being arrested by the US Customs and Border Protection (CBP) force. The arrests have been surging, with 2,39,416 individuals nabbed along the Mexico border in May. Among those arrested were 2,438 persons from India, a rise of 55 per cent since April. The CBP also arrested 2,310 individuals from Turkey and 3,394 from Russia - it's obvious that the relatively porous US-Mexico border attracts a high number of illegal immigrants, who are at the mercy of ruthless human smugglers. Often, migrants must hike miles of difficult desert terrain, in extreme summer heat, endangering their lives.

Human beings have migrated from place to place for thousands of years, trying to 'find a better life'. In the modern context, overpopulation and greater pressure on the natural resources have led to stricter border controls - yet, desperation will make people gamble their very lives. There are no easy solutions to the vexed issue of illegal immigration - except justice, stability and more equitable distribution of global wealth. These ideas could be termed utopian - yet these are the very ideas that are worth working and hoping for.

(Tribune, India)

GUEST COMMENTS

Doom and Gloom Shall Pass

"IS THERE NO VIRTUE AMONG US, IF THERE BE NOT, WE ARE IN A WRETCHED SITUATION?" - JAMES MADISON

Indian constitution drew largely upon USA's fundamental law and liberty - the external frame lights Indian constitution as luminously as it does in USA.

Is United States heading into its greatest political and constitutional crisis since the Civil War?(1/6 capitol insurrection and most recent Roe v. Wade overturn). The warning signs maybe obscured by the distraction of politics, pandemic, the economy and global crises.

Liberal democracy requires acceptance of adverse electoral results; a willingness to countenance the temporary rule of those with whom we disagree. As historian Richard Hofstadter observed, it requires that people endure error in the interest of social peace.

The participants of January 6 proved and preferred to define constitutional and democratic norms. I never ever thought that Americans can support a violent assault on the Capitol.

The people of India and the United States have always had sentiments of friendship and goodwill towards each other, the governments of the two countries a few years ago found it difficult to be on the same wavelength.

These recent events bear witness to the shaping and molding of a new world order marked by raising awareness of the need of justice and moral values.

This doom and gloom shall pass when the leaders have the wisdom to perceive the truth and the courage to say it to the people. **God bless America!**

THEATRE OF THE ABSURD: ON ALT NEWS CO-FOUNDER MOHAMMED ZUBAIR'S ARREST

Zubair's arrest is another instance of the Centre's characteristic intolerance

Mohammed Zubair, co-founder of fact-checking website Alt News, is being made to pay for his role in drawing wide attention to the vile remarks made on live television by a ruling party spokesperson that caused international embarrassment to the Government. The inherent absurdity of the charge - that he sought to incite enmity between groups and insult religious feelings by sharing four years ago an image from a 40-year-old film - and that the complainant is a pseudonymous Twitter handle - make it clear that this is nothing but the establishment's vengeance playing out as a criminal case. Mr. Zubair's arrest is yet another instance of the regime's characteristic intolerance, and its resentment towards fact-checkers who frequently expose its claims. This reflects its well-demonstrated antipathy to anyone seeking to counter majoritarian bigotry. It is also consistent with the ongoing trend of targeting minority activists, ranging from administrative excesses such as demolition of houses of protesters and imprisonment of activists based on charges conjured up by the police and investigative agencies. Mr. Zubair and his website have been active in highlighting flagrant instances of hate speech, and the genocidal tenor of some rants at anti-minority conclaves. The objective, it appears, is not merely his prosecution for an alleged slur against the Hindu god Hanuman, but to embark on a lengthy spell of persecution.

The case itself will be seen in most jurisdictions as a prank rather than a prosecution. The image he had shared is from a film sequence that shows a couple finding to their dismay that 'Honeymoon Hotel' had been revised to 'Hanuman Hotel', apparently conveying a message that it is not open to couples. The idea that this is an insult to Lord Hanuman is breath-taking in its absurdity, as there is no insinuation against the deity. That a magistrate entertained the FIR as well as granted police custody might seem shocking. But in times when even constitutional courts are seen as cooperating with the executive when it comes to restrictions on the freedom of citizens, it would have been a miracle if the magistracy had not followed suit. However, any judicial examination of the FIR would show that neither Section 153A nor Section 295A is attracted. How something said four years ago will incite enmity is beyond anyone's comprehension. The Supreme Court has laid down that Section 295A punishes only insults to religion that are made with deliberate and malicious intention, and anything said unwittingly or without malice is not an offence. Mr. Zubair's arrest has invited condemnation even beyond India. It is unfortunate that the Government wants to be seen as protective of free speech and democratic values abroad but does not mind the odium that the hounding of or crackdown on activists and journalists invites. Instead of perpetuating this travesty of justice, the Government should see reason, drop the spiteful case and release him.

(The Hindu)

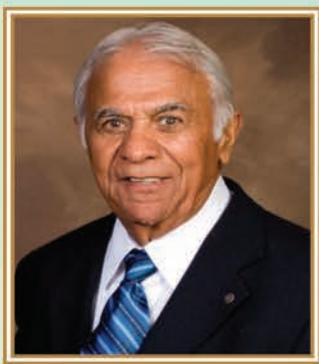
Wishing Readers of The Indian Panorama
HAPPY 4th of JULY



*Oh, say can you see,
 By the dawn's early light,
 What so proudly we hailed
 At the twilight's last gleaming,
 Whose broad stripes and bright stars,
 Thru the perilous fight,
 O'er the ramparts we watched
 Were so gallantly streaming?
 And the rockets red glare,
 The bombs bursting in air,
 Gave proof through the night
 That our flag was still there.
 O, say, does that
 Star-Spangled Banner yet wave
 O'er the land of the free
 And the home of the brave?*

POVERTY

Poverty is a self-Imposed Attitude



S.L. Sethi
 Madison, MS

You can get what you want in life if you are willing to be a servant Manager. You may like to look inward to see if you have the following:

- **Desire**---Burning desire to learn and earn. Remember—Thoughts are things.
- **Attitude**---Positive Attitude and willing to work persistently.
- **Goal**---Determine what you want and what you are willing to give in return (Mind & Muscles). Remember---you get what you expect.
- **Faith**---Have faith in yourself and Trust the Almighty God and keep sailing. Remember--- When the going gets tough, the tough get going. You never fail until you stop trying.
- **God**---Do your best and God will do the rest. Remember — In the house of God, goals can be delayed, but never denied. Good luck and keep on keeping on.
- **Karma**---What comes around, goes around. No shortcuts.

Indian- origin Travinder Singh among Indian innovators in world's top '50 Next' gastronomy gamechangers list

BILBAO, SPAIN (TIP): Four young Indian innovators have been named among the world's top 50 leading gastronomy gamechangers in a prestigious list celebrating the next generation of leaders creating sustainable solutions for the global food and drink industry.

The '50 Next: Class of 2022', unveiled at a first-ever live awards ceremony in the Spanish city of Bilbao on Thursday, June 23, includes Delhi-based forensic scientist Dr Risha Jasmine Nathan, Bengaluru-based Vinesh Johny and Anusha Murthy, and Mumbai-based Nidhi Pant.

Singapore-born Indian-origin food entrepreneur Travinder Singh also makes the top 50 for his food tech start-up idea that turns food waste into beverages.

They join innovators selected from more than 400 candidates across 30 territories in six continents as the next-gen leaders of gastronomy.

"My research, which I completed in New Zealand in 2020, was about using food and vegetable peels and converting them into beads that could suck up heavy metals from drinking water," Risha Jasmine Nathan told media about the ground-breaking concept that made the '50 Next' cut in the "Science Innovators" category as a sustainable solution to tackle the problem of water contamination in the developing world.

"My goal is to make use of the science of toxicology to work towards the creation of a safer and healthier world," she said.

Nathan, who will be taking up a post of Lecturer at the Anglia Ruskin University in the UK later this year, is now researching the topic in more detail, hoping to change the lives of millions who still don't have access to clean water.



Chef Vinesh Johny, the founder of Lavonne Academy of Baking Science & Pastry Arts, is part of the "Empowering Educators" list

Chef Vinesh Johny, who makes the 2022 class in the "Empowering Educators" category, is the founder of Lavonne Academy of Baking Science & Pastry Arts in Bengaluru - India's first specialized international baking school.

"The school is primarily trying to make sure that we get world-class pastry education for the students in India," said Johny, who founded Lavonne 10 years ago.

"I got into the culinary sector because I really wanted to do something that was skill-based and not very academically oriented and fell in love with the art of pastry making. Nurturing young talent in our industry by giving them practical and hands-on experiences in the area of culinary arts, baking, pastry making, cooking and even sustainable methods of sourcing produce is of paramount importance," he said.

Also in the same category is Anusha Murthy, who along with co-creator Elizabeth Yorke is behind 'Edible Issues' - a food collective that fosters conversation around the Indian food system via community engagement and workshops.

Aside from the joint venture, Murthy is also building a cooking robot to help consumers eat more healthily.

The "Trailblazing Activists" category of '50 Next' includes Nidhi Pant, founder of S4S Technologies - an acronym for Science for Society, which has created an electricity-free solar-powered food dehydrator that helps to alleviate vulnerable communities from hunger and helps farmers preserve crop yields.

Pant's technology is particularly directed towards women, as S4S trains landless female farmers to use their machines and equips them with marketing and finance strategies.

Indian-origin Travinder Singh, founder and CEO of Crust Group, has been selected in the "Entrepreneurial Creatives" category for his concept of turning food waste into products such as artisan beers and non-alcoholic drinks made from fruit and vegetable waste.

From Singapore, the start-up has already expanded to Japan and Taiwan and is looking at the UK and Europe and eventually India as future markets.

"I'm a Punjabi in Singapore, which is a very small minority. I guess being from that background helped me become a lot more adaptable to different situations and scenarios," said Singh.

(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)

INDIAN JAILED IN CASE LINKED TO PETROLEUM THEFT AT SINGAPORE REFINERY

Srinivasan was sentenced to four weeks' jail and ordered to pay a penalty of SGD 4,046.70

SINGAPORE (TIP): A 39-year-old Indian national in Singapore was on Thursday sentenced to four weeks' jail and ordered to pay a penalty, equivalent to the bribe amount he received in 2016 from a Shell employee, according to a media report.

Paramanandham Srinivasan, a surveyor, who accepted USD 3,000 as bribe from Muzaffar Ali Khan Muhamad Akram, a Shell employee, and turned a blind eye to the misappropriation of gas oil at Shell Pulau Bukom refinery.

Srinivasan pleaded guilty to one corruption charge.

He was sentenced to four weeks' jail and ordered to pay a penalty of SGD 4,046.70 - the local dollar equivalent of the bribe amount by a court here, The Straits Times newspaper reported.

Srinivasan, was among 12 surveyors who were charged on April 14 for allegedly accepting bribes from then Shell employees Muzaffar, Juandi Pungot and Richard Goh Chee Keong, the report said.

Paramanandham had spotted Muzaffar sometime around April 28, 2016, on board a vessel which his company was engaged to inspect.

Deputy Public Prosecutor Norman Yew



Photo for representational purpose only iStock photo

said in court documents that Paramanandham's company, SGS Testing and Control Services Singapore, offered surveying services, including the inspection of the quantity of cargo supplied to vessels in Singapore by suppliers like Shell.

After receiving the bribe, the accused did not accurately report the amount of cargo loaded onto that vessel and turned a blind eye to Muzaffar's misappropriation of gas oil at Shell Pulau Bukom, Yew said.

"By these actions, the accused helped Muzaffar, Juandi and their co-conspirators to conceal the misappropriation of gas oil," Deputy Public Prosecutor Yew said.

As a result of Paramanandham's action, the misappropriation of Shell oil worth USD 236,956.14 went undetected by the company in 2016.

(Source: PTI)

2 INDIAN-AMERICANS PLEAD GUILTY TO USD1.2 MILLION ROBOCALL FRAUD

Arushobike Mitra and Garbita Mitra tricked the victims into sending huge amounts of money

WASHINGTON , D.C. (TIP): Two Indian-Americans have pleaded guilty of a conspiracy to commit fraud by obtaining USD1.2 million in wire transfers from victims across the country, a US attorney said.

Arushobike Mitra (27) and Garbita Mitra (24) were part of an international fraud under which India-based call centers targeted US residents, particularly the elderly, through robocalls, according to a media release.

Elaborating on the racket's mode of operation, US attorney Philip R Sellinger said that after contacting the victims through automated calls, other members of the racket would coerce or trick them into sending large sums of money either physically or through wire transfers.

These fraudsters would impersonate government officials from agencies such as the Social Security Administration, FBI or DEA and threatened the victims with severe legal or financial consequences if they did not comply, federal prosecutors alleged. The callers would also make the victims believe that they were speaking to someone from a tech support company and coerced them into granting the caller remote access to their personal computers,



Fraudsters cheating elderly victims across the US face 20 years in prison and a \$250,000 fine Photo for representation only

the media release stated.

The fraudsters would then access the victim's bank accounts and make it appear that the caller had inadvertently added money to the victim's bank account when in fact they had simply transferred the money from another one of the victim's accounts, it added.

The caller would then instruct the victim to "return" the money by way of mail or wire transfer to other members of the conspiracy, including the Mitras.

Arushobike and Garbita Mitra are charged with receiving fraudulent transfers of cash from 48 victims across the US, the media release said.

The two face a maximum penalty of 20 years in prison and a fine of USD 2,50,000 or twice the amount of the loss, whichever is greater, it stated.(Source/ DOJ)

Indian-origin Khushi Patel from United Kingdom wins Miss India Worldwide 2022



Khushi Patel from the United Kingdom (center) has been declared the winner of the Miss India Worldwide 2022

EDISON, NJ (TIP): Khushi Patel, a biomedical student from the United Kingdom, has been declared the winner of the Miss India Worldwide 2022, the longest-running Indian pageant outside of India.

Vaidehi Dongre from the US was declared the first runner-up on Friday, June 24 night while Shrutika Mane was adjudged the second runner-up. The top-12 contestants at the pageant were the

winners of various other contests globally.

Patel, who is doing her major in biomedical sciences and minor in psychology, said that she is delighted to have won the Miss India Worldwide 2022 pageant.

Over the next one year, the model, who also owns a clothing store, plans to do a lot of charity events and help third-world countries.

Roshani Razack from Guyana was declared Miss Teen India Worldwide 2022. Navya Paingol from the US was the first runner-up, while Chiquita Malaha from Suriname was the second runner-up, according to India Festival Committee (IFC), which has been organizing the event for the past 29 years.

This year's pageant was held after a gap of three years, with the last one being organized at the Leela Hotel in Mumbai in September 2019.

"Pandemic has changed the way we think and live," said IFC chairman Dharmatma Saran.

Indo Canadians cheer Kapil Sharma as he pays tribute to Sidhu Moosewala at a concert in Vancouver

The background of the stage where Kapil performed had images of late singer Sidhu Moosewala and KK, including others who lost their lives recently



Stand-up comedian Kapil Sharma during a stage show in Canada's Vancouver paid tributes to late Punjabi singer Sidhu Moosewala.

VANCOUVER (TIP): Kapil Sharma is in Vancouver, Canada with his TKSS team for live shows, the first of which saw him paying tribute to 'younger brother' Sidhu Moosewala, who was killed in Mansa, Punjab on May 29. Kapil sang Sidhu's popular song 295 which moved the audience and made them cheer for him louder. Recently, the track '295' made it to the Billboard Global 200 Chart. The song was listed at the 154 spot earlier this month, while its viewership number on YouTube has gone past the 200 million mark. The background of the stage where Kapil performed had images of late singer Sidhu Moosewala and KK, including others who lost their lives recently. Meanwhile on Sunday, June 26, Sidhu's posthumously released controversial song 'SYL' was taken off from YouTube in India.

Indian American Congressman Raja Krishnamoorthi wins Democratic primary from Illinois



Raja Krishnamoorthi has won the Democratic primary from Illinois with a decisive mandate.

Photo / Twitter/RajaForCongress

CHICAGO, IL (TIP): Indian-origin US Congressman Raja Krishnamoorthi has won the Democratic primary from Illinois with a decisive mandate, successfully overcoming a highly communal campaign run by his opponent Junaid Ahmed.

Krishnamoorthi, 48, who is popular in the eighth Congressional District of Illinois, defeated Ahmed by polling over 71 per cent of the votes.

"I am honored that the Democratic primary voters in Illinois' eighth Congressional District voted in an overwhelming and decisive fashion in support of my re-election campaign for Congress," Krishnamoorthi said.

"My constituents want peace, progress and prosperity. In Congress, I am for the middle class, for women's reproductive

rights, and against inflation and increasing gas prices. I will continue to work tirelessly to address these issues in the important months ahead," he said.

He has been serving as the US representative for Illinois' 8th congressional district since 2017.

Krishnamoorthi's parents are from Tamil Nadu. The three-term Congressman, who was born in New Delhi, will face Republican Chris Dargis in the November 8 general election.

"We now turn our attention to November, where our fundamental freedom and human rights are on the ballot," Krishnamoorthi added.

Last month, he was honored with the Distinguished Leadership Award in recognition of his outstanding career and dedication to public service.

NEW YORKER CONVICTED OF IMPORTING ILLEGAL CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES FROM INDIA

During the course of the charged conspiracy, Kamaldoss and the men who worked for him distributed millions of Tramadol pills, sometimes purchasing hundreds of thousands of pills at a time

NEW YORK (TIP): A federal grand jury on Monday, June 27 convicted a New Yorker of importing illegal controlled substances from India and money-laundering, a US attorney said.

Ezhil Sezhian Kamaldoss, from Queens in New York, faces up to 50 years of imprisonment.

"The defendant is now a convicted drug dealer. He lined his pockets off the black-market sales of millions of illegal opioids and misbranded prescription pills without regard for the harm caused by the abuse of these highly addictive and dangerous drugs," United States Attorney Breon Peace stated.

"With today's verdict, the defendant is held accountable for having a hand in every aspect of his pill mill, from the importing of unapproved medications from India to personally filling orders for these drugs for customers throughout the country," he said.

According to federal prosecutors, between May 2018 and August 2019,



Ezhil Sezhian Kamaldoss, from Queens in New York, faces up to 50 years of imprisonment

Kamaldoss participated with others in a transnational drug-trafficking conspiracy, which involved the importation of misbranded prescription drugs, including Tramadol, a synthetic opioid, into the US from India, repackaging the drugs at a pill mill operating out of a warehouse in Jamaica, Queens, and shipping the drugs via the United States mail to customers throughout the US.

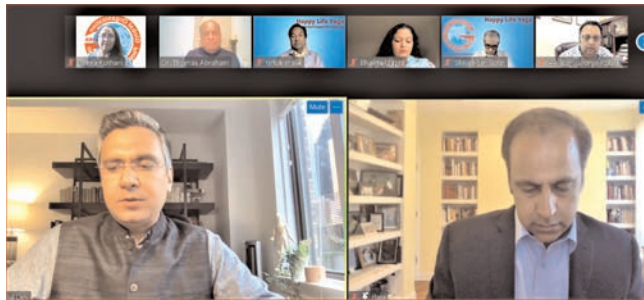
During the course of the charged conspiracy, Kamaldoss and the men who worked for him distributed millions of Tramadol pills, sometimes purchasing hundreds of thousands of pills at a time.

Additionally, Kamaldoss conspired to launder the proceeds of the drug-trafficking operation by using the illicit profits to reinvest in the business, including by paying shipping costs incurred by his co-conspirators-including nearly USD 200,000 in Federal Express costs paid off in exchange for additional pills, it said.

GOPIO Northeast USA Chapters and Indian Consulate Celebrate Yoga Day with Happy Life Yoga



From L to R Top: Tirlo Mal, Prof. Indrajit Saluja and Dr. Thomas Abraham with Consul Vipul Dev (bottom right)



From L to R: Chief Guest Consul Vipul Dev, Indian Consulate, New York (USA) and Special Guest Congressman Raja Krishnamoorthi, U.S. Rep. for Illinois's 8th congressional district



From L to R (Upper Row): Tirlo Mal, Prof. Indrajit Saluja, Indu Jaiswal, Dr. Jaya Daptardar, Dr. Tara Shajan, Sangeeta Agarwal. From L to R (Lower Row): Dr. Thomas Abraham, Consul Vipul Dev, Dr. Renee Mehrra, Anil Narang, Victoria Moran, Domini Monroe



Part of the audience at the zoom session of Happy Life Yoga.

NEW YORK (TIP): On the occasion of International Yoga Day 2022, GOPIO Northeast chapters in cooperation with the Indian Consulate in New York and Emmy-nominated filmmaker and Happy Life Yoga speaker Tirlo Mal hosted a highly interactive and informative Yoga Zoom event on June 23rd featuring experts and speakers from various walks of life. Mr. Randhir Jaiswal, Consul General of India in New York sent his best wishes to GOPIO and Malik for celebrating the International Yoga Day 2022. The chief guest Indian Consul Vipul Dev, who looks after Political, Press, Information and Culture at the Indian Consulate, New York (USA) and special guest Congressman Subramanian Raja Krishnamoorthi, an Indian-born American businessman who has been serving as the U.S. representative for Illinois's 8th congressional district since 2017, were present on the occasion. GOPIO-Manhattan Secretary Bhavya Gupta was the MC for the event which was hosted in the presence of Dr. Thomas Abraham, Chairman of GOPIO International as well as distinguished members of GOPIO International and its chapter officials from the Northeast of USA and many viewers from all over the world. The event was also supported

by The Indian Panorama, Indian American Forum, GOPIO Chapters (New York, Central New York, Central Jersey, Edison and Connecticut).

The event was energetic, knowledgeable, inspiring, and celebratory in nature. While emphasizing upon the growing importance of Yoga in today's times, Malik explained his vision behind Happy Life Yoga and its underlying philosophy, "A way of living inspired by the wisdom of Ayurveda, Yoga and Indian Philosophy, Happy Life Yoga is beneficial for one and all. The pandemic has made the world realize that it is of paramount importance to have a good health, physically and emotionally, and the Happy Life Yoga platform can show how to achieve it."

GOPIO Chairman Dr. Abraham in his welcome remarks said, "Yoga has now become an international brand after the UN declaration in 2014 and Yoga Day is now celebrated all over the world." Dr. Abraham also complimented the Indian Consulate for continuing to hold the celebration at the Times Square in New York City.

Indian Consul Vipul Dev said, "Yoga has become very popular in our life and personally I feel great that something like Yoga from my country has been

adopted and owned by the rest of world." He also added that Yoga brought positivity in his life. He also mentioned that the Indian Consulate in New York has been celebrating Yoga Day with community groups starting in the first week of June, including one at the Niagara Falls.

In his brief remarks, Congressman Raja Krishnamoorthi congratulated GOPIO and Tirlo Mal for propagating the power of Yoga globally through the Happy Life Yoga event. "Today, the International Yoga Day has evolved into a major annual event that's celebrated all across the globe. The key is to celebrate Yoga as a health practice that is truly universal. I would like to congratulate GOPIO and Mr. Malik for playing an active role in propagating the power of Yoga."

One of the major highlights of the Happy Life Yoga event was the knowledge sessions moderated by Malik who is known for his ability to engage with his audience using the right mix of banter and substance.

The distinguished speakers included Prof. Indrajit Saluja (Chief Editor/Publisher, The Indian Panorama), Indu Jaiswal (Chairperson, Indian American Forum), Sangeeta Agarwal (CEO and Founder, Helpsy), Dr. Jaya Daptardar (Author and Ayurveda Practitioner), Domini Monroe (Model and Actress), Dr. Tara Shajan (President, Nurse Association), Prakhar Gupta (Podcaster), Dr. Renee Mehrra (Reenbow Media), Anil Narang (Vegan Ambassador), Anna Pillai (Ayurveda Practitioner), and Victoria Moran (Founder, Main Street Vegan Academy).

The event ended with a thunderous applause even as Malik promised to bring more Happy Life Yoga events in the near future. Happy Life Yoga is the creation of Tirlo Mal. It is essentially an educational platform that offers a unique holistic approach to health and happiness using tools from Ayurveda, Indian Philosophy, and Yoga to help better manage modern-day challenges such as work, finances, relationships, family and other social pressures. It was launched in June 2019 in New York. Malik's portfolio of work has won many awards and has been acclaimed in media and people worldwide. Through his work he intends to inspire others to live happier and healthier lives and the journey continues.

During the program, GOPIO Foundation Executive Trustee Lal Motwani, who also serves as honorary chair of GOPIO-New York chapter spoke on the new initiative from the chapter on launching India Collection of Books at the Queens Public Library on August 13th when the library will also honor India for its 75th Independence. GOPIO-Manhattan Chapter Board Member Siddharth Jain spoke on the various services from the chapter including community feeding on the last Monday of every month and invited members of the community to sponsor this effort. GOPIO-Manhattan Chapter President Shivender Sofat invited the community to participate in other chapter activities including welcoming new students from India for a Welcome Dinner event in late September. GOPIO-New York President Beena Kothari, who managed the Zoom session gave the vote of thanks.

Also present at the event were community leaders including AIA National President Govind Munjal, India Association of Long Island President Bina Sabapathy, The Kerala Center President Alex Esthappan, Milan Cultural Association President Suresh Sharma, Indo American Senior Citizen Association President Mukund Mehta and community leader Pam Kwatra.

Dr. Vishwa P Adluri and Shri Rajiv Malhotra conferred the ICCR Distinguished Indologist Award



Consul General Randhir Kumar Jaiswal giving his remarks



Dr. Vishwa P. Adluri receiving the award from Dr. Saharsabudhe



Shri Rajiv Malhotra receiving the award from Dr. Saharsabudhe



Ms. Pallavi Degwekar who gave a superb performance of Kathak in an attractive mudra



Dr. Saharsabudhe said that the field of Indology is not just for scholars and academicians, but for all Indians and India lovers.



Shri Vipul Dev, Consul (Pol & IPC) gave a good account of himself as an efficient master of

CONTD FROM PAGE 1

In his special address, President ICCR Dr. Vinay Saharsabudhe congratulated the awardees and paid compliments to them for enriching the field of Indology. Speaking on the discipline, he said that the Indian tradition does not see development and environment; or individualism and collectivism as binaries and can strike a balance which ensures everyone's welfare. Dr. Saharsabudhe emphasized that we

need 'New Indology', which connects India's past, present and future with the spirit of nitya nootan, chira puratan (new everyday yet ancient). He concluded his address by reminding that the field of Indology is not just for scholars and academicians, but for all Indians and India lovers.

Replying to a question from The Indian Panorama editor Prof. Indrajit Saluja as to whether the philosophy of Indology is only a theory or it can be practically lived, Dr. Saharsabudhe

said it has always been a practiced philosophy, and that efforts to be redoubled to take it to people.

In his acceptance speech, Dr. Vishwa P. Adluri thanked his mentors, colleagues, and students. He expressed confidence that the field of Indology has a bright future and that the upcoming young scholars are full of promise and shall take the discipline to newer heights. Dr. Vishwa P. Adluri, the recipient for 2019, is an accomplished scholar with three PhDs, a lifetime of distinguished service to the profession, and publications that have changed the field of Indology.

In his acceptance remarks, Shri Rajiv Malhotra, the recipient for 2020, underlined that study of India must be undertaken with Indian Drishti, or from the Indian point-of-view. Shri Malhotra is a trained physicist and computer

scientist who had a successful career in corporate America at the highest levels. In the mid-1990s, he decided to quit and dedicate his time to the study of Indian thought. He has written eight popular yet scholarly books on the state of Indology worldwide.

The event began with a welcome address by Consul General Shri Randhir Jaiswal, where he spoke about how the discipline of Indology developed in the United States. His address was followed by a Kathak recital by Ms. Pallavi Degwekar on the Shiva Panchakshara Stotra.

The ceremony saw participation from members of media community, academia including students, diaspora, cultural organizations, and American thought leaders.



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Divested of abortion right

US SUPREME COURT DEMONSTRATES FEUDAL RETROGRESSION

BY RAKESH
DWIVEDI



America's Republican states, keen to ban abortion or impose severe restrictions on it, were the ones pleading for the reversal of Roe vs Wade, a 7:2 judgment delivered back in 1973. Laws in some cases had been stayed by lower courts on the basis of this judgment. The Trump administration, supporting orthodox Christian views, had ensured a packed court for the reversal of Roe vs Wade. At issue was whether American women had the constitutional right to seek abortion before fetal viability, which had been affirmed as part of liberty and equality, including autonomy and bodily rights, in Roe vs Wade and reaffirmed in Planned Parenthood vs Casey (1992). The majority in Dobbs vs Jackson (2022), gripped by feudal retrogression, overruled both Roe and Casey judgments. The 'pro-abortionists' have been told that they should fight their battle in the legislature.

Some US states have forthwith imposed a ban on abortion by invoking trigger provisions. Others would follow soon. But women will not sit quietly.

Fundamental rights are stated generally in constitutions. The US Constitution talks of liberty, equality and due process, just as Article 21 of the Indian Constitution speaks of life and personal liberty and Article 14 talks of equality with the injection of 'fair, just, and reasonable procedure' for their deprivation. All courts recognize that these rights have a penumbral sphere; the courts have expanded the ambit of these rights from time to time. Justice Brett Kavanaugh, speaking for the majority, agrees 'that the Constitution does not freeze the American people's rights as of 1791 or 1868'. And that 'the Constitution authorizes the creation of new rights...' But, he says the court cannot rewrite the Constitution to create new rights and liberties based on our moral or policy views. While he finds the US Constitution 'neutral' regarding abortion, Justice Samuel Alito, speaking for the majority, says 'liberty' is a capacious term and new rights can be included only if they are 'deeply rooted in our history and traditions' or text. And since the text was, before Roe vs Wade, never understood as including the right to abortion, the majority delved into history, as far back as the 13th and 18th centuries, to hold that the right to abortion was not rooted in their history, and hence, could not be given recognition.

Justice Alito criticized the Roe judgment for not adopting the historical approach, though the three dissenting judges disagreed on this point. The real divergence was on whether the constitutional approach has to be 'originalistic' or 'dynamic'. Originalism implies acceptance of a construction which accords with the understanding of the framers of the Constitution. It means a static approach frozen in the past. On the other hand, a dynamic approach looks at the past but does not stop at that and proceeds to comprehend the developments and evolution of society and envelopes all that is integral to the full and effective enjoyment of the given rights. It treats the rights as fundamental and the State's power to restrict as secondary. It imposes a positive duty on the State to protect the rights of individuals. In the Aadhaar case, Justices DY Chandrachud and R Nariman endorsed the dynamic approach and rejected 'originalism'. But Justice Alito, deviating from the past approach of the US Supreme Court, made a volte face and rooted out the right to abortion from the ambit of 'liberty', saying that it was concerned with 'ordered liberty' and not 'liberty' as such. Liberty, he said, meant different things to different persons. This was just a deceptive subterfuge.



The 'pro-abortionists' have been told that they should fight their battle in the legislature.

"THE CONSTRICTION OF LIBERTY HAS DISASTROUS CONSEQUENCES FOR WOMEN WHO WISH NOT TO DELIVER AN UNWANTED CHILD DUE TO THERAPEUTIC REASONS OR BECAUSE THE FETUS IS THE RESULT OF A CRIME AGAINST HER OR BECAUSE SHE IS A MINOR OR HER OWN LIFE IS IN DANGER IF SHE DELIVERS. ROE AND CASEY JUDGMENTS GAVE HER A CHOICE UP TO A PARTICULAR STAGE. JUSTICE ALITO TAKES IT AWAY."

Justice Alito's historical approach is also faulty. He looks at the position of the right to abortion in the remote past, but does not examine what sort of society the US and UK had in the 13th/18th centuries and what were the rights granted to women. The majority ignores the dynamic spirit of the US Constitution and the developments in society in consequence of it.

No one says, and Roe/Casey did not, that the State has no legitimate interest in regulating the exercise of the right to abortion or that the right is absolute. The dissent also does not deny the legislature the power to regulate. But when the right to abortion is recognized, there is a need to balance the right of women with the State's interest in the potential life of a fetus in accordance with the doctrine of proportionality. There remains a space where

women's autonomy and choice are allowed to prevail. But if this right is derecognized, it is up to the State to either ban it or to regulate stringently and courts become virtual bystanders. Notably, the right to individual autonomy, choice and privacy have been recognized as part of liberty by the Supreme Court of India in the Aadhaar case, and even by European courts. US Supreme Court judgments expanded privacy in the public sphere and their judgments were noted in the Aadhaar case.

The constriction of liberty has disastrous consequences for women who wish not to deliver an unwanted child due to therapeutic reasons or because the fetus is the result of a crime against her or because she is a minor or her own life is in danger if she delivers. Roe and Casey judgments gave her a choice up to a particular stage. Justice Alito takes it away.

According to the Roe judgment, the weight of the State's interest grows with the growth of the fetus and the balance tilts against abortion after fetus viability (the ability of a fetus to survive outside the womb; generally considered to begin at 23 or 24 weeks' gestational age). This line of balance gives enough time to women to decide if they want to deliver. But Dobbs vs Jackson destroys this balance and the right itself.

LGBT rights, the right to solemnize inter-racial and gay marriages, to marry in prison and to decide on a child's education have been recognized on the strength of the Roe judgment and they too have no deep-rooted basis in history and traditions. But they do not involve the destruction of 'potential rights'. But they do destroy the 'originalism' approach and accept dynamism in recognizing new rights. The Dobbs judgment goes against the global drift. By looking backwards, it has pushed back American women, nay society, into feudal, medieval times. Some states have forthwith imposed a ban on abortion by invoking trigger provisions. Others would follow soon. Women will not sit quietly. The Dobbs judgment will not be the last word on the matter.

(The author is a senior advocate, Supreme Court of India)

Significance of a global Indian Christian Day - July 3rd

By George Abraham



Indian Christian Community in the Tri-state area is getting ready to celebrate Indian Christian Day on July 3. It may also be a good time to revisit its relevance and related history. July 3 is observed as St. Thomas day, the world over. The New Testament reckons Thomas - who is also known as "Didymus" (meaning "Twin" in Greek) - as one of the twelve apostles of Jesus Christ. He was born in Galilee, Israel, and died on December 21, 72 A.D. According to Christian tradition, Thomas was killed with a spear at St. Thomas mount (Parangi Malai), and his body was interred in Mylapore at the St. Thomas Cathedral Basilica.

St. Thomas was one of Jesus' disciples. He is perhaps best known as "doubting Thomas," who wanted proof of Jesus' resurrection. As Christianity was being spread to the west by apostles like St. Paul, the mission to the East was undertaken by St. Thomas. Tradition says that it is St. Thomas who brought Christianity to India in the first century, making the religion older in India than Sikhism or Islam. The ancient Syrian Christian community of India traces its origin to St. Thomas. Christianity is the third largest religion in India after Hinduism and Islam. There are around 28 million adherents in India, making up 2.3% of the population of the country. The early Portuguese built the present St. Thomas Cathedral Basilica in 1523 A. D. Long before the present building was built over his tomb, Marco Polo visited the tomb in 1292. He wrote of the Christians of India going on pilgrimage to the shrine to be miraculously healed by the saint.

Of late, there is a lot of speculation about the story of St. Thomas, and a concerted effort is underway to discredit the entire episodic history and call it nothing but a myth. The entities closely associated with the current government are busy in their efforts to paint the history of Christianity in India as simply concocted in a backroom conspiracy. They are eager to link Christianity's whole history to the infamous colonial legacy characterized as a dark period in Indian history.

Of course, at present, there is no way to prove or disprove this tradition scientifically. However, one thing is sure: ever since the discovery of the monsoon winds in 45 A.D by Hippalos, an Alexandrian ship-captain, the land, and sea routes were open from the Mediterranean via the Persian Gulf to India, and there was intense contact between these areas. The mere fact that Roman coins of the first century are unearthed in several parts of South India simply adds credibility to those historical contacts. Many historians have also acknowledged that Jewish settlers existed in Cranganore even before the Christian era. There is a general presumption that St. Thomas may have visited this flourishing colony of Jews in Murziris (Cranganore). Those Jews are said to have arrived with King Solomon's first fleet.

With historical debate aside, why there must be a controversy now about the origins of Christianity in India and who is driving this debate? Obviously, this debate is orchestrated as part of the propaganda campaign by the Hindutva group as 2021 became the most violent year for Indian Christians. FIACONA (Federation of Indian American Christian Organizations of North America) has compiled a list of 761 attacks with a large percentage of those being mob attacks. As a Christian in India today, there is an increasing possibility that while at Church practicing his/her ancient tradition and worshipping Jesus through prayers and songs and communion, a screaming mob of hundreds of angry young men, many armed with iron rods and other weapons could barge into the peaceful prayer hall thrashing worshippers and dragging them out of sanctuary while they smash everything in sight. This is not some fantasy but has become a reality in present-day India under the BJP rule.

Although the Indian constitution guarantees the freedom of religion to all its citizens, the political dogma of RSS (Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh), the parent



St. Thomas was killed with a spear at St. Thomas Mount (Parangi Malai), and his body was interred in Mylapore at the St. Thomas Cathedral Basilica.

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organization of BJP, enunciated by its erstwhile leader and theoretician M S Golwalkar is still mostly the guideline for many of its loyal adherents. In fact, he argued in the book 'our nationhood defined' that as long as the Muslims and the Christians failed to abandon their own religion and culture, they cannot but be only foreigners in this country, and if they stayed here without losing their "separate existence" they might be treated as "enemies," at best as "idiots." His arguments tilt more favorably towards treating all Christians as "hostiles" who are agents of the international movement for the spread of Christianity.

In Modi's India, Christian Institutions are being strangled by denial of FCRA, freezing of the bank

accounts, unending investigations, frequent auditing, and harassment of the principal in charge. These moves appear to be consistent with the Hindutva philosophy that the Modi government has embraced to advance the saffron agenda that challenges the very idea of India as a multi-cultural and pluralistic society. Modi appears to pay lip service to Gandhiji's concept of India during his visits abroad but remains silent when Institutions that are supposed to promote those principles come under attack back home.

As first-generation immigrants to this country, we demand that our culture and traditions are respected here and never hesitated in our quest for equal treatment whenever there is any violation. Currently, we are pressing the lawmakers to make Diwali, rightfully so, a state holiday here in New York. However, back in India, Modi hit on the idea of replacing Christmas Day with an anniversary to commemorate the late Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee's birth anniversary and renamed it as a 'Good Governance Day'. The festive season holiday was made a working day for the bureaucrats. The great irony is that the deed has been done to a minority religion that has been in existence in the land for almost 20 centuries.

Therefore, the purpose of these attacks whether physical or symbolic along with their efforts in rewriting the origins of Christianity could be multi-fold. Christians, though a fraction of the population of India, wield enormous influence in the social, educational, and healthcare arena. Many of the charitable institutions in India are pioneered by Christian missionaries and still run with foreign funding. Many at the extreme right of the Hindutva philosophy dream about creating a Hindu Rashtra. In order to fulfill their dream, Christians, along with other minorities, need to be marginalized. The way to accomplish that is by diminishing their contributions, thereby reducing their visibility to the public. It is a concerted effort that appears to be succeeding.

I am not sure Indian Christians have the wherewithal or theology to stand against the Modi juggernaut and fight. However, they may come together in unity and proclaim that to judge the Indianness of its nationals only through the prism of one's faith is not only just unfair but preposterous. By celebrating Indian Christian Day globally on July 3, they may be not only reasserting their identity through the renewal of their faith and conveying to the world that their cherished heritage is real, and they are forever committed to proclaiming it.

(The author is a former Chief Technology Officer with the United Nations, and is the Vice Chairman of IOC USA)

Punjab: Shadow of Sangrur defeat robs "paperless" Budget of its sheen

BY PRABHJOT SINGH



Putting behind the Sangrur Lok Sabha bye-election debacle, three-month-old AAP Government has tried to salvage some of its prestige by presenting the State's first ever "paperless". Tax free and please all Budget in Punjab Vidhan Sabha on Monday, June 27.

While the ruling party claimed "it is a historic Budget" - drafted in consultation with the people of Punjab, still members of the Treasury Benches were hard pressed to hide their disappointment over rejection by voters of their own citadel a day earlier.

Calling it the Janata budget (people's budget), AAP claimed that it was drafted after receiving 20,384 suggestions on the government portal and through e-mails.

Drawing its consolation from Monday, as a new day, marking the start a new week, the Finance Minister Harpal Singh Cheema was upbeat in presenting his maiden budget of Rs 1.55 lakh crore without proposing any new taxes.

Interestingly, some of the major initiatives or schemes announced in the Budget are replicas of similar schemes being run in Delhi. These include giving 300 units of free power, "Farishtey" scheme for victims of road mishaps, and "Mohalla" clinics for boosting health care. Even proposed reforms in education and distribution of essential commodities, including "atta", are modelled on Delhi lines.

Cheema said out of five, four "guarantees"-giving 300 units of free electricity, quality education, improving health infrastructure and raising compensation to families of martyred soldiers-have been fulfilled.

Providing 300 units of free power will put an additional burden of Rs 1,800 crore on the state exchequer, said Cheema. The AAP government had announced giving 300 units of free power to every household from July 1. Only one guarantee of Rs 1,000 to each woman is yet to be fulfilled. Mr Cheema said this would also be done in due course of time.

Cheema presented the first paperless budget in the ongoing assembly session and said this step was expected to save Rs 21 lakh per annum. Instead of huge bundles of Budget documents, entire information was made available through an App.

Setting up of modern digital classrooms in 500 government schools to bring quality education to villages, upgrading 100 existing schools as "schools of eminence" and posting estate managers for a cluster of schools for the upkeep of their premises are among the proposals. The Government has also drawn a comprehensive scheme for installation of roof top solar panel systems in government schools.

To encourage students to plan their careers, a Punjab Young Entrepreneur programme is also being launched. Students of class 11 will be encouraged to propose their business ideas for which the state would provide seed money of Rs 2,000 each.

To further professional education and to discourage students from going abroad for medical education, the Punjab Government has decided to set up 16 new medical colleges over five years, taking the total number of colleges in the state to 25.

The first of these medical colleges will come up in Sangrur, the home district of both the Chief Minister and the Finance Minister. The government will also establish 117 "Mohalla Clinics", for which Rs 77 crore has been earmarked.

To counter its criticism for deterioration in law and order and rapid growth in heinous crime, the Government has resolved to strengthen the police force and equip it the with latest gadgets, technology and



Punjab Finance Minister Harpal Singh Cheema on Monday, June 27 presented the AAP government's first budget for 2022-23. Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann is seen to the left of Cheema

tools to tackle crime, maintain law and order with an allocation of Rs 108 crore.

Further, cyber-crime control rooms shall be set up in all districts with an outlay of Rs 30 crore. The Government also intends to bring the entire State under the CCTV network to check the crime and tap criminals.

The stubble burning issue too has been put on priority list. To explore available possibilities and solutions, a sum of Rs 200 crore has been earmarked for the project.

Noting that the agriculture sector is at a crossroad, Cheema stressed on increasing farmers' income and promoting crop diversification and earmarked Rs 11,560 crore for the agriculture sector. Seeking to put all speculations to rest, Cheema said the AAP government pledges to stand by its farmers and shall continue providing free power for the agriculture sector and allocated Rs 6,947 crore for the same.

Door-to-door delivery of well packaged 'atta' in place of wheat to 1.58 crore beneficiaries under National Food Security Act has been promised by the State. It will cost Rs 457 crore. A bailout package of Rs 350 crore for state-owned Punsup has also been mooted.

Also among new initiatives is replication of 'Farishtey' scheme on the pattern of Delhi whereby the road accident victims will be given free treatment and the helper would be felicitated.

The focus in the first year of its rule, claimed AAP, would be to restore deteriorating fiscal health, deliver on the promises of good governance by ensuring effective use of public funds and concentrate on health and education.

The state's effective outstanding debt was expected to be Rs 2,84,870.03 crore by end of current fiscal as against Rs 2,63,265.41 crore (revised estimates) for 2021-22.

The state government borrowed Rs 8,000 crore in the last three months besides contributing Rs 1,000 crore to the Consolidated Sinking Fund (CSF) of the state within the first two months.

The revenue deficit and fiscal deficit stood at Rs 12,553 crore and Rs 23,835 crore, respectively.

A total power subsidy, after 300 units concession, has been worked out at Rs 15,845 crore as against Rs 13,443 crore in 2021-22. The Punjab's AAP government was hoping to generate revenue worth Rs 95,378.28 crore this fiscal, against an expenditure of Rs 1,55,859.78 crore. This would lead to a revenue deficit of Rs 12,553.80 crore. Since no new tax has been announced and the revenue receipts are projected to increase by almost Rs 14,000 crore over 2021-22, the increased revenue would be primarily through excise earnings that would yield an additional revenue of 56 per cent. Buoyancy in GST

collection will get the state 27 percent additional revenue compared to last year. The State is also expecting an 11 percent increase in non-tax revenue.

The government will fill 24,400 posts in the government sector besides regularizing 36,000 contractual employees. This will cost Rs 450 crore.

The Government also reiterated its commitment to implement One MLA one pension scheme.

Among various new schemes planned to be launched by the Government this year include Sardar Bhagat Singh Haryali Project under which 50,000 saplings would be planted in each of the 117 assembly segments.

While no new taxes have been proposed, revenue receipts are expected to go up by 17.08%.

Another proposal says that 25,000 EWS houses would be constructed.

The Budget also makes an allocation of Rs 780 crore for the relining of Rajasthan feeder and Sirhind feeder canal.

To meet its financial needs, the state government proposes to raise Rs 31804.99 crore as market loans, up from Rs 27362.74 crore raised by the state last year.

The State expects to spend Rs 20,122 crore on payment of interest. However, the total debt servicing will take Rs 36,068.67 crore of the state's earnings.

The State also proposes to set up a Traders commission and Fintech city to come up for IT companies in Mohali.

The budgetary allocation for social security pensions is proposed to be increased from ₹4,071 crore during 2021-22 (BE) with coverage of 28.12 lakh beneficiaries to ₹4,720 crore in FY 2022-23 with a target of covering 31.23 lakh beneficiaries.

Rs 3,003 crore is being proposed for development of rural areas in the state.

To promote direct seeding of rice, the State is keeping apart Rs 450 crore as financial assistance to beneficiary farmers.

A new Quick Freezing Centre is proposed to be established at Verka, Amritsar, at a cost of Rs 7 crore. Further, an Integrated Hi-tech Vegetable Production-cum-Technology Dissemination Centre at Malsian, Jalandhar, will come up at a cost of Rs 11 crore.

For the cooperatives sector, Rs 1,170 crore allocated, which is an increase of 35.67% compared to the last financial year.

Punjabi University, Patiala, will get Rs 200 crores as a special grant.

An amount of Rs 30 crore has been earmarked for providing infrastructure facilities in libraries of government colleges of 9 districts - Tarn Taran, Barnala, Ludhiana, Fazilka, Malerkotla, Moga, Pathankot, Muktsar Sahib and Shaheed Bhagat Singh Nagar.

The State would start a CM scholarship with an allocation of Rs 30 crores to general category students for giving them concessions in university. Students of poor families, especially of general category studying in government colleges, will get concession in the fee, based on the marks obtained by the student.

But do these schemes of a government meet the hopes and aspirations of the people of Punjab who chose their new rulers just three months ago? Some of the new schemes look cosmetic with allocations that can best be described as "symbolic". Allocations like Rs 35 crore or Rs 50 crore to deal with issues like career development of jobs-starved State may have good intent but not the all-out support.

(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 or follow him on [Twitter.com/probingeye](https://twitter.com/probingeye). He can be reached at prabhjot416@gmail.com)

INDIA DAY PARADE OF LONG ISLAND SET FOR AUGUST 7



At the lighting of the lamp. IDPUSA founder Bobby Kalotee, President Vimal Goyal and his executive with a few guests



IDPUSA Founder Bobby Kalotee with past and present President, addresses the gathering.



Organizers and guests on the occasion of the curtain-raiser

MINEOLA, NY (TIP): In celebration of India's 75th anniversary of independence, IDP USA will hold its 12th annual India Day Parade in Hicksville, Long Island on August 7, it was announced at the Curtain Raiser on June 21 held at the prestigious Nassau County Executive and Legislative Building in Mineola, NY.

The event was attended by IDP USA team members, past presidents, community leaders, officials of Nassau County as well as the Town of Oyster Bay, and press persons.

Vimal Goyal, IDP USA President, said that the parade this time will originate from Hicksville Community Center on Carl Street West, adding that the enthusiasm this time is high since this is the 75th landmark year of India's Independence, and the parade will proudly celebrate Indian Government initiative 'Azadi Ka

Amrit Mahotsav'. He recalled the sacrifices of freedom fighters, some known and some not so. How important independence is for a country you can see in Ukraine's resistance to Russia's aggression, he pointed out.

IDP USA Founder Bobby K Kalotee, Chair of Nassau County Commission on Human Rights, in his address praised India's intellectual force and free thinking and said that nobody could have kept the country in shackles. He also promised full support and protection for the parade on behalf of the Town and County.

The program emceed by Past President Mukesh Modi started with the recital of the Indian and American anthems, followed by the ceremonial lamp lighting. The first item was an energetic dance item, Ganesh Vandana, performed by a young girl, Angel.

IDP Chairperson Indu Jaiswal and Past President

Beena Kothari, in their brief speeches, gave a call to the community to support the parade with tan-mandhan (body, mind and funds).

The parade that culminates in an entertainment program will showcase India's heritage and culture and Indian Americans' achievements. Children's carnival and games area will be free. Raffle will have attractive prizes.

A couple of Indian Americans running for elected office in the New York primaries were in attendance. Dinner was provided by Rajbhog.

For more details: Vimal Goyal, IDP USA President, 516 978 7125, VimKGoyal@yahoo.com

Parveen Chopra (Media Coordinator), 516 710 0508, Parveen.Chopra@gmail.com

(Based on a press release issued by Parveen Chopra)

Long Island Indo-American Lions Club President Indu Gajwani passes the baton to Dr. Sunil Mehra

LONG ISLAND, NY (TIP): The Installation Ceremony of the Long Island Indo-American Lions Club was held on June 22nd, 2022. PDG-T.J. Anand, PDG-Anthony Paradiso, Immediate past district governor-Terri Oster graced the occasion. Emcee of the evening was Anju Sharma, who welcomed all and highlighted the amazing work done by our club. The club is three years OLD, despite of Pandemic the club has done tremendous job. President The club is recognized as number one:

- First club founded with 34 charter members
- Maximum Membership (just in a short period of time in two and half years 118 members.)
- Maximum donations made by club.
- Maximum Melvin Jones Award recipients are from our club.

President Indu Gajwani Recognized & appreciated Lions for their services towards Community. Krishna Maddipatla was awarded "Lion of The Year". Community Service Awards were presented to Kanak Golia, Nand Panjwani, Bobby Patel, Jay Shah, Anil Shah, Naveen Shah and Gary Sikka. Anju Sharma & Sanju Sharma was recognized for Excellent Leadership award. Rita Shah, Gobind Bathija, Nimesh Shah, Vijay Shah, Saurabh Seth, Pradeep Gosalia, Poojaa Makhijani, Dr. Kalpesh Amin, Dr. Yogendra Saxena, Pawan Singla, Dr. Usha



Tandon, Sital Shah, Yogini Oza, Madhu Pareek, Vandana Kumar were awarded Recognition awards for their services for the club.

Sanjiv Jindal Represented the office of Senator Anna Kaplan and Citations were presented to Kanak Golia, Krishna Maddipatla, Anju Sharma, Dr. Sunil Mehra, Rita Shah, Sanju Sharma, Indu Gajwani & Shyam Gajwani for their outstanding services. Shyam Gajwani 'LCIF officer' was appreciated and recognized for his support and dedication throughout the years. Outgoing President Indu Gajwani was awarded 'Excellent performance Award' for outstanding work within short period of time.

38 New Members were inducted at installation ceremony. President Indu Gajwani introduced New Incoming President (2022-2023) Dr. Sunil Mehra. She handed over the Lions Bell and gavel to Dr. Mehra as responsibility of the club and



wished him all the best. She also promised to continue her support to the club. The Executive committee of 2022-2023 was announced by Dr. Sunil Mehra. Kanak Golia, Gobind Bathija, Nimesh Shah & Anju Sharma were announced as Vice Presidents. Sanju Sharma Secretary and Vijay Shah Treasurer for the upcoming year. Krishna Maddipatla, Dr. Kalpesh Amin, Saurabh Seth, Nand Panjwani, And Dr. Abhay Malhotra will serve as Board of Directors.

Dr. Mehra requested team members for their support for the club. He promised to continue to serve the community and urged the members to work together to keep club at the position of "Number One". Vote of thanks by given by Secretary Nimesh 'Bunty' Shah. The program ended with Bollywood dance presentation and Dance floor open to all.

Long Island Indo-American Lions Club is committed to serve the community and to



create a better tomorrow for the less privileged. In a very short period of time of 3 years this club has done incredible Job through various events under the leadership of Founding President Indu Gajwani. The events organized by our club are not only limited to reaching out to community to help with Food Drive, Clothes drive, etc. The club also organizes Health and Wellness Fairs, Cultural activities, Social and educational events. As Lions club worldwide tries to provide healthy meals for the hungry by donating to local pantries where hundreds of people are served daily, Our Local club follows these footsteps. Our club has made efforts to touch lives globally by making donations towards Cancer Cure, eyesight testing, eye surgeries, donation of thousands of eyeglasses, delivery of groceries, Winter jackets and blankets under the project 'Spread the warmth' not only in USA but reaching out to the less privileged people in INDIA.

Fourth of July: US Independence Day

Independence Day, also called Fourth of July or July 4th, in the United States, the annual celebration of nationhood. It commemorates the passage of the Declaration of Independence by the Continental Congress on July 4, 1776. Independence Day is celebrated on Monday, July 4, 2022 in the United States.

The Congress had voted in favour of independence from Great Britain on July 2 but did not actually complete the process of revising the Declaration of Independence, originally drafted by Thomas Jefferson in consultation with fellow committee members John Adams, Benjamin Franklin, Roger Sherman, and William Livingston, until two days later. The celebration was initially modeled on that of the king's birthday, which had been marked annually by bell ringing, bonfires, solemn processions, and oratory. Such festivals had long played a significant role in the Anglo-American political tradition. Especially in the 17th and 18th centuries, when dynastic and religious controversies racked the British Empire (and much of the rest of Europe), the choice of which anniversaries of historic events were celebrated and which were lamented had clear political meanings. The ritual of toasting the king and other patriot-heroes—or of criticizing them—became an informal kind of political speech, further formalized in mid-18th century when the toasts given at taverns and banquets began to be reprinted in newspapers.

In the early stages of the revolutionary movement in the colonies during the 1760s and early '70s, patriots used such celebrations to proclaim their resistance to Parliament's legislation while lauding King George III as the real defender of English liberties. However, the marking of the first days of independence during the summer of 1776 actually took the form in many towns of a mock funeral for the king, whose "death" symbolized the end of monarchy and tyranny and the rebirth of liberty.

During the early years of the republic, Independence Day was commemorated with parades, oratory, and toasting in ceremonies that celebrated the existence of the new nation. These rites played an equally important role in the evolving federal political system. With the rise of informal political parties, they provided venues for leaders and constituents to tie local and national contests to independence and the issues facing the national polity. By the mid-1790s the two nascent political parties held separate partisan Independence Day festivals in most larger towns. Perhaps for this reason, Independence Day became the model for a series of (often short-lived) celebrations that sometimes contained more explicit political resonance, such as George Washington's birthday and the anniversary of Jefferson's inauguration while he served as president (1801–09).

The bombastic torrent of words that



Declaration of Independence, oil on canvas by John Trumbull, 1818, for the Rotunda of the United States Capitol in Washington, D.C. The members of the Continental Congress signed the declaration in Philadelphia on July 4, 1776, a day subsequently celebrated as Independence Day in the United States. Photo source: Architect of the Capitol

characterized Independence Day during the 19th century made it both a serious occasion and one sometimes open to ridicule—like the increasingly popular and democratic political process itself in that period. With the growth and diversification of American society, the Fourth of July commemoration became a patriotic tradition which many groups—not just political parties—sought to claim. Abolitionists, women's rights advocates, the temperance movement, and opponents of immigration (nativists) all seized the day and its observance, in the process often declaring that they could not celebrate with the entire community while an un-American perversion of their rights prevailed.

With the rise of leisure, the Fourth of July emerged as a major midsummer holiday. The prevalence of heavy drinking and the many injuries caused by setting off fireworks prompted reformers of the late 19th and the early 20th century to mount a Safe and Sane Fourth of July movement. During the later 20th century, although it remained a national holiday marked by parades, concerts of patriotic music, and fireworks displays, Independence Day declined in importance as a venue for politics. It remains a potent symbol of national power and of specifically American qualities—even the freedom to stay at home and barbecue.



Image of the Declaration of Independence, signed July 4, 1776, by the Continental Congress. Its adoption is celebrated as the Fourth of July holiday in the United States.

Photo source: iStockphoto/Thinkstock

How Did Our Founders Envision Independence Day Celebrations?

John Adams described the way Americans should celebrate their independence each year. He envisioned

the celebration to be one filled with fun, games, and fireworks—not an occasion for displaying military strength (as one might expect). On July 3, 1776, he wrote these words to his wife Abigail, capturing the spirit of the times:

From P12

“Yesterday the greatest Question was decided, which ever was debated in America, and a greater, perhaps, never was or will be decided among Men. A Resolution was passed without one dissenting Colony ‘that these united Colonies, are, and of right ought to be free and independent States, and as such, they have, and of Right ought to have full Power to make War, conclude Peace, establish Commerce, and to do all the other Acts and Things, which other States might rightfully do...’

The second day of July, 1776, will be the most memorable Epoque, in the History of America. I am apt to believe that it will be celebrated, by succeeding Generations, as the great anniversary Festival... . It ought to be solemnized with Pomp and Parade, with Shews, Games, Sports, Guns, Bells, Bonfires and Illuminations from one End of this Continent to the other from this Time forward forever more.”

On July 18, 1777, an issue of the Virginia Gazette describes the July 4 celebration in Philadelphia:

“The evening was closed with the ringing of bells, and at night there was a grand exhibition of fireworks, which began and concluded with thirteen rockets on the commons, and the city was beautifully illuminated. Every thing was conducted with the greatest order and decorum, and the face of joy and gladness was universal.”

A number of years would pass until celebrations of the Fourth of July became more common. Interestingly, it was the death of John Adams (and Thomas Jefferson) that seemed to promote the idea of July 4 as an important date to be celebrated. And it was almost a century later (in 1870) that Congress declared July 4 a national holiday.

What’s really special about America’s celebration of freedom is it was quite different for its time, focusing on the joys of freedom. Many countries have emulated this spirit of celebration ever since.

The Declaration of Independence

The Declaration of Independence is one of the most important documents in the history of the United States. It was an official act taken by all 13 American colonies in declaring independence from British rule.

The document was originally written by Thomas Jefferson, but Benjamin Franklin and John Adams, along with Jefferson then worked together to make changes. The final draft of the Declaration of Independence was adopted on July 4, 1776, but the actual signing of the final document took place on August 2, 1776.

Here is an excerpt from the Declaration of Independence (U.S. 1776):

We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness. That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed. That whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government, laying its



foundation on such principles and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their Safety and Happiness.

Celebrating the Fourth of July

In the United States, Independence Day is a federal holiday traditionally observed with parades, concerts, outdoor food, and fireworks. Here are five ways to prep for the Fourth of July!

Raise the Flag

If you don’t have a flagpole, consider a front-entry flag! Before you hang Old Glory, check the American Flag Guidelines so that you can proudly and properly display your flag.

Stay Casual: Remember, this isn’t a “fancy” dinner. A summer cookout or picnic food is the way to go for the Fourth. Take a look at our Fourth of July recipes to have a delicious picnic or barbecue—and for a list of patriotic desserts!

Play Games

We don’t care if you’re young or just young at heart. Get out the cornhole and horseshoe games, the croquet, or just a backgammon set if you’re hanging out on the porch! If you’re going to a 4th of July party, bring your own games, as it can be a few hours until fireworks start.

Fireworks

Whether it’s simply poppers, snaps and snakes, OR a bigger fireworks display, keep up the tradition. Kids LOVE sparklers. Hand them out one by one to enjoy the magic. Of course, always have adults nearby for safety, as well as a fire extinguisher.

Beat the Heat and the Bugs

Don’t forget to have sunscreen, sunshades, lots of drinking water, and bug spray on hand if you’ll be outside.

Key events

War of Independence

1774 - Colonists form First Continental



Congress as Britain closes down Boston harbour and deploys troops in Massachusetts.

1775 - American Revolution: George Washington leads Continental Army to fight against British rule.

1776 4 July - Declaration of Independence endorsed by Congress; colonies declare independence.

1781 - Rebel states form loose confederation after defeating the British at the Battle of Yorktown.

United States profile

1783 - Britain accepts loss of colonies by virtue of Treaty of Paris.

1787 - Founding Fathers draw up new constitution for United States of America. Constitution comes into effect in 1788.

1789 - George Washington elected first president of USA.

1791 - Bill of Rights guarantees individual freedom.

1803 - France sells Louisiana territories to USA.

1808 - Atlantic slave trade abolished.
1812-15 - War of 1812 between the US

and Britain, partly over the effects of British restrictions on US trade during the Napoleonic Wars.

19th century - Residual resistance by indigenous people crushed as immigration from Europe assumes mass proportions, with settlers moving westwards and claiming "manifest destiny" to control North America; number of states in the union rises from 17 to 45.

1846-48 - US acquires vast tracts of Mexican territory in wake of Mexican War including California and New Mexico.

Civil War

1854 - Opponents of slavery, or abolitionists, set up Republican Party.

1860 - Republican candidate Abraham Lincoln elected president.

1860-61 - Eleven pro-slavery southern states secede from Union and form Confederate States of America, triggering civil war with abolitionist northern states.

1863 - Lincoln issues Emancipation Proclamation, declaring slaves in

From P13

Confederate states to be free.

1865 - Confederates defeated; slavery abolished under Thirteenth Amendment. Lincoln is assassinated.

1898 - US gains Puerto Rico, Guam, the Philippines and Cuba following the Spanish-American war. US annexes Hawaii.

World War I and the Great Depression

1917-18 - US intervenes in World War I, but rejects membership of League of Nations in its aftermath.

1920 - Women given the right to vote under the Nineteenth Amendment.

1920 - Sale and manufacture of alcoholic liquor outlawed. The Prohibition era sees a mushrooming of illegal drinking joints, home-produced alcohol and gangsterism.

1924 - Congress gives indigenous people right to citizenship.

1929-33 - More than 13 million people are unemployed after the Wall Street stock market crash of 1929 triggers the Great Depression. President Herbert Hoover rejects direct federal relief.

1933 - President Franklin D Roosevelt launches "New Deal" recovery programme which includes major public works. Sale of alcohol resumes.

World War II and the Cold War

1941 - Japanese warplanes attack US fleet at Pearl Harbour in Hawaii, leading to US joining World War II against the Axis powers.

1945 - US drops two atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Japan surrenders.

1947 - US enunciates policy of aid for nations it deems threatened by communism in what became known as the Truman Doctrine. Cold War with Soviet Union begins.

1948 - America's programme to revive ailing post-war European economies - the Marshall Plan - comes into force. Some \$13bn is disbursed over four years and the plan is regarded as a success.

1950-54 - Senator Joseph McCarthy carries out a crusade against alleged communists in government and public life; the campaign and its methods become known as McCarthyism. In 1954 McCarthy is formally censured by the Senate.

1950-53 - US forces play leading role against North Korean and Chinese troops in Korean War.

Desegregation and the Vietnam war

1954 - Racial segregation in schools becomes unconstitutional; start of campaign of civil disobedience to secure civil rights for Americans of African descent.

1960 - Democratic Party candidate John F Kennedy elected president, narrowly defeating his rival Richard Nixon.

1961 - Bay of Pigs invasion: an unsuccessful attempt to invade Cuba by Cuban exiles, organised and financed by Washington.

1962 - US compels Soviet Union to withdraw nuclear weapons from Cuba in what has become known as the Cuban missile crisis.

1963 - President John F Kennedy assassinated; Lyndon Johnson becomes president.

1964 - US steps up its military intervention in Vietnam. Civil Rights Act signed into law; it aims to halt discrimination on grounds of race, colour, religion, nationality.



1968 - Black civil rights leader Martin Luther King assassinated.

1969 - Republican Party candidate Richard Nixon elected president amid growing public opposition to Vietnam war. US military presence in Vietnam exceeds 500,000 personnel.

US astronaut Neil Armstrong becomes the first person to walk on the Moon.

1972 - Nixon re-elected and makes historic visit to China that leads to recognition of the communist government.

1973 - Vietnam ceasefire agreement signed. The campaign had claimed some 58,000 American lives.

1974 - President Nixon resigns in the Watergate scandal over a 1972 break-in at the Democratic Party headquarters.

1976 - Democratic Party candidate Jimmy Carter elected president.

1979 - US embassy in Tehran, Iran, seized by radical students. The 444-day hostage crisis - including a failed rescue attempt in 1980 - impacts on President Carter's popularity and dominates the 1980 presidential election campaign.

Global assertiveness

1980 November - Republican Party's Ronald Reagan elected president, and goes on to adopt a tough anti-communist policy abroad and tax-cutting policies at home.

1986 January - Space shuttle Challenger explodes shortly after take off from Cape Canaveral. All seven crew members are killed. Manned space flights are suspended until September 1988.

1986 - US warplanes bomb Libyan cities. "Irangate" scandal uncovered, revealing that proceeds from secret US arms sales to Iran were used illegally to fund Contra rebels in Nicaragua.

1988 - Reagan's vice-president, George Bush, elected president.

1989 - US troops invade Panama, oust its government and arrest its leader, one-time Central Intelligence Agency informant General Manuel Noriega, on drug-trafficking charges.

1991 - US forces play dominant role in war against Iraq, which was triggered by Iraq's invasion of Kuwait and ended with the expulsion of Iraqi troops from that



country.

The Clinton years

1992 - Democratic Party candidate Bill Clinton elected president.

1992 - Congress passes North American Free Trade Agreement, or Nafta, intended to create free-trade bloc among US, Canada and Mexico.

1995 - Oklahoma bomb by far-right activists kills more than 160 people in worst ever incident of its kind in US.

1998 - Scandal over Clinton's sexual impropriety with White House worker Monica Lewinsky dominates domestic political agenda, and leads to impeachment proceedings in Congress.

1999 March-June - US plays leading role in Nato bombardment of Yugoslavia in response to Serb violence against ethnic Albanians in the province of Kosovo.

2000 November - Republican Party's George W Bush wins presidency.

11 September attacks

2001 11 September - Co-ordinated suicide attacks by al-Qaeda terror group prompts the US to embark on a "war on terror" that includes invasions of Afghanistan and Iraq.

2001 October - US leads massive campaign of air strikes against Afghanistan and helps opposition forces defeat the Taliban regime.

2002 November - President Bush signs into law a bill creating a Department of Homeland Security, the biggest reorganisation of federal government in more than 50 years.

2003 February - Space shuttle Columbia's 28th mission ends in tragedy when the craft breaks-up while re-entering the atmosphere. The seven astronauts on board are killed.

Iraq war

2003 March - Missile attacks on Baghdad mark the start of a US-led

From P14



campaign to topple the Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein. US forces advance into central Baghdad in early April.

2004 May - Furore over pictures showing the abuse of Iraqi prisoners in US custody.

2005 August - Hundreds of people are killed when Hurricane Katrina, the most destructive storm to hit the US in decades, sweeps through gulf coast states. Much of the city of New Orleans is submerged by flood waters.

2006 March - Congress renews the USA Patriot Act, a centrepiece of the government's fight against terrorism, after months of debate about its impact on civil liberties. The government agrees to some curbs on information gathering.

2007 January - President Bush announces a new Iraq strategy; thousands more US troops will be dispatched to shore up security in Baghdad.

2008 September - Turmoil in the US and international financial markets as major Wall Street investment bank Lehman Brothers collapses and other big US financial players face growing troubles as a result of the "credit crunch".

Obama elected

2008 November - Democratic Senator Barack Obama becomes the first black president of the United States.

2009 January - First "Tea Party" rally held in protest at Obama administration's plans to bail out banks and introduce healthcare reform. The populist and libertarian movement acts as focus for conservative opposition to the president's reform plans.

2010 March - Democrats in Congress succeed in passing a bill on health care reform, despite strong Republican opposition.

US and Russia announce agreement on a new nuclear arms reduction treaty to replace the 1991 Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty. The pact was to be signed on 8 April.

President Obama unveils a new defence policy significantly curtailing the circumstances in which the US would use nuclear weapons.

2011 May - US forces kill Al-Qaeda leader Osama Bin Laden in an operation in the Pakistani city of Abbottabad.

2011 July - The final Space Shuttle mission is completed with the landing of Atlantis on 21 July, bringing about the end of the 30-year programme.

2012 September - The US ambassador in Libya is killed when armed men storm the consulate in Benghazi.

2013 April - Twin bomb blasts targeting the Boston marathon kill three people and injure more than 170. Soviet-born Islamic extremist Dzhokhar Tsarnaev is charged after a manhunt in which his elder brother and suspected co-conspirator Tamerlan is killed.

2013 May - Former National Security Agency (NSA) contractor Edward Snowden flees to Russia via Hong Kong after revealing leaking information on extensive internet and telephone surveillance by US intelligence.

2014 August-November - The shooting of an unarmed black teenager by a white policeman sparks a weeks of riots the Missouri town of Ferguson. In November, a grand jury's decision not to charge the officer with murder sets off new unrest.

Republican resurgence

2014 November - Republicans win a Senate majority in mid-term elections, gaining control of both houses of Congress and further reducing President Obama's room for manoeuvre.

2014 December - US and Cuba begin steps to normalise diplomatic relations after more than 50 years of stand-off.

2015 March - President Obama announces that 10,000 US troops will remain in Afghanistan as advisors and trainers until 2016.

2015 June - US accuses Chinese hackers of massive breach of personal data of nearly four million government workers. China denies any role.

White supremacist shoots dead nine African-American worshippers in a church in Charleston, prompting nationwide revulsion and demands for end to public display of Confederate Civil-War-era symbols.

2015 December - FBI say Muslim couple who shot dead 14 people and wounded 21 others at office party in San Bernadino, California, were Islamist extremists who had prepared the attack, the worst on US soil since September 2001, in advance.

Trump elected president

2016 November - Republican candidate Donald Trump wins presidential election, defeating Democratic candidate Hillary Clinton in one of the biggest political upsets in US history. He is inaugurated in January.

2017 January - President Trump signs executive orders restricting visas for people seeking to enter the US from certain Muslim-majority countries, and barring funding for cities that shelter illegal immigrants. Both policies are blocked by the courts.



President Donald Trump was impeached by the U.S. House for a historic second time. He was charged with "incitement of insurrection" over the deadly mob siege of the Capitol in a swift and stunning collapse of his final days in office. Photo source: AP



A pro-Trump mob swarms the Capitol building on January 6, 2021, in Washington, DC.

Photo source: Getty Images

2017 May - President Trump sacks FBI Director James Comey, prompting a public row about whether the White House was trying to derail an inquiry into alleged collusion between Russian efforts to influence the 2016 election and the Trump campaign.

2017 August - A woman is run over and killed by a suspected far-right sympathiser amid protests in Charlottesville, Virginia. President Trump is widely criticised for blaming both sides for violence, rather than the neo-Nazis and White supremacists.

2017 December - US recognises Jerusalem as capital of Israel and announces plans to move embassy there, prompting anger in Arab countries. In March 2019 the US recognises Israeli sovereignty over the Golan Heights.

North Korea diplomacy

2018 April - China imposes 25% tariffs on a range of US goods in response to similar US measures.

2018 June - After months of hostile rhetoric, President Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong-un meet in Singapore and agree to continue dialogue aimed at reducing tensions on the Korean peninsula.

2018 October - The US, Canada and Mexico reach a new trade deal to replace the current North American Free Trade Agreement (Nafta).

The US announces plans to withdraw from the 1987 Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces (INF) treaty, which restricts US and Russian short- and medium-range nuclear missiles, accusing Moscow of having violated its terms.

Road to impeachment

2018 November - Opposition Democrats take control of House of Representatives in mid-term elections, making it harder for President Trump's Republicans to pass legislation.

2019 February - US and North Korea talks in Vietnam break down over pace of nuclear disarmament.

2019 March - Mueller Report finds no evidence of collusion between Russian efforts to influence the 2016 election and the Trump campaign.

2019 October - US withdraws troops from northern Syria, which prompts Turkey to occupy Kurdish-run parts of the north in an attempt to create a buffer zone.

2019 December - President Trump is impeached by the House of Representatives on charges of abuse of power and obstruction of Congress. His trial is set to begin in the Senate the following month.

2020 January - US drone strike kills leading Iranian commander Qasem Soleimani at Baghdad Airport, promoting Iranian threats of retaliation.

2020 March - National emergency declared over the Covid-19 pandemic.

2020 May - Nationwide protests break out following the killing of African-American George Floyd by Minneapolis police.

2020 November - Democrat former Vice-President Joe Biden defeats Donald Trump in the presidential election.

2021 January - Joe Biden inaugurated president amid unprecedented security, a week after Trump supporters stormed the Capitol in Washington DC.

Celebrating the Achievements of Indian American Physicians, AAPI's Historic 40th Convention Concludes in San Antonio

SAN ANTONIO, TX (TIP): The historic 40th annual convention organized by the American Association of Physicians of Indian Origin (AAPI) concluded at the world-famous Riverwalk Henry B Gonzalez Convention Center in San Antonio in Texas on Saturday, June 25th, 2022 with a Gala Bollywood Nite, during which a new Leadership Team led by Dr. Ravi Kolli assumed charge of the four decades old premier Medical Organization, representing the strong and powerful 120,000 physicians of Indian heritage.



The four days long annual convention and scientific assembly, attended by over 10,000 AAPI delegates, while celebrating the achievements of the Indian American Physicians, focused on the theme, "Physician Heal Thyself" with several unique and first-of-a-kind opportunities to help AAPI members self-care, especially in the context of Covid related physicians burn out, paid tributes and celebrated freedom and democracy, honoring India and its 75 years of Independence Day celebrations- co-sponsored by the Embassy of India & the Consulate General of India (CGI) - Houston.

"AAPI's strength is its numbers and members. Our Sakthi is in our Samkhya and our Sabhyas," Dr. Ravi Kolli stated in his inaugural address immediately after



he assumed charge as the 41st President of AAPI. "You are that powerful threads of this colorful and strong fabric, and your participation and contributions are essential for its continued success. So, thank you all," Dr. Kolli told AAPI delegates and distinguished guests who had packed the Ball Room at the Henry Gonzalez Convention Center during the Presidential Gala.

Dr. Kolli will work with Dr. Anjana Sammadar, President-Elect; Dr. Satheesh Kathula, Vice President; Dr. Meherbala Medavaram, Secretary and Dr. Sumul Raval, Treasurer of AAPI for the year 2022-23. Dr. V. Ranga will serve as the Chair, AAPI Board of Trustees. Giving representation and strengthening the voice of young physicians of Indian origin, Dr. Pooja Kinkhabwala will serve as the President, AAPI Young Physicians Section (YPS) and Dr. Ammu Susheela is the President of AAPI- Medical Student/Residents & Fellows Section (MSRF). Dr. Anupama Gotimukula will serve as the Immediate Past President of AAPI.

Dr. Anupama Gotimukula, the Immediate Past President of AAPI said, "Our leadership team has worked diligently on so many wonderful projects and activities including educational, philanthropic, legislative, networking, and many more activities benefitting our members and communities. This has been possible because of the incredible work and support from the dedicated team of leaders, members, and our supporting office staff," the only 4th woman President of AAPI in the four decades long history of AAPI, said.

"Our physician members have worked very hard during the covid 19 pandemic. The 2022 convention is a perfect time to heal the healers with a special focus on wellness," said Dr. Jayesh Shah, Chair of AAPI Convention 2022. Dr. Shah praised the dedication and generosity of each member for giving their best, to make this Convention truly a memorable one for every participant.



Put together by a highly talented and dedicated team of Convention Committee members, the convention was filled with programs and activities that cater to the body, mind and soul. The Convention was a unique experience for everyone, Dr. Sathesh Kathula, Secretary of AAPI said.

During the BOT luncheon chaired by Dr. Kusum Punjabi, the youngest ever to hold the position, handed over the office to the new Chair, Dr. Vishweshwar R. Ranga. In her address, Dr. Punjabi highlighted the many initiatives under her leadership. She said, "The Board of Trustees this year has launched the AAPI Medical Project Grant (MPG). The purpose of this grant is to financially support AAPI medical students/residents/fellows/young physicians in various medical projects such as observerships,



community service projects, entrepreneurships, innovation developments, etc.:

Dr. V. Ranga in his address he said, "My goal in the coming year is to formalize and create AAPI leadership academy working with executives from American College of Physicians for the development of leadership roles for all AAPI members. I want to work hard to engage young physicians and attract them to AAPI. They are the future of AAPI."



Dr. Surender Purohit, Chair of AAPI's Charitable Foundation provided a brief summary of the many initiatives AAPI has undertaken in recent years, especially benefitting the remotest villages in the country.

Welcoming AAPI delegates to San Antonio, Ron Nirenberg, Mayor of San Antonio, declared June 24th as AAPI Day and International Yoga Day in the City of San Antonio. While praising AAPI and its members for their contributions, Nirenberg said, "We are honored to host the largest gathering of Indian American physicians in our vibrant city, home to some of the best healthcare facilities in the nation."

AAPI delegates had a rare glimpse to the rich cultural heritage of India through a video presentation depicting the unique diversity of India and a variety of mesmerizing performances of Indian/Mexican Fusion Dances, ranging from Bharatnatyam, folk dances, and the traditional Indian dances in sync with Mexican pop dances, which were a treat to the hearts and souls of everyone. National Spelling Bee Champion 2022 Harini Logan was recognized during the convention Gala.

In his keynote address, Ambassador Taranjit Singh Sandhu lauded the several initiatives of AAPI over the past four decades and said, "Over the past four decades, AAPI has been doing an outstanding job in advocacy and health education.

(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)

PM Modi understands potential of India-US relationship: Ambassador Sandhu

WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP): Prime Minister Narendra Modi understands the potential of the India-US relationship and has played a key role in building trust between the two countries, India's envoy to Washington, Taranjit Singh Sandhu, has said as he hailed the record USD 160 billion bilateral trade last year despite the pandemic.

"As the head of 1.4 billion citizens, our Prime Minister has encouraged each of us to dream big. In a real sense, he has gone on and has shown us that these dreams can be achieved if pursued with determination and persistence as seen in India's rise on the global map," Sandhu said at an event in Chicago on Sunday.

"Let us all continue to dream big and work passionately towards achieving those dreams," Sandhu told the gathering at the "Vishwa Sadbhavana" event organized by the NID Foundation in Chicago.

Prime Minister Modi, he said, understands the potential of the India-US relationship and has played an important role in building trust between the two countries.

"In the US, the Prime Minister saw a very close friend and a strong partner, critical to transforming the dreams and the development aspirations of nearly 1.4 billion Indians into reality," he added.

"Modi has shaped this relationship with his firm vision and showed that tangible outcomes are possible with focused and regular actions. The United States has designated India as a Major Defense Partner, which is the basis for our strong collaboration in the defense...sector. India and the USA do more bilateral military exercises with each other, today than with any other country," Sandhu said.

India's defense trade with the USA which was almost zero in the late 1990s is now more than USD 20 billion in 2022. Similarly, the energy trade, which five years ago was almost zero, stands at USD 20 billion now.

"Last year, we hit a historic high of more than USD 160 billion in India-US bilateral trade. It is beyond



: "Let us all continue to dream big and work passionately towards achieving those dreams," Sandhu told the gathering at the "Vishwa Sadbhavana" event organized by the NID Foundation in Chicago.

File photo

impressive that we were able to achieve this during the Covid-19 pandemic without any formal trade agreement and despite supply chain disruptions," he said.

The Indian Ambassador told the audience that India under Modi has been showing the world the way forward.

"Be it the act of providing the entire world with COVID-19 vaccines, relief missions in countries such as Afghanistan or hand-holding nations in education or space research; be it his stance during COP26 Global Leaders' Summit in Glasgow or during World Economic Forum's Davos Summit, Narendra Modi has truly shown the world the way forward," he said.

Organized by eminent Indian-Americans including Bharat Barai, Darshan Singh Dhaliwal, the event was attended by a large number of Sikhs from various parts of the Midwest.

Prominent among those who attended the event included senior US senator Ron Johnson, spiritual leader Sri Sri Ravi Shankar, Dr Debbie Ford, Chancellor, University of Wisconsin-Parkside, Robin Vos, Speaker of

Wisconsin State Assembly, S Satnam Singh Sandhu, Chief Patron, NID foundation and Chancellor, Chandigarh University and General Atomic Chief Executive, Vivek Lall.

Two books 'Heartfelt-The Legacy Of Faith' and 'Modi@20: Dreams Meet Delivery' were also released on the occasion.

In his address, Sri Ravishankar applauded Prime Minister Modi for various initiatives taken by him in the past eight years.

"India has gone under a sea of change. From infrastructure development to attending to the poorest of the poor sections of the society, from the ease of doing business and many other initiatives, the progress and development undertaken by the Prime Minister are phenomenal," he said.

Senator Johnson said that the India-US relationship has deepened and strengthened after Modi came to power.

"The US has always considered India as its natural ally. There is so much that the two countries are doing together and will continue to do together. The two countries are continuously deepening the major defense partnership, encouraging economic engagement and expanding the partnership on global health, pandemic preparedness and critical and emerging technologies," he said.

Satnam Singh Sandhu, chief patron of the NID Foundation said Modi's political and humane acumen has ensured the role of the Indian diaspora in India's pursuit of becoming a 'Vishwa Guru' (World Leader) again remains the most important.

"On every trip of any country, the Prime Minister takes out time to meet the Indian community there, to talk to them, interact with them and take stock of any problem or issues they might be facing. The spirit of Vishwa Sadbhavana stems from this very love and respect that the honorable Prime Minister has for the people and humanity at the global level," he said.

(Source: PTI)

SCOTUS Overturns Trump era 'Remain in Mexico'

IMMIGRANT ADVOCATES APPLAUD RULING AND CALL FOR SWIFT ACTION TO ENSURE ASYLUM SEEKERS CAN ACCESS REFUGE AT THE BORDER

NEW YORK (TIP): Despite a growing recognition of the problem, the US continues to see newspapers die at the rate of two per week, according to a report issued on the state of local news.

Areas of the country that find themselves without a reliable source of local news tend to be poorer, older and less educated than those covered well, Northwestern University's Medill School of Journalism, Media and Integrated Marketing Communications report said on Wednesday.

The country had 6,377 newspapers at the end of May, down from 8,891 in 2005, the report said. While the pandemic didn't quite cause the reckoning that some in the industry feared, 360 newspapers have shut down since the end of 2019, all but 24 of them weeklies serving small communities.

An estimated 75,000 journalists worked in newspapers in 2006, and now that's down to 31,000, Northwestern said. Annual newspaper revenue slipped from USD 50 billion to USD 21 billion in the same period.

Even though philanthropists and politicians have been paying more attention to the issue, the factors that drove the collapse of the industry's advertising model haven't changed.

Encouraging growth in the digital-only news



sector in recent years hasn't been enough to compensate for the overall trends, said Penelope Muse Abernathy, visiting professor at Medill and the report's principal author.

Many of the digital-only sites are focused on single issues and are clustered in or close to big cities near the philanthropic money that provides much of their funding, the report said.

News "deserts" are growing: The report estimated that some 70 million Americans live in a county with either no local news organization or only one.

"What's really at stake in that is our own democracy, as well as our social and societal

cohesion," Abernathy said.

True "daily" newspapers that are printed and distributed seven days a week are also dwindling, it said.

The report said 40 of the largest 100 newspapers in the country publish only- digital versions at least once a week. Inflation is likely to hasten a switch away from printed editions, said Tim Franklin, director of the Medill Local News Initiative.

Much of the industry churn is driven by the growth in newspaper chains, including new regional chains that have bought hundreds of newspapers in small or mid-sized markets, the report said.

Less than a third of the country's 5,147 weekly newspapers and a dozen of 150 city and regional daily papers are now locally owned and operated, Medill said.

Abernathy's report pointed to a handful of "local heroes" to counter the pessimism that the raw numbers provide.

One is Sharon Burton, publisher and editor of the Adair County Community Voice in Kentucky, where she pushes her staff toward aggressive journalism while also successfully lobbying to expand postal subsidies for rural newspapers.

Exit Uddhav, enter Eknath

It was a day of reckoning for first-time former Chief Minister Uddhav Balasaheb Thackeray, as he calls himself. The day and date will remain etched in his memory: Thursday, June 30, 2022. The day he saw his government, his CM's post, and, most tragic of all, the party his father founded slip out of his power, so to speak.

Like the Greek tragic emperor Julius Caesar, Uddhav seems to be the fallen hero in the Maharashtra drama, let down by his own partymen. "Brutus", Eknath Shinde pulled the rug from under his feet and co-conspired with Devendra Fadnavis, the former CM from the Bharatiya Janata Party. But that is for another time.

Today is all about the tragic fallen hero, Uddhav and the widely held belief among analysts that Eknath Shinde will most likely be a puppet chief minister. For the 'remote' has slipped out of the clutches of the Thackeray family.

The reference to 'remote control' is central to the founder of Shiv Sena, the late Balasaheb Thackeray. Balasaheb wielded full control over his party and moreover, the BJP-Shiv Sena government. National leaders danced to Thackeray's whims and fancies.

In fact, on November 22, 1995, then Enron International chairman Kenneth Lay and the company's chief executive officer Rebecca Mark visited India to negotiate with the BJP-Sena government. During the visit, they completely ignored the then CM Manohar Joshi (from the Shiv Sena) and instead met with Bal Thackeray. And that wasn't all. A miffed Joshi also had to hear Thackeray saying: "Yes, I am the remote control."

Today, Uddhav saw this very remote slip out of his hands. And worst of all, that remote seems to have gone into the hands of BJP leader Devendra Fadnavis, something which the late Thackeray would not have taken kindly to. A rather unforgiving BJP, which likely has not overcome the insults of all those years, will want to ensure that the remote is never given back to the Thackerays, and Uddhav risks losing the reins of the party.

This is a double tragedy for Uddhav, who is the first member of the Thackeray family to dare to become a CM and, moreover, win a trust vote on the Assembly floor (when he took oath as CM). For the man who is the son of Bal Thackeray, this seemed like a courageous move. What is even more interesting is how most of the elite and middle-class citizens who would not have touched the Thackeray family with a barge pole were heard paying rich tributes to Uddhav Thackeray on the night he resigned.

WHAT'S NEXT FOR UDDHAV?

So is Uddhav Thackeray a villain or a fallen hero? Only time will tell. But right now, it is evident that despite the earlier confidence, he was not able to win back the rebels who broke away from Shiv Sena. Till the time he tendered his resignation to the Governor, it seemed he still held the reins of his party. But the minute he resigned it was evident he had resigned to his fate, unlike his father who always held the remote in his hands. That was also the reason Thackeray

Eknath Shinde takes oath as Maharashtra chief minister, Devendra Fadnavis as his deputy



Eknath Shinde on Thursday, June 30, took oath as the new chief minister of Maharashtra at the Raj Bhavan. Bharatiya Janata Party leader Devendra Fadnavis was sworn in as the deputy chief minister.

"This is the victory of the ideology of Balasaheb Thackeray and 'Dharmaveer' Anand Dighe. Our government will work in the interest of the general people and for the development of the state," Shinde said after taking oath.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi congratulated Eknath Shinde and Fadnavis on being sworn-in as the chief minister and deputy chief minister respectively.

"I would like to congratulate Shri @mielnathshinde Ji on taking oath as Maharashtra CM. A grassroots level leader, he brings with him rich political, legislative and administrative experience. I am confident that he will work towards taking Maharashtra to greater heights," he tweeted.

"Congratulations to Shri @Dev_Fadnavis Ji on taking oath as Maharashtra Deputy CM. He is an inspiration for every BJP Karyakarta. His experience and expertise will be an asset for the Government. I am certain he will further strengthen Maharashtra's growth trajectory," the prime minister tweeted.

Shinde's name was announced by Fadnavis at the press conference after they met Maharashtra governor Bhagat Singh Koshiyari to stake claim for government formation. The BJP leader had declared he won't be a part of the government. However, there came a twist after BJP president JP Nadda said the central leadership had asked Fadnavis to join the government as the deputy chief minister. Minutes later, union home minister Amit Shah tweeted that Fadnavis would be joining the Eknath Shinde government.

Shinde, who served as the urban development minister in the previous Maha Vikas Aghadi government, rebelled against Shiv Sena boss and then chief minister Uddhav Thackeray. He along with 39 other Sena MLAs camped at a hotel in Guwahati and later in Goa, reducing the Aghadi government to a minority.

After the Supreme Court refused to put a stay on the governor's decision to hold a floor test on Thursday, Thackeray resigned from his post last Wednesday night after announcing his decision to step down during his Facebook live address.

never contested elections and created fear in the minds of the Shiv Sainiks.

What is the sentiment on the ground level? Will the ordinary Shiv Sainik accept the new CM Eknath Shinde as their party chief? And what about the speculation making the round that Uddhav allowed all of this to happen? Much of these questions will have clearer answers only after the initial euphoria is settled.

What, however, is clear is that certain qualities once associated with Sainiks are no longer seen. Many who have left the party, among them the hardcore

Sainiks such as Chhagan Bhujbal and Narayan Rane, had the aggressive qualities honed by the late Bal Thackeray, which extended to at times holding the city for ransom, something Uddhav's cousin Raj Thackeray adopted.

Uddhav managed to win over the larger public sentiment with the way he spoke and handled the outbreak of Covid-19 pandemic. Women felt at ease as he addressed the state, feeling included in the decisions he took. This was his winning card. However, the rebel leaders blame Uddhav for killing the old Sena spirit and deviating completely from

their Hindutva ideology. All of these ended up being reasons given to pull this political coup.

There is speculation over the future of Uddhav, the Shiv Sena party, and whether the Thackerays will keep a hold of their power over this party. Right now, it is a dark tragedy for the first Sena politician who is known not to be aggressive. A fear among his party men also is that he, along with his advisors, will be on the radar of central agencies.

Uddhav, who thought he had paved the way for his son, in all probability will step away from politics, but may negotiate something to ensure son Aaditya has a prominent role to play in the future.

Who Gets Shiv Sena?

After wresting the state government, the question rankling supporters of former Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray is – will the new chief minister Eknath Shinde now go all out to grab control over the 56-year-old Shiv Sena?

A subtle indicator of this came this evening when hoardings showing up in his home district of Thane showing the late Shiv Sena founder Balasaheb Thackeray, the late Thane strongman and the new CM's mentor Anand Dighe, Shinde and his MP son Shrikant Shinde, and the party logo of a Tiger, the vehicle of Goddess Bhavani Mata.

Significantly, the picture of Shiv Sena President Uddhav Thackeray was conspicuously missing, though barely 10 days ago, Shinde was the de facto No 2 in the state cabinet, and most party banners, hoardings usually carry Thackeray's photos prominently.

Several party leaders like MP Sanjay Raut and Kishore Tiwari have made it clear that it is not so easy for "anybody to walk out" or "take away the party" and said mere claims mean nothing as there are a lot of other legal issues involved.

Other leaders pointed out that claiming the support of majority Sena MLAs will not guarantee that the Shinde faction can be treated as the 'real Shiv Sena' and get to keep the trademark party logo or its recognisable election symbol of Bow & Arrow.

In a situation of a vertical split – though the Shinde faction has repeatedly asserted they have not quit the Sena and they are the real party – despite having the higher numbers of lawmakers like MLAs or MPs will not automatically entitle them to be recognised as a separate party or its vote-catching assets.

Other aspects like the party's different decision-making bodies, the other elected branches like its trade union, women's wing, youth wing, the number of party members, active members, etc, would also come into play besides the number of lawmakers.

Later, the rival claims would go to the Election Commission of India which would ultimately decide which of the split faction deserved to be the 'original party' and be allotted the party assets, after examining precedents in such disputes. However, if the two parties are not satisfied then they would be free to approach the appropriate court for a legal solution.

Source: India Today and IANS

Ek Nath Shinde: From auto-rickshaw driver to Maharashtra chief minister

Eknath Sambhaji Shinde, who on Thursday, June 30, became the 20th Chief Minister of Maharashtra, once drove auto-rickshaw to earn a living before rising as a formidable Shiv Sena leader.

The 58-year-old leader who hails from western Maharashtra's Satara district shifted to Thane, a Sena bastion adjacent to Mumbai, in his young days and started his political career in the same city. The four-time MLA, who held the urban development and PWD portfolios in the previous Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) government led by Uddhav Thackeray, never hid his humble origins. On the contrary, he made it a point to mention it to underscore how he has been indebted to the Shiv Sena and its founder, late Bal Thackeray for his rise in Maharashtra politics.

Born on February 9, 1964, Shinde dropped out of college before completing graduation. After moving to Thane, he soon found his calling as one among thousands of Shiv Sena cadres who were ever-ready to hit the streets at the command of Bal Thackeray.

Thackeray formed Shiv Sena in 1966 as a party fighting for the rights of the 'sons-of-the-soil' Marathi-speakers, and later aggressively championed the cause of 'Hindutva'. As Shinde joined the Sena in Thane, he found a mentor in local party stalwart Anand Dighe. He became Dighe's deputy and strengthened the party in Thane-Palghar region after Dighe's sudden death in 2001.

The sitting MLA from Kopri-Pachpakhadi in Thane city, Shinde was once a quintessential Shiv Sena street-fighter. He faces dozens of criminal cases for charges such as 'voluntarily causing hurt by dangerous weapons' and rioting, registered during various party agitations. He became a corporator in the Thane Municipal Corporation in 1997 and won his maiden Assembly election in 2004. In 2005 he was made the Sena's Thane district chief.

Currently he is in his fourth term as an MLA, while his son Dr Shrikant Shinde is the Lok Sabha MP from Kalyan in the district.

Shinde was appointed the Leader of Opposition in the Maharashtra Legislative Assembly for a brief period in 2014 when the Sena initially refused to join the Devendra Fadnavis cabinet. The party later joined the BJP-led government, and Shinde became a cabinet minister.

His closeness to Chief Minister Fadnavis set tongues wagging. It was also noted that the BJP contested elections to all civic bodies in Maharashtra in 2016 against the alliance partner Shiv Sena, except in Thane, Shinde's home turf.

When the Shiv Sena snapped ties with the BJP, and Sena president Uddhav Thackeray became chief minister of the Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) government with the NCP and Congress as allies after the 2019 elections, Shinde became a cabinet minister for the second time.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, despite the NCP handling the health



ministry, it was Shinde-controlled Maharashtra State Road Development Corporation that set up healthcare centres in Mumbai and its satellite cities to treat coronavirus patients.

His closeness to Fadnavis apparently made the Sena leadership suspicious. Shinde was made guardian minister of the Naxal-hit Gadchiroli district (along with Thane), which was seen as a put-

down. Shinde, however, remained a key Sena leader, as he had developed a strong support base of his own.

He is known to be always accessible to party workers and colleagues, and visits the homes of ordinary party workers often. After managing to take away majority of Sena MLAs with him and becoming chief minister, Shinde's next challenge would be to wrest

control the party organization from Uddhav Thackeray and his loyalists.

Ek Nath Shinde Political career

- Anand Dighe, President of Thane Shivsena, introduced Shinde to politics in early 1980. Shinde took over Dighe's legacy after he died in 2001. Since 2004, he has served in the Legislative Assembly for four consecutive terms.
- 1997: First elected to Thane Municipal Corporation as a corporator.
- 2001: Elected to the post of Thane Municipal Corporation's House Leader.
- 2002: Elected for the second time to Thane Municipal Corporation.
- 2004: First elected to the Maharashtra Legislative Assembly.
- Shiv Sena Thane district head appointed in 2005. First MLA in the party to be appointed to such a coveted position
- 2009: Elected for the second time to the Maharashtra Legislative Assembly.
- 2014: Elected for the third time to the Maharashtra Legislative Assembly.
- From October to December 2014, he was the leader of the opposition in the Maharashtra Legislative Assembly.
- Cabinet Minister of Public Works (PU) in the Maharashtra State Government from 2014 to 2019.
- Thane District Guardian Minister from 2014 to 2019.
- Appointed Shiv Sena Party Leader in 2018.
- Cabinet Minister of Public Health and Family Welfare (Marathi:) in the Maharashtra State Government in 2019.
- 2019: Elected to the Maharashtra Legislative Assembly for the fourth time on November 28th. 2019: Appointed as Cabinet Minister under Maha-Vikas-Aghadi, led by Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray.
- Appointed Minister of Urban Development and Public Works (Public Undertakings) in 2019.
- 2019: Appointed Acting Minister of Home Affairs (28 November 2019 - 30 December 2019).
- 2020: Appointed Thane district guardian minister.

DAYS AFTER KABUL GURDWARA ATTACK, 11 AFGHAN SIKHS ARRIVE IN DELHI

More than 10 days after two persons died in a terror attack on Gurdwara Dashmesh Pita Guru Gobind Singh Karte Parwan in Kabul on June 18, a batch of 11 Afghan Sikhs arrived in Delhi on Thursday, June 30.

Speaking to The Indian Express, SGPC president Harjinder Singh Dhami said that a group of 11 Afghan Sikhs landed in Delhi and the Sikh gurdwara body paid for their travel expenses. SGPC is paying for their air travel as it is very important to evacuate Afghan Sikhs safely from Afghanistan, he said.

The transfer of Afghan minorities to India is being facilitated by the Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee (SGPC) in coordination with us, said Puneet Chandhok, president, Indian World Forum.

The ashes of Sawinder Singh, who was killed in the attack on June 18, were also transported to Delhi where his family lives. Raqbir Singh, who was injured during the attack, was among the group of 11.

Among the group of 11 that arrived in Delhi was Ajmeets Singh, 28, who lost his father and paternal uncle in the March 2020 attack on Gurdwara Har Rai Sahib, when an Islamic State gunman had stormed the gurdwara in Kabul killing at least 25 Afghan Sikhs. Ajmeets, who had shifted his mother and siblings to Delhi after his father Soorjan Singh and uncle Sardar Singh died, told The Indian Express: "It feels really bad when you are forced to leave your own country, but everything is over for us in Afghanistan. I lost my everything there, my father and uncle both were shot dead in 2020 attack... even then I kept staying there thinking things will be better but now I couldn't have waited to lose myself because had I died, what would have happened to my mother, brother and sister... how would they survive?"

Ajmeets Singh has arrived in Delhi after abandoning his medicine shop in Kabul. "We don't know what will happen to our shops and businesses back home in Kabul but right now it was most important to save our lives and come as soon as visa was issued. Seeing the current situation, I have no plans to return to Afghanistan," said Ajmeets, adding that he has no idea of how he would be surviving in Delhi and start a new life.

The representatives of SGPC and Afghan Hindu and Sikh community leaders were present at the airport to welcome the group.

As of March 2020, there were around 650-700 Afghan Sikhs and Hindus in Afghanistan. However, since the attack on Gurdwara Har Rai Sahib in Kabul on March 25 that year, when 25 Afghan Sikhs were killed, most members of the community have been evacuating to India in batches.

Source: The Indian Express

PROPHET COMMENTS

SC slams Nupur Sharma, says she is 'single-handedly responsible for what is happening in country'

NEW DELHI (TIP)

The Supreme Court on Friday, July 1, came down heavily on former BJP spokesperson Nupur Sharma as it said: "She is single-handedly responsible for what is happening in the country".

Nupur Sharma had moved Supreme Court seeking transfer of the FIRs against her to Delhi. FIRs against her have been registered across several states, including Mumbai and Pune. The former BJP spokesperson has told the SC that there is a threat to her life.

The SC has said that Sharma's comments are "disturbing". Senior advocate Maninder Singh questioned, "What is her business to make these remarks?" adding that she apologized for remarks and withdrew the comments.

"She should have gone to the TV and apologized to the nation. If you are a spokesperson of a party, it is not a license to say things like this. If there is a misuse of the debate, the first thing she should have done was to file an FIR against the anchor."

"The way she has ignited emotions across the country... This lady is single-handedly responsible for what is happening in the country": Justice Kant.

"What is the business of the TV channel to discuss the matter which is sub-judice, except to promote an agenda?", the SC bench said while hearing Sharma's plea to club FIRs over remarks on Prophet Mohammed.

"There was provocation from the other debator", sr adv Singh for Nupur Sharma submits.

Singh submitted, "Kindly see, before anchor, the debator on the other side makes statements. Within the same community, there are serious debates on this issue. It is not something taken out of box."

Singh refers to the orders passed by the apex court in Arnab Goswami case, where the relief of clubbing FIRs was granted.



Prophet row

Sharma was part of the news debate on the Gyanvapi mosque issue, which was aired last month, during which she made certain comments about Islam and the Prophet Mohammed that sparked off widespread outrage in the Muslim community.

Accordingly, the police have booked Sharma for promoting enmity between different groups on grounds of religion and committing acts intended to outrage religious feelings of any class under the Indian Penal Code.

BJP denounces Sharma's statements

Issuing an official statement, Arun Singh, National General Secretary and Head Quarter Incharge of the BJP stated that the party 'strongly denounces' insult of any religious personalities of any religion.

"The Bharatiya Janata Party is also strongly against any ideology which insults or demeans any sect or religion. The BJP does not promote such people or philosophy. India's Constitution gives the right to every citizen to practise any religion of his/her choice and to honour and respect every religion. As India

celebrates the 75th year of its Independence, we are committed to making India a great country where all are equal and everyone lives with dignity, where all are committed to India's unity and integrity, and where all enjoy the fruits of growth and development," the statement read.

Medical professional 'beheaded' in Maharashtra for 'sharing post in support of Nupur Sharma'

A medical professional was reportedly beheaded in Maharashtra's Amravati for allegedly sharing a social media post in support of now suspended BJP spokesperson Nupur Sharma who had made controversial remarks against Prophet Mohammed. The incident took place on 21 June but was reported on June 29.

"Umesh Kolhe, a Medical professional in #amaravati, Maharashtra was beheaded on June 21 night allegedly for sharing a social media post in support of #NupurSharma," read a post on the official Twitter handle of Organiser Weekly.

It further stated that four people have been arrested in connection with the incident. These include Abdul (24), Shoaib Khan (22), Mudassir Ahmed Sheikh Ibrahim (22) and Shah Rukh Pathan Hidayat Khan (24).

Taylor lynched in Udaipur

In a similar incident, a tailor was lynched by two men in broad daylight in Udaipur, after he had recently shared a tweet in support of Nupur Sharma.

On Tuesday, June 28, two men, identified as Riaz Akhtari and Ghouse Mohammad, were arrested for the murder of the tailor in Udaipur. In a video clip, Akhtari declared that they had "beheaded" the man and went on to threaten Prime Minister Narendra Modi, saying their knife will get him as well.

Source: Firstpost

UP: Miscreants stalking minor for several days chop off her nose for resisting rape

KANPUR DEHAT (TIP)

In a shocking incident in Uttar Pradesh's Kanpur Dehat district, a minor girl's nose was chopped off by miscreants who had barged into her house and were trying to pull her away with them.

The incident took place on Thursday evening and the girl was attacked her with a sharp weapon when she tried to raise an alarm.

The miscreants had been stalking the girl for several days.



The girl, profusely bleeding, was

first taken to the district hospital and was then referred to the Hallet hospital in Kanpur for treatment.

According to doctors, her condition is said to be critical due to excessive loss of blood.

The girl's father told reporters that when he informed the police about the incident, they advised him to get her treated first.

He said that he feared for his daughter's life since the accused were roaming free.

Source: IANS

INDIA, SAUDI ARABIA HOLD TALKS TO BOOST DEFENCE COOPERATION

Saudi Arabia's Deputy Minister of Defence for Strategic Affairs Ahmed A Aseeri called on Defence Secretary Ajay Kumar on Thursday, June 30.

They discussed ways to enhance defence cooperation between the two countries. The Deputy Minister briefed the Defence Secretary about the 5th meeting of India-Saudi Arabia Joint Committee on Defence Cooperation (JCDC) that was held on June 29.

The JCDC meeting was co-chaired by Joint Secretary (Armed Forces) Dinesh Kumar and Ahmed A Aseeri. During the meeting, the two sides reviewed the progress made in military-to-military engagements, including joint exercises, expert exchanges and industry cooperation.

It was decided to identify new avenues and examine areas of mutual interest for joint ventures in order to enhance defence industry cooperation. Enhancing the scope and complexities of the existing joint naval exercises and expanding bilateral exercises in other domains were also discussed.

The JCDC is the apex body between the defence ministries of India and Saudi Arabia to comprehensively review and guide all aspects of bilateral defence cooperation.

A defence industry interaction was also organised for the delegation in which representatives of a number of Indian defence industries participated. *Source: TNS*



'We are not Hindu': Tribals from 5 states urge Centre to recognise religion

NEW DELHI (TIP)

A large number of people from various tribal communities of five states, including Jharkhand, Odisha and Assam, staged a demonstration here on Thursday, June 30, demanding that the Centre recognise their religion as 'Sarna' and ensure their enumeration under this category during the upcoming census.

The agitators also took a pledge to intensify their struggle in order to get the government recognition to the 'Sarna dharma code' and held a mass prayer at Jantar Mantar, seeking blessings of their deities and revered leaders.

The agitation was organised to mark the anniversary of the beginning of the Santhal Rebellion against the British on June 30, 1855.

The members, majority of whom belonged to the Santhal tribe, raised their demands under the aegis of the Adivasi Sengel Abhiyan (tribal empowerment campaign) from as many as 250 scheduled tribes-dominated blocks from 50 districts of Jharkhand, Bihar, Odisha, West Bengal and Assam.

"We are here to demand that the government recognises our religion as 'Sarna' and include a provision in the upcoming census for enumeration of Adivasis under this category," Salkhan Murmu, a prominent tribal leader from Jharkhand, who is spearheading the movement, told PTI.

"We wanted to call on President Ram Nath Kovind to convey our feelings and urge



him to recognise our religion as Sarna, but could not get an appointment with him. So, we submitted a memorandum of our demands to the President through the police," he added.

Murmu, who was a BJP MP from Odisha's Mayurbhanj Lok Sabha constituency for two consecutive terms from 1998-2004, said tribals in the country have their own religion, religious practices and customs, but it has not yet been recognised by the government.

"We Adivasis are neither Hindus nor Christians. We have our own way of life, religious practices, customs, culture and religious thoughts, different from any other religion. We worship nature and not idols. There is neither Varna system in our society or any sort of inequality," he said.

In absence of the government's recognition to the tribals' religion, the members of the Scheduled Tribe communities in the

country are misled to embrace other faiths, he claimed.

"India is home to over 12 crore tribal people. They have been recognised as Scheduled Tribes but unfortunately their religion has not been recognised even as it is fundamental under the Constitution," he said.

"Since all the tribal people worship nature and their religious thoughts, practice, culture and customs are way different from any other religion, we demand that our religion be recognised as Sarna," Mr Murmu said.

Sarna can be accepted as a common name for the religion of all 'adivasis' in the country as it means place of worship in Santhali language, he pointed out. As many as 1,000 people had arrived from the five states in trains, but not all could join the protest as police denied them permission citing some court order and restrictions imposed due to Covid-19, he said. *Source: PTI*

ISRO successfully launches PSLV-C53

The PSLV-C53/DS-EO mission has been successfully accomplished, said Indian Space Research Organisation on Thursday.

The launch was scheduled for 6 PM from the Second Launch Pad at Satish Dhawan Space, Sriharikota, added ISRO.

The countdown of 25 hours leading to the launch started at 5 PM on Wednesday, June 29.

PSLV-C53 is the second dedicated commercial mission of NewSpace India Limited (NSIL). It is designed to orbit the DS-EO satellites along with two other co-passenger satellites from Singapore.

This is the 55th mission of PSLV and the 15th mission using the PSLV-Core Alone variant. It is the 16th PSLV launch from the second launch pad.

The mission proposes to demonstrate the utilization of the spent upper stage of the launch vehicle as a stabilized platform for scientific payloads subsequent to the separation of the satellites.



SC to hear Sena plea seeking suspension of rebel leaders on July 11

NEW DELHI (TIP)

The Supreme Court on Friday declined a plea by the Uddhav Thackeray-led Shiv Sena faction for an urgent hearing to restrain rebel party leader Eknath Shinde from functioning as the Maharashtra chief minister.

Senior advocate Kapil Sibal mentioned Thackeray loyalist Sunil Prabhu's application before a vacation bench of justices Surya Kant and JB Pardiwala. He pointed out that there would be a lot of confusion regarding the issuance of a whip since both sides may claim to be Shiv Sena and issue their own to the respective factions.

"There is no merger. The moment he [Shinde] was sworn in, he violated the Tenth Schedule [anti-defection law]. So,

he is not the party. It is ex facie not a dance of democracy," said Sibal.

The bench responded saying it is conscious of what has been happening while the issue is pending before the court. "We are not shutting our eyes. Whatever is happening is happening. We will take it up on July 11. Let it also come with the other matter."

When Sibal asked whose whip will count, the court said the procedure of the state legislature shall have to be looked into, and listed Prabhu's plea for hearing on July 11.

On July 11, the court is scheduled to hear three petitions related to the political turmoil in Maharashtra. The Shinde camp filed the first two petitions seeking to restrain the deputy speaker



from disqualifying the 16 of the Sena's dissidents until his own motion of removal was decided. On June 26, the court issued an interim order virtually restraining the deputy speaker from

conducting disqualification proceedings till July 12.

Prabhu filed the third petition challenging the governor's direction to Thackeray to prove his majority on June 30. Following a protracted hearing on Wednesday, the court declined to stay the governor's order, even as it issued notices on Prabhu's petition. Minutes after the court order, Thackeray resigned as the chief minister. Within 24 hours, Shinde succeeded him.

Prabhu, in his latest plea, has sought suspension of the 16 lawmakers, including Shinde, from the assembly until their disqualification proceedings are decided. He has also sought an order restraining them from entering the assembly. *Source: HT*

India in history this Week

JULY 1, 2022, TO JULY 7, 2022

01 JULY

1852 A stamp named 'Sindh Dak' was issued by the Chief Commissioner of Sindh, Sir Bertlefreore, for use only in the state of Sindh and on the Mumbai Karachi route.

1862 Inauguration of Calcutta High Court.

1879 Postcard debut in India.

1955 The Imperial Bank of India was nationalized and named the State Bank of India.

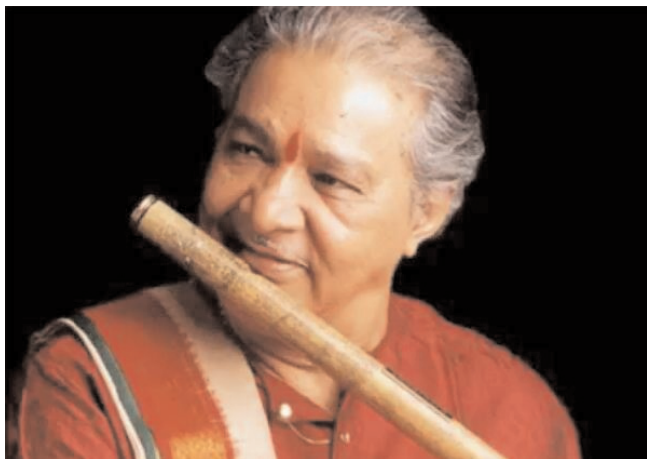
1964 Establishment of Industrial Development Bank of India

1975 The then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi announced a 20-point program.

1991 The Warsaw Pact was dissolved.

2006 Chess player Parimarjan Negi became the youngest second grandmaster.

2017 Goods and Services Tax (GST) was introduced as a significant reform of the economy in India.



1938 The famous flute player Pandit Hariprasad Chaurasia was born on this day.

1882 The second Chief Minister of West Bengal, Dr. Bidhan Chandra Rai was born on this day. His birthday is celebrated as Doctor's Day in the country.

02 JULY

1934 Asit Bhattacharya, one of the great revolutionaries of India, died.

1940 The British government arrested Subhash Chandra Bose on 2 July 1940 AD for inciting rebellion.

1948 Famous Janakavi Alok Dhanwa was born.

2004 The Foreign Ministers of India and Pakistan held mutual talks in Jakarta.



2004 Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminus station was declared a World Heritage Site by UNESCO World Heritage Committee.

1916 Geological Survey of India was established.

03 JULY

1972 Prime Minister of India Indira Gandhi and Pakistan's JU Bhutto had a disarmament agreement on Kashmir.

2018 A part of the Gokhale Road overbridge fell near Andheri station in Mumbai.

1661 Portugal gifted Bombay to the British King Charles II.



1996 Rajkumar, actor of Hindi films passed away.

1760 The Maratha army occupied Delhi.

1979 Construction of the famous Vidyasagar bridge in Kolkata, called the second Howrah Bridge, began.

2005 Mahesh Bhupathi and Mary Pierce won the Wimbledon mixed pair title.

04 JULY

1789 The East India Company entered into a treaty with the Peshwa and the Nizam against Tipu Sultan.

1881 The start of the toy train between Siliguri and Darjeeling.

1898 Birth of former caretaker Prime Minister of India Gulzarilal Nanda.



1902 Swami Vivekananda passed away.

1947 The Indian Parliament was proposed in the British Parliament under which the country was divided into India and Pakistan.

1986 Renowned cricketer Sunil Gavaskar set a record for 115 Test matches.

2006 The death of Gandhi Peace Prize winner and former German ambassador to India, Gerd Fischer.

1963 Death of freedom fighter Pingali Venkaia who designed the tricolor.

05 JULY

1954 Andhra Pradesh High Court was established.

1968 India's first submarine arrived from Soviet Russia.

1981 Rajan Mahadevan made a world record by calculating 31 thousand 811 digits of 'pi' of mathematics.

06 JULY

1787 Establishment of Indian Botanic Garden at Shivpur, West Bengal.

1901 The birth of Shyama Prasad Mukherjee, an acute nationalist politician, educationist and founder of the Bharatiya Jana Sangh.

1944 Mahatma Gandhi was first addressed by Netaji

Subhash Chandra Bose as 'Father of the Nation'.

1959 Vellore Hospital successfully underwent open heart surgery for the first time.

2006 The Nathula Pass, which had been closed since the war between India and China, was opened for business after 44 years.

1901 Birthday of Jana Sangh founder Shyama Mukherjee.



2002 Dhirubhai Ambani died.

1787 The Indian Botanical Garden was established in 1787 at Shibpur in West Bengal.

07 JULY

1753 The British Museum was established by an Act of Parliament.

1763 Mir Jafar was crowned again as the Nawab of Bengal.

1763 The British East India Company announced the resignation of Mir Qasim, the Nawab of Bengal.



1799 Maharaja Ranjit Singh captured Lahore.

1948 Damodar Valley Corporation was established.

1656 Birth of Har Kishan, the eighth Guru of the Sikhs.

1758 Raja Martand Verma, the creator of modern Travancore, died.

1896 Cinema's entry into India. The Lumir brothers performed films for the first time at Mumbai's Watson Hotel.

1999 Paramvir Chakra winner Captain Vikram Batra was killed while defending the country.



Reports surface of ex-ISI chief 'joining' Imran's Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf

ISLAMABAD (TIP): Retired Lt Gen Zaheerul Islam, the former chief of Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI), remained in the media spotlight after reports surfaced that he had apparently waded into the political sphere and "joined" a political party.

However, Gen Islam has not commented on these reports so far, reports Dawn news.

On Sunday, journalist Saleem Safi posted a picture of the former DG ISI on his Twitter account, where the latter could be seen standing at a podium, ostensibly while delivering a speech at a political event, that was emblazoned with the flag of the Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf (PTI).

Several commenters assumed that the former general had waded into politics and announced his support for PTI, however, the party's information secretary has dispelled this impression.

Former Information Minister Fawad Chaudhry said Gen Islam had participated in a political event in support of a PTI candidate in the upcoming Punjab Assembly by-polls, Dawn reported.

The candidate he is said to have been supporting is Shabbir Awan, who is



running for MPA from a Rawalpindi constituency.

Chaudhry told Dawn news there was no truth to rumours that Gen Islam had joined the party, adding that he was merely expressing support for a PTI candidate who happened to be a relative of the retired general.

Gen Islam served as the ISI chief from March 2012 to November 2014.

During this time, it was speculated that he had provided tacit support to the PTI during their sit-in outside parliament and remained a part of negotiations held to try and seek a peaceful resolution of the sit-in. IANS

Bangladesh PM Sheikh Hasina opens Padma Bridge, calls it symbol of country's pride

DHAKA (TIP): Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on June 29 inaugurated a gigantic bridge over the Padma river, which will reduce travel time not only for the citizens in 21 districts across the river, but also open up vistas of seamless connectivity from India to South East Asia.

"Padma Bridge is not a pile of brick and cement, but a symbol of Bangladesh's pride, capacity and dignity," she said.

The project went through tumultuous times and allegations of corruption were once made by western countries to unseat her. India at that time had expressed steadfast support to Hasina as it had helped build the bridge by extending a \$200 million loan for the rail part of the bridge as well as supplying building material.

Hasina mentioned this conspiracy in a speech after the colourful ceremony that featured helicopters flying over the bridge with the national flag slung under their undercarriages, jet fighters emitting multi-coloured exhaust, while on the ground hundreds of coloured balloons went up in the air. That it was a coming out party for Bangladesh was reflected in the massive publicity that preceded the inauguration.

Her eyes welling up with tears, Hasina said the bridge was a response to all



naysayers. "We've been able to give a befitting reply to those who tried to obstruct the construction of Padma Bridge. My family was the target of despicable attacks. They were defamed and false information was spread," she said. The case was later quashed by a Canadian court.

"The Padma Bridge has been completed. Bangladesh's economy has not collapsed. The country is moving forward at a breakneck pace. We have proved to the world," she said.

"The Padma Bridge therefore not only proves one's self-esteem and ability of the Bengalis, but is also a revenge for the insult that was done to the entire nation. The people of Bangladesh are the source of my courage. I salute them," observed the Bangladesh PM.

Soon after the World Bank and other funding agencies had pulled out of the project, Hasina had resolved to build the road bridge with Bangladesh's own funds, setting aside a certain sum in each annual budget towards that aim. (TNS)

NEPAL IMPOSES BAN ON SALE OF STREET FOOD ITEMS IN KATHMANDU AS CHOLERA CASES TOUCHES 12

KATHMANDU (TIP): Nepal on June 29 banned the sale of street food items in the Kathmandu valley in an effort to contain the spread of cholera disease in the capital city. The decision to ban the sale of street food items was issued by the Kathmandu Metropolitan City (KMC) as 12 positive cases of cholera were reported in the area since Sunday. "As the number of cholera patients have been increasing in Kathmandu at present, the sale and distribution of food items has been banned for the time being," said Balram Tripathi, the Chief of the Health Department of the metropolis. Last week, the Lalitpur Metropolitan City decided to stop the sale and distribution of pani puri in the metropolis, claiming that cholera bacteria were found in the water used in pani puri. The KMC has also requested the Department of Food Technology and Quality Control to check the level of food hygiene in hotels and restaurants across the city.

Tripathi said that the Kathmandu Upatyaka Khanepani Limited has been urged to keep eye into the condition of the water pipeline and sewage system. The KMC has also instructed the urban health facilities to prepare for any possible shortage of Oral Rehydration Salt and water purification tablets. Cholera is a bacterial disease usually spread through contaminated water. The disease causes severe diarrhea and dehydration. Left untreated, cholera can be fatal within hours, even in previously healthy people. (PTI)

SRI LANKA TO OPERATE ONLY ESSENTIAL SERVICES TILL JULY 10 AMID FUEL CRISIS

COLOMBO (TIP): The Sri Lankan Government on June 28 announced that only essential services would operate from midnight till July 10 and all other operations would be temporarily suspended as the crisis-hit nation faces acute fuel shortage.

The move came days after Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe on June 29 said the debt-laden economy of the island nation had "collapsed" after months of shortages of food, fuel and electricity, and cannot even purchase imported oil. Sri Lanka's Cabinet of Minister decided that only essential services would operate from Monday midnight to July 10. The state-run Ceylon Petroleum Corporation (CPC) will issue diesel and petrol only for essential services with effect from midnight, it said. These services include ports, airports, health, food distribution and agriculture, the report said, quoting transport minister Gunawardena. (PTI)



CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

Fulbright-Hays Group Projects Abroad (GPA) Program

Curriculum Development Project (2022-23)

(A Non-Political Project funded by the US Department of Education)

A Four Week Program (November/December 2022) of host country training of current and prospective teachers (K-14) as well as undergraduate or graduate students in the fields of Hindi teaching, area studies, education and environmental studies.

A unique opportunity to engage in collecting and designing new educational materials (authentic audio, video and text-based resources) focused on:

SUSTAINABLE PRACTICES AND WAY OF LIFE IN INDIA:

Impact of the changing environment on local culture and lifestyle, and community response

युवा हिन्दी मंस्थान

WHO: The program will select 12 participants from a diverse group of prospective and current teachers (K-14) and college students with career goals related to the Hindi language and culture, social sciences, environmental sciences and arts.

WHAT: During 4 weeks of study tour among underrepresented communities in India, University Professors and NGO Organizations, participants will seek and explore first-hand resources and materials, including artifacts, books, documents, educational films, museum reproductions, recordings, and other instructional material for the Hindi field, area studies, education and environmental studies. The educational materials will be prepared for systematic use and dissemination in the U.S. Cost Share: While most costs of the

study tour are covered by the federal grant, certain expenses might be incurred by the participants (e.g., cost for visa, individual health insurance, pre-departure meal, Wi-Fi, etc).

ELIGIBILITY: Citizens, Nationals, or Permanent Residents of the United States, who are:

- faculty members who teach modern foreign languages or area studies at an IHE,
- teachers in elementary or secondary schools,
- experienced education administrators responsible for planning, conducting, or supervising programs in Hindi or a modern foreign language or area studies at the elementary, secondary, or postsecondary levels, or
- graduate students or juniors or seniors in an IHE, who plan teaching careers in language teaching, area

studies or environmental studies

APPLICATION DETAILS (Deadline JULY 15, 2022):

Fill in the **online application** at tinyurl.com/yhsfulbright

Write a **500-word essay** about your professional goals and the impact this program will have on your future career. E-mail essay to aojha2008@gmail.com

(If you have any questions, please feel free to email or call the Program Director, Ashok Ojha, at 732-318-9891)

(All GPA participants must be educators, students, pre-service teachers or administrators who fulfil the criteria above and the selection criteria set by their respective projects and are currently teaching, studying, and/or administering in the eligible fields of humanities, social sciences, foreign languages, and/or area studies. Area studies is defined as a program of comprehensive study of the aspects

of a society or societies, including the study of their geography, history, culture, economy, politics, international relations, or languages. If an educator or student is working in a variety of subject areas, s/he must spend the majority of his/her time working with eligible subjects.)

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The program is organized in three phases. It is focused on filling existing curricular gaps by acquiring cultural products/realia, exploring related practices and recording perspectives among several rural or tribal communities. The goal is to better equip the participants and to disseminate materials in order to enrich civic engagement, global learning, critical media literacy and cultural sensitivity. It also provides opportunities for improving participants' language and socio-cultural competencies in Hindi.

PROGRAM PLAN

Preparation or Phase I: takes place online (via Zoom meetings) once the recruitment is completed (in the month of August).

The Study Tour or Phase II: takes place in India in Uttarakhand, Rajasthan and Maharashtra in the month of November/December 2022. It aims to actively engage participants in collecting and organizing topic-based audio, video and textual materials as resources for developing thematic curricular documents. These products include:

- a. Standards-driven and theme-based instructional materials based on rich cultural context about real challenges occurring in day-

to-day life in the marginalized communities.

- b. Instructional materials integrating educational technological tools.
- c. Curricular materials enabling differentiated instruction: heritage vs. foreign, secondary vs. post-secondary language learners.
- d. Curricular materials that use Project-Based Learning approaches in daily instruction creating formative and end of project summative tasks for learners.

Final Phase III: takes place online during the **Spring of 2023**. It entails finalizing the curricular materials and resources.

Further Program Information:

Fulbright-Hays Group Projects Abroad (GPA) Program for Curriculum Development is funded by the US Department of Education and is open to all educators and students in the U.S.

Led by Yuva Hindi Sansthan, Inc. (YHS); supported by: South Asian Language Programs at New York University (NYU), South Asia Institute at the University of Texas at Austin (UTA), Department of Linguistics, Languages, and Cultures, Michigan State University (MSU), Kumaun University, Nainital, India and the Consulate General of India, New York, NY.

Program/Study Tour Leadership:

Project Director, Ashok Ojha; Project Academic Advisor, Prof. Gabriela Nik Ilieva, Clinical Professor, South Asian Institute of Linguistics, Department of Middle Eastern and Islamic Studies, New York University.

Study Tour duration: 4 weeks, Nov-Dec 2022; Program duration; 18 months (June 2022 - December 2023).

GPA project participants responsibilities: Observe satisfactory academic and professional standards; maintain a standard of conduct and integrity in keeping with the spirit and intent of the Fulbright Program in order to contribute positively to the promotion of mutual understanding between peoples of the United States and the host country.

Travel as a Group: Program participants, leaders travel together in the host country; Participants required to remain with their respective programs throughout the duration of the program.

Travel outside of the program is prohibited. At the end of the overseas phase, participants are required to return to the U.S. with their program. No exceptions to this requirement.

Passports & Visas: The project director and participants are responsible for obtaining their passports and any necessary visas. It is up to the individual applicant to complete and submit all of the required paperwork to the appropriate office, embassy and/or consulate. Should the applicant fail to have the required documents prior to travel, the individual may be prohibited from participating in the project.

Health Information Inoculations: For information on availability of medical services abroad and recommended shots (e.g., gamma globulin), fellows should contact the Fulbright Commission or the U.S. Embassy in the host country. Additional information on recommended shots may be obtained on the Center for Disease Control's website <http://www.cdc.gov/>

Health and Accident Insurance: U.S./ED requires that participants be covered by health and accident insurance plans. The insurance should include Emergency Medical Evacuation as well as Repatriation of Remains coverage.

Maharaja Ranjit Singh: The lion of Punjab

Maharaja Ranjit Singh, renowned as the Lion of the Punjab or Sher-e-Punjab was born on November 13, 1780, in Gujranwala, (now in Pakistan). The great ruler and great warrior was the founder of the Sikh kingdom of Punjab.

He was the first Indian in a millennium to turn the tide of invasion back into the homelands of India's traditional conquerors, the Pashtuns (Afghans). His holdings stretched from the Khyber Pass in the northwest to the Sutlej River in the east, and from Kashmir, the Indian subcontinent's northernmost area, southward to the Thar (Great Indian) Desert. Punjab state is the only state which has defeated Afghanistan.

He founded the Sikh kingdom and led it from 1801 to 1839. It is widely acknowledged that an attack of smallpox deprived him of his left eye in childhood. As a boy, he was sent to Bhagu Singh's Dharamshala at Gujranwala to learn Gurumukhi, but he was more interested in warfare. He was pretty matchless in that art.

When his father died in 1790, the young Ranjit Singh was only ten years old. When most boys that age would be busy playing, Ranjit Singh found himself in the centre of the political scenario and became the heir to his father's legacy.

The court historian Sohan Lal Suri in Umdat ut-Tawarikh describes an event about the courage of Ranjit Singh as a young boy of 13 years.

Once Ranjit Singh got separated from his companions and reached the outskirts of Ladewali, which then was under the rule of Nawab Hashmat Khan Chatha. The Nawab, who opposed the Sukerchakia Misl, was out for a hunt. Seeing the young boy alone, he attacked him. In the confrontation, Ranjit Singh not only single-handedly managed to ward off the attack but chopped the Nawab's head off. The Chathas never opposed him ever again.

In 1795 at the age of 15, Maharaja Ranjit Singh married Mehtab Kaur, the daughter of Rani Sada Kaur, the widow of the chief of the Kanhiyas Misl, Sardar Gurbaksh Singh. Rani Sada Kaur handled Maharaja Ranjit Singh's administrative affairs for many years.

It's important to know that during the period from about 1750 to about 1810, Afghan invaders had been attacking India. Several times. Ahmad Shah Durrani, who was ruling Afghanistan, had shot India nine times.

In 1796 Shah Zaman-grandson of Ahmad Shah Abdali entered Punjab – no ruler in Punjab was in a position to oppose him or his 30,000 troops and heavy artillery.

Maharaja Ranjit Singh realized the need for joint resistance and approached several Sikh chiefs who accepted his leadership. The collective army under the supervision of Maharaja Ranjit Singh forced Shah Zaman to return to Afghanistan. Maharaja Ranjit Singh's fame as a courageous leader spread.

When Shah Zaman left Lahore, three Sardars of the Bhangi Misl re-occupied it. The prominent citizens of Lahore were aware of the weaknesses of their Bhangi rulers. They invited Maharaja Ranjit Singh to take over Lahore. Maharaja Ranjit Singh planned the attack with his mother-in-law Sada Kaur. The two jointly moved towards Lahore with their armies.

The death anniversary of Sher-e-Punjab fell on June 27



And without much resistance, the city was wrested away from the Bhangi Sardars.

Maharaja Ranjit Singh's rise to power as the leader of the Sikhs was evident by 1801, and he was invested with the title "Maharaja". The inauguration was conducted by Baba Sahib Singh Bedi, a spiritual patriarch of the Sikhs, on Baisakhi day, establishing him as the leader of the Sikhs. However, Maharaja Ranjit Singh, in his modesty, refused to wear any emblems of royalty. Even the government seal made no personal reference to him. It was of "Sarkar Khalsa Ji" (of the people). His government, too, was known as 'Sarkar-i-Khalsa'. He is reported to have preferred the simple title of "Singh Sahib" to any grandiose soubriquets. The coins issued by him bore the name of Shri Guru Nanak Ji. He remained faithful to the guidelines of the last Guru. He was indeed the leader of the Khalsa as opposed to becoming an autocratic ruler. In 1802, Maharaja Ranjit Singh was again requested by the citizens to save the city of Amritsar – the most sacred city of the Sikhs from the Bhangi Sardars. Once again, Maharaja Ranjit Singh took the Fort of the Bhangies and named it Gobindgarh Fort – after the name of the tenth Sikh Guru – Shri Guru Gobind Singh Ji.

He also captured the Zamzama Cannon, an enormous cannon of Asia at the time. After winning the Gobindgarh Fort, Maharaja Ranjit Singh went to Harmandir Sahib for darshan as a thanksgiving. He vowed to cover the temple with gold, turning the revered Harmandir Sahib Gurudwara into the "Golden Temple."

After winning the Amritsar and Lahore, Maharaja Ranjit Singh turned his ambitions in other directions.

The British soon became wary of Maharaja Ranjit Singh's growing power. On 1 January 1806, Maharaja Ranjit Singh signed a treaty with the East India Company. The Company agreed that it would not even attempt to cross the Sutlej River into the Sikh territory. Maharaja Ranjit Singh agreed that his Sikh forces would not expand south of the Sutlej River.

However, Maharaja Ranjit Singh was busy expanding west and northwards.

By 1807, Maharaja Ranjit Singh's forces attacked Misl of Kasur and, after a month of fierce fighting, defeated the Afghan chief Qutb-ud-Din – allowing Maharaja Ranjit Singh to expand his empire towards Afghanistan.

In December 1809, the aid Raja Sansar Chand of Kangra asked for his help, and after defeating the Ghurka forces, Maharaja Ranjit Singh acquired Kangra.

In 1810, he annexed Multan after a long siege.

However, as history turned, infighting broke into the family of the Durranis, with brothers killing, blinding and overthrowing each other in 1812; one of the brothers was Shah Shuja. He was dethroned by another stepbrother and was trying to flee Kabul with his entourage when the British captured him and sent him to Kashmir to his brother, where he was imprisoned!

His wife, Wafa Begum, then came to Maharaja Ranjit Singh to ask for help. Thus, the "Afghan royal family – the very same people who had been invading and looting Punjab for years, arrived at Maharaja Ranjit Singh's doorstep pleading for help" in getting the release of Shah Shuja from the clutches of the British.

Maharaja Ranjit Singh obliged, and it was then that he acquired the Koh-i-Noor

– In exchange for helping Shah Shuja get back the throne of Afghanistan.

In 1819, he successfully annexed Srinagar and Kashmir by defeating the Afghan Sunni Muslim rulers. His rule thus now spread to the Jhelum valley in the north beyond the foothills of the Himalayas.

By 1820 he had consolidated his rule over the whole of Punjab between the Sutlej and Indus rivers.

Early in his career, he observed how the British troops had defeated Indian forces that were superior in numbers with their discipline and training. Their well-drilled infantry and artillery were very impressive. But Maharaja Ranjit Singh did not trust the British. Instead, he used the French and Italian generals to modernize his army – many of these Generals had served under Napoleon. Accordingly, he restructured and trained his army.

It is important to note that Maharaja Ranjit Singh was a considerable secularist. His armies were composed of Sikhs, Muslims and Hindus. Even his commanders, as well as his ministers, were from different religious communities. The Maharaja never forced Sikhism on his subjects. This was in sharp contrast with the ethnic and religious cleansing of past Muslim rulers – Afghani or Mughal.

His modernized artillery and infantry army fought very well in campaigns in the North-West. Maharaja Ranjit Singh spent the following years fighting the Afghans, driving them out of western Punjab. In 1823 a treaty brought the province of Peshawar under his rule. This was the first time that non-Muslims ruled Pashtuns. From a historical perspective, this event was a landmark event. "For more than a thousand years' invaders had come down from the Khyber Pass and ruled eastern lands. Maharaja Ranjit Singh reversed this trend."

But by 1834, Mohammed Azim Khan again attempted an attack on Peshawar with an army of 25,000 composed of Khattak and Yasufzai tribe members. The Maharaja defeated the forces.

In 1837, the Battle of Jamrud became the last confrontation between the Sikhs led by him and the Afghans led by Dost Muhammad Khan. His victory over a succession of Afghan warlords culminated in a victory march past Kabul in 1838.

Shortly afterwards, Maharaja Ranjit Singh was taken ill, and he died at Lahore in June 1839 – almost exactly 40 years after he had entered the city as a conqueror. In a little more than six years after his death, the Sikh state he had created collapsed because of the internal strife prodded by the British.

However, this great Maharaja is well known and respected as the creator of Punjab.

His foreign minister best highlights the respect shown by those who worked for the Maharaja: a Muslim named Fakir Azizuddin, who, when meeting with the British Governor-General George Eden, had enquired as to which of the Maharajah's eyes was missing. Said Fakir Azzizudin. "The Maharajah is like the sun, and the sun has only one eye. The splendour and luminosity of his single eye are so much that I have never dared to look at his other eye."

FEDERATION OF INDIAN ASSOCIATIONS NY-NJ-CT-NE



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2022

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FLOWN SIMULTANEOUSLY



OFFICIAL ATTEMPT 2

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2 SIDED DRUMS

ON

SUNDAY, AUGUST 21ST, 2022

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RAGAMALA DANCE WINS

BY MABEL PAIS



Ragamala Ensemble with Aparna & Ashwini Ramaswamy. Photo / ragamaladance.org

The Ragamala Dance Company (Ranee Ramaswamy and Aparna Ramaswamy, Artistic Directors) has been selected to participate in the first phase of The Wallace Foundation's new five-year arts initiative focused on arts organizations of color, created as part of the foundation's efforts to foster equitable improvements in the arts.

Following an open call in 2021 that drew over 250 applicants, Ragamala Dance Company was selected as one of 18 nonprofit organizations representing a diverse range of artistic disciplines, geographic locations, and communities served. Alongside the other selected organizations, Ragamala Dance Company will receive five years of funding to develop and pursue a project to address a strategic challenge. Researchers will document each organization's work with the aim of developing useful insights about the relationship between community orientation, resilience, and relevance.

"It is an honor to be selected for this inspiring new initiative, and to be among so many other organizations

doing vital work in the arts community," said Aparna Ramaswamy, Ragamala Dance Company. "We look forward to building a robust partnership with The Wallace Foundation and entering these next five years of innovation and development. During this time, we will further our commitment to the cultivation of the next generation of South Asian artist thinkers and leaders, evolving systems to include them during every stage of the artistic process: from commissioners and funders to choreographers and designers. Through this process, we will extensively document our artistic, organizational, and research-based advocacy work to serve as a case study for future generations."

RAGAMALA RETURNS

Ragamala Dance Company's 'Fires of Varanasi: Dance of the Eternal Pilgrim' will be presented on July 6 & 7, 2022 at 7:30pm at the American Dance Festival, Reynolds Industries Theatre at Duke, Durham, NC.

Rooted in the expansive South Indian dance form of Bharatanatyam, Ragamala Dance Company manifests a kindred relationship between the ancient and the contemporary. In this evening-length performance, eleven dancers conjure a realm where time is suspended and humans merge with the divine. Award-winning creators Ranee Ramaswamy and Aparna Ramaswamy imagine a metaphorical crossing place that enters into a ritualistic world of immortality, evoking the birth-death-rebirth continuum in Hindu thought to honor immigrant experiences of life and death in the diaspora. Fires of Varanasi evokes the spiritually electricity, described by mother and daughter in conversation with essayist Pico Iyer as a metaphor for the interconnectedness of life and death. The work features an original, recorded score and the lighting designs of French scenic and lightning designer Willy Cessa.

TICKETS

Tickets are reasonably priced, and are available at americandancefestival.org/event/ragamala-dance-company/2022-07-06.

Ragamala Dance Company

Ragamala Dance Company is the vision of award-winning mother/daughter artists Ranee Ramaswamy and Aparna Ramaswamy. Over the last four decades, Ranee and Aparna's practice in the South Indian dance form of



Aparna Ramaswamy Photo / ragamaladance.org



Ranee Ramaswamy. Photo / ragamaladance.org

Bharatanatyam has shifted the trajectory of culturally rooted performing arts in the United States to create an exemplary company within the American dance landscape. Through both intimate solos and large-scale theatrical works for the stage, Ranee and Aparna empower the South Asian American experience. By engaging the dynamic tension between ancestral wisdom and creative freedom, they reveal the kindred relationship between ancient and contemporary that is urgently needed in today's world. *To learn more, visit ragamaladance.org*

American Dance Festival (ADF)

Since 1934, ADF has been a recognized leader in America's homegrown art form, modern dance. ADF is committed to serving the needs of dance, dancers, choreographers, and professionals in dance-related fields. The best companies in the world premiere work as part of the festival held each year in Durham, North Carolina. The festival has commissioned 453 works and premiered over 700 pieces including dances by Martha Graham, Merce Cunningham, Bill T. Jones, Eiko Otake, and Paul Taylor.

For more information, visit americandancefestival.org.

'FEST OF COLORS' FOSTERS UNIVERSAL LOVE, KINSHIP

BY MABEL PAIS

"When everyone is colorful, no one is different" is the slogan of 'Surati for the Performing Arts' (suratifpa.org)



NJ Hudson River Color Walk Photo / Surati Performing Arts

HOLI HAI, from Surati, the largest and longest-running Color Walk and Festival of Dance, Music and

Colors celebrated its 13th year in Jersey City and Hoboken on Saturday, June 18th, the official culmination of the spring season. Hundreds of participants began their colorful journey at City Hall in Jersey City, where they participated in dance and yoga workshops and enjoyed performances of Indian classical jazz fusion, African dance and traditional Indian folk dances.

The revelers then participated in a color countdown and embarked on the Color Walk from Jersey City to Hoboken along the Hudson River beating drums, color throwing and lots of cheering and dancing. Upon arrival at the Hoboken train station, Mayor Ravi Bhalla welcomed the group and escorted them to Pier A Park, where the partying continued into the early evening with food vendors, clothing and jewelry stands, live dance and music performances, as well as a DJ. This live event attracted over 5000 people during the entire day.

Dance & Musical Highlights Included:

Bollywood guests artists Rajiv Roy and Priyani Vani Panditt

Aztec Native American dance troupe Kalpuli Kamaxtle Xiucoatl

Belly Dancer Janelle Issis and group

Jazz fusion by Jersey City saxophonist Zach Herchen (Con Vivo) and sitar by Shiv

Percussions by Ngor Jallow and Lautaro Burgos

Bihu folk dance from Assam, featuring Moushumi Phukan

Indian classical, folk, fusion and Bollywood by Surati dance team Shayna Malhotra, Laxmi Gusain, Alisha Desai, Tanya Chauhan, Bineet Kaur and others, led and directed by Rimli Roy

Surati student performers include: Aratika Sarkar, Rijah Banerjee, Aanya Mukherjee, Elizabeth Johnson, Roma Das, Isha Tripathy and Ahana Dalmia

"Holi is the Indian festival of colors celebrating spring and the harvest season," said Rimli Roy, acclaimed visionary, artist, producer, choreographer, dancer and Artistic Director of Surati. "HOLI HAI has been created to EDU-TAIN the community-at-large on Indian art and culture and convey the universal messages of love, acceptance, peace and brotherhood, which is 'when everyone is colorful, no one is different!'"

HOLI HAI also helps raise funds for Surati's artistic programming throughout the year.

In the fall, Surati is planning a Broadway-style musical called RAMAVAN, focused on bringing to life the story of Ram and Sita, as found in the Hindu holy text "The Bhagavad Gita." For more information about Surati, visit www.suratiholihai.org.

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

.....AND THE WINNERS ARE

BY MABEL PAIS

"Heart Valley" Written & Produced by Kiran Sidhu wins Best Documentary Short "Stories About Helpful People" Co-Directed by Sindha Agha wins Best Episodic

The 2022 Annual Tribeca Film Festival Jury Award winners & the Audience Award winners of the 21st Annual Tribeca Festival have been announced. Many notable films that have won Tribeca Festival Jury Awards have gone on to win the Academy Awards including Jesus Camp, Taxi to the Dark Side and of course The Queen of Basketball which won an Oscar just this year at the Academy Awards.

Many of the award-winning titles are available on Tribeca At Home (tribecafilm.com/festival/at-home) until July 3. Buy your pass to stream these and other notable Tribeca Festival films and talks you may have missed.

BEST DOCUMENTARY SHORT, DRAMA: "HEART VALLEY," World Premiere



Heart Valley

 Photo / tribecafilm.com

WRITER: KIRAN SIDHU | PRODUCERS: CHRISTIAN CARGILL, LILY WAKELEY, KIRAN SIDHU | DIRECTOR: CHRISTIAN CARGILL | UK, WALES | ENGLISH | ENGLISH SUBTITLES | 19M

"Heart Valley" follows a day in the life of solitary Wilf Davies, a shepherd from the small village of Cellan in Wales. Kind and inquisitive, the film looks at the world through Wilf's eyes, asking questions about what it is we should truly value.

BEST EPISODIC: "STORIES ABOUT HELPFUL PEOPLE"

BRAND: ZENDESK CREATIVE STUDIO: EVEN/ODD

DIRECTORS: SINDHA AGHA, ERIN BRETHER, TIM HUSSIN

As a customer support company, everything Zendesk does - from how they build their customer experience software to the way they work with customers, is all about being helpful. It's the spirit they believe in. "Stories About Helpful People" is a series of mini-documentaries and photo stories. It's a series intended to inspire the Zendesk community to rally around the spirit of helpfulness. In "GOLDEN AGE KARATE," a high school student helps a group of senior citizens get through a vulnerable time, by teaching them karate. In "ERIC AND THE BEES," a U.S. military veteran discovers that beekeeping helps him cope with PTSD - and teaches other vets the healing powers of the hive.

JURY AWARD WINNERS

For a list of some of the great content featured during Tribeca 2022 that went on to win a Jury Award, view the full list at tribecafilm.com/news/tribeca-festival-announces-2022-jury-awards. Below is the list of award-winners.

U.S. NARRATIVE COMPETITION

The Founders Award for Best U.S. Narrative Feature: Sarah Elizabeth Mintz, "Good Girl Jane"

Catch It on Tribeca At Home (tribecafilm.com/films/good-girl-jane-2022)

Best Screenplay in a U.S. Narrative Feature: written by Ben Snyder & Elizabeth Rodriguez, "Allswell"

Best Cinematography in a U.S. Narrative Feature: Azuli Anderson, "Next Exit"

Best Performance in a U.S. Narrative Feature: Rain Spencer in "Good Girl Jane"

Catch It on Tribeca At Home (tribecafilm.com/films/good-girl-jane-2022)

Special Jury Mention for Best Performance in a U.S. Narrative Feature: Liz Carbel Sierra in "God's Time"

Catch It on Tribeca At Home (tribecafilm.com/films/god-s-time-2022)

INTERNATIONAL NARRATIVE COMPETITION

Best International Narrative Feature: "January"



January

 Photo / tribecafilm.com

Catch It on Tribeca At Home (tribecafilm.com/films/january-2022)

Best Screenplay in an International Narrative Feature: Martín Boulocq and Rodrigo Hasbún, "The Visitor"

Catch It on Tribeca At Home (<https://tribecafilm.com/films/visitor-2022>)

Best Cinematography in an International Narrative Feature: Jan Mayntz, "We Might As Well Be Dead"

Catch It on Tribeca At Home (tribecafilm.com/films/we-might-as-well-be-dead-2022)

Best Performance in an International Narrative Feature: Dorota Pomykala for "Woman on a Roof"

DOCUMENTARY COMPETITION

Best Documentary Feature: "The Cave of Adullam"



Cave of Adullam

 Photo / tribecafilm.com

Best Cinematography in a Documentary Feature: "The Wild One"

Catch It on Tribeca At Home (tribecafilm.com/films/wild-one-2022)

Best Editing in a Documentary Feature: "The Cave of Adullam"

BEST NEW NARRATIVE DIRECTOR COMPETITION

Best New Narrative Director: Michelle Garza Cervera for "Huesera"

BEST NEW DOCUMENTARY DIRECTOR COMPETITION

The Albert Maysles Award for Best New Documentary Director: Edward Buckles Jr. for "Katrina Babies"

Catch it on Tribeca At Home (tribecafilm.com/films/katrina-babies-2022)

NORA EPHRON COMPETITION

Nora Ephron Award: Michelle Garza Cervera for "Huesera"

SHORTS COMPETITION

All Tribeca shorts are available through Tribeca At Home (tribecafilm.com/festival/at-home)

Best Narrative Short: "Night Ride"

Best Documentary Short: "Heart Valley"

Best Animated Short: "More Than I Remember"

Student Visionary: "Daydreamers"

TRIBECA AUDIO STORYTELLING COMPETITION

Best Audio Storytelling in Nonfiction: "Mother Country Radicals"

Best Audio Storytelling in Fiction: "The Hollowed Out"

TRIBECA IMMERSIVE COMPETITION

Storyscapes Award: "Kubo Walks The City"

New Voices Award: "LGBTQ" + "VR Museum"

TRIBECA GAMES COMPETITION

Tribeca Games Award: "Thirsty Suitors"

HUMAN / NATURE COMPETITION

HUMAN / NATURE Award: "Katrina Babies"

Catch It on Tribeca At Home

(tribecafilm.com/films/katrina-babies-2022)

AUDIENCE AWARD WINNERS

Audience Award winners for the 21st-anniversary edition of the Tribeca Festival also include online premieres that were a part of Tribeca At Home, Tribeca's virtual festival.

The Tribeca Film Festival announces the Audience Award winners for the 21st annual edition, with Ellie Foubmi's feature directorial debut, "Our Father, The Devil" which was part of the Indeed Juneteenth programming. The Tribeca Festival Audience Awards follow the previously announced 2022 Jury Awards.

Best Narrative Feature winner "Our Father, The Devil" (tribecafilm.com/films/our-father-the-devil-2022) directed by Ellie Foubmi tells an unnerving tale about a medical worker's tumultuous past coming back to haunt her.

Second place was awarded to "Wes Schlegenhaut Is Dying" now available on Tribeca at Home (tribecafilm.com/films/wes-schlegenhaut-is-dying-2022).

"The Cave of Adullam" (tribecafilm.com/films/cave-of-adullam-2022) directed by Laura Checkoway is a heartwarming story about a martial arts instructor mentoring young Black boys while offering guidance and tough love.

Second place in the category was awarded to "Lift" now available on Tribeca at Home (tribecafilm.com/films/lift-2022).

The Best Online Premiere winner "Cherry," directed by Sophie Galibert follows the story of an uncommitted 25-year-old in Los Angeles who discovers she has only 24 hours to make one of the most consequential decisions of her life. Now available on Tribeca at Home (tribecafilm.com/films/cherry-2022)

Second place went to "In Her Name" now available on Tribeca at Home (tribecafilm.com/films/in-her-name-2022)

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



Ek Villain Returns: Disha Patani And John Abraham Are Killing It In New Poster

After Arjun Kapoor and Tara Sutaria dropped the first poster of Ek Villain Returns; their co-stars in the upcoming film John Abraham and Disha Patani have also raised temperatures on Instagram. John and Disha have shared their looks from the film in a newly unveiled poster and their chemistry is unmatched! In the poster, John is seen holding Disha from behind as they look straight into the lens of the camera. Flexing her abs in the poster, Disha looks oh-so-stunning in it. Although John's body isn't very visible, the poster does give a sneak peek into how he prepped for the film. Looking fit like always; John is seen sporting a rough look with a grown beard. Both the actors shared the poster on their Instagram handles and wrote, "Hero aur heroine ki stories toh bohoh hain, ab baari hai Villain ki kahani jaan ne ki! #EkVillainReturns, trailer out tomorrow. In cinemas this Villaintines Day - 29th July 2022."

Vaani Kapoor chuffed to collaborate with Ranbir Kapoor for 'Shamshera'

Bollywood actress Vaani Kapoor, who is gearing up for the release of her upcoming film 'Shamshera', is extremely happy to collaborate with Ranbir, and feels that Karan Malhotra, the director of the film, is a visionary story-teller.

Elaborating the same, Vaani said, "'Shamshera' is a dream project for me. To be directed by someone like Karan Malhotra, who is a visionary story-teller, is an opportunity that no actor would ever miss out on. I'm fortunate that he felt I was apt for the part. Karan is obsessed with his craft and the story that he is trying to tell. I'm a director's actor so I had an amazing time soaking in his vision and plan to make 'Shamshera' a truly larger than life big screen spectacle."

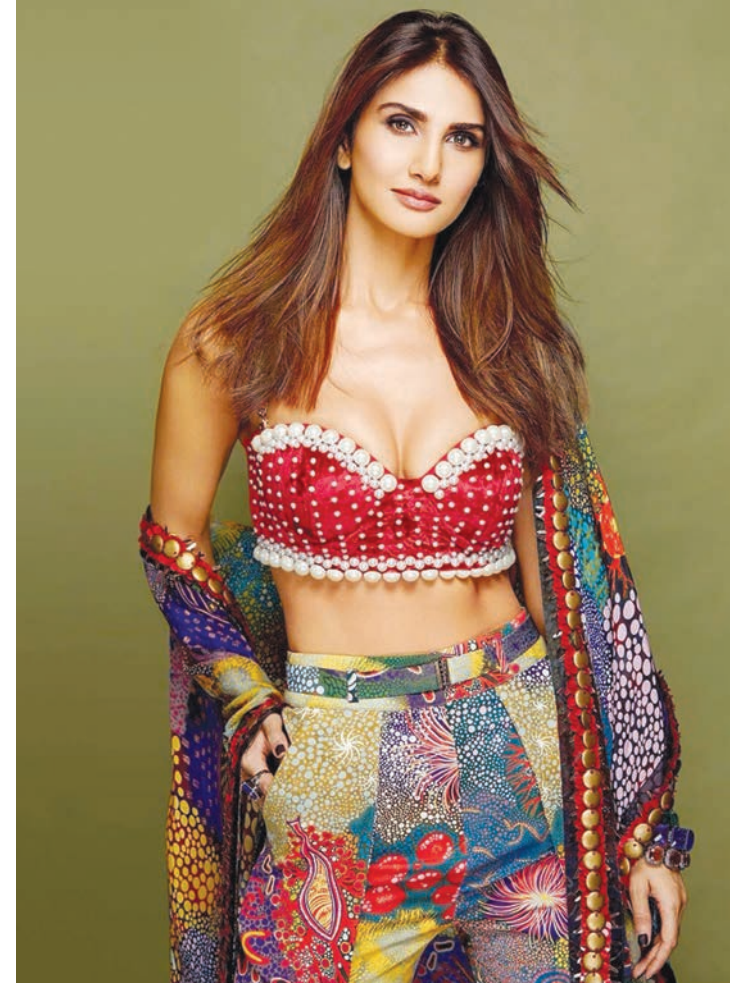
Talking about her pairing opposite Ranbir Kapoor, the actress added, "I'm also teaming up with one of the best actors of our generation, Ranbir Kapoor in the film. This is the first time that we have been paired together on screen and I'm keeping my fingers crossed that people love our chemistry in the film. Our characters have an amazing graph and I hope people love and root for it."

"Set in the fictitious city of Kaza, the period actioner will see Ranbir playing the titular character. Sanjay Dutt plays Ranbir's arch-enemy in this huge casting coup."

About working with Sanjay Dutt, Vaani shared, "I got an opportunity to work with Sanjay Dutt and I have been a big fan of his over the years. I loved him in 'Agnepath'. You have to wait and watch out for him in 'Shamshera' because he is again going to give us a villain for the ages in Hindi cinema. He is just menacing and cunning and pure evil."

Produced by Aditya Chopra under the banner of India's premier studio conglomerate YRF, 'Shamshera' is set to release theatrically in Hindi, Tamil and Telugu on July 22.

Source: IANS



Sushmita Sen says her not getting married 'has nothing to do with' her kids

Sushmita Sen has made it clear that her two daughters Renee Sen and Alisah have never been the reason for her not getting married. The Miss Universe 1994 is the mother of two adopted daughters and made her acting comeback with the web series Aarya. She has now revealed that she came close to getting married thrice, and all three times 'God saved' her.

She recently broke up with her boyfriend Rohman Shawl. The two seem to be on cordial terms as they react to each other's social media posts; he even joined her to celebrate the 28 years of her beauty pageant win.

Sharing the thumb rule for her relationships after adopting her first child Renee, Sushmita told Twinkle Khanna in a Tweak India interview, "I don't want anybody to come and share the responsibilities but never try and ask me to step away from it."

Source: HT



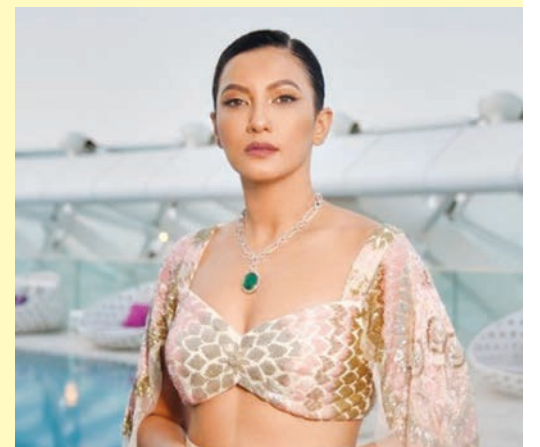
Gauahar Khan lost out on Slumdog Millionaire because she was too 'good looking'

Gauahar Khan has worked in films like Rocket Singh: Salesman of the Year with Ranbir Kapoor and Begum Jaan with Vidya Balan. However, when the actor was asked in a new interview if she ever lost out on a role because of how she looked, Gauahar said one of the 'biggest projects she lost' was because she was 'too good looking for it'. She said Danny Boyle auditioned her multiple times for his film 2008 Slumdog Millionaire, that won eight awards at the 81st Academy Awards, including best picture. Freida Pinto and Dev Patel starred together in Slumdog Millionaire.

Gauahar said there was 'no formula' for getting good roles. She said being good looking did not guarantee success. She also narrated her experience with Danny Boyle, and how he could not 'place her' in a slum with her 'face'.

"One of the biggest projects I lost in my life was because I was too good looking for it, and it was Slumdog millionaire. I have met Danny Boyle, and I have done five rounds of auditions for it. After the fifth round he said 'you're a fantastic actor, are you sure you're trained in India?' At that time, I had hardly an experience, and I said 'I've trained in India'. He said, 'you speak like an actor who is from out of India, not from India, so how do you have this experience?' I said 'sir I don't know, I just try and do it every single day'. He said 'you are such a fab actor but somehow I won't be able to cast you here because I have to match three age groups and I can't place you in a Slumdog Millionaire with your face. I said, 'I can be in a slum', Gauahar told Film Companion.

Source: HT





Cameron Diaz is returning to silver screen with a Netflix drama

Kate Winslet to star in and produce HBO limited series Trust

Kate Winslet and HBO are reteaming for another project titled Trust, a limited series based on Hernan Diaz's best-selling novel.

As shared by The Hollywood Reporter, Diaz's novel unfolds using four different voices and in four genres. The HBO project will follow a wealthy financier who reads a novel based on his life and is upset with how he and his wife are portrayed. He hires a secretary to ghostwrite a memoir in hopes of setting the record straight. She, however, becomes aware that he's trying to rewrite history, and his wife's place in it.

In addition to starring, Kate Winslet will also executive produce the feature alongside Diaz. Moreover, the series will be the third collaboration between Winslet and HBO. The previous two, last year's Mare of Easttown and the 2011 miniseries Mildred Pierce, earned Winslet a pair of Emmys for best lead actress in a limited series.

Kate Winslet is also known for her seven Oscar nominations, including those for films like Titanic, Iris, and Little Children. She won the Oscar for best actress for her work in the film The Reader in 2009.

Source: *Bollywoodhungama*

Hollywood star Cameron Diaz is leaving retirement behind as she is set to star alongside 'Django Unchained' star Jamie Foxx in an OTT action-comedy film 'Back in Action'.

The two actors have earlier worked together on 1999's sports drama 'Any Given Sunday' and 2014's 'Annie' remake, which was Diaz's final film role before "retiring", reports 'Variety'.

Foxx made the announcement on Twitter, sharing audio from a phone call with Diaz, who can't seem to find the words to tell the world that she's returning to the silver screen. "I don't know how to do this, you know?" she said.

As per 'Variety', Foxx brought in someone who knows a thing or two about returning to work after hanging up their hat: Tom Brady, who earlier this year retired from the NFL only to re-join the Tampa Bay Buccaneers 40 days later.

Diaz confirmed the news on her Instagram Story, writing, "Jamie Foxx, only you could get me back in action!!! I can't frickin wait it's gonna be a blast! (sic)."

Seth Gordon is directing the movie from a script he wrote with Brendan O'Brien. Plot details are being kept under wraps. According to Foxx, production is expected to begin later this year. 'Variety' further states that Foxx is executive producing the Netflix movie 'Back in Action' with Datari Turner, O'Brien and Mark McNair. Producers are Beau Bauman for Good One Productions and Gordon via Exhibit.

One of the most bankable stars in the late 1990s and early 2000s, Diaz shot to fame after making her film debut in 1994's 'The Mask' opposite Jim Carrey. She later starred in a string of successful romantic comedies, including 'My Best Friend's Wedding', 'There's Something About Mary', 'Charlie's Angels' and 'Shrek'. She announced her retirement in 2018.



Next 007 movie after two years, makers says it's time to reinvent James Bond

Charming and stylish British secret service agent James Bond won't be returning to the silver screen for at least two years as the character is getting a revamp as per the franchise producer Barbara Broccoli, reports 'Deadline'.

The producer told 'Deadline' at a star-studded private event in central London to honour Broccoli and her brother Michael G. Wilson for their BFI Fellowships, that it will be "at least two years" before the next 007 movie begins filming. He said that the task of finding an actor to replace Daniel Craig hasn't begun "because it's a reinvention of Bond".

Broccoli wouldn't be drawn on who would play Bond next, but did offer an update on the decision-making process.

She said, "Nobody's in the running. We're working out where to go with him, we're talking that through. There isn't a script and we can't come up with one until we decide how we're going to approach the next film because, really, it's a reinvention of Bond. We're reinventing who he is and that takes time. I'd say that filming is at least two years away." 'Deadline' further stated that the night was a Bond love fest, peppered with warm-hearted and witty video messages from Bond luminaries, including Daniel Craig, Dame Judi Dench, Lea Seydoux, Rami Malek and Sam Mendes, director of 'Skyfall' and 'Spectre'.

EON duo Broccoli and Wilson were presented their BFI Fellowships by Bond regulars Ralph Fiennes, who plays spy chief M, and Naomie Harris, who plays no-nonsense Miss Moneypenny.

Source: *IANS*



Russian missiles rain down on Ukraine even as West pledges enduring support

KYIV (TIP): Russian forces struck at targets in the Mykolaiv area of southern Ukraine on Wednesday and intensified attacks on fronts across the country as NATO members met in Madrid to plan a course of action against the challenge from Moscow.

Reuter quoted the mayor of Mykolaiv City saying a Russian missile strike killed at least three people in a residential building there, while Moscow said its forces had hit what it called a training base for foreign mercenaries in the region.

In the east, the governor of Luhansk province said there was "fighting everywhere" in the battle around the hilltop city of Lysychansk, which Russian troops were trying to encircle.

The governor of Kryvyi Rih in central Ukraine said Russian shelling had increased there too in the past few days.

"Several villages have been wiped from the face of the earth," Kryvyi Rih governor Oleksander Vilkul said.

The stepped-up attacks took place as Russian President Vladimir Putin's forces make slow but inexorable progress in a conflict now in its fifth month and followed a missile strike on a shopping mall that killed at least 18 people in central Ukraine on Monday.

Nonetheless, Western analysts say the Russians are taking heavy casualties and running through resources, while the prospect of more Western weapons supplies reaching Ukraine, including long-range missile systems, made Moscow's need to consolidate any gains more urgent.

Far from the fighting, leaders of NATO countries were meeting in the Spanish capital Madrid to thrash out policy in response to Russian actions, and also to any Chinese threat.

German Chancellor Olaf Scholz said members of the military alliance would supply Ukraine with weapons for as long



A damaged residential building is seen at the site of the missile strike, amid Russia's invasion on Ukraine, in Mykolaiv, Ukraine June 29, 2022 in this picture obtained from social media

as necessary.

U.S President Joe Biden told the summit the United States was strengthening its forces in Europe based on threats from Russia. NATO was also due to invite Sweden and Finland to become members, having overcome objections from Turkey.

Russia has long complained about a perceived expansion of Western blocs towards its borders, but its invasion of Ukraine - which it calls a "special military operation" - has served to give new impetus to NATO. The European Union has also awarded Ukraine candidate status in light of the invasion.

CIVILIAN CASUALTIES

The mayor of Mykolaiv, Oleksandr Senkevych, said eight Russian missiles

had struck the city, including hitting an apartment block. Photographs showed smoke billowing from a four-story building with its upper floor partly destroyed.

Russia's defense ministry said its forces carried out strikes on a military training base for "foreign mercenaries" near the city and also hit eight ammo depots and a fuel dump. Reuters was not able to independently verify the reports.

A river port and ship-building center just off the Black Sea, Mykolaiv has been a bastion against Russian efforts to push West towards Ukraine's main port city of Odesa.

The Mykolaiv strikes took place just two days after a Russian missile hit the shopping mall in Kremenchuk. Rescuers

were still searching for dozens of missing on Wednesday.

The Kremenchuk attack drew international condemnation.

Moscow denied targeting the mall and said it had struck an arms depot nearby, which exploded.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskiy's office said the Russians had also fired missiles at civilian infrastructure in Sumy region in the past 24 hours, killing two civilians.

Britain's Ministry of Defense, in its regular assessment on the conflict, said it expected Russia to continue making strikes in an effort to hamper the resupplying of Ukrainian forces on the frontlines.

"Russia's shortage of more modern precision strike weapons and the professional shortcomings of their targeting planners will highly likely result in further civilian casualties," it said.

Ukrainian armed forces commander General Valery Zaluzhny said Russia had fired around 130 missiles on Ukraine within the last four days - an indication of the intensification of attacks.

Russia has denied targeting civilian areas but the United Nations says at least 4,700 civilians have been killed since Russia invaded Ukraine on Feb. 24.

Zelenskiy addressed the U.N. Security Council remotely on Tuesday, June 28 describing Russia as a "terrorist state" and urging the Security Council, where Moscow has a veto, to expel it from the United Nations.

EASTERN FRONT

Fighting meanwhile raged further east in Luhansk province, a key battleground in Russia's assault on the industrial heartland of the Donbas region.

(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)

NATO formally invites Finland and Sweden to join alliance

MADRID (TIP): NATO formalized its invitation to Sweden and Finland to join its alliance Wednesday, June 29, a historic expansion of the defense bloc that directly undercuts Russian President Vladimir Putin's aims as his war in Ukraine grinds ahead, according to CNN.

The group collectively decided to approve countries' applications to join after Turkey dropped its objections Tuesday, paving the way for NATO's most consequential enlargement in decades.

"The accession of Finland and Sweden will make them safer, NATO stronger, and the Euro-Atlantic area more secure. The security of Finland and Sweden is of direct importance to the Alliance, including during the accession process," the statement said.

The decision will now go to the 30 member states' parliaments and legislatures for final ratification. NATO's



NATO leaders in Madrid

leaders said they expected the process to move quickly, allowing for an unprecedentedly swift accession and a show of unity against Putin.

The leaders entered Wednesday's talks propelled by a diplomatic victory after Turkey dropped its objections to the two

nations joining NATO, setting the stage for the two longtime neutral countries to enter the defensive bloc. NATO chief Jens Stoltenberg called the formal invitation from the alliance to Sweden and Finland to join the defense bloc a "historic decision."

"The agreement concluded last night by Turkey, Finland and Sweden paved the way for this decision," the secretary general said in a news conference.

He recounted how two rounds of talks were held by senior officials in Brussels under his auspices in the advance of Monday's consequential meeting between Finnish President Sauli Niinistö, Swedish Prime Minister Magdalena Andersson and Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan. Turkey agreed on Tuesday to drop its objections to their membership bids, removing a major hurdle to them joining NATO.

The expansion vote, paired with substantial new commitments bolstering NATO's force posture in Europe, combined to make this week's summit in Madrid one of the most productive in recent memory.

(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)

It would be 'disgusting' to see Boris Johnson 'naked': Putin

LONDON (TIP): Vladimir Putin has hit back at western leaders who mocked his athletic exploits, saying it would be 'disgusting' if Britain's Boris Johnson tried to emulate his topless appearances in front of the camera, media reports said.

Speaking during a visit to Turkmenistan, the Russian President also taunted his advisories over their 'lack of machismo'—when asked about western leaders joking about him at the G7 summit on June 28.

As they sat down for talks amid tensions over Moscow's invasion of Ukraine, Johnson jested that G7 leaders could take their clothes off to "show that we're tougher than Putin".

"Jackets on? Jackets off? Shall we take our clothes off...?" the British leader said while bantering with the other leaders.

"We all have to show that we're tougher than Putin," he said, Daily Mail reported.

Canadian premier Justin Trudeau joked that the Western leaders should emulate the Kremlin leader's naked torso pictures with a "bare-chested horseback riding display".



European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen replied: "Oh yes. Horseback riding is the best." Putin, 69, hit back during the summit, body shaming his foes and telling reporters: "I don't know exactly how far they wanted to get undressed, above or below the waist. But I think, either way, it would be a disgusting sight." He claimed

that, unlike him, the Western leaders abused alcohol and did not do sports to keep in shape.

Putin, who claims to be a martial arts black-belt and fitness fanatic, said: "Recall Pushkin...who said: 'One might be all about business, yet still take care of the beauty of one's nails.' I certainly agree with that."—IANS

PARL DISSOLVED, ISRAEL HEADS FOR FIFTH ELECTION IN 4 YEARS

JERUSALEM (TIP): Israel's experiment with the most diverse political alliance ranging from the Left, Centre and Right to even an Islamist Arab party finally came to an end on June 30 with the Knesset voting to disperse itself in an overwhelming 92-0 vote, clearing the way for fresh poll — the fifth in less than four years.

The "anti-Netanyahu" glue (the resolve to keep former PM Benjamin Netanyahu away from power) that kept the diverse partners with sharp ideological differences together for a little more than a year finally gave in under the weight of its incompatibility.

Members kept the government on its toes all through its stint and chose to go with "their conscience" finally making it untenable while the Netanyahu bloc remained loyal to him, blocking the government even on issues that otherwise gelled along with their ideology. The decision to dissolve the 120-member Knesset came right up to the wire, as Israel stood on the threshold of entering an unprecedented and chaotic legal situation on the West Bank. (PTI)

CANADA TO SLAP WARNING LABELS ON SUGARY, SALTY AND FATTY FOODS

OTTAWA (TIP): Foods high in sugars, sodium and saturated fat will come with clear warning labels in Canada starting in 2026, the federal government said on June 30, in an effort to promote healthier eating choices and reduce chronic health risks.

"We know that it's not always easy to make healthy choices," Health Minister Jean-Yves Duclos told reporters. "We need a quick and easy way of knowing exactly what options are the healthiest."

Under the new rules, a magnifying glass label will be required on all packaged foods with high levels of sugar, salt and saturated fat, along with text to make clear what "nutrients of concern" a food contains, Health Canada said.

Manufacturers will have more than three years to prepare for the changes, with the rules set to go into force on January 1, 2026, the agency added.

The policy will not apply to certain foods, such as plain milk and whole eggs, due to their health value. It will also exclude raw fish and meat, whether whole cut or ground.

Those exemption will come as a relief to Canada's meat industry, which lobbied against an earlier proposal that would have seen ground beef slapped with a warning label.

(Reuters)

Russian lawmakers approve bill on banning foreign media

MOSCOW (TIP): The lower house of Russia's parliament gave final approval on Thursday to a bill that would allow the banning of foreign news media in response to other countries' actions against Russian news outlets.

The Kremlin-controlled State Duma approved the bill on its final, third reading.

The equally pliant upper house of parliament is set to quickly rubber-stamp the measure before Russian President Vladimir Putin signs it into law.

Russia has repeatedly complained in recent months that Western countries were improperly restricting Russian media by banning their operation or denying visas to their journalists.

In early June, Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Maria Zakharova called in representatives of American media, including The Associated Press, to warn that they could be denied renewal of their visas and accreditation.

The new bill also allows Russia's prosecutor general to cancel the registration of media outlets for disseminating "illegal, dangerous, unreliable publicly significant information or information expressing clear disrespect for society, the state, the Constitution of the Russian Federation, as well as aimed at discrediting the Russian armed forces".

RUSSIA HAS REPEATEDLY COMPLAINED IN RECENT MONTHS THAT WESTERN COUNTRIES WERE IMPROPERLY RESTRICTING RUSSIAN MEDIA BY BANNING THEIR OPERATION OR DENYING VISAS TO THEIR JOURNALISTS

Federation, as well as aimed at discrediting the Russian armed forces".

Many foreign news organisations suspended or curtailed their operations in Russia following the passage in March of a law calling for up to 15 years in prison for reports seen as discrediting the Russian military.

The Russian Foreign Ministry in May ordered the closure of the Moscow bureau of the state-funded Canadian Broadcasting Corporation in response to Canada's ban on RT, a Russian state-controlled broadcaster.

In February, as Russia built up troops along Ukraine's border, German broadcaster Deutsche Welle was ordered to close in Moscow after Germany banned the broadcast of RT's German-language programmes.

Russia in recent years has persistently clamped down on independent journalism.

Following the start of the Ukraine conflict, many significant independent news media shut down or suspended operations. They included the Ekho Moskvy radio station and the Novaya Gazeta newspaper, whose editor, Dmitry Muratov, was last year's co-recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize. AP



G-7 leaders end summit pledging to hurt Russia economically

ELMAU (TIP)

Leaders of the world's wealthiest democracies struck a united stance to support Ukraine for "as long as it takes" as Russia's invasion grinds on, and said they would explore far-reaching steps to cap Kremlin income from oil sales that are financing the war.

The final statement Tuesday, June 28, from the Group of Seven summit in Germany underlined their intent to impose "severe and immediate economic costs" on Russia. It left out key details on how the fossil fuel price caps would work in practice, setting up more discussion in the weeks ahead to "explore" measures to bar imports of Russian oil above a certain level.

That would hit a key Russian source of income and, in theory, help relieve the energy price spikes and inflation afflicting the global economy as a result of the war.

"We remain steadfast in our commitment to our unprecedented coordination on sanctions for as long as necessary, acting in unison at every stage," the leaders said.

Leaders also agreed on a ban on imports of Russian gold and to step up aid to countries hit with food shortages by the blockage on Ukraine grain shipments through the Black Sea.

The price cap would in theory work by barring service providers such as shippers or insurers from dealing with oil priced above a fixed level. That could work because the service providers are mostly located in the European Union or the UK and thus within reach of sanctions.

To be effective, however, it would have to involve as many consuming countries as possible, in particular India, where refiners have been snapping up cheap Russian oil shunned by Western traders. Details on how the proposal would be implemented were left for continuing talks in coming weeks.

Before the summit's close, leaders joined in condemning what they called the "abominable" Russian attack on a shopping mall in the town of Kremenchuk, calling it a war crime and vowing that President Vladimir Putin and others involved "will be held to account".

The leaders of the US, Germany, France, Italy, the UK, Canada and Japan on Monday pledged to support Ukraine "for as long as it takes" after conferring by video link with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy.

The summit host, German Chancellor Olaf Scholz, said he "once again very emphatically set out the situation as Ukraine currently sees it." Zelenskyy's address came hours before



(From centre anti-clockwise) U.S. President Joe Biden, German Chancellor Olaf Scholz, Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, Italian Prime Minister Mario Draghi, European Council President Charles Michel, President of the European Commission Ursula von der Leyen, Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida and British Prime Minister Boris Johnson, during the G7 summit on June 28, 2022.

Photo Credit: AFP

Leaders also agreed on a ban on imports of Russian gold and to step up aid to countries hit with food shortages by the blockage on Ukraine grain shipments through the Black Sea. The price cap would in theory work by barring service providers such as shippers or insurers from dealing with oil priced above a fixed level.

Ukrainian officials reported a deadly Russian missile strike on a crowded shopping mall in the central city of Kremenchuk.

From the secluded Schloss Elmau hotel in the Bavarian Alps, the G-7 leaders will move to Madrid for a summit of NATO leaders, where fallout from Russia's invasion of Ukraine will again dominate the agenda. All G-7 members other than Japan are NATO members, and Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida has been invited to Madrid.

Zelenskyy has openly worried that the West has become fatigued by the cost of a war that is contributing to soaring energy costs and price hikes on essential goods around the globe. The G-7 has sought to assuage those concerns.

While the group's annual gathering has been dominated by Ukraine and by the war's knock-on effects, such as the challenge to food supplies in parts of the world caused by the interruption of Ukrainian grain exports, Scholz has been keen to show that the G-7 also can move ahead on pre-war priorities.

Members of the Group of Seven major economies pledged Tuesday to create a new climate club for nations that want to take more ambitious action to tackle global warming.

The move, championed by Scholz, will see countries that join the club agree on tougher measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions with the aim of keeping global temperatures from rising more than 1.5 Celsius (2.7 Fahrenheit) this century compared with pre-industrial times. Countries that are part of the club will try to harmonise their measures in such a way that they are comparable and avoid members imposing climate-related tariffs on each others' imports. Speaking at the end of the three-day summit in Elmau, Germany, Scholz said the aim was to "ensure that protecting the climate is a competitive advantage, not a disadvantage".

He said details of the planned climate club would be finalised this year.

Source: AP

Modi lavishes gifts for G7 leaders



PM Narendra Modi with US President Joe Biden and Canadian PM Justin Trudeau on Monday. Photo credit: Reuters

Gulabi Meenakari brooch, cufflink, Black Pottery, Platinum painted hand painted Tea Set, and Zari Zardozi box were among the few specialised items gifted by Prime Minister Narendra Modi to Group of Seven leaders during his two-day visit to Germany. PM Modi was the senior most global leader holding country's top office at the G7 summit and carried special gifts for all the leaders made under UP one district one product scheme. He has already attended three G7 summits on invitation, highlighting India importance in global scheme of things.

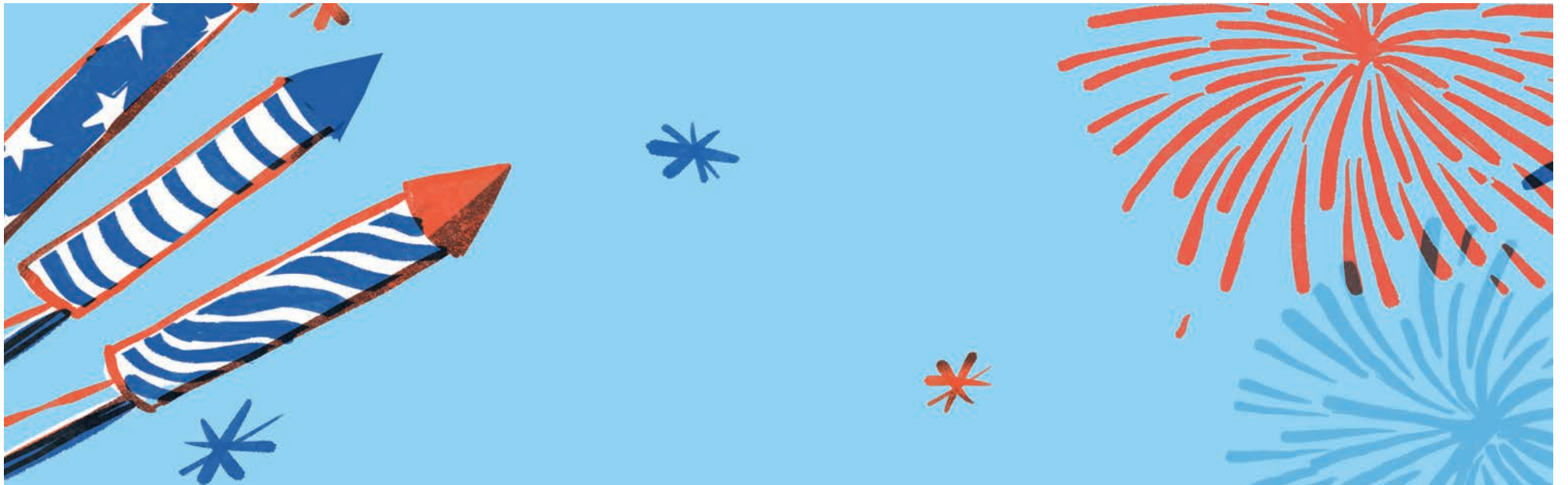
PM Modi gifted US President Joe Biden Gulabi Meenakari brooch, a piece of pure silver which is moulded into a base form, and the chosen design is embossed in the metal. It is a GI tagged art-form of Varanasi in Uttar Pradesh. The cufflinks were prepared

for Biden with a matching brooch for the First Lady, Jill Biden.

French President Emmanuel Macron received a carrier box crafted in Lucknow. The Zari Zardozi box was hand embroidered on khadi silk and satin tissue in the three colours of the French National Flag, which has its origin in the French Revolution. The box included Attar Mitti – a unique attar produced in UP's Kannauj – Jasmine Oil, Attar Shamama, Attar Gulab, Exotic Musk, and Garam Masala.

Prime Minister Modi gifted platinum painted hand painted tea set from Bulandshahr district to British Prime Minister Boris Johnson. According to Prime Minister's Office, the crockery has been outlined with platinum metal paint in honour of Queen Elizabeth's platinum jubilee being celebrated this year.

Source: HT



JULY 4TH, 2022

HAPPY INDEPENDENCE DAY FROM THE
EYE FOUNDATION OF AMERICA.

**IN INDIAN CONSTITUTION
HEALTH IS A RIGHT,
IN AMERICAN CONSTITUTION
HEALTH IS NOT A RIGHT.**

GIVE US HEALTH, GIVE US
EDUCATION, NATION WILL
BUILD ITSELF -VK RAJU



A World Without Childhood Blindness

Rotary



Home remedies to remove sun tan

If you've been out in the sun way too much in this scorching heat, then chances are your skin is probably a shade or two darker. Excessive exposure to the sun can cause hyperpigmentation, roughness and suntan. To get rid of tanning, people try various remedies. We can rejuvenate the desired skin tone from sun damage with the help of easy home remedies.

Lemon juice and honey

Lemon juice is a natural bleaching agent that helps in removing suntan. For this take fresh lime juice and add a tablespoon of honey. You may also add some sugar and gently scrub your skin in order to slough off dead cells. Get it dry for 20-30 minutes and wash it off.

Gram flour, turmeric and yoghurt

Bengal gram flour (besan) helps in lightening skin tone while turmeric is a great skin brightening agent. Yoghurt contains lactic acid that smoothens your skin.

Make a paste of gram flour, yoghurt and turmeric and apply to the skin. Let it dry for 15 minutes and gently scrub while washing it off.

Papaya, tomato, watermelon, potato and cucumber

Papaya is rich in exfoliating properties and contains natural enzymes. It is also a very good natural bleaching agent. Potato juice is not just a bleaching agent but also lightens dark circles around the eyes. Tomato is known for its antioxidant properties and also helps in skin brightening. Cucumber is a sensational cooling agent and helps in removing tan.

Take 4-5 cubes of ripe papaya, watermelon, potato, tomato, and cucumber and blend to make a jelly-like paste. Refrigerate the paste for 15 minutes. Now apply the paste to



the skin and keep it rubbing till it gets absorbed in the skin.

Lentils, turmeric and milk

Soak lentils (masoor dal) in raw milk overnight. Grind the soaked lentils with turmeric to make a paste. Apply over the skin and leave till it dries. Then wash it off gently.

Coffee and coconut oil and sugar

With the goodness of caffeine, coffee has multiple skin benefits. Besides de-tanning properties, coffee helps in removing acne. It also helps in visibly reducing fine lines. Coconut oil on the other hand moisturizes the skin.

Make a thick paste of coffee powder, coconut oil and sugar and scrub for 10 minutes. Leave it for 10 minutes and wash. *Source: ANI*

FOOD

Mutton sukka

Ingredients

Mutton - 500 gms, boneless, chopped, Water - 3 cups (750 ml), Onions - 2, small, finely sliced, Green Chilli - 1, slit lengthwise, Tomato - 1, sliced, Urad Dal - 1/2 tsp, Cinnamon - 1 one inch stick, Cloves - 4, Cardamoms - 5 to 6, Star Anise - 1, Curry Leaves - handful, chopped, Red Chilli Powder - 2 tbsps, Coriander Powder - 1/2 tbsps, Cumin Powder - 1/2 tsp, Garam Masala Powder - 1 tsp, Turmeric Powder - 1/2 tsp, Salt as per taste, Oil - 1 1/2 tbsps, Black Pepper Powder as per taste,

For the marinade

Garlic - 5 to 6 cloves, peeled. Small (Sambar) Onions - 100 gms, peeled, Ginger - 2 two inch piece, peeled, Green Chillies - 2 to 3, Saunf - 1 tsp, Water - 1/2 cup

Method

1. Grind together the marinade ingredients until smooth.
2. Add turmeric powder and mix well.
3. Marinate the mutton pieces in this for 1 to 1 1/2 hours.
4. Bring a pan of water to a boil.
5. Add the marinated mutton pieces and boil until half-cooked.
6. Add red chilli powder, coriander powder, cumin powder, garam masala powder and salt.
7. Cook till the mutton pieces are tender and water has almost evaporated.
8. Keep aside.
9. Heat oil in a different pan.
10. Fry the dal until golden.
11. Add cinnamon, cardamom, cloves and star anise.
12. Fry for a minute or two.
13. Add the onions and green chillies.
14. Fry until onions are golden brown.
15. Add the tomatoes and curry leaves.
16. Cook for another 2 minutes and add the mutton pieces.
17. Add pepper powder and increase flame to high.
18. Cook until oil starts to separate and the mixture becomes dry.
19. Transfer to a serving dish.
20. Serve hot with rice or roti.



Benefits of living in a joint family

Some people think that nuclear families are more peaceful as compared to joint families. However, this assumption is not always correct. Of course, living in a big family may result in quarrels among people. However, living in a joint family has its advantages as well. Let us explore what those advantages are:

You learn more about family values: Living in a joint family helps you inculcate important family values and learn something new every day from each member of the family.

Support for Working Couples: Taking care of home and children is the biggest problem for most working

couples. Living in a joint family, you do not have to worry about all that as there are enough people at home to do so.

Social and economic security: Living in a joint family also gives you a kind of social and economic security. If needed, you can without hesitation seek immediate help from your family members. All the members of the family are always ready to help each other.

Work is less: Due to the number of people in the family, the workload also reduces to a great extent. Whatever household work you may have to do alone, in a joint family, all the people finish the work together. This leads to everyone

sharing the responsibilities of the house.

Every occasion will be memorable: From a birthday party to small and big functions, everything seems like a festival in a joint family. The children of the house as well as the elderly leave no stone unturned to make each occasion spectacular.

Celebs Biggest Inspiration: Many famous stars of the film industry prefer to live in a joint family. From the Kapoor family to the Bachchans, stars like Govinda, Anil Kapoor and Shatrughan Sinha are often seen giving importance to living in a joint family.

Source: News18

Worst heart health mistakes you can avoid

Binge drinking

Bingeing on anything is not good, and let's just accept it, we've all been doing that during this pandemic. Now whether it is junk, Netflix shows or alcohol, that differs from person to person. If you've been going overboard with alcohol, it can lead to a number of serious issues, including heart conditions.

In a study published in the journal *Alcohol Research*, it has been found that excessive alcohol on a daily basis can increase the risk of heart strokes. The reason being, alcohol intake tends to increase your blood pressure, which is the main reason behind a heart failure or stroke. So, if you were boozing all this while, it is now time to stop.

OTC medicines

We understand that covid has made doctor visits quite difficult. So, in case you have a health issue, and you're taking over-the-counter medicines, then please avoid that. That's because it can interfere with your blood pressure. The American Heart Association advises you to talk to your doctor about these medicines before consuming them.

Lack of exercise

With gyms shut for more than four to five months, you might have lost the enthusiasm to workout. But that's not good news for your heart. We all know exercise is important for a healthy body and mind. So being physically inactive for long can have a negative affect on your heart health.

Regular exercise reduces bad cholesterol levels, and increases good cholesterol levels in your body. According to the recommendation of Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the American College of Sports (ACSM), moderate exercise for 30 minutes is good enough.

If it is difficult for you to do hardcore exercises, you can always find fun and creative ways to stay active. Try going for a walk or do hula hoops, and make sure you're



doing it in moderation.

Eating unhealthy food

One thing we all have done during this pandemic is hoard junk food at home, and then of course, binged on it. The consumption of junk food is associated with premature heart disease.

In a study published in the *AHA Journal*, the researcher explained the relationship between junk food and heart disease. The saturated fat and glycemic starch present in junk food leads to obesity, diabetes and hypertension. Also, the high salt content is responsible for raising the blood pressure, putting you at high risk of contracting heart-related ailments.

Excess stress and anxiety

Stress and anxiety are at an all time high during this period, and that's creating havoc in everyone's life. Even if you're eating healthy and working out regularly, too much stress can put heart health at risk. So, along with a healthy lifestyle, try practising stress management to keep your heart safe.

Source: *Healthshots*



Air pollution increases risk of premature death by 20 percent: Study

Exposure to above average levels of outdoor air pollution increases the risk of premature death by 20 per cent and mortality risk from cardiovascular disease by 17 per cent, according to a study.

The research, published in the journal *PLOS One*, shows that along with high blood pressure, diabetes, and smoking, environmental factors such as air pollution are highly predictive of people's chances of dying, especially from heart attack and stroke.

Using wood- or kerosene-burning stoves, not properly ventilated through a chimney, to cook food or heat the home also increased overall risk of death by 23 per cent and 9 per cent and cardiovascular death risk by 36 per cent and 19 per cent, the researchers said. Living far from specialised medical clinics and near busy roads also increased risk of death, they said. Researchers from NYU Grossman School of Medicine and the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, US, collected personal and environmental health data from 50,045 mostly poor, rural villagers living in the northeast Golestan region of Iran.

All study participants were aged over 40 and agreed to have their health monitored during annual visits with researchers dating as far back as 2004.

The study not only identifies environmental factors that pose the greatest risk to heart and overall health, but also adds much-needed scientific evidence from people in low and middle income countries.

Traditional research on environmental risk factors, the researchers noted, has favoured urban populations in high-income countries with much greater access to modern healthcare services.

The study showed that the one-third of study participants who lived within 500 metres of a major roadway had a 13 per cent increased risk of death.

"Our study highlights the role that key environmental factors of indoor/outdoor air pollution, access to modern health services, and proximity to noisy, polluted roadways play in all causes of death and deaths from cardiovascular disease in particular," said study senior author and cardiologist Rajesh Vedanthan.

Source: *PTI*

Sight problems can increase dementia risk in older adults: Study

According to a new systematic review and meta-analysis of 16 studies involving 76,373 participants, older adults with untreated sight conditions may be at increased risk of dementia.

The results of the study, published in the peer-reviewed journal *Aging and Mental Health*, highlight a need for further research to examine the impact of correcting sight problems in older adults - for example, with glasses or cataract surgery - to prevent cognitive problems and dementia.

"This study is among the first to evaluate the association between sight problems and cognitive outcomes in older adults through a comprehensive examination of all available population-based studies in English. Our findings add to the growing evidence that fading eyesight is a risk factor for developing dementia," said lead author, Associate Professor Beibei Xu, from the Medical Informatics Center, at Peking University. "Although the reasons behind this remain unclear, it suggests that

diagnosing and treating eye conditions may be beneficial - both to improve a person's quality of life and also to potentially slow down or stop memory loss."

Nearly one million people are estimated to be living with dementia in the UK - and that number is set to increase over the next few decades as the population ages. By 2050, it is predicted that this figure will have jumped to 1.6 million. The cost of dementia is expected to almost double in the same timeframe, from GBP 25bn today to GBP 47bn in 2050. The disease has a devastating impact on people's lives. As their disease progresses, they will experience greater memory loss and changes to their personality and behaviour. Ultimately, they will become completely dependent on others for their care.

The researchers included 16 studies including 76,373 participants, with five cross-sectional studies and 11 longitudinal studies published before April 2020. From these studies, the authors examined the relationship between

visual impairment and cognitive outcomes in older adults. They found that:

People with a sight problem had an increased risk of cognitive impairment and dementia, regardless of whether their visual impairment was self-reported or diagnosed using objective measures. The likelihood of having a cognitive impairment was 137 per cent higher among people who had a sight problem compared to those who did not.

People who had a sight problem at baseline had a 41 per cent increased risk of developing cognitive impairment and a 44 per cent increased risk of dementia, compared with those who did not. "Finding ways to prevent or delay the onset of dementia could help reduce its devastating impact on the lives of affected individuals and their families, especially in light of the growing burden of the disease. Identifying modifiable risk factors is the first critical step for developing effective interventions to achieve this goal," says Beibei Xu.

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Meta launches Instagram Reels APIs for developers

Reels APIs will be made available to a number of endpoints on the Instagram Platform for developers, according to a statement from Meta. According to TechCrunch, the firm claims that after learning that Reels is a top priority from its developer community, it is providing the new Reels APIs. Reels' assistance from Meta is now also available for posting content, insights, comment moderation, hashtag search, company discovery, mentions, and more.

The APIs will allow developers to schedule Reels and obtain Reels' social engagement stats. Using the new APIs, developers can publish Reels on Instagram Business accounts. Developers will also be able to respond to comments, delete them, hide or reveal them, and allow or deactivate comments on Reels using the APIs. Developers will also be able to locate publicly accessible Reels that have been marked with specific hashtags.

The Instagram Graph API, which enables developers to connect their apps to Instagram's features and functionalities, will be available for both the current version and all previous versions. Reels will reportedly become automatically accessible for developers who already have access to the relevant APIs, according to Meta. If an app's permission access levels have already been authorised, developers won't need to submit it for another round of App Review.

Facebook app for Smart TVs may no longer be available on Apple TV

The Facebook app for smart TVs, which allows users to tune into various videos, shows and live streams on the platform, may no longer be available on Apple TV, as first reported by 9to5Mac. Meanwhile, some users report that they can no longer access the app after its latest update.

In a thread on MacRumors, one user shares an image of the notice they received after attempting to open Facebook Watch on their Apple TV 4K: "The Facebook Watch TV app is no longer available, but you can still find lots of videos on Facebook at www.facebook.com/watch." Several other users report having the same experience, as per The Verge.

Facebook launched its Watch app on Apple TV in 2017 after first launching on Samsung Smart TVs. The app is also available on several other smart TVs and consoles, as well as Facebook's mobile app and desktop site.

Users who are willing to continue using the Watch app on Apple TV should be able to cast Watch from their phone to their TV, but obviously, this isn't as convenient as simply opening an app, reports The Verge.

Cybersecurity experts warn of emerging threat of 'Black Basta' ransomware

The Black Basta ransomware-as-a-service (RaaS) syndicate has amassed nearly 50 victims in the U.S., Canada, the U.K., Australia, and New Zealand within two months of its emergence in the wild, making it a prominent threat in a short window.

"Black Basta has been observed targeting a range of industries, including manufacturing, construction, transportation, telcos, pharmaceuticals, cosmetics, plumbing and heating, automobile dealers, undergarments manufacturers, and more," Cybereason said in a report.

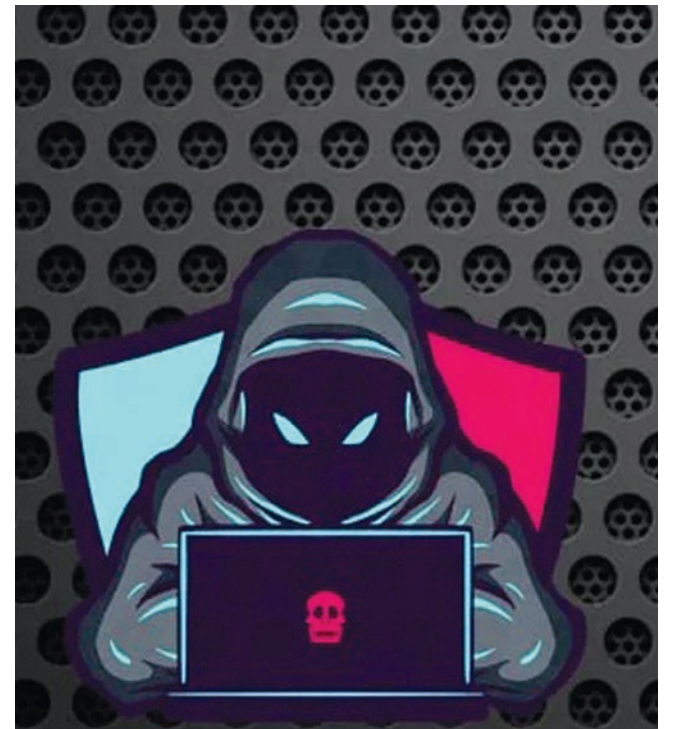
Evidence indicates the ransomware strain was still in development as recently as February 2022, and only started to be used in attacks starting April after it was advertised on underground forums with an intent to buy and monetize corporate network access for a share of the profits.

Similar to other ransomware operations, Black Basta is known to employ the tried-and-tested tactic of double extortion to plunder sensitive information from the targets and threaten to publish the stolen data unless a digital payment is made.

A new entrant in the already crowded ransomware landscape, intrusions involving the threat have leveraged QBot (aka Qakbot) as a conduit to maintain persistence on the compromised hosts and harvest credentials, before moving laterally across the network and deploying the file-encrypting malware.

Furthermore, the actors behind Black Basta have developed a Linux variant designed to strike VMware ESXi virtual machines (VMs) running on enterprise servers, putting it on par with other groups such as LockBit, Hive, and Cheerscrypt.

The findings come as the cybercriminal syndicate added Elbit Systems of America, a manufacturer of defense, aerospace, and security solutions, to the list of



its victims over the weekend, according to security researcher Ido Cohen.

Black Basta is said to be comprised of members belonging to the Conti group after the latter shuttered its operations in response to increased law enforcement scrutiny and a major leak that saw its tools and tactics entering the public domain after siding with Russia in the country's war against Ukraine.

Source: *Thehackernews*

New developed artificial photosynthesis to help make food production more energy-efficient

Researchers found a way to bypass the need for biological photosynthesis altogether and create food independent of sunlight by using artificial photosynthesis.

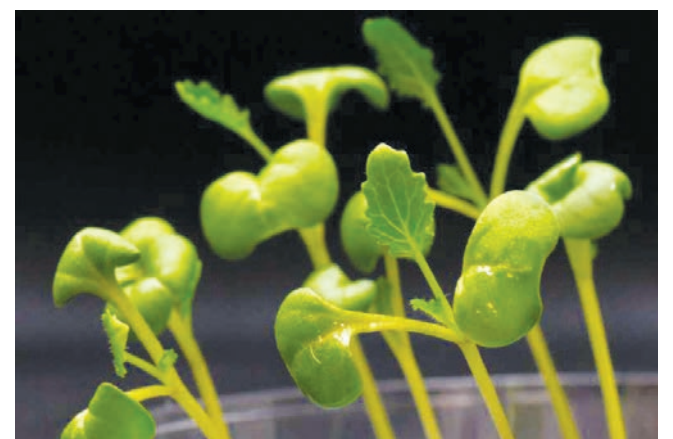
The study was published in the journal, "Nature Food."

Researchers used a two-step electrocatalytic process to convert carbon dioxide, electricity, and water into acetate, the form of the main component of vinegar. Food-producing organisms then consume acetate in the dark to grow.

Combined with solar panels to generate the electricity to power the electrocatalysis, this hybrid organic-inorganic system could increase the conversion efficiency of sunlight into food, up to 18 times more efficient for some foods.

"With our approach, we sought to identify a new way of producing food that could break through the limits normally imposed by biological photosynthesis," said corresponding author Robert Jinkerson, a UC Riverside assistant professor of chemical and environmental engineering.

In order to integrate all the components of the system together, the output of the electrolyzer was optimized to support the growth of food-producing organisms. Electrolyzers are devices that use electricity to convert raw materials like carbon dioxide into useful molecules and products. The amount of acetate produced was increased while the amount of salt used was decreased,



resulting in the highest levels of acetate ever produced in an electrolyzer to date.

"Using a state-of-the-art two-step tandem CO₂ electrolysis setup developed in our laboratory, we were able to achieve a high selectivity towards acetate that cannot be accessed through conventional CO₂ electrolysis routes," said corresponding author Feng Jiao at the University of Delaware.

Experiments showed that a wide range of food-producing organisms can be grown in the dark directly on the acetate-rich electrolyzer output, including green algae, yeast, and fungal mycelium that produce mushrooms.

Source: *ANI*

GST RATES REVISED: WHAT GETS CHEAPER, WHAT GETS COSTLIER?

Already reeling under high inflation, the common man is likely to suffer more with the GST Council deciding to increase rates on some products and services, besides bringing more items under its ambit.

Come July 18, 18 per cent Goods and Services Tax (GST) will be applicable on bank cheque book/loose leaf cheques and 12 per cent on maps, atlas, and globes.

Similarly, unbranded but pre-packed curd, lassi, butter milk, food items, grains etc will be brought under the GST net from the exemption list.

Writing, printing, or drawing ink will also become costlier.

The rate rationalisation decision was taken at the two-day 47th GST Council Meeting, chaired by Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman.

On the other hand, the GST rates on medical items like ostomy and orthopaedic appliances - splints and other fracture appliances, artificial parts of the body, other appliances which are worn or carried, or implanted in the body, to compensate for a defect or disability, and intraocular lens- has come down to five per cent from 12 per cent.

The GST for transport of good and passengers by ropeway is down to five per cent from 18 per cent and the renting of truck/goods carriage where cost of fuel is included brought down by six per cent to 12 per cent.

The other items for which GST rates has been increased are printing, writing or drawing ink (12 per cent to 18 per cent), knives with cutting blades, paper knives, pencil sharpeners and blades therefor, spoons, forks, ladles, skimmers, cake-servers etc (12 per cent to 18 per cent), power driven pumps primarily designed for handling water such as centrifugal pumps, deep tube-well turbine pumps, submersible pumps; bicycle pumps (12 per cent to 18 per cent). The rate on machines for cleaning, sorting or grading seed, and grain pulses, machinery used in milling industry or for the working of cereals etc, 'pawan chakki', or air-based atta chakki, wet grinder goes up from five per cent to 18 per cent.

Machines for cleaning, sorting or grading eggs, fruit or other agricultural produce and its parts, milking machines and dairy machinery will have rates going up from 12 per cent to 18 per cent.

LED lamps, lights and fixture, their metal printed circuits board, drawing and marking instruments move up from 12 per cent to 18 per cent and solar water heater and systems, prepared/finished leather/chamois leather/composition leathers from five per cent to 12 per cent.

In respect of the services, the rates have been revised upwards in the case of services supplied by a foreman in a chit fund, job work in relation to processing of hides, skins and leather, leather goods and footwear, manufacture of clay bricks, and works contract for roads, bridges, railways, metro, effluent treatment plant, crematorium and others.

U.S. economy contracts in first quarter; outlook murky as unsold goods accumulate

WASHINGTON (TIP)

The U.S. economy contracted slightly more than previously estimated in the first quarter as the trade deficit widened to a record high and a resurgence in COVID-19 infections curbed spending on services like recreation.

The Commerce Department's third estimate of gross domestic product on Wednesday also showed some underlying softness in the economy, with consumer spending revised lower and inventories higher than reported last month.

This is a potential red flag for domestic demand and the economic outlook amid recession jitters as the Federal Reserve aggressively tightens monetary policy to tame inflation. Fed Chair Jerome Powell told a European Central Bank conference on Wednesday that "there is a risk" the U.S. central bank could slow the economy more than needed to control inflation.

"The biggest effect from this report is that it leaves inventories in a more overbuilt position than previously thought, putting second-quarter GDP into negative territory pending what tomorrow's data reveal about May consumption and consumer inflation and April revisions to the same," said Chris Low, chief economist at FHN Financial in New York.

Gross domestic product fell at a 1.6% annualized rate last quarter, revised down from the 1.5% pace of decline reported last month. That was the first drop in GDP since the short and sharp pandemic recession nearly two years ago. Trade subtracted an unrevised 3.23 percentage points from GDP.

Economists polled by Reuters had forecast the pace of contraction would be unrevised at a 1.5% rate.

The economy was initially estimated to have contracted at a 1.4% rate. It grew at a robust 6.9% pace in the fourth quarter. GDP was 2.7% above its level in the fourth quarter of 2019.

Consumer spending, which accounts for more than two-thirds of the economy, grew at a 1.8% rate instead of the 3.1% pace reported last month. The downgrade reflected revisions to services, now estimated to have increased at a 3.0% rate instead of the previously reported 4.8% pace.

Spending on recreation, financial services and insurance as well as healthcare was downgraded. Outlays on goods meant to last three years or more increased at a 5.9% pace, slashed from the previously reported 6.8% rate. That reflected downgrades to motor vehicles and recreational goods spending.

Stocks on Wall Street were mostly lower. The dollar rose against a basket of currencies. U.S. Treasury yields fell.

INVENTORIES PILING UP

The moderate pace of spending left inventories significantly higher than estimated in May. Business inventories increased



at a \$188.5 billion rate, rather than the \$149.6 billion pace reported last month. The accumulation was in the retail sector, mostly in general merchandise stores.

Major retailers like Walmart and Target have reported they are carrying too much merchandise.

Slower consumer spending was partially offset by stronger business investment in equipment, whose growth pace was raised to 14.1% from 13.2%. As a result, growth in final sales to private domestic purchasers, which excludes trade, inventories and government spending, was cut to a 3.0% rate last quarter.

This measure of domestic demand was previously reported to have risen at a 3.9% rate.

Revisions to corporate profits were minor. The saving rate was unrevised at 5.6%. The increase in personal income was little changed from May's estimate.

But interest on assets was trimmed. That led to the rise in gross domestic income (GDI), an alternative measure of economic growth, being pared to a 1.8% rate from the 2.1% pace estimated last month. GDI advanced at a 6.3% rate in the fourth quarter.

The economy appears to have rebounded from the first-quarter slump, with consumer spending accelerating in April. Business spending on equipment remained solid through May, while the goods trade deficit narrowed significantly as exports hit a record high. But the bounce is losing momentum because of the Fed's aggressive posture. *Source: Reuters*

Cryptos a clear danger to system: RBI Governor

NEW DELHI (TIP)

RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das on Thursday, June 30, said cryptocurrencies are a clear danger to the financial systems and asked the people to be cautious about the emerging risks in this regard. "While technology has supported the reach of the financial sector and its benefits must be fully harnessed, its potential to disrupt financial stability has to be guarded against," Das wrote in the foreword of the RBI's annual 'Financial Stability Report' (FSR) 2022.

His observations came on a day when the global Financial Action Task Force (FATF) in its report on implementation of Standards on virtual assets (VAs) said many countries need to strengthen understanding of money laundering and terrorist financing risks in this regard.

"Jurisdictions have made only limited progress over the last year in



implementing this requirement. Of the 98 jurisdictions that responded to FATF's March 2022 survey, only 29 jurisdictions have passed relevant Travel Rule laws, and a small subset of these jurisdictions have started enforcement," said the FATF report.

The RBI chief had earlier said investors who invest in cryptocurrencies

should keep in mind that they are investing at their own risk and "also need to keep in mind that the cryptocurrency has no underlying value, not even a tulip". "Overall, the financial stability risks to the Indian economy are skewed towards global spillovers and geopolitical tensions. Nevertheless, the Indian financial system exhibits underlying robustness and resilience to withstand these shocks," he said.

India raises import tax on gold

India has raised its basic import duty on gold from 7.5 per cent to 12.5 per cent, the government said in a notification on Friday, as the world's second biggest consumer of the precious metal tries to dampen its demand.

India fulfills most of its gold demand through imports, which were putting pressure on the rupee which hit a record low earlier this week.



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HOROSCOPE FOR THE MONTH OF JULY 2022



Aries

Ganesha says your abilities will be valued, and you'll be positively charged on the inside. You might want to resolve any legal or tax-related issues this month. Make no rash financial judgments, please. You're probably going to schedule a relaxing time outside. Sharing some amusing moments will be simple for you. A great journey will be ensured by quality time spent with one another. Your business partner may bring you the success and solid backing you need. Independent contractors can have a successful but hectic month. Are you a nerd for technology and science? You might be able to put your knowledge to use this month and get an edge on everyone. Even students will achieve academic success. It's a good month to start doing yoga or the gym. In a nutshell, you'll enjoy a happy, healthy, and amusing day today.



Taurus

Refrain from allowing your fears to control you. Follow the desires of your heart. There will probably be many opportunities to make extra money, especially for those who work for themselves, enabling you to obtain the recognition and accolades that you want. Don't give up; your sincere attempts to win someone over should be enough to impress them. Businessmen frequently have disagreements with their workers and employees, which can be detrimental to their operations. Stress over having to succeed may be felt by learners. Due to your workload and exam stress, you might be feeling a lot of pressure. You might just be persuaded that your way of living and food is bad for your health, in which case you'll be more motivated to make changes.



Gemini

Ganesha says you might experience all of life's pleasures and comforts during this month. With recently made investments in the company, you can see good financial advantages. To strengthen the personal link in a long-distance relationship, partners are encouraged to keep up regular communication via SMS or phone conversations.

You are encouraged not to change the business strategy at this time because it may be difficult for international or import/export enterprises. You can gain clarity and make an informed decision by meditating and discussing your experiences with your parents. This month, you need to exercise caution in terms of your health. The stars indicate that you might be depressed and that unanticipated health issues might develop.



Cancer

Ganesha says whatever task you undertake; you will give it you everything. On the other hand, natives may need to be very careful this month when it comes to both their investments and their spending. Those who have been through this phase before will gain from this one considering marriage. It could be challenging to keep up a positive relationship with your business partner. Don't blindly trust someone since there's a chance you can be let down. Students might become aware of their great academic performance, and it might honor them for their successes in the classroom. You should try to think positively. Instead of focusing on the negative aspects of things, it is advised that you stay upbeat and happy about everything.



Leo

Ganesha says make the best decisions you can without rushing through such crucial selections. Instead, move forward slowly. The beginning of the month signifies a trying time at work when you need to keep your composure. Your efforts to strengthen your financial situation may finally succeed this month. singles may meet someone special this month and possibly falls in love. This is the month when love and marriage are likely to materialize for individuals who have been dating for a while. Native entrepreneurs may face many obstacles in their new business. Your lack of interest in studying could cause us to lose valuable knowledge in the future. You'll be emotionally weak but your health will be good. So, continue to have faith in yourself as you always have.



Virgo

Ganesha says most likely, this will be a lucky month for you, with all of your wishes coming true. Because there's a chance it could mess up your finances or your judgment could be off, you need to be on your guard. Your feelings and emotions for each other can be rekindled by a romantic encounter. Pay close attention to your current clients if you own a business because their assistance is essential in conquering challenges. You enjoy competition and work best in situations where you must actively participate and exhibit a sense of urgency to be taken seriously.

Changes in the seasons could cause health issues at the start of this month. You may continue to be physically well, except for minor indispositions.



Libra

Ganesha says instead of wasting your good fortune on frivolous activities, it is wiser for you to use it to improve your position. Anything you manage to do now might result in a reasonable

amount of success financially. You might attempt to control your partner if you're discussing something important. Increasing their customer base may be a possibility for business owners. The career graph may gain momentum. You should be able to locate a suitable learning interest this month if you are taking any competitive tests. Your physical and mental endurance is probably both exceptional, and you have great stamina. You might be more productive and be able to put in longer hours at work.



Scorpio

Ganesha says you might perhaps have noticed a recent improvement in your luck.

This month, your money may be doing well. The financial procedure would be clear and there would be a constant flow of money. There is a possibility that the couples will argue and fight. You should attempt to have an open dialogue. You might be offered a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity since the stars seem to be aligned in your favor. The difficulties will be overcome by you. The month makes the argument that certain students might have academic difficulties because they are prone to distractions. It is advisable that you establish a healthy lifestyle, practice yoga, and engage in light exercise first thing in the morning. Make every effort to improve your fitness by working out.



Sagittarius

Ganesha says be the cause of a grin. Be the cause of someone's reassurance in humanity and sense of value. You might be tempted to divulge your income to make money. Maintaining some degree of secrecy is essential. Your relationship can now progress to a stage of mutual understanding at this very moment. This can support the growth of a strong bond between you and your companion. Your coworkers and supervisors may provide you with their full support. In addition to overcoming all of life's obstacles, you can also have a big competitive advantage over others. Even with distractions, you might be able to maintain your focus on your research. You can set aside time this month to improve your physical and mental fitness back to where it was.



Capricorn

Ganesha says be careful. Thank you. Be upbeat. Be honest. Be considerate.

Your bosses have been following your professional growth for some time, and this promotion is well overdue. There could be a month of conflict between you and your lover as a result of your melancholy demeanor and outward display. In exchange for your tireless efforts at work, you might, at last, receive some long-overdue recognition. Your

Shree Ganeshaya Namah



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The Indian Panorama brings you Weekly and Birthday Horoscope by Nastur Bejan Daruwalla

WEEKLY HOROSCOPE - 4TH JULY TO 10TH JULY 2022



ARIES : Ganesha says, Dear Aries, you'll be focusing on humanitarian engagement this week and helping people who approach you with ethical questions. This week, everything; employment, family, and love will be in your favor. This week's economic challenges may stifle your capacity for original thought. The feeling that you are not investing sufficient time with your relatives or acquaintances might be disconcerting. It will be a quiet week for people in the healthcare industry professionals. The business will prosper, and you will gain from it. Expecting ladies should exercise with particular vigilance this week to protect their wellbeing. You'll feel your partner's tenderness on an emotional level. This week, your wellness will be excellent.



TAURUS : This week, your pals will introduce you to a remarkable person who will profoundly influence your thoughts. You could notice a bad omen as you leave your home, and this will likely cause you concern for the rest of the week. In terms of business, avoid making any investments this week without initially communicating with someone. Jobs will become more of a priority as competitiveness increases. To secure the success of your household, perform diligently. Your actions should be motivated by love and positive ideas rather than passionate avarice. Experience the joy of friendship. Your most significant connections and people require your attention and commitment.



GEMINI : This week, be cautious not to compromise your psychological identity when you come into contact with persons who are particularly elevated. You should refrain from taking any actions that may cause a fight, and if you must negotiate under your rights, you must do it politely. Anybody could try to hurt you by using excessive force towards you. You might be able to transfer any land you've professionally invested into another nation right now and make a premium. It's possible that entrepreneurs will have to make an unneeded journey simply to conduct their affairs. You can feel a lot of stress from this. You'll be awaiting your partner's opinion on an important matter. This week, your wellness will be good.



CANCER : Dear Cancer, this week is necessary to complete any tasks that have been put off. Pontifical differences between families may exist. You can have uninvited guests at your home. Some of your objectives might thus need to be changed as a consequence. You could subtly express that you don't like certain things or persons. There will be warmth in your love relationship and you will be free of old arguments and problems. Older resources will become profitable and

boost the competent standing of the company. When you succeed on the pitch and strike a touchdown, your authority and determination will develop. Although you will prevail in justice, you will still be under duress from your loved ones. But things will work out OK.



LEO : The time to follow your greatest interest is this week. Both your business processes and your free time might be profitable. This week, you could get unfortunate information from a colleague or member of your extended family that will upset you. The week will be demanding for educators and anybody operating in the industry professionally. Interacting with funds should be done with caution since the company is in danger. Senior citizens should avoid the outdoors for the benefit of their wellness. The best time to take care of your body and any conditions that influence it is this week. You'll go in a different amorous route. Your efforts to make your lover feel cheerful can indeed be noticed by them this week.



VIRGO : As suggested by the position of the moon in the initial part of the week, you can cancel previous obligations right now, but stay away from pointless business this week. This week, you could cross paths with someone you wouldn't desire to see. Minimal assistance will be available for authorities to complete the task expertly. Making changes to your profession is not the best time to do in the first half of the week. You could anticipate wage raises or promotions. People will be aware of your attempts and admire your skills in many fields. The amorous aspect will provide some difficulties for you. Your partner will keep thinking about you the rest of the week if you don't fulfill your obligations to them.



LIBRA : Your first part of this week will be stressful and tense, but your enthusiasm and drive for business will draw in some influential people. Your kids will probably congratulate you on your wonderful parenting, and it looks like the work you put in last week will pay off this week. This week is your golden one if you're looking to engage romantically. Your sweetheart will be impressed by the attempt you make to win them over. You're more likely to make inflexible judgments this week. You need to listen carefully while getting suggestions for your next marketing technique. Making judgments in the first part of the week is not a good idea. The exercise you have been doing will provide positive results this week.



SCORPIO : The stars indicate that you will be willing to release go of problems that have been bothering you for a while this week. You're probably going to spend this week purchasing. You will be given several excellent

investment chances this week. Be careful what you believe since you can suffer a loss this week that will affect you negatively in the long run. You'll suffer a lot of economic consequences. When it pertains to romance, this week is a wonderful week to take matters gently. Although it is steadily expanding in your horoscope, this is not the right moment to move further. You're more likely to draw clear and definitive decisions this week. When getting suggestions for your upcoming venture, you must try to look at all perspectives with open eyes.



SAGITTARIUS : Your cleverness and refined manner will win the admiration of others. You'll meet some new friends this week who can assist you accomplish your hidden goals. This week, someone will make an effort to undercut your sense of dominance and confidence. Don't believe anything they say. Attempt to maintain your composure. In the latter half of the week, Lord Jupiter will give you an understanding this week. You'll navigate the roads and come to grips with your crucial choice of partner. Try to project authority this week. You'll find some great deals this week, but simply attending will harm you. You risk losing what you have in plan for yourself if you attempt to settle large amounts. You'll probably aggravate your vision, take good care this week.



CAPRICORN : This week, traveling will surely help you grow. Strive to remain for a prolonged amount duration. If you're a scholar, your marks will increase and you'll have an easier time understanding subjects. The consequences of mixing your emotional and business life will be terrible. Attempt to uphold regulation and civility everywhere you visit. Your marital life will become a little trickier this week. The residence you've possessed for a while but haven't utilized can be sold this week. You could get a position with a large company or a business that is owned by the authorities. You could have a little lightheadedness this week as a result of not getting enough rest lately.



AQUARIUS : Everybody will be amazed by your progress this week. This velocity of advancement must be maintained forever. You could be able to help your neighbors and relatives this week. This week, you'll work to advance quickly with the help of your relatives. You can acquire preoccupied with a lot of specifics. Gaining more influence will make you wealthy, and prosperous, and subject you to the jealous eyes of your rivals. The firm will prosper on the commercial side as a result of developments. Students have to work hard to get through superior universities. Children strive for more, therefore there can be times when your focus is

BIRTHDAY HOROSCOPE : 4TH JULY TO 10TH JULY 2022
BY ASTRO FRIEND CHIRAG - SON OF ASTROLOGER BEJAN DARUWALLA

JULY 4 : Ganesha says although you may not have as many friends due to your shyness, you will be able to manage the direction of your life in a methodical manner because of your unstoppable thoughts and very authoritative ability to draw conclusions. Your associates and coworkers attempt to adopt your working style but are unsuccessful in doing so. The most crucial thing, though, is to follow all rules and guidelines at work so that no one will ever be able to criticize you for your shortcomings. Avoid engaging in negative office politics and gossip as it could damage your reputation at any time.

JULY 5 : Ganesha says you are a fountain of ability, potential, and wit. Nobody will be able to defeat you at work since you are superior to all others and unbeatable. Although you can take calculated risks well, high-paying endeavors might not work out for you. Having ego conflicts with your blood kin may be stressful and upsetting for everyone involved. Because of your unrivalled communication skills, which are essential in today's world, you are familiar with the pace of the competition.

JULY 6 : Ganesha says in the upcoming year, you will rise like a brilliant star. People who come into contact with you are profoundly affected by your simplicity and spirit of assistance. You

occasionally have a tendency to act in an unconventional manner, and it is necessary to regulate this trait for your benefit. By constantly producing quality work, you would also improve your standards. You need to change the introverted half of yourself that occasionally comes out so that your loved ones won't misunderstand you. Without any hesitation, go ahead and share your feelings in regards to love. This year, you'd also come to some significant decisions on your own.

JULY 7 : Ganesha says you enjoy going to events and parties, mixing with people, and being around a lot of people. You will have several opportunities this year to participate in religious and spiritual ceremonies. Your ability to establish rapport with others nearby will expand your network and social circle. You will have several opportunities to alter your employment this year, but you might not feel satisfied. There are excellent chances to transition from one employment to another. A person you love has the power to transform your outlook on life and give it new wings.

JULY 8 : Ganesha says you are constantly willing to progress with pals. You'll have an enjoyable time with your family, which will make you feel better. You will be blessed on all fronts. Without much delay or suffering, you will receive

whatever you want. You constantly make a conscious decision to priorities your work over worldly pursuits. The man you speak for. Gather all of your thoughts and sort out the relevant issues. If you don't curb your agitation, you could have to deal with some inconvenience.

JULY 9 : Ganesha says you are in high demand at all times. You must examine your erratic and dispersed modes. You make your decision with the speed of a bullet train, and everyone will probably support you. Your efforts alone will always point you in the direction of success. Your natural resolve dispels any questions you may have regarding any task given to you. Everyone, from your house to your gaffers, loves the way you work and speak. For your underclassmen, you are perfect.

JULY 10 : Ganesha says you made the decision as quickly as a bullet train, and everyone will probably support you. Your natural resolve dispels any questions you may have regarding any task given to you. Everyone, from your house to your gaffers, loves the way you work and speak. For your underclassmen, you are perfect. Everyone's life is made happier by your cheerful disposition. You are friendly and confident. Your teammates and superiors will give you their entire support, which will make the voyage smooth.

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enthusiasm for reading as a learning tool may be appreciated by your teachers. You can maximize your gains at this point in the month. Also, gradually stop any diets that could make you put on weight, as this may not be a fun time for you this month.



Aquarius

Ganesha says keep your focus towards what you can create and stop worrying about the things you cannot change. You'll have a consistent flow of income this month, which may be kind to you. Avoiding conflict and working together with your partner are the only ways to have a successful relationship. There may be many chances for you to spend quality time with your spouse, which could aid in your efforts to restart your romantic relationship. The responsiveness of your work-life seems to be at an all-time high. For students looking to improve their grades, there can be a lovely stage where your peers can support them. Maintaining stable and good health is possible this month.



Pisces

Ganesha says love yourself, accept yourself, and keep going. You must let go of your burdens if you want to fly. Over time, you'll discover how to make small financial sacrifices. This month could be an excellent one for saving with smart planning.

Even if the marriage is successful, ego problems may still exist and need to be resolved. A tense relationship may result from aggressive communication with the in-laws. Your efforts might

lead to a big financial benefit. A fresh investment could be made in a commercial project. Students can achieve success. In a week, some new talent might show up. Positivity can improve your performance. Things may go better if you've been experiencing health issues, but you should continue eating the way you have been and take the safety precautions that have been advised to you.

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drawn to a wide range of diverse pursuits. You might be able to get marriage counsel from your close family members.



Household ownership conflicts will be

PISCES : Your humanitarian endeavors will enhance your character, and your students will learn some fantastic tidings ahead.

settled, and labor will be done with the help of colleagues and relatives. You might be able to help someone this week, but someday somebody different will see you negatively because of it. Your concern might be coming from a colleague or family member. Be careful when handling money. Perhaps this week isn't the ideal time to make an investment. Use caution when utilizing electronic components to protect your safety.

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Amarnath Yatra: The legend and pilgrimage

Amarnath Cave is one of the most revered pilgrimage sites among Hindus. Situated at a height of 3,888 m in Jammu and Kashmir, Amarnath Cave is considered one of the holiest shrines of Lord Shiva. Every year thousands of devotees undertake the Amarnath Yatra, which is organized by Shri Amarnath Ji Shrine Board. Formed due to the melting of ice from the roof of the cave to the floor, Amarnath Cave contains Shivling that people from all across the country visit to seek blessings from Lord Shiva.

Significance of Amarnath Temple

As you already know there is a block of ice formed Shivling inside the Amarnath Cave. On one hand, science says that it has been formed due to the dripping of ice from the roof of the cave, the Hindus believe that it is the presence of Lord Shiva in the form of a Lingam. Not only this but it is also believed that this Lingam expands and contracts according to the phases of the moon. Though, there is no scientific proof till now. Along with Shivling, you can also witness two other ice formations which are said to be of Goddess Parvati and Lord Ganesha.

Amarnath Temple History

It is said that there was a shepherd named Buta Malik who first discovered the cave. However, there is a mention of Amarnath Temple (Amareshwar) in the book "Rajatarangini" and people believe that Queen Suryamathi gave a present of Trishul, banalingas, and sacred emblems to Amarnath Temple back in the 11th century AD. And when in the 15th century, Buta Malik rediscovered the cave, the story of Quess Suryamthi was disremembered.

With that being said, Buta Malik received a bag full of coal from a saint and when he got back home, he was surprised to see gold coins instead of coal. He was grateful but overwhelmed. And to say thank you to the saint he went back to the place where he met him but found the cave with Shivling inside instead. This led to the discovery of Amarnath Cave. From then onwards, it became a major place for pilgrimage among Hindus.

There are some other epics that tell a different story. It says that the valley of Kashmir was underwater and Kashyap Rishi drained it through various rivers and rivulets. During the same timeline, Bhriugu Rishi visited the Himalayas and was the first to have the darshan of the holy Amarnath Cave. When villagers heard about this, it quickly became Shiva's abode and a center of pilgrimage. Since then, a large number of devotees undertook the Amarnath Yatra through rugged terrain to seek eternal happiness.

Amarnath Temple Story

Many tourists who visit Amarnath Temple wonder what is the mythology behind Amarnath Cave? Well, as per a Hindu legend, it is believed that when Parvati



Important information

Start Date : Thursday, 30th June 2022.

Yatra End Date : Thursday, 11th August 2022.

This year, yatra period time is 45 days.

asked Shiva the secret of life and eternity. At first, he refused but she insisted, so he decided to reveal the secret to her.

He left Mount Kailash along with Goddess Parvati and left his belongings at various places. For instance, Nandi, the Bull at Pahalgam, Moon from hair at Chandanwari, and snakes on the banks of Lake Sheshnag. Lord Ganesha was left at Mahagunas Parvat also called Mahaganesh Mountain.

Plus, the five elements of nature – Earth, Water, Air, Fire, and Sky were left at Panchtarni. As he sacrificed his belongings, he performed the Tandava Dance. And later, enter the cave with Parvati. To ensure no one was listening, he created fire to demolish all the life around him. But a pigeon under Lord Shiva remained and heard the secret of immortality.

They were born and even today, devotees who visit Amarnath Temple can see a pair of pigeons inside the

cave nesting. And because the secret of immortality was told here by Lord Shiva, the cave was called Amarnath.

Shiva followers thus, take the Amarnath Yatra with true hearts and feelings and present to Lord Shiva in hope of a righteous living, health, prosperity, and purity of the sins. Families, friends, and companions are often seen traveling together to Amarnath Temple in Jammu and Kashmir despite it being 36 to 48 km long and difficult to enlighten themselves by Shiva's true light.

Amarnath Yatra is organized every year but in 2022, it will be starting on 30 June and will end on 11 August due to Sawan Purnima. There are 2 routes – Pahalgam and Baltal you can choose to go on. This can be covered in 4 to 5 days (Pahalgam) or 2 to 3 days (Baltal). Most devotees prefer the longer and more traditional route from Srinagar though. Elderly citizens can choose to ride on a horse too.

Source: TourismOfIndia



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 "If India's own children don't cling to their faith, who shall guard it?"
 "Indians alone can save India, and India and Hinduism are one."

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Murli Menon

In 2005 December, I undertook a journey to the only home of the Asiatic Lion in the Gir National Park and Sanctuary, located in Junagadh District of Gujarat State. Located 60 km. away from Junagadh town, the Gir National Park is a protected sanctuary stretching across 2400 square kilometre. The terrain is hilly and covered with thick, dry deciduous forests. The forest is home to several species of birds and animals. The most unbelievable fact about Gir is the existence of a village named Shirwan inside the sanctuary, which is populated by African tribals who were brought to India by the theNawab of Junagadh, four hundred years ago.

These tribes are known as SiddiBadshah by the locals and trace their ancestry to Kenya, as they speak remnants of Swahili, to this date. The base camp for entering into these forests is SasanGir, which is located on the outskirts. The Siddi settlement of Shirwan is a 12 km. trek from Sasan through a dirt road which winds its way between thick forests.

The trek to Shirwan from Sasan is fraught with risks. Panthers, leopards and cheetahs abound in the forests and could attack wayfarers. Wild monkeys, snakes and wild boar are also commonly seen and represent mild danger. More often than not, one could also come face to face with the lion, whose population in Gir is around 400.

The Siddis have lived in this village since 1600 A.D., when they were brought to India as slaves by the Nawab of Junagadh, to convert the thick forests at that time into tillable land. 3000 Siddis continue to live in the forest, existing in the same circumstances as their ancestors, following the same traditions and existing in self imposed isolation. Almost 100% of Siddis have married amongst themselves and maintained their ethnic purity over 400 years.

The Siddis respect the law of the forest and do not indulge in hunting though they live adjacent to several hundred spotted deer. Addiction to alcohol is rare as Gujarat is a prohibited state and brewing or sale of alcohol is illegal. Siddis are forced to live off the land, in extremely inhospitable conditions. Wild fruits and berries are available in plenty. Fresh water is available in plenty, as the Hiran river flows through Gir. In addition to this, there are several watering holes across the forest.

The Government of Gujarat has offered theseSiddismodern houses outside the park, but so far, none of the 100 Siddi families of Shirwan have accepted the generous offer of the Government. They continue to exist inside the forests, cheerful and facing the harsh realities of life. Music and dance are a way of life for the Siddis. They continue to sing their ancient tribal songs in Swahili and away to the beat of their ancestral drums. This tribal trance dance is known as "dhamal"(boisterous dance) in Gujarati. Siddis have also preserved their ancestral costumes, and every family has preserved one set oftheor ancestral tribal costumes which they don during ceremonial occasions, marriage or other festivities. The tribal drums, tribal flute and other musical instruments played during this trance dancing have also been maintained in working condition.

The beat of the drums and the swaying steps of the dancetransport the viewer

Gir - Home of Asiatic Lion and African tribes



Asiatic lioness inside Gir National Park.



Sidi women and children at Shirwan village inside Gir National Park.

into a bygone era. The dancers move in synchronicity, men, women and children dance together in reverie and camaraderie in a community gathering. One of the important aspects of Siddi culture is their existence in the present moment.

They think only about the here and now. They do not dwell on the past or contemplate the future. They are always aware of the present. If they get a meal they are happy, but they continue to remain cheerful, even if forced to go hungry to bed. During monsoon, most of the Siddi tribal houses are swept away by the rains. However, the Siddis remain extremely stress free and rebuild their huts after every monsoon. They continue to live inside the forest during the rains and do not migrate to higher ground. It would be an understatement to say that the Siddis are free from mental stress or worries. Smiling children, laughter, music, boisterous chatter, trance dancing and cheerful faces are the highlights of a visit to this inaccessible Siddi village in the heart of lion country.

One of the most important lessons one can learn from the Siddis is to shut out the past and forget about the future and continue to exist in the present. The learning experience from the Siddi tribe is aptly conveyed by this ancient Swahili Siddi proverb:

*"Do not pursue the past,
Do not lose yourself in the future;
The past no longer is,
The future has not yet come;
Looking deeply at life,
As it is;
In the very here and now,
The Siddi lives in stability and freedom"*

How to get there?

The nearest international Airport is at Ahmedabad. Junagadh is a 390 km. drive from Ahmedabad. Sasan is located 60 km. away from Junagadh on the Junagadh-Veraval Highway. Non-stop driving from Ahmedabad to Sasan should not exceed eight hours.

Where to stay?

The forest guest house at Sasan is an affordable and comfortable place to stay. "SinhSadan" the official guest house of the forest department needs to be booked in advance for visitors and costs Rs. 10 US\$/- per night. The accommodation is comfortable, with hot water and the food is basic.

Where to eat?

Lots of small restaurants serving North Indian and Gujarati cuisine dotSasan. All restaurants offer simple but delicious vegetarian fare. Vegans can get fresh fruits including mangoes, papayas, pineapples and berries at the Siddi settlements.

(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)

contd from page 1

Eknath Shinde sworn in as...

ceremony, Mr. Fadnavis announced that the BJP would support Mr. Shinde as Chief Minister and claimed that he would not be the part of the Cabinet. Hours after his announcement, sensing discontent within the State unit of the party, BJP national president J.P. Nadda said the party had taken a decision to support Mr. Shinde, and Mr. Fadnavis too would join the government. Union Home Minister Amit Shah too tweeted that Mr. Fadnavis would join the government. Mr. Fadnavis replied to him saying he would follow the orders as an honest party worker. "I will obey the order of a party which gave me the topmost post," he tweeted.

Initially, only two chairs were kept at the Darbar Hall where the swearing-in ceremony took place. Following tweets from the BJP's central leadership, three chairs were placed. Mr. Shinde took the oath invoking Sena founder the late Bal Thackeray and his mentor the late Anand Dighe. This was followed by sloganeering from his supporters. Mr. Fadnavis too was greeted by loud sloganeering as he asked people to remain calm to continue with the oath taking. Following the ceremony, slogans of 'Jai Shree Ram, Bharat Mata ki Jai' and praising King Shivaji were shouted by supporters of both the leaders.

Mr. Shinde, who revolted against former Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray on June 20, was joined by around 39 Sena MLAs and 11 independents. The rebel MLAs had demanded that Mr. Thackeray quit the tripartite Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) and snap ties with the Congress and the Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) to return to the path of Hindutva. Earlier in the day, Mr. Shinde returned to Mumbai from Goa where all rebel MLAs have been kept. He visited 'Sagar', the official residence of Mr. Fadnavis. Later, both, along with BJP leaders, visited the Governor to stake claim to form the government. Mr. Thackeray had resigned as the Chief Minister on Wednesday, June 29 night.

There was no word about when the expansion of ministry will take place.

Gov. Hochul Wins Democratic...

beat out three fellow Republicans in a gritty race for his party's nomination. Ms. Hochul enters the November contest with deep structural advantages: She has the power of the governor's office and overflowing campaign accounts, her party enjoys a more than two-to-one registration advantage and Republicans have not won statewide in New York since Gov. George E. Pataki secured a third term in 2002.

But with warning signs flashing red for Democrats nationally and New Yorkers in a dour mood over elevated crime and skyrocketing prices for housing, gas and a week's groceries, both parties were preparing to run as if even deep blue New York could be in play this fall.

The general election contest promises to have sweeping implications that ripple well beyond New York in the aftermath of two recent landmark Supreme Court decisions that ended the federal right to an abortion and curtailed New York's ability to regulate firearms.

The state has long been a safe haven for abortion and until the decision had one of the most restrictive gun laws, positions Mr. Zeldin opposes and issues he could influence if he wins.

With that fight looming, Democratic primary voters on Tuesday chose Ms. Hochul, a middle-of-the-road incumbent who spent the campaign's final weeks casting herself as a steady protector of the state's liberal values - if not the firebrand or soaring orator who have found success in other races.

"We cannot and will not let right-wing extremists set us backwards on all the decades of progress we've made right here, whether it's a Trump cheerleader running for the governor of the State of New York or Trump-appointed justices on the Supreme Court," Ms. Hochul told supporters at a victory party in TriBeCa in Manhattan.

Standing, symbolically, under a glass ceiling, a jubilant Ms. Hochul added that she stood "on the shoulders of generations of women" in her effort to become the first to win the governorship.

Ms. Hochul planned to quickly return to Albany, where she has called the Legislature back for a rare special session to respond to the Supreme Court ruling invalidating a century-old state gun control law.

The race was called by The Associated Press 25 minutes after the polls closed in New York.

Ms. Hochul had won 67 percent of the Democratic primary vote, with 55 percent of the expected vote counted. Jumaane D. Williams, the left-leaning New York City public advocate, had won 20 percent of the vote. Representative Thomas R. Suozzi, a Long Island moderate who ran an aggressively adversarial campaign focused on cutting crime and taxes, won roughly 13 percent of the vote.

Democratic voters also rewarded Ms. Hochul's handpicked lieutenant governor and running mate, Antonio Delgado, who survived a spirited challenge from Ana Maria Archila, a progressive activist aligned with Mr. Williams. Mr. Suozzi's running mate, Diana Reyna, was also on track to finish third.

Mr. Delgado, a former Hudson Valley congressman, was only sworn in a month ago after the governor's first lieutenant, Brian A. Benjamin, resigned in the face of federal bribery charges and after Ms. Hochul pushed for a legal change to get him on the ballot.

His victory was the night's second significant disappointment for progressives, who saw Ms. Archila as their best shot at winning statewide office this year. Ultimately, she could not overcome the vast financial and institutional advantages that helped Mr. Delgado blanket TVs and radios in advertising.

Primaries in other statewide races - for U.S. Senate, state attorney general, comptroller and the Republican nominee for lieutenant governor - were uncontested.

Turnout dipped somewhat across the state, especially compared with 2018. Combined with President Biden's slumping approval ratings, Ms. Hochul's relative newness to office and strong Republican performances last fall in Virginia, New Jersey and on Long Island, the figures were enough to give Democrats some cause for concern as they pivoted toward a general election.

"Democrats better not take this for granted because Lee Zeldin is a wolf in sheep's clothing," said Isaac Goldberg, a New York Democratic strategist not working on the race. "He will appeal well to his fellow suburbanites who don't know how far right he truly is."

Mr. Zeldin, 42, defeated Andrew Giuliani, who had captured far-right support based on his connections to Mr. Trump, his former boss, and the former New York City mayor Rudolph W. Giuliani, his father. Mr. Zeldin had 44 percent of the vote, with 75 percent of expected votes reported.

He also beat Harry Wilson, a corporate turnaround specialist who burned more than \$10 million of his own money into his campaign, and Rob Astorino, the party's 2014 nominee for governor.

The victory was a triumph for the state's Republican establishment, which threw money and support behind Mr. Zeldin early - a wager that a young Army veteran with a track record of winning tight races on eastern Long Island could appeal to the independents and disaffected Democrats that Republicans need to sway in New York to have a path to victory.

Mr. Zeldin has tried to orient his campaign around bipartisan fears about public safety and inflation, promising to open up the state's Southern Tier to fracking natural gas, reverse the state's cashless bail law and end coronavirus vaccine requirements, while accusing Ms. Hochul of doing too little to restore public safety.

"This isn't just a red wave, this is a common-sense wave that reaches out to everybody across this state in all counties, in all regions," Mr. Zeldin said during a victory speech in Baldwin on Long Island that included explicit overtures both to his conservative base and Asian American, Black, Latino and Jewish voters in New York City who tend to vote Democratic.

"This November in the State of New York, one-party rule will end, Kathy Hochul will be fired, we will restore common sense and balance to Albany," added Mr. Zeldin, who took the stage to the sound of DJ Khaled's "All I Do Is Win."

But Democrats have already started amplifying Mr. Zeldin's more conservative positions on guns (Mr. Zeldin once said he opposed New York's red-flag law), abortion rights (he celebrated last week's Supreme Court decision overturning Roe v. Wade), and, above all, his embrace of Mr. Trump and vote on Jan. 6, 2021, to overturn the results of the presidential election in key swing states.

No Republican candidate who opposes abortion rights has won New York's top office in the half-century since the state legalized abortion.

For Ms. Hochul, 63, Tuesday's vote was the first major test of electoral strength since she unexpectedly came to power last August, when Mr. Cuomo resigned as governor in the face of sexual harassment allegations.

A Buffalo native in a party dominated by New York City Democrats, Ms. Hochul had spent much of career toiling in relative obscurity, briefly as a congresswoman from western New York and for nearly six years as Mr. Cuomo's lieutenant governor.

She moved quickly to establish herself as a political force as much as a governing one, leaving little doubt that she was the Democratic front-runner.

She won the endorsement of nearly every major Democrat and labor union, assembled a \$34 million war chest to vastly outspend her opponents on TV and glossy mailers and took pains to balance the concerns of Black and progressive lawmakers and New Yorkers fearful of crime when pushing for a set of modest changes to the state's bail laws this spring.

She had to withstand aggressive critiques from Mr. Suozzi on her right and Mr. Williams on her left, who argued that she was doing too little to address soaring housing prices or crime and portrayed the governor as another creature of Albany's corrupt establishment.

Polls also showed that Ms. Hochul's decision to spend hundreds of millions of taxpayer dollars on a new stadium for the Buffalo Bills was especially unpopular with voters. Like fears about public safety, the deal could re-emerge as a campaign issue this fall.

But in the primary contest, at least, it did not matter. Ms. Hochul's winning margin and coalition closely resembled the ones that sent Mr. Cuomo to Albany for three terms: a strong showing in the New York City suburbs; upstate strongholds in Albany, Buffalo and Rochester; and among Black and Latino voters in New York City. (Source: New York Times)

Ketanji Brown Jackson sworn in as first Black woman on the Supreme Court

The ceremony caps a months-long process that essentially began February, when President Biden, fulfilling a campaign promise to nominate the first Black woman to the Supreme Court, announced Jackson, 51, as his pick to replace Justice Stephen Breyer, 83. Breyer - whom Jackson clerked for after she graduated from Harvard Law School in 1996 - officially retired Thursday, paving the way for her to be sworn in.

"For too long, our government, our courts haven't looked like America," Biden said when he nominated her. "And I believe it's time that we have a court that reflects the full talents and greatness of our nation with a nominee of extraordinary qualifications and that we inspire all young people to believe that they can one day serve their country at the highest level."

At the noon ceremony at the Supreme Court, Jackson, took two oaths: a constitutional oath, administered by Chief Justice John Roberts, and a judicial oath, administered by Breyer. A formal investiture for Jackson will follow in fall. Jackson will have to contend with significant cases next term, including those involving affirmative action (which she may recuse herself from), the independent legislature theory, and religious freedom.

(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)

SERENA WILLIAMS DIMINISHED AT WIMBLEDON, BUT FLAME FLICKERS STILL

Playing her first singles match for a year after injury, Serena Williams' opening-round Wimbledon loss to Harmony Tan on Tuesday was hardly her most unexpected defeat, but there were plenty of signs it could be the most portentous yet. Of course nobody goes on for ever, not even Williams who has performed numerous near miracles throughout a career spanning three decades. Still, it made for uncomfortable viewing seeing the rusty seven-time champion a faded shadow of the player who has won 23 Grand Slam singles crowns. For having long made a habit of seeing off lesser mortals while cruising at barely half pace, on Tuesday there seemed nothing to dig into, no extra gear, nor any aura to lend an advantage.

Instead she brandished blunted tools and slumped to a 5-7 6-1 6-7(10-7) defeat before contemplating her future.

"That's a question I can't answer," the 40-year-old said when asked if she would return to Wimbledon. "Like, I don't know. I feel like, you know, I don't know. Who knows? Who knows where I'll pop up."

Source: Reuters

U17 WOMEN'S FOOTBALL TEAM COACH CALLED BACK FOR 'MISCONDUCT' WITH PLAYER

A coach attached with the Indian Under-17 women's football team has been suspended and called back from Norway for alleged "misconduct" with a minor player during the ongoing training tour to Europe. The Committee of Administrators (CoA), managing the affairs of the All India Football Federation (AIFF), has informed the Sports Authority of India (SAI) about the incident. "An event of misconduct has been reported in the U-17 women's team, currently on an exposure tour to Europe. The AIFF follows a zero-tolerance policy on indiscipline. As an initial action, the Federation has provisionally suspended the individual pending further investigation," a statement from the CoA said. "The AIFF has asked the concerned individual to stop all contact with the team, return to India immediately, and be physically present for further investigations upon his arrival," the statement added.

Bumrah to lead India in Edgbaston Test; Rohit ruled out

BIRMINGHAM (TIP)

Jasprit Bumrah will be captaining India in the Edgbaston Test against England, the BCCI confirmed on Thursday (June 30). Regular captain Rohit Sharma, who was a doubtful starter, underwent a RAT Test on Thursday morning and returned a positive result for Covid-19 and has been ruled out of the vital clash as a result.

Bumrah was the frontrunner to lead the national side in the postponed Test match from the moment Rohit got sidelined due to Covid-19, as reported earlier. A vice-captain wasn't named for the tour by the selectors ever since KL Rahul was ruled out.

Even though the chances of Rohit making it to the game appeared to be slim with the 35-year-old running out of time, the management was willing to wait until the end to see if he returns a negative test result a day before the game. With the opener not recovering, Bumrah will now become the first pacer after Kapil Dev to lead India in a Test match.

Wicketkeeper-batsman Rishabh Pant, who led India in the recently-concluded T20I series at home against South Africa, has been named Bumrah's deputy. India also will have to take a call on their opening combination now that Rohit has been ruled out. With both the regular openers now ruled out, Shubman Gill is likely to slot in as one of the openers. Mayank Agarwal was recently drafted into the squad and Cheteshwar Pujara stands a chance of returning to the XI as well. India are currently leading the series 2-1 after four Tests.

No experience

As he admitted himself, Bumrah has never captained a team at any level before. He may have experienced the burden of a nation while bowling in the death overs in ODIs and T20Is, but the scrutiny on him during the next five days will be magnified a thousand times. He will have to make decisions based upon not only his own skill set, but those of others as well. At his first



Bumrah will be leading India in the postponed Test. Photo credit: AFP

press conference as skipper, Bumrah spoke calmly and confidently. There was no hesitation and certainly plenty of self-belief. He almost gave the indication that for a captain, while seeking different opinions is fine, it is always best to trust your own gut feel.

"I have spoken to Rohit and Virat about captaincy, but at the end of the day I have to back myself," he stated.

One of the first decisions Bumrah will need to make is about India's playing XI. The sight of Ravichandran Ashwin walking to the pitch with his pads on after a net session showcased the off-spinner's enthusiasm. Ashwin and the Indian coaching staff had a long chat with the chief curator about the pitch.

There is a theory in the Indian camp that with England batting so aggressively and taking a particular liking to pace bowlers, both Ashwin and Ravindra Jadeja should feature in the playing XI. Bumrah and Shami are the automatic picks as pacers, leaving Shardul Thakur and Mohammad Siraj

to fight it out for the third pace bowling slot.

Pujara set to return

On the batting front, it seems Cheteshwar Pujara is certain to return to the playing XI at No. 3. Pujara spent plenty of time shadow-practising on the centre wicket yesterday and also had a modest hit-out in the nets today. With the practice session being optional, most of the frontline batsmen such as Kohli, Shubman Gill, Hanuma Vihari and Shreyas Iyer opted against batting.

The pitch has a brown tinge instead of the traditional green English look. There is bound to be a bit of rain on the first two days of the match, but it seems the pitch will be good for batting. Bumrah admitted India have largely decided on the playing XI, but it would only be revealed on the morning of the match. The playing XI along with the decision at the toss will be the first things Bumrah must get right in his first foray into captaincy.

Source: Cricbuzz and TNS

Neeraj Chopra breaks own record at Stockholm meet



Tokyo Olympics gold medallist Neeraj Chopra gave another sterling performance on Thursday, June 30, as he clinched a silver medal at the prestigious Diamond League meet in Stockholm and broke his own previous record.

In the Diamond League played in Stockholm, Chopra threw 89.94 meters while doing so he broke his own national record, which was made on June 14. Chopra won the silver medal in the Pave Nurmi Games in Turku by throwing the javelin 89.30 meters away.

The 24-year-old, who was making his third appearance since that historic Tokyo Olympics gold, made a stunning 89.94m in his first attempt, which was not just his personal best but also a new

national record. The throw fell only 6m short of the elite milestone in javelin.

His other throws measured 84.37m, 87.46m, 84.77m, 86.67 and 86.84m. Despite the record attempt, Neeraj finished second in the competition, as Andersen Peters, reigning World Champion, finished top of the podium with a 90.31m throw. It was his second 90m throw this season after a monstrous attempt of 93.07 at the Doha Diamond League.

Last month, Neeraj had scripted national record with an 89.30m throw in the Paavo Nurmi Games in Turku, Finland that helped him finish second in the competition.

Chopra has beaten Peters twice this month -- in Turku where the athlete

from Grenada was third and in the Kuortane Games, also in Finland, where the Indian superstar had won gold with a best throw of 86.69m under wet and slippery conditions.

Chopra's first throw had raised hopes of him scripting history of becoming the first Indian to win a Diamond League event. Nonetheless, he became the second Indian to finish in top-three in a Diamond League competition after discus thrower Vikas Gowda.

The 2014 Commonwealth Games gold medallist Gowda, who retired in 2017, had finished in top-three in a Diamond League event four times in his career. He had finished second in 2012 (New York) and 2014 (Doha) and third in Shanghai and Eugene in 2015.



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Sikh organization receives 2021 FBI Director's Community Leadership Award

WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP): The Sikh American Legal Defense and Education Fund (SALDEF) has won the 2021 FBI Director's Community Leadership Award (DCLA) for the Washington Field Office (WFO).

SALDEF Executive Director Kiran Kaur Gill and Program Director Sharan Singh accepted this year's award on SALDEF's behalf from Assistant Director in Charge Steven M. D'Antuono on June 27.

SALDEF, a Sikh American education, media, and policy nonprofit, supports Sikh Americans by building dialogue, deepening understanding, promoting civic and political participation, and upholding social justice and religious freedom.

Throughout 2021, FBI WFO personnel and SALDEF representatives worked together to cultivate relationships between federal agents and Sikh Americans, according to a WFO press release.

"The FBI and SALDEF have different functions, but we share a common goal: protecting the lives and liberties of the American people," D'Antuono said.

"SALDEF has served as a bridge between FBI personnel and Sikh Americans, helping us learn more about the people we serve and helping them learn more about the work we do to safeguard their community."

From Dec 2020 to Dec 2021, SALDEF representatives



The Sikh American Legal Defense and Education Fund (SALDEF) has won the 2021 FBI Director's Community Leadership Award (DCLA) for the Washington Field Office (WFO).

participated in multiple FBI WFO Cultural Engagement Councils, which led to valuable feedback regarding interactions between law enforcement personnel and Sikh Americans, the release said.

As a result, SALDEF held a presentation about Sikh

American culture and history for dozens of FBI personnel and cited best practices for interacting with Sikh Americans.

"The better we know our communities, the better we can serve them," D'Antuono said. "Cultural awareness training is crucial because it helps the FBI build trusting relationships with the public. The people in our communities need to know they can count on us to protect them." SALDEF began bringing together law enforcement personnel and local communities through its Law Enforcement Partnership Program in 1999.

SALDEF representatives have partnered with organizations throughout the country and trained more than 100,000 federal agents and local officers about best practices in cultural awareness and community relations, the release noted.

SALDEF serves as a resource and voice for the Sikh American community on policy issues that affect not only Sikh Americans but all Americans, including employment discrimination, racial profiling, school bullying, voting rights, and women's rights, it said.

Since 1990, FBI offices have nominated one individual or organization for an FBI DCLA in recognition of the nominee's contributions to the prevention of crime in their communities, the release said.

US newspapers continuing to die at the rate of 2 each week

COUNTRY HAD 6,377 NEWSPAPERS AT THE END OF MAY, DOWN FROM 8,891 IN 2005: MEDIA REPORT

NEW YORK (TIP): Despite a growing recognition of the problem, the US continues to see newspapers die at the rate of two per week, according to a report issued on the state of local news.

Areas of the country that find themselves without a reliable source of local news tend to be poorer, older and less educated than those covered well, Northwestern University's Medill School of Journalism, Media and Integrated Marketing Communications report said on Wednesday.

The country had 6,377 newspapers at the end of May, down from 8,891 in 2005, the report said. While the pandemic didn't quite cause the reckoning that some in the industry feared, 360 newspapers have shut down since the end of 2019, all but 24 of them weeklies serving small communities.

An estimated 75,000 journalists worked in newspapers in 2006, and now that's down to 31,000, Northwestern said. Annual newspaper revenue slipped from USD 50 billion to USD 21 billion in the same period.

Even though philanthropists and politicians have been paying more attention to the issue, the factors that drove the collapse of the industry's advertising model haven't changed.

Encouraging growth in the digital-only news sector in recent years hasn't been enough to compensate for the overall trends, said Penelope Muse Abernathy, visiting professor at Medill and the report's principal author.

Many of the digital-only sites are focused on single issues and are clustered in or close to big cities near the philanthropic money that provides much

of their funding, the report said.

News "deserts" are growing: The report estimated that some 70 million Americans live in a county with either no local news organization or only one.

"What's really at stake in that is our own democracy, as well as our social and societal cohesion," Abernathy said.

True "daily" newspapers that are printed and distributed seven days a week are also dwindling, it said.

The report said 40 of the largest 100 newspapers in the country publish only digital versions at least once a week. Inflation is likely to hasten a switch away from printed editions, said Tim Franklin, director of the Medill Local News Initiative.

Much of the industry churn is driven by the growth in newspaper chains, including new regional chains that have



US newspapers continuing to die at the rate of 2 each week - Photo for representation only

bought hundreds of newspapers in small or mid-sized markets, the report said.

Less than a third of the country's 5,147 weekly newspapers and a dozen of 150 city and regional daily papers are now locally owned and operated, Medill said.

Abernathy's report pointed to a handful of "local heroes" to counter the pessimism that the raw numbers provide.

One is Sharon Burton, publisher and editor of the Adair County Community Voice in Kentucky, where she pushes her staff toward aggressive journalism while also successfully lobbying to expand postal subsidies for rural newspapers.

PICNEWS

Rev. Peter Cook of the NY council of Churches speaking about his deportation from India solely because he is a Christian!

Rashad Hussein, US Ambassador for International Religious Freedom is among those seated

UDAIPUR'S KANHAIYA BEHEADING CASE

Tailor Master's unstitched thread in pool of blood ripples nation

SPECIAL REPORT BY DR YASH GOYAL, TIP SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT IN JAIPUR

JAIPUR (TIP) At cremation ground when his two sons were performing last rites of their slain father Kanhaiya Lal Teli and giving 'agni' to pyre, thousands of people were chanting not only Vedic mantra but also assuring the soul with tears full of heart, 'Kanhaiya hum sharminda hain, tere katil zinda hain', and 'Bharat Mata Ki Jai'.

The huge crowd of people of all age groups joined the funeral procession from his residence at Goverdhan Vilas of Dhanmandi area in the Lake City to the cremation ground despite the indefinite Curfew in parts of the city and the Prohibitory Orders in entire division.

Two unknown customers who came on bike with open face entered the Supreme Tailor Shop in Bhootmahal locality in Dhanmandi area, asked Kanhaiya to stitch Muslim attire 'jhola payjama' for which they stood straight for measurements. Two co-workers were present in the shop staring at the customers. Immediately, one of customers started shooting a video, another turned into a criminal holding sharp edged weapons (small sword/knife) in his hand, attacked him mercilessly in his neck and other upper parts of the body. Kanhaiya collapsed on the floor near his table with hanging head. This video clip containing a threat to the Prime Minister Narendra Modi crept in social media faster than any breaking news.

In a first of its kind crime in peaceful Rajasthan, a horrifying and gruesome killing shocked the entire country and the ordinary people of Udaipur got goosebumps and later got angry. Thousands of people jammed the traffic in the Udaipur city, held protests and indulged in arson activity that prompted the state government to clamp indefinite curfew in seven police stations and prohibitory orders in the entire Udaipur division.

Forty-year-old Kanhaiya was allegedly beheaded by two assailants in his shop on June 28 afternoon over his social media post supporting ex-BJP spokesperson Nupur Sharma in the row of her remarks on the Prophet. The murder is apparently connected with a number of inflammatory social media posts between communities specially after Kanhaiya's remarks. According to the Rajasthan police, the dispute between Kanhaiya and some Muslim organization was settled on the complaint of life threat to the former very amicably on June 15 but why this tragedy occurred was still a cause of serious concern to be probed.

The Gehlot government immediately came into action directing the state police to catch hold of



Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot visits the deceased's home and pays tribute

assailants at any cost. Within six hours of the crime, two accused fleeing on a bike were arrested from Bhim area in Rajsamand district by a joint team of senior cops, the Director-General of Police M L Lather has said. The accused were identified as Gaus Mohammed and Mohd Riyaz Akhtari. The Government of Rajasthan has set up a three-member Special Investigation Team ((SIT) headed by Ashok Rathore, ADG-Special Operation Group (SOG), to probe the murder mystery of victim tailor.

In a next day development, the DGP made a breaking news that Gaus Mohammed has links with Pakistan's Extremist Organization 'Dawate Islami', and he had visited Karachi in 2014 in 2014 and attended this very organization's meeting.

As the PM's name popped up in the video clip, the National Investigation Agency (anti-terror agency) stepped into it on the very evening of the crime and claimed that the assailants could have had links with the ISIS of Pakistan. Next morning of the crime, the team arrived in Udaipur to interrogate the accused. CM Ashok Gehlot also assured that the state police's Special Investigation Team (SIT) and Special Operation Group (SOG) would extend their all support and assistance to the national agency.

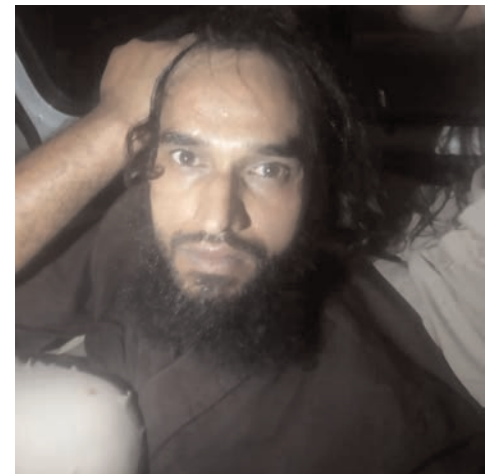
In his sequel of his media interactions, Gehlot said, "It is a very sad incident, and the amount of condemnation is less, it is a matter of great concern that killing someone in this way is very sad, it is also shameful, I understand that there is also a need to correct the atmosphere. There should not be tension in such

times, all together. Those guilty will not be spared, for that the whole police is ready to arrest and will keep no stone unturned. I can imagine, I can imagine, how fierce the anger must have been in my heart, I realize this, that is how we will act. Prime Minister and Union Home Minister should come forward and appeal to the public to maintain law and order and communal harmony in the society".

It is still a mystery and a matter of investigation by the state and central probing agencies whether it was a terror activity in a Taliban style as protested by saffron brigade leaders or a murder controversy in the aftermath of former BJP spokesperson Nupur Sharma's comments on prophet ?

Though, the District and Session Court in Udaipur has remanded 14 days of judicial custody of both accused from June 30 to July 13 after the ATS and Dhanmandi Police produced him for custody, but the NIA is likely to take them to Jaipur's NIA court for taking remand and interrogation.

CM Gehlot with his junior home department minister and DGP paid a visit to slain Kanhaiya Lal's bereaved family members at latter's residence and after putting floral tributes on the photo portrait of the deceased, he paid an ex-gratia payment (cheque) of Rs.50 lakh and assured the government jobs (on contract) to his son. Gehlot also visited JLN Hospital in Ajmer to enquire the medical status of a constable who was injured by a sword in an attack by pro-Hindu protesters in Bhim. He announced to pay a compensation of Rs. 10 lakh to



Gaus Mohammed and Mohd Riyaz Akhtari -who allegedly beheaded Kanhaiya
Pics / CM-Media Cell and PHQ

him.

It is pertinent to mention that the assembly polls in Gujarat, Meghalaya and Himachal Pradesh are slated later this year, and in Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh next year-2023. Rajasthan in particular has witnessed the communal clashes in Karauli, Alwar's Rajgarh, and Jodhpur on petty issues in recent months. The Congress party indicates that it was (barring Udaipur murder) all pre-election preparation to divide the two communities on religious lines and create Hindutavadi wave. Whereas the saffron leaders in Rajasthan always blamed the Congress government for its appeasement politics specially in favor of Muslims that created unrest in the Hindus and the worst law and order in the Gehlot regime.

All Muslim Organizations have condemned the brutal killing of the tailor master and called it as 'un-Islamic'.

Normal citizens in Rajasthan are suffering from Internet suspension since June 28, and the digital payment of crores of rupees got stuck causing business and trade loss. Who bothers and cares for public when votes matter, and the assembly elections are approaching ?

Gandhian Society hosts Interfaith Prayer Meet and Khadi Fashion Show in New Jersey



Parsippany Mayor Jamie Barbierio and Paul DeGroot lighting the lamp to start the Interfaith prayer meet

PARSIPPANY, NJ (TIP): The Gandhian Society in partnership with Rotary Club and Zakir Husain Foundation organized an Interfaith Prayer meet and Khadi Fashion show in Parsippany (New Jersey) on June 26, 2022. The event was organized to pray for peace, understanding and spreading love/ brotherhood amongst all human beings and also to show cause the national fabric of India - Khadi in a modern way for the younger generation of American Indian's. Khadi represents the Indian thinking of simple living with elegance and dignity.

The event was attended by most of the elected officials from District 11/ Morris County/ Parsippany including District 11 House of Representative Candidate (Republican) - Paul DeGroot, Mayor Jamie Barbierio, Council President - Michael dePierro, Councilwoman Loretta Gragnani, Ponnala Lakshmiah (Indian Politician who earlier lived in Parsippany).

The event started with the singing of National



American Indian Children who participated in the Khadi Fashion show

Anthem's for USA and India and continues with Devotional Songs that Mahatma Gandhi used to have during his prayer meetings. The religious leaders from many diverse faiths like Christianity, Hindu (Iskcon) Islam, Jewish (Hebrew), Jain, BAHAI and many faiths prayed for peace, understanding and making the world a better place.

This was followed by a Khadi Fashion designed/ conceptualized by designer Sonal Gadhavi and choreographed by Bharat Gadhavi. Sonal had a workshop with the kids prior to the fashion show to explain to them the significance of Khadi and the designs being displayed. The fashion show saw many American Indian children take part and display Khadi in a modern and elegant manner. Charkha Boutique sponsored the Khadi clothes for the fashion show. Gandhian Society Founder Bhadra Butala was instrumental in sponsoring the show with support from sponsors. The Gandhian Society also honored Dr.Satish



Dignitaries at the Interfaith Prayer Meet Organized by Gandhian Society

Aanchan and Ramesh Maganti for their community service and also honored them with a special certificate and Gandhian Statue. Ponnala Lakshmiah was recognized for his role in helping rural India with his earlier role as Major Irrigation Minister where he helped irrigate thousands of acres of land that helped millions of farmers in South India.

The Interfaith and Khadi event was mainly organized by Balaji Jilla, Rajender Dichpally and supported friendly by Santosh Peddi (Rotary International Club members of Parsippany). The Gandhian Society team of Mahesh Wani, Shravan Natyakala, Varsha Joshi, Dr.Deepak Naran, Asha Sawant, Shiv Kumar, Hasmukh Patel, Vijaya Nadella and others. A simple Gandhian lunch was provided for participants and devotional songs that Mahatma Gandhi used to listen to were sung at the event. Free biographies of Mahatma Gandhi were distributed at the event for participants.

INDIAN-ORIGIN MAN SHOT DEAD IN PARKED VEHICLE IN NEW YORK



SOUTH OZONE PARK, NY (TIP): A 31-year-old Indian-origin man was shot dead in Queens here as he sat in a borrowed SUV parked down the street from his home, days after an Indian national was killed after sustaining an apparent gunshot wound to his head in the US state of Maryland.

Satnam Singh was sitting behind the wheel of a black Jeep Wrangler Sahara that was parked in South Ozone Park when a gunman approached and started shooting at him around 3.45 pm on Saturday, June 25, a report in The New York Daily News said. The police said Satnam lived just down the street from where he was shot.

Satnam was struck in the chest and neck and was rushed to a local hospital, where he died later, according to the police. It appears that Satnam had borrowed the car from a friend a short time earlier and needed it to pick someone up, the police said.

Detectives were trying to "determine if the gunman was aiming at Satnam or was hoping to kill the SUV's owner and was unaware who was inside," the report said, adding that no arrests have been made so far in the case.

Following Supreme Court Decision Overturning Roe V. Wade, New York City Council Women's Caucus Unveils Legislative Package on Abortion and Reproductive Health Care

Women Council members also announce intention to provide city funding for abortion care and support services

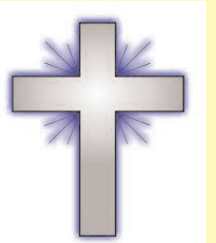
CITY HALL, NY (TIP): In the wake of the U.S. Supreme Court's decision to overturn Roe v. Wade, Speaker Adrienne Adams and the City's first women majority New York City Council unveiled a "NYC Abortion Rights Act" legislative package to safeguard abortion and advance reproductive health care in the City.

The package of laws seeks to protect women, trans, and gender non-conforming people's access to safe abortion and reproductive healthcare in New York City, as states across the country begin to restrict access to services in response to the Supreme Court decision. The Council also announced its support, through a resolution, for a state constitutional amendment to enshrine equal rights and protection against discrimination into the state's constitution. The state constitutional amendment would expand protected classes to include ethnicity, national origin, disability or sex including pregnancy and pregnancy outcomes, sexual orientation, gender identity, and gender expression, and would protect an array of civil rights, including abortion.

(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)

INDIAN CHRISTIAN DAY: A CELEBRATION OF CHRISTIAN HERITAGE IN INDIA

NEW YORK (TIP): The Indian Christian community of all rites and denominations in New York, New Jersey, Connecticut area is all set to celebrate the two-thousand-year-old heritage of Christianity in India and the martyrdom of Saint Thomas, one of the twelve apostles of Jesus Christ in AD 72 in Chennai. Indian Christians from all Indian states will come together at the Syro Malankara Catholic Church at 1500



Depaul Street in Elmont, New York on Sunday, July 3rd at 5 pm. They will be joined by spiritual and religious leaders across the United States.

The event initiated by the Federation of Indian Christians of North America (FIACONA) is "a collaborative effort of Church of South India, Indian Orthodox Syrian Church, Tamil Lutheran Church, Episcopal Church, Syro Malabar Catholic Church, Syro Malankara Catholic Church, United Methodist Church, Bethlehem Punjabi Church, Marthoma Church, Jacobite Syrian Church, Gujarati Christians, and Saint Thomas Evangelical Church of South India who pride themselves for the contributions and participation the Indian Christians to the history, development and growth of India over almost two thousand years" says Koshy George, president of FIACONA.

The evening begins with a procession accompanied by chenda (drum) mela and thalappoli. Religious leaders and other spiritual leaders will then say insightful felicitations. Colorful cultural programs will be presented by talents from Punjabi, Gujarati, Tamil, Malayalam and Telugu communities. The events will conclude with dinner. Entry is free and open for everyone. The organizers said that it will be helpful for food and water arrangements if people could RSVP at <http://www.eventbrite.com/e/362745139477>.



CITY OF BRIDGEPORT, CONNECTICUT TO SUPPORT CONSTRUCTION OF INTERNATIONAL STANDARD CRICKET STADIUM AND PRACTICE FACILITIES IN THE CITY

BRIDGEPORT, CT (TIP): The City of Bridgeport, Connecticut, announced on June 30, its support for the development of an International Standard Cricket Stadium and Practice Facilities in the city of Bridgeport, capable of hosting International level matches with an eye towards bagging a game or two in the 2024 Men's T20 World Cup to be jointly hosted by the US and the Caribbean. The stadium proposal was presented by Connecticut Cricket Inc. (CCI), who anticipate the successful completion of the new stadium in time for the 2024 Men's T20 World Cup in the hope of hosting matches at the venue.

CCI leaders find Bridgeport to be the ideal location to bring top-level cricket to the Northeast United States. "Bridgeport has the perfect mix of accessibility, infrastructure and cricket history" said Ravi Nichani, a CCI principal. "The support and interest of the municipal leaders is gratifying, and we look forward to a long relationship between cricket and the City" added Mr. Nichani.

Bridgeport Mayor, Joseph P. Ganim, offered strong support of the City of Bridgeport to the future development of the cricket stadium in the city. "Bridgeport is impressed with the experience and capabilities of the CCI leadership and their proposed plan and looks forward to working together to achieve this goal of bringing the 2024 World Cup to Bridgeport, as well as establishing Bridgeport as an international cricket location" Mr. Ganim said.

Bridgeport, Connecticut is located 60 miles northeast of New York City, adjacent to the Long Island Sound and is well connected by Metro North, ferries to Long Island and interstate highways that connect Bridgeport to New York and New Jersey.

CONTACT: Frank Farricker 203-554-6140 or Ravi Nichani 203-363-4900

Chancellor Banks Announces Virtual High School Programs

A SCHOOL WITHOUT WALLS PROGRAM WILL PROVIDE HYBRID AND FULLY VIRTUAL PATHWAYS FOR 200 RISING 9TH GRADERS THIS FALL

NEW YORK (TIP): Schools Chancellor David C. Banks announced, June 23, A School Without Walls Program, a new NYCDOE high school program offering students a new way of learning through Hybrid and Virtual schooling pathways. A School Without Walls Program gives students the independence of remote learning, while grounding their education in an array of individualized, interdisciplinary, project-based learning and internship opportunities.

Applications for rising 9th graders open today. Families can apply via their MySchools Accounts through Wednesday, July 6th.

"As we emerge from the COVID-19 pandemic, it is abundantly clear that our education system needs to work for our young people in a way that it never has before. This virtual academy is about giving our students the freedom in their learning to explore their interests, learn outside of the box, lean into their talents, and use our city's incredible resources as their classroom," said New York City Mayor Eric Adams. "I'm proud to be able to provide virtual and hybrid learning pathways to rising 9th graders this coming fall, and to meet our students where they are with the tools they need to excel."

"The pandemic underscored the importance of reimagining the student experience for our children, giving them the opportunity to freely pursue their interests and passions as part of their high school journey. It is up to us as educators to meet students where they are with opportunities that empower them in their learning," said Schools Chancellor David C. Banks. "We closely collaborated with students to design A School Without Walls Program and we are taking the lessons learned during the COVID-19 pandemic to reimagine school using innovative tools and practices. We are thrilled to be able to offer these new pathways in response to what we heard from our students and families."

Following the pandemic, it became clear that the ways we educate our young people needed to be re-imagined to better support our schools, our students and their needs during this time. With that in mind, A School Without Walls Program was established in close collaboration with students. With support from our partners at NYC Outward Bound Schools, A School Without Walls Program engaged NYC high school students in a year-long design journey that included a summer intensive and fall internship program to field test projects and intern-based curriculum, and which continued into the spring where student interns co-designed every aspect of the new program as part of the design team.



Schools Chancellor David C. Banks announced, June 23, A School Without Walls Program, a new NYCDOE high school program offering students a new way of learning through Hybrid and Virtual schooling pathways.

"As partners in the design phase of A School Without Walls Program it has been exciting to work with the design team to take the real-world learning and student-centered approach we use in our network schools to an innovative hybrid learning environment," said Vanessa Rodriguez, CEO of NYC Outward Bound Schools.

"A School Without Walls Program has changed my point of view so much because I always believed that adults plan everything and that's it. But this internship has made me value students' roles just as much as adults," said Abijayil, a student at Urban Assembly Institute of Math and Science for Young Women who participated in the design internship. "It made me realize that young people can make so much change."

"At A School Without Walls Program, I learned that creating a positive and supportive environment isn't just dumb luck. I used to think having a good community just came from certain personalities meshing together, but this showed me that building strong community is something that can be worked towards," said Pete, a student at City As School who also participated in the internship. "Creating connections and trust within a community can be achieved by creating opportunities for team building and getting to know one another."

A School Without Walls Program moves beyond the classroom, giving students the freedom to design their own path to earning a high school diploma. Students will be encouraged to experience New York City and their local communities as their classroom by way of internships, service learning, and place-based learning initiatives.

Interested students will choose between a Hybrid learning model and a Virtual model, with 100 seats available in each distinct pathway. Both pathways will be physically housed in DOE facilities, with teachers providing synchronous and asynchronous instruction from a fully equipped and

operational classroom.

All participating students will have access to these locations and to the vital resources available at brick-and-mortar schools, such as counseling services. Students will receive a laptop to use at home and can visit the school site to troubleshoot any technological issues. Students also have the option to participate in virtual and in-person extracurricular activities, including arts and music programming, sports, and interest-based clubs and electives.

About Enrollment

Students may apply to A School Without Walls Program starting today, June 23. To apply, interested families and students should select A School Without Walls Program Hybrid or Virtual pathway by starring it in their MySchools accounts. The deadline for application is Wednesday, July 6th, and families will be notified of lottery results by mid-July. Waitlist offers will be made to families on a rolling basis.

About the Hybrid Pathway

The Hybrid pathway blends in-person and remote learning opportunities for incoming 9th grade high school students. The Hybrid model supports students' socio-emotional wellness while also prioritizing individualized academic support both in-person and remotely. Students in the Hybrid pathway will attend classes in person on a half day schedule at 131 Livingston Street in Brooklyn and will then participate remotely by engaging in both synchronous (live) and asynchronous (at their own pace) learning.

About the Virtual Pathway

The Virtual pathway will offer a fully remote program using an interdisciplinary, project-based model, along with deep and meaningful community building to ensure wellness and success in a virtual environment. To support both the academic and socio-emotional needs of our incoming 9th graders, the virtual pathway will offer: daily synchronous attendance and advisory, daily synchronous humanities or STEM sessions, and instructional sessions for social studies, science, health, lab, art/music, and elective courses.

The Department of Education is currently working in close collaboration with the New York State Education Department to finalize the necessary details to make these programs full schools that can graduate students. In the meantime, students will be officially enrolled in a traditional high school while participating in the A School Without Walls Program.



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