



TAX 'SURVEYS' AT BBC OFFICES CONCLUDE AFTER 60 HOURS



Tax 'surveys' at BBC offices
PTI file photo

FEBRUARY 17, 2023

NEW DELHI (TIP): Amid the Income Tax 'surveys' at BBC offices that concluded on Thursday, Union Law Minister Kiren Rijiju hit out at those criticizing the move, saying some people trusted foreign news outlets but not Indian investigative agencies, a TNS report says.

Sharing an opinion piece by former Prasar Bharti CEO Shashi Shekhar Vempati, who argued that the outrage over the BBC tax 'survey' was misplaced, he said: "These people trust foreign news agencies but they won't trust Indian agencies. They swear by the BBC but they won't believe Indian courts. They'll even abuse the Supreme Court if one adverse judgment is passed," he tweeted.

Indian-American Republican leader Nikki Haley formally launched her 2024 presidential bid

FEBRUARY 15, 2023

CHARLESTON, SC (TIP): Pitching for a strong and proud America, Indian-origin Republican leader Nikki Haley formally launched her 2024 presidential bid on Wednesday, casting herself as a younger and fresher alternative to the 20th century politicians like her one-time boss and former president Donald Trump.

Haley, 51, is the two-term Governor of South Carolina and the former US Ambassador to the United Nations.

Addressing her enthusiastic supporters at a well-attended event here in South Carolina, she declared: "For a strong America... For a proud America... I am running for President of the United States of America!"

"When America is distracted, the world is less safe... And today, our enemies think the American era has passed. They're wrong. America is not past its prime.

CONTD ON PAGE 36

Republican presidential candidate Nikki Haley speaks to supporters during her speech, in Charleston, S.C., on February 15, 2023.

Photo credit / PTI



Air India relaunches direct flight from New York to Mumbai from JFK Airport, New York



Ambassador Randhir Kumar Jaiswal, Consul General of India at New York, with Mr. Roel Huinink, CEO, JFK Airport, Mr. Sunil Daware, Regional Manager, Americas, Air India and Air India staff, cuts the ribbon to relaunch the direct flight between New York and Mumbai

Photo / Vijay Shah

I.S. SALUJA WITH VIJAY SHAH
FEBRUARY 14, 2023

NEW YORK (TIP): Tata Air India, on February 14, relaunched from JFK airport the direct flight from New York to Mumbai. Impressive ceremonies,

from seeking Lord Ganesha's blessings to the beat of the Maharashtrian Dhol Tasha, to exquisite dances, with the usual ribbon cutting, lamp lighting to cutting of the cake, marked the festive occasion. *contd on page 3*

India organizes special exhibition on millets at UN headquarters

UN Deputy Secretary-General Amina Mohammed delivers her video remarks at the exhibition launch event as Ambassador Ruchira Kamboj, Permanent Representative of India to the UN looks on.

Photo credit / UN News-Sachin Gaur



FEBRUARY 15, 2023

UNITED NATIONS (TIP): India has organized a special exhibition on the millets at the UN headquarters in New York to commemorate the 'International Year of Millets 2023'.

The focus of the exhibition launched on Tuesday, February 14, by India's Permanent Mission to the UN was on the

different kinds of millets grown in India, their nutritional value and health benefits, including information on calorific content.

The exhibition was attended by over a hundred delegates from the UN member states and senior UN officials.

CONTD ON PAGE 36

7-DAY CRUISE ON NORWEGIAN ENCORE
Alaska from Seattle, Washington
May 21 - May 28, 2023

BEST OF ALASKA

Starting from **\$975** per person
Inside cabin (IA)
Limited Cabins Available
Book Now

NORWEGIAN CRUISE LINE

5 PORTS OF CALL
Seattle Washington
Juneau Alaska
Skagway Alaska
Ketchikan Alaska
Victoria British Columbia
Seattle Washington

CALL TODAY FOR MORE INFO 516-690-1257 & 516-988-7593
22 W. Marie Street, Hicksville - 11801

OMNI MORTGAGE CORP.
Residential | Commercial | SBA Loans

Andy Singh
516-441-7000
16 E. Old Country Road
Hicksville, NY 11801

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

E-mail: herman@omnimortgage.com

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

The INDIAN PANORAMA
EVER TRUTHFUL**PRESIDENT/PUBLISHER:**

Prof. Indrajit S. Saluja

VICE PRESIDENT:

Chitagam Saluja

CHIEF EDITOR:

Prof Indrajit S. Saluja

CONSULTING EDITOR :

Deepak Dwivedi Chairman,

Editor-In-Chief

Blitz India Media Group

ASSISTANT EDITOR:

Bidisha Roy

SPL. REPORTER UNO:

H.S. Panaser

GRAPHICS DIRECTOR:

Om Parkash Malik

DIRECTOR**ADMINISTRATION:**

Gauri Beri

CONTRIBUTING**PHOTOGRAPHERS:**

Baldev Singh / BJ Videos

Gunjesh Desai / Masala Junction

Jay Mandal,

Mohammad Jaffer,

SnapIndia

Mohammad Shahzad,

Zia Khan,

Nisha Rani

Vaaho Photographers,

Vijay Shah - Photo Journalist.

CORRESPONDENTS :**SACRAMENTO:**

Parminder S. Aujla

NEW YORK :

Chitagam

FRESNO:

Tarlochan Singh

DALLAS:

Harjit Dhesi, Amarjit Dhillon

OVERSEAS CORRESPONDENTS**LONDON**

Nirpal Singh Shergill

SPL CORRESPONDENT**DELHI BUREAU CHIEF:**

Chandan Singh

CHANDIGARH:

Manjit Sidhu

LUDHIANA:

A.S. Arora,

R.P.Sharma

JAIPUR :

Dr. Yashpaul Goyal

DALLAS BUREAU CHIEF & VP

Lovlien Kaurr

972-330-3139

editor@theindianpanorama.news

The Indian Panorama

P.O. Box No. 190067, South

Richmond Hill, NY 11419,

Tel: 646-247-9458

Email:

editor@theindianpanorama.news

GUEST COMMENT

BBC on Income Tax Radar**PROVE WRONGDOING TO DISPEL NOTION OF VINDICTIVE ACTION**

The Income Tax Department's survey at the offices of the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) in Delhi and Mumbai has not only triggered a war of words between the ruling BJP and the Opposition but also subjected the Indian Government's actions and motives to international scrutiny. The survey, dubbed by some political parties as an assault on the freedom of the Press, comes weeks after UK's national broadcaster telecast a controversial documentary, 'India: The Modi Question', on the 2002 Gujarat riots. The Centre had been quick to dismiss it as a 'propaganda piece' designed to push a 'discredited narrative' and had even tried to restrict access to it. The government had remarked that the BBC's 'bias, lack of objectivity and continuing colonial mindset are

blatantly visible.'

According to the I-T authorities, the survey is aimed at delving deep into issues regarding international taxation and transfer pricing of BBC's subsidiary companies. There are allegations that the broadcaster has been heavily diverting its profits and has dealt evasively with past notices served by the department. With questions being raised about the timing of the survey, I-T officials must thoroughly probe all aspects of the matter; if concrete evidence of any wrongdoing is found, it should be made public at the earliest so as to dispel the notion that this entire operation is vindictive.

The misuse of Central agencies to punish dissenters or detractors is not uncommon in present-day India. At stake here are the country's democratic

credentials, which will take a huge hit if the I-T department is unable to establish a convincing case against the BBC. It's no secret that the British broadcaster has often taken a jaundiced view of post-colonial happenings in the subcontinent; the charges of financial irregularities, if proved, will have a bearing on its credibility and transparency. The developments are significant for Indian media houses too. The I-T survey, in case it is retaliatory, will be construed as a warning to them: remain pliant or face the consequences. The prospect of being targeted by one agency or the other for taking an anti-establishment line has grave implications for journalistic freedom in the country.

(Tribune, India)

Honor of office: On new Governors of States appointed by the Center**THOSE REQUIRED TO STAY AWAY FROM PARTISAN POLITICS IN CURRENT ROLE MUST NOT BE MADE GOVERNORS**

A former judge of the Supreme Court of India and a former Indian Army commander are among the new Governors of States appointed by the Centre on Sunday. The Governors of several States and the Lieutenant-Governor of a Union Territory were also shuffled. In recent years, Governors have sought to play a political role in States such as Jharkhand, Kerala, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal, creating a train of controversies. Judiciary reasons, the roles of the military and the judiciary too are topics of interest, particularly with regard to their relationship with the political executive. The executive government's eagerness to control judicial appointments, besides the debate on the collegium system of judges appointing judges, is evident. It has selectively delayed and accelerated appointments recommended by the

collegium, effectively exercising powers that it does not have in appointing judges. The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has also faced charges of using the armed forces to further its political narratives. Earlier too, retired police and intelligence officers went on to occupy Raj Bhavans, but it was the appointment of a retired Chief Justice of India (CJI) as a Governor in 2014 that created a new precedent. Another retired CJI was nominated to the Rajya Sabha, in 2020, raising eyebrows.

The institution of the Governor is a legacy of the British imperial governance structure. The legitimacy of a nominated Governor in a democracy was the topic of a heated debate in the Constituent Assembly, but it was carried on into the new republic nevertheless. The Governor was to act as a dynamic link between the Centre and the State, but the makers of the Constitution were

clear that the posts must remain ornamental, except in very narrowly defined situations in which they were allowed discretion in decision-making. Over the decades, the overreach of Governors has become a serious question in Centre-State relations and democracy in general. The dominance of the BJP at the Centre since 2014 has added fresh tensions with the States. The BJP has a vision of national unity that causes anxiety among regional interest groups. The office of the Governor was to be embellished by the personalities of those who would occupy it. Opening it as a post-retirement possibility for those who are required to stay aloof from partisan politics in their current roles, lowers the dignity of the offices that they leave behind and what they go on to occupy.

(The Hindu)

DISCLAIMER

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



The Indian Panorama
FOR FREE AT
www.theindianpanorama.news

MAKE YOUR
BRAND ROAR
IN THIS
FEROCIOUS
MARKET



Advertise for as little as
\$10.00.
Call 646-247-9458

Air India relaunches direct flight from New York to Mumbai from JFK Airport, New York



Lighting of the lamp. Ambassador Randhir Kumar Jaiswal, Consul General of India at New York lights the lamp .
Photo / Vijay Shah



Mr. Roel Huinink, CEO, JFK Airport lights the lamp.
Photo / Vijay Shah



Mr. Sunil Daware, Regional Manager, Americas, Air India lights the lamp
Photo / Vijay Shah



Air India New York to Mumbai flight crew poses for a photograph
Photo / Vijay Shah



The Maharashtra Dhol Tasha celebrating the occasion
Photo / Vijay Shah



One of the dance groups
Photo / Vijay Shah

CONTD FROM PAGE 1

Ambassador Randhir Kumar Jaiswal, Consul General of India at New York who was the chief guest, cut the ribbon to inaugurate the relaunch ceremonies in the presence of Mr. Roel Huinink, CEO JFK Airport, Mr. Sunil Daware, Regional Manager (Americas) Air India, Mr. Girish Saliyan, Air India Manager at JFK, Capt. Shomu Sinha, Amarjit Singh, Deputy Manager, JFK, community leaders and Air India staff.

Speaking on the occasion, Ambassador Randhir Kumar Jaiswal thanked the Tata Group-who now owned Air India for relaunching the direct flight from New York to Mumbai which he said, will help the passengers to save time and experience less travel

fatigue.

Mr. Sunil Daware gave a brief history of Air India. The airline came into being in 1932. Bharat Ratna J.R.D Tata founded the airline which was acquired by Government of India in 1953. It is after 70 years that Air India came back to Tata Group on 27th, January 2022 . Tata Group now fully owns Air India. In order to strengthen the fleet, Tata Group has announced purchase of 470 aircraft with Airbus and Boeing, including 260 widebody planes, the largest order ever. Mr. Daware said that soon more direct flights on various routes will be added."

Mr. Roel Huinink said that Air India will now increase traffic at JFK Airport since direct flights are



Ambassador Jaiswal presenting Air India Star award for excellent services to Amarjit Singh, Air India Manager at the JFK airport.
Photo / Vijay Shah



The check-in time

Photo / Vijay Shah



Time to cut the cake and celebrate the relaunch of the flight
Photo / Vijay Shah

going to be added for convenience of travelers. He appreciated the Indian community which he said is very diverse and courageous.

Ambassador Jaiswal, Mr Daware, Mr. Huinink, Capt. Shomu Sinha, Mr. Amarjit Singh, the Air India staff and a few community leaders joined in cake cutting, followed by a breakfast.

**VIGIL HELD FOR MISSING
INDIAN -ORIGIN TEEN TANVI
MARUPALLY**

Search continues for Indian teen Tanvi Marupally, who ran away from her Conway, Arkansas home on Jan 17 fearing deportation if her techie father lost his job.

FEBRUARY 13, 2023

CONWAY, ARKANSAS (TIP): A vigil was held on Saturday, February 11, as search continues for Indian teen Tanvi Marupally, who ran away from her Conway, Arkansas home on Jan 17 fearing deportation if her techie father lost his job.

Hearts were heavy yet hopeful at Saturday's prayer vigil for the 14-year-old girl, media reported. Her family believes at this point she has not returned because, grimly, she may be unable to.

Dozens attended the vigil, which centered around a prayer for Tanvi, her family, and those searching for the girl.

At the vigil, more volunteers were requested in the search for Tanvi. "We are trying to canvas all throughout Conway," Jenny Wallace, who is organizing searches for Tanvi, was quoted as saying.

"We are trying to go through every neighborhood and ask the people to look at their Ring doorbell cameras. It is very important for every bit of footage to be watched because we usually have 30 days before the cameras re-record over them or expire. We are coming up on that timeline," Wallace said.

Tanvi's family was in attendance at the vigil but remained silent. The family reportedly held the hope that Tanvi would make an appearance on Saturday, as she was scheduled to take her ACT. According to her parents, Pavan Roy Marupally and Sridevi Eadara, the girl excelled academically.

Tanvi's parents, according to media reports, believe that their daughter ran away because of the family's tenuous immigration status and the possibility they might be deported.

The girl's parents say even though they've legally lived and worked in the US for many years, hoping and trying to acquire citizenship, the country's immigration system has left them out in the cold.

Tanvi's father, Pavan, works in the tech industry, which has seen a slew of layoffs in recent months. Recent company cuts laid off 10 percent of employees at his company, including a close family friend.

Losing his job would cost Pavan his work visa, which allows the whole family to stay in the US. If that should happen, the family would be given 10 days to leave the country, Pavan said.

(Read full story at
www.theindianpanorama.news)

**Indian American Republican Vivek Ramaswamy
planning to announce 2024 presidential bid**

FEBRUARY 14, 2023

WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP): Indian American Republican and businessman Vivek Ramaswamy is planning to announce his 2024 presidential bid, joining Nikki Haley who is set to launch her campaign on Wednesday.

Ramaswamy, 37, who is a millionaire and has been dubbed by the New Yorker magazine as the "CEO of Anti-Woke Inc.", has, for the time being, embarked on test runs and fact-finding missions in the US State of Iowa where he has been addressing multiple events, according to a media report.

Ramaswamy insisted his trip to Iowa and other prep work he is doing for a potential run are serious, Politico reported on Monday, adding that he said: "this is not a play for attention." He is exploring a run for president, testing, among other things, whether



his warnings about the dangers of 'workerism' and socially responsible investing has political currency with Republican politicians, business leaders and farmers, the report said.

"Ramaswamy doesn't necessarily want to run on his businessman track record. Instead he is planning to launch an ideas-based campaign

focused on revitalizing the American spirit and bringing back a culture of merit into society," it said.

The son of Indian immigrants - his father a General Electric engineer and his mother a geriatric psychiatrist - Ramaswamy was born in Cincinnati. He attended Harvard and Yale universities and is worth reportedly in excess of USD 500 million, enough to seed his campaign through the key early states.

He made his name first by becoming a successful biotech entrepreneur and developing medicines, including five drugs that became FDA-approved.

"I believe that I've developed a vision for American national identity that I have deep conviction for and is the product of my own journey of having lived the gifts that this country has afforded me," he was quoted as saying in the report.

**Indian American employer Ameer Patel
ordered to pay \$69K overtime**

Ameer Patel, owner and operator of three nursing homes in the US state of Michigan, had to pay back \$69,000 to managers who were not paid their overtime.

Photo for representation only

Center and Westwood Nursing Center.

The Department of Labor's Wage and Hour Division recovered the whole amount in back wages and damages owed to 45 managers who worked at these three centers.

It found that Patel paid the managers hourly wages when they worked fewer than 40 hours in the workweek and paid salaried wages when they exceeded 40 hours.

By regularly alternating the managers' status from hourly to salary, Patel voided their claim that the managers were overtime exempt, the investigation found.

"Business operators cannot casually decide to pay workers as salaried in some weeks and hourly in others. By doing so, Ameer Patel clearly violated federal laws by denying workers at her healthcare facilities all their hard-earned pay," Timolin Mitchell, Wage and Hour Division District Director in Detroit, said.

The division assessed and received payment of \$7,938 in civil money penalties for Patel's repeat violations of the Fair Labor Standards Act.

In 2018, federal investigators found that Patel violated overtime regulations when she failed to pay drivers for all their travel and wait times.

In 2015, she failed to pay employees for attending mandatory training.

In total, the division recovered \$17,173 in back wages for 12 Beaconsire Nursing Center employees, \$14,205 in back wages for 21 employees at Westwood Nursing Center and \$3,133 in back wages for 12 employees at Chesaning Nursing Center.

Patel also paid an equal amount in liquidated damages, for a total of \$69,022.

In fiscal year 2022, the Detroit district office recovered nearly \$2.2 million in back wages and liquidated damages for almost 3,000 workers in Eastern Michigan, of which nearly \$500,000 was owed to healthcare workers.

FEBRUARY 10, 2023

MICHIGAN (TIP): An Indian-origin owner and operator of three nursing homes in the US state of Michigan had to pay back \$69,000 to managers who were not paid their overtime, according to a federal investigation.

Ameer Patel owned and ran the operations at Chesaning Nursing Center and Detroit-based Beaconsire Nursing

**INDIAN-ORIGIN SIKHS IN US TOLD TO
SHAVE OR FACE STRICT ACTION,
SLAM CORRECTIONAL AGENCY'S
DISCRIMINATORY BEARD POLICY**

**FEBRUARY 15,
2023**

SACRAMENTO (TIP): Members of the penal law enforcement agency in the US state of California are now required to shave their facial hair, regardless of any religious or medical reasons they may have for keeping it, media reports said, a move civil rights activists say was disproportionately targeting religious minorities like the Sikhs and Black Americans.

The California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) in an order on February 1 said staff members are required to shave facial hair, irrespective of any religious or medical reasons they may have for keeping it.

A CDCR official said the policy change was prompted to comply with the department's Covid-19 safety measures.

According to the American Civil Liberties Union of Northern California and the Sikh Coalition, the new policy would disproportionately target religious minorities like Sikh and Black Americans.

"They've rolled out this blanket, very over-broad policy, that all peace officers must shave to wear N-95s," Harsimran Kaur, Sikh Coalition's senior legal counsel, told media.

"But we know that there are alternative respirators out there that bearded people can wear safely to do their jobs... We think there's a way to keep bearded people safe and not trample on their civil rights," Kaur said.

A US federal court on December 23 last year ruled that the Marines Corps, a part of the US Armed Forces, can't restrict entry to Sikhs with a beard and a turban, according to media reports.



A group of Sikhs protests the correctional agency's discriminatory beard policy

Indian American Neal Mohan set to head YouTube

SUSAN WOJCICKI STEPS DOWN AS CEO OF YOUTUBE

FEBRUARY 17, 2023

NEW YORK (TIP): Indian-American Neal Mohan will be the new YouTube CEO, as current head Susan Wojcicki has announced to step down after 25 years at the Google-owned company.

Currently chief product officer, Mohan became part of Google, the parent company of YouTube, in 2008. He is a Stanford graduate and earlier worked with Microsoft.

Mohan and Wojcicki have worked together for nearly 15 years. He became YouTube's chief product officer in 2015.

"Today, after nearly 25 years here, I've decided to step back from my role as the head of YouTube and start a new chapter focused on my family, health, and personal projects I'm passionate about," Wojcicki said in a blog post late on Thursday.

She has agreed with Sundar Pichai to take on an advisory role across Google and Alphabet. "This will allow me to call on my different experiences over the years to offer counsel and guidance across Google and the portfolio of Alphabet companies," she added.



Neal Mohan was named SVP and new head of YouTube after Susan Wojcicki announced she was stepping down as YouTube's CEO

Wojcicki managed marketing, co-created Google Image Search, led Google's first Video and Book search, as well as early parts of AdSense's creation, worked on the YouTube and DoubleClick acquisitions, served as SVP of Ads, and for the last nine years, was the CEO of YouTube. "I took on each challenge that came my way because it

had a mission that benefited so many people's lives around the world: finding information, telling stories and supporting creators, artists, and small businesses," she noted.

"Mohan will be the SVP and new head of YouTube. I've spent nearly 15 years of my career working with Mohan, first when he came over to Google with the DoubleClick acquisition in 2007 and as his role grew to become SVP of Display and Video Ads," said Wojcicki.

He has set up a top-notch product and UX team, played pivotal roles in the launch of some of the biggest products, including YouTube TV, YouTube Music and Premium and Shorts, and has led the Trust and Safety team.

Mohan ensured that "YouTube lives up to its responsibility as a global platform". "With all we're doing across Shorts, streaming, and subscriptions, together with the promises of AI, YouTube's most exciting opportunities are ahead, and Mohan is the right person to lead us," said Wojcicki.

(Source: IANS)

FOUR INDIAN AMERICANS ELECTED TO NATIONAL ACADEMY OF ENGINEERING



Shorya Awtar, Anirudh Devgan, TS Ramakrishnan, and Anil Sachdev are the four Indian Americans elected to the NAE

FEBRUARY 15, 2023

WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP): Four Indian Americans are among 106 new members elected to the National Academy of Engineering (NAE), while three Indians figure among 18 new international members.

The seven Indian origin engineers - Shorya Awtar, Anirudh Devgan, TS Ramakrishnan, Anil Sachdev, Vikram S Deshpande, Aniruddha B Pandit, and Raman Sujith - and others in the newly elected class will be formally inducted during the NAE's annual meeting on Oct 1, 2023, according to an NAE press release. This brings the total US membership to 2,420 and the number of international members to 319.

Election to the NAE, a private, independent, nonprofit institution that provides engineering leadership in service to the nation, is among the highest professional distinctions accorded to an engineer, according to the release.

Academy membership honors those who have made outstanding contributions to "engineering research, practice, or education, including, where appropriate, significant contributions to the engineering literature" and to "the pioneering of new and developing fields of technology, making major advancements in traditional fields of engineering, or developing/implementing innovative approaches to engineering education."

NAE's mission is to advance the welfare and prosperity of the nation by providing independent advice on matters involving engineering and technology, and by promoting a vibrant engineering profession and public appreciation of engineering, the release said.

Four new Indian American members are: Shorya Awtar, chief executive officer, Parallel Robotics LLC, Ann Arbor, Michigan. For inventing and commercializing game-changing surgical products that have made minimally invasive surgery affordable and accessible around the world.

(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)

NRI BUSINESSMAN FROM KERALA DONATES RS 11 CRORE FOR EARTHQUAKE-HIT TURKEY, SYRIA



NRI businessman from Kerala donates Rs 11 crore for earthquake-hit Turkey, Syria
Photo tweeted by @IANS

FEBRUARY 14, 2023

KOCHI (TIP): UAE-based entrepreneur from Kerala Dr Shamsheer Vayalil, Founder and Chairman of Burjeel Holdings, has donated Rs 11 crore as aid for earthquake-hit Turkey and Syria.

The aid has been handed over to the Emirates Red Crescent that is helping with relief efforts in the region.

The fund will be used to support rescue efforts by providing medicine and other supplies, relocating those who have lost their homes, and rehabilitating victims and their families.

Hundreds of families have been displaced after a 7.8-magnitude earthquake struck the region on February 6, killing more than 34,000 people.

According to the World Health Organization, the natural disaster could affect up to 23 million people.

"This donation is part of our ongoing efforts to provide assistance to the relief work. My heart goes out to all affected by the devastating earthquake, and I hope this contribution will support their needs," said Vayalil who is also the son-in-law of billionaire business magnate M.A. Yusuf Ali.

Vayalil has often contributed to aid efforts in India, including significant contributions to Prime Minister's National Relief Fund.

In 2018, he sent a flight of medical supplies and protective gear to assist Kerala in its efforts to fight the Nipah virus.

He has also launched a rehabilitation and reconstruction project in which a flood-damaged primary health center in the state was rebuilt as a model family health center.

He also joined The Giving Pledge, an initiative created by Microsoft founder Bill Gates and business magnate Warren Buffett to support good causes around the world. (Source: IANS)

Two Indian American girls among "World's Brightest" students

FEBRUARY 10, 2023

MARYLAND (TIP): Two Indian American girls and a boy from New Delhi are among "world's brightest" students selected by the Johns Hopkins Center for Talented Youth (CTY) as part of its 2022 talent search.

Samedha Saxena, 9, Natasha Perianayagam, 13, and Aaryaveer Kochhar, 9, were selected by Baltimore, Maryland based CTY, a gifted education program for school-age children based on the results of above-grade-level tests of over 15,000 students across 76 countries.

Saxena, a Grade 4 student at Battery Park City School in New York City is one of the youngest students to qualify for the CTY global Talent Search Program at the age of 8 in Spring 2022.

Congratulating Saxena on her achievement, CTY Executive Director, Dr Amy Shelton, said, "This is not just recognition of our students' success on one test, but a salute to their love of discovery and learning, and all the knowledge they have accumulated in their young lives so far."

"It is exciting to think about all the ways in which they will use that potential to discover their passions, engage in rewarding and enriching experiences, and achieve remarkable things - in their communities and in the world," Shelton said.

CTY uses above-grade-level testing to identify advanced students from around the world and provide a clear picture of their academic abilities.

Less than 27% of 15,300 students from 76 countries qualified for the CTY ceremony in the 2021-22 Talent Search year, receiving either high or grand honors based on their test scores, according to a university press release.

(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)



Navika group acquires 2 stylish hotels with views of NYC skyline



EnVue, Autograph Collection



Residence Inn Weehawken Port Imperial

PARVEEN CHOPRA
FEBRUARY 15, 2023

UNIONDALE, NY (TIP): Navika Group of Companies has acquired two stylish hotels with magnificent views of the New York City skyline from across the Hudson River. The premier commercial real estate company has added EnVue, Autograph Collection by Marriott and Residence Inn by Marriott, Port Imperial, Weehawken, NJ, to its stable that already boasts iconic hotels like Sheraton Mahwah, Marriott Long Island and

Andaz Wall Street, rebranded as Hyatt Centric Wall Street.

Rated Best of the Best Hotels in NYC, it has a great location, right on the Hudson River across the street from the NY Waterway ferries to NY terminal. Guests can revel in spectacular views of the Hudson River and Manhattan skyline. In fact, as the name signifies, EnVue, Autograph Collection is New York City on exhibit.

Weehawken, NJ was once host to prominent ancestors, infamous

neighbors, and the forefathers' famous duel of 1804. Now, EnVue hotel rises from the revitalized Hudson River waterfront offering a clean slate for new generations to create their own history. You can gather with friends and family for intimate dinners or large, timeless events at Skyline, their 25,000 sq ft adaptable outdoor terrace encircled by NYC's horizon. You can also host a meeting for about 800 attendees inside the WorldVue Ballroom, their most expansive venue. And showcase your vision with their state-of-the-art audiovisual equipment, available in every meeting room. At night sleep well in their well-appointed suites and guest rooms with a host of amenities.

The boutique hotel in Weehawken, NJ is located on the Hudson River with sweeping views of the Manhattan skyline. For those wishing to explore the city that never sleeps, the hotel is just an

effortless ferry ride away from Central Park and Midtown Manhattan.

Spacious and innovative suites come with fully equipped kitchens. Whether you are traveling for business or pleasure, you can enjoy local Jersey hotspots or utilize the hotel's grocery-shopping services and enjoy a night in. Also avail complimentary breakfast buffet and work out at the onsite fitness center.

Headquartered in Uniondale, N.Y., Navika Group possesses a big portfolio of income-producing properties nationwide in the hospitality, leisure and corporate markets, including hotels, office buildings, apartment complexes, shopping centers and golf courses. Its portfolio includes Limited and Full Service Hotels, which are flagged under global brands such as Marriott, Hilton, Intercontinental, Wyndham, and Best Western.

Veer Bal Divas Exhibition- Story of the Martyrdom of the Sahibzadas



FEBRUARY 15, 2023

HICKSVILLE, NY (TIP): A picture exhibition on the martyrdom of the Four Sahibzadas (Sons of the Tenth Master of the Sikhs, Guru Gobind Singh) was on display at Gurdwara Guru Nanak Darbar in Hicksville from February 3 to 12, 2023.



The Consulate General of India in New York provided the pictures and the Gurdwara Guru Nanak Darbar organized the exhibition.

A large number of women, women and children, as is evident from the pictures here, visited the exhibition in the spacious langar hall of the Gurdwara.



Speaking about the Exhibition to The Indian Panorama, Mr. Harcharan Singh Gulati, Gurdwara General Secretary said that the exhibition was extremely educative for children in particular and thanked the Consulate General for lending the pictures . Mr. Gulati thanked Prof. Indrajit Singh Saluja for his initiative in having the exhibition organized. Mr. Gulati thanked the Sikh Sangat who very enthusiastically came to see the exhibition.

Asked if the Gurdwara management planned to organize more such exhibitions, Mr. Gulati said the management was always thinking of ways to educate the younger generation, in particular about the Sikh history and the Sikh faith, and that is why the management organizes Punjabi language, Gurbani, Gurmat and music classes. He added that the management welcomes suggestions from the Sikh sangat for any value addition to Gurdwara services and programs.



Multifaith prayers offered at Mahatma Gandhi's Punya Tithi



The author led a short meditation at multifaith prayers offered at Mahatma Gandhi's Punya Tithi



The welcome note was given by Arvind Vora who was instrumental in getting the Gandhi statue installed in the foyer of the HL Dennison building, the seat of Suffolk County.

PARVEEN CHOPRA
JANUARY 31, 2023

LONG ISLAND, NY (TIP): Is there God? What about the afterlife? There is no conclusive answer or consensus on such questions. So, it is best to change the subject. As we do in ALotusInTheMud.com that I founded recently. In this web magazine, we try to curate content that people can use in their lives to be happier, healthier, productive and peaceful. So too when I was invited by Shanti Fund to do a presentation on my wellness + spirituality webzine at their Gandhi Punya Tithi prayers event on January 30, I skipped the speech and did something else altogether.

The venue of the event co-hosted by Long Island Multi Faith Forum (LIMFF) was the foyer of H L Dennison building, seat of the Suffolk County, where a life size statue of Mahatma Gandhi welcomes you. The 150 strong gathering was multi-religious. Multifaith prayers followed one after the other, Christian, Hindu, Jain, Buddhist, Jewish, Muslim, Sikh, even Zoroastrian, Brahma Kumaris, and Bahai's as well as by an eclectic group called Gathering of Light.

Towards the end of the program when I was given the mike, I gave people the shortest meditation instruction possible: Close your eyes. Choose a short

monosyllabic mantra, or name of your favorite deity or any name of God in your religion. Start repeating that word or mantra softly, mentally only. Continue till the mantra goes away and thoughts arise. When you become aware that you've lost your mantra, return to it gently. Don't fight with thoughts or try to drive them away. It was a brief meditation session, 5-6 minutes only. But suddenly there was pin drop silence, suffused with spirituality. It was nice, some people told me at the vegetarian dinner that followed.

In his welcome note at the event, Arvind Vora, Chairman of LIMFF, mentioned that besides the Punya Tithi another annual event held in memory of Gandhi Ji at this location is the Mahatma's birthday on October 2. Bakul Matalia of Shanti Fund conducted the program which began with the Mahatma's favorite bhajan, 'Vaishnav Jan to Tene Kahiye' (Real devotees of God are those who feel the pain of others, who help those who are in misery but never let ego or conceit enter their mind), by Volunteers of Gayatri Pariwar. Organizers aimed for youth participation to get them exposed to the diversity of different faiths. Indeed, three presentations were made by youths - a Bahai group, Gayatri Gyan Kendra Youth and Look N Learn Jain Gyan Dhama.

What I enjoyed the most was singing, and



A highlight of the program was Chui Chai Dance, from the Thai dramatic and dance repertoire.

drum beat during the Jewish presentation by Cantor Lisa Ann Wharton and Akiva the Believer. They had the audience sing along and clap rhythmically. A highlight of the program was Chui Chai Dance, from the Thai dramatic and dance repertoire. It followed the Buddhist Presentation of Metta Sutta by two Thai monks.

While rooted in your own cultural or religious tradition and yet be able to admire, interact with and learn about others' traditions is what interfaith is - much needed in the multicultural polity and world we are living in.



Parveen Chopra is the founder of ALotusInTheMud.com, a wellness and spirituality web magazine launched recently. He can be contacted at editor@alotusinthemud.com, Ph 5167100508.

ATLAS ROLL OFF CORP.

DISPOSAL SITE

OPEN Monday - Friday 6.30 AM to 4.00 PM
Saturday 6.30 AM to 1.00 PM

For construction Debris,
Demolition & Cleanouts



Located at 895 Essex Street, Brooklyn, NY 11208
Just 5 minutes from JFK

Roll Off Dumpster Service
10, 15, 20, 30 & 40 Yards

Serving all the five boroughs of New York Since 1983
NYC BIC LIC #711

Reasonable low rates ** All major credit cards accepted

718-345-6451



Visit alotusinthemud.com

ALotusinthemud.com is a new wellness + spirituality web magazine. Interactive features include Personality Quiz, Your Space, and Timer to Meditate. Visit regularly and subscribe for free. To support: editor@alotusinthemud.com, Ph: +1 516 710 0508.

Founded by Parveen Chopra, seasoned journalist based in New York.

Post-retirement appointments: a danger to judicial independence



BY
A.P. SHAH

POST RETIREMENT, THE JUDICIAL COMMUNITY SHOULD TAKE A CONCERTED DECISION NOT TO ACCEPT ANY JOB STEMMING FROM POLITICAL PATRONAGE

"JUSTICE Y.V. CHANDRACHUD HAD SAID THAT THE GREATEST DANGER TO THE JUDICIARY LIES WITHIN. MEMBERS OF THE JUDICIARY CANNOT COMPROMISE JUDICIAL INDEPENDENCE BY TRADING IT FOR A PLUM POST-RETIREMENT SINECURE. WHEN ONE BECOMES A JUDGE, ONE SIGNS UP TO FULFIL A PROMISE OF ENSURING A FAIR AND INDEPENDENT JUDICIARY; THIS PROMISE CANNOT BE COMPROMISED AT ANY COST. OUR JUDGES NEED TO BE GENTLY REMINDED OF THIS UNWRITTEN CONTRACT THEY HAVE WITH THE INDIAN PEOPLE."

Within a month of retiring from the Supreme Court of India, Justice S. Abdul Nazeer has been appointed Governor of Andhra Pradesh. Like many others, I believe it is no coincidence that he was a part of the Constitution Bench that decided the Ayodhya Ram Mandir land issue. In the tenure of the Narendra Modi-led government since 2014, he is the third Supreme Court judge who has received a high-profile political appointment soon after retirement, the other two being Justice P. Sathasivam (who was appointed Governor of Kerala), and Justice Ranjan P. Gogoi (who was appointed member of the Rajya Sabha).

These appointments are all signalling on the part of the government, letting the members of the higher judiciary know that they will be suitably rewarded if they issue favorable decisions. Dangling such a proverbial carrot is akin to corrupting the judges, and encouraging a culture of sycophancy even, as we are increasingly seeing among some judges in the apex

court. Worse, this also makes the public have less faith in the judiciary itself. In 1980, Justice V. D. Tulzapurkar had said that "if judges start sending bouquets or congratulatory letters to a political leader on his political victory, eulogizing him on assumption of high office in adulatory terms, the people's confidence in the judiciary will be shaken."

Chipping away at judiciary

While a Governor's position may seem largely ceremonial, it is in fact a squarely political appointment. In any event, this appears to be a part of the ruling party's strategic mission - a long game, if you will - to destabilize the judiciary, chipping away in small and big ways at various aspects of its functioning. If you step back and observe, the judiciary is slowly but surely being subtly weakened.

To be fair, this is not the first government that has ventured so far as to corrupt the judges in this fashion. Congress-led governments, notably under Indira Gandhi and Rajiv Gandhi, have done it too. But it is a cowardly defense that the Opposition party was equally guilty, and past precedent does not justify present transgressions. The larger objective, for any reasonable executive, should be to ensure the independence of the other arms of the governing mechanism, and that democratic values are preserved in all circumstances. However, a conclusively majoritarian mandate can make one heady with power, and compel the exploration of creative ways in which that power can be maintained and consolidated further. This is entirely the case with the Indian government today.

Hypocritical behavior

The government's behavior is also hypocritical for it is deliberately paying no heed to its own manifesto articulated by its late leader, Arun Jaitley, that such post-retirement judicial appointments should be avoided. In fact, 'inducing the judges' by such appointments was a specific allegation directed by the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) against the Congress-led coalition.

The judiciary is no less culpable in this situation. Ideally, I would like to believe that Indian judges are made of stronger stuff, and not ones to be seduced thus. Judges should show moral responsibility and character, as Justice Akil Kureishi most recently did. After being unceremoniously disregarded for elevation, and shoved across the country to various High Courts, upon retirement, he said that the government's stated 'negative perceptions' about him were a 'certificate of independence', and he was leaving the judiciary with 'his pride intact'.

Judges must recognize that handouts from the government, in the form of such political appointments, are not one-way: there is a giver and there is a receiver. The Indian judiciary must distinguish between political favors and other post-retirement employment opportunities.

Demarcation of roles

There needs to be a demarcation between roles where the presence of a judicial authority is clearly valuable and even necessary, such as in a tribunal or a commission, and where it is not. Justice Gogoi, upon his appointment to the Rajya Sabha, had famously proclaimed that he intended to bridge the gap between



Justice S. Abdul Nazeer

Photo Credit/ The Hindu

the judiciary and the legislature, but his attendance record and public participation in parliamentary affairs suggest nothing of the sort. Similarly, Justice Sathasivam had said he had wanted to serve the people in his role as Governor, but surely, he could have achieved the same objective through other appointments, that would be more befitting of someone who had held the office of the Chief Justice of India.

Ideally, the judicial community should take a concerted decision on this, say, in the Chief Justices' conference. The plenary should agree that judges should not take up any appointments upon retirement stemming from political patronage (with the nature of such appointments being clearly defined). Additionally, a cooling period of about two years should be considered a mandatory minimum before a judge agrees to take on any post-retirement adjudicatory role, in any case.

Justice Y.V. Chandrachud had said that the greatest danger to the judiciary lies within. Members of the judiciary cannot compromise judicial independence by trading it for a plum post-retirement sinecure. When one becomes a judge, one signs up to fulfil a promise of ensuring a fair and independent judiciary; this promise cannot be compromised at any cost. Our judges need to be gently reminded of this unwritten contract they have with the Indian people.

(A.P. Shah is former Chief Justice, Delhi High Court and Former Chairperson, Law Commission of India)

ADANI ISSUE PUTS OPPOSITION UNITY TO TEST

THE OPPOSITION CANNOT FUNCTION AS A COHESIVE ENTITY SPORADICALLY, ESPECIALLY A YEAR BEFORE THE NEXT LOK SABHA POLLS, IF IT IS TO TAKE ON THE BJP/NDA. BRINGING THE PARTIES TOGETHER INTO A FRONT SEEMS IMPOSSIBLE NOW BECAUSE IT ENTAILS SWAPS AND TRADE-OFFS, WHICH THE CONGRESS IS NOT WILLING TO TRANSACT WITH THE REGIONAL FORCES.

"APART FROM ASSAILING MODI FOR HIS ALLEGED NEPOTISM, THE OPPOSITION PICKED ON THE MONEY INVESTED BY THE LIFE INSURANCE CORPORATION OF INDIA AND THE STATE BANK OF INDIA - TWO TRADITIONAL SOURCES OF FINANCIAL SECURITY FOR THE MIDDLE CLASS - IN THE ADANI GROUP AS EXAMPLES OF 'CRONYISM' AT THE COST OF JEOPARDIZING THE INTERESTS OF THE VULNERABLE SALARIED SECTIONS. THE STRESS ON THE MIDDLE CLASSES WAS SIGNIFICANT, CONSIDERING THAT THEY FORMED A STRONG SUPPORT BASE OF THE BJP. INDEED, THE UNION BUDGET WAS BILLED AS A BONANZA FOR THE MIDDLE-INCOME GROUPS. IT HAS TO BE SEEN IF THE CONGRESS AND THE OPPOSITION SUSTAIN THE MOMENTUM THEY GENERATED IN PARLIAMENT IN THE INTERREGNUM BEFORE THE NEXT LEG OF THE BUDGET SESSION."



The voice of the opposition in front of the "temple of democracy"

Bofors was the last major financial shell game with profound implications for the country's security to shake up and eventually unseat a powerful ruling party, the Congress, and its leader Rajiv Gandhi. The over three years between the signing of the Rs 1,437-crore deal on March 24, 1986, with AB Bofors, a Swedish arms manufacturer, for the supply of 400 155-mm Howitzer guns for the Army and the Congress's downfall in November 1989 were bestrewn with dramatic developments which foreshadowed the denouement.

On April 16, 1987, a Swedish radio channel alleged that kickbacks were paid to sweeten the deal. That was enough of a spur to an Opposition - that had been squeezed into one corner of the Lok Sabha after the Congress earned a record mandate in the 1984 elections - to go for the jugular with whatever resources it had. The Opposition persistently clamored for a joint parliamentary committee (JPC) to investigate the charges.

Then Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi was unyielding to begin with and on April 20, 1987, he informed Parliament that no bribes were paid and no middlemen were involved. On August 6, 1987, the government relented and set up a JPC under former Union minister B Shankaranand. In February 1988, Indian investigators landed in Sweden to probe the issue. On July 18, 1989, the JPC submitted its findings. Soon thereafter, the CAG drilled the final nail in the Bofors coffin, questioning the process of selection and purchase of the gun. The last straw for Rajiv Gandhi came when Opposition MPs, including those from the BJP and the Left, resigned en masse, prompting Socialist leader Madhu Dandavate to indulge in

hyperbole. "Now we need Comrade Vajpayee and Pandit Namboodiripad to work together to oust Rajiv," Dandavate remarked.

It is useful to chronicle the Bofors saga from a political perspective because the events proved that even a thundering popular mandate could wound a party irreparably and claim its leader. Maybe 1989 was a black swan event, like that of Indira Gandhi's ouster in 1977.

The Congress and Rahul Gandhi tried hard to implicate the Narendra Modi government in the purchase of 36 Rafale multi-role fighter aircraft from French manufacturer Dassault Aviation before the 2019 elections, but the charge of receiving huge bribes came unstuck. The Congress stood isolated in its campaign against Modi because there were no takers in the Opposition.

There are harbingers that the Gautam Adani-Hindenburg issue - which principally concerns the alleged and overt patronage extended by the Modi government to Ahmedabad-based industrialist Adani whose spectacular rise and entry into the global club of who's who provoked the West's attention, interest and investigation - could regroup the Opposition in Parliament.

Two factors have apparently catalyzed the situation. One, even regional parties that were considered 'pro-Centre' and 'pro-Modi', notably the Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS), find themselves pitted on their turfs against a rejuvenated BJP. In Telangana, for example, the BRS has Modi as its principal adversary and not a regional BJP leader or the Congress even in the Assembly election this year. Likewise, Mamata Banerjee, no friend of the BJP, is pitted against Modi in West Bengal. As much as Rahul and the



BY RADHIKA
RAMASESHAN

Congress, provincial leaders, too, have looked for an opportune moment to corner Modi and they believe that the Adani case has given them the context to launch a campaign against the PM.

Two, Rahul Gandhi, in a vastly amended - and some say refurbished - version of his old self after his Bharat Jodo Yatra, played his cards in Parliament tactfully. He ensured that Congress president and Rajya Sabha Opposition leader M Mallikarjun Kharge mobilized the Opposition parties before and during the now-adjourned Parliament session and stayed in the background so that nobody could call him an 'entitled legatee'. However, he articulated the Congress's views on Adani-BJP in his speech in the Lok Sabha and asked searing questions on the businessman's alleged close relations with Modi that went unanswered. It appeared as though the Opposition, including the BRS and the Aam Aadmi Party, otherwise antagonistic towards the Congress, was happy to pass the baton of the attack on the BJP and Modi to Rahul. There were no suggestions that Rahul was feckless and inattentive towards Parliament. Of course, the question of allowing the Congress and him to helm an Opposition front closer to 2024 is another matter and one riddled with complications.

Apart from assailing Modi for his alleged nepotism, the Opposition picked on the money invested by the Life Insurance Corporation of India and the State Bank of India - two traditional sources of financial security for the middle class - in the Adani group as examples of 'cronyism' at the cost of jeopardizing the interests of the vulnerable salaried sections. The stress on the middle classes was significant, considering that they formed a strong support base of the BJP. Indeed, the Union Budget was billed as a bonanza for the middle-income groups. It has to be seen if the Congress and the Opposition sustain the momentum they generated in Parliament in the interregnum before the next leg of the Budget session.

The Opposition cannot function as a cohesive entity sporadically, especially a year before the next Lok Sabha polls, if it is to take on the BJP/NDA. The endeavor of bringing the parties together into a front seems impossible right now because it entails swaps and trade-offs, which the Congress is not willing to transact with the regional forces.

The outcome of the elections that follow this year will demonstrate if the political messaging from the Adani controversy has percolated down to people the country over or if Modi and the BJP have retained popular goodwill and support.

(The author is a senior journalist)

Between BBC, Boeing and Airbus, PM Modi sets terms of engagement with the West

MODI HAS REPEATEDLY REFERRED TO THREE DS - DEMOCRACY, DEMAND, AND DEMOGRAPHY - AS FACTORS THAT MAKE INDIA AN ATTRACTIVE PLACE FOR THE WEST TO ENGAGE AND DO BUSINESS WITH



BY VARGHESE K
GEORGE

"MR. MODI HAS REPEATEDLY REFERRED TO THREE DS - DEMOCRACY, DEMAND, AND DEMOGRAPHY - AS FACTORS THAT MAKE INDIA AN ATTRACTIVE PLACE FOR THE WEST TO ENGAGE AND DO BUSINESS WITH. WHEN MR. MODI BEGAN TALKING ABOUT 3D IN 2014, THE U.S. WAS HAPPILY DOING BUSINESS WITH CHINA. IN THE YEARS THAT FOLLOWED, U.S. RELATIONS WITH CHINA NOSEDIVED, AND RUSSIA INVADED UKRAINE. THE BIDEN ADMINISTRATION NOW WANTS TO FRAME INTERNATIONAL POLITICS AS A FUNDAMENTAL IDEOLOGICAL CLEFT BETWEEN DEMOCRACY AND AUTOCRACY."

As it happened, on the same day the Tata Group-owned Air India announced orders for 470 aircraft from American manufacturer Boeing and French manufacturer Airbus, Indian Income Tax authorities dropped by at the offices of the BBC. Just as Prime Minister Narendra Modi spoke about deepening strategic partnerships with the U.S. and France, BJP functionaries, including Union ministers, accused the BBC of running an anti-India agenda with the support of Opposition parties. Mr. Modi had French President Emmanuel Macron on a video call, and U.S. President Joe Biden on an audio call to celebrate the aircraft deal, while U.K. Prime Minister Rishi Sunak, whose country is also a beneficiary of the deal in which Rolls-Royce will be making the engines for Airbus aircraft, tweeted out

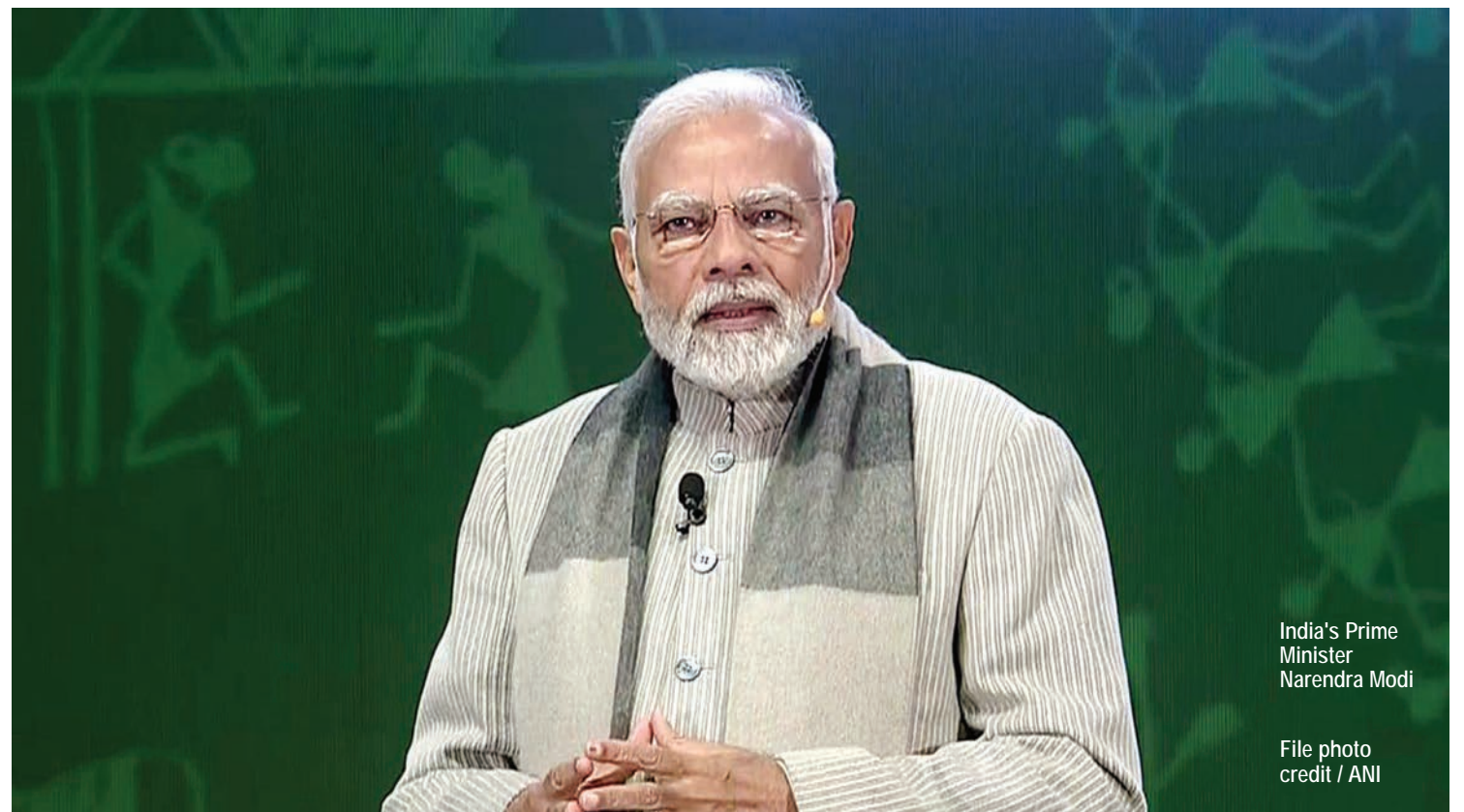
his ebullience. All this taken together reflects the terms of engagement that Mr. Modi wants to set with the West - a "Hindutva strategic doctrine" for India's engagement with the world.

Mr. Modi has repeatedly referred to three Ds - Democracy, Demand, and Demography - as factors that make India an attractive place for the West to engage and do business with. When Mr. Modi began talking about 3D in 2014, the U.S. was happily doing business with China. In

said, according to a White House release." This announcement also reflects the strength of the U.S.-India economic partnership. Together with Prime Minister Modi, I look forward to deepening our partnership even further as we continue to confront shared global challenges." According to Mr. Sunak, the aircraft order will create "better-paid jobs and new opportunities in manufacturing hubs from Derby to Wales," which will help the U.K. to "grow

foreign agent that is working with an anti-India agenda. That is a familiar logic for western democracies actually. The U.S. and EU have imposed a range of restrictions on Russian media on the same grounds.

The Modi government had reminded the Biden administration of the rioters at Capitol Hill when it was questioned about police action against protesting farmers running amok in New Delhi, in January 2021. There are many



India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi

File photo credit / ANI



the years that followed, U.S. relations with China nosedived, and Russia invaded Ukraine. The Biden administration now wants to frame international politics as a fundamental ideological cleft between democracy and autocracy.

On Tuesday, Mr. Modi invited western companies to use the opportunities of India's expanding civil aviation market. On the first D, western governments murmur occasional protests, but they cannot hide their excitement when it comes to the second D. The Air India order was Boeing's third largest sale of all time, in dollar value, and it is second of all time in quantity.

"This purchase will support over 1 million American jobs across 44 states, and many will not require a four-year college degree," U.S. President Joe Biden

the economy and support our agenda to level up". Mr. Macron was described by Mr. Modi as a friend, and both hailed the "strategic partnership" between the two countries. The lure of the Indian market, powered by its demography, seems stronger than that of the second D - Democracy.

While the British government has so far remained silent on IT action on BBC, U.S. State Department Spokesperson Ned Price did not want to make a judgment other than declaring the importance of free media in a democracy. On whether the action went against democratic values, Mr. Price said, "I couldn't say. We're aware of the facts of these searches, but I'm just not in a position to offer a judgment." The BJP's position is that the BBC is not free media, but a

contradictions in the narrative about a global contest between democracies and autocracies, and the turmoil within democratic countries is significant, undermining any claims of western superiority on this front.

The Hindutva strategic doctrine seeks western support and cooperation for its nationalist ambitions. Hence, western technology and investment are solicited, but there is stiff resistance to western prescriptions on domestic political questions. On the other side, when required to choose between a tangible commercial opportunity and an abstract moral objective, western governments have never been confused.

Varghese K George is a winner of the RNG Journalist of the Year and the Prem Bhatia Award for Excellence in Political Journalism.

ATTENTION
STUDENTS



BE A PART OF THE CELEBRATION OF
INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF MILLETS - 2023
AND PARTICIPATE IN

ESSAY WRITING COMPETITION

ON
MILLETS : HEALTHWISE AND WATERWISE



YOU CAN WRITE UPTO 250 WORDS
AGE LIMIT 12 YRS - 18 YRS

Submission ends on
28/Feb/2023

> Open to all NRI/ PIOS & US Nationals who fall under CGI, NY jurisdiction.

> Entries must be sent in PDF format with all the following details clearly mentioned on the top right corner : NAME, DATE OF BIRTH, EMAIL & MAILING ADDRESS

WIN
APPLE PRODUCTS
AND
EXCITING
GIFT VOUCHERS!



@indiannewyork

US LAUNCHES ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE MILITARY USE INITIATIVE

US DECLARATION HAS 12 POINTS, INCLUDING THAT MILITARY USES OF AI ARE CONSISTENT WITH INTERNATIONAL LAW



"As a rapidly changing technology, we have an obligation to create strong norms of responsible behavior concerning military uses of AI", said Bonnie Jenkins, the State Department's under secretary for arms control and international security

FEBRUARY 16, 2023

THE HAGUE (TIP): The United States launched an initiative on Thursday promoting international cooperation on the responsible use of artificial intelligence and autonomous weapons by militaries, seeking to impose order on an emerging technology that has the potential to change the way war is waged, an AP report says.

"As a rapidly changing technology, we

have an obligation to create strong norms of responsible behavior concerning military uses of AI and in a way that keeps in mind that applications of AI by militaries will undoubtedly change in the coming years," Bonnie Jenkins, the State Department's under secretary for arms control and international security, said.

She said the US political declaration, which contains non-legally binding guidelines outlining best practices for responsible military use of AI, "can be a focal point for international cooperation."

Jenkins launched the declaration at the end of a two-day conference in The Hague that took on additional urgency as advances in drone technology amid the Russia's war in Ukraine have accelerated a trend that could soon bring the world's first fully autonomous fighting robots to the battlefield.

The US declaration has 12 points, including that military uses of AI are consistent with international law, and that states "maintain human control and involvement for all actions critical to informing and executing sovereign decisions concerning nuclear weapons employment." Zachary Kallenborn, a George Mason University weapons innovation analyst who attended the Hague conference, said the US move to take its approach to the international

stage "recognizes that there are these concerns about autonomous weapons. That is significant in and of itself."

Kallenborn said it was also important that Washington included a call for human control over nuclear weapons "because when it comes to autonomous weapons risk, I think that is easily the highest risk you possibly have."

Underscoring the sense of international urgency around AI and autonomous weapons, 60 nations, including the US and China, issued a call for action at the Hague conference urging broad cooperation in the development and responsible military use of artificial intelligence.

"We are in time to mitigate risks and to prevent AI from spiraling out of control, and we are in time to prevent AI from taking us to a place we simply don't want to be," Dutch Foreign Minister Wopke Hoekstra said.

The call to action issued in the Netherlands underscored "the importance of ensuring appropriate safeguards and human oversight of the use of AI systems, bearing in mind human limitations due to constraints in time and capacities." The participating nations also invited countries "to develop national frameworks, strategies and principles on responsible AI in the

military domain."

Military analysts and artificial intelligence researchers say the longer the nearly year-long war in Ukraine lasts, the more likely it becomes that drones will be used to identify, select and attack targets without help from humans.

Ukraine's digital transformation minister, Mykhailo Fedorov, told The Associated Press in a recent interview that fully autonomous killer drones are "a logical and inevitable next step" in weapons development. He said Ukraine has been doing "a lot of R&D in this direction".

Ukraine already has semi-autonomous attack drones and counter-drone weapons endowed with AI. Russia also claims to possess AI weaponry, though the claims are unproven. But there are no confirmed instances of a nation putting into combat robots that have killed entirely on their own.

Russia was not invited to attend the conference in The Hague.

China's ambassador to the Netherlands Tan Jian did attend and said Beijing has sent two papers to the United Nations on regulating military AI applications, saying the issue "concerns the common security and the well-being of mankind, which requires the united response of all countries," he said.

Indian Community celebrates Black History Month

FEBRUARY 15, 2023

CONCORD, NC (TIP): As part of celebrating Feb 2023 as Black History Month, HSS (Hindu Swamyamsevak Sangh) Concord (North Carolina) chapter organized an event on Sunday, February 5th with



Speaking at the well-attended event that included men, women and several young kids, Willie Fleming (Founder & President, IMC-International Minority Coalition) said that the Indian community celebrating Black History Month and recognizing the struggles of the African American community is a great step forward. He said that 'Unity is Strength' and this synergy should continue in future and both communities should work on issues of common interest to build a strong and united society.

Shante' Burke-Hayer (District Court Judge, District 26) the youngest District Court judge in the Mecklenburg County said that Black History Month in the legal realm would take her back to Thurgood Marshall (First African American Supreme Court Justice) and to Ketanji

Brown Jackson (African American Supreme Court Justice) as she stands on their shoulders and fight for the rights of all; especially the under-privileged communities in the legal world. Judge Shante thanked the organizers for extending the Black History Month event invite and appealed for unity to solve issues the community is facing.



Speaking on the occasion Tony Forman (Senior Member, IMC) who works with the Race and Relations committee in Mecklenburg County said that his roots are from Dominican Republic and Latino community and faced similar conditions like the African American community. He said that Black History month should not be a one-month event, but it should be practiced year long as it represents the hope that we can surmount any big challenge if we all come together.

David Hughes (Senior Member, IMC) and a Deacon from Greater Providence Baptist Church mentioned that many churches celebrate Black History Month to recognize the struggles the community



went through. During the times of slavery even church services were done secretly in the woods after sundown shows

the conditions that prevailed during those times and how the community faced and overcame the challenges, representing hope for future generations.



Resha Fortson (Political Coordinator SEIU-Service Employees International Union) said that SEIU is one of the largest employee unions in the country with a few million members. SEIU helps organize workers to give them a voice in the community. She said, it is important for employees of color to be organized at work to make sure their voice is heard and ensure all the doors are open for them as many of them come from under-privileged communities. Resha thanked the Indian community for inviting African American community leaders

and celebrating Black History Month.

Anitha Rajan (President, Framework for Future) said that her organization is a non-profit that provides a platform for youth to enhance their leadership skills. Coming together of Indian, African American, and Latino leaders to celebrate Black History Month is great progress. By working together, we can address the issues our communities face and make the world a better place.



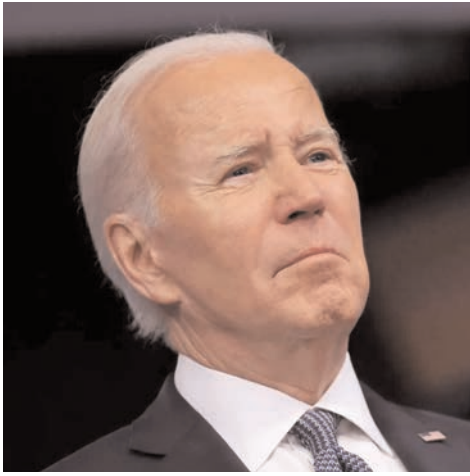
To conclude Aravind Modini (HSS Volunteer, Outreach team) thanked all the participating community leaders and said that it was an honor to have to have them on one platform. The Hindu/Indian community believes in Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam (World is One Big Family) and so many leaders from different communities coming together to celebrate Black History Month truly reflects that spirit and this synergy should continue in future to positively impact the community.

The program ended with organizers from HSS thanking the community leaders for joining them to celebrate Black History Month and pledged to work together in future.

(Based on a press release)

Biden reconstitutes his national economic team, retains Indian-American Bharat Ramamurti

LAEL BRAINARD WILL NOW SERVE AS DIRECTOR OF NATIONAL ECONOMIC COUNCIL AND JARED BERNSTEIN IS BEING NOMINATED AS CHAIR OF COUNCIL OF ECONOMIC ADVISERS



President Joe Biden

File photo

FEBRUARY 16, 2023

WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP): US President Joe Biden has reconstituted his national economic team at the White House but has retained Indian-

American adviser Bharat Ramamurti who has been with him since day one of his presidency.

Lael Brainard will now serve as Director of the National Economic Council and Jared Bernstein is being nominated as Chair of the Council of Economic Advisers, the White House said Tuesday.

Ramamurti would continue to serve as Deputy Director of the National Economic Council and as an Adviser for Strategic Economic Communications, the White House said, reflecting that the president has kept him as part of his core team.

Biden also named Heather Boushey, who currently serves as a Member of the Council of Economic Advisers, to also serve as Chief Economist to the Invest in America Cabinet.

He named Joelle Gamble, who currently serves as Chief Economist at

the Department of Labor to be Deputy Director of the National Economic Council, according to a White House statement.

"Along with Bharat, Heather, Joelle and other key members of my White House economic team, Lael and Jared will help bring a seriousness of purpose to the task of building a strong, inclusive, and more resilient economy for the future," Biden said in a statement.

"Over the past two years, my economic strategy has delivered historical results for the American people. This team will be committed to implementing that strategy while managing the transition of our historic economic recovery to steady and stable growth. They will work tirelessly to ensure every American enjoys a fair return for their work and an equal chance to get ahead, and that our businesses can thrive and

outcompete the rest of the world. Let's finish the job," Biden said.

In December 2020, then as the president-elect, Biden appointed Ramamurti as Deputy Director for the National Economic Council for Financial Reform and Consumer Protection.

Previously he was the Managing Director of the Corporate Power programme at the Roosevelt Institute. In April, he was appointed to serve on the Congressional Oversight Commission for the CARES Act by Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer.

Ramamurti was the top economic adviser to Senator Elizabeth Warren during her 2020 presidential campaign and senior counsel for banking and economic policy in her Senate office. Born in Massachusetts, Ramamurti graduated from Harvard College and Yale Law School. (Source: PTI)

Nikki Haley has all credentials to be next US President: eminent Indian Americans

FEBRUARY 16, 2023

WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP): Several eminent Indian-Americans believe that Republican leader Nikki Haley, who launched her White House bid, has great credentials and leadership skills to be the next president of the US.

Haley, 51, formally launched her 2024 presidential bid on Wednesday, casting herself as a younger and fresher alternative to the 20th century politicians like her one-time boss and former president Donald Trump.

"Nikki Haley comes with great credentials, as governor of South Carolina and with foreign policy experience as US Ambassador to the United Nations," M R Rangaswami, founder of Indiaspora told PTI.

Haley, a former two-term governor of South Carolina, is the third Indian American to have launched a presidential bid. The other two are Bobby Jindal in 2016 and Kamala Harris in 2020. Harris is now the Vice President of the country.

"It is gratifying to see the rise of Indian Americans in the Republican Party, mirroring their prominence on the Democratic side," Rangaswami told PTI.

"She (Haley) represents the majority of the middle. She is not extreme either. The way she ran South Carolina was



Nikki Haley who announced her presidential bid is getting a lot of support from the Indian American community. File photo

amazing," said Raj Vasudeva, from South Columbia who has known her for more than 30 years now.

Vasudeva and his wife both were present at the formal launch of the presidential campaign. We believe in her. She has got a great heart and a great head. We believe she can bring both sides together," he said.

"I think she would do great things for the country," Vasudeva told

PTI.

Dr Anil Yallapragada, who grew up in South Carolina and has lived in South Carolina for the past three decades along with his parents, said Haley is an extraordinary and special person.

"I believe South Carolina has a lot to do with her success in terms of the environment," he said.

Describing Haley as "a highly talented and gifted leader" Dr Yallapragada said that her leadership would take the country to a new level and unite its people. "The (Indian American) community is proud of her. She represents the best and brightest of us," he said. "She is a great human being," he said. "We want the best person for the job to run the country. There are very few people who are prepared to be the president of the country. She is one of them," Dr Yallapragada told PTI. (Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)

India-US ties deeper with announcement of Air India-Boeing deal: US

FEBRUARY 16, 2023

WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP): The mega commercial plane deal between Air India and Boeing is an opportunity to deepen an already profoundly intertwined relationship between India and the United States, the US said Wednesday, February 15.

"It's an opportunity to deepen what is already a profoundly intertwined relationship based on shared interests, based on shared values, based on our deep economic ties. And

with the announcements between Boeing and Air India yesterday, those ties are all the deeper," State Department Spokesperson Ned Price told reporters at his daily news conference.

The "landmark" Air India-Boeing deal, according to US President Joe Biden, will create up to 1 million jobs across 44 states in the US.

"It is something that we've heralded. It is an opportunity not only for the American economy and for workers here in this country, but it's an opportunity for the Indian people as well," Price said in response to a question, a day after the historic airplane deal between the two countries.

"The United States is engaged around the world - not just in India but around the world - in what we refer to as commercial diplomacy, seeking to find



"With the announcements between Boeing and Air India, the ties between the US and India are all the deeper," State Department Spokesperson Ned Price told reporters at his daily news conference.

concrete, tangible, practical ways to deepen our economic ties with countries around the world in a way that benefits the American people back here at home," he said.

"I think the agreement that was announced yesterday between Boeing and Air India is a vivid example of that - the number of jobs it creates here, the number of opportunities it creates in India, and the possibility it provides to deepen that partnership even further," Price said.

On Tuesday, Air India announced its agreement to purchase 190 Boeing 737 MAXs, 20 Boeing 787s, and 10 Boeing 777Xs - a total of 220 firm orders valued at a list price of USD34 billion which will support more than one million American jobs across 44 states, many of which will not require a four-year college degree.

"I'm very happy to learn of this new piece of the robust US-India economic partnership. Strengthening the ties that bind our nations, the world's oldest democracy and its largest, will support American jobs while bringing greater security and prosperity to both our citizens and the wider world," Indian-American Congressman Raja Krishnamoorthi said in a separate statement.

(Source: PTI)

India in history this Week

FEBRUARY 17, 2023, TO FEBRUARY 23, 2023

17 FEBRUARY

1915 Gandhiji visited Santiniketan for the first time.
1931 Lord Irwin welcomed Gandhiji to the Viceroy's residence.
2007 Veteran Gandhian Smt. Arunaveen Desai passed away in Gujarat.

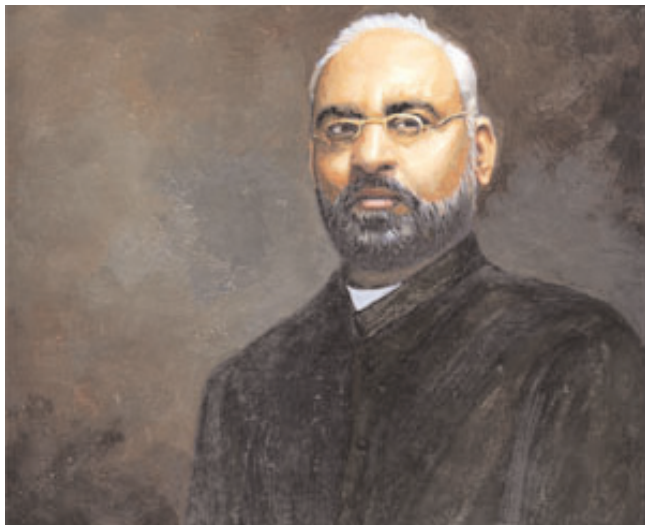


2014 On 17 February 2014, the Election Commission banned the transmission of exit polls until the last phase of voting was over.

18 FEBRUARY



2007 68 people were killed in bomb blast in the Samjhauta Express going from Delhi to Lahore.
1905 Shyamji Krishnavarma founded the India Home Rule Society in London in 1905.



1911 In 1911, the first delivery of the aircraft by air was done in India.
1964 The Royal Indian Navy (Navy) rebellion occurred in 1946 in Mumbai.
1971 India established its first satellite contact with Britain in 1971 through the Arvi satellite station.
1979 The US gave India a check of Rs 1664 crore in 1979, which is considered to be the largest check in the world.

19 FEBRUARY

1891 Daily publication of Amrit Bazar Patrika started.



1630 Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj, the first ruler of the Maratha Empire, was born.
1389 In 1389, Sultan Ghiyasuddin Tughlaq II of Delhi was assassinated.
1986 In 1986, the first computerized railway reservation ticket was introduced in India.

20 FEBRUARY

1987 Mizoram, India's northeastern state got the status of 23rd state. It was a part of the state of Assam before it became a union territory.
1983 A large-scale violence erupted before the assembly elections to be held in the north eastern state of Assam. It also led to the death of 600 people.
1968 The first heart transplant was done in 1968 at KEM Hospital in Mumbai.
1950 In 1950, Sharat Chandra Bose, the elder brother of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose, passed away.



1999 Prime Minister of India Atal Bihari Vajpayee took a historic bus tour of Pakistan in 1999.
1999 The sports channel started on Doordarshan in 1999.
1987 Arunachal Pradesh and Mizoram became the 23rd and 24th states of India in 1987.
1986 Himachal Pradesh became the 24th state of the Indian Union in 1986.

21 FEBRUARY

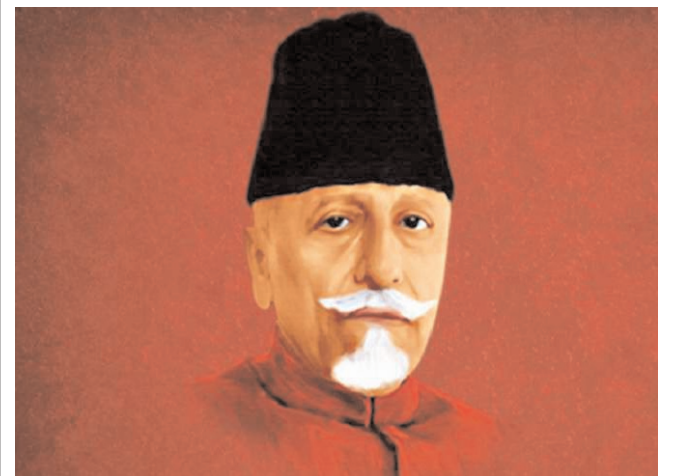
1996 Birth of great poet and writer Suryakant Tripathi Nirala in 1896.
1959 Press Club of India established in 1959 in New Delhi.
1999 Former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee and former Pakistan Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif signed the Lahore Declaration in 1999.

2008 On February 21, 2008, Anil Ambani's Anupam Global Soft was acquired by Reliance Communication.
2008 Private Airlines Jet Airways entered into a strategic alliance with Air Canada on 21 February 2008.
2013 A series of bomb blasts took place in Hyderabad on February 21, 2013, in which around 17 people died and 119 were badly injured.

22 FEBRUARY



1944 Mahatma Gandhi's wife Kasturba Gandhi died.
1958 Maulana Abul Kalam Azad, the country's first Education Minister, died.



1845 The East India Company bought Serampore and Balasore from the Dutch East India Company in 1845.
1999 India's popular economist Jagdish Bhagwati was appointed as the head of the Center for Indian Politics Economy in Columbia on February 22, 1999.
2006 Japan prohibited imports of all poultry products, including meat and eggs, from India in 2006.

23 FEBRUARY

2006 In 1952, the Employees Provident Fund and Miscellaneous Provisions Act was passed.
2010 India's famous painter MF Hussain was granted citizenship of Qatar in 2010.





Indian American Forum

SUN, MARCH 5th, 2023 at 5PM

12th Women's Achievements Awards Gala

METROPOLITAN

3 Pratt Blvd.,
Glen Cove



\$100

Per Person

This program is a part of the National Women's History Month Celebrating Women of Character, Courage, Commitment and Accomplishments.

Advertise In Our Souvenir Journal All Donations Are Tax Deductible
Back / Front Inside Cover Page \$1000.00 Full Page \$ 500.00

Presented By: Indian American Forum Inc.

Bobby K. Kalotee, Founder - Friends For Good Health

Chairperson Indu Jaiswal (516) 248-7241

Gala Chair Shammi Singh (917) 862-1313

Chandni Kaur (516) 476-1003

Flora Parekh (631) 875-4612

Manu Gulati (516) 795-1588

Manj Goswamy (516) 731-5250

Pinky Rangi (516) 984 5859

Inesha Joneja (917) 744-6665

Roopam Maini (516) 302-5185

Ratna Bhalla (516) 965-8667

Beena Kothari (631) 988-1280

Jyoti Gupta (516) 984-5200

Nirmala Rametra (631) 269-5144

Dr. Meena Jaiswal (516) 858-5392

Dr. Urmillesh Arya (516) 606-2014

Rohini Singh (516) 512-3576

Vandana Govil (516) 314-5927

Mohinder Taneja (516) 840-7968



Lt Gen MVS Kumar, Vice Chief of Army Staff

Lt Gen MVS Kumar is new Army Vice Chief

The government has approved three major appointments in the Army. Lt Gen MV Suchindra Kumar is the new Vice Chief of Army Staff, and the Central and South Western commands – one facing China and the other Pakistan – have got new commanders.

Lt General Kumar replaces Lt Gen BS Raju, who has been appointed as the Jaipur-headquartered South Western Command chief.

Lt Gen NSR Subramani has been posted as the Central Command chief in Lucknow. He is at present serving as the Chief of Staff at the headquarters of the Northern Command in Udhampur. The appointments will come into effect on March 1. Lt General Kumar, an alumnus of National Defence Academy, Khadakwasla, was commissioned into 1 Assam Regiment in June 1985. He has commanded 59 Rashtriya Rifles Battalion, an Infantry Brigade and an Infantry Division along the Line of Control.

Lt General Kumar has also commanded the highly active White Knight Corps. He has held the posts of Additional Director General Military Intelligence and Director General Military Intelligence at the Army Headquarters.

Lt Gen BS Raju was commissioned into the 11th Battalion of the Jat Regiment in December 1984. He later commanded his battalion during 'Operation Parakram' in Jammu and Kashmir.

He also holds the distinction of commanding the Uri Brigade along the Line of Control and Chinari Corps in the Kashmir valley. *Source: TNS*

Tripura election: 81% voter turnout recorded, EC says polls 'largely violence-free'

NEW DELHI (TIP)

The tentative voter turnout for the 60-member Tripura Assembly today was recorded at 81% with the final figures to be known only by Friday, February 17, the Election Commission of India (ECI) said.

The polling passed off "largely violence-free", the commission said, adding that eligible Bru migrant voters, displaced from Mizoram 26 years ago due to ethnic trouble, were able to exercise their franchise for the first time in the state.

Poll panel officials said no major complaints had been received so far by the ECI. "There have been no reports of any major violence or attack on candidates or (polling) agents or intimidation of voters. As against 168 repolls in the state in the 2019 Lok Sabha polls, today's poll for 60 Assembly seats in Tripura has been largely peaceful with no (demand for) repoll reported so far," the poll panel said in a statement.

"Minor instances" of violence which were reported were promptly looked into by local officials," the panel added. "For the first time in many years, Bru migrant voters were able to exercise their franchise. Special efforts were made to enrol them. Some 14,055 eligible Brus were enrolled in the state in 12 locations. They cast their votes at these locations spread across four districts," it said. Meanwhile, the ECI said it had seized drugs, cash, and freebies worth over Rs 147 crore in Tripura, Nagaland and Meghalaya.

According to officials, the seized items included Rs 14 crore in cash, foreign liquor valued at over Rs 9 crore and drugs worth Rs 85.76 crore.

The highest seizures were made in Meghalaya at over Rs 63 crore, followed by Tripura (Rs 44.67 crore) and Nagaland (Rs 39.19 crore). Nagaland and Meghalaya will go to the polls on February 27.

The poll panel said the seizures in the three states marked a significant



Transgender voters cast their vote in Aralia (Image: Twitter/ceotripura)

increase as compared to 2018 polls.

For more than 30 years, Tripura was ruled by the CPM till the upset in 2018, when the BJP won 36 of the 60 seats in a state where it practically had no presence. Though the score pushed the BJP well above the majority mark of 31, it still formed alliance with regional IPFT (Indigenous Progressive Front of Tripura) - which got eight seats -- as insurance against any defection by its MLAs.

The CPM, which ruled Tripura for 35 years, has joined forces with the Congress this time, and its campaign is being led by its four-time Chief Minister Manik Sarkar. The Left Front will contest 47 of the state's 60 seats, leaving just 13 seats for the Congress.

While the CPM won 16 seats in 2018, the Congress - main opposition in the previous assembly -- drew a blank. The CPM is hoping that their alliance will help add votes in around 13 seats. But the alliance has raised eyebrows among the Kerala units of both parties where they have been sworn enemies for decades.

The Tipra Motha - the new party

formed by former royal Pradyot Kishore Debbarma with a core demand of Greater Tripaland -- might queer the pitch for the BJP. While the BJP has the local party IPFT in its corner, its hold on some seats have loosened over the last five years. In 2021, IPFT was wiped out in the Tribal Areas Autonomous District Council polls and had to accept only five seats to contest in this election.

The BJP had initially attempted to build a rapport with the Tipra Motha, but its overtures were met with rebuff. After the BJP declared that it would not allow any division of Tripura, the Tipra Motha also hardened its stand, flinging Union minister Amit Shah's allegation of its being the "B Team of CPM-Congress" back at the BJP.

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma, the BJP's pointsperson in the northeast, has predicted a hugely improved performance by the party in all three northeastern states that are going to polls in this round. Elections are due in Meghalaya and Nagaland on February 27. Counting of votes will be held on March 2.

Arunachal is India's part, says US resolution; condemns China's aggression

WASHINGTON (TIP)

A bipartisan resolution was introduced in the US Senate on Thursday, February 16, to recognise Arunachal Pradesh as an integral part of India, pushing back against Beijing's military aggression to change the status quo along the Line of Actual Control.

The resolution condemns additional Chinese provocations, including China's use of military force to change the status quo along the Line of Actual Control, construction of villages in contested areas, publication of maps with Mandarin-language names for cities and features in the Indian state of Arunachal Pradesh, and expansion of Beijing's

territorial claims in Bhutan.

The resolution says that China claims Arunachal Pradesh as its own territory, which it calls "South Tibet", and has invoked these claims as part of its increasingly aggressive and expansionist policies.

"The United States recognises the state of Arunachal Pradesh not as a disputed territory but as an integral part of the Republic of India, and this recognition is not qualified in any way," says the bipartisan resolution introduced by Senator Jeff Merkley, a Democrat, and Bill Hagerty, a Republican.

Senator John Cornyn, Co-Chair of the India Caucus, has co-sponsored the



resolution. Pushing back against Chinese claims that Arunachal Pradesh is its territory, which is part of Beijing's increasingly aggressive and expansionist policies, the Senate resolution reaffirms that the US recognises the McMahon Line as the international boundary between China and the Indian state of Arunachal Pradesh.

The line that was agreed to by Britain and Tibet as part of the 1914 Simla Accord is named after Sir Henry McMahon, foreign secretary of the British-run Government of India and the chief negotiator of settling disputes with China.

Source: PTI

Cricketer Prithvi Shaw's car attacked in Mumbai after he denies selfies; eight booked

Indian cricketer Prithvi Shaw's car was attacked with a baseball bat by a person after an argument over taking selfies with him outside a luxury hotel at Santacruz in Mumbai, officials said on Thursday, February 16.

Following the incident that took place in the early hours of Wednesday, a case of rioting and extortion was registered against eight persons, including a woman, they said.

A video of the incident has gone viral on social media.

According to the complaint filed by Shaw's friend Ashish Surendra Yadav, the accused followed the car and threatened false cases if money was not given. Shaw had gone to a five-star hotel in Santacruz, also in north west Mumbai, for dinner when the unidentified accused came to their and insisted on a selfie.

Shaw obliged two people with a selfie, but the same group returned and asked for selfies with the other accused.

Shaw refused this time. When they insisted, Shaw's friend called the restaurant manager and complained about them.

The accused were asked to leave the hotel by the manager. This incident angered them and when Shaw and his friend came out of the hotel after dinner, some people were standing outside the hotel with baseball bats.

The police said they are investigating the incident. According to an official, a case has been registered under sections 384, 143, 148, 149, 427, 504 and 506 of the Indian Penal Code.

Govt eases age limit of 65 to get organs of dead donors

NEW DELHI (TIP)

Patients aged 65 years and above can also register for receiving organs from a deceased donor now as the Centre has made necessary changes in the regulation, official sources said on Thursday, February 16.

They also said the Union Health Ministry has recommended all states to remove the domicile criterion so that needy patients can register themselves in any state for receiving organs.

The sources said the ministry also asked states not to charge any fee from patients seeking such registration, saying it was against the provisions of the Transplantation of Human Organs and Tissues Rules, 2014. An official said states such as Telangana, Maharashtra, Gujarat and Kerala have been charging anything between Rs 5,000 to 10,000.

The National Organ and Tissue Transplant Organisation (NOTTO) has made necessary changes in the guidelines which now allows patients aged 65 years and above to register themselves for receiving organs from a deceased donor.

"For registering patients requiring organs of deceased donors, earlier the upper age limit was 65 years. With this restriction removed, patients of all age groups can register for deceased donor organs. The changed guidelines have been put on the website of the NOTTO," an official source said.

Besides, in some states only patients who are domiciles of that state are allowed to register or are given preference for deceased organ donors. Now, the Union Health Ministry has



recommended all states to remove such restrictions so that needy patients can register themselves in any state for receiving organs, the official source said.

"It should be as per the waiting list. This will help patients in seeking transplants from deceased donors at any hospital giving a lot of flexibility," the official source said.

According to officials data, the number of organ transplants has increased from 4,990 in 2013 to 15,561 in

2022. The total number of kidney transplants from living donors have increased from 3,495 in 2013 to 9,834 in 2022 and from deceased donors, it has increased from 542 to 1,589 in 2022.

The total number of liver transplants from living donors has increased from 658 in 2013 to 2,957 in 2022 and from 240 to 761 in 2022 from deceased donor.

The total number of heart transplants have increased from 30 in 2013 to 250 in 2022 while lung transplants from 23 to 138. *Source: PTI*

2 burnt alive in Bhiwani, kin blame 'gau rakshaks'

GURUGRAM/HISAR (TIP)

Two Rajasthan youths suspected of cattle smuggling were allegedly abducted from Bharatpur district in the neighbouring state and burnt to death in Haryana.

The deceased, Nasir (27) and Junaid (35) of Gopalgarh village in Bharatpur, were allegedly abducted by a group of 'gau rakshaks' (cow protectors) and their charred remains were found inside their Bolero vehicle recovered today from near the fields in Barwas village of Loharu sub-division in Bhiwani.

One of the victims is learnt to have been facing several cases of cow smuggling.

In his complaint to the police, Junaid's brother Ismail, accused Bajrang Dal activists, 'gau rakshaks' and the CIA team of Ferozpur Jhirka (Nuh) of first lynching the duo and then setting their bodies ablaze inside the vehicle. He said the duo were visiting a nearby place to get household items when they were waylaid.

The Rajasthan Police, however, have only registered a case of abduction against 'gau rakshaks' and Bajrang Dal activists Monu Manesar of Gurugram and Shrikant Marora of Nuh. The police have not yet clarified about the recovery of any cattle. "We have eyewitnesses who say the 'gau rakshaks' and the CIA team intercepted the duo. Scared for their lives, they tried to escape but the police rammed their vehicle into the Bolero. People saw the policemen and seven-right 'gau rakshaks' dragging



Charred vehicle in which bodies of Junaid and Nasir (right) were found.

the victims into the CIA vehicle and taking them away.

"After beating them black and blue, the Bajrang Dal activists and the CIA team took them to the police station in Ferozpur Jhirka. But the police personnel there refused to take them into custody in view of their critical condition," alleged Ismail. The families by afternoon received a call about their charred vehicle found in Loharu along with the bodies.



Nasir's brother Hamid alleged that they were poor men and had no cattle connection. "The families are in a shock. His wife is still unconscious. They had married recently and were planning to have children," he said.

Bharatpur IG Gaurav Srivastava confirmed that the vehicle was found burnt in Bhiwani and the two charred bodies were recovered from inside. Bhiwani SP Ajit Singh Shekhawat said they along with the Rajasthan Police had started an investigation. He said prima facie, it was suspected that the duo died after their vehicle was set afire and the accused drove the vehicle to the isolated place to destroy evidence.

Source: TNS

INTER-FAITH LEADERS HONOR BLACK HISTORY IN MUSICAL EXPERIENCE

BY MABEL PAIS

Israeli and Gospel Musicians Celebrate Fellowship in a Groundbreaking "Symphony of Brotherhood" musical experience.



Miri Ben-Ari

Photo / Courtesy NJPAC

The New Jersey-Israel Commission brings to us a groundbreaking and unforgettable musical experience celebrating the shared fellowship of Black, Jewish and Christian communities on Sunday, February 26 at 6pm at Wells Cathedral Church, 672 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr Blvd. in Newark, NJ in honor of Black History Month.

The concert, titled 'Symphony of Brotherhood,' is a production by Israeli American Grammy Award winning artist Miri Ben-Ari, in collaboration with world-renowned gospel performer Derrick Starks. This special event will fuse cultures, musical genres, and soulful sounds.

"Symphony of Brotherhood," the name of Ben-Ari's

latest hit (featuring Flo Rida), also includes special performances by the reputable Melonie Daniels, Lena Starks, kr3ts dance company, and Dr. Pauline Plummer, Founder of Covenant Daughters International, in an evening of love and harmony.

Government officials and community leaders from across the state will attend the event, including New Jersey Secretary of State Tahesha Way, New Jersey-Israel Commission leadership, Church of God in Christ (COGIC) Bishop of Israel and the first African American bishop ever to reside in Israel Glenn Plummer, and Bishop Kevin Knight.

FREE EVENT

WHEN: Sunday, February 26th at 6PM

WHERE: Wells Cathedral Church, 672 Dr. MLK Jr Blvd., Newark, NJ

REGISTRATION

The event is FREE, but advanced registration is requested at [eventbrite.com/e/symphony-of-brotherhood-tickets-533791042377](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/symphony-of-brotherhood-tickets-533791042377).

"Music has the unique capacity to unite our communities and remind us of the power and strength of friendship," said Ben-Ari, also a member of the New Jersey-Israel Commission. "The goal of our event is to celebrate Black History Month together, a collaboration between local Christian, Black, Jewish and Israeli-American communities coming together in unity."

"New Jersey is celebrated as a melting pot of so many various cultures, and the New Jersey-Israel Commission has, once again, created an initiative to unite our communities," said Secretary of State Tahesha Way. "I am thrilled to be celebrating Black History Month by attending this one-of-a-kind 'Symphony of Brotherhood' concert and we are looking forward to seeing how this unique performance will unite our communities and deepen friendships for the people of New Jersey."

Miri Ben-Ari

Miri Ben-Ari is a Grammy Award-winning violinist, producer, humanitarian, "Goodwill Ambassador of Music" to the United Nations, TED speaker, and member of the New Jersey-Israel Commission. She is a classically trained violinist, who once studied under the late classical master Isaac Stern, Ben-Ari has helped to sell millions of records by collaborating with Grammy award-winning artists such and graciously will share her knowledge and experience, inspiring the young musicians.

"We need tolerance now more than ever" says Miri Ben-Ari (miribenari.com), who has consistently broken barriers with her music and philanthropic endeavors. Miri Ben-Ari is the co-founder and CEO of Gedenk gedenkmovement.org

"Symphony of Brotherhood," is a non-profit organization that runs creative programs for young people to promote tolerance. It is her love for music that fuels her passion to provide quality and educational experiences teaching tolerance through music to young musicians. The young musicians will perform to Miri Ben-Ari's piece "Symphony of Brotherhood," to Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s timeless speech "I Have A Dream." For more information about Miri Ben-Ari, miribenari.com

Watch the video -

[youtube.com/watch?v=X8SJ9V9DVMo&feature=youtu.be](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X8SJ9V9DVMo&feature=youtu.be)

The New Jersey-Israel Commission

The New Jersey-Israel Commission was established in 1989 to implement the goals of the New Jersey-Israel Sister State Agreement and is under the administration of the New Jersey Department of State. The Commission promotes the development of trade, culture and educational exchanges; encourages the development of capital investment and joint business ventures; and fosters a spirit of cooperation between the citizens of the State of Israel and the State of New Jersey.

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

FAITH MEETS CITY & CELEBRITY AT THE SHEEN CENTER, NY



Reverend A.R. Bernard and Rabbi Joseph Potasnik

Photo Credit / Sheen Center

BY MABEL PAIS

Join the Sheen Center with Special Guests.....
New York City Mayor, Eric Adams & Actor-Singer-Author, Vanessa Williams

Reverend A.R. Bernard and Rabbi Joseph Potasnik - co-hosts of the popular WABC Radio Sunday morning talk show, "The Rev & the Rabbi" - bring their signature brand of wit and wisdom to the Sheen

Center's stage in front of a live audience on February 23 at 6 pm at the Sheen Center, New York. The evening will feature an intimate conversation with New York City Mayor, Eric Adams, as he shares how his faith journey has informed his life of public service, as a member of the NYPD, as an elected official, and as the mayor of the largest, most religiously-diverse city in the United States. Learn how Mayor Adam's faith sustained him during these difficult past two years; how it inspires in him hope and healing for our divided city; and the relevant role faith-based partnerships play in his administration. You don't want to miss it. The evening will also feature a conversation with multi-hyphenate performer Vanessa Williams, who will discuss how her faith has informed and guided her career on stage and screen, as an award-winning singer and actress.

PROGRAM

WHAT: The Rev and the Rabbi

WHEN: February 23, 2023 @ 6 PM (Doors open 30 minutes before showtime)

WHERE: The Sheen Center, 18 Bleecker Street, New York City 10012

TICKETS

FREE....registration required @

[ci.ovationtix.com/34409/production/115073](https://www.ci.ovationtix.com/34409/production/115073)

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

PLAY INSPIRED BY 'LITTLE ROCK NINE'

BY MABEL PAIS

After hearing Ya Girl, a high school student with more than one million followers on Instagram, struggle to make sense of today's tumultuous world, Melba Pattillo steps out of history to share the story of her battle to integrate Little Rock Central High School in 1957. Ya Girl learns to see herself in Melba - and in all the young warriors who came before her who raised their hands and made a difference.

Inspired by Dr. Melba Pattillo Beale's memoir, 'Little Rock Nine,' 'Warriors Don't Cry,' is a catalyst for deeper discourse, social media, and community engagement.

PROGRAM

WHEN: February 25, 2023 @ 11 am & 2 pm

WHERE: The Sheen Center, 18 Bleecker Street, New York City (Doors open about 30 minutes before performance)

Recommended Ages: Grades 6 to 12

Watch the trailer - youtu.be/ekIcSX0LnfU

TICKETS

Purchase tickets for the 11 am show

@

[ci.ovationtix.com/34409/production/1148072?performanceId=11215011](https://www.ci.ovationtix.com/34409/production/1148072?performanceId=11215011)

@

[ci.ovationtix.com/34409/production/1148072?performanceId=11215012](https://www.ci.ovationtix.com/34409/production/1148072?performanceId=11215012)

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

CELEBRATE WITH NJS THE MUSIC OF CINEMA'S GREAT MASTERMIND

BY MABEL PAIS

Join the New Jersey Symphony while it performs the music of one of cinema's greatest masterminds!



John Williams, (right) Damon Gupton.

Photo Credit/ NJ Symphony

Celebrate the music of iconic composer John Williams as your New Jersey Symphony (NJS) brings to life some of his most legendary film scores. Relive the magic themes of Harry Potter, Jaws, Star Wars, Jurassic Park and more!

Hearing Williams' music performed live is a true symphonic treat. Invite your family and friends for an awesome concert experience. Learn more at njsymphony.org/events/detail/the-best-of-john-williams.

PROGRAM

THE BEST OF JOHN WILLIAMS

Friday, February 24 at 8 pm, Count Basie Center for the Arts in Red Bank

Saturday, February 25 at 8 pm, New Jersey Performing Arts Center in Newark

Sunday, February 26 at 3 pm, State Theatre New Jersey in New Brunswick

DAMON GUPTON CONDUCTOR

New Jersey Symphony
John Williams Superman March
Shark Theme from Jaws

THEME FROM JURASSIC PARK

"Viktor's Tale" from The Terminal
"Devil's Dance" from The Witches of Eastwick
Excerpts from Close Encounters of the Third Kind

COWBOYS OVERTURE

"Harry's Wondrous World" from Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone

SELECTIONS FROM STAR WARS

"Across the Stars" from Star Wars Episode II: Attack of the Clones
"Anakin's Theme" from Star Wars Episode I: The Phantom Menace
"Imperial March" from Star Wars Episode V: The Empire Strikes Back

"MARCH" FROM 1941

"With Malice Toward None" from Lincoln
"Adventures on Earth" from E.T.: The Extra Terrestrial

YOUNG FRIENDS HAPPY HOUR

Saturday, February 25, at 6:30 pm at NJPAC

Join your fellow Young Friends for a fun happy hour event before the performance at NICO Kitchen + Bar, including free appetizers and a meet-and-greet with New Jersey Symphony musicians.

Register at

fs10.formsite.com/NJSO/cvxec7gapz/index

Please note: Registration for the reception is free for Young Professionals aged 21-40 with the purchase of a Best of John Williams concert ticket. Learn more at njsymphony.org/concerts-and-events/deals-discounts/young-friends.

CONCERT PRELUDE

Saturday, February 25, at 7 pm at NJPAC

Enjoy a performance by the New Jersey Symphony Youth Orchestra's String Ensemble, led by New Jersey Symphony violinist Naomi Youngstein.

TEEN CONNECT

Sunday, February 26, at 2 pm at the State Theatre New Jersey, New Brunswick

This special experience offers teen musicians a meet-and-greet with New Jersey Symphony musicians, plus discounted concert tickets.

Purchase tickets at njsymphony.org/teenconnect.

TICKETS

For tickets to the concert, visit www.njsymphony.org or call 1.800.ALLEGRO (255.3476).

John Williams

Learn about John Williams at johnwilliams.org

Damon Gupton

Learn about Damon Gupton at damonguption.com

Note: John Williams does not appear in this performance. This concert features selections from John Williams' scores; no film projection.

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

XIAN ZHANG CONDUCTS IN HER FAVORITE PIECE OF MUSIC

BY MABEL PAIS



Xian Zhang with NJ Symphony.

Photo Credit/ NJ Symphony

Music Director Xian Zhang leads the New Jersey Symphony (NJS) in her favorite piece of music, Mahler's Symphony No. 3, on March 3 and 5 with mezzo-soprano Kelley O'Connor, Montclair State University Prima Voce, and Starry Arts Group Children's Chorus at the New Jersey Performing Arts Center (NJPAC), Newark, New Jersey.

PROGRAM

Mahler's Symphony No. 3

Friday, March 3, 8 pm @ NJPAC, Newark

Sunday, March 5, 3 pm @ NJPAC, Newark

Xian Zhang conductor

Kelley O'Connor mezzo soprano

Montclair State University Prima Voce | Heather J Buchanan, director

Starry Arts Group Children's Chorus | Rebecca Shen, director

New Jersey Symphony

Gustav Mahler Symphony No. 3

GUSTAV MAHLER : Gustav Mahler (1860-1911) was an Austro-Bohemian composer and conductor of the late-Romantic era. His compositions often draw on his Jewish heritage, and he is known for symphonic works of great scale and power. He is routinely described by modern scholars as one of the most important and innovative composers of the Romantic period. Mahler's Third Symphony is his longest and most expansive symphony, with a total performance duration of around 100 minutes. It is also noted for its use of both a solo mezzo-soprano and a chorus of women and children, which was fairly unusual for symphonies of this period. Symphony No. 3 is often considered to be one of the peaks of Mahler's output and is among his most highly regarded works.

KELLEY O'CONNOR : Grammy Award-winner Kelley O'Connor is an acclaimed American mezzo-soprano. She is known for her powerful and expressive voice, as well as her compelling stage presence. She has performed a multitude of roles in opera, including the Duchess of the King's Company in Donizetti's Maria Stuarda and Adalgisa in Bellini's Norma. Additionally, she has been praised for her performances of music from the 20th and 21st century. Kelley O'Connor continues to delight audiences with her captivating singing and entrancing stage presence. Learn more at kellyoconnor.com



Heather Buchanan.
Photo Credit/ NJ
Symphony

MONTCLAIR STATE UNIVERSITY (MSU) PRIMA VOCE

: Montclair State University Prima Voce, led by director Heather J Buchanan, is an award-winning, student-run a cappella group that has been making music since 2006. The group sings a wide range of genres from classic rock to barbershop and gospel. They are known for their exciting performances, high energy, and engaging crowd interactions.

Prima Voce performs around the Montclair area, often at campus events and charity shows, and have also traveled to other parts of the country for competitions and showcases. Learn more at monclair.edu.

THE STARRY ARTS GROUP : The Starry Arts Group of Eastern Cultural Exchange Association (ECEA) has provided an opportunity for children in New Jersey to show their artistic talent. The Starry Arts Group has performed at Huaxia Chinese School's Christmas Gala, Chinese Culture Night and Mid-Autumn Festival every year. A special children's choir from Starry Arts Group has performed as part of the New Jersey Symphony's Chinese and Lunar New Year Celebrations since 2019. For more information, visit njsymphony.org/events/detail/mahlers-symphony-no-3

TICKETS : For Tickets, visit njsymphony.org or call 1.800.ALLEGRO (255.3476).

THE NEW JERSEY SYMPHONY (NJS) : The Emmy and Grammy Award-winning New Jersey Symphony, celebrating its Centennial Season in 2022-23, is redefining what it means to be a nationally leading, relevant orchestra in the 21st century.

The centennial season opened in October with concerts featuring Rachmaninoff's Third Piano Concerto with soloist Yefim Bronfman; Jessie Montgomery's Banner; Nimbus Dance performing original choreography to Copland's Appalachian Spring Suite; Strauss' Burleske for Piano and Orchestra with soloist Michelle Cann; Brahms' Fourth Symphony; and Dorothy Chang's Northern Star. The centennial season will conclude in June 2023 with Zhang leading the orchestra and violinist Joshua Bell in Bruch's Violin Concerto No. 1, Stravinsky's Rite of Spring and a commissioned world premiere by Daniel Bernard Roumain.

For more information about the New Jersey Symphony, visit njsymphony.org or email information@njsymphony.org.

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



Deepak Tijori makes a comeback with Ittar

Actor Deepak Tijori is all set to make his acting comeback with the upcoming romantic film 'Ittar'.

Taking to Instagram, trade analyst Taran Adarsh shared the first look motion poster of the film which he captioned, "DEEPAK TIJORI RETURNS TO ACTING WITH 'ITTAR'... #DeepakTijori will be seen in a new avatar in #Ittar, a mature love story directed by #NationalAward winner #VeenaBakshi... Deepak features with #NationalAward winner #RituparnaSengupta in the film, produced by #TriforceEntertainment."

Helmed by the national award winner Veena Bakshi the film also stars actor Rituparna Sengupta in the lead role.

The official release date of the film is still awaited.

Apart from this, Tijori will be also directing an adventure thriller film 'Tippsey'. "Besides acting in #Ittar, #DeepakTijori has also acted as well as directed an adventure-thriller, titled #Tippsey.. Costars five actresses... Produced by #RajuChadha and #DeepakTijori," Taran Adarsh captioned.

Tijori marked his acting debut with Mahesh Bhatt's blockbuster musical romantic film 'Aashiqui' which was released in the year 1990.

In the film he was seen in a supporting role. He was also a part of some other blockbuster films like 'Jo Jeeta Wohi Sikandar', 'Khiladi', 'Kabhi Haan Kabhi Naa', 'Baadshah', 'Vaastav', 'Dulhan Hum Le Jayenge', 'Raja Natwarlal' and many more. *Source: ANI*

'I was called thunder thighs,' Raveena on being body-shamed

She was the quintessential symbol of sensuality during the '90s. Even when her iconic number 'Tip Tip Barsa Paani' has been recreated by a leading actor (Katrina Kaif) of the recent generation, a majority of netizens opined that the former's oomph factor can't be matched. She is none other than, the 'Mast Mast' girl Raveena Tandon.

Speaking exclusively with ANI, Raveena spoke about issues ranging from body shaming to toxic gossip magazines which could ruin someone's career. Asked about the gossip magazines of the bygone eras, Raveena said quite unambiguously, "90s gossip magazines were the worst. And some of those women, now I see, roaming around today carrying the women's lib badge over their heads and hearts, who were the worst enemies of women, who body-shamed women, slut shamed women and would do everything possible to bring another woman down. Today they roam around being as biggest feminists, I wonder when did that happen? If I start telling stories about them....(chuckles)."

Raveena is celebrated for her physical charm and beauty till date. Common people don't believe that she was ever body-shamed in the industry. During her interaction with Smita Prakash, the 'Daman' actor said, "No no, Please I was called a lot of things. 90s ke kholo, TTs, thunder thighs...miss this and miss that..." The actor continued, "I was plump actually. Started at 16 and a half years, and I was full of baby fat yaar... which still hasn't gone. Though I don't care now, I am being like that, I am like that, too bad!" Being told that she is exaggerating the facts, Raveena said, "I remember some of these titles. And not only me, but some other heroines are also called that. Besides that, instead of supporting women, what they did was...firstly all these women editors would fall in love with the heroes. And what the heroes said were the last words. If he wanted to pan a woman, the woman would be panned, shamed, literally, her career ruined in the magazines with nasty articles being put out about her. There were so many untrue articles put out because some hero went and said, "Acha, uske bare me aab aisa likh do..." and it would be the last word. And if there would be an apology, that would be on the last line of some other issues of the magazine, it would be written 'the story carried earlier ultimately proved not to be true'. And who will read that then? At that time the screaming headlines already made the news, right?" Raveena concluded that she was utterly displeased with the 'viciousness' of '90s journalism and decided to take a break after her marriage. *Source: ANI*



Dream Girl 2: Ayushmann Khurrana in backless lehenga flirts with Shah Rukh Khan's Pathaan

When Dream Girl first released in 2019, it quickly became one of the most successful rom-com, and took the audience on a joy ride! The Ayushmann Khurrana-starrer was a massive success at the box office and was one of the highest grossing blockbusters of that year. Ayushmann announced the film's sequel, titled Dream Girl 2, last year. And ever since, we have been rooting for updates on the project. The film, which stars Ananya Panday as the female lead, will release in the theatres on July 7. In the new teaser of Dream Girl 2, Ayushmann is seen back in his Pooja avatar as he flirts with Shah Rukh Khan's Pathaan on the call.

Taking to his Instagram handle on February 13, Ayushmann Khurrana shared the teaser of his upcoming film Dream Girl 2 and captioned it, "BREAKING NEWS: @pooja__dreamgirl is back! #7KoSaathMein dekhenge! #DreamGirl2 releasing in cinemas on 7th July, 2023 (sic)." In the teaser, the actor

can be seen wearing a backless pink lehenga with beautiful jewellery and makeup on point. We don't get to see his face, but we see a shot of his bright red lipstick. He is seen flirting with Shah Rukh Khan's Pathaan on phone. Ayushmann will be playing the role of Karam as well as a girl named Pooja in Dream Girl 2.

Ayushmann Khurrana, on being a part of Dream Girl 2, shared, "I am super stoked about Dream Girl 2! This is my second outing with Balaji Motion Pictures and I am thankful to Ektaa that she has carried this franchise forward and made it bigger. I have found a friend in Raaj and its exciting to team up with him again. Ananya Panday has been paired with me and I am looking forward to see the audience reaction to our chemistry. Along with a cracking ensemble cast of Annu Kapoor, Paresh Rawal, Vijay Raaz, Manoj Joshi, Rajpal Yadav, Seema Pahwa, Manjot Singh, Abhishek Banerjee, Asrani Saab; Dream Girl 2 is sure to take the audiences on a hilarious roller-coaster ride."





Fast X: Vin Diesel, Jason Momoa gear up to battle each other

Vin Diesel is considered to be one of Hollywood's biggest action stars. The actor emerged as a global sensation with the Fast and Furious franchise. The saga found wide patronage in India with its thrilling action scenes and gripping narrative. Now the trailer of Fast X is out. It is a gripping affair that caters to the franchise's ardent fans. Fast X is an action-thriller, directed by Louis Leterrier.

On Saturday, February 10, Universal Pictures shared the official trailer of Fast X. It re-introduces us to Dominic Toretto (Vin Diesel) as he tries to live a happy life. His peace, however, is threatened by a foe (Jason Momoa) who wants to destroy his family for ruining his future. This sets the stage for an epic clash between the two. The trailer features punch dialogues, something which has become the hallmark of the franchise.

Rihanna, pregnant again, shows off baby bump at Super Bowl halftime show

Dear Rihanna fans, we have some fantastic news coming your way. Yes, she is expecting her second child with partner, rapper A\$AP Rocky. The couple welcomed their son in May, last year. Fans couldn't keep calm after Rihanna dropped a hint during her performance at the Super Bowl halftime show, where the Philadelphia Eagles faced Kansas City Chiefs. Oh, and, her baby bump dominated the conversation on social media. The news was confirmed by the singer's representative following her power-packed performance at the State Farm Arena in Glendale, Arizona, as per The Hollywood Reporter. Rihanna delivered some of her biggest hits, including Where Have You Been, Diamonds, We Found Love, Umbrella, and Run This Town.

Earlier, in an interview with Apple Music, Rihanna said that she wasn't sure about the Super Bowl opportunity. "I was like, 'You sure? I'm three months postpartum. Should I be making major decisions like this right now? I might regret this,'" she was quoted as saying.

On how motherhood changed her mindset, Rihanna said, "When you become a mom, there's something that just happens where you feel like you could take on the world — you can do anything. And the Super Bowl is one of the biggest stages in the world, so as scary as that was ... there's something exhilarating about the challenge of it all." The Grammy winner added, "It's important for my son to see that." Rihanna also spoke about the "biggest challenge" she faced ahead of the show. As per the singer, "The setlist was the biggest challenge. That was the hardest part — deciding how to maximise 13 minutes, but also celebrate. That's what the show's going to be — it's going to be a celebration of my catalogue in the best way." Rihanna also said that she was honoured to be a part of the extravagant event, this year. "And I am honoured to be here. I am honoured to be doing this year," she added.

Source: NDTV



Lady Gaga's new look from 'Joker: Folie A Deux' unveiled



Director Todd Phillips has shared a new look from 'Joker: Folie A Deux', posting an image depicting star Joaquin Phoenix in the arms of Lady Gaga.

"Happy Valentines Day," reads Phillips' brief caption on Instagram. The image marks the public's first look at Gaga in the film. Gaga also shared the image through her own social media presence, reports Variety.

Gaga is reportedly playing a version of the DC Comics character Harley Quinn, a psychiatrist who finds herself smitten with the Joker before taking on his villainous ways.

Margot Robbie had previously portrayed Quinn in the 'Suicide Squad' films and 'Birds of Prey'. Kaley Cuoco voices the character on the ongoing HBO Max animated series 'Harley Quinn.' Gaga confirmed her involvement with the 'Joker' sequel last August. The film has been described as a musical.

Phillips' original 'Joker' was a critical and commercial smash in 2019, becoming the highest-grossing R-rated film in history. It won the Golden Lion at the Venice Film Festival and was a major competitor at the year's Academy Awards, earning 11 nominations and wins for Phoenix in best actor and Hildur Guonadottir for best original score.

The dramatic success of 'Joker' quickly spurred speculation regarding a sequel. Although the landscape of DC media has shifted in the years since the original film, Phillips' project has remained largely untouched by the newly formed DC Studios and its co-chiefs James Gunn and Peter Safran. The 'Joker' sequel will not play a role in the narrative continuity of other upcoming DC films.

Source: IANS



BANKSY'S 'VALENTINE'S DAY MASCARA' MURAL REMOVED BY UK COUNCIL

MARGATE (TIP): British street artist Banksy's painting-- his gift for Valentine's Day--was removed by council officials hours after it was unveiled by the artist in Margate in southeast England on February 14.

The painting had reportedly appeared on the back of a building just off Grosvenor Place in Margate, Kent.

While fans flocked to the seaside town to pose for selfies by the painting, officials moved in and carried away the freezer on "health and safety grounds," reports said.

The mural depicts a 1950s-style housewife with a swollen eye and a missing tooth seemingly shoving her male partner into a real chest freezer, Arab News reported.

The mural, titled "Valentine's Day Mascara," had seen its chest freezer, broken garden chair, blue crate and empty beer bottle taken away by a local council, Irvine Times reported.

The elusive Banksy, whose true identity remains unconfirmed, posted three images of the work on his Instagram account.

Two of the images were close-ups showing the woman, wearing a blue pinafore and yellow washing-up gloves, smiling but seemingly with a battered face.

The removal of the freezer prompted bemusement — and even conspiracy theories — among bystanders.

"People were sort of like, 'Stop, stop, you know, this is a Banksy, right?'" local resident Laura Holden, 35, told AFP.

"And they (the workers) were like, 'Yeah, no, we've got permission to take everything away,'" she said.

The local council announced on Wednesday however that it had returned the old appliance.

"The freezer which council operatives removed from the Banksy installation in Margate has now been made safe," said a statement from Thanet District Council, which administers Margate.

"It has been returned to its original position at the site of the artwork today."

The council acknowledged that Banksy had raised an important issue in dealing with domestic abuse in his latest work.

It was in touch with the owner of the property to find out what they intended to do to preserve it, it added. (AFP)

Ukrainian Nobel winner calls for world to 'hold Russian war criminals accountable'

KYIV (TIP): Oleksandra Matviichuk, a Ukrainian rights activist whose NGO was co-winner of last year's Nobel Peace Prize, called February 16 for the world to "hold Russian war criminals accountable," in an interview with AFP.

"We must break the circle of impunity," she said, urging the United Nations and the European Union to back Kyiv's call for a special tribunal able to judge top Russian officials all the way up to President Vladimir Putin.

While acknowledging that getting a majority of UN member countries behind that goal was a "hard task," Matviichuk said it was indispensable for any post-war peace that might follow the end of the conflict in her country.

"There will not be sustainable peace without justice," she noted.

Her demand came nearly a year after Russia's February 24, 2022 invasion of Ukraine, which followed its 2014 annexation of Crimea and support for pro-Russian separatists in Ukraine's east.

She was speaking at Belgium's University of Louvain just ahead of receiving an honorary doctorate there, alongside Palestinian filmmaker Elia Suleiman and Adelle Blackett, a law professor at Canada's McGill University.

The trio were being recognised for the fight for civil rights and a fairer society.

'Everyone's rights protected'

The Ukrainian NGO that Matviichuk



runs, the Center for Civil Liberties, last year shared the Nobel Peace Prize with the Russian rights organisation Memorial and an imprisoned Belarusian pro-democracy activist, Ales Bialiatski.

Matviichuk's Center for Civil Liberties, founded in 2007, has campaigned for rule of law and democracy in Ukraine.

That struggle has only become harder with Russia's military offensive, but it has not been forgotten, she said — to the contrary, the values the NGO campaigns on are central to Ukraine's efforts to one day join the European Union.

"We have two main tasks: to survive and to resist, and to continue our democratic path," Matviichuk said.

"We're still a nation in transit, and we can't concentrate energy only on this

reforming path — we have in parallel the war with Russia.

"But after the large-scale invasion started, we still have no luxury to concentrate only on one goal, we have to fight for our survival. And we have to move on to join to European Union," she said.

Ukraine's ambition to become an EU member state could take many years, EU officials say, though some EU neighbours of Ukraine are lobbying for a faster timeline.

Becoming part of the European Union means becoming part of the "European civilisation space," Matviichuk said.

Joining the EU would mean "we will have a chance to build our country where the rights of everybody are protected," she said. (AFP)

China sanctions US defence firms Lockheed Martin, Raytheon for Taiwan sales

BEIJING (TIP): China on February 16 imposed trade and investment sanctions on Lockheed Martin and a unit of Raytheon for supplying weapons to Taiwan, stepping up efforts to isolate the island democracy claimed by the ruling Communist Party as part of its territory.

Lockheed Martin Corp. and Raytheon Technologies Corp.'s Raytheon Missiles and Defense are barred from importing goods into China or making new investments in the country, the Ministry of Commerce announced. It said they were added to the "unreliable entity" list of companies whose activities are restricted because they might endanger national sovereignty, security or development interests.

It wasn't clear what impact the penalties might have. The United States bars most sales of weapons-related technology to China, but some military contractors also have civilian businesses in aerospace and other markets.

Taiwan and China split in 1949 after a civil war. The island of 22 million people

never has been part of the People's Republic of China, but the Communist Party says it is obliged to unite with the mainland, by force if necessary. President Xi Jinping's government has stepped up efforts to intimidate Taiwan by flying fighter jets and bombers near the island and firing missiles into the sea.

THE UNITED STATES HAS NO OFFICIAL RELATIONS WITH TAIWAN BUT MAINTAINS EXTENSIVE COMMERCIAL AND INFORMAL CONTACTS. WASHINGTON IS OBLIGATED BY FEDERAL LAW TO MAKE SURE THE ISLAND'S GOVERNMENT HAS THE MEANS TO DEFEND ITSELF. THE UNITED STATES IS TAIWAN'S MAIN SUPPLIER OF MILITARY EQUIPMENT.

Raytheon Missiles and Defense, part of Raytheon Technologies Corp., was awarded a \$412 million contract in September to upgrade Taiwanese military radar as part of a \$1.1 billion package of U.S. arms sales to the island. Boeing Defense received a \$355 million contract to supply Harpoon missiles. Beijing responded to that sale by announcing sanctions against the CEOs of Raytheon and of Boeing Defense but gave no details of what they were.

Lockheed Martin has supplied Taiwan's military with radar, helicopters and air traffic control equipment. It plays a role in the island's development of its own fighter jet and navy frigates. In China, Lockheed Martin has sold air traffic control equipment for civilian airports and helicopters for commercial use.

Beijing announced plans for the "unreliable entity" list in 2019 in response to U.S. restrictions imposed on Huawei Technologies Ltd., a Chinese maker of telecom equipment. (AP)

'100,000 funerals': Turkey's quake survivors wait amid rubble, to search or say goodbye

ANTAKYA (TIP): Hamid Yakisikli has waited outside the pile of concrete that used to be his house since an earthquake devastated his home in the ancient city of Antakya.

He and his two brothers have endured freezing conditions, in big jackets and wool hats, waiting for rescuers to retrieve the body of their mother, Fatma, from under the rubble. Ever since the Feb. 6 earthquake decimated swaths of Turkey and Syria, survivors have gathered outside destroyed houses and apartments, refusing to leave.

Hundreds of buildings were reduced to rubble; ancient buildings lie in ruins; and the streets of Antakya's historic centre were blocked by mounds of debris and furniture, dividing the city into small blocks of apocalyptic destruction. It was the most deadly quake in Turkey's modern history. Over 2 million people have left the disaster zone in Turkey, according to the government. But here in the worst-hit city, hundreds are still waiting. At every corner, a few people look at a pile of rubble, praying for a wife, a sister, a son or a friend.

Yakisikli, a retired cook, was closest to his mother. She lived right below him. He was home when the quake struck. "We were on the third floor, and we just found ourselves on the ground," he said. His mother's second-floor apartment was deep underground.

Yakisikli and his brothers initially tried to climb the rubble in search of



their mother. One caught a glimpse of her head through the debris — she was lifeless, lying on her back. Unable to free her body, they began a long wait. "I can't have peace of mind without burying her," said Yakisikli, as he watched an excavator claw at the remains of the building behind his home.

The Yakisiklis only slept when the excavators turned off their engines, in a tent pitched in an abandoned school near their former home. There was no water, electricity or toilet in the tent. "We will not feel good about leaving. We must get her out and bury her and then we see what we have to do," he said. The Yakisikli brothers find solace in the company of the living — and the occasional laugh, as they spend days swapping stories about their travels.

Some of the people are waiting for a miracle.

On Wednesday, Abdulrizak Dagli and his wife read the Quran and raised their hands to the skies, as they waited for rescuers to retrieve their son and his wife, and a missing grandchild. Their 1-year-old granddaughter was pulled out of the debris alive five days after the earthquake. Other survivors have refused to move to guard savings, valuable belongings and homes. Some search for documents they hope could help them rebuild the life they knew; others simply look for memories.

"We can't leave our house," said Gulsen Donmez, a 46-year-old survivor, leaning back on a plastic chair in a park opposite her damaged house. She left for a few days but soon rushed back. (AP)

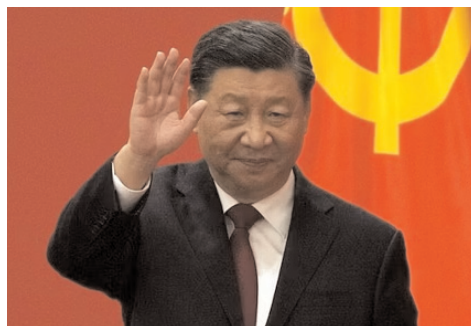
China's leader Xi Jinping to make state visit to Iran

BEIJING (TIP): Chinese President Xi Jinping will make a state visit to Iran, Beijing's foreign ministry said February 16, as a three-day trip to China by the Islamic republic's leader drew to a close.

Beijing and Tehran reinforced their strong economic ties in 2021 by signing a 25-year "strategic cooperation pact" but have been under pressure from Western nations over their positions on Russia's invasion of Ukraine. Iran is also under strict US sanctions for its nuclear programme.

Xi "gladly accepted" an invitation by President Ebrahim Raisi to make a trip to Iran, both countries said in a joint statement issued on Thursday. No date was given for the visit, which would be Xi's first to the Middle Eastern nation since 2016.

Iran agreed with major world powers in 2015 to rein in its nuclear programme in return for the lifting of punishing sanctions. But then-President Donald Trump pulled the United States out of the deal in 2018 and reimposed sanctions, resulting in Tehran rolling back its commitments. Efforts to revive the



agreement have stalled for months, and the US and Israel continue to accuse Iran of seeking to build nuclear weapons -- a claim it denies.

Beijing and Tehran on Thursday called for an end to sanctions, blaming current tensions on Washington's "unilateral withdrawal" from the deal. "Both sides emphasised that lifting sanctions and ensuring Iran's economic dividends are an important component of the agreement," they said in the joint communique.

"All relevant sanctions should be fully abolished in a verifiable manner, promoting the agreement's full and effective implementation," they said.

'Solidarity'

Beijing rolled out the red carpet for Raisi's arrival on Tuesday, with the Iranian leader trailed by a large trade and finance delegation in the first such visit for over 20 years.

Xi later hailed China's "solidarity and cooperation" with Iran "in the face of the current complex changes in the world, times, and history," Chinese state broadcaster CCTV reported.

Beijing "supports Iran in safeguarding national sovereignty, independence, territorial integrity and national dignity... and in resisting unilateralism and hegemonism," Xi said, according to CCTV.

China "opposes external forces interfering in Iran's internal affairs and undermining Iran's security and stability," he added.

The two sides signed a number of bilateral cooperation documents in the fields of agriculture, trade, tourism, environmental protection, health, disaster relief, culture and sport, CCTV reported. (AFP)

'PLASTIC WASTE IN DISGUISE': DONATED CLOTHING WORSENING KENYA'S POLLUTION CRISIS

PARIS (TIP): One-third of all second-hand clothing shipped to Kenya in 2021 was "plastic waste in disguise", creating a slew of environmental and health problems for local communities, a new report said February 16.

Every year, tonnes of donated clothing are sent to developing countries, but an estimated 30 per cent of it ends up in landfills -- or flooding local markets where it can crowd out local production.

A new report shows that the problem is having grave consequences in Kenya, where some 900 million pieces of used clothing are sent every year, according to the Netherlands-based Changing Markets Foundation.

Much of the clothing shipped to the country is made from petroleum-based materials such as polyester, or is in such bad shape they cannot be donated.

They may end up burning in landfills near Nairobi, exposing informal waste pickers to toxic fumes. Tonnes of textiles are also swept into waterways, eventually breaking down into microfibres ingested by aquatic animals. "More than one in three pieces of used clothing shipped to Kenya is a form of plastic waste in disguise and a substantial element of toxic plastic pollution in the country," the report said.

The research was based on customs data as well as fieldwork by non-profit organisation Wildlight and the activist group Clean Up Kenya, which conducted dozens of interviews.

Some of the clothing items were stained with vomit or badly damaged, the report found, while others had no use in Kenya's warmer climate.

"I have seen people open bales with skiing gear and winter clothes, which are of no use to most Kenyans," Betterman Simidi Musasia, Clean Up Kenya founder, told AFP.

'Enormous waste problem'

Between 20 and 50 percent of all donated clothing was not of a sufficient quality to be sold on the local secondhand market, the report found. Unwearable items might be turned into industrial wipes or cheap fuel for peanut roasters, swept into the Nairobi river, scattered around the market or sent to immense plastic graveyards outside the capital, such as the Dandora landfill. Several waste pickers working at Dandora said they contracted breathing and asthma issues by inhaling smoke from burning plastic at the site, according to the report. Musasia said items should be better sorted at the point of donation before being shipped to Kenya, instead of being blindly passed on, to try and prevent the problem at the source. (AFP)

AFGHANISTAN: RULING TALIBAN DISPLAY RARE DIVISION IN PUBLIC OVER BANS

ISLAMABAD (TIP): A rare public show of division within the ranks of Afghanistan's ruling Taliban emerged in recent days when Interior Minister Sirajuddin Haqqani, a powerful government figure, gave a speech seen as an implicit criticism of the movement's reclusive supreme leader.

The Taliban leadership has been opaque since the former insurgents' takeover of the country in August 2021, with almost no indication of how decisions are made.

In recent months, the group's supreme leader, Hibatullah Akhundzada, has appeared to take a stronger hand in directing policy. In particular, it was on his orders that the Taliban government banned women and girls from universities and schools after the sixth grade.

The bans raised a fierce international uproar, increasing Afghanistan's isolation at a time when its economy has collapsed — and worsening a humanitarian crisis. The bans also appeared to contradict previous policies by the Taliban government.

Between the Taliban takeover until the December ban on attending universities, women had been allowed to continue their studies. Taliban officials repeatedly promised that girls would be allowed to attend secondary school, but a decision to allow them back last year was suddenly reversed.

Haqqani made his comments in a speech over the weekend at a graduation ceremony at an Islamic religious school in the eastern province of Khost. "Monopolizing power and hurting the reputation of the entire system are not to our benefit," Haqqani said, according to video clips of the speech released on social media by his supporters. "The situation cannot be tolerated," he added. Haqqani said now that the Taliban have taken power, "more responsibility has been placed on our shoulders and it requires patience and good behaviour and engagement with the people." He said the Taliban must "soothe the wounds of the people" and act in a way that the people do not come to hate them and their religion.

Haqqani did not refer to Akhundzada, but the remarks were seen by many commenting on social media as directed at him. Haqqani also did not mention the issue of women's education, but he has said publicly in the past that women and girls should be allowed to go to schools and universities. Zabihullah Mujahed, the top spokesman for the Kabul government, said in an apparent reaction to Haqqani's comments — without naming him — that criticism is best voiced privately. "If someone criticizes the emir, minister, or any other official, it is better — and Islamic ethics also say — that he should express his criticism directly and secretly to him," not in public, he said. (AP)

Nepal plane crash preliminary report: Investigators suspect human error

KATHMANDU (TIP): The Yeti Airlines aircraft which crashed in Nepal last month killing 71 people, including five Indians, lost thrust and fell after the propellers of both engines went into a feathered position, according to a preliminary probe report which lead investigators to suspect human error behind the deadly crash.

Yeti Airlines flight 691, after taking off from Kathmandu's Tribhuvan International Airport on January 15, crashed on the Seti River gorge between the old airport and the new airport in the resort city of Pokhara.

There were 72 people including four crew members onboard the ATR-72 aircraft when it crashed, but rescue officials have so far managed to recover only 71 bodies with the other missing passenger presumed dead.

It is rare for the propellers of both engines to come to a feathered position, said one of the members of the five-member probe committee, which is also mentioned in the 14-page preliminary report posted on the website of the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Civil Aviation of Nepal.

"Human factor in the accident could not be disregarded. So it is an issue of investigation," said the member on condition of anonymity.

"When both propellers were feathered, the investigation team observed that both engines of 9N-ANC were running



flight idle condition during the event flight to prevent over torque," states the preliminary report.

"As per the Flight Data Recorder (FDR) all the recorded parameters related to engines did not show any anomaly," adds the report.

"When Air Traffic Controller (ATC) gave the clearance for landing at 10:57:07, the Pilot Flying (PF) mentioned twice that there was no power coming from the engines," the report further says.

"During the time of the crash, the prevailing visibility was 6 km and the sky was almost clear with only a few clouds," points out the preliminary report.

According to experts, the pilots unintentionally pulled the condition levers causing the engine to shut down

and feather the propellers. Each lever starts and stops the fuel supply, and controls the idle speed for its respective engine.

One investigator said that they found the levers pulled down at the crash site. "We are waiting for a detailed report. We cannot ascertain what happened before that," said a probe committee member. "Yes, there is also the issue of flaps. There are questions about why the pilots delayed extending the flaps. The routine checklists were not followed.

There are many factors to look at," Joint Secretary at the Tourism Ministry Buddhi Sagar Lamichhane - a senior member of the probe committee -- was quoted as saying by The Kathmandu Post newspaper. (PTI)

India, Bangladesh to consider trade in local currencies

NEW DELHI (TIP): India and Bangladesh will consider trading in local currencies. This was amongst the things that were discussed when Foreign Secretary, Vinay Mohan Kwatra met with Bangladesh's Prime Minister, Sheikh Hasina, in Gono Bhaban, Dhaka, on February 15.

India and Bangladesh are in the process of simplifying the terms and conditions of the Indian Line of Credit (LoC) to Bangladesh to enable Bangladesh to repay quickly.

"You and your leadership have our total support. India will remain beside Bangladesh during its development journey, including political and economic progress," Foreign Secretary Kwatra said when he met PM Hasina. Amongst those present in the meeting were India's Ambassador to Dhaka, Pranay Verma and Bangladesh Foreign Secretary Masud Bin Momen.

Meanwhile, PM Hasina has accepted Foreign Secretary Kwatra's invitation to attend the G20 Summit in New Delhi, which will be held on the 9th and 10th of September.

India has invited Bangladesh as a 'guest country' to all its meetings.

Describing the bilateral ties between the two neighbouring countries as very firm, Kwatra said the whole world now values the Bangladesh-India relationships, which has already reached a strategic level. This relationship is being strengthened further.

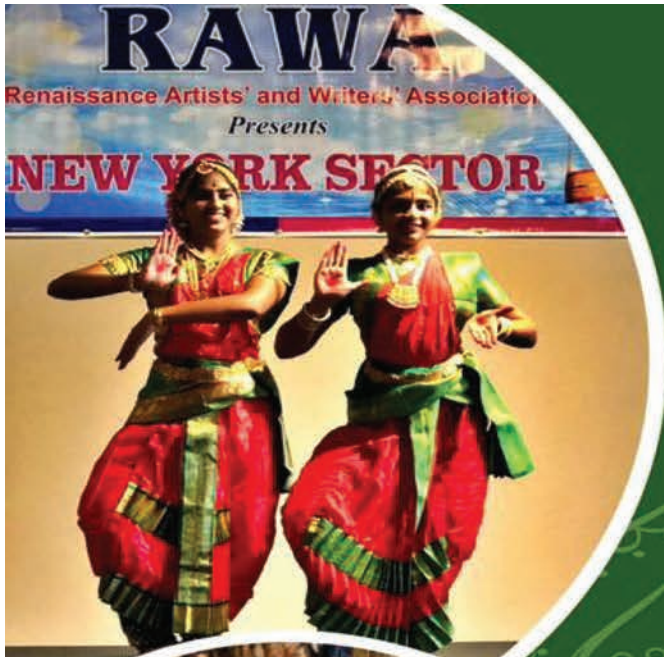
"Bangladesh is the pivot of India's 'Neighbourhood First Policy' and a key partner of its 'Act East Policy'," FS Kwatra said. PM Hasina said that she hoped this friendship would deepen further and both nations would work on the socio-economic development of their people. Both sides agreed to further strengthen the ongoing bilateral cooperation in diverse areas, including trade and investment, connectivity, power and energy, defence and security and people-to-people ties. (IE)

Pakistan govt drops petrol bomb on inflation-hit masses to appease IMF for unlocking critical loan tranche

ISLAMABAD (TIP): People in Pakistan woke up on February 16 to the shock of a historic price hike in the prices of petrol and gas as the government tried to appease the IMF for unlocking the critical loan tranche for the cash-strapped country. The "petrol bomb" as the price hike is termed these days, was dropped around Wednesday midnight, hours after the government unveiled a tax-loaded 'mini-budget' in the Parliament to extract Rs 170 billion from the people through new taxes and increase in electricity and gas prices.

The price of petrol was hiked to Rs 272 per litre after an increase of Rs 22.20, a press release from the Finance Division read Wednesday night, noting that the surge has taken place due to the rupee's devaluation against the dollar. The price of the high-speed diesel (HSD) hiked by Rs 17.20, kerosene by Rs 12.90 and light diesel oil (LDO) by Rs 9.68. The new price of HSD will cost Rs 280 per litre. Kerosene will be available at Rs 202.73 whereas LDO will be sold at Rs 196.68 per litre. "Increase in price is due to Pakistani rupee devaluation applicable for the calculation of current pricing period," the press release said, adding that the prices would be effective from February 16.

The increase came as finance minister Ishaq Dar presented the money bill in the parliament to fulfil the International Monetary Fund's (IMF) demand to increase revenue before it releases USD 1.1 billion out of the USD 7 billion loans. The increase in the price of petroleum products was one of the preconditions of the Washington-based lender, which will lead to a hike in the already record-high inflation, coupled with the new fiscal measures undertaken through the 'mini-budget'. (PTI)



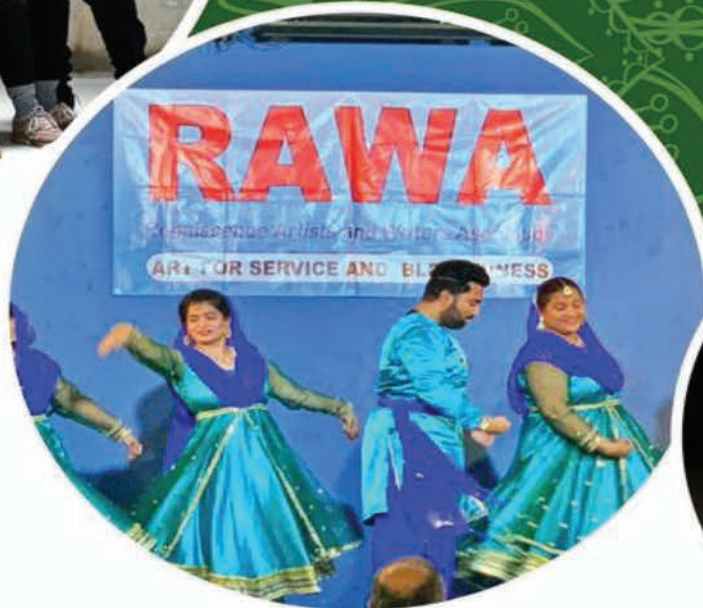
ANANDA MARGA NEW YORK

INTERNATIONAL Music & Cultural FESTIVAL 2023

One cultural night that renders a long-lasting
memory of a once-in-a-lifetime experience

MARCH 12, 2023
4:00- 7:00 PM

Dinner | Dance | Song | Music



Donation
\$25/50/100

CHARITY DINNER

- Delicious Vegan & Vegetarian Food
- Unique Cultural Dance Performances
- Devotional Music

VENUE:

Community Center Auditorium
143-09 Holly Avenue, Flushing
NY 11355

FOR MORE INFO:

347 -553 -1057, 646- 363- 6656
570-445-5883, 323- 804- 1518
347- 654 - 1213

Project wellness center and meditation center in connecticut (Ananda Marga bought 101 Acre Land in 2021)
0 Fox Hill Drive, Stafford Springs, Connecticut 06076, USA <https://anandakalpataru.org>

Acne-causing habits you should stop

Acne is a common problem in girls. Most of the times the cause of acne is either detected wrong or detected late, and therefore happens a delay in right treatment and proper medication. Girls with severe acne problems seem to get lots of expert advice from their friends, aunts, moms and grandmoms. However, the first step to treat acne is to recognise its causes. Some of the major reasons behind those red painful irritating boils on face are mentioned below:

Improper face wash

One of the primary causes of acne is improper face wash. If you do not wash your face properly and with right the face wash or cleanser, then you can be a quick victim of acne. Use good medicated cleansers twice a day, but remember hard cleansers and washing too frequently can make the acne worse and face drier. Always go for a face wash or cleanser that is mild, gentle, and suits your skin type.

Daily consumption of dairy products

Dairy products have abundance of hormone IGF 1 (Insulin-like growth factor 1) which is especially found in milk. It can cause inflammation in humans. Milk causes insulin spike in humans that makes the liver produce IGF 1. This can cause excess sebum production causing more clogged pores and thus, the acne. Try to reduce dairy product consumption. Stick to mild dairy intake to prevent the growth of pimples.

Excessive use of smartphones



The reason is shocking but true. Smartphones are one of the common causes of breakouts on the face. This is because when the phone is placed on skin while talking to someone, we tend to press bacteria into the pores and ultimately, get pimples. It is good to keep earphones, as it keeps pimples at bay and lend a good glowing skin.

Applying body cream on face

This is one of the grave mistakes that most of us do. Some people apply body products on their face just casually or get some more beauty benefits. However, it is better not to use body products on face. Face creams are generally mild and their compositions are fit to be used in body parts also. So,

feel free to use face cream on dry patches of body, but do not use a body lotion on face as it can lead to acne. This can happen if the skin is sensitive and the facial lotion used is oil and fragrance-free, and then a sudden jump to a scented and thicker body lotion in the hope to achieve the same hydrating results.

Diet issue

Junk food and sweet food items may not always be good for skin. Diet rich in oil and sugar or food with high glycemic index can be a vital cause for acne. Avoid intake of deep-fried food items, packaged food, and food rich in sugar, carbohydrate, and starch for acne-free skin. Eat small meals, and stick to a diet rich in fresh fruits and vegetables. *Source: IANS*

FOOD

Fish Biryani

INGREDIENTS

1 kilograms fish fillets, 1 cup ghee, 4 teaspoon powdered, turmeric, 5 chopped onion, 2 teaspoon coriander powder, 6 cloves, 1 cup beaten yoghurt (curd), 2 tablespoon sultanas, 5 cup basmati rice, 1 teaspoon salt, 5 tablespoon cashews, 4 teaspoon Red chilli powder, 2 inches cinnamon, 5 chopped tomato, 3 litre water. For Marination: 1 teaspoon powdered turmeric, 2 ml lemon juice

METHOD

- Mix the marinade ingredients, lemon juice and turmeric and rub into fish fillets. Keep aside for about 30 to 45 minutes.
- Heat 2 tablespoon ghee in a pan. Saute rice for about 10 to 15 minutes. Add 2 teaspoon salt, 1 teaspoon turmeric powder and 3 litres of warm water. Mix gently and bring to a boil.
- Lower the flame and cover pan with a lid and cook till water is absorbed. Heat 1 cup of ghee. Fry the sultanasa and remove. Add cashewnuts and fry till golden brown. Fry onions in the same pan till golden brown. Add chilli powder, coriander powder and 3 teaspoon turmeric powder. Add 8 to 10 teaspoon of water and the whole spices. Mix well.
- Fry for about 3 to 4 minutes, stirring all the time. Add the fish pieces along with 2 teaspoon salt and saute for about 5 to 8 minutes. Pour 1 cup of water and bring it to a boil. Add tomatoes and curd. Reduce heat and cook till gravy thickens. Grease a heavy bottomed pan with 1 tablespoon ghee. Spread the fish pieces, rice and reserved sultanas and cashewnuts in layers. Repeat until the topmost layer is rice garnished with sultanas and cashewnuts. Cover pan and cook over low heat for 5 to 8 minutes. Remove and serve hot, garnish with fried onions or spring onions.



Exercise in pregnancy may help obese women avoid complications

Exercise may be an efficient way for obese pregnant women to lower their risk of diabetes, dangerously high blood pressure and other complications, research suggests.

"The study suggests that a prenatal exercise-based intervention leads to both decreased costs and improved outcomes in obese women," said Leah Savitsky, a medical student at Oregon Health and Science University in Portland who led the study.

As reported at the 37th annual meeting of the Society for Maternal-Fetal Medicine in San Diego, California, Savitsky and her team analyzed previously published research on the effect of exercise on pregnant women with a body mass index (BMI) of at least 30.

The normal range for BMI - a ratio of weight to height - is 18.5 to 24.9; a BMI of 30 or more indicates obesity. (A BMI calculator is here, on the website of the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Based on their analyses of those earlier studies, the researchers estimated the benefit of exercise for women who are obese at the start of their pregnancy.

They calculated that for every one million such women, there would be 38,176 cases of a dangerous pregnancy-related blood pressure problem known as



preeclampsia among those who exercised, compared to 113,000 cases among those who didn't exercise.

Exercise would also be linked to a decrease in so-called gestational diabetes, with a rate of 195,520 per million among exercisers compared to 305,500 among non-exercisers, according to their calculations.

Likewise, they estimated, for every million obese pregnant women the preterm birth rate would drop from 105,059 to 90,923 with exercise, the maternal death rate would fall from 90 to 70 and the neonatal death rate would drop from 1,932 to 1,795.

Based on a cost-effectiveness threshold of \$100,000 per quality-adjusted life year, an exercise intervention could save money as long as expenses are held to just under \$3,000. The effects of exercise may be even more beneficial than the study suggests, Savitsky said. "This study did not consider additional downstream benefits on control of weight beyond pregnancy as well as the downstream potential benefits on hypertension and diabetes," she told Reuters Health by email. Women who are not obese may benefit as well. The researchers applied their model to women with a normal BMI of 18.5 - 24.9 and found similar improvements in outcomes among those who exercise, although the cost-effectiveness thresholds were lower.

Source: Reuters

Lifestyle changes to prevent early heart attacks

According to health experts, the usual risk factors for heart attack are high blood pressure, uncontrolled diabetes, hypercholesterolemia, smoking, drug abuse and lack of physical activity. These are the major reasons for causing coronary artery diseases at an early age.

In an interview with HT Lifestyle, Dr Sharath Reddy Annam, Senior Consultant Interventional Cardiologist, Director of Cath Lab, Director of CTO and Complex Coronary interventions, TAVR and Structural Heart interventions at Medcover Hospitals, suggested, "To prevent heart attacks, especially in the early age group (40 years), we recommend at least one complete comprehensive metabolic profile check around 35 years of age which makes us understand to devise individual specific preventive strategies."

Insisting that lifestyle changes constitute the main stay of preventing early heart attacks, he advised, "Smoking is the most common reason for heart attack in early age groups, which needs to be quit completely. Alcohol, though some studies favoured controlled intake would reduce coronary artery disease, is not recommended in general as it has adverse impact on many other organs. Lack of physical activity is contributing significantly to heart attack in young. Regular physical activity, atleast ½ hour per day or 15 min twice a day for 5 days a week is well studied in preventing heart disease. Therefore, that is the minimum exercise recommended for all the individuals to prevent heart attacks at a young age."

According to him, other modifiable risk factors like hypertension, diabetes and high cholesterol can be diagnosed early by having regular yearly checkups and treating them adequately to achieve recommended goals of therapy. He recommended, "Follow-ups are paramount in bringing these metabolic abnormalities



under recommended control, which are neglected by the majority of patients. Blood pressure medications are titrated in such a way to bring it below 130/ 80 mmhg for patients having diabetes or renal issues and <140/90 mmhg for other patients. For diabetes titration of medicines is done to bring fasting sugars to < 140 mg/dl, post prandial sugar to < 180 to 200, and HBA1C < 6.5 or 7. In familial hypercholesterolemia we initiate therapy when levels are more than 190 mg/dl to bring LDL levels to < 100mg/dl. However, in patients who had heart attacks or underwent stenting or bypass treatment is stepped up till LDL level drops below 70 or 50. Hence, periodic follow ups are crucial to assess and titrate medication to achieve recommended clinical goals to reduce heart attacks efficiently."

Source: HT



Free sugars linked with higher risk of cardiovascular disease, reveals study

Higher intake of free or added sugars present in sugary drinks, sweets and fruit juice is associated with a higher risk of cardiovascular disease, a study has found.

The findings, published in the journal BMC Medicine, strengthen the evidence for the global dietary recommendation to reduce free sugar consumption to below five per cent of total daily energy.

Researchers at the University of Oxford analysed data from 110,497 individuals from the UK Biobank who had completed at least two dietary assessments.

They tracked individuals for approximately 9.4 years, and during this time, total cardiovascular disease -- heart disease and stroke combined -- heart disease, and stroke occurred in 4,188, 3,138, and 1,124 participants, respectively.

The study found total carbohydrate intake was not associated with cardiovascular disease outcomes.

However, when looking at the types and sources of carbohydrates consumed, the researchers found that higher free sugar intake from foods such as sugary drinks, fruit juice and sweets was associated with increased risk of all cardiovascular disease outcomes.

For each 5 per cent higher total energy from free sugars, the associated risk of total cardiovascular disease was seven per cent higher, according to the researchers.

The team found that the risk of heart disease was six per cent higher, while the risk of stroke was 10 per cent higher.

Consuming five grammes more fibre per day was associated with 4 per cent lower risk of total cardiovascular disease, but this association did not remain significant after accounting for body mass index (BMI).

The researchers suggest that replacing free sugars with non-free sugars --mostly those naturally occurring in whole fruits and vegetables -- and a higher fibre intake may help protect against cardiovascular disease.

Source: PTI

Calorie restriction is more effective for weight loss than intermittent fasting

A study has found that eating smaller meals was more beneficial than intermittent fasting for losing weight.

The study was published in a journal, 'American Heart Association'.

According to the senior study author Wendy L. Bennett, M.D., M.P.H., an associate professor of medicine at Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine in Baltimore, although 'time-restricted eating patterns' -- known as intermittent fasting -- are popular, rigorously designed studies have not yet determined whether limiting the total eating window during the day helps to control weight.

This study evaluated the association between time from the first meal to last meal with weight change. Nearly 550 adults (18 years old or older) from three health systems in Maryland and Pennsylvania with electronic health records were enrolled in the study. Participants had at least one weight and height measurement registered in the two years prior to the study's enrollment period (Feb.-July 2019).

Overall, most participants (80 per cent) reported they were white adults; 12 per cent self-reported as Black adults; and about 3 per cent self-identified as Asian adults. Most participants reported having a college education or higher; the average age was 51 years; and the average body mass index was 30.8, which is considered obese. The average follow-up time for weight recorded in the electronic health record was 6.3 years.

Participants with a higher body mass index at enrollment were more likely to be Black adults, older, have Type 2 diabetes or high blood pressure, have a lower education level, exercise less, eat fewer fruits and vegetables, have a longer duration from last mealtime to sleep and a shorter duration from first to last meal, compared to the adults who had a lower body mass



index. The research team created a mobile application, Daily24, for participants to catalog sleeping, eating and wake up time for each 24-hour window in real-time. Emails, text messages and in-app notifications encouraged participants to use the app as much as possible during the first month and again during "power weeks" -- one week per month for the six-month intervention portion of the study.

Based on the timing of sleeping and eating each day recorded in the mobile app, researchers were able to measure:- the time from the first meal to the last meal each day;- the time lapse from waking to first meal; and-the interval from the last meal to sleep. Source: ANI

PAGE SPONSORED BY

DR. SATISH AND GITANJLI ANAND



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

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



Microsoft may bring ChatGPT Bing AI to Android, iOS soon

Microsoft has started rolling out the new ChatGPT-powered Bing on desktops to early testers worldwide, and it will also be available on Android and iOS in the coming weeks, the media reported.

The tech giant is working on a "substantial optimised interface" for Bing.com's Chat UI for Android and iOS, which includes all-new OpenAI-powered content, reports Windows Latest, citing sources.

In an email sent out to testers, Microsoft confirmed that the mobile experience is not yet ready, according to the report.

"We don't have a mobile experience ready yet -- we are actively working on it and will have it ready soon. Until then, please continue to use the new Bing on desktop and download the Bing app from your favourite app store to ensure you are ready for the amazing experience when the mobile version is ready," the company said in the email.

Moreover, the report said that the company is still optimising Bing.com's AI UX for mobile form factors.

Meanwhile, Microsoft is also reportedly planning to demonstrate its new Prometheus model to its core productivity apps such as Word, PowerPoint, and Outlook.

In the coming weeks, Microsoft will detail its productivity plans for integrating OpenAI's language AI technology and its AI Model, reports The Verge, citing sources. *Source: IANS*

Perseverance rover boasts its first construction on Mars

Nearly two years after it was launched to the Red Planet, the Perseverance rover has done more than just science. It has now constructed a sample depot on the planet that will be used by future missions to return samples to Earth.

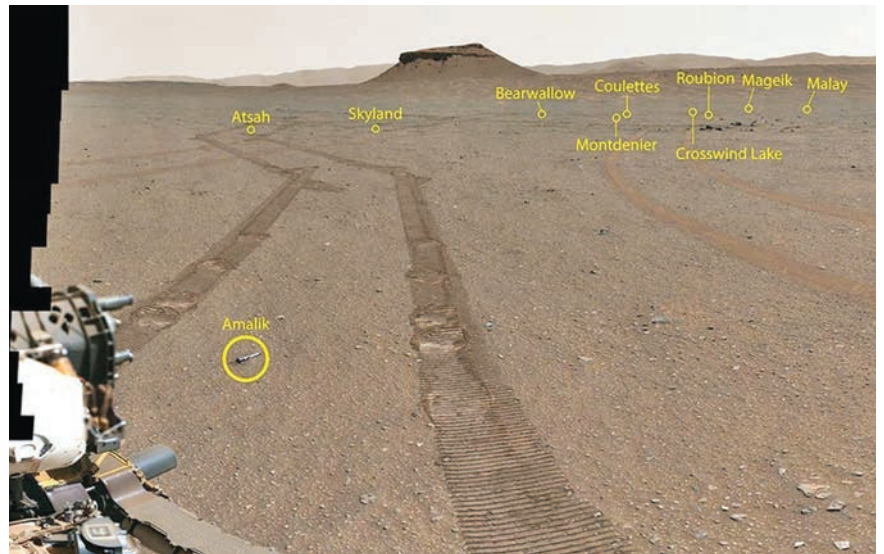
The rover has beamed back a portrait of the 10 backup sample tubes. The rover has sent a panoramic view of the recently completed sample depot, which is a big milestone for the mission and humanity's first collection of samples on another planet. The image has been made from 368 images that were sent to Earth.

Nasa said that eight of those tubes are filled with rock and regolith from Mars, while one is an atmospheric sample and one is a "witness" tube. The rover used its Mastcam-Z camera on the top of its head to capture the images that were then stitched together to form the panoramic view.

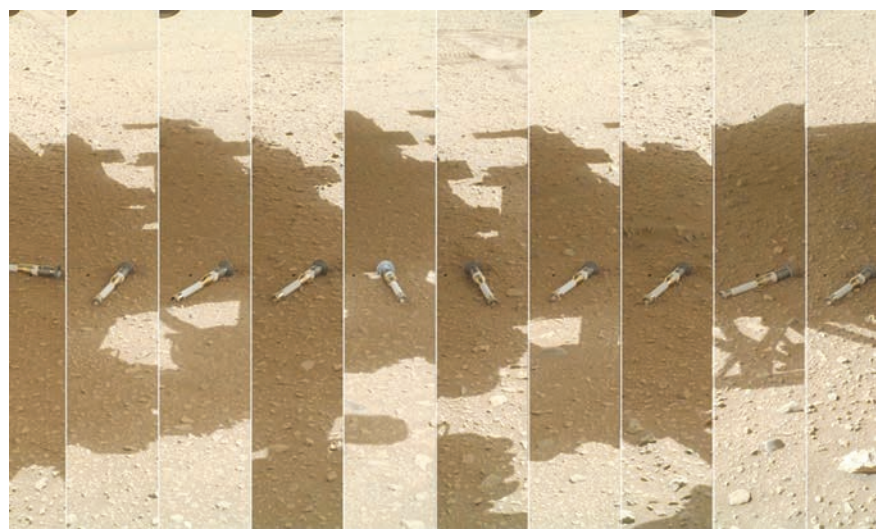
Nasa said that the depot represents a backup collection of samples that could be recovered in the future by the Mars Sample Return campaign, a joint effort between Nasa and ESA (European Space Agency) that aims to bring Mars samples to Earth for closer study.

Perseverance built the depot at "Three Forks," a location within Jezero Crater. Billions of years ago, a river flowed into the crater, carrying sediment that formed a steep, fan-shaped delta that the rover will drive up in the months ahead. Astrobiologists suspect that while the Martian surface is now cold, dry, and generally inhospitable to life, ancient Mars was likely similar to Earth – and could have supported microbial life if any ever formed on the Red Planet.

The work to build a depot on another world was not easy and the first critical requirement



An annotated version of the portrait captured by NASA's Perseverance shows the location of the 10 sample tubes in the depot. (Photo: Nasa)



This photomontage shows each of the sample tubes deposited by NASA's Perseverance Mars rover at the "Three Forks" sample depot, as viewed by the WATSON camera on the end of the rover's robotic arm. (Photo: Nasa)

was finding a level, rock-free stretch of terrain which has room for each tube to be deposited. The next target was to figure out exactly where and how to deploy the tubes within that location.

While Perseverance has dropped these sample tubes, work is underway on Earth to ready for the retrieving mission that will launch to Mars, pick up these samples and return home.

Source: India Today

Google Photos may soon get cloud backup support for Locked Folder

Tech giant Google is reportedly planning to add cloud backup support to the "Locked Folder" of its photo sharing and storage service 'Google Photos'. The new feature has been discovered in a hidden settings page in the application's latest version, reports Android Central.

With the new capability, users will get a way to back up images and videos saved in Locked Folder.

Introduced in 2021, the space is meant to keep sensitive photos out of the users' main camera roll.

Currently, the photos and videos locked behind the folder are not able to recover once the users' phone is reset or the Photos application is uninstalled, the report said. In September last year, a report mentioned that several Google Photos users had complained that their old photographs had been "corrupted".

People began noticing that their years-old photos (over five years, approximately) had lines and deep cracks running through them.

Meanwhile, Google, last year, had also added new filters in Google Photos to help users show their skin in

its true shade.

WhatsApp may soon let users send images in original quality on Desktop beta

Meta-owned messaging platform WhatsApp is reportedly working on a new feature which will allow users to send images in their original quality, on Desktop beta.

With the new feature, users will no longer have to worry about their images losing quality or resolution while sending them, reports WABetaInfo.

When the feature will be available to the beta testers, they will still be able to send images using the standard compression method, which will be useful for those who want to save storage space.

The ability to send photos in their original quality is currently under development and is expected to be released in a future update of the desktop application, the report said. Last month, it was reported that the messaging platform was working on this feature for Android beta. *Source: IANS*



'Inflation finally trimming': IMF chief's optimistic assessment of world economy

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) believes that a cost of living crisis that was triggered in many countries following global inflation spike is subsiding, Managing Director Kristalina Georgieva said.

"We see inflation finally trimming down in quite a number of countries. The chance of finally getting on top of the problem of cost of living being a major disrupter for millions and millions of people, we see light at the end of this tunnel," Kristalina Georgieva said as many countries in the world continue to face inflation and increased food and energy costs.

Last month, IMF estimated that world consumer-price increases would slow to 6.6% this year. This would be 0.1 percentage point higher than the October projection, following 8.8% in 2022. IMF also forecast slowing to 4.3% in 2024 and inflation rates to be lower in about 84% of countries in 2023 than in 2022. World gross domestic product will likely grow an estimated 2.9% in 2023, 0.2 percentage point more than forecast in October, IMF had said. Although, IMF raised its global economic growth outlook for the first time in a year, premised on US spending and China's reopening after Covid. Kristalina Georgieva reiterated the Fund's outlook, saying that even though global growth is falling, while global growth is at a low point, the IMF continues to be worried owing to the Covid pandemic, Russia's invasion of Ukraine and the deadly earthquake that hit parts of Turkey and Syria. "The world economy is still in a very difficult place. Global growth is slowing down in 2023 but it might be a turning point," the IMF chief said.

Frederick Barclay threatened with bankruptcy over £100 million divorce award

Frederick Barclay, the reclusive tycoon who owes his former wife £100 million, is discussing a financial settlement with her after being threatened with bankruptcy.

The 88-year-old is yet to pay a penny of the divorce award, according to a lawyer for Hiroko Barclay, who told a London court on Monday her legal team was left with little choice but to prepare a bankruptcy petition against the "completely unrepentant" tycoon. The settlement offer to end the divorce fight was made on February 10, the same day as Frederick was set to meet his nephew Howard. The divorce suit and other recent court cases have pushed the famously secretive Barclay family's troubles into the open with revelations of brawls on yachts and bugged hotel rooms in London's Ritz Hotel. Frederick even pleaded poverty and asked for government money to help fund his legal woes. He skipped jail but was still found in contempt of court last year for failing to pay his former spouse thousands of pounds in legal fees.

Asian markets retreat as US inflation fuels rate-hike bets

BEIJING (TIP)

Asian markets sank Wednesday as a mixed US inflation report did little to soothe investor worries that the Federal Reserve will continue to ramp up interest rates, which many fear could cause a recession.

The much-anticipated figures from January's consumer price index showed a slight slowdown from the previous month, but the 6.4 percent reading was higher than forecast, suggesting a return to normality will take longer than hoped.

A number of top Fed officials also lined up to restate that borrowing costs will likely need to go higher and for an extended period if they are to bring inflation down to their two percent target.

Recent data had suggested the bank's almost year-long rate-hike campaign was beginning to show results, providing fuel for a healthy run-up in global markets in January as traders began factoring in a possible cut towards the end of 2023.

But that optimism has taken a severe hit, with a blockbuster jobs report confirming that the world's top economy remains robust, narrowing the scope for the Fed to ease up. After the figures were released, monetary policymakers reiterated their determination to stay the course, with expectations that rates could go well above five percent, from the current 4.5-4.75 percent.

Dallas Fed president Lorie Logan said: "We must remain prepared to continue rate increases for a longer period than previously anticipated, if such a path is necessary to respond to changes in the economic outlook or to offset any undesired easing in conditions."

However, Philadelphia Fed chief Patrick Harker said he thought the bank was "likely close" to being restrictive enough.

Wall Street ended mixed, having fluctuated after the data release.

But Asia sank back into the red.

Hong Kong led losses, shedding more



than one percent, with China's reopening from zero-Covid no longer able to provide any cushion to sentiment. Shanghai, Tokyo, Singapore, Seoul, Sydney, Taipei, Wellington, Manila and Jakarta were also well down. The prospect of more rate hikes lifted the dollar against its peers on Tuesday, and it held its gains in Asian trade. "While in line, the CPI release is a reminder that lowering inflation towards the Fed's target may be more gradual than conventional thinking," said SPI Asset Management's Stephen Innes.

"And this environment may also result in a higher-for-longer rate environment -- somewhat counter to a market still pricing in a Fed funds rate cut later this year."

Exports dip by 6.58 per cent in January; trade deficit lowest in 12 months at USD 17.75 billion

Contracting for the second month in a

row, India's exports dipped by 6.58 per cent to USD 32.91 billion in January due to slowdown in global demand, even as the trade deficit touched a 12-month low of USD 17.75 billion during the month, according to official data released on Wednesday.

Imports in January too contracted by 3.63 per cent, the second consecutive month, to USD 50.66 billion.

Cumulatively, however, during April-January 2022-23, the country's merchandise exports rose 8.51 per cent to USD 369.25 billion, while imports increased 21.89 per cent to USD 602.20 billion, the data showed.

The merchandise trade deficit for the April-January this fiscal stood at about USD 233 billion.

The country's exports had contracted by 12.2 per cent to USD 34.48 billion in December 2022.

Source: Agencies

Adani Enterprises back in black, records Rs 820-crore profit in Q3

NEW DELHI (TIP)

Adani Enterprises' (AEL) good third quarter numbers led to a rebound in its stocks after three days of selloff but seven of the Group's listed companies were trading in the red with six hitting the lower circuit-breaker of 5%.

"We will be investing heavily in our relationship with India over the coming decades and we're confident it will only go from strength to strength," said AEL on the results.

Adani Group chairman Gautam Adani termed the current market volatility as temporary and said "as a classical incubator with a vision of long-term value creation, AEL will continue to work with the twin objectives of moderate leverage and looking at strategic opportunities to expand and grow." The majority of the buying in AEL



stocks took place in the later half of the day after the Q3 results were announced. The favourable results helped the stock inch up and restored its market value to about Rs 2 lakh crore. AEL reported net profit of Rs 820.06 crore for the September to December

2022 period as against net loss of Rs 11.63 crore in the same quarter a year ago. Revenue from operations rose 41.87% to Rs 26,612.23 crore compared to Rs 18,757.87 crore.

However, six Adani stocks — NDTV, Adani Power, Adani Wilmar, Adani Green, Adani Total and Adani Transmission — fell by 5% each and Ambuja Cements declined by 1.74%. The sentiment was unaffected despite some damage control with the Group announcing the appointment of accountancy firm Grant Thornton for an independent audit of some of its companies in an attempt to counter allegations made in the Hindenburg report. The audit is likely to be submitted to the Reserve Bank of India as well because it will examine if there was any misappropriation of funds or if loans were used for any other purpose, said company officials.

Source: TNS

Shree Ganeshaya Namah

VEDIC ASTROLOGER NASTUR
BEJAN DARUWALLA

**Nastur Bejan Daruwalla is available
for astrological consultations.
He can be reached at info@bejandaruwalla.com
and on phone
+91-9638770377
www.bejandaruwalla.com**

The Indian Panorama brings you Weekly and Birthday Horoscope by Nastur Bejan Daruwalla

WEEKLY HOROSCOPE - FEBRUARY 20 TO FEBRUARY 26, 2023



ARIES : Ganesha says, this week you will ponder over your pride, enabling you to adopt more logical and intelligent decisions. This week you'll be reliant, doing tasks without anyone's help. Everything will be secondary to your growth. If no one asks for your advice this week, don't give it. In regards of relationship, you could utilize this latter half of the week to express your feelings to your significant other and share how you've changed since then. This week, your triglycerides will cause you problems with your health. Minimize your consumption of food with cholesterol.



TAURUS : Ganesha says, you'll be getting the right chance to exhibit oneself rightly this week. You have the opportunity to start again this week. Anything you manage to get done this week will also deliver quick returns. You'll have to travel this week for work, which will open up more options for you than you thought. On the amorous facets, you'll become more and more sensitive to anything. This week, try to speak up more to maintain your thoughts in control. Your health will suffer as a result of the rise in glucose consumption. When your friends try to persuade you to adopt a terrible practice, remain composed.



GEMINI : Ganesha says, you'll be enabled to relax this week because your home facades and economic facades will stay calm. Your household will benefit from this decision, and you will be able to pardon and accept apologies. You'll feel satisfied this week as gratifications dominate your mind. You'll sense a connection with somebody great you encounter in an unlikely place, but don't hurry to communicate your feelings this week since you're not going to encounter the perfect individual. This week, your wellness will be fully ordinary.



CANCER : Ganesha says, this week, as the days progress, you'll be hurrying from one breakthrough to another. You will have much to do this week to keep you engaged with important tasks. You may avoid toxicity in the surroundings by keeping busy. This week, you will comment adversely on something, and Saturn will offer it bad aura. Don't worry; you and your lover were intended to be together, therefore you will figure out your response again. Your relationship could cause you to experience discomfort on a personal level. preserving your wellness by engaging in your favorite form of artistic expression.



LEO : Ganesha says, you must promptly ensure the validity of your business judgements. This week, your mismanaged finances will be fully on schedule. You'll get beyond your concerns this week. You will have a number of little but valuable chances this week. You will miss out on several fantastic bargains since this week is not the greatest opportunity to bring back elegance. Hold your career objectives a secret this week. Take your partner to destinations that have sentimental significance for them. Because of the negative influence of Venus this week, you may have emotional turmoil, but by the end of the first half of the week, all will be OK.



VIRGO : Ganesha says, this week, you'll feel happy and enthusiastic all the time. As the commotion won't divert your attention this week, you'll also experience a lot more at ease. To rekindle your soul this week, immerse oneself with engaging studying material. This week, your close relative will want you to be present, so try to stay away from long ranges. This week is great for making new acquaintances and starting talks with strangers. If you're in a relationship, your spouse will also be happy. This week, your wellness may need extra attention since you might experience back issues in the latter half of the week.



LIBRA : Ganesha says, this week, you'll seem a bit healthier and brighter. You'll intensify the constructive adjustments you've previously made. This week, all of your worries regarding attempting new experiences will vanish. This week, you won't overlook something crucial for your company, and you'll respond to any work-related dilemma with solutions that can boost your earnings. This week, focus on creating new connections rather than keeping your romantic life under wraps. In terms of fitness, unhealthy cuisine will probably keep you going during the week but refrain from eating it. Mealtimes are necessary for defensive function upkeep.



SCORPIO : Ganesha says, continue looking ahead this week and avoid looking back. This week, when you confront the difficulties you've evaded, you won't be so kind to yourself. You'll give both of you more opportunity to begin over. Good regards for a fresh start for you. This week, your partner will offer you lots of attention, and you'll take part in some crucial conversations about destiny. There will inevitably be disagreements between marital partners, but you will be able to resolve them quickly. You seem to be in bad shape, and you are susceptible to minor wounds.



SAGITTARIUS : Ganesha says, this week, you'll be so ecstatic that it will be difficult for you to stay on your own. Although you will possess lofty goals, they will be attainable. You will prosper from your past decisions this week dear Sagittarius natives. You can unwittingly make a slight slip. This week, take careful to take care where you tread. You and your partner will establish some personal limits for one another on the psychological level, which will enhance your relationship. Your strength and conditioning outlook predict that you'll be in good condition, but you need to focus on your kids' spiritual well-being.



CAPRICORN : Ganesha says, you won't continue to evaluate yourself only based on how people now regard you but, rather this week, you will be able to increase your self-esteem and believe in yourself... You will defend your own interests and make use of the favorable planetary placements in your zodiac. Attending sociable gatherings this week, if you can, will be very beneficial for you and will help build up your natural stamina. Your wellness will probably be impacted by illness and disease. Keep some things from your partner when it pertains to your romantic life. Go it gentle on your network this week. Couples will arrange time for bonding.



AQUARIUS : Ganesha says, you'll catch up on things you've been losing down on for a while this week. You will be less interested in the material realm this week and more inclined to spirituality. Your dedication to your objectives will increase this week. You'll feel a little depressed because you'll see those about you struggle. It's simply temporary and won't last for very long, so don't panic. In the week, Mercury will be enhanced, which will be perfect for you to begin a romantic connection. Because you won't be unable to slumber well this week, your wellbeing will suffer. This week, be careful to drink plenty of liquids.



PISCES : Ganesha says, this week anything amazing will take place ahead of your sight and it will be for the better. This week, you'll stop passing criticism on others, which will make you feel more connected to folks you formerly believed you had missed contact with. You will learn life's truths this week, along with making new contacts. Your sweetheart won't be able to spend time with you romantically since they'll be preoccupied with a family occasion. To help you boost your digestion and manage with any gastrointestinal issues you may be having, consider it a priority to go for a run or fast stroll this week.

BIRTHDAY HOROSCOPE : FEBRUARY 20 TO FEBRUARY 26, 2023 BY ASTRO FRIEND CHIRAG - SON OF ASTROLOGER BEJAN DARUWALLA

February 20

Ganesha says today is a day to celebrate love and affection with friends and family. It's possible that you'll feel more passionate and impetuous than normal, so make sure to give some thought to what you're going to do before you do it. Spend some quality time demonstrating to your significant other how much you value the connection you share. Be willing to explore new possibilities for a romantic relationship if you are currently unattached.

February 21

Ganesha says today is an excellent day for you to concentrate on your own requirements and concerns. Spend some time caring for yourself and

indulging in the pursuits that bring you the most pleasure. You might also consider devoting some time to contemplating the objectives and concerns you have towards the future.

February 22

Ganesha says in today's world, communication is essential. You can find yourself in circumstances that require you to articulate your thoughts in a way that is unequivocal and confident. Be sure to listen to what other people have to say, and look for areas of agreement to help you avoid arguments.

February 23

Ganesha says today is a day is a day for getting in touch with your feelings and expressing them. It's possible that you'll feel more sensitive and intuitive

than usual, in which case, it's important that you pay heed to the voice of your intuition. You should probably also spend some time with the people you care about and be as honest as possible about your emotions.

February 24

Ganesha says today is a good day to focus on your personal growth, trust your instincts, and make choices that align with your values and long-term goals. Your ability to be realistic and your attention to detail will be of great assistance to you as you manage these issues.

February 25

Ganesha says you might experience feelings of restlessness or a need for change. Take advantage of new

possibilities, and push yourself to do things that take you out of your comfort zone. You will be able to overcome any challenges that come your way because of your flexibility and resourcefulness.

February 26

Ganesha says today may find you concentrating on the personal relationships you have and the connections you have with other people. Maintain the friendships you already have while still being open to making new ones. It may be simpler for you to connect with others as a result of your charisma and other people abilities, which may be highlighted. Nevertheless, it is imperative that you establish positive limits and make time for your own self-care.

|| SHREE GANESHAY NAMA ||



Know/Buy your Lucky Gemstones

From the House of Astrologer Bejan Daruwalla

To buy any Gemstone, visit www.BejanDaruwalla.com

Contact us for all kind of Astrology Services

Call/ Whatsapp +91 8141234275

Email: info@bejandaruwalla.com



World Famous Astrologer Bejan Daruwalla



Nastur Bejan Daruwalla

Sikh History This Week

FEBRUARY 17, 2023, TO FEBRUARY 23, 2023

17th February

1984: The Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) fired indiscriminately upon Sri Darbar Sahib complex at Amritsar. As a result three visiting devotees were killed.

18th February



1850 Maharaja Dalip Singh reached Fatehgarh, Uttar Pradesh, India. Maharaja Dalip Singh was forcibly separated from his mother Maharani Jind Kaur and sent to Fatehgarh, (Farrukhabad, district of Uttar Pradesh in India) by Lord Dalhousie. Lord Dalhousie appointed Dr. Login to be the companion to Dalip Singh. Within a few months of the Englishman's tutelage Maharaja was converted from a Sikh to a Christian. A man named Bhajan Lal was assigned to teach him Bible and Christianity. It was here the Maharaja Dalip Singh for the first time communicated to Captain Campbell, his acting guardian, his desire to become Christian. Dr. Login was on leave at that time.

1921 Khadur Sahib Gurudwaras were brought under control of SGPC.

19th February

1848: Jathaedar Ganda Singh and two associates were hanged until death in Lahore. On January 30, 1848 Jathaedar Ganda Singh (Jathaedar of Sri Akal Takhat), Akali Kharak Singh, Bibek Singh, Hira Singh, Mastan Singh, Muhar Singh, and Hukam Singh protested the entry of some British officers into the Darbar Sahib without removing their shoes. This resulted in a clash between the Akalis and the government officials. One official (subedar) was killed and a company commander got injured. Some Sikhs also got injured. The tyrant Mr. Lawrence arrested the Sikhs. Jathaedar Ganda Singh and his two of his companions were hanged. Six more Sikhs were sent to the jails of Barailey, outside Punjab.



1921 Mahants and Pujaris of various historical Gurudwaras, held a convention to express themselves against Singh Sabha reformers and call on the government to restore the status quo ante at the Golden Temple, Amritsar. Because of the resolve of the reformers and unity within Guru Khalsa Panth, the

reformers were victorious in their efforts.

1949 Master Tara Singh was arrested at Narela, under sedition charges. He was on his way to Delhi to attend a Conference.



20th February

1921 Shaheedi Saka of Sri Nankana Sahib took place. Nankana Sahib is the birth place of Guru Nanak Dev Ji. At the time of this incident, this place was being managed by Mahant Narayan Dass. A Jatha of 150 GurSikh reformers, led by Bhai Lahshman Singh, were visiting Nankana Sahib to seek Gurdwara reforms and its liberation, through non-violent and peaceful means. However, the managing Mahant had hired 28 Pathans and goondas from Majha, collected arms and ammunition besides other weapons, which caused a scare in the surrounding areas. He attacked the unscheduled Jatha, fired upon them without any warning and hounded them from room to room. At least one of them was tied to a tree and burnt alive. When a massacre inside the shrine was on, a group of Sikh devotees arrived outside. Mahant Narain Das on horseback ordered the killing of each and every long haired Sikh, and his men pursued some of them in the fields up to the railway station, killing and burning most of them. He also tried to burn down the dead bodies in a group inside the shrine. Those struck outside were thrown into kilns or burnt alive. The Guru Granth Sahib was riddled with bullets. This incident sent a wave of indignation among the Sikhs and other people throughout the world. The holy shrine of Nankana Sahib was eventually liberated. Additionally, this single incident triggered off a Gurdwara liberation movement throughout Punjab. The main objective of this movement was to consolidate the management of all historical Sikh Shrines under a single elected body which came to be known as the Sharomani Gurdwara Prabandhak Committee or SGPC for short.

1924 1st Shaheedhi Jatha of 500 Akali Sikhs, under the command of Jathedar Udharn Singh of village Verpal, that marched from Sri Akal Takhat for Jaito, reached jaito Nabha territory. Its arrival was to coincide with the third anniversary of Nankana tragedy. Dr. Saifuddin Kitchlu, Principal A.T. Gidwani, and Mr. S. Zimmand of New York Times, were with the Jatha on Feb. 21. They testified that the Jatha was moving in perfect order and non-violent, unarmed before entering Nabha territory. Afternoon of the Feb. 21, the Jathas was fired upon, leading to about 100 dead and 200 wounded. About 700 Sikhs including the members of the Jatha and accompanying crowds were arrested.

1949 In spite of the arrests of hundreds of GurSikhs, the Sikhs held a Conference. All the participants were arrested and jailed for different terms. Participation in religious functions was banned and the Sikh shrines were sealed. Such were the rewards for their sacrifices towards India's

independence.

1990 Khalsa-Net was started by Jasbir Singh. Working on his Ph.D. program at Case Western Reserve University, Cleveland, Ohio, he used the facilities of the Computer Engineering department there to establish the mailing-list. The first Khalsa-Net mailing address was khalsa@alpha.ces.cwru.edu The actual postings started from March 1, 1990 onwards.

21st February

1849 2nd Anglo-Sikh war was fought at Gujrat. This was the last war between the Khalsa forces and the British that resulted in a severe defeat for Khalsa forces and triggered the annexation of the Khalsa Raj.

1915 Marked the revolt within India against British occupation. Sikhs played a major role in this revolt.

1921 Karam Singh of Daulatpur organised a political conference at Mehtapur.

1921 Sri Nankana Sahib's keys and control was handed over to SGPC. The news of Nankana Massacre spread like wild fire. Within hours Sikhs from all everywhere marched on to Nankana Sahib, despite the road blocks, re-routed trains and deployment of troops to cordon off the area. By the afternoon, 1000 Akalis and some members of the SGPC confronted the Deputy Commissioner and were resolved to advance on the Gurudwara or be shot by the troops. Bhai Kartar Singh Jabbar with a Jatha of 2200 entered the Gurudwara Janam Asthan, Shri Nankana Sahib defying Deputy Commissioner's orders. The show of force at this time retrieved the Sikh prestige.



1924 Shaheedi Saka Gangsar Jaito – when the agitation of Jaito took a serious turn. Under the orders of Nabha State Authorities, Punjab, police opened fire to prevent the march of the Sikh devotees to their holy shrine at Jaito – Gurdwara Tibbi Sahib. More than 400 died on the spot, yet many valiant Sikhs continued their undeterred march and successfully reached the holy shrine. Amongst the dead included Sikh, Hindu and Muslim Indian as well as "goraa" policemen on the pay of British. Over 1,500 Sikhs were arrested and imprisoned during this incident.

22nd February

1845 Rani Jindan attempted to cross over to the British with Dalip Singh but her attempt was foiled by Sikh army.

1923 1923: Third meeting took place at Jassowal.

1924 British government accused Akali Singhs of firing upon Nabha rulers.

1956 Master Tara Singh and Nehru held talks on Punjabi Suba. The talks lasted until Feb. 24, 1956.

23rd February

1881 Sardar Ajit Singh was born at Khatkadh kala, Jallandar.

1921 Gurudwara Luliani Sahib was forcibly taken over and brought under the control of SGPC.

Maha Shivratri is a Hindu festival celebrated largely in India and Nepal in reverence of Lord Shiva. It is also known as Padma Rajarathri. The festival is celebrated every year in the dark fortnight or Krishna Paksha (waning moon) on the 13th night/14th day of the Maagha month of the Hindu calendar.

According to the legend, this day is a very dear day to Lord Shiva because on this day Lord Shiva was married to Mother Parvati. Hence this day is celebrated as Mahashivratri. It is said that on this auspicious day, a person who observes a fast and worships Lord Shiva will never have to endure the torture of hell.

The festival is principally celebrated by offerings of Bael or Bilva/Vilvam leaves to Lord Shiva. Many devotees also observe all-day fasting and an all-night-long vigil and chant the sacred Panchakshara mantra dedicated to Lord "Om Namah Shivaya". Some devotees also do penances to gain boons in the practice of Yoga and meditation.

On Maha Shivratri, Nishita Kala is the ideal time to observe Shiva Pooja. On this day, in all Shiva's temples, the most auspicious Lingodbhava puja is performed.

Origins of Maha Shivaratri

The roots of the festival, and its modern significance, are entwined in ancient Indian mythology. According to legend, Maha Shivaratri marks the occasion when Shiva first performed the Tandava Nritya – also known as the dance of primordial creation, preservation, and destruction. It was through this dance of devotion that Lord Shiva saved the world from destruction.

Maha Shivaratri also marks the occasion of Shiva's marriage to the Goddess Parvati, and the day he became one with Mount Kailash. In the yogic tradition Shiva is revered, not as a God, but as the Adi Guru – the very first Guru from whom the science of Yoga originated. Maha Shivaratri is a night of stillness and quietude, inspired by and devoted to the stoic grace and discipline of Lord Shiva.

Rituals associated with Maha Shivaratri

The festival combines all-day fasting and an all-night vigil. During daylight hours, devotees rise early and take a ritual bath. After these ablutions, they will head over to the nearest temple dedicated to Shiva, to make offerings of milk, yoghurt, honey, ghee, sugar, and water. In homes and temples throughout India, the sacred mantra of Shiva is chanted: "Om Namah Shivaya." Special Puja are held, during which incense is burned, lamps are lit, and streams of pilgrims continue to appear during the day and into the night. Through it all, devotees maintain a solemn fast until the following morning.

Maha Shivratri is closely associated with fertility and creation. During the festival, unmarried women observe this fast in the hope that they will find a partner, while married women observe the fast to give thanks and maintain the balance of harmony in their marriage.

Lord Shiva is commonly worshiped in the form of a symbol that represents creation – a lingam. Other common iconography or symbolism tied up with Shivaratri is the bel tree (or quince, which is native to India), as this was one apparently one of Shiva's favorites. Today, its leaves and fruit continue to play a central role in the festivities.

Legends & Stories Of Maha Shivratri

Marriage of Shiva and Shakti

One of the most popular legends of Maha Shivratri is related to the marriage of Shiva and Shakti. The day Lord Shiva got married to Parvati is celebrated as Shivratri - the Night of Lord Shiva. It tells us how Lord Shiva got married a second time to Shakti, his divine consort. There is another version of the legend, according to which Goddess Parvati performed tapas and prayers on the auspicious moonless night of Shivratri, for the well being of her husband. Believing in this legend, married women began the custom of praying for the well being of their husbands and sons on Maha Shivratri, while, unmarried women pray for a husband like Shiva, who is considered to be the ideal partner.

Samudra Manthan

There is another very popular Shivratri legend from

Maha Shivratri: The great night of Shiva



Important information

Maha Shivratri 2023

Saturday, 18 February 2023

Chaturdashi date starts - 18 February 2023 at 08:02 pm

Chaturdashi date ends - 19 February 2023 at 04:18 pm

Shivaratri Paran Time - 19 February 2023 at 06:41 am to 03:30 pm

Why Celebrate Maha Shivratri : Favorite day of Lord Shiv, Marriage Anniversary.

Puranas, which explains why people stay awake all night on Shivratri and why Lord Shiva is also known as Neelakantha. According to the story, when the battle between devas and asuras took place, a pot of poison came out of the ocean and on the request of gods, Lord Shiva drank the poison. The poison was so potent that it changed the color of His neck to blue. For this reason, Lord Shiva is also called Neelkanth, where 'Neela' means blue and 'Kantha' means neck or throat. As part of the therapy, Lord Shiva was advised to awake during the night. Thus, to keep Shiva awake, the gods performed various dances and played music. Pleased with their devotion, He blessed them all, the next morning. Therefore, Shivratri is the celebration of this event in which Lord Shiva saved the world.

Legend of Shiva Linga

The legend of Shiva Linga is also deeply related to Maha Shivratri. According to the story, Brahma and Vishnu searched hard to discover the Aadi (beginning) and the Antha (end) of Lord Shiva. It has been believed that on the 14th day in the dark fortnight of the month of Phalgun, Shiva first manifested himself in the form of a Linga. Since then, the day is considered to be extremely auspicious and is celebrated as Maha Shivratri - the grand night of Shiva. To celebrate this occasion, devotees of Lord Shiva keeps fast during the day and worship the Lord throughout the night. It is said that worshipping Lord Shiva on Shivratri bestows

one with happiness and prosperity.

Legend of Ganga

The legend of Ganga is another popular legend which is related to Shivratri. Ganga's descent from the heavens to the earth has been narrated in the Hindu mythological epic of Ramayana. This legend explains the popular custom of giving bath to Shiv Linga on Shivratri festival. According to this legend, Lord Shiva held out his thick matted hair to catch the river Ganga, as she descended from heaven. The meandering through Shiva's lock softened Ganga's journey to the earth and the holy waters washed away the ashes of Bhagirath's ancestors. The Ganga, thus, became an attribute of Shiva and therefore Shiva is also known as Gangadhara. Believing in this legend, Shiva is given a bath with gangajal and devotees take a dip in the holy water of river Ganga, on Shivratri.

PAGE SPONSORED BY



ARISH K. SAHANI

Serving Since 1972

Please Call or Write for Your Insurance Needs

Arish K Sahani (Father)

Shiv Sahani (Son)

Priya Sahani Sood (Daughter)

718 - 271 - 1906

arish.sahani@gmail.com

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

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

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

R & R Dental Lab

86-24 Whitney Ave. Elmhurst, NY 11373
Tel. (718) 533-1611; (347) 808-7258
Email: rbarua1953@gmail.com





Before

After

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



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

SONU INSURANCE AGENCY INC.

Insurance, Money Transfer, Tax Preparation

Specializing in:

- Auto ● Home ● Business
- Construction
- Workers Compensation

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



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

CALL TODAY
OPEN 9 AM to 6 PM

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



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

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

**ARE YOU BEHIND ON YOUR MORTGAGE PAYMENTS?
IS THE BANK GIVING YOU A HARD TIME FOR MORTGAGE DEFERRAL OR FORBEARANCE?
STOP FORECLOSURE!
CALL THE EXPERTS AT HP REALTY FOR MORTGAGE RELIEF ASSISTANCE**



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



Jeet Dhillon
Licensed Real Estate Broker
New York and Indiana
(516) 830-0352

hprealty1@gmail.com

Assam: The land of blue hills, green valleys

Assam is a land of blue hills, green valleys and a red river — the majestic and sacred Brahmaputra. It is known for its famous tea, its silk and its biodiversity, and is also rich in archeological heritage. Assam is in the north eastern region of India, just below the eastern Himalayan foothills. It is surrounded by the states of Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram, Tripura and Meghalaya, which together with Assam are known collectively as the seven sisters, and by the nations of Bhutan and Bangladesh. The borders of China and Myanmar are within the range of 80 to 100 km.

THINGS TO DO

EXPERIENCE FESTIVAL CHEER

The festivals of a particular region are the mirrors that reflect the life and cultural orientation of the people. And thanks to a massive diverse cultural milieu and numerous habitant communities, Assam hosts a bevy of festivals across the year. These fiestas are the perfect time to be in the state as they offer the ideal opportunity to mingle with the locals and get close to their lives and habits. The main festival of Assam is Bihu and there are three distinct ways to celebrate it within a year - one in January, one in April and the other in September-October. The significance of Bihu lies in the fact that it is not a religious festival but a way to celebrate mother nature and the various stages of harvesting. Apart from Bihu, the people of Assam celebrate various other festivals - witness Kamakhya Temple in full glory during the Ambubachi Mela (June); be a part of the lives of the Bodos (one of Assam's main tribes) in Baishagu (April) and enjoy the Mising (another tribe) hospitality in Ali Aye Ligang (mid February). Apart from these celebrations, Assamese people observe all the major Indian and global festivals like Diwali, Holi, Eid and Christmas; but yes, with a tinge of local flavor!

Embark on a Spiritual Sojourn

Assam with all its natural beauty and mystic charm is home to a unique spiritual mix. Not a frontline pilgrimage destination, the state, nevertheless has its set of temples, mosques, gurdwaras and churches. All the major religious faiths co - exist in the land and have grown into full - fledged ways of living with a set of indigenous spiritual leaders.

The tiny town of Hajo is an eternal example of communal harmony with Hinduism, Islam and Buddhism - all co-existing peacefully. Visit the Hayagriva Madhava Mandir, which is reminiscent of the Jagannath Temple in Puri; pay your respect at the Powa Mecca and witness the power of Shakti in Kamakhya Temple. Sikhism is not much prevalent in Assam but the town of Dhubri at the bank of the Brahmaputra houses a gurdwara (often called Dhubri Saheb) founded by Guru Teg Bahadur in



17th century. Find solace amid all these peaceful abodes and experience serenity.

Mystery hunt in Mayong

Who does not love a good tale of mystery with open ending? And the films of Christopher Nolan are not the only answer to it. Despite the growing information flow about the life and living in Assam, there is still a section of society as well as a section of travelers who are either apprehensive or intrigued by the scattered tales of the indescribable and indefinable. These stories are everywhere in the state but two places commend special mention if we talk about the unexplained mystery trail of Assam - Jatinga and Mayong.

A 40-km drive from Guwahati will lead you to the quiet and peaceful village of Mayong in Morigaon district; but the serenity of this place is more a veil of mystery than anything else. Often referred to as India's magic capital, Mayong is (in)famous for the tales of people vanishing into thin air, fierce beasts being tamed as if they were a puppy and not a beast or humans being converted into animals and vice versa. An outlaw of a place for many years, Mayong, of late, has gained prominence as a tourist destination and adventure seekers from all parts of the globe visit



this eerie village. Another sleepy hamlet Jatinga is known for the mass bird suicides that take place from September to November every year.

Take the Heritage trails

An ancient land of myths and legends, it is no surprise that Assam has a rich repertoire of historical monuments with numerous mythological references attached to them. A cultural heritage aficionado or a history lover will have a field day while living some of the lesser known episodes and tales from Assam's past amid ruined palaces and quiet architectural marvels. Icing on the cake -

many of these remnants of the past have been keeping a low profile in the midst of soul - soothing natural beauty or fitness - testing highlands!

To warm up, you can start with a heritage walk along the alleys of old Guwahati and then move 41 kms north to Baihata Chariali that houses an archaeological site called Madan Kamdev. Take a trip to the culturally rich town of Sivasagar and stand witness to the finer side of the Ahom dynasty amid the Rang Ghar, the Charaideo hillock, Joy dol, Shiva dol, Kareng Ghar, Talatal Ghar and Sivasagar tank. Assam's cultural capital, the town of Jorhat, is witness to many historical events in the state and is still a must - visit for a history chaser. The present town of Tezpur finds frequent reference in The Mahabharata and the love story of princess Usha (King Baana's Daughter) and prince Anirudha (grandson of Lord Krishna) tickles the romantic hidden inside you; not to mention other tourist points like Agnigarh hill, Cole Park, Mahabhairab Temple and Hazara Pukhuri.

River cruise on the Brahmaputra

The river runs through the entire length of Assam but the stretch that touches Guwahati is the most highlighted one, courtesy the city's commercial and political status and the famous Saraighat Bridge. The Brahmaputra divides the city into two parts while on its imposing journey from the Himalayan glaciers to the Bay of Bengal. After the completion of Saraighat Bridge, these waters were traversed just for fishing and coastline trading but the scene has changed drastically in the past decade or so. Now several ferry service providers offer laid-back river cruises for the travelers.

The Bharalu ghat and the Kachari ghat in the city are the main places from where you can book a cruise. Usually operated in the afternoon, these cruises last for two to three hours and take you along the majestic waters of the Brahmaputra. These ferries have sitting area for the guests and one can avail the food and beverage services onboard. Imagine yourself on one of these ferries with a cup of tea standing witness to the sunset on the crimson western sky!

Heritage walks in old Guwahati

There is a reason why the phrase - old is gold - exists in our vocabulary and the old Guwahati area further cements that saying. Though there is no specific new Guwahati on either maps or local lingo, we can recommend certain localities that will bring back the old world charm once you set foot in them. And we are referring to the literal meaning of the word 'foot' here as these vintage parts are best explored if you walk down its alleys and corridors. The major areas that fall under this bracket are?the academic hub of Panbazar, the colonial remnant Uzanbazar, the roads of Kharghuli, the entire area of Digholipukhuri and some parts of Aambari area.

contd from page 1

Indian-American Republican leader Nikki Haley formally launched her 2024 presidential bid

It's just that our politicians are past theirs! "We won't win the fight for the 21st Century if we keep trusting politicians from the 20th Century. And so, I have an announcement to make. I stand before you as the daughter of immigrants - as a proud wife of a combat veteran - and as the mom of two amazing children," she said at the event with a huge 'NikkiHaley For President' backdrop.

Her formal declaration means she will be the first contender to join the contest against her former 76-year-old boss Trump, who announced his third bid for the White House late last year.

Before entering the presidential ballot, Haley has to win the Republican Party's presidential primary which will start in January next year.

The next US presidential election is scheduled to be held on November 5, 2024.

US President Joe Biden, a Democrat, has not yet indicated if he will seek reelection.

Biden, 80, is the oldest sitting US president.

"We're ready to move past the stale ideas and faded names of the past... And we are more than ready for a new generation to lead us into the future!" Haley said.

Haley launched a scathing attack on Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris, who is also of Indian origin.

"On Biden and Harris's watch, a self-loathing has swept our country," she alleged.

"They have us spiraling toward socialism, with a new trillion-dollar spending bill every few months, and a national debt over 30 trillion dollars," she said.

"Make no mistake: This is not the America I will leave to my children! We must stop socialism, before it's too late. It's weakening America from within," said Haley, who if elected would be the first Indian-American and first woman to be elected US president.

Haley was born Nimrata Nikki Randhawa in Bamberg, South Carolina

in 1972 to Sikh parents Ajit Singh Randhawa and Raj Kaur Randhawa, who emigrated from Punjab to Canada and then to the US in the 1960s.

She is the third Indian-American to run for the US presidency in three consecutive election cycles.

Bobby Jindal ran in 2016 and Vice President Kamala Harris in 2020.

She is the second woman of color to ever seek the Republican Party's nomination for the White House.

The first was Angel Joy Chavis Rocker, a school counsellor from Florida, who entered the 2000 presidential race, becoming the first African-American to do so.

Haley, in her speech, said real national unity comes from boldly proclaiming national purpose, asserting that "America is not a racist country".

"My purpose is to save our country from the downward spiral of socialism and defeatism. I aim to move America upward toward freedom and strength," she said.

At 39, she was the youngest governor in the US when she took office in January 2011, and made history as South Carolina's first female governor. She was also the state's first Indian-American governor and would go on to serve for two terms.

From January 2017 to December 2018, she served as the 29th US ambassador to the United Nations.

"I have a particular message for my fellow Republicans. We've lost the popular vote in seven of the last eight presidential elections. Our cause is right, but we have failed to win the confidence of a majority of Americans. Well, that ends today," she said.

"If you're tired of losing, then put your trust in a new generation. And if you want to win - not just as a party, but as a country - then stand with me!" she added.

Haley had famously said previously that she would not challenge Trump if he ran again, before changing her stance, arguing the US needs to look towards a different path.

"It's time for a new generation. It's time for new leadership. And it's time to take our country back. America is worth the fight - and we're just getting started," she tweeted last month.

In an interview with Fox News last month, she said the US needs a "new leader" who can take the country in a new direction.

"We cannot have another term of Joe Biden. And we have to remember, too, we have lost the last seven out of eight popular votes for president. It is time that we get a Republican in there that can lead and can win a general election," she had said.

The top pro-Trump super PAC acknowledged on Tuesday former ambassador Haley's presidential campaign announcement, dismissing her as a "career politician."

Make America Great Again Inc. executive and former Trump spokesman Taylor Budowich released a statement on behalf of the super PAC mocking Haley and her presidential bid.

"Nikki Haley is just another career politician," Budowich said.

"She started out as a Never Trumper before resigning to serve in the Trump admin. She then resigned early to go rake in money on corporate boards," Budowich was quoted as saying by Fox News. (Source: PTI)

Tax 'surveys' at BBC offices conclude after 60 hours

The operation, that began at the BBC offices in Delhi and Mumbai at 11.30 am on Tuesday, February 14, ended just after 10 pm on Thursday, February 16, clocking about 60 hours. The 'surveys' were carried out to look into issues related to international taxation and transfer pricing of BBC subsidiary companies. The survey teams, which sought answers on financial transactions, the company's structure and other details, copied data from electronic gadgets to collect evidence, officials said. Opposition parties have denounced the action against the London-based broadcaster calling it "political vendetta" while questioning the timing - weeks after the BBC had aired a two-part documentary on the Prime Minister and the 2002 Gujarat riots. Meanwhile, there has been no official statement from the Income Tax Department so far. (Source: TNS)

India organizes special exhibition on millets at UN headquarters

In her brief remarks, India's Permanent Representative to the United Nations Ruchira Kamboj shared the reasons why India pursued making 2023



the International Year of Millets (IYM) and how millets were an important solution in the collective march towards the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

This was followed by a launch video on the IYM and a special address by Deputy Secretary-General Amina Mohammed.

The Co-Founder and Director of MRIDA Group, Arun Nagpal, shared his experiences on his journey with millets from the farm to the table. This was followed by a special address by the Chef de Cabinet of the UN Secretary-General Earle Courtenay Rattray, after which the exhibition was officially opened.

Millet-based savories were the other attraction for the guests to taste, while millet grains were also placed on display. The United Nations was treated to a sensory blend of seeing, touching, tasting, and learning about millets.

The millet exhibition will be on display at the United Nations General Assembly Delegates Entrance Exhibition area from 14-17 February 2023, a media release said.

The year 2023 has been designated as the 'International Year of Millets' after a proposal for it was brought forward by India and endorsed by Members of the UN's Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) Governing Bodies, as well as by the 75th Session of the UN General Assembly. Millets were among the first crops to be domesticated in India with several evidence of its consumption during the Indus valley civilization. Being grown in more than 130 countries at present, millet is considered a traditional food for more than half a billion people across Asia and Africa.

In India, millets are primarily a Kharif crop, requiring less water and agricultural inputs than other similar staples. Millets are important by virtue of their mammoth potential to generate livelihoods, increase farmers' income and ensure food and nutritional security all over the world. (Source: PTI)

MAKE YOUR
BRAND ROAR
IN THIS
FEROCIOUS
MARKET



Advertise for as little as
\$10.00.

Call 646-247-9458



Shiv Sahani

Call for All your Life Insurance Needs!
"Making Friends Through Service"

SAHANIS: Shiv, Arish & Priya
Office: (718) 271-0453
Cell: (646) 644-0174
Email: sksahani@ft.nyl.com
Agent, New York Life Insurance Company



SACH Law Firm

"Whole Truth and
Nothing But The Truth."

- > Immigration
- > Accidents
- > Divorce
- > Real Estate

Call at (516)-499-9779

Our legal team at Sach Law Firm has a well-deserved reputation of excellence in providing smart, sensible, and cost-effective legal and business solutions for our clients.

We serve a wide range of clientele, and every client relationship is valued greatly and treated with dignity and respect. Each engagement benefits from the depth and breadth of expertise of Sach Law Firm.



Do you want to succeed in a very rewarding career?

NEW YORK LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY
IS HIRING
Do you want to capitalize on your ability to produce?
COME CHECK IT OUT!

CALL MR. ROHAN HANDA **718-286-1132 | 516-435-6120**

Conveniently located at:
95-25 Queens Blvd., 4th Floor
Rego Park, N.Y. 11374



Rohan Handa
Executive Partner
New York Life

Indian Visa Center

VISA / OCI PIO / PASSPORT
APPLICATION ASSISTANCE CENTER
349 S. Broadway, Hicksville, NY 11801

DEEPAK BANSAL
Email: deepakbansalny@gmail.com
Cell: 516.304.8808 Fax: 516.218.8009

NOTICE NAME CHANGE

I, Sandeep Kumar Mittan S/o Prem Singh R/O 103-11 68 Drive 6N Forest Hills, New York- 11375 have changed the name of my minor son Aditya Singh aged 10 Years and he shall hereafter be known as Aditya Mittan. It is certified that I have complied with other legal requirements in this connection.

I, Sandeep Kumar Mittan S/o Prem Singh R/O 103-11 68 Drive 6N Forest Hills, New York- 11375 have changed the name of my minor daughter Aaradhya aged 6 Years and she shall hereafter be known as Aaradhya Mittan. It is certified that I have complied with other legal requirements in this connection.

Get to the Point

The INDIAN PANORAMA
EVER TRUTHFUL
A DELIGHTFUL READING EVERY WEEK

Widest Coverage

Your Trusted Partner in Business
The Indian Panorama

P.O. Box No. 190067, South Richmond Hill, NY 11419, Tel: 646-247-9458
Phone: 646-247-9458 Fax: 347-632-0001 email: editor@theindianpanorama.com
www.theindianpanorama.news

History This Week

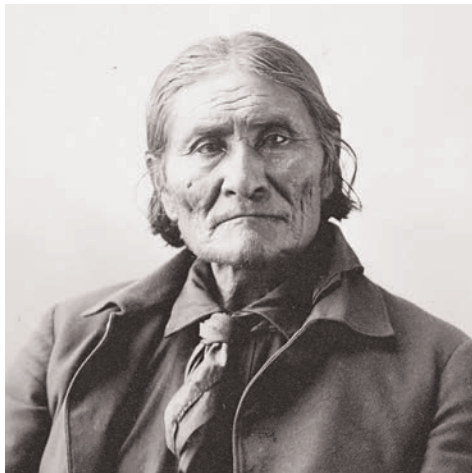
FEBRUARY 17 - 23, 2023

February 17



Fort Sumter

February 17, 1865 - During the American Civil War, Fort Sumter in South Carolina was returned to the Union after nearly a year and a half under Confederate control. The fort had been the scene of the first shots of the war.



Apache Chief Geronimo

February 17, 1909 - Apache Chief Geronimo (1829-1909) died while in captivity at Fort Sill, Oklahoma. He had led a small group of warriors on raids throughout Arizona and New Mexico. Caught once, he escaped. The U.S. Army then sent 5,000 men to recapture him.

February 18



Wendell Willkie

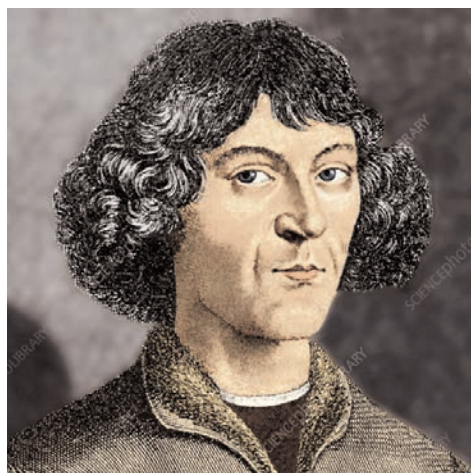
Birthdays - American politician Wendell Willkie (1892-1944) was born in Elwood, Illinois. He was the Republican nominee for president in 1940, running against Franklin D. Roosevelt.

February 19



President Franklin Roosevelt

February 19, 1942 - Internment of Japanese Americans began after President Franklin Roosevelt issued an Executive Order requiring those living on the Pacific coast to report for relocation. Over 110,000 persons therefore shut down their businesses, sold off their property, quit school and moved inland to the relocation centers.



Birthdays - Astronomer Nicolaus Copernicus (1473-1543) was born in Torun, Poland. Considered the founder of modern astronomy, he theorized that the sun, not the earth, was the center of the solar system.

February 20



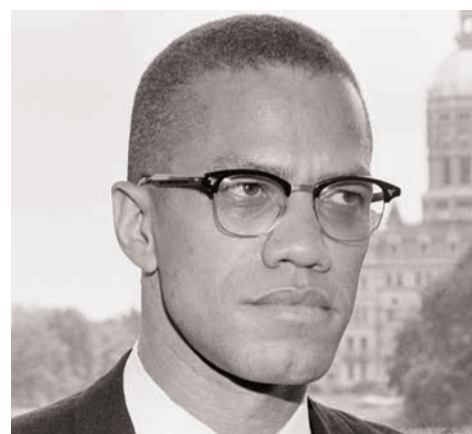
Marshal Erwin Rommel

February 20, 1943 - German Field Marshal Erwin Rommel broke through American lines at Kasserine Pass in North Africa as inexperienced U.S. Troops lost their first major battle of World War II in Europe, with 1,000 Americans killed.



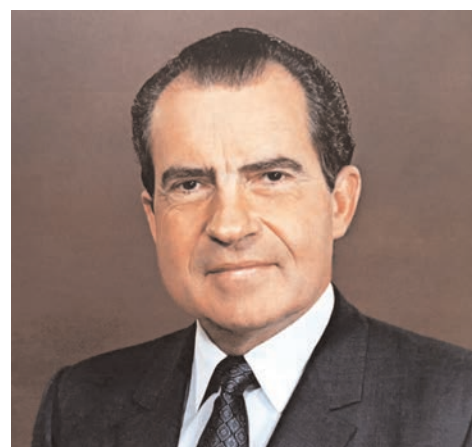
Astronaut John Glenn

February 20, 1962 - Astronaut John Glenn became the first American launched into orbit. Traveling aboard the "Friendship 7" spacecraft, Glenn reached an altitude of 162 miles (260 kilometers) and completed three orbits in a flight lasting just under five hours. Glenn was the third American in space, preceded by Alan Shepard and Virgil "Gus" Grissom who had each completed short sub-orbital flights. All of them had been preceded by Russian cosmonaut Yuri Gagarin who was the first human in space, completing one orbit on April 12, 1961 - a feat that intensified the already ongoing Space Race between the Russians and Americans. Glenn's successful flight showed the Americans had caught up and was followed in September 1962 by President John F. Kennedy's open call to land an American on the moon before the decade's end.



President John F. Kennedy's

February 21



President Richard Nixon

February 21, 1965 - Former Black Muslim leader Malcolm X (1925-1965) was

shot and killed while delivering a speech in a ballroom in New York City.

February 21, 1972 - President Richard Nixon arrived in China for historic meetings with Chairman Mao Tse-tung and Premier Chou En-lai.

February 21, 1994 - CIA agent Aldrich Ames was arrested on charges he spied for the Soviet Union from 1985 to 1991.

February 22

February 22, 1956 - In Montgomery, Alabama, 80 participants in the three-month-old bus boycott voluntarily gave themselves up for arrest after an ultimatum from white city leaders. Martin Luther King and Rosa Parks were among those arrested. Later in 1956, the



George Washington

U.S. Supreme Court mandated desegregation of the buses.

Birthdays - George Washington (1732-1799) was born in Westmoreland County, Virginia. He served as commander of the Continental Army during the American Revolution and became the first U.S. President.

February 23

February 23, 1942 - During World War II, the first attack on the U.S. mainland occurred as a Japanese submarine shelled an oil refinery near Santa Barbara, California, causing minor damage.

February 23, 1991 - In Desert Storm, the Allied ground offensive began after a devastating month-long air campaign targeting Iraqi troops in both Iraq and Kuwait.

Birthdays - African American educator and leader W.E.B. Du Bois (1868-1963) was born in Great Barrington, Massachusetts.



W.E.B. Du Bois

Birthdays - Historian William L. Shirer (1904-1993) was born in Chicago, Illinois. As a news reporter stationed in Europe, he witnessed the rise of Adolf Hitler and reported on the surrender of France. Following the war he wrote the first major history of Nazi Germany, The Rise and Fall of the Third Reich.



WPL 2023: RCB name Sania Mirza as mentor of women's team

Royal Challengers Bangalore announced on Wednesday that they were naming Indian tennis legend Sania Mirza as the mentor of their women's team for the inaugural season of the Women's Premier League.

A winner of six Grand Slam titles, Sania has had a 20-year-long career which has seen her win 43 WTA Titles. RCB said in a statement that Sania's "global stature as one of the leading role models for innumerable women prompted the RCB team management to get her on board, to motivate and encourage the women's team of RCB. Sania is someone whom the players can relate and respond to easily in a team environment."

In the recently-concluded WPL auctions, RCB picked star names like India batter Smriti Mandhana, Australian all-rounder Ellyse Perry, Australian medium pacer Megan Schutt, New Zealand captain Sophie Devine, England skipper Heather Knight, South African all-rounder Dane Van Niekerk and India under-19-star Richa Ghosh.

Ashwin rises to 2nd spot in ICC Test bowlers' rankings

DUBAI (TIP)

India off-spinner Ravichandran Ashwin on Wednesday, February 15, jumped to the second spot in the ICC Men's Test Bowlers Rankings following his eight-wicket show against Australia in the opening Test in Nagpur.

Left-arm spinner Ravindra Jadeja, who made a successful comeback after almost five months due to a knee injury, has moved up to the 16th position, courtesy his player-of-the-match winning effort in the Border-Gavaskar Trophy series-opener.

The spin duo haunted Australia in the first Test by sharing 15 wickets between them as India won by an innings and 132 runs inside three days. Ashwin ensured India wrapped up a stunning victory before tea on the third day, as the veteran off-spinner took 5/37 in the second innings to go with 3/42 earlier in the match. The 36-year-old is 21 rating points behind Australia captain Pat Cummins and is in contention to return to the No 1 ranking for the first time since 2017.

While Ashwin stepped up in what turned out to be the last session of the Test, Jadeja did the damage on the first day with 5/47, including the prized wickets of Steve Smith and Marnus Labuschagne.

Jadeja then took 2/34 in the second Australian innings. Australia were bowled out for just 91.

Among other Indian bowlers, pacer Jasprit Bumrah, who too has been out of action since September



last due to a lower back stress fracture, is placed fifth.

In the Test batting chart, India captain Rohit Sharma has been rewarded for his match-defining ton in Nagpur. He gained two spots to be at number eight. Rohit came to the crease after Australia were all out for 177 in their first innings, then made the wicket look all-but tame with an assured 120 that set the tone for the rest of the match.

Wicket-keeper Rishabh Pant, who will be out of action for an indefinite period following his horrific car accident, is the other Indian batter in top 10. He is placed seventh.

In contrast, Australian openers

David Warner and Usman Khawaja have paid the price for being dismissed cheaply twice.

Warner has fallen six places to 20th after his scores of 1 and 10, while Khawaja has dropped two spots to 10th after making only 1 and 5 in the first Test. Australian duo of Marnus Labuschagne and Steve Smith occupy the top two positions with Pakistan captain Babar Azam in the third spot.

India all-rounder Axar Patel has leaped six places to seventh in Test all-rounder rankings after coming to the crease at a tense 240 for 7. He hit a patient 84 for his highest score in the format.

WOMEN'S T20 WORLD CUP

Deepti, Richa shine as India beat West Indies by 6 wickets

CAPE TOWN (TIP)

Deepti Sharma shone with the ball before Richa Ghosh led India to a six-wicket win over West Indies in their Women's T20 World Cup Group 2 match here on Wednesday, February 15.

Deepti spun a web around the West Indies batters to restrict them to 118 for six after being asked to bowl.

The seasoned off-spinner (3/15) picked three wickets to become the first Indian to get to 100 women's T20I wickets.

Ghosh (44 not out) and captain Harmanpreet Kaur (33) then put up a vital 72-run stand to take India to their second victory of the tournament with 11 balls to spare.

Needing less than run a ball, India were off to an electric start with openers Shafali Verma (28) and Smriti Mandhana (10) taking the team total to 31 in four overs on the back of six fours.

But India lost the momentum as slow bowling did the trick for West Indies.

Mandhana missed off-spinner Karishma Ramharack's (2/14) ball completely, resulting in an easy stumping for wicketkeeper Rasha Williams.

Last game match-winner Jemimah



Rodrigues (1) became Hayley Matthews (1/12) first and only victim of the day as the skipper took a stellar catch of her own bowling.

After two low-scoring overs, Shafali tried to up the ante only to be caught at long leg and West Indies picked three wickets in quick succession.

Harmanpreet took her time to settle

down before hitting back-to-back fours off Afy Fletcher (0/24) in the ninth over. The India skipper's knock came off 42 balls with the help of three boundaries.

Ghosh did what she does best—finish the game.

The youngster hit five fours, including one to finish off the match in her unbeaten 32-ball innings. She took

India to 119 for 4 in 18.1 overs. Earlier, Pooja Vastrakar (1/21), opening with the new ball, gave India the early breakthrough, getting rid of the dangerous Hayley Matthews (2), striking on her very first ball.

The West Indies skipper was done in by the extra bounce as Richa Ghosh completed a regulation catch.

Pooja continued to put pressure on the West Indies, bowling a wicket maiden. Shemaine Campbelle (30) hit West Indies' first boundary in the third over, slapping a Renuka Singh (1/22) delivery past square leg.

The introduction of spin led to West Indies collecting 12 runs, including two fours from Rajeshwari Gayakwad's over.

West Indies were 53 for 1 at the halfway mark. Campbelle and Stefanie Taylor (42) steadied the West Indies innings as they slowly but steadily stitched a 73-run partnership. The two shared nine boundaries between them.

However, twin strikes from the ever-reliable Deepti led to a mini batting collapse. The off-spinner first punished Campbelle for going for a reverse sweep with Smriti Mandhana completing a lovely catch at short third. *Source: PTI*

Advocates descend on Capitol to demand full funding for the MTA; rally with legislators



FEBRUARY 14, 2023

ALBANY, NY (TIP): On Tuesday, February 14, a broad alliance of elected representatives, community organizations, advocates, and MTA riders rallied at the Capitol in support of including funding for the "Fix the MTA" package in the state budget. Advocates, straphangers and elected representatives alike are calling on the one-house budgets to include funding to not only resolve the MTA's fiscal crisis, but ensure improved service, without imposing fare hikes on working-class New Yorkers already stretched thin by the skyrocketing cost of living.

The "Formula Three" spending bill within the "Fix the MTA" package would fully fund the MTA and reject a fare hike to \$3, fund greater frequency for 6-minute service, and make buses free. The package also includes programmatic measures: to increase the agency's accountability through better reporting; establish prudent and accurate budget measures; and boost efficiency.

Governor Hochul's executive budget does not provide the funding necessary to avoid a fare hike to \$3, and provides no funding for the service that MTA riders deserve.

Over 50 advocates and MTA riders joined Assembly Member Zohran K. Mamdani, NYS Senate Deputy Leader Gianaris, Senator Jessica Ramos, Senator Andrew Gounardes, Senator John Liu, Senator Jabari Brisport, Senator Natalia Fernandez, Senator Kristen Gonzalez, Assembly Member Alicia Hyndman, Assembly Member Juan Ardila, Assembly Member Jessica González-Rojas, Assembly Member Amanda Septimo, Assembly Member Robert Carroll, Assembly Member Tony Simone, Assembly Member Michaëlle Solages, Assembly Member Jeffrey Dinowitz, Assembly Member Phara Souffrant Forrest, Assembly Member Chantel Jackson, Assembly Member Marcela Mitaynes, Assembly Member Emily Gallagher, Assembly Member Sarahana Shrestha, Betsy Plum, Executive Director, Riders Alliance, Alfred Lynch Jr., a member of Riders Alliance and Lisa Daglian, Executive Director, Permanent Citizens Advisory to the MTA.

"This is the budget where we move beyond the bare minimum when it comes to the MTA. Dozens of my colleagues and I

see this year as the one where we freeze the fare, fund frequency, and make buses free. Whether we speak to them on subway platforms or at bus stops, our constituents are clear that now is the time to break the Albany cycle of disinvestment and disinterest, and instead take critical steps towards creating a transit system that is affordable, reliable, and universally accessible," said Assembly Member Zohran Mamdani.

"The MTA is on an express track towards fiscal calamity and it is imperative we intervene to save and improve the nation's most important transit system," said Senate Deputy Leader Michael Gianaris. "Freezing fares, improving service and providing free bus service would be game-changers that would set the tone for the rest of the country and put the MTA on solid footing for a better future."

"Ridership on the 7 train, which runs the length of my district, remained relatively steady throughout the pandemic because of the essential workers who kept commuting and kept our city running. We should recognize their contributions with reliable service, not fare hikes. New Yorkers are already feeling the squeeze of rising prices. We can either muster the political will to fix the MTA, or we can take half measures at the expense of working families who rely on our public transit infrastructure," said State Senator Jessica Ramos.

"Fixing the MTA is not just about repairing tracks and trains, it's about restoring faith in the backbone of our city's infrastructure and the millions of New Yorkers who rely on it every day. Access to reliable and affordable public transportation is not a luxury, it's a necessity - and providing free bus service from suburban communities to the city is a crucial step towards ensuring equitable opportunities and a thriving local economy for all," said Assembly Member Michaëlle Solages.

"I'm proud to stand in support of the #FixtheMTA bill package. I am speaking up alongside other legislators, advocacy groups, and working people who rely on the MTA to demand real investments in our public services. Now, more than ever, we must revitalize our public transportation to build a future of sustainability and equality. In NY, the rich have abandoned our public transportation, but that doesn't mean the burden of fare increases should rest on working-class communities like mine. We must increase the availability and affordability of the MTA and make our public services truly public," said Assembly Member Marcela Mitaynes.

"Governor Hochul owes millions of New York bus and subway riders a targeted investment in six minutes or better service all day, every day," said Riders Alliance Executive Director Betsy Plum. "More frequent public transit service will attract more riders, improve safety, enhance equity and is essential to both mitigating and adapting to climate change. In a state with a multibillion dollar surplus and money available to support industries from horse racing to Hollywood filmmaking,

there's no question that New York can afford the public transit service we need and deserve. With transit virtually defining our competitive edge, more frequent service is a policy change we can't afford not to make."

"Transit is the backbone of our region- an essential service- and it deserves to be funded as such," said Lisa Daglian, Executive Director of the Permanent Citizens Advisory Committee to the MTA (PCAC). "An investment in better transit is an investment in a stronger city, state, and region. Riders need our state legislators and Governor to pass key aspects of the Fix the MTA package- including funding the MTA, increasing and improving MTA transparency, and give a greater voice to rider representatives on the MTA Board- which together will help build the transit system riders deserve. We can't afford to face exorbitant fare hikes or service cuts- the millions of riders who depend on transit every day need our state leaders to fix the MTA. We thank Assemblymember Mamdani and the Assembly and Senate co-sponsors for proposing legislation that would transform our transit system and the lives of riders."

"New York currently has a surplus of over 8 billion dollars. There's no reason why we can't adequately fund the MTA and meet the Chair's \$350 million ask to stave off another fare hike. I'm proud to have recently introduced a new bill as part of the "Fix the MTA" legislative package that would also help support the MTA's overall fiscal health. The bill would allow certain tax revenue to go directly to the MTA without legislative appropriation. If enacted, the MTA would have more immediate access to much-needed funds, improve its credit, and prevent potential budget cuts in the future. I urge my colleagues to pass this bill this session and work together to help improve public transit without passing the buck to struggling New Yorkers," said Assembly Member Jessica González-Rojas.

Assemblyman Jeffrey Dinowitz said: "Mass transit is the lifeblood of New York, and our state budget should reflect the significant impact that it has on the wellbeing of all New Yorkers. The economic success of Bronxites and all working class New Yorkers is reliant on access to efficient, safe, and affordable buses and subways. Furthermore, beyond mere investments in mass transit, we must ensure that our transit authorities are spending this money with the best interest of riders in mind. Adding rider representation to the MTA Board would ensure that this valuable perspective is included in key decisions, and I'm proud to support the Fix the MTA package to enact systemic reform as well as paradigm-shifting investments in mass transit service for New Yorkers."

"Transit is an irreplaceable public good that provides us access to our homes, our jobs, and the city around us. For the millions of working class New Yorkers who rely on our public transit, proposed fare

hikes and long wait times are unacceptable," said State Senator Julia Salazar. "I join my colleagues in urging the Governor to align the State's investments with the needs of New Yorkers- and pass an executive budget that includes funding for the entire Fix the MTA package."

State Senator John Liu said, "Hiking fares to cover for lagging ridership without addressing critical flaws like excessive wait times is counterintuitive for a mass transit system that is supposed to be accessible to all New Yorkers. This legislative package looks to make a fiscally sound, accountable and efficient system that will fully fund the MTA, create reliability, and make buses free for all, as has already been achieved in major metropolitan areas like Washington D.C. Many thanks to Assembly Member Zohran Mamdani and our colleagues from both houses who recognize the urgency and necessity of this effort to improve transit and increase ridership."

State Senator Kristen Gonzalez said, "New Yorkers shouldn't settle for a transit system with unaffordable fares and unreliable service. This package would take a transformative approach to America's largest transit system, treating the MTA like the public good that it is. Rejecting a fare hike, phasing in free buses, and implementing 6-minute service throughout the day would tangibly improve the lives of working-class New Yorkers. If the Governor is serious about her commitment to the MTA, she will make the investments necessary to guarantee reliable, affordable service for all New Yorkers."

"The MTA's impending fiscal cliff presents us with a fundamental choice. We could balance their budget on the backs of working class New Yorkers who rely on the buses and subways, while doing little to improve service and reliability. Or we could seize the moment to make transformative investments and create a system that's beloved by every New Yorker, with dependable 6-minute service, frozen fares on the subway and free rides on the bus. It's up to us in this year's state budget," said Assembly Member Emily Gallagher.

Learn more about the legislation and the campaign at fixthemta.org

ABOUT "FIX THE MTA": The campaign, supported by Riders Alliance, the Permanent Citizens Advisory Committee to the MTA, Transportation Alternatives, the Democratic Socialists of America, New York City Chapter, New York Communities for Change, and the Invest in Our New York coalition advocates for the "Fix the MTA" package of bills introduced in the NY State Legislature this session. The package makes the MTA safer, more reliable, and affordable by rejecting a fare hike; increasing service; and making buses free. The package includes programmatic measures: to increase accountability through better reporting; establish prudent and accurate budget measures; and boost efficiency. Read more at fixthemta.org.



FEBRUARY NEW CAR SPECIALS



2022 CHEVROLET
TRAX LT AWD

LEASE WITH \$2,667 DOWN

\$229 per mo.
for 39 mos.

Stk# CH220466. MSRP: \$25,465. \$2667 down pymt + 1st mo pymt + bank fee + DMV fee + taxes.



2023 CHEVROLET
EQUINOX LS FWD

LEASE WITH \$2,667 DOWN

\$239 per mo.
for 27 mos.

Stk# CH230388. MSRP: \$28,720. \$2667 down pymt + 1st mo pymt + bank fee + DMV fee + taxes.



2023 CHEVROLET
EQUINOX LS AWD

LEASE WITH \$2,667 DOWN

\$259 per mo.
for 27 mos.

Stk# CH230340. MSRP: \$30,575. \$2667 down pymt + 1st mo pymt + bank fee + DMV fee + taxes.



2023 CHEVROLET
EQUINOX LT AWD

LEASE WITH \$2,667 DOWN

\$279 per mo.
for 27 mos.

Stk# CH230281. MSRP: \$32,490. \$2667 down pymt + 1st mo pymt + bank fee + DMV fee + taxes.



2023 CHEVROLET
EQUINOX RS AWD

LEASE WITH \$2,667 DOWN

\$329 per mo.
for 39 mos.

Stk# CH230026X MSRP: \$33,395. \$2667 down pymt + 1st mo pymt + bank fee + DMV fee + tax



2023 CHEVROLET
EQUINOX PREMIER

LEASE WITH \$2,667 DOWN

\$399 per mo.
for 39 mos.

Stk# CH230320. MSRP: \$40,350. \$2667 down pymt + 1st mo pymt + bank fee + DMV fee + taxes.



2023 CHEVROLET
TRAVERSE 1LT AWD

LEASE WITH \$2,667 DOWN

\$399 per mo.
for 36 mos.

Stk# CH23049X. MSRP: \$42,520. \$2667 down pymt + 1st mo pymt + bank fee + DMV fee + taxes.



2023 CHEVROLET
TRAVERSE 3LT AWD

LEASE WITH \$2,667 DOWN

\$439 per mo.
for 36 mos.

Stk# CH230369. MSRP: \$44,840. \$2667 down pymt + 1st mo pymt + bank fee + DMV fee + taxes.



2023 CHEVROLET
SILVERADO 2FL CREW CAB

LEASE WITH \$2,667 DOWN

\$439 per mo.
for 36 mos.

Stk# CH230390. MSRP: \$55,145. \$2667 down pymt + 1st mo pymt + bank fee + DMV fee + taxes.



2023 CHEVROLET
SILVERADO RST CREW CAB

LEASE WITH \$2,667 DOWN

\$589 per mo.
for 39 mos.

Stk# CH230192. MSRP: \$61,060. \$2667 down pymt + 1st mo pymt + bank fee + DMV fee + taxes.



2023 CHEVROLET
TRAVERSE PREMIER AWD

LEASE WITH \$2,667 DOWN

\$599 per mo.
for 36 mos.

Stk# CH230249. MSRP: \$53,990. \$2667 down pymt + 1st mo pymt + bank fee + DMV fee + taxes.



EMPIRE
CHEVROLET
OF HICKSVILLE
Where YOU are treated like Royalty



FIND NEW ROADS™

236 S BROADWAY • HICKSVILLE, NY 11801
516-831-0421

SHOPEMPIRECHEVROLETOFHICKSVILLE.com

Prices include all costs to be paid by a consumer except, tax, title & MV fees. Lease incl 10K mi with \$.25 cents per add'l mi. Must have current Non-GM lease in household to qualify. Lessee responsible for excess wear, tear and maintenance. See dealer for details. Offer expires 2/28/23.



A World without Childhood Blindness



Only by doing good can one benefit
-Rig Veda

An Eye Institute in Rajahmundry, Andhra Pradesh to prevent avoidable childhood blindness
Vision of Dr. V.K. Raju, the Eye Foundation of America and Goutami Eye Institute

- * 3.5 million + served
- * 350 thousand + surgeries
- * 30 thousand + on children



Message from Peter J. McDonnell, M.D. Director Wilmer Eye Institute, Johns Hopkins University, USA on the occasion of laying the foundation stone on December 10, 2020



"On behalf of all my colleagues of the Wilmer Eye Institute in Baltimore, MO, I send my best wishes and congratulations to our friends in Goutami on this extremely important occasion. This beautiful facility will match the wonderful world class work of your doctors, nurses and staff in preserving and restoring the vision of so many patients. We in the United States are inspired by your dedication and admire your tireless efforts to serve so many who need your skills and compassion. Best wishes, Peter"



POST SURGERY



PRE SURGERY

Triplets Prasanth, Susanth and Nisanth, who were treated by Goutami Eye Institute three years ago and gifted vision for life, as ROP babies under GEMROP (Goutami Eye tele Medicine Retinopathy Of Prematurity).

- Treating disease and vision problems
- Performing free cataract surgeries
- Screening infants and children
- Distributing glasses and visual aids
- Conducting Research
- Providing Education

Be a part of the movement. Donate now at www.eyefoundationofamerica.org
Tax Exempt # 55-0621735

The work by the Eye Foundation of America team started in 1977 and has spread from India to 21 different countries. Additionally, EFA Focuses on teaching and training of health professionals who receive the Foundation's support at every level.
<https://youtube/B23VvUaloN4> <https://youtube/KiCzqLQe2VE>

"There can be no keener revelation of a society's soul than the way in which it treats its children". - Nelson Mandela

To know more about the work of Eye Foundation of America or to donate, visit www.eyefoundationofamerica.org

ॐ सर्वे भवन्तु सुखिनः Sarve Bhavantu Sukhinah,
सर्वे सन्तु नरिमायाः । Sarve Santu Niramayah
May all be prosperous and happy!
May all be healthy!

The Eye Foundation of America
695, West View Avenue, Morgantown, WV 26505
Phone: 304-599-0705
www.eyefoundationofamerica.org