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MAHARASHTRA GOVERNOR'S DECISION TO CALL FLOOR TEST WRONG: SUPREME COURT OF INDIA



The Supreme Court, in a unanimous judgment, effectively opened the doors for disqualification proceedings against Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde for defection from the Shiv Sena

MAY 11, 2023

NEW DELHI (TIP): The Supreme Court of India, in a unanimous judgment, effectively opened the doors for disqualification proceedings against Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde for defection from the Shiv Sena and held that the then Governor Bhagat Singh Koshyari "erred" in calling for a trust vote, which triggered the fall of the Uddhav Thackeray-led Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) government in mid-2022.

The court also said that Governor Koshyari was right in inviting Mr. Shinde to form the new government as Mr. Thackeray had resigned before the floor test. This means that the Shinde government will continue in power for now.

"The Governor had no objective material on the basis of which he could doubt the confidence of the incumbent government... Floor test cannot be used as a means to settle differences within a political party... The Governor erred in concluding that Mr. Thackeray had lost support... The discretion to call for a floor test is not

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Karnataka witnesses 'record' 73.19 per cent voter turnout in Assembly elections

LARGELY PEACEFUL VOTING IN ALL 224 ASSEMBLY CONSTITUENCIES, NO REPOLL INDICATED IN ANY OF THE 58,545 POLLING STATIONS

ALL EXIT POLLS PLACE CONGRESS IN THE LEAD, FOLLOWED BY BJP AND JDS



Workers arrange EVMs in a strong room after the Karnataka Assembly elections, in Bengaluru, on Thursday, May 11, 2023. Counting of votes will take place on May 13. Photo credit / PTI

MAY 11, 2023

BENGALURU (TIP): Karnataka registered a voter turnout of 73.19 per cent in the Assembly polls which election officials on Thursday, May 11 termed a record, while sharing the final figures.

Voting took place on Wednesday, May 10 to elect representatives to the 224-member House. Counting of votes will take place on May 13.

"Karnataka has created a new record for itself. Final voter turnout for Karnataka Election 2023 stands at 73.19 per cent," said the Chief Electoral Office, Karnataka.

While Chikkaballapura district recorded the highest voter turnout of 85.56 per cent, followed by Bengaluru Rural at 85.08 per cent; the lowest was in Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike

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Twitter to have a new CEO in six weeks: Elon Musk



Elon Musk said he has found a CEO for Twitter

Photo credit / Royal Society

MAY 12, 2023

SAN FRANCISCO

(TIP): Elon Musk said Thursday, May 11 that he has found a new CEO for Twitter, or X Corp. as it's now called.

He did not name the person but she will be starting in about six weeks, he said.

Musk, who bought Twitter last fall and has been running it since, has been insisting he is not the company's permanent CEO. The Tesla billionaire said in a tweet Thursday that his role will transition to being Twitter's

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Supreme Court disapproves of Amit Shah's statement on scrapping of 4pc Muslim quota in Karnataka



Home Minister Amit Shah

Photo credit / Tribune

MAY 9, 2023

NEW DELHI

(TIP): The Supreme Court on Tuesday disapproved of senior BJP leader and Union Home Minister Amit Shah's statement on scrapping the

four per cent quota for Muslims in government jobs and educational institutions in poll-bound Karnataka, saying a sub-judice issue should not be politicized. A Bench of Justice KM Joseph, Justice BV Nagarathna and

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Pakistan Supreme Court declares Imran Khan's arrest 'illegal', orders his immediate release



Former prime minister of Pakistan and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chief Imran Khan at Supreme Court, in Islamabad, Thursday, May 11, 2023

MAY 11, 2023

ISLAMABAD (TIP): In a major relief for Imran Khan, Pakistan's Supreme Court on Thursday declared the former prime minister's arrest "illegal" and

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GUEST COMMENT

Morality and majority: on the Supreme Court verdict on the political imbroglio in Maharashtra

SUPREME COURT VERDICT IS AN INDICTMENT OF HOW REGIME CHANGE IN MAHARASHTRA WAS ACHIEVED

It often happens in litigation around political developments that judgments underscore high principles but extend no relief to those impacted by breach of constitutional norms. The Supreme Court verdict on the political imbroglio in Maharashtra last year is one such. It is an indictment of the manner in which regime change was achieved, but it does not alter the status quo. A Constitution Bench has ruled that Governor Bhagat Singh Koshyari had no objective material to doubt the majority of the then Chief Minister, Uddhav Thackeray, but had nevertheless asked him to take a floor test, based on extraneous factors. As Mr. Thackeray had resigned without facing the floor test, the Court said it was unable to restore his government. It is true that it cannot quash a voluntary resignation, but the Court fails to acknowledge that his resignation was forced by circumstances to which the

Court itself was a party. On the eve of the floor test, a Supreme Court Bench allowed it to go on. Earlier, by an interim order, the Court had extended the time given to the then rebel Shiv Sena MLAs led by Eknath Shinde from June 27 to July 12 to reply to applications seeking their disqualification for defection. The order gave ample time to the dissidents, along with the BJP, to execute political maneuvers without the threat of disqualification from the House. In effect, the two court orders helped in the toppling of the regime, a fact that the final verdict fails to acknowledge.

The Thackeray faction lost in the numbers game, a game in which time is of the essence for both rulers who need to protect their flock and dissidents who need to rope in enough defectors. Besides cautioning Governors against treating internal problems of a ruling party as a possible loss of majority, the Court has also clarified that whips and leaders of

the party in the House ought to be appointed by the political party, and not the legislature party. This has a bearing on whose whip is binding on legislators in the event of a party splitting into two factions. It has also decided that the judgment in Nabam Rebia (2016), holding that a Speaker who is facing a notice for removal from office should not adjudicate a disqualification matter under the anti-defection law, should be reconsidered by a larger Bench. This is welcome, as legislators who have incurred disqualification should not be allowed to use a frivolous petition to remove the Speaker to ward off their own disqualification. Mr. Thackeray can now claim a moral victory, but in the domain of political coalitions, a legislative majority is seen as more important than morality.

(The Hindu)

Turmoil in Pakistan

IMRAN'S ARREST HARDENS POLITICAL BATTLE LINES

The arrest of former Prime Minister Imran Khan in a corruption case has triggered widespread violence in Pakistan and plunged the economically beleaguered country into a political crisis, months before the national election scheduled for November. Imran's irate supporters have upped the ante against the Pakistan Muslim League (Nawaz) government and the army leadership. A prolonged confrontation is expected, with a court on Wednesday indicting Imran in a separate case of corruption on the charge of illegally selling state gifts during his tenure as PM. His party, Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf, is accusing the powers that be of plotting to defame and

defang him with the motive of derailing his electoral comeback. After being in power for four years, Imran stepped down as PM in April last year following a parliamentary no-confidence vote. He has repeatedly blamed the US for engineering his ouster in league with the Pakistan army.

It's apparent that the drastic action of taking the popular leader into custody has been carried out at the behest of or with the consent of Pakistan's military. It's no coincidence that a day before the arrest, the Inter Services Public Relations - the media wing of the military - issued a statement accusing Imran of targeting officials of the military and intelligence agencies by

making 'fabricated and malicious allegations.' However, the ploy might backfire in the long run if he effectively plays the 'victim card' and gains the sympathy of the masses.

The political uncertainty in Pakistan has grave implications for India, which has been grappling with cross-border terrorism for decades. With the recent killings of soldiers in Poonch and Rajouri indicating an escalation in terror activities, New Delhi must remain on guard in the coming weeks and months. There could be more trouble in store, especially if Pakistan's civil-military establishment emerges stronger from the present upheaval.

(Tribune, India)

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Personal Consultation, Pastlife & Healing Sessions	18 May (Thurs) 19 May (Fri) 22 May (Mon) 23 May (Tue)	The Community Center, Lakshmi Hall, 143-09, Holly Ave, Flushing, New York 11355 (9 am - 1 pm & 4 pm - 9 pm)	CONTRIBUTION
The Awakening (Basic)	20 May (Sat) 11 am - 4 pm	The Community Center, Lakshmi Hall, 143-09, Holly Ave, Flushing, New York 11355	FREE ENTRY
The Awakening (Advance)	21 May (Sun) 4 pm - 9 pm	The Community Center, Lakshmi Hall, 143-09, Holly Ave, Flushing, New York 11355	CONTRIBUTION
Group PASTLIFE SESSION for all	21 May (Sun) 9 am - 12 noon	Saraswati Hall, 45-52 Bowne Street, Flushing, New York 11355	CONTRIBUTION



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INDIAN AMERICAN GEORGIA BASED DOCTOR INDICTED FOR SEXUALLY ASSAULTING PATIENTS



Rajesh Motibhai Patel, 68, was indicted last week on multiple counts of violating his patients' constitutional right to bodily integrity

Photo for representation only

MAY 8, 2023

ATLANTA (TIP): An Indian-origin primary care physician in Georgia has been accused of sexually assaulting four of his female patients during routine check-ups over a 12-month period.

Rajesh Motibhai Patel, 68, was indicted last week on multiple counts of violating his patients' constitutional right to bodily integrity while acting under color of law and for engaging in unwanted sexual contact, a Department of Justice release said.

According to information presented in court, between 2019 and 2020, Patel, a physician at the Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Decatur, allegedly assaulted four of his female patients by touching them improperly during routine exams. Investigators believe that Patel may have victimized additional patients.

"Patel allegedly sexually abused his female patients and violated his oath to do no harm to patients under his care," US Attorney Ryan K. Buchanan said.

"Veterans and their families expect and deserve the highest quality of healthcare delivered in a safe and accountable setting," Veteran Affairs Inspector General Michael J. Missal said. He said that the department has been cooperating with the law enforcement to ensure the safety of patients.

Indian-Origin Canada's Kabaddi Federation president Kamaljit Kang shot at outside his house in Surrey



Canada's Kabaddi Federation president Kamaljit Singh Kang alias Neetu Kang was shot at outside his house by unknown assailants in Surrey's Bear Creek area on Friday, May 5.

MAY 6, 2023

SURREY (TIP): Canada's Kabaddi Federation president Kamaljit Singh Kang alias Neetu Kang was shot at outside his house by unknown assailants in Surrey's Bear Creek area on Friday, May 5. The assailants managed to escape the spot before the police arrived. (Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)

Two nurses from India shortlisted for Global Nursing Award

MAY 9, 2023

LONDON (TIP): Two nurses from India are in the running for a prestigious USD 250,000 Global Nursing Award, organized by Dubai-headquartered private healthcare service provider Aster DM Healthcare to honor the contributions of nurses worldwide.

Shanti Teresa Lakra, who works among Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs) in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, and Kerala-born and Ireland-based Jincy Jerry are among 10 worldwide finalists undergoing a public voting process before being evaluated by a grand jury judging panel for the award.

The winner will be awarded at a ceremony in London on May 12, which is marked worldwide as International Nurses Day.

"The Aster Guardians Global Nursing Award was started because we felt a necessity to celebrate the nurses and recognize them," said Dr Azad Moopen, India-born Founder Chairman and Managing Director of Aster DM Healthcare, which operates healthcare services in India and the Gulf.

"We have about 8,000 nurses in our own organization, and we have seen the way in which they put their heart and soul into serving and saving the patients. Being a doctor, I have seen and appreciated their hard work for the healthcare system at large and most recently over the COVID challenges. They were the frontline soldiers in that fight," he said.

Shanti Teresa Lakra, from the G.B. Pant Hospital in Port Blair and a Padma Shri recipient for her nursing service over the years, has spent considerable time within the tribal community of Andaman and Nicobar to gain their trust and assist with their healthcare needs.

In 2004, when the tsunami hit the Ongee Island habitat and drove them deep into the jungle, she made her home with them and lived in an open tent. She now works for all the major tribes in the region,



Shanti Teresa Lakra and Jincy Jerry have been shortlisted for Global Nursing Award

Photo credit/ IANS

something which brought her to the attention of the global award.

"I work as a grassroots level worker in a very remote area and my whole world belongs to the tribals residing in a very interior and isolated part of Andaman and Nicobar islands. To be a finalist in these awards is overwhelming because I never dreamt of it," said Lakra, in an interview ahead of the award ceremony.

She pointed to language and other socio-economic barriers that make her work on the island quite challenging but fulfilling at the same time.

"They are very shy by nature, and it isn't easy for them to share information about their health problems. I strive to provide the best care I possibly can," she said.

The other nurse from India in the running for the public vote is Jincy Jerry of Mater Misericordiae University Hospital in Dublin, who serves as Assistant Director of Nursing for Infection Prevention and Control.

Her work in designing an appropriate software solution to cut down on the potential for human error while collating results from laboratories is among the factors behind her being shortlisted. Jerry, who is also part of the Infection Prevention Society UK, firmly believes

that innovation is a way to increase quality and patient safety.

"In 2020, I introduced robotic process automation to the hospital. Our workload was very high at the time, so we introduced the system to counter that. Currently, I am working on around eight projects in the pipeline including work on using artificial intelligence (AI) to assist, train and modify behaviors on hygiene," said Jerry, whose work has also been recognized by the Irish Healthcare Awards.

"If we have the right technology, we can save so much valuable time. It's crucial that the nursing profession benefits from it," she added.

Besides the nurses from India and Ireland, high-achieving nurses from England, the UAE, Kenya, Tanzania, Panama, Singapore, Portugal and the Philippines make up the finalists in the public vote stage of the vote before the winner is announced in London on Friday.

Aster DM Healthcare said it chose the UK capital for the 2023 award ceremony for its strong healthcare tradition in the state-funded National Health Service (NHS) and as the birthplace of Florence Nightingale - the founder of modern nursing.

Indian-origin man sentenced for 20 years for assaulting and murdering woman with Down's syndrome in New Zealand



Shamal Sharma has been ordered to spend the next 19 and a half years in prison

Photo for representation only

MAY 7, 2023

MELBOURNE (TIP): A 33-year-old Indian-origin homeless man has been sentenced to nearly 20 years imprisonment in New Zealand for sexually violating and fatally strangling a woman with Down's syndrome in September 2021, a media report said.

Shamal Sharma violently preyed on 27-year-old Lena Zhang Harrap, a woman with Down syndrome when she was out on her daily walk in Auckland on September 22, 2021, a newspaper

reported on Thursday, May 4.

Harrap's body was found partially concealed along a bush-lined walkway about a kilometer from her Mt Albert home after a large-scale, hours-long search involving police and members of the public, the report said.

Sharma, who has been ordered to spend the next 19 and a half years in prison was arrested on September 24, two days after committing the heinous crime, the report said.

According to police, Harrap was tortured over a period of about two hours, inflicting multiple blows to her face before strangling her, which led to her death. (Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)

INDIAN-ORIGIN DRUNK DRIVER KILLS 2 TEENAGERS IN A CAR CRASH



Amandeep Singh, 34, was arraigned on Thursday, May 4, at First District Court in Hempstead.

MAY 5, 2023

NEW YORK (TIP): A drunk Indian-origin pick-up truck driver slammed into a car killing two 14-year-old boys on the spot and injuring two others in Long Island, New York, police said. Amandeep Singh, 34, was driving his 2019 Dodge Ram south in the northbound lanes on North Broadway in Jericho on Wednesday when he smashed into a 2019 Alfa Romeo four-door sedan with four male teens inside, Nassau County Police said on Thursday. (Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)

Indian American Neera Tanden named as Biden's domestic policy adviser

MAY 5, 2023

WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP) : President Joe Biden announced on Friday, May 5, that Indian American policy expert Neera Tanden will serve as his new domestic policy adviser in place of Susan Rice, who plans to leave the administration later this month.

Tanden, 53, has spent the last year-and-a-half as senior adviser and staff secretary in the White House, after her initial nomination to run the Office of Management and Budget faltered in the face of Senate opposition.

Daughter of an immigrant single mother "from India who was left to make it on her own in America with two young children after her divorce" from her father, Tanden will be the first Asian-American to lead any of the three major White House policy councils in history.

"While growing up, Neera relied on some of the critical programs that she will oversee as Domestic Policy Advisor," Biden noted in a statement announcing the move. "I know those insights will serve my Administration and the American people well."

In addition, the White House announced that Stef Feldman, a longtime Biden aide dating back to the Obama administration, will replace Tanden in the role of staff secretary.

"For over two years, Susan Rice has helped craft and implement my domestic policy agenda and our country owes a debt of gratitude for her history-making public service," Biden said.



Neera Tanden will serve as Biden's new domestic policy adviser in place of Susan Rice

"I am pleased to announce that Neera Tanden will continue to drive the formulation and implementation of my domestic policy, from economic mobility and racial equity to health care, immigration, and education.

"As Senior Advisor and Staff Secretary, Neera oversaw decision-making processes across my domestic, economic and national security teams," Biden said.

"She has 25 years of experience in public policy, has served three Presidents, and led one of the largest think tanks in the country for nearly a decade," he noted.

She was a key architect of the Affordable Care Act and helped drive key domestic policies that became part of my agenda, including clean energy subsidies and sensible gun reform.

"While growing up, Neera relied on some of the critical programs that she will oversee as Domestic Policy Advisor, and I know those insights will serve my Administration and the American people well. I look forward to continuing to work closely with Neera in her new role," Biden said.

Tanden served in both the Obama and Clinton administrations, as well as presidential campaigns and think tanks. Most recently, Tanden was the President and CEO of the Center for American Progress and the Center for American Progress Action Fund.

Tanden previously served as senior advisor for health reform at the Department of Health and Human Services, working on President Obama's health reform team in the White House.

Prior to that, she was the director of domestic policy for the Obama-Biden presidential campaign, and served as policy director for the Hillary Clinton presidential campaign.

Tanden served as senior advisor to the Chancellor of the New York City Schools and also served as Associate Director for Domestic Policy in the Clinton White House and Senior Policy Advisor to the First Lady. Tanden received her Bachelor of Science from UCLA and her Juris Doctor degree from Yale Law School.

INDIAN AMERICAN SWADESH CHATTERJEE ELECTED TO NORTH CAROLINA UNIVERSITY BOARD OF GOVERNORS



Swadesh Chatterjee has been elected to the University of North Carolina Board of Governors for a four-year term.

MAY 9, 2023

CHAPEL HILL, NC (TIP): Swadesh Chatterjee, an Indian American businessman, entrepreneur, and community leader, has been elected to the University of North Carolina Board of Governors for a four-year term.

Chatterjee, 75, was elected with five others - Dr. Pearl Burris-Floyd, C. Philip Byers, R. Gene Davis, Jr., H. Terry Hutchens, and J. Alex Mitchell - by a resolution of the North Carolina House on May 3 for terms commencing July 1, 2023, and ending June 30, 2027.

Chatterjee, chief executive officer of Swadesh Chatterjee & Associates, Inc is a Vice Chair of Chancellor's Global Leadership Council, a group of successful international business leaders, policy experts, innovative entrepreneurs, and philanthropists who are committed to providing strategic financial support for UNC's global mission.

The GLC is comprised of alumni and friends who are aligned with different schools and units, personally engaged with global topics, or have significant regional expertise and interests.

Chatterjee, who operated an industrial instrumentation company in North Carolina, is one of the co-founders and past presidents of TiE Carolinas, a group of businesspeople whose primary goal is to develop and assist fledgling entrepreneurs.

He sits on the board of various pharmaceutical, biotechnology, medical device, and other life science companies in the US, Europe, and India.

Last October North Carolina Governor Ray Cooper presented the State's highest award, Order of the Long Leaf Pine to Chatterjee.

Cooper described Chatterjee as a "spark plug among us" as he applauded his contribution not only to the development of North Carolina but also to the India-US relationship and enriching the cultural milieu of the United States. In January 2009, Chatterjee was inducted as a member of the Indian Prime Minister's Global Advisory Council of People of Indian Origin. In 2007 he was the first recipient of the Community Leader of the Year award by India Abroad. Chatterjee was conferred the Padma Bhushan, one of India's highest civilian awards, by the President of India in 2001, in the public affairs category for building better relations between the US and India. (Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)

Indian-origin professional Aishwarya Thatikonda killed in Texas shooting



28-year-old Aishwarya Thatikonda was among those who were killed when a gunman opened fire at an outlet mall in Allen near Dallas in Texas

MAY 8, 2023

DALLAS (TIP): Friends from school fondly remember 28-year-old Aishwarya Thatikonda as "Rowdy" - a nickname she earned for her courage and bold personality. The young Indian professional was among those who were killed when a gunman opened fire at an outlet mall in Allen near Dallas in Texas. A total of eight people were killed before the police shot the gunman down.

Thatikonda was with another Indian friend when the gunman opened fire in the outlet mall killing unsuspecting shoppers. Her friend was also injured in the incident. She worked as a project manager in Frisco based Perfect General Contractors LLC in Texas and lived in the Dallas suburb of McKinney.

(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)

Indian American Vishal Gaur named dean of Cornell School of Management

MAY 10, 2023

ITHACA, NY (TIP): Indian American professor and Indian Institute of Technology-Delhi alumnus Vishal Gaur has been named the Anne and Elmer Lindseth Dean of the Samuel Curtis Johnson Graduate School of Management in Cornell University.

Gaur, the Emerson Professor of Manufacturing Management and professor of operations, technology, and information management, will begin his role as dean July 1, according to a university release.

Cornell SC Johnson College of Business Dean Andrew Karolyi announced May 5 that Gaur will also serve as a member of his College Leadership Team.

Gaur joined the Cornell faculty in 2007 and previously served as associate dean for MBA programs at the Johnson School.

"Vishal has demonstrated his outstanding commitment to the Johnson School time and again, as a distinguished scholar, as an award-winning educator and especially as an effective leader," Karolyi stated. "I couldn't be more pleased that he'll lead the school into its next phase."

"The Johnson School is a leader in



Vishal Gaur has been named the Anne and Elmer Lindseth Dean of the Samuel Curtis Johnson Graduate School of Management in Cornell University.

graduate business education and scholarship. I'm really excited to work towards the mission of the school," Gaur stated.

"Our degree programs focus on skills relevant to society and draw on our interdisciplinary academic scholarship. The support of our alumni and the investments they make in our school are incredible. Since the Johnson School joined the SC Johnson College, new opportunities have emerged for faculty research, teaching, and collaboration."

(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)

Display of the rich cultural heritage of India at the Eid celebrations at the Indian Consulate



Consul General of India New York Randhir Jaiswal addressing the audience at Eid Celebrations.

Photo credit / CGNY



Chuck Schumer, Majority Leader of the United States Senate and New York Senator addresses the gathering via video message

Photo credit / CGNY

NEW YORK (TIP): The Consulate General of India in New York and the Indian American Muslims of USA celebrated Eid al-Fitr with great enthusiasm and fervor. The event was attended by elected officials and other community members who extended their greetings and met with members of the Muslim community. The event started with a Quran recitation by a 13-year-old student, Soha Naz, who also presented a presentation about the Ramadan month and Festival.

The event was organized by Indian American Muslims under the leadership of Ilayas Quraishi, Ahmed Shakir, Ghulam Mohiuddin, Khaja Khateeb, Kazi Munir, Imran Pasha, Mudassir, Aslam, Syed Hussain, Minhaj Khan, and many others who highlighted the celebration of Eid as a shining example of the diverse cultures that coexist in India and America.

The Consul General of India New York, in his speech, spoke of the rich cultural heritage of India and the flavor of India, where festivals are celebrated with great zeal. He thanked the organizers and wished all the Muslims a joyous Eid.

Robert Jackson, a New York State Senator, not only attended the event but also addressed the audience and extended Eid greetings to the community. Another New York State Senator, John C. Liu, also greeted the audience at the event, emphasizing the importance of unity and inclusivity.

Dilip Chauhan, who is currently serving as Deputy Commissioner for Trade, Investment, and Innovation

for NYC Mayor Eric Adams' Office for International Affairs, also graced the occasion with his presence and extended Eid greetings to the community. It was heartening to see such a diverse group of people come together to celebrate a festival that is important to Muslims all over the world.

The highlight of the event was when Senate Majority Leader and New York Senator, Chuck Schumer, addressed the audience through a video message. He extended his heartfelt greetings to the Muslim community and emphasized the importance of inclusivity and acceptance in America. New Jersey Governor Phil Murphy also greeted the community with a personal message and sent his Eid Mubarak wishes.



Randhir Jaiswal Consul General of India getting a plaque of appreciation. Seen, from left to right: Robert Jackson State Senator New York, Ahmed Shakir and Ilayas Quraishi organizers of Eid event.

Photo credit / CGNY

Several people were honored at the event, including Mr. Randhir Jaiswal, Consul General of India in New York, Dr. Ashraf M. Dahod, a community supporter, and a successful entrepreneur, A. K. Vijaykrishnan, Consul (Community Affairs), Shahana Bagban (Community Affairs), Mr. Robert Jackson, New York State Senator, John C. Liu State Senator New York, and Mr. Imran Pasha, a community leader, and other members of the community who have significantly contributed to promoting diversity and inclusivity.



Robert Jackson New York State Senator getting plaque of appreciation, left to right: Ahmed Shakir, Khaja Khateeb, and Ilayas Quraishi organizers of the event.

Photo credit / CGNY

The celebration of Eid at the Consulate General of India was not just a religious event, but also a great reminder of the cultural diversity that America and India cherish. It was wonderful to see elected officials and members of the community come together to celebrate the festival with great enthusiasm and positivity.

The event concluded with a short poetry performance by Mohammed Darbar and a Ghazal Mehfil by Singer Suman Laskar and Gokul on Tabla, who enthralled the audience.

Overall, the celebration of Eid at the Consulate General of India was a testament to the fact that America and India cherish and celebrate the diverse cultures that coexist in these great nations. The event was a joyous occasion that highlighted the importance of inclusivity, acceptance, and diversity.

(Based on a press release)

BJANA Celebrates Buddha Jayanti

MAY 7, 2023

NEW JERSEY (TOP): Bihar Jharkhand Association of North America (BJANA), a 47-year-old organization in NJ, USA in partnership with the Indian consulate in New York, the east coast chapter of Bihar Foundation conducted successful celebrations of Buddha Jayanti on May 6th at the Buddha Vihar, Princeton, NJ.

Buddha Jayanti, one of the most important Buddhist holidays, commemorates the birth, enlightenment, and passing of Gautam Buddha. The event was attended by dignitaries from the consulates of India, Nepal, Vietnam, and Sri Lanka, as well as members of the Indian Diaspora from various Indian Community Organizations.

On this occasion, Bihar Chief Minister Sri Nitish Kumar mentioned in his message to BJANA communities in the USA, about the teachings and ideals of the Buddha, which will enlighten us and guide us on the right path.

Nitish Kumar has appreciated the efforts we are taking in preserving the glorious history, rich cultural heritage, language, and traditions of our region in the USA. He is also confident that this celebration will help us rise above all

man-made divides and spread peace, happiness, and prosperity in both the country.

The event was attended by Indian Consul General Randhir Jaiswal, he extended his warmest greetings and best wishes to all the Buddhism followers who celebrate Buddha Purnima. He congratulated BJANA and Bihar Foundation for leading the Indian community and people from Nepal, Srilanka, and Vietnam to celebrate the Buddha Jayanti together. He emphasized that the teachings of Buddha continue to inspire and guide us toward a path of peace and harmony. The event was attended by the Consul General of Nepal Bishnu Prasad Gautam and the Consul General of Vietnam Dinh Phuog Mai, they addressed the attendees about Buddha's enlightenment and the teachings that can bring happiness and peace in life.

BJANA president Anurag Kumar welcomed the attendees and thanked everyone for being part of this celebration. The event started with the parikrama of the Lord Buddha statue and a performance by kids in the form of dance and Buddha's teachings.

On behalf of FIA, Executive Vice President of FIA Dr.



Avinash Gupta and FIA Trustee Srujal Parikh congratulated and thanked BJANA, Indian Consulate & Bihar Foundation for organizing Buddha Divas at the grand location of Buddha Vihar and getting all communities together. Alok Kumar, chairman of the Bihar Foundation East Coast Chapter in his message emphasized the importance of teachings from the life of Buddha and focused on inner peace, kindness, and compassion.

Sanjeev Singh, vice president of BJANA, expressed his sincere gratitude to the executive team, volunteers, and members of the community who helped make this event a success. Additionally, Mr. Singh thanked Dr. S. Siddharth, the principal secretary to the chief minister of Bihar, and Kumar Ravi, the commissioner of Patna, for their invaluable assistance in making this event a success. (Press release)

An evening of transportation to the Himalayas Filmmaker Neha Lohia and Woman Spiritual leader Sadhvi ji way

NEW YORK (TIP): Neha wants to promote the Eastern culture, women in spiritual leadership position and empower humanity by creating films, content and opportunities which explore deeper truths, bridge the gap, between east and west, body mind and soul.

Woman spiritual leader Sadhvi Ji left her cushy life to help people find their paths to inner fulfilment when she found her own. It was truly a heart-warming and souls nourishing experience for the collective that was gathered this day to learn tools to unleash creativity and inner strength using eastern ways of the heart.

New York's incredible talent came together to support Neha. Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan, The Indian Consulate in New York, several dignitaries like Tirllok Malik the filmmaker, Prashant Goyal, founder of heritage India fashions, Shiv Khemka of tGELF, queens world film festival, chip away productions, apple productions and a devoted team including media professionals like Kai McKenna, art director Nabha, influencer Christine Mendes, screen writer Henry Negrete, producer Boby Lohat, chef Dhara shah, animator Coumba Seye, musician Indro and photographer Rob Klein. TV Asia, ITV, Parikh media, QPTV and so many press and media organisations too joined in full capacity.

"Show me one spiritual scripture ever



Sadhvi Bhagawati Saraswati ji with Filmmaker and Director Neha Lohia

written by a woman" said Neha when she was asked why she is determined on promoting women in spiritual leadership and eastern culture through her films, and work. "When were we as women ever allowed to have a voice, a say and be given the chance to share the wisdom that is trusted only in us as women, as creators? Pain, suffering, each rejection and denial is a portal, for me these are truths of life, stories of resilience of human spirit and I wish to create through them. My work is connecting with people's hearts as I am able to relate with their hurt, pain and



Designer Prashant Goyal of Heritage India Fashions NY, Producer Tirllok Malik of NRI TV and Film, Apple productions, spiritual leader Sadhvi ji, Filmmaker and Director Neha Lohia

suffering at that very base level of my own. It is time we recognise that everything is created by Shakti, by her power in this world and we need to give her the share of stage, validation and recognition that she deserves. This is my dharma path to say the stories of this Shakti in very many forms and showcase her through all my works."- Neha Lohia.

Sadhvi Ji and Neha are women from opposite parts of the world, different Janmabhoomi (birth land) and are now serving on different karma Bhoomi (work land) merging all boundaries and sharing the gifts of India and eastern



Spiritual leader Sadhvi Ji giving a discourse to New York attendees

spirituality as women leaders in their own ways and work. There will be many more things these 2 women are determined to create and offer the world together and independently in the days to come.

The event was a packed house and attended by Indian and American dignitaries, actors, doctors, media professionals, authors, business tycoons of NYC. The guests were deeply moved and unanimously encouraged Neha. They mentioned this work is needed now more than ever and that they are in complete support of her vision.

To get more acquainted with Sadhvi Ji: www.sadhvi.org

To know more about Neha and her work: www.nehalohia.com



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Decoding the Manipur crisis

MISTRUST BETWEEN COMMUNITIES ACCENTUATED BY DEVELOPMENTAL DISPARITIES



**PRADIP
PHANJOUBAM**



"THIS DEMAND IS MORE THAN A DECADE OLD. THOSE SEEKING ST STATUS SAY IT IS NOT ONLY ABOUT RESERVATION BENEFITS BUT ALSO PROTECTION OF THEIR LAND. THIS NORTHEASTERN STATE IS ROUGHLY DIVIDED INTO TWO REGIONS - A CENTRAL, FERTILE RIVERINE VALLEY CONSTITUTING LESS THAN 10 PER CENT OF THE STATE'S LAND AREA, SURROUNDED BY HILLS WHICH ACCOUNT FOR THE REMAINING 90 PER CENT.

THIS IS A PECULIARLY SKEWED LEGACY OF THE BRITISH POLICY OF SEPARATING 'NON-REVENUE HILLS' FROM 'REVENUE PLAINS' AFTER THEY TOOK CONTROL OF MANIPUR IN 1891. THIS WAS DONE ON THE PATTERN OF THE REVENUE ADMINISTRATION MECHANISM THEY INTRODUCED IN ASSAM THROUGH THE BENGAL EASTERN FRONTIER REGULATION, 1873. HENCE, THE MEITEIS, WHO ACCOUNT FOR ABOUT 52 PER CENT OF THE STATE'S POPULATION, CAME TO BE RESTRICTED WITHIN THE SMALL VALLEY."



The crisis in Manipur following the outbreak of communal violence between two ethnic groups, Kukis and Meiteis, in several townships is now generally under control, but the situation remains volatile and tense as there are many people dislodged from their homes and taking shelter in relief camps on the campuses of police and paramilitary establishments.

The Meiteis see themselves as getting marginalised and thus feel the need for protection through ST status.

Manipur has three major ethnic groups - Nagas, Kukis and Meiteis - the last being the largest. The former two are Scheduled Tribes (ST), and the cause of the present conflict is a demand by a growing section of the latter to also be included in the ST list.

This demand is more than a decade old. Those seeking ST status say it is not only about reservation benefits but also protection of their land. This northeastern state is roughly divided into two regions - a central, fertile riverine valley constituting less than 10 per cent of the state's land area, surrounded by hills which account for the remaining 90 per cent.

This is a peculiarly skewed legacy of the British policy of separating 'non-revenue hills' from 'revenue plains' after they took control of Manipur in 1891. This was done on the pattern of the revenue administration mechanism they introduced in Assam through the Bengal Eastern Frontier Regulation, 1873. Hence, the Meiteis, who account for about 52 per cent of the state's population, came to be restricted within the small valley.

While the sparsely populated hills are out of bounds for them, their valley homeland follows the modern land revenue administration, and is open to settlement by any Indian. This being so, over 60 per cent of the state's population now lives in the valley, while the hills, reserved for the Nagas and Kukis, remain sparsely populated.

In modern times, as their living space has got increasingly crowded, the Meiteis have come to be gripped by a peculiar sense of siege, especially because of layered relations with the hill tribes, which on the one hand are marked by fraternal feelings and on the other by deep mistrust. This mistrust is accentuated by the usual developmental disparities between the hills and the plains, which the residents of the hills see as the outcome of discriminatory policies.

If the Meiteis see themselves as getting marginalized in terms of land and jobs - and thus feel the need for



Meiteis are seeking inclusion in the Scheduled Tribe list

Photo credit /PTI

protection through ST status - those who are already part of the ST list see this as a portent of their own slices of the reservation pie getting smaller. They also fear Meitei incursion into the hills if they too become STs. This latter apprehension is a fallacy, for even within existing ST communities, incursions into each other's traditional territorial boundaries are forbidden, and if and when these happen, can result in violent conflicts, as evidenced by the bloody Naga-Kuki conflict in Manipur in the 1990s.

A memorandum urging the state government to send a recommendation to the Centre regarding the Meiteis' ST status was kept in cold storage for over a decade, probably in view of those within the Meitei community who did not want it, and also the opposition from Nagas and Kukis. Those demanding ST status eventually petitioned the Manipur High Court. On April 19, the court directed the state government to do the needful and forward its recommendation to the Union Government.

This was not taken kindly by the tribal groups and a series of condemnations and protests followed, earning even the ire of the HC. The May 3 rally was the climactic crescendo of these protests.

The rally in Churachandpur turned violent when a rumor broke out that the Kuki war heroes' memorial complex in a suburb bordering the valley district of Bisnupur had been burnt down by Meiteis. A mob went on the rampage, burning down several Meitei settlements around Torbung village. The memorial site was later found intact, but some say a small tyre was found burning outside the gate and this was read as a message of violent intent.

There are reasons why the Kukis responded more aggressively than the Nagas. For some time now, a narrative

that the Kukis are illegal migrants has been propagated by certain quarters. This is at best a half-truth. Rivals, however, took advantage of it to humiliate the Kukis by dubbing them as 'refugees' and it is imaginable how latent anger would have built up within the community.

Again, a peculiar landholding tradition among the Kukis, coupled with an instable subsistence farming which cannot support large populations, has meant a tendency of Kuki villages to periodically splinter and proliferate. Kuki villages are owned by chiefs. Since only one of the chief's male children would inherit the chieftaincy of the village, other siblings and other capable villagers often part ways to establish their own villages. This has often brought them in conflict with their neighbors in the hills, the Nagas.

In recent times, even government institutions, by insinuation, have been using this tendency of the Kukis to humiliate them. Things came to such a pass that even normal government measures such as eviction drives from reserved forests or the fight against poppy plantations came to be seen as targeting the Kukis. Then, on March 10, in a very arbitrary move, the state Cabinet took the decision to pull out of a tripartite Suspension of Operations (SOO) agreement with two Kuki militant groups, the Kuki National Army and the Zomi Revolutionary Army, from among the 24 who had signed this agreement, again implying that they were party to encroachments in forests for poppy plantations and that they were of foreign origin. The SOO pact being a tripartite truce also including the Union Government, it is unlikely that this rash decision would be okayed, but the hurt the Kukis would have felt is obvious.

(The author is a senior journalist and author)

SC unlocks disqualification proceedings against Shinde, but cannot reinstate Uddhav as CM

THE SUPREME COURT CONSTITUTION BENCH HOLDS THAT THE GOVERNOR ERRED IN CALLING FOR A TRUST VOTE WITHOUT 'OBJECTIVE MATERIAL' TO SHOW UDDHAV THACKERAY GOVERNMENT HAD LOST SUPPORT.

The Supreme Court, in a unanimous judgment, effectively opened the doors for disqualification proceedings against Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde for defection from the Shiv Sena party, and held that the then-Governor Bhagat Singh Koshyari "erred" in calling for a trust vote which triggered the fall of the Uddhav Thackeray-led Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) government in mid-2022.

However, the court also said that Governor Koshyari was right in inviting Mr. Shinde to form the new government as Mr. Thackeray had resigned before the floor test. This means that the Shinde government will continue in power for now.

'FLOOR TEST WAS ERROR'

"The Governor had no objective material on the basis of which he could doubt the confidence of the incumbent government... Floor test cannot be used as a means to settle differences within a political party... The Governor erred in concluding that Mr. Thackeray had lost support... The discretion to call for a floor test is not an unfettered discretion," a Constitution Bench led by Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud observed.

The court, however, said that it could not quash the voluntary resignation of Mr. Thackeray as Chief Minister a day ahead of the floor test on June 30, and thus reinstate his MVA government.

"This court cannot quash a resignation that has been submitted voluntarily. Had Mr. Thackeray refrained from resigning from the post of the Chief Minister, this court could have considered the grant of the remedy of reinstating the government headed by him," it said.

'GOVERNMENT FORMATION JUSTIFIED'

Given the resignation, the court said that Governor Koshyari was right in then inviting Mr. Shinde to form the new government. "The post of the Chief Minister of the State of Maharashtra fell vacant after the resignation of Mr. Thackeray on June 29, 2022. The leader of the party that had returned the highest number of candidates to the State Assembly extended support on behalf of the party to Mr. Shinde. Thus, the decision of the Governor to invite



Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde

Photo Credit / PTI

Mr. Shinde to form the government was justified," the Bench held.

The court refused to invalidate the election of Speaker Rahul Narwekar merely because some of the MLAs who participated in the election faced disqualification proceedings.

BALL IN SPEAKER'S COURT

The court did not accept the plea made by the Thackeray faction to call for and decide the disqualification petitions pending before Speaker Rahul Narwekar.

"Absent exceptional circumstances, the Speaker is the appropriate authority to adjudicate petitions for disqualification under the Tenth Schedule [anti-defection law] ... The Speaker embodies propriety and impartiality and that it was therefore inappropriate to express distrust in the office of the Speaker," Chief Justice Chandrachud, who authored the unanimous verdict for the five-judge Bench, noted.

The Bench nevertheless noted that any decision taken by the Speaker, acting in the capacity of tribunal, on the disqualification petitions was subject to judicial review.

SPLIT VS DEFECTION

Further, the court drew a map of factors for the Speaker to consider while deciding the disqualification petitions. First, the court said that the Speaker could not accept the Shinde

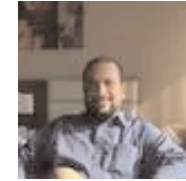
group's sole defense that they had merely "split" from the Shiv Sena party, and not defected. The court said that the defense of a "split" was no longer available to the Shinde group with the deletion of Paragraph 3 from the Tenth Schedule by the Constitution (Ninety-first Amendment) Act in 2003.

"The defense sought to be availed of must be found within the Tenth Schedule as it currently stands," the Bench held.

Second, the court said that the Speaker, while considering the question of which faction was the "real" Shiv Sena, must consider the version of the party constitution which was submitted to the Election Commission of India with the consent of both factions. This would be the 2018 party constitution in which Mr. Thackeray was elected party president.

'NOT A NUMBERS GAME'

Third, the judgment said that the Speaker must not be swayed by the numbers in the House. "The Speaker must not base his decision as to which group constitutes the political party on a blind appreciation of which group possesses a majority in the Legislative Assembly. This is not a game of numbers, but of something more. The structure of leadership outside the Legislative Assembly is a consideration which is relevant to the determination of this issue," Chief Justice Chandrachud said.



BY KRISHNADAS
RAJAGOPAL

Finally, the court said, when there are two or more Whips appointed by two or more factions of a political party, the Speaker must go by which of the two Whips represented the political party.

'ILLEGAL DECISIONS'

To make matters worse for the Shinde group, the court declared Mr. Narwekar's decision recognizing Bharat Gogawale as Chief Whip of Shiv Sena as "illegal." Again, the court found that the Speaker's decision to recognize Mr. Shinde as the "Leader of the Shiv Sena Legislative Party" was "illegal" too. The court, in short, set aside Mr. Narwekar's decision on July 3, 2022 to recognize Mr. Gogawale as the Chief Whip of the Shiv Sena in place of Sunil Prabhu, and Mr. Shinde as Leader in place of the Thackeray faction's Ajay Choudhari.

"The Speaker, by recognizing the action of a faction of the Shiv Sena Legislative Party (SSLP) without determining whether they represented the will of the political party, acted contrary to the provisions of the Tenth Schedule... The Speaker must recognize the Whip and the Leader who are duly authorized by the political party with reference to the provisions of the party constitution," the judgment said.

'CAN'T RELY ON ECI'

The Bench also found fault with Mr. Narwekar's decision to stay the disqualification proceedings "in anticipation" of the decision of the Election Commission of India (ECI) on which of the two rival factions was the original political party of the Shiv Sena.

"The decision of the ECI cannot be relied upon by the Speaker for adjudicating disqualification proceedings. If the disqualification petitions are adjudicated based on the decision of the ECI in such cases, the decision of the ECI would have retrospective effect. This would be contrary to law," the court said.

It said that the decision of the ECI recognizing the Shinde faction as the real Shiv Sena would take effect only "prospectively," that is, after the Speaker takes a call on the pending disqualification petitions. "In the event that members of the faction which has been awarded the symbol are disqualified from the House by the Speaker, the members of the group which continues to be in the House will have to follow the procedure prescribed in the Symbols Order and in any other relevant law for the allotment of a fresh symbol to their group," the court ruled.

The court further referred to a larger Bench of seven judges the question of whether a Speaker facing removal could decide disqualification petitions against MLAs under the Tenth Schedule.

India, Canada Move a Step Forward towards FTA, India to Allow Canadian Universities to Set Up Campuses, Improved Air Services Stressed

Joint Statement issued at conclusion of the 6th Canada-India Ministerial Dialogue on Trade & Investment



BY
PRABHJOT SINGH

India and Canada have made some advances towards resolving some disputes delaying the signing of the Free Trade Agreement (FTA). The FTA has been pending for more than a decade as the bilateral trade, too, has failed to inch towards the targeted \$15 billion.

One of the major hurdles in signing the FTA has been the Canadian demand for security of investments that has been discussed at different levels without being resolved.

To continue the momentum of B2B engagement, both Canada and India will forward to the relaunch the Canada-India CEO Forum with renewed focus and a new set of priorities. Also, the CEO Forum could be announced at a mutually agreed early date. Further, Canadian Minister Mary Ng announced that she looks forward to leading a Team Canada trade mission to India in October 2023 which was welcomed by Indian Minister Piyush Goyal.

As a part of the continuing dialogue Canada and India held their sixth Ministerial Dialogue on Trade & Investment (MDTI) in Ottawa on May 8. It was co-chaired by Mary Ng, Minister of International Trade, Export Promotion, Small Business and Economic Development, Government of Canada and Piyush Goyal, Indian Minister of Commerce and Industry, Consumer Affairs and Food, and Public Distribution and Textiles. The Ministers emphasized the solid foundation of the trade and economic relationship between Canada and India and recognized the significant opportunity to deepen bilateral ties and economic partnership.

Among the most significant developments of this dialogue include In line with the announcement made in the National Education Policy 2020 of India for facilitating foreign universities and educational institutions, India has agreed in principle to invite top Canadian Universities to set up their campuses in India.

India and Canada have also agreed to an expanded air services agreement in 2022 which enhances people to people ties through enhanced commercial flights by carriers of both countries. Though no specifics were given out, Canada has been demanding improved connectivity with North, especially Amritsar and Chandigarh.

A joint statement issued after the dialogue said that the Ministers touched on the important discussions taking place at the various meetings of the G-20 being held in India this year under the Indian Presidency. In this context, Minister Ng noted India's role as a global economy of the future and congratulated

the Government of India and the Indian business organizations on the successes enjoyed so far at the G-20 events in India. She expressed her support for India as G20 Chair, and the priorities pursued by India in the G20 Trade and Investment Working Group. Minister Ng indicated that she is looking forward to participating in the upcoming G-20 Trade and Investment Ministerial meeting in India scheduled to take place in August 2023.

In recognition of the critical importance of the Indo-Pacific region for Canada's prosperity, security, and its capacity to address environmental challenges, Minister Ng noted the rolling out of Canada's Indo-Pacific Strategy and India's importance in the region.

The Ministers also referred to the resilience of bilateral trade in 2022 following the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic and the disruptions caused by the war in Ukraine. Canada-India bilateral trade in goods reached nearly C\$12 billion in 2022, a substantial 57% increase over the previous year. (Target set was \$ 15 billion by the end of 2010). The Ministers also underlined the contribution of the services sector in furthering the bilateral relationship and noted the significant potential for increasing bilateral services trade which stood at C\$8.9 billion in 2022. Ministers recognized the significant growth of two-way investments and their contribution to deepening economic and trade ties, appreciative of the improvements made by both countries to facilitate business growth and attract investment.

The Ministers also noted that the trade-related strengths of Canada and India are complementary and real potential exists for trade in both goods and services to expand significantly in both traditional and emerging sectors. With that goal in mind, the Ministers called for boosting the commercial ties between the two countries through enhanced cooperation and by forging partnerships to take advantage of the complementarities in such sectors as agricultural goods, chemicals, green technologies, infrastructure, automotive, clean energy, electronics, and minerals and metals. The Ministers further asked their officials to discuss trade remedy issues of bilateral importance on a regular basis.

The Ministers emphasized the key institutional role that the MDTI can play to promote bilateral trade and investment ties and to strengthen economic cooperation between the two countries. Recognizing the need for a comprehensive trade agreement to create vast new opportunities for boosting trade and investment flows between Canada and India, in 2022 the Ministers formally re-launched the India-Canada Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) negotiations. In pursuit of that goal, negotiations towards an Early Progress

Trade Agreement (EPTA), as a transitional step towards the CEPA, have been underway and several rounds of discussions have already taken place. The EPTA would cover, among others, high level commitments in goods, services, investment, rules of origin, sanitary and phytosanitary measures, technical barriers to trade, and dispute settlement, and may also cover other areas where mutual agreement is reached.

The two sides also agreed to explore enhanced cooperation through measures such as coordinated investment promotion, information exchange and mutual support between the two parties in the near future. This cooperation between Canada and India will be finalized by way of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) preferably in Fall 2023.

The Ministers noted that global supply chains remain under the threat of disruption from the fallout of the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as the effects of the ongoing war in Ukraine. In this context, they discussed the continued importance of working together to promote the international rules-based order and supply chain resiliency in critical sectors. They emphasized enhancing cooperation in sectors such as clean technologies for infrastructure development, critical minerals, electric vehicles and batteries, renewable energy/hydrogen, and AI.

Recognizing the importance of critical minerals for the future economy and green economy, the Ministers agreed on the importance of government coordination to promote critical mineral supply chain resiliency. Ministers also agreed to explore options for business-to-business engagement on critical minerals between the two countries, and have committed to an annual dialogue between the appropriate points of contact at the officials' level on the margins of the Prospectors and Developers Association Conference in Toronto to discuss issues of mutual interest.

Both sides discussed the potential for strengthening the cooperation in the field of science, technology and innovation in priority areas by building on the ongoing work in the Joint Science and Technology Cooperation Committee (JSTCC) and seeking enhanced collaboration in the areas of start-ups and innovation partnerships. The Ministers agreed that there is significant potential to strengthen such cooperation and to enhance collaboration between their research and business communities in support of a sustainable economic recovery and the prosperity and wellbeing of their citizens.

The Ministers recognized the value of further deepening the Canada-India commercial relationship through initiatives such as organized fora for SMEs and women entrepreneurs.



Canadian Minister Mary Ng and Indian Minister Piyush Goyal
Twitter photo

Minister Mary Ng appreciated the visit of the Indian business delegation at the side-lines of the 6th MDTI which has enhanced B2B engagement. To continue the momentum of B2B engagement, both Ministers look forward to the relaunching the Canada-India CEO Forum with renewed focus and a new set of priorities. The CEO Forum could be announced at a mutually agreed early date. Further, Minister Mary Ng announced that she looks forward to leading a Team Canada trade mission to India in October 2023 which was welcomed by Minister Goyal.

The Ministers noted the significant movement of professionals and skilled workers, students, and business travelers between the two countries, and its immense contribution to enhancing the bilateral economic partnership and, in this context, noted the desire for enhanced discussions in the area of migration and mobility. Both sides agreed to continue to discuss ways to deepen and strengthen the bilateral innovation ecosystem through an appropriate mechanism to be determined. In addition, in accordance with Canada's Indo-Pacific Strategy, further investments will be made to support industrial research and development partnerships.

In line with the announcement made in the National Education Policy 2020 of India for facilitating foreign universities and educational institutions, India also invited top Canadian Universities to set up their campuses in India.

The Ministers noted that India and Canada have agreed to an expanded air services agreement in 2022 which enhances people to people ties through enhanced commercial flights by carriers of both countries.

The Ministers reaffirmed their commitment to the rules-based, transparent, non-discriminatory, open, and inclusive multilateral trading system embodied by the World Trade Organization and concurred to work together to further strengthen it.

The Ministers agreed to remain engaged to provide sustained momentum including having an annual work plan which is reported on a regular basis to build linkages and strengthen cooperation across sectors to harness the full potential of the trade and investment relationship between India and Canada.

(The author is a senior journalist)

AIA National Honor Banquet & Celebration of the 75th anniversary of India's Independence a huge attraction



Consul General Randhir Jaiswal spoke about further strengthening the relationship and ties between India and United States of America



Chuck Schumer being felicitated with a bouquet



Mayor Eric Adams exhorted the gathering to fully participate in the political system by getting registered to vote

MAY 8, 2023

NEW YORK (TIP): The Association of Indians in America (AIA National) hosted 25th Honor Banquet and the celebration of the 75th anniversary of India's Independence at a beautiful venue at Terrace on the Park in Flushing Meadows Park, New York. The celebration of the 75th anniversary of India's independence was in keeping with the Indian Government's yearlong celebrations. The Honor Banquet was attended by 250 distinguished AIA members and esteemed guests in a sold house.

The Honor Banquet was graced by the presence of US Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer and Mayor of New York City Mr. Eric Adams. Consul General of India at New York Randhir Jaiswal graced the occasion as Chief guest. He was accompanied by his wife Dr Abha Jaiswal. NYS Assemblywoman Jennifer Rajkumar also graced the occasion.

The program started with invocation and American & Indian National Anthem followed by classical dance performance by Maheshwari Jagabattula on A.R. Rahman's Vande Mataram song.

AIA National President Gobind Munjal in his remarks thanked his dedicated team in making this 25th Honor Banquet a grand success. He talked about India's culture and values and the progress made by Indian Americans to fully assimilate in the mainstream America. He remarked, "Indians in America bring distinct vision, values, needs and goals and we and our next generations should fully assimilate and participate in the political system and take active role in shaping the future of this great country."

AIA honored two very distinguished individuals with "Honor Award" for their outstanding achievements.

Among the Individuals honored were:

Padma Bhushan Arvind Panagariya, Ph.D. Professor of Economics and Jagdish Bhagwati Professor of Indian Political Economy in the School of International and Public Affairs (SIPA) at Columbia University since January 2004. From January 2015 to August 2017, he



Honor Award presented to Arvind Panagariya



Honor Award presented to Renu Khatore



A plaque is presented to Mayor Eric Adams

served as the first Vice Chairman of the NITI Aayog, Government of India think tank. He in his keynote speech outlined India's journey for the upcoming 25 years.

The other honoree was Ms Renu Khator, Ph. D, Chancellor and President of the University of Houston, Texas. She has broken boundaries and glass ceilings, as she became the first female chancellor in the state of Texas and the first Indian immigrant to lead a comprehensive research university in the U.S.

Consul General Randhir Jaiswal spoke about further strengthening the relationship and ties between India and United States of America.

Senate majority Leader Chuck Schumer in his remarks said that he wants to share a few takeaways from his trip to India that impact America's national security and economic future of both countries. India and America are natural allies, as the two biggest democratic countries in a world filled with tension and warfare. He went on to say that India is an amazing - incredible country and was enthralled by it. He remarked "Our partnership has a huge potential for growth in the 21st century."

NYC Mayor Eric Adams in his remarks said "I like the Indian culture, tradition, values, the education and close family system and I like you to retain and enrich mainstream America. I also want you to fully participate in the political system by getting everybody to register to vote and put forward candidates to have your voice heard."

Banquet Committee Chair, Dr Buddhadev Manvar thanked everyone for making today's celebrations a huge success.

Chair, Board of Trustees Dr Samin Sharma congratulated AIA National President and the team for executing such an exciting and hugely successful Honor Banquet and congratulated the Honorees.

A plaque was presented to Mount Sinai COO Mr. Jonathan Kyriacou.

The evening was filled with a lot of enthusiasm and a sumptuous dinner. Live Band entertained the guests, and everybody was dancing. Nilima Madan and Gunjan Rastogi as co-masters of ceremony perfectly executed the evening.

The Association of Indians in America (AIA) is the oldest not-for-profit organization of Asian Indians established in 1967. It is the grassroots national organization of Asian immigrants in the United States. With chapters and membership spread across the United States of America, AIA represents the hopes and aspirations of those immigrants who are united by their common bond of Indian Heritage and American Commitment.

For more details, please visit our website www.aianational.org



A captivating dance performance by Maheshwari Jagabattula



AIA Committee

Tribute to Mother

Mother's Day honors motherhood, maternal bonds, and the influence of mothers in society. This year it will be celebrated on May 14

There is one relationship in this mortal life which effortlessly scores above all other known relationships on this Earth. Feeling confused? Don't scratch your head too much as that extraordinary relationship is none other than that of the mother, which is truly priceless in terms of her countless love, dedication, and devotion towards her family. To acknowledge the presence of all mothers around the globe, Mother's Day is celebrated across more than 46 countries of the world. This is truly a special day for the mothers who are mostly underrated in this male-dominated society. Let us throw some light into the occasion with the help of various detailed information in the form of origin, the reason for celebration, modes of celebration and other essential facts.

Mother's Day is a holiday honoring motherhood that is observed in different forms throughout the world. The American incarnation of Mother's Day was created by Anna Jarvis in 1908 and became an official U.S. holiday in 1914. Jarvis would later denounce the holiday's commercialization and spent the latter part of her life trying to remove it from the calendar. While dates and celebrations vary, Mother's Day most commonly falls on the second Sunday in May and traditionally involves presenting mothers with flowers, cards and other gifts.

HISTORY OF MOTHER'S DAY

Celebrations of mothers and motherhood can be traced back to the ancient Greeks and Romans, who held festivals in honor of the mother goddesses Rhea and Cybele, but the clearest modern precedent for Mother's Day is the early Christian festival known as "Mothering Sunday."

Once a major tradition in the United Kingdom and parts of Europe, this celebration fell on the fourth Sunday in Lent and was originally seen as a time when the faithful would return to their "mother church"—the main church in the vicinity of their home—for a special service.

Over time the Mothering Sunday tradition shifted into a more secular



holiday, and children would present their mothers with flowers and other tokens of appreciation. This custom eventually faded in popularity before merging with the American Mother's Day in the 1930s and 1940s.

ANN REEVES JARVIS AND JULIA WARD HOWE

The origins of Mother's Day as celebrated in the United States date back to the 19th century. In the years before the Civil War, Ann Reeves Jarvis of West Virginia helped start "Mothers' Day Work Clubs" to teach local women how to properly care for their children.

These clubs later became a unifying force in a region of the country still divided over the Civil War. In 1868 Jarvis organized "Mothers' Friendship Day," at which mothers gathered with former Union and Confederate soldiers to promote reconciliation.

Another precursor to Mother's Day came from the abolitionist and suffragette Julia Ward Howe. In 1870 Howe wrote the "Mother's Day Proclamation," a call to action that asked mothers to unite in promoting world peace. In 1873 Howe campaigned for a "Mother's Peace Day" to be celebrated every June 2.

Other early Mother's Day pioneers include Juliet Calhoun Blakely, a temperance activist who inspired a local Mother's Day in Albion, Michigan, in the 1870s. The duo of Mary Towles Sasseen and Frank Hering, meanwhile, both worked to organize a Mothers' Day in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Some have even called Hering "the father of Mothers' Day."

ANNA JARVIS

The official Mother's Day holiday arose in the 1900s as a result of the efforts of Anna Jarvis, daughter of Ann Reeves Jarvis. Following her mother's



1905 death, Anna Jarvis conceived of Mother's Day as a way of honoring the sacrifices mothers made for their children.

After gaining financial backing from a Philadelphia department store owner named John Wanamaker, in May 1908 she organized the first official Mother's Day celebration at a Methodist church in Grafton, West Virginia. That same day also saw thousands of people attend a Mother's Day event at one of Wanamaker's retail stores in Philadelphia.

Following the success of her first Mother's Day, Jarvis—who remained unmarried and childless her whole life—resolved to see her holiday added to the national calendar. Arguing that American holidays were biased toward male achievements, she started a massive letter writing campaign to newspapers and prominent politicians urging the adoption of a special day honoring motherhood.

By 1912 many states, towns and churches had adopted Mother's Day as an annual holiday, and Jarvis had established the Mother's Day International Association to help promote her cause. Her persistence paid off in 1914 when President Woodrow Wilson signed a measure officially establishing the second Sunday in May as Mother's Day.

Anna Jarvis had originally conceived of Mother's Day as a day of personal celebration between mothers and families. Her version of the day involved wearing a white carnation as a badge and visiting one's mother or attending church services. But once Mother's Day became a national holiday, it was not long before florists, card companies and other merchants capitalized on its popularity.

While Jarvis had initially worked with the floral industry to help raise Mother's Day's profile, by 1920 she had become disgusted with how the holiday had become commercialized. She outwardly denounced the transformation and urged people to stop buying Mother's Day flowers, cards and candies.

Jarvis eventually resorted to an open campaign against Mother's Day profiteers, speaking out against confectioners, florists and even charities. She also launched countless lawsuits against groups that had used the name "Mother's Day," eventually spending most of her personal wealth in legal fees. By the time of her death in 1948 Jarvis had disowned the holiday altogether, and even actively lobbied the government to see it removed from the American calendar.

Why Is Mother's Day Celebrated On The Second Sunday Of May?

Mother's Day will be celebrated on May 14 this year. The day does not have a set date, but every year it falls on the second Sunday in May.

Within five years of Anna's mother's memorial, nearly every state had started to observe the day. During the American Civil War, Anna founded the Mother's Day Club, which addresses health issues for wounded soldiers.

In 1914, U.S. Former President Woodrow Wilson signed a proclamation declaring the second Sunday in May as a national holiday to be observed as Mother's Day.

While some countries adopted the date and concept like the U.S. to celebrate



Mother's Day, other countries like the United Kingdom, and Greece celebrate the day on different dates.

Some other countries including Russia celebrate Mother's Day and International Women's Day together.

MOTHER'S DAY AROUND THE WORLD

While versions of Mother's Day are celebrated worldwide, traditions vary depending on the country. In Thailand, for example, Mother's Day is always celebrated in August on the birthday of the current queen, Sirikit.

Another alternate observance of Mother's Day can be found in Ethiopia, where families gather each fall to sing songs and eat a large feast as part of Antrosht, a multi-day celebration honoring motherhood.

In the United States, Mother's Day continues to be celebrated by presenting mothers and other women with gifts and flowers, and it has become one of the biggest holidays for consumer spending. Families also celebrate by giving mothers a day off from activities like cooking or other household chores.

At times, Mother's Day has also been a date for launching political or feminist causes. In 1968 Coretta Scott King, wife of Martin Luther King Jr., used Mother's Day to host a march in support of underprivileged women and children. In the 1970s women's groups also used the holiday as a time to highlight the need for equal rights and access to childcare.

Thank your Mother

There is simply no way we can ever really thank mother for all she has done for us. She is the one who will be awake all night when we are sick. Praying to God to make us well and be ever ready to bear the pain that we may be experiencing. She is the one to wake up early in the morning to make the nicest tiffin and endure all our tantrums. Mothers are the ones who would forever complain that we are not eating enough or not eating right. They would cook all sorts of things so that we be strong and healthy. Mothers in fact, worry more for our examinations than we must. They would take pains to complete our school projects leaving all other works behind



while we play around with friends or just while away time watching movies.

Apologise to your Mother

Tribute To Mother Mothers are the one on whom we put all the blame for our failures. We would not hesitate once to point her single faux pas though she would not miss even a slightest opportunity to praise us. Isn't it tough to imagine how she must have borne our temper tantrums when we were teenagers. And how hard we must have made her life by behaving so rude and difficult. And yet she was so astonishingly cool. It is easy for the kids to be so demanding from parents, specially mothers as we take her affection and care so much for granted. Most often to the extent of selfishness. Mothers Day is the right time to apologise for all the troubles that we gave to our moms, without even realising at most times how troublesome we must have been to her.

HOW TO CELEBRATE

There are many ways to celebrate Mother's Day, and it ultimately depends on your relationship with your mother and what she would enjoy. Here are some ideas:

Spend time together

Arrange a special outing or activity

that you can do together, such as a picnic, a visit to a museum or gallery, or a spa day.

Cook her favourite meal

If your mother enjoys food, cook her favorite meal or take her out to her favorite restaurant.

Give her a thoughtful gift

Consider giving your mother a thoughtful and meaningful gift, such as a piece of jewelry, a personalized photo album, or a heartfelt card.

Help her with chores

Take on some of your mother's usual chores or tasks, such as cleaning the house, doing the laundry, or mowing the lawn.

Plan a surprise party

If your mother enjoys socializing, plan a surprise party with her friends and family.

Do something charitable

Consider volunteering together or making a donation to a charity in honor of your mother.

Write her a letter

Write a heartfelt letter to your mother expressing your love and appreciation for all that she has done for you.

A CRUSADE FOR A WORLD WITHOUT CHILDHOOD BLINDNESS

PROF. INDRAJIT S SALUJA



The Eye Foundation of America extended its crusade for a World without Childhood Blindness when it reached out to Guatemala, a nation in Central America which has a population of 18 million. A study for the eye health of people in Central America says: "Blindness prevention programs should focus on accessibility to eye examinations, cataract surgeries, control of infectious studies, and spectacles distribution." From April 20 to 23, 2023, EFA took the first step of examining eyes.

The Eye Foundation of America held eye examination camps at four locations in Guatemala and examined 256 patients from April 20 to April 23, 2023. Dr. V. K Raju, an eminent ophthalmologist based in Morgantown, West Virginia who founded the Eye Foundation of America some four decades ago, with a mission to rid the world of childhood blindness, conducted the eye examination, and identified around 72 cases of Cataract and other eye problems. Surgery for cataract is likely to take place in October, according to India's Ambassador to Guatemala Mr. Manoj Mohapatra who was instrumental in organizing the camps in cooperation with the local



At the breakfast meeting hosted by H.E. Manoj Mohapatra, India's Ambassador to Guatemala. L to R: Dr. VK Raju, Mr. Kenneth Ordoñez, Ms. Diana Brown, Ambassador Manoj Mohapatra, Prof. Indrajit Saluja, and Dr. Edgar Lopez.

government authorities.

Prof. Indrajit Saluja, publisher and editor of The Indian Panorama coordinated between the Eye Foundation of America and the Indian Embassy in

Guatemala. The eye examination camps are being seen as India's efforts at extending a friendly hand to Guatemala in the field of medical care. India is already extending support to Guatemala

in pharmaceuticals.

Prof. Indrajit Saluja, editor and publisher of The Indian Panorama who is an ardent supporter of the Eye

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Dr. VK Raju presenting a plaque to Ambassador Manoj Mohapatra



Dr. VK Raju presenting a plaque to Dr. Edgar Lopez

CONTD FROM PAGE 14



Prof. Indrajit S Saluja and Ambassador Manoj Mohapatra discussing the arrangements and program for the eye examination camps



A view of Eye Examination camp site at Tecpan



Dr. VK Raju examining patients



Foundation of America and who was instrumental in bringing Dr Raju and Ambassador Manoj Mohapatra together for the eye examination projects, accompanied Dr. V.K. Raju.

Ambassador Manoj Mohapatra hosted a breakfast meeting at which Dr. V.K. Raju was introduced to local Rotarians Mr. Kenneth Ordoñez and Ms. Diana Brown, and Dr. Edgar Lopez.

Introducing Dr. Raju, Prof. Indrajit

Saluja said: "He has been running the Eye Foundation of America for four decades. He is an eminent ophthalmologist, much honored and awarded. He has been organizing eye camps in Africa, in India, and in India's neighboring countries like Nepal and Bangladesh.

Dr. Raju has a dream. And I wish that dream is fulfilled during his lifetime. He dreams of a world free from childhood

blindness. And he has been devoting his time and investing his earnings into realizing his dream. He often says that if rotary can realize the dream of eradicating polio from the face of the planet, why can't we fulfil the dream of removing childhood blindness from the face of the planet. You see, if somebody gets a cataract at the age of 60, he may have 20 or 30 years to live, not that much pain for him. But you think of a child of

5 or 10 years, and he goes blind. He has a lifespan of 80 years. He will be a burden on himself, a burden on his family, a burden on the community, and everybody.

Dr. Raju keeps reminding everyone that 80% of our learning comes through vision. See how important vision is.

Dr. VK Raju shared his thoughts with the group. He emphasizes the need of 3 wills- political will, professional will and

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Dr. Raju presenting a plaque to Isabel who received it on behalf of Major of Tecpan Obispo Puac



Isabel and volunteers with Dr. Raju, Prof. Saluja, Raul, Social Secretary to Ambassador of India and Danny from the Embassy of India



Dr Raju examining patients



Dr. Raju presenting a plaque to Major of Chiquimula Roland Aquino



Volunteers with Dr. Raju



Eye Examination camp at Puerto Barrios: a section of the patients



Dr. Raju examining patients



people's will. If they join things will happen. Otherwise, yes, a little tidbit happens, and you put it into newspapers and all that, but really nothing happens.

Dr. Raju also pointed out the need to have local surgeons to perform surgery.

Ambassador Mohapatra spoke about a doctor from New York who visits Guatemala routinely to provide medical assistance here. He said the local people assist him and he is doing a god job. He said he was certain that once Dr. Raju is known in Guatemala people will come forward to assist him. For now, the

ambassador said he would ensure initial assistance and help is provided to the Eye Foundation of America. The ambassador spoke about the cooperation he secured for the eye camps from the local municipalities.

Ms. Diana Brown assured the support of the local Rotary Clubs for Dr. Raju's projects in Guatemala, as did Mr. Edgar Lopez.

Dr. Raju, himself a Rotarian and an admirer of Rotary ethics, appreciated the commitment of the Rotary Club in Guatemala to provide all assistance and

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Dr. Raju presenting a plaque to Ms. Thelma Ramirez, Congresswoman, Izabal



Eye Examination camp at Flores Peten: a section of the patients



Dr. Raju presenting a plaque to Ms. Myra Altan, Major of Flores



Dr. Raju examining patients



Volunteers with Dr. Raju

help in organizing the next camps at which Dr. Raju will be directing surgery on the patients identified at the initial eye examination camps. He thanked Rotarians Ms. Diana Brown and Mr. Kenneth Ordonez, who were present for a discussion at the breakfast hosted by Ambassador Mohapatra on April 19, 2023.

Another gentleman who Dr. Raju thanked profusely is Dr Edgar Lopez who promised to stand by the Eye Foundation of America in all its efforts to fulfil its mission to have a world without childhood blindness.

Dr. VK Raju told The Indian Panorama that his visit to Guatemala could not have taken place without the cooperation of H. E. Manoj Mohapatra, India's ambassador to Guatemala who engaged with the local Rotary Club and the local government to extend support to the project.

He also expressed his gratitude to

the majors of Tecpan, Chiquimula, and Flores, and the Congresswoman of Puerto Barrios, and her young daughter who is seeking election to Congress for their great help.

Dr. Raju expressed his appreciation for the volunteers at each camp location who gave their best.

The interpreters did a fantastic job facilitating a dialogue between the doctor and the patients.

Dr. Raju had special thanks reserved for the Ambassador's social secretary Raul and Danny at the wheels of the vehicle who extended assistance ungrudgingly all through the long trips over four days.

Above all, Dr. Raju said, he was grateful to the patients who came in large numbers and waited patiently for their turn to be examined. He said he would love to see them on a follow up visit.

President Biden to host PM Modi for Official State Visit to US on June 22: White House

MAY 10, 2023

WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP): President Joe Biden will host Prime Minister Narendra Modi for an Official State Visit to the United States, which will include a state dinner on June 22, the White House announced on Wednesday, May 10.

This would be the first State Visit of an Indian leader after then President Barack Obama invited then prime minister Manmohan Singh for a State Visit in November 2009.

President Biden and the First Lady Dr Jill Biden will host Prime Minister Modi for an Official State Visit to the United States June 22, White House Press Secretary Karine Jean-Pierre said in a statement while announcing the visit.

"The upcoming visit will affirm the deep and close partnership between the US and India and the warm bonds of family and friendship that link Americans and Indians together," she said.

Prime Minister Modi's visit will strengthen two countries' shared commitment to a free, open, prosperous, and secure Indo-Pacific, she said, amid China's aggressive behavior in the strategic region.

The visit will also elevate the bilateral strategic technology partnership, including in defense, clean energy, and space, she said.

"The leaders will discuss ways to further expand our educational exchanges and people-to-people ties, as well as our work together to confront common challenges from climate change to



US President Joe Biden and India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi. File photo

workforce development and health security," she added.

Prime Minister Modi's visit to the US comes ahead of the G20 summit being hosted by India in September.

After becoming the Prime Minister in 2014, Modi has made more than half a dozen trips to the United States for bilateral and multilateral meetings with all the three American presidents, Obama,

Donald Trump and now Biden, but this is for the first time he has been invited for an official State Visit, a privilege accorded to America's close friends and allies.

He last visited Washington in September 2021 at the invitation of President Biden for a bilateral meeting and also attended the first in-person Quad Leaders Summit.

Modi will join Biden and his counterparts from Australia and Japan at a summit of the Quad leaders in Sydney on May 24 that is expected to focus on implications of the Ukraine conflict and the overall situation in the Indo-Pacific.

Before travelling to Australia, Modi is likely to visit the Japanese city of Hiroshima to attend the annual summit of the Group of Seven (G7) advanced economies which is scheduled to take place from May 19 to 21.

President Biden will attend the G7 leaders' summit in Hiroshima as well as the Quad summit in Sydney.

Modi's State Visit is reflective of the importance that the President Biden attaches to his personal relationship with him and the India-US ties.

"It is entirely good and proper that the world's two greatest democracies further cement their strategic, economic, and technology convergence in these turbulent geostrategic times. The State Visit will remind the world that India and America still have so much more potential to capture in our bilateral relations, reflecting the energy and talent of our demographics and our systems, which

serve to empower our free peoples," US-India Business Council president Atul Keshap said.

Earlier, Prime Minister Modi met President Biden on the sidelines of the G20 Summit in Bali, Indonesia in November last year. The two leaders also met on the sidelines of the G7 Summit in Germany in June 2022 and before that in May on the sidelines of the Quad Leaders Summit in Tokyo.

Meanwhile, India's ambassador to the US Taranjit Singh Sandhu, on May 10 said: "Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to the US will show that the partnership between the two nations is people-centric, people-driven, and is good for the world at large", even as he called the visit "historic."

"The PM's forthcoming official state visit to the US, at the invitation of President Biden, is historic. Prime Minister and President Biden have together imparted significantly new vigor and momentum to our bilateral ties," India's Ambassador to the US, Taranjit Singh Sandhu told PTI.

"The visit will be an opportunity for the two leaders to spend time together, take stock of the progress achieved and provide guidance on the future limitless possibilities. The visit will also underscore that India-US partnership is people-centric and people-driven, and that it is not just for the two countries, but for the world at large," Sandhu said.

(Source: PTI)

Indian American congressmen Ami Bera, Ro Khanna and Mayor Aftab Pureval among 50 National Advisory Board members in Biden's 2024 campaign



Ro Khanna, Ami Bera and Cincinnati Mayor Aftab Pureval are among the 50 members of the National Advisory Board announced by the Biden-Harris Campaign on Wednesday, May 10.

MAY 10, 2023

WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP): Two Indian American Congressmen Ami Bera and Ro Khanna along with Cincinnati Mayor Aftab Pureval are among the 50 members of the National Advisory Board announced by the Biden-Harris Campaign on Wednesday, May 10.

Former House Speaker Emerita Nancy Pelosi will serve as chairperson of the Advisory Board. The entire board will help the campaign's efforts to build on

and expand the winning coalition that sent President Biden to the White House in 2020, an official announcement said.

"The stakes of this election couldn't be higher," Biden said. "Our freedom and democracy are on the line. I'm grateful to this group of diverse and dynamic leaders who will help us win the battle for the soul of America and finish the job for the American people," he said.

Bera is the longest-serving Indian American in the US Congress and Khanna is co-chair of the Congressional India Caucus. Pureval is the first ever Indian American and Tibetan-American to be elected as Mayor of a city in Ohio.

According to the campaign, board members will participate in regular media interviews, assist with fundraising efforts and events, leverage their networks and platforms to amplify the campaign's message to voters, and engage directly with voters through grassroots efforts and events in key battleground states. **(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)**

AAPI's 41st Convention will Focus on: "True and Total Health is the Wellbeing of Mind, Body, and Spirit"



AAPI leadership

MAY 11, 2023

CHICAGO (TIP): "True and Total Health is the Wellbeing of Mind, Body, and Spirit" will be the theme for the 41st annual Convention 2023 of the American Association of Physicians of Indian Origin (AAPI) planned to be held at the iconic Marriott Downtown in Philadelphia, PA from July 6th-9th, 2023" Dr. Ravi Kolli, President of AAPI announced during a press meet on April

25, 2023. The virtual press conference was addressed by Dr. Ravi Kolli, President of AAPI, Dr. V. Ranga, Chair of AAPI Board of Trustees, Dr. Satheesh Kathula, Vice President of AAPI, Dr. Meher Medavaram, Secretary of AAPI, Dr. Sumul Raval, Treasurer of AAPI, and Dr. Sreeni Gangasani, CME Chair, who has been newly elected as the Treasurer-Elect of AAPI. **(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)**

DIVERSITY IS AMERICA'S STRENGTH: PRESIDENT BIDEN

MAY 9, 2023

WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP): America's strength is its diversity, President Joe Biden has said, as he hosted one of the largest gatherings of Asian Americans at the White House attended by several prominent Indian-Americans.

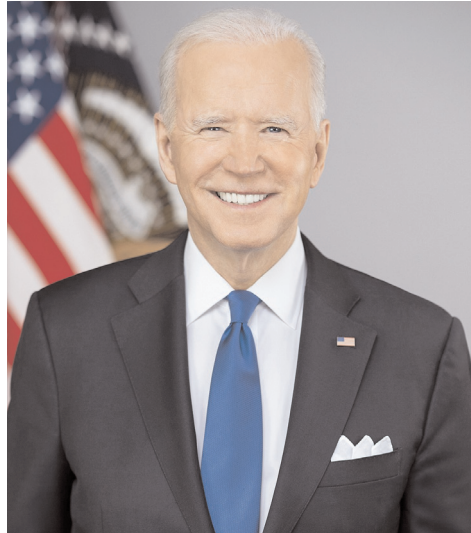
The gathering on Monday, May 8, was organized for the screening of the "American Born Chinese" movie as part of a celebration of Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander (AANHPI) Heritage Month.

"You embody the truth that our diversity is our strength as a nation. That's not hyperbole. That's a fact. That's why we rebuild our economy, invest in America," Biden told a packed gathering of the AANHPI community from various parts of the country including several Indian-Americans in the East Room of the White House.

Biden said the AANHPI represents diverse community culture that is reflected in every part of American life, including in the government.

"I'm determined to remind everyone and we're doing it again tonight that our strength lies in our diversity," he said.

Biden has appointed a record number of more than 150 Indian-Americans in



"I'm determined to remind everyone and we're doing it again tonight that our strength lies in our diversity," Biden said.

his administration.

This is for the first time in America's history that a US administration is as diverse as this led by Vice President Kamala Harris, who is of Indian and African heritage.

"We see the community in all of you here tonight, leaders of business technology, philanthropy, media and so much more. And most of all, we see the possibilities of the community and all

the young people here, all of you, what an attractive group of kids you represent. The most gifted and tolerant generation in American history," he said before the special screening of the movie.

"Just remember when one of you becomes President of the United States and your staff tells you Joe Biden's out in the waiting room to see you promise me, you will not say Joe who. All right, You promised me to remember," he said amidst laughter in the room.

Along with Harris, Second Gentleman Douglas Emhoff, Acting Labor Secretary Julie Su; Katherine Tai, United States Trade Representative, lawmakers Al Green and Judy Chu, the event was attended by the cast, producers, and partners of "American Born Chinese."

Community leaders and builders, elected officials, and activists who are working to combat hate-fueled violence.

Biden was introduced on the occasion by Vietnamese American actor Ke Huy Quan, also known as Jonathan Ke Quan. Quan is one of two actors of Asian descent to win the Academy Award for Best Supporting Actor, and the first Vietnam-born actor to win an Academy Award. Time magazine named him one of the 100 most influential people in the world in 2023. (Source: PTI)

Trump appealing \$5 million judgment in E. Jean Carroll civil suit



Former President Donald Trump is appealing the \$5 million judgment awarded by the Manhattan federal jury that found he sexually abused and defamed former magazine columnist E. Jean Carroll. CNN Screenshot

MAY 11, 2023

NEW YORK (TIP): Trump's lawyers filed the notice of appeal in the 2nd US Circuit Court of Appeals on Thursday, hours after federal Judge Lewis Kaplan filed a written ruling endorsing the jury verdict and ordering Trump to pay Carroll the full sum. Kaplan presided over the civil trial in New York, a CNN report says. Trump had previously indicated he planned to appeal.

Carroll alleged Trump raped her in a Bergdorf Goodman department store in New York in the spring of 1996 and then defamed her when he denied her claim, said she wasn't his type and suggested she made up the story to boost sales of her book. The jury found him liable for battery based on the sexual assault claim, that he should pay about \$2 million in damages to Carroll for the civil battery claim and that he should pay her nearly \$3 million in damages for successfully proving her defamation claim against him.

While the jury found that Trump sexually abused her, sufficient to hold him liable for battery, the jury did not find that Carroll proved he raped her. Trump denied all claims brought against him by Carroll and called the civil trial verdict "a total disgrace."

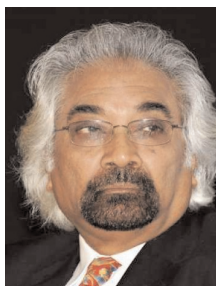
Like any defendant in a civil case, Trump was not required to appear in court for trial or any proceedings and had a right not to testify in his own defense. He did not attend the trial, and his team contended the former president couldn't get a fair trial in New York City. During the trial, Carroll acknowledged she is a registered Democrat and thinks Trump was a terrible president but testified that her political views have nothing to do with her case.

"I'm not settling a political score," Carroll testified. "I'm settling a personal score because he called me a liar repeatedly and it really has decimated my reputation. I'm a journalist - the one thing I have to have is the trust of the readers." Trump's lawyer, in his closing argument earlier this week, told jurors he knew Trump was a divisive figure, but told them that shouldn't matter when reaching a verdict.

"People have very strong feelings about Donald Trump. That's obvious," attorney Joe Tacopina said. "There's a time and a secret place to do that: it's called a ballot box during an election."

(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)

INDIAN OVERSEAS CONGRESS VOICES CONCERN OVER SITUATION IN MANIPUR: SAM PITRODA



"IOC (Indian Overseas Congress) leadership is concerned about the alarming situation in Manipur where our Christian community has suddenly suffered due to the burning of 25 churches and 500 homes," Pitroda said. File photo

MAY 9, 2023

WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP): US-based senior Congress leader Sam Pitroda has expressed serious concern over the "alarming situation" in Manipur and called for an immediate end to violence in the northeastern state. Violent clashes broke out in the northeastern state after a 'Tribal Solidarity March' was organized in the 10 hill districts on May 3 to protest against the Meitei community's demand for Scheduled Tribe (ST) status.

Manipur Chief Minister N Biren Singh on Monday, May 8, said that 60 people were killed, 231 injured and 1,700 houses including religious places burnt in the ethnic violence that rocked the northeastern state for the past few days.

(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)

India keen to strengthen 'people-to-people linkages weaved through common thread of Buddhism': Ambassador Sandhu

MAY 6, 2023

WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP): Describing Buddhism as amongst India's greatest gifts to the world, Indian ambassador to the US Taranjit Singh Sandhu on Friday, May 5 said New Delhi is keen to strengthen the bond people share through this religion.

He was speaking at an event on the occasion of Buddha Purnima.

"Buddhism is amongst the greatest gifts, from India to the world with more than 2,500 years of history. Today it is practiced in more than 100 countries. It is a strong unifying factor. I have, in my previous assignments in Sri Lanka, witnessed how strong our shared Buddhist heritage is," Sandhu said.

"Under the leadership of Prime Minister Modi, Government of India, is keen to strengthen the people-to-people linkages, weaved through the common thread of Buddhism," he said.

The event was attended by eminent Buddhist monks from the Greater Washington DC area.

Referring to Modi's 2017 visit to Sri Lanka on International Vesak Day, he said several initiatives, like the development of the Buddha Circuit in India and Nepal, the



Sandhu said India has been deeply influenced by Buddhist philosophy and working with like-minded partners, including the United States, in addressing the diverse headwinds that we face. File photo

rejuvenation of pilgrimage centers, like Sarnath and Kushinagar, the inauguration of the Kushinagar International Airport, the India International Centre for Buddhist Culture and Heritage in Lumbini and International Buddhist Confederation are a few examples of India's efforts.

Sandhu also mentioned India's assistance to its neighboring countries and Southeast Asia for the construction and renovation of Buddhist monasteries and joint projects to set up international centers and museums for Buddhist

culture and heritage as some other examples.

The first Global Buddhist Summit was organized by India last month, where scholars from across the world participated, he added.

"Today, the world is facing multiple challenges in the form of pandemics, terrorism, and environmental degradation. And yet, there is no problem for which solutions could not be found in the teachings of the Buddha, who said, 'be your own light' and showed us the path which he himself lived," he said. (Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)



Supreme Court reserves verdict on same-sex marriage

After 10 days of marathon arguments, the Supreme Court on Thursday, May 11, reserved its verdict on petitions seeking legal validation of same-sex marriage.

A five-judge Constitution Bench headed by Chief Justice DY Chandrachud reserved its judgment after hearing arguments from senior advocates AM Singhvi, Raju Ramachandran, KV Viswanathan, Anand Grover and Saurabh Kirpal on behalf of the petitioners; Attorney General R Venkataramani, Solicitor General Tushar Mehta for the Centre and senior counsel Kapil Sibal for Jamiat-Ulama-i-Hind.

The Bench has already made it clear that it would not get into the personal laws of various religious communities and would only examine the Special Marriage Act, 1954, to consider the petitioners' prayer.

The Centre, some of the states, certain Hindu, Muslim and Christian organisations have opposed the petitions. The governments of Assam, Andhra Pradesh and Rajasthan have the petitions, citing public opinion and adverse implications on the social and family system.

On behalf of the Government of Madhya Pradesh, senior counsel Rakesh Dwivedi has opposed the petitions seeking recognition for same sex marriage.

The Bench is expected to deliver the verdict after the summer vacation.

Delhi unique among UTs: SC gives state govt total control over services in NCT

NEW DELHI (TIP)

Stating that in a democracy, "the real power of administration must reside in the elected arm of the state", the Supreme Court Thursday, May 11, held that the state government will have legislative and executive control over administrative services in the National Capital Territory of Delhi (NCTD) except with regard to public order, police and land.

The Supreme Court also sought to distinguish NCTD from other Union territories. "NCTD, having a sui generis federal model, must be allowed to function in the domain charted for it by the Constitution. The Union and NCTD share a unique federal relationship. It does not mean that NCTD is subsumed in the unit of the Union merely because it is not a 'State'," a five-judge Constitution bench chaired by Chief Justice of India DY Chandrachud said in a unanimous decision.

"The Legislative Assembly of NCTD has competence over entries in List II (state list) and List III (concurrent list) except for the expressly excluded entries of List II," the Supreme Court said. The excluded entries are related to public order, police and land. Further, "the executive power of NCTD is co-extensive with its legislative power, that is, it shall extend to all matters with respect to which it has the power to legislate... The Lieutenant Governor shall be bound by the decisions of GNCTD on services", it said.

List II or the State List contains subjects on which the state government can legislate. List III or the Concurrent List contains subjects on which Parliament and the state legislature have shared responsibility of making laws.

Disagreeing with the Centre which argued that the Constitution is a federal Constitution with a strong unitary bias as far as UTs are concerned, the Supreme Court said, it is not unitary. "The principles of democracy and federalism



Delhi CM Arvind Kejriwal and Lt Governor VK Saxena.

are essential features of our Constitution and form a part of the basic structure," it said. Federalism "is a means to reconcile the desire of commonality along with the desire for autonomy and accommodate diverse needs in a pluralistic society", said the judgement delivered by the CJ-led bench also comprising Justices M R Shah, Krishna Murari, Hima Kohli and P S Narasimha.

"Recognising regional aspirations strengthens the unity of the country and embodies the spirit of democracy. Thus, in any federal Constitution, at a minimum, there is a dual polity, that is, two sets of government operate: one at the level of the national government and the second at the level of the regional federal units. These dual sets of government, elected by 'We the People' in two separate electoral processes, is a dual manifestation of the public will. The priorities of these two sets of governments which manifest in a federal system are not just bound to be different, but are intended to be different," the court said in its judgement.

The Supreme Court also made it clear

that "NCTD has legislative and executive power over Services, that is, Entry 41 of List II of the Seventh Schedule..." Entry 41 of List II deals with state public services and the State Public Service Commission. The Centre had contended that NCTD does not have legislative competence over Entry 41 of List II on the ground that Part XIV of the Constitution which deals with "services under the Union and states" does not contemplate any services for Union Territories. The SC, however, said "There is nothing in the subject or context of Part XIV of the Constitution which would exclude its application to Union territories."

While the Supreme Court said that the legislative and executive power of NCTD over Entry 41 shall not extend to services related to public order, police, and land, these powers would remain with NCTD over "services such as Indian Administrative Services, or joint cadre services, which are relevant for the implementation of policies and vision of NCTD in terms of day-to-day administration of the region shall lie with NCTD".

Source: Indian Express

After meeting PM, Naveen Patnaik says no possibility of 'Third Front'

NEW DELHI (TIP)

In the first major blow to the Opposition's attempts at forging a pan-India anti-BJP alliance, Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik on Thursday, May 11, said his party would go it alone in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections.

"There is no question of a third front as far as I am concerned. Not now," Patnaik told the media after having met Prime Minister Narendra Modi to discuss development projects related to the state.

Patnaik, who has been serving as Odisha CM since 2000, making him the longest-serving CM of the state, said his party would not ally with the Opposition for General Election. Patnaik's remarks came two days after he met his Bihar counterpart Nitish Kumar, who is currently on a mission to unite non-BJP parties for the 2024 elections, and on a day when Nitish met NCP chief Sharad Pawar and Shiv Sena (UBT) chief Uddhav Thackeray in Mumbai. Nitish had earlier met Jharkhand CM Hemant Soren to advance an anti-BJP

alliance having earlier met Congress chief Mallikarjun Kharge, Rahul Gandhi, Mamata Banerjee and Arvind Kejriwal.

JD(U) ex-president RCP Singh joins BJP

Former JD-U chief RCP Singh on Thursday joined the BJP and attacked his once political mentor and Bihar CM Nitish Kumar, claiming he had allegedly been compromising in his pursuit for power. "Nitish used to say that he was against crime and corruption. Today, he has joined hands with those against whom he once struggled," said Singh.

Pilot to form own party? Buzz grows amid his 'padyatra'

Since he went public with accusations that Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot-led Congress government was going soft on alleged corruption during the tenure of former CM Vasundhara Raje, buzz has been growing around whether dissident Congress leader Sachin Pilot

was contemplating forming his own party in Rajasthan.

Political circles are rife with talk that the former Deputy CM and a Gehlot bete noire in the Congress' internal politics could well be testing waters with the five-day 'padyatra' (foot march) against "corruption".

The 125-km 'Jan Sangharsh Yatra' from Ajmer to Jaipur is seen as an attempt to mount further pressure on the Congress leadership as it hopes to retain the state in the elections at the end of the year. A month ago, Pilot had defied a warning from the party to hold a daylong fast targeting Gehlot on "inaction" over alleged corruption during the Raje rule. "I am taking out this yatra to raise my voice, to hear your voice, and to become the voice of the people," Pilot, who was sacked as the state Congress chief in 2020 when he led a revolt against the CM, said at the start of the march. Thousands of party workers followed him as the yatra set off.



Joe Biden to host PM Modi for official state visit to US in June

President Joe Biden will host Prime Minister Narendra Modi for an Official State Visit to the United States, which will include a state dinner, on June 22, the White House announced on Wednesday, May 10.

"The upcoming visit will affirm the deep and close partnership between the US and India and the warm bonds of family and friendship that link Americans and Indians together," White House Press Secretary Karine Jean-Pierre said in a statement while announcing the visit.

Prime Minister Modi's visit will strengthen two countries' shared commitment to a free, open, prosperous, and secure Indo-Pacific, she said, amid China's aggressive behaviour in the strategic region.

The visit will also elevate the bilateral strategic technology partnership, including in defence, clean energy, and space, she said.

"The leaders will discuss ways to further expand our educational exchanges and people-to-people ties, as well as our work together to confront common challenges from climate change, to workforce development and health security," she added.

Prime Minister Modi's visit to the US comes ahead of the G20 summit being hosted by India in September.

He visited Washington in September 2021 at the invitation of President Biden for a bilateral meeting and also attended the first in-person Quad Leaders Summit.

Modi will join Biden and his counterparts from Australia and Japan at a summit of the Quad leaders in Sydney on May 24 that is expected to focus on implications of the Ukraine conflict and the overall situation in the Indo-Pacific.

Before travelling to Australia, Modi is likely to visit the Japanese city of Hiroshima to attend the annual summit of the Group of Seven (G7) advanced economies which is scheduled to take place from May 19 to 21.

President Biden will attend the G7 leaders' summit in Hiroshima as well as the Quad summit in Sydney.

Earlier, Prime Minister Modi met President Biden on the sidelines of the G20 Summit in Bali, Indonesia in November last year. The two leaders also met on the sidelines of the G7 Summit in Germany in June, 2022 and before that in May on the sidelines of the Quad Leaders Summit in Tokyo.

Faster immigration clearance for 'trusted travellers' in the works

NEW DELHI (TIP)

The government is set to launch a "Trusted Traveller Programme" for travellers with Indian passports across international airports in the country, in a move aimed at decongesting airports by speeding up immigration checks while departing and arriving.

The programme, which allows quick immigration clearance for pre-verified travellers, will be started on pilot basis at Delhi and Mumbai airports this year and will eventually be implemented at 15 airports by 2027 and all airports by 2032, officials familiar with the development said, asking not to be named.

Three electronic gates – two for arrival and one for the departure passengers – have already been established at Delhi's Indira Gandhi International airport. "Trials are yet to commence," said one of the officers.

The initiative, a second officer said, will allow Indian passport holders to use e-gates, thus avoiding the hassle of standing in a queue. "The idea is to make the immigration clearance process simpler and quicker with the help of technology. The United States' department of homeland security has a similar Global Entry Program, which allows for expedited security and immigration clearance of pre-approved, low-risk travellers," said a third officer, who works in the home ministry.

The American system, to be sure, applies only to arrivals and the pre-verification process involves what the Global Entry Program's website described as "rigorous background checks and in-person interviews".

In India's case, the third official quoted above, said the modalities of the verification system are yet to be worked out, as



well as how passports will be stamped, as they are done when someone enters or exits India via any of the immigration checkpoints. India is not considering opening the scheme to those with other passports for now, this person added.

The ministry of home affairs (MHA), in consultation with the civil aviation and Bureau of Immigration, has already prepared a roadmap for the "trusted traveler programme", this officer added. Amit Singh, an aviation expert, said the key will be for "the policy to define pre-verified travellers".

"E-Gates are only to reduce the workload or automate the process but someone at the backend must verify and approve the passenger's identity based on the immigration database. If the person is of interest, then the e-gate will reject the entry and the person will have to proceed to the manual counter," he added.

Source: HT

Third blast near Golden Temple in a week, 5 arrested

AMRITSAR (TIP)

The Punjab Police on Thursday, May 11, said they have solved the cases of low-intensity explosions in Amritsar with the arrest of five people hours after another blast near a community kitchen of the Golden Temple, Sikhism's holiest shrine.

In a tweet, Punjab Police chief Gaurav Yadav said a press conference will be held in Amritsar in this regard. He added the Punjab Police are committed to maintaining peace and harmony in Punjab as per chief minister Bhagwant Mann's directions.

May 11's blast was the third such explosion in five days. The scene of the third blast is around 1.5 km from the earlier two explosions.

Police commissioner Naunihal Singh rushed to the spot for an investigation and to seal the scene as the third explosive went off.

The Punjab Police earlier claimed to have tightened the security around the Golden Temple as they held flag marches with the support of paramilitary forces.

Singh said they detained suspects and were questioning them. "The investigation is on and the media will be briefed later."

The first two blasts rocked the busy Heritage Street leading to the Golden Temple. The first blast took place around 11:30pm on Saturday while the second blast on Monday morning.

Yadav earlier said that the terror angle cannot be ruled out. Harjinder Singh Dhama, the head of the Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee (SGPC) that manages Sikh places of worship, said the security personnel of the gurdwara caught three suspects, including a couple who were staying in Guru Ramdas Serai (inn), based on CCTV footage. He added the three were responsible for the fresh explosion.



Amritsar blast accused being produced in a court in Amritsar on May 11.

"The three were handed over to the police later."

People aware of the matter said the couple from Gurdaspur was staying in the inn of the Golden Temple from where they allegedly threw a bomb on Thursday. Police said they have recovered some handwritten pages from the possession of the accused.

Dhama accused the government of negligence in handling the matter and taking it lightly. "...had the government taken the previous two explosions seriously, the third explosion would not have taken place."

He said a scanner will be installed for the devotees entering the Golden Temple and appealed to devotees to carry only necessary things while visiting the shrine.

Dhama appreciated SGPC employees for catching the suspects with the help of technology within hours of the third blast. He asked pilgrims to visit the shrine without fear as the situation is entirely peaceful.

India in history this Week

MAY 12, 2023, TO MAY 18, 2023

12 MAY

1459 Rao Jodha founded Jodhpur.
1666 Under the treaty of Purandar, Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj reached Agra to meet Aurangzeb.
1915 The revolutionary Rasbihari Bose left India aboard the Japanese yacht Sanuki Maru.
1993 Famous Hindi poet Shamsheer Bahadur Singh passed away.
1921 The first National Hospital Day was celebrated.
1926 Airship Norgay became the first vessel to fly to the North Pole.



1949 Vijayalakshmi Pandit became the first foreign woman ambassador of independent India.

13 MAY

1905 Birth of former President of India Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed.
1952 The first session of Parliament was called in independent India.
1962 Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan became the second President of the country.
1978 The country's first flag carrier INS Delhi was relieved.
1998 India conducted two more nuclear tests, regardless of the criticism and pressure around the world.



2001 The death of RK Narayan, one of the biggest names in Indian literature.
1648 Construction of the Red Fort in Delhi was completed.
2000 Lara Dutta of India was elected Miss Universe.
1956 Sri Sri Ravi Shankar, the spiritual leader who founded the Art of Living Foundation, was born.
1918 The famous Bharatanatyam dancer T. Balasaraswati was born.

14 MAY

1992 India banned LTTE, a Sri Lankan rebel organization known as the Tamil Tigers. Apart from India, many other countries also banned the Tamil Tigers.
1944 British troops captured Kohima in 1944.
2001 Seven agreements in India and Malaysia.
2010 Considering 22 between India and Russia in

2010 in defense, nuclear energy, space, science and technology, hydrocarbons, trade and investment etc.

1923 Mrinal Sen, the famous producer and director of Indian films, was born.

1981 Indian inventor and computer scientist Pranav Mistry was born.

1943 Allah Baksh died during the British rule, was a zamindar, government contractor, freedom fighter and politician.

15 MAY

1907 Birth of freedom fighter Sukhdev Thapar.



1967 Bollywood actress Madhuri Dixit was born.
1817 Birth of social reformer Devendra Nath Tagore.
1242 Sultan of Delhi Muizuddin Bahram Shah's army revolted and killed Sultan.
1933 India's First Army Commander in Chief Field Marshal K.M. Cariappa passed away.
2005 Indian aircraft landed in Canada after 20 years.
2008 Manjula Sood of Indian origin became the first Asian woman to become mayor in Britain.
1923 Indian comedian Johnny Walker was born in 1923.
1817 Eminent scholar and religious leader Devendranath Thakur was born in 1817.

16 MAY



2014 The demise of Indian industrialist Rustomji Homaji Modi.
1911 Construction of Tallah Water Tank in Calcutta (now Kolkata) completed. It was called the world's largest overhead water tank at that time.
1960 Start of international telex service between India and UK.
1975 Sikkim was incorporated into the Indian Union as the 22nd state.
1996 Atal Bihari Vajpayee was sworn in as the tenth Prime Minister of India.
2008 The Supreme Court rejected the decision of the Kolkata High Court to ban the 27% OBC quota in postgraduate courses of central educational institutions.

17 MAY

1769 The East India Company imposed a variety of restrictions on weavers to ruin Bengal's textile industry.
1918 Birth of India's famous industrialist and top member of Tata group, Russian Modi.



1987 Sunil Gavaskar retired from Test cricket.
2007 The fourth round of the India-Pakistan Composite Dialogue commenced in Rawalpindi.
2010 Promoting the country's oldest traditional sports, Kabaddi, the Punjab government announced the hosting of the Kabaddi World Cup next month.
2014 The death of CP Krishnan Nair, the famous hotel industrialist of India and founder of the 'Hotel Leela Group'.
1865 Celebration of World Communication Day started.
2018 BS Yeddyurappa took the oath of office of Chief Minister of Karnataka for the third time.
1980 A record of standing for 33 hours on one leg was set by VS Kumar Anand.
1995 The Restricted Area Permit (RAP) was abolished by the three northeastern states of the country.
1999 He was resigned from his post by Congress President Sonia Gandhi. But it was rejected by the Congress Committee of which the CWC also says.

18 MAY

1912 The first Indian feature length film Sri Pundalik was released.
1974 India became a nuclear power country with its first underground atomic bomb test in Pokhran, Rajasthan. The trial was named 'Smiling Buddha'.
2008 Indian-origin writer Indra Sinha was awarded the Commonwealth Award in 2008 for her book Animal People.
1914 Tenth Governor of Reserve Bank of India Jagannathan was born.



1933 HD Deve Gowda, the twelfth Prime Minister of India, was born.
1966 India's famous botanist Panchanan Maheshwari died.
1974 Pokhran Nuclear Blast Day



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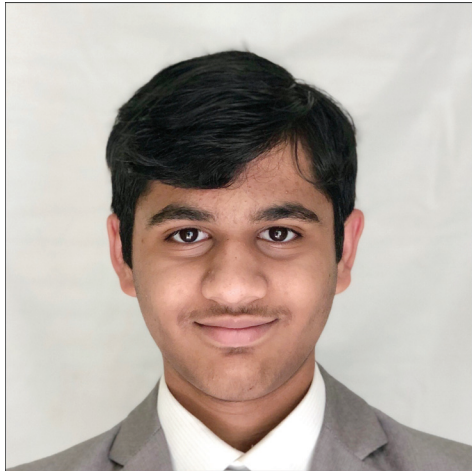
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OE
OCTAVE
ENTERTAINMENT

NJ TEEN WINS WHARTON AWARD

BY MABEL PAIS



Aadhitya Raam Ashok

Photo Credit / Wharton Arts

Aadhitya Raam Ashok, high school musician and composer, is one-of-two

award recipients from Wharton Arts, the Garden State's leading performing arts education organization. Aadhitya Raam Ashok of Edison is the winner of the inaugural Wharton Arts Annual Choral Composition Competition.

"As an enthusiastic high school musician and composer, it feels wonderful to win my first choral composition competition with the Wharton Arts Annual Choral Composition Competition. I am grateful for the wonderful panel of judges who provided me with useful comments, along with their appreciation for my unique yet powerful music. Having my music featured by a youth choir is a great opportunity for me to gain experience into how young singers might approach my music," said Aadhitya.

Aadhitya's winning composition, A

Bright Youthful Future, will premiere under the direction of New Jersey Youth Chorus Founder and Music Director, Trish Joyce on Sunday, May 21, at the NJYS spring concert as part of their 30th anniversary celebration.

Winner Aadhitya Raam Ashok, a senior at John P. Stevens High School in Edison, began his musical studies at the age of three in Bergen's Yamaha Music School where he has been a recipient of the Jeffery Corolla and Frank Calabrese Scholarship for the last six years. He completed the London College of Music Diploma (DipLCM) exams with distinction and has won numerous composition awards, including being a three-time National Finalist in the Music Teachers National Association (MTNA) competition, three-time winner in the Eastern Division of the MTNA

competition, and six-time winner in the NJ MTNA Composition competition. He received the Gold Medal in the National Young Maestro Composition Competition across multiple years and was finalist in the National Association for Music Education (NAfME) twice consecutively. He placed first in the Golden Key International and National Piano Composition Competition twice consecutively as well. He won the Grand Prize in the Rising Talents Festival. Learn more at aadhityaraam.com.

(Bokyung) Nina Park of Basking Ridge is the other winner of the 2023 New Jersey Youth Symphony Concerto Competition. She received her award on April 30.

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

NJYC CELEBRATES 30TH ANNIVERSARY

BY MABEL PAIS

The New Jersey Youth Chorus (NJYC) invites all to The Journey

(e.givesmart.com/events/vdN), a weekend of festivities on Saturday, May 20 and Sunday, May 21, to celebrate the Chorus's 30th Anniversary.

Trish Joyce, Founder and Director of the Chorus, said, "We chose the theme The Journey for this celebration, not just to commemorate the journey the Chorus has been on, but in recognition of and tribute to all of the people who have joined us along the way. Inside our story as an organization are thousands of personal experiences that, taken as a whole, make us who we are today.

Our journey has been filled with dedicated choristers, parents, volunteers, and staff and guided by the vision that children and young singers deserve the opportunity to experience the beauty, passion, and joy of singing. Our north star has been the lifelong friendships made among our singers-connections that weave together a community they call home. Driving us forward on the journey is the power of music and artistry to shape and change lives, and our enduring commitment to cultivating the personal and musical potential of each child with a nurturing spirit, warmth, and acceptance. This is the legacy that we built over the past 30 years, and that we will carry with us on the journey into the future. I can't wait to see where the path takes us next!"

PROGRAM

The anniversary weekend begins with the NJYC Family Fest on May 20 from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at The Grove at The Park, 200 Connell Drive in Berkeley Heights. Open to current NJYC families and their guests, as well



New Jersey Youth Chorus

Photo Credit / Wharton Arts

as alumni and their families, the rain or shine event will feature games and activities, food trucks, and a DJ.

Register in advance to receive a food/beverage voucher to use at the event.

The New Jersey Youth Chorus Legacy Concert on May 20 at 8:00 p.m. at Roundtable Studios at the Park, 200 Connell Drive in Berkeley Heights, will celebrate NJYC's vibrant past and help sustain the Chorus's legacy. This cabaret-style fundraiser will feature NJYC alumni, current and former staff, and NJYC choristers from Coriste and Camerata. Dessert Reception to follow. Space is limited for this event and ticket sales will close on May 10.

The public is invited to the New Jersey Youth Chorus Spring Concert & 30th Anniversary Reception on May 21 at 4:00 p.m. at Our Lady of the Lake Church located at 22 Lakeside Avenue in Verona, a special anniversary edition of the Chorus's annual spring

concert with performances by all five of NJYC's ensembles as well as an Alumni Choir comprised of alumni from throughout choirs past, including several members of the original Somerset Hills Children's Chorus.

The program will feature treasured pieces from throughout the Chorus's history, including Psalm 23 and Omnia Sol by Z. Randall Stroope, Brothers, Sing On! by Edvard Grieg, Flight Song by Kim André Arnesen, Yo Le Canto Todo Le Dia by David L. Brunner, and new favorites such as Rise Up by Jake Runestad, Where the Light Begins by Susan LaBarr, and Ain't Gonna Let Nobody Turn Me Around by Dr. Rollo Dilworth.

The program will also include the premiere of the 2022-23 Wharton Arts Annual Choral Composition Competition winning piece, A Bright Youthful Future by Aadhitya Raam Ashok.

Following tradition, the program will end with the choir and alumni

singing Katie Moran Bart's Blessing, a piece that has been performed on every spring concert program since the Chorus's inception thirty years ago.

Over NJYC's thirty years, outstanding performances have ranged from NJPAC and the New Jersey Symphony to Carnegie Hall and the White House; from Ronan Tynan, the Chieftains, and the Celtic Tenors to the Today Show; with the South African Drakensberg Boys Choir to Queen Latifah at the Super Bowl; from regional and national music conferences to various national anthem performances at Citi Field and Madison Square Garden; from Kids for Kids outreach to educator workshops; and domestic and international tours. Through all of these life-changing and unique experiences, NJYC has kept exceptional choral music education at the forefront of its mission, creating space for personal growth and ensemble learning.

WHARTON ARTS

Wharton Arts' mission is to offer accessible, high quality performing arts education that sparks personal growth and builds inclusive communities.

Wharton Arts' vision is for a transformative performing arts education in an inclusive community to be accessible for everyone.

Wharton Arts is located in Berkeley Heights, New Providence, and Paterson, NJ and reaches students from 12 counties. All of Wharton Arts' extraordinary teaching artists, faculty members, and conductors hold degrees in their teaching specialty and have been vetted and trained to enable our students to achieve their personal best.

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

FEEL THE FORCE AROUND YOU OF STAR WARS WITH NJS

BY MABEL PAIS

The New Jersey Symphony (NJS) presents the Star Wars: The Empire Strikes Back in Concert featuring screenings of the complete film with Oscar®-winning composer John Williams' musical score performed live to the film.

The concert will be led by acclaimed conductor Constantine Kitsopoulos.

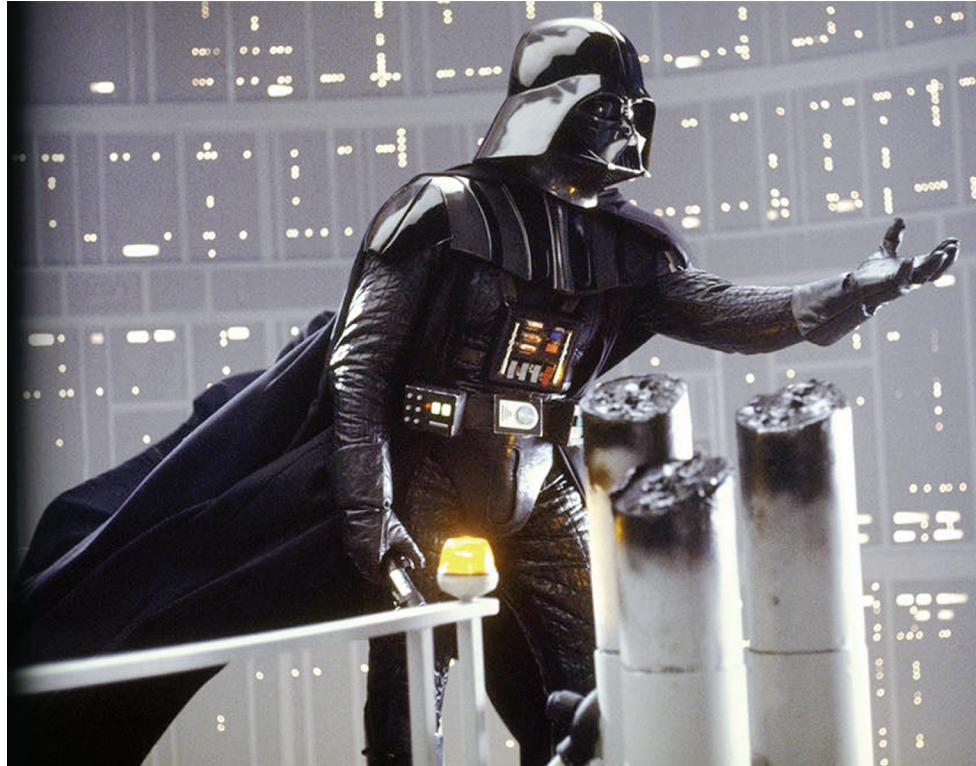
(Photo F 1 here)

Since the release of the first Star Wars movie over 40 years ago, the Star Wars saga has had a seismic impact on both cinema and culture, inspiring audiences around the world with its mythic storytelling, captivating characters, groundbreaking special effects and iconic musical scores composed by Williams.

Fans will be able to experience the scope and grandeur of this beloved film in a live symphonic concert experience when the Star Wars: The Empire Strikes Back debuts, May 18-21.

JOHN WILLIAMS

Legendary composer Williams is well known for scoring all eight of the Star Wars saga films to date, beginning with 1977's Star Wars: A New Hope for which he earned an Academy Award® for Best Original Score. His scores for 'The Empire Strikes Back,' 'Return of the Jedi,' 'Star Wars: The Force Awakens' and 'Star Wars: The Last Jedi' were each nominated for Best Original Score. Williams has won five Academy Awards, four Golden Globe Awards, seven British Academy Film Awards, five Emmy Awards and 23 Grammy Awards. With 51 Academy Award nominations, Williams is the Academy's most nominated living person and the second most-nominated individual in history, after Walt Disney. In 2005, the American Film Institute selected Williams' score to 1977's Star Wars: A New Hope as the greatest American film score of all time. The soundtrack to A New Hope also was preserved by the Library of Congress in the National Recording Registry, for being "culturally, historically, or aesthetically significant." Williams was



Darth Vader, Star Wars.

Photo Credit / NJS

inducted into the Hollywood Bowl's Hall of Fame in 2000, and he received the Kennedy Center Honors in 2004, the National Medal of Arts in 2009, and the AFI Life Achievement Award in 2016. Williams has composed the scores for eight of the top 20 highest-grossing films at the U.S. box office (adjusted for inflation).

Learn more at johnwilliams.org.

PROGRAM

STAR WARS: EMPIRE STRIKES BACK IN CONCERT

Thursday, May 18, 7:30 pm | May Performing Arts Center in Morristown

Friday, May 19, 8 pm | Count Basie Center for the Arts in Red Bank

Saturday, May 20, 8 pm | New Jersey Performing Arts Center in Newark

Sunday, May 21, 3 pm | State Theatre New Jersey in New Brunswick

Constantine Kitsopoulos conductor
New Jersey Symphony

TICKETS & MORE INFORMATION

Learn more at njsymphony.org or

emailinformation@njsymphony.org.

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

DISNEY CONCERTS

Disney Concerts is the concert production and licensing division of Disney Music Group, the music arm of The Walt Disney Company. Disney Concerts produces concerts and tours, and licenses Disney music and visual content to symphony orchestras and presenters on a worldwide basis. Disney Concerts' concert packages include a variety of formats, such as "live to picture" film concerts and themed instrumental and vocal compilation concerts and range from instrumental-only symphonic performances to multimedia productions featuring live vocalists and choir. Learn more at disneyconcerts.com.

CONSTANTINE KITSOPOULOS

Constantine Kitsopoulos has established himself as a dynamic conductor known for his ability to work

in many different genres and settings. He is equally at home with opera, symphonic repertoire, film with live orchestra, music theatre, and composition. His work has taken him all over the world where he has conducted the major orchestras of North America, the Hong Kong Philharmonic, and the Tokyo Philharmonic. Learn more at maestrock.com.

THE NEW JERSEY SYMPHONY

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. NJS is renewing its deeply rooted commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion by championing new, and often local, artists; engaging audiences for whom the inspiring depth and breadth of classical music will be new; and incorporating the broadest possible representation in all aspects of our organization - all to better reflect and serve its vibrant communities.

Since 2021, Music Director Xian Zhang has worked together with composer, violinist, educator and social-justice advocate Daniel Bernard Roumain, the orchestra's resident artistic catalyst, to offer programming that connects with diverse communities in Newark and throughout New Jersey.

Internationally renowned Chinese American conductor Xian Zhang began her tenure as the New Jersey Symphony's current Music Director in 2016. Since her arrival at the New Jersey Symphony, Zhang has revitalized programming with an industry-leading commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion in mainstage concerts. Learn more at njsymphony.org.

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SRFF OPENING NIGHT DOC IS WINNER

BY MABEL PAIS

SHABU

Director/Writer: SHAMIRA RAPHAELA | 2021 | Netherlands | Dutch w/ Eng Subs | 1h 15m

Meet Shabu, a 14-year-old Dutch-Surinamese aspiring artist from "The Paperclip," an inner city apartment complex in one of Rotterdam's most notorious neighborhoods. Shabu has big dreams but even bigger problems. He's just totaled his grandmother's car and desperately needs to raise some cash before the end of the summer in order to pay her back. Utilizing his musical talent



Shabu with fellow rappers.

Photo Credit / IndiePix Films

and street smarts, Shabu concocts a plan to both make the money and make his

family proud in this crowd pleasing documentary that culminates in a

"rousingly raucous finale" (Screen Daily).

RECOGNITIONS

A Crystal Bear nominee for Generation Kplus Best Film at last year's Berlinale, as well as winner of the Best Youth Documentary at IDFA 2021, SHABU also captured the Golden Calf Award for Best Documentary at the Netherlands Film Festival and was a nominee for Best Documentary at the DocsBarcelona.

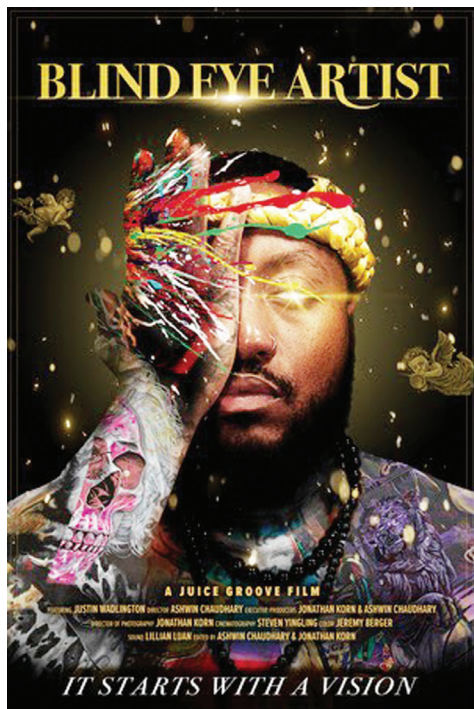
OPENING: Shabu makes its North American premiere on Indiepix Unlimited on May 12, 2023.

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

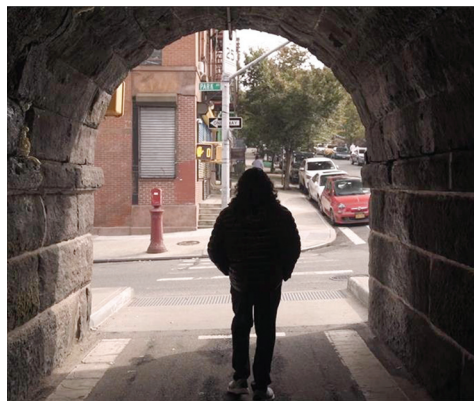
HiFF WITH STARZ DELIVERS NYC 18TH EDITION

BY MABEL PAIS

Screening
ASHWIN CHAUDHARY'S Blind Eye Artist
VIVEK BALD & ALAUDIN ULLAH'S In Search of Bengali Harlem
LHAPAL GYAL'S The Great Distance Delivers Crane
AKIL GIBBONS' Harlem Is Nowhere and more



Blind Eye Artist, poster.
Photo Credit / HiFF



In Search of Bengali Harlem.
Photo Credit / HiFF

Art sensation JUSTIN WADLINGTON in Blind Eye Artist ART displayed at the fest
RON CARTER receives the RENAISSANCE AWARD
Special Live Performance by REGGIE AUSTIN & HIS BAND

The 2023 Harlem International Film Festival (Hi) with STARZ (2023 Luminary Partner) presents its 18th edition - a hybrid event. The in-person screenings happen May 18-28. The in-person screenings take place at AMC Magic Johnson Harlem 9 Theaters (2309 Frederick Douglass Blvd), with the Harlem International Film Festival and Columbia University

Zuckerman Institute's free-to-the-public screenings at The Forum (601 West 125th Street), and the Maysles Documentary Center (343 Malcolm X Blvd.).

With a music theme running throughout the festival, this year's film lineup will once again celebrate and showcase relatively undiscovered international cinematic gems and local New York filmmaking talent with a special focus on Harlem artists. Hi's lineup features 64 films, including 35 features (14 narrative, 21 documentary), 29 shorts (20 narrative, 9 documentary), 2 television episodes, and 2 VR projects.

Harlem International Film Festival's Program Director, Nasri Zacharia, said, "This year we are celebrating over a century of Harlem Renaissance and Resilience with an amazing slate of films from the area." "This year, music runs throughout our schedule with amazing documentaries, very special honorees, culminating in a big day of music films and a special live performance on Sunday, the 21st. This film festival has always emphasized the idea of being a festival with exciting and entertaining events inspired by the films we screen, and this year really underlines that idea."

VIRTUAL FILM LINEUP

Following the opening in-person weekend, the film festival will continue virtually.

2023 HI FEST FILM LINEUP

OPENING NIGHT DOUBLE FEATURE

Thursday, May 18 at AMC Magic Johnson Harlem 9 Theaters (2309 Frederick Douglass Blvd)

UP MY LIFE - NEW YORK PREMIERE

Dirs: Ryan Dickie, Abigail Horton | USA | 1h 21m

Jason, a disillusioned pharmaceutical employee (Jason Selvig), is fired after a drug fueled social media post goes viral, but when he accidentally discovers a deadly opioid conspiracy hidden by his former boss (Davram Steifler) he sets out to redeem himself. In this homage to noir comedy thrillers set in the age of tech, Jason goes on the run as a reluctant whistleblower trying to expose the crime with the help of his computer whiz cousin Charlie (Kara Young), but the CEO (Ben Horner) at the heart of the scandal has other plans.
Preceded by

INVADE

Dir: Eunice Levis | USA | 15m
An undocumented scientist and his son try to stop an environmental disaster.

PARIS IS IN HARLEM - MANHATTAN PREMIERE

Dir: Christina Kallas | USA | 1h 41m
On the eve of New York City's

controversial "No Dancing" Law getting repealed, the lives of several strangers are forever changed by a shooting at a historic jazz bar in Harlem.

Both screening presentations will include appearances and post-screening Q&As with filmmakers, cast and crew.

FRIDAY SPOTLIGHT PRESENTATIONS

Friday, May 19
STARZ' Run the World - Season 2 - World Premiere

EPISODE 1: "A DREAM DEFERRED"

Dir: Rachael Holder
Whitney anxiously awaits the fate of her relationship, while Sondi and Renee are reminded by Ella that it's never a bad time to choose yourself.

EPISODE 2: "HONEYMOON'S OVER"

Dir: Rachael Holder
Renee hustles to get her agency some business, as Sondi and Whitney are forced to face the reality of their new living situations.

Attending and participating in a special panel discussion following the screenings will be series stars Amber Stevens West, Bresha Webb, and Corbin Reid, with showrunner Rachelle Williams-BenAry.

IN THE WEEDS - WORLD PREMIERE

Dirs: Clayton P Allis, Doug E. Doug | USA | 1h 22m

Shaunte, a free-spirited girl from Harlem, has fallen for K, a handsome transplant from London, whose mental scars have been awoken by the pandemic.

Preceded by

I HELD HIM

Dir: Hans Augustave | USA | 8m

While a man falls deeper into the depths of pain and depression, his friend reluctantly chooses an uncomfortable solution to help him heal.

Doug E. Doug will attend and participate in a post-screening Q&A with additional filmmakers moderated by Malik Yoba.

HI FILM FEST AT COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY'S ZUCKERMAN INSTITUTE

Saturday, May 20, three free-to-the-public screenings at The Forum

BLIND EYE ARTIST

Dir: Ashwin Chaudhary | USA | 1h 16m

The origin story of painter Justin Wadlington, blind in his left eye.

THE RIGHT TO READ - NEW YORK PREMIERE

Dir: Jenny Mackenzie | USA | 1h 19m
The Right to Read shares the stories of an NAACP activist, a teacher, and two American families who fight to provide our youngest generation with the most foundational indicator of life-

long success: the ability to read.

HARLEM SHORTS

At The Forum: a special package of Harlem Shorts, celebrating the best in local filmmaking this year.

MUSIC ICONS ONSCREEN

On Sunday, May 21, the HiFF features films putting music front and center. Besides, the above-mentioned films, the below films will be screened:

BronX BandA: Arturo O'Farrill & The Bronx (World Premiere),
The Sacred Place between Earth and Space (World Premiere),
Bonnie Blue: James Cotton's Life in the Blues

LIFE & LIFE

Ron Carter: Finding The Right Notes
The film festival will honor Ron Carter with its Renaissance Award and will also present a special live performance by Reggie Austin and his band out of San Francisco.

ADDITIONAL IN-PERSON NARRATIVE FEATURES

There are 2 additional narratives.

ADDITIONAL IN-PERSON DOCUMENTARY FEATURES

There are 10 additional documentaries.

ADDITIONAL IN-PERSON SHORT FILMS

There are 4 additional short films.

HYBRID PROGRAM - NARRATIVE FEATURES

There are 8 hybrid narrative features.

HYBRID PROGRAM - DOCUMENTARY FEATURES

There are 8 hybrid documentary features.

HYBRID PROGRAM - NARRATIVE SHORTS

There are 16 narrative shorts.

HYBRID PROGRAM - DOCUMENTARY SHORTS

There are 5 hybrid documentary shorts.

HYBRID PROGRAM - VIRTUAL REALITY (HARLEM360)

There are 2 virtual reality showings.

TICKETS

For updates, film festival passes, tickets, and more information on the Harlem International Film Festival, visit HarlemFilmFestival.org

THE HARLEM INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL (HiFF)

Learn more at HarlemFilmFestival.org

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

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Vidya Balan returns to theatres with Neeyat

Abundantia Entertainment and Prime Video have announced the release date of their murder mystery film Neeyat. The movie features Vidya Balan in the lead role and will be released in theatres on July 7. Neeyat is helmed by Anu Menon, who last directed Vidya Balan in the 2020 film Shakuntala Devi.

Neeyat also features Ram Kapoor, Rahul Bose, Neeraj Kabi, and Amrita Puri, among others. Neeyat has been written by Anu Menon, Priya Venkataraman, Advaita Kala, and Girvani Dhyani, with dialogues by Kausar Munir.

Produced by the Vikram Malhotra-led Abundantia Entertainment, which also produced Shakuntala Devi, and co-produced by Prime Video, Neeyat narrates the gripping story of an unlikely detective (Vidya Balan) who investigates mysterious murders at a billionaire's party, where nothing is what it seems and all suspects hide a secret or two.

Neeyat marks Vidya Balan's return to theatres after her stint on OTT. She featured in films like Shakuntala Devi (2020), Sherni (2021), and Jalsa (2022). The producers released a teaser poster of the movie that gives the audience a sneak peek into the film.

Ayesha Jhulka on her 'glam girl' image, why she quit films

Ayesha Jhulka was recently seen in the web series, Happy Family Conditions Apply. The actor made her comeback with Tanuja Chandra's series Hush Hush in 2022 after a gap of some years. In a new interview, Ayesha spoke about why she quit acting, calling it a 'conscious choice'. Ayesha has acted in films such as Aamir Khan-starrer Jo Jeeta Wohi Sikandar (1992) and Himmatwala (1998), among many others.

Ayesha also opened up about her 'glam girl' image, and said that being seen as glamorous is fine when you are a newcomer, but as you grow in the profession, 'you also want to be known for your acting chops'. Ayesha spoke about her initial years in the Hindi film industry, and said while the characters she was playing had different names, 'they were almost similar'.

"It (her break from acting) was a conscious choice. I felt that if I associate myself with a project, I should be able to add value to it. But that can only happen if I am given a chance to perform. If that was not happening and I was being treated as a prop in a project, then it was not really worth my time. So I had to put an end to those roles. Every actress wants an upgrade, wants to be known for her acting skills and not just as a glam girl. I wanted that too.... When I joined the Hindi film industry, while the characters I played had different names, they were almost similar," Ayesha told The Times of India.

"I had nothing against what was being offered to me, but I felt I was doing the same kind of films, I had to be a clotheshorse, do the typical song-dance routine, get romanced by the hero and look beautiful. Being a glam girl is fine when you are a newcomer, but as you grow in the profession, you also want to be known for your acting chops. The cinema I was doing no longer satisfied me, I was hungry work that tapped my



potential and that wasn't happening. Taking a break from acting and devoting my energies elsewhere made sense," she added.

Ayesha was seen alongside Raj Babbar, Ratna Pathak Shah and Atul Kulkarni in the comedy series titled Happy Family: Conditions Apply. The 10-

episode series premiered on Prime Video on March 10. Created and directed by Aatish Kapadia and JD Majethia, the series also stars Sanah Kapur, Meenal Sahu, Raunaq Kamdar, Ahaan Saboo, Swati Das, Kariuki Margaret Wanjiku, Paresch Ganatra, Pranoti Pradhan, Samar Vermani and Neha Julkat.

Anurag Kashyap shares new stills of Sunny Leone from Kennedy



With two weeks to go before its world premiere at the Cannes Film Festival, Anurag Kashyap has posted two new stills of Rahul Bhat and Sunny Leone in character from Kennedy. The film will be shown out of competition at the 76th edition in the Midnights Screening Section. Anurag shared the new photographs on Instagram as he began the countdown for the film.

Tagging the cast and crew of the film, he wrote on Instagram, "2 weeks to go! #Kennedy's countdown to Cannes is on!" The first still features Rahul as Kennedy. He is sitting on a red leather sofa, peeling an apple while smoking. The next still is of Sunny Leone as the character Charlie. She is wearing a black saree while seated on a chaise lounge. Holding a drink in her hand, she seems to be looking off camera at someone else.

Fans of the director began asking for the trailer in the comments section. One fan

shared, "Trailer maangta hai apun ko kuch toh footage do (We want the trailer, please share some glimpses from the film)." While others also wondered about the film's release in India later. They asked, "#cannes ke baad kisi ott me? (After Cannes, which streaming platform will it come on?)" Actor Abhilash Thapliyal added, "Yes we Cannes..!" Kennedy also stars Mohit Takalkar, Abhilash and Megha Burman.

In a statement, Anurag shared, "I've lived with the character for a very long time since I was writing for Sudhir Mishra and he used to tell me stories of this mad policeman. Then years later during the lockdown, a headline incident happened in Mumbai and that triggered an idea and I took the cop from Sudhir Mishra's stories and put him around that incident and Kennedy was born. It's one of those ones that suddenly comes to you and you write relentlessly till it's fully formed. Then I was lucky to find people who believed in it as much as I did, and it just happened."



Shakira, Tom Cruise spotted together

Shakira and Tom Cruise were spotted together at the 2023 Miami Formula One Grand Prix. The pair was seen hanging out and sharing a good laugh at the races. Pictures of the duo went quickly viral on social media, where many wondered whether they were something brewing or it was just a friendly interaction.

The Colombian singer recently accepted the inaugural Billboard Woman of the Year award, where she gave a speech discussing her previous year and seemingly shared her thoughts about her split with ex Gerard Pique. "This has been a year of seismic change in my life where I've felt more than ever — and very personally — what it is to be a woman. It's been a year where I've realized we women are stronger than we think, braver than we believed, more independent than we were taught to be," she said.

OPPENHEIMER NEW TRAILER

Cillian Murphy leads mission to build a bomb that could destroy world

Christopher Nolan's next after *Tenet* (2020) is quite literally an explosive look at the making of the atomic bomb. Cillian Murphy plays J Robert Oppenheimer, the man tasked with making the mission a reality. The second trailer shows audiences a closer look at the other key players in the film including actors Emily Blunt who plays his wife Katherine 'Kitty' Oppenheimer, Matt Damon as General Leslie Groves Jr and Robert Downey, Jr as Lewis Strauss from US Atomic Energy Commission.

Written and directed by Christopher, the tense trailer shows the immense pressure Cillian's nuclear physicist is under, to make sure that the US be the first to make the bomb, ahead of the enemies like Germany. There are many instances where he and Matt's General are at odds with one another as the latter is the director of the Manhattan Project and wants clean results.

He requests to work on the project in a remote town away from prying eyes and wants to include all the scientists' families on site, so they are not lonely and miss home. The line shown in the trailer, "You are the man who gave them the power to destroy themselves and the world is not prepared," is already chilling when one thinks of the impact of this event afterwards.

On YouTube, fans wrote that they are eagerly awaiting the film's release. One



fan wrote, "This film looks absolutely unreal. Cillian Murphy is so talented and expresses Oppenheimer's discomfort with the Manhattan Project so perfectly. Cannot wait to see this in IMAX. This could very easily be my favourite movie this year." Another added, "A Christopher Nolan film is meant to be watched on the big screen. Can't wait since it has an ensemble cast of talented actors."

More cast members are shown in this trailer including Florence Pugh as psychiatrist Jean Tatlock, filmmaker Benny Safdie as theoretical physicist

Edward Teller, Michael Angarano as Robert Serber and Josh Hartnett as US nuclear scientist Ernest Lawrence. Rami Malek, actor-filmmaker Kenneth Branagh, Dane DeHaan, Alden Ehrenreich and Matthew Modine are other members of the ensemble cast.

Oppenheimer is based on the Pulitzer Prize-winning book *American Prometheus: The Triumph and Tragedy of J Robert Oppenheimer* by Kai Bird and the late Martin J Sherwin. The film will be released in theatres worldwide on July 21, 2023, the same day as Greta Gerwig's *Barbie*.

Kendall Jenner sparks family feud by calling out Kris Kardashian in throwback video



Kendall Jenner is making headlines once again, and this time it's for calling out her mom Kris Kardashian in a rather awkward moment. In a throwback clip that has resurfaced on Reddit, the 27-year-old interrupts a discussion between her older sister Kourtney Kardashian and Kris, which quickly escalates into a heated argument.

The family sat around an island in someone's lavish kitchen when Kim asked her older sister if her ex-boyfriend Scott Disick was invited to the party. Kourtney replied that she wasn't sure, which made Kim fire back, "You have to invite Scott!"

Kris then chimed in and told her eldest child that she had to invite Scott because he was still part of their family. But Kendall wasn't having it and asked, "What about my dad?" referring to Caitlyn Jenner, who split from Kris in 2013.

Kris smirked but appeared to be lost for words as Kendall continued to voice her opinion. "They've both done fcked up things in different ways," she said, as Kris

then mustered up some words. "But nobody that's coming would even know how to respond to her because of all the things," she said as Kendall interrupted and fumed, "So the fck what? Why are we worried about anyone else? Even if she doesn't come." The clip quickly went viral, and fans and critics alike had nothing but praise for Kendall. "I feel like Kendall is the only one with brain cells and a backbone in that family," a user commented. "You can see the relief on Kourt's face that someone is on her side and fighting for her," a different person observed.

The comments come after fans were thrilled to see Scott make an appearance in the trailer for the upcoming third season of *The Kardashians*. In a brief scene toward the end of the explosive clip, Scott was seen enjoying some food with Khloe Kardashian and looked suave with his dark hair slicked back and sporting a thick beard. Scott bluntly asked Khloe where she and her baby-daddy, Tristan Thompson, stood in their relationship.

Source: HT

BRITAIN IS SUPPLYING UKRAINE WITH LONG RANGE CRUISE MISSILES

MAY 11

LONDON (TIP): Britain is supplying Ukraine with Storm Shadow long-range cruise missiles, defence minister Ben Wallace said on May 11, which would allow Ukraine's forces to hit Russian troops, ammunition, and fuel dumps deep behind the front line.

Ukraine has been asking for months for long-range missiles, but support provided by Britain and other allies such as the United States has previously been limited to shorter range weapons.

"We will simply not stand by as Russia kills civilians," Wallace told parliament.

"Russia must recognise that its actions alone have led to such systems being provided to Ukraine." Wallace said Britain was providing these weapons to Ukraine so they could be used within its sovereign territory.

The Kremlin earlier said if Britain provided these missiles it would require "an adequate response from our military".

Britain and other Western countries have scaled up their military aid for Ukraine this year. Wallace and the foreign minister James Cleverly have been in the United States for talks on supporting Ukraine in recent weeks.

The war in Ukraine is at a turning point, with Kyiv expected to unleash its new counteroffensive after six months of keeping its forces on the defensive, while Russia mounted a huge winter offensive that failed to capture significant territory. (Reuters)

VAN CARRYING OXYGEN TANKS EXPLODES IN ITALY'S MILAN; DRIVER INJURED

MAY 11

MILAN (TIP) : A van that was transporting oxygen tanks to a nearby medical facility exploded in the centre of the Italian city of Milan on May 11, forcing the evacuation of a school and residential apartment buildings. The driver suffered minor injuries.

Images on Sky TG24 show a plume of dark smoke rising from a narrow street near Porta Romana, where flames scorched nearby cars and motorcycles and exploded windows in adjacent buildings, including the school. Firefighters quickly brought the flames under control. The driver of the van suffered an injury to his hand when he tried to douse the flames, firefighter Carlo Cardinali told reporters at the scene. The driver was treated at the scene and transported to a hospital. It wasn't immediately known what sparked the explosion, but Cardinali said the rapid spread of the flames was due to the quantity of explosive material on board. Law enforcement was investigating. (AP)

Israel kills 2 militant commanders in Gaza as Egypt presses on with efforts to mediate truce

MAY 11

GAZA CITY (TIP): Israeli airstrikes in the Gaza Strip killed two militant commanders on May 11, the army said, as the Palestinian death toll from the latest burst of fighting rose to 26.

Rocket fire toward southern Israel continued even as Egypt pressed on with attempts to broker a cease-fire.

It has been the worst bout of fighting between Israel and Palestinian militants in Gaza in months, and among the dead were also women and children.

The conflagration, now in its third day, comes at a time of soaring tensions and spiking violence over the past year in the occupied West Bank.

Early on Thursday, the Israeli military carried out strikes against the Islamic Jihad militant group and said a senior commander in charge of the group's rocket launching force, Ali Ghali, was killed when his apartment was hit.

Later in the day, Israel said it killed another Islamic Jihad commander who was meant to replace Ghali in southern Gaza. Islamic Jihad confirmed the man, Ahmed Abu Daqqa, was one of its commanders.

The Health Ministry in Gaza said 26 people — including at least 10 civilians — have been killed since the fighting erupted.

Military spokesman Rear Adm. Daniel Hagari told Israeli Army Radio that two other militants were also killed in the early morning strike, although no group immediately claimed them as members, and that the rest of the building remained intact.



"The apartment was targeted in a very precise way," Hagari said. "I hope this leads to a reduction, a blow and a disruption of the Islamic Jihad rocket abilities." The strikes targeted the top floor of a building in a residential, Qatari-built complex in southern Gaza Strip.

The pre-dawn airstrike in the city of Khan Younis caused damage to three surrounding buildings. The complex, known as Hamad City, consists of several tall buildings and thousands of housing units.

The strike created panic among residents, with falling debris and shattered glass littering the streets.

"My children started crying. I did not

see anything because of the dust, broken glasses, and debris," said Abdullah Hemaïd, who lives across from the targeted building.

Islamic Jihad said Ghali was a commander in charge of its rocket squad and a member of its armed group's decision-making body.

The group has said it will only cease fire if Israel agrees to halt targeted killings of its fighters.

The current round of fighting erupted overnight Tuesday when Israel killed three senior Islamic Jihad commanders in near-simultaneous airstrikes.

Ten civilians, including wives of the commanders, children and neighbours also were killed. (AP)

Australian wildfires likely contributed to the unusual La Nina event

SYDNEY (TIP): Researchers have found that the catastrophic Australian wildfires in 2019-2020 contributed to ocean cooling thousands of miles away, ultimately nudging the Tropical Pacific into a rare multi-year La Nina event that dissipated only recently.

The research, led by National Center for Atmospheric Research (NCAR), US, is published in the journal *Science Advances*.

Because the emergence of La Nina can often be predicted months in advance, it's an important phenomenon for seasonal climate forecasts.

"Many people quickly forgot about the Australian fires, especially as the COVID pandemic exploded, but the Earth system has a long memory, and the impacts of the fires lingered for years," said NCAR scientist John Fasullo, lead author of the study.

While not uncommon, a La Nina

occurrence for three consecutive winters is rare.

The recent run of La Ninas, beginning in the winter of 2020-21 and continuing through last winter, is only the third string of three in the historical record, which dates back to 1950.

The recent La Nina streak is also unusual because it is the only one that did not follow a strong El Nino - warming instead of cooling in the Tropical Pacific with similar but opposite climate impacts.

Previous studies have established that events in the Earth system, including aerosol emissions from large volcanic eruptions in the Southern Hemisphere which cool the climate, can shift the odds toward a La Nina emerging.

Given the massive scale of the Australian fires - which burned an estimated 46 million acres - Fasullo and his co-authors wondered what climate

impacts the resulting emissions might have had. To investigate the question, the researchers used an advanced NCAR-based computer model called the Community Earth System Model, version 2, to run two batches of simulations on the Cheyenne system at the NCAR-Wyoming Supercomputing Center (US).

All the simulations started in August of 2019 before the blazes in Australia became historically large, but only one set incorporated the emissions from the wildfires as observed by satellite.

The team found that the emissions from the wildfires, which quickly encircled the Southern Hemisphere, kicked off a chain of climate interactions. Unlike a volcanic eruption, the bulk of wildfire emissions did not make it high enough in the atmosphere to cool the climate by directly reflecting sunlight. (PTI)

Ukraine counteroffensive needs more time, launching now would cost too many lives: Zelenskyy

KYIV (TIP): Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy says his country's military needs more time to prepare an anticipated counteroffensive aimed at pushing back Russian occupying forces and opening a new chapter in the war more than 14 months after the Kremlin's full-scale invasion.

Zelenskyy said in an interview broadcast on May 11 by the BBC that it would be "unacceptable" to launch the assault now because too many lives would be lost.

"With (what we have) we can go forward and be successful," Zelenskyy said in the interview, according to the BBC.

"But we'd lose a lot of people. I think that's unacceptable," he was quoted as saying. The interview was reportedly carried out in Kyiv with public service broadcasters who are members of Eurovision News, including the BBC.

"So we need to wait. We still need a bit more time," Zelenskyy was quoted as saying.

A Ukrainian fightback against Russia's invasion has been expected for weeks. Ukraine is receiving advanced Western weapons, including tanks and air defenses, and Western training for its troops as it gears up for an expected assault.

While a counterpunch is possible as the weather in Ukraine improves, there has been no word on when it might happen. Zelenskyy's remarks could be a red herring to keep the Russians guessing, and ammunition supply difficulties faced by



both sides have added more uncertainty.

A claim by the Ukrainian military on Wednesday that it had advanced up to two kilometers (1.2 miles) around the hotly contested eastern city of Bakhmut brought speculation that the counteroffensive was already underway.

But Serhii Cherevatyi, spokesman for Ukraine's Operational Command East, told The Associated Press that the attack was not the "grand counteroffensive, but it's a harbinger showing that there will be more such attacks in the future."

The Kremlin's forces are deeply entrenched in eastern areas of Ukraine with layered defensive lines reportedly up to 20 kilometers (12 miles) deep. Kyiv's counteroffensive would likely face minefields, anti-tank ditches and other obstacles.

Russia is "acting slow" in Ukraine

because it wants to preserve infrastructure and save lives there, Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov claimed in an interview with the Bosnian Serb channel ATV broadcast Wednesday night.

Moscow has repeatedly explained its lack of advances on the battlefield as an effort to protect civilians, but those claims have been proven false.

Zelenskyy said Russian President Vladimir Putin is counting on reducing the war to a so-called frozen conflict, with neither side able to dislodge the other, according to the BBC. He ruled out surrendering territory to Russia in return for a peace deal.

Military analysts have warned that Putin is hoping that the West's costly support for Kyiv will begin to fray.

Ukraine's Western allies have sent the country 65 billion euros (\$70 billion) in military aid to help thwart the Kremlin's ambitions, and with no peace negotiations on the horizon the alliance is gearing up to send more.

European Union Foreign policy chief Josep Borrell said the possible need to delay a counteroffensive was a sign that the West must step up its military support for Ukraine.

"Certainly, they need more preparation," Borrell said at a defense and security conference in Brussels. "They need more arms. They need to gather more capacity, and it is us who have to provide for that." (AP)

Sudan's paramilitary forces took parts of Khartoum, stormed army chief's quarters

MAY 10

DUBAI (TIP): When conflict flared in Khartoum almost a month ago, pitting Sudan's armed forces and their heavy weaponry against a paramilitary force born out of an agile but lightly-armed desert militia, it looked like it might prove a one-sided fight.

But the head of the army, General Abdel Fattah al-Burhan, swiftly found air power and artillery alone could not stop his rival's men, who were able to storm into Burhan's residence deep within army headquarters in the first hours of the conflict that erupted on April 15, a total of ten sources, from both sides of the conflict, told Reuters.

Burhan, the de facto head of state, himself picked up an AK-47 rifle and opened fire before his security pulled him to safety, one of his bodyguards told Reuters, in previously unreported details of how close he came to being toppled, or killed, in those first days.

More than 30 of his guards died in the ensuing battle, before the Rapid Support

Forces (RSF) fighters retreated from the residence in the capital, said the bodyguard, who asked not to be named.

Reuters was unable to reach representatives of the army and the RSF for comment about the events at the presidential residence, or about the strategy of the two sides.

The account highlights the preferred tactic of Burhan's opponent General Mohamed Hamdan Dagalo, known as Hemedti, namely fighting at close quarters and playing to the strengths of his RSF.

Almost a month after the fighting began, and despite almost daily air strikes, the army has not dislodged the RSF from the capital, where its men have taken up positions in residential areas and several key institutions.

Over the past decade, the RSF grew out of a ragtag force of desert fighters to become virtually a parallel military with bases in the capital - quickly abandoned when fighting began - and with enough supplies to force Burhan to talks without

hope of winning a quick victory.

The conflict has left ordinary Sudanese, many of whom have flooded out of the capital, some to friends and family in more rural areas and others across the borders to neighbouring states, questioning how a rival to the military was allowed to materialise over the past several years.

"Why did the army let Hemedti become a parallel army and threatening the normal people. Where were the leaders of the army?" said Hussein Ahmed, in a long queue at a bakery.

For troops in the RSF, which grew out for the Janjaweed, a feared horse-mounted Arab militia that helped the government quell a previous uprising in Sudan's western region of Darfur and was rewarded by being formalised as a paramilitary force, the goal is to keep drawing the army into urban warfare where their lightly armed vehicles stand a better chance against tanks and warplanes.

(Reuters)

SHOOTING AT MERCEDES FACTORY IN GERMANY LEAVES 2 DEAD

MAY 11

BERLIN (TIP): A man opened fire at a Mercedes-Benz factory in southwestern Germany on May 11, leaving two people dead, authorities the company said.

The shooting occurred in Sindelfingen, a city near Stuttgart. The suspect, a 53-year-old man, was taken into custody, a spokesman for the Stuttgart prosecutor's office said.

Police received the first emergency calls around 7:45 a.m. (0545 GMT; 1:45 a.m. EDT) on Thursday morning, a police spokeswoman told the news agency dpa.

Police tweeted that there was no further danger to employees at the plant. Information about the suspect's motive was not immediately available.

In a statement, Mercedes-Benz said that two people were killed at its Sindelfingen plant and said it was "deeply shocked and saddened by the tragic news."

"Our thoughts are with the victims, their families and all colleagues on site," the company's statement said.

The sprawling Sindelfingen works employ around 35,000 workers producing E-Class and S-Class luxury sedans and CLS and GLC coupes, according to the company's website. It also houses planning, purchasing and development and design departments. (AP)

RUSSIA ENDS VISA REGIME FOR GEORGIA, LIFTS FLIGHT BAN

MAY 10

MOSCOW (TIP) : Russian President Vladimir Putin on May 10 abolished visas for Georgian nationals and lifted a 2019 ban on direct flights to the South Caucasus nation, a move that comes amid rocky relations between the two countries and that was quickly denounced by Georgia's President as a "provocation".

Putin signed, starting from May 15, Georgian nationals will be allowed to enter Russia without visas — unless they're coming to Russia to work or to stay for longer than 90 days.

Another decree lifts a ban on direct flights by Russian airlines to Georgia. Following Putin's decrees, Russia's Foreign Ministry issued a statement lifting its 2019 recommendation for Russian citizens to avoid travelling to Georgia.

Russia-Georgia relations have been complicated since the Soviet Union's collapse in the early 1990s. — AP

NEPAL EX-HOME MINISTER HELD OVER REFUGEE SCAM

MAY 10

KATHMANDU (TIP) : Former Home Minister and influential leader of Nepali Congress Bal Krishna Khand was arrested on May 10 for his alleged involvement in the fake Bhutanese refugee scam.

He was arrested for his alleged involvement in the fake refugee racket under which Nepali nationals were sent to the United States by forging fake documents of them being Bhutanese refugees.

According to media reports, an audio tape was released in which Arzu Rana Deuba, wife of former PM Deuba, and Khand's wife, Manju Khand, are accused of receiving millions of rupees from victims of this scam. (PTI)

INDIAN PRISONER DIES IN KARACHI

MAY 10

KARACHI (TIP) : The Pakistani authorities are expected to go ahead with their goodwill gesture to release on May 10 199 Indian fishermen arrested for allegedly fishing illegally in the country's waters, despite the death of an Indian civilian who was to be repatriated with them.

Kazi Nazir, a top police official in the jail and corrections department in Sindh, said they had been told by relevant government ministries to prepare for the release and repatriation of 199 fishermen on Friday. These fishermen will be sent to Lahore and handed over to the Indian authorities at the Wagah border. Currently, these fishermen are lodged at the Landhi jail here. (PTI)

AFGHANISTAN ASKS PAKISTAN, BANNED TTP TO HOLD TALKS

MAY 8

ISLAMABAD (TIP) : Afghanistan's interim Taliban regime Foreign Minister Amir Khan Muttaqi has asked Pakistan and the banned Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) to sit together for a dialogue, amid a sharp increase in deadly attacks on Pakistani security forces in recent months. "It is requested that Pakistan and TTP sit together for dialogue," Muttaqi, who is here on a four-day visit to Pakistan to attend bilateral and trilateral dialogues, said while addressing an event in Islamabad on May 8, Geo News reported.

Pakistan had held several rounds of talks - brokered by the Afghan Taliban - with the TTP but the negotiations failed last year after which the militant group resumed terror activities. Pakistan has witnessed a surge in TTP violence since the militant group formally ended the ceasefire on November 28. (PTI)

China, Pakistan resolve to extend CPEC into Afghanistan

ISLAMABAD (TIP): In yet another effort to build trust with the Taliban government, China and Pakistan agreed to include Afghanistan as part of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI).

Sources here pointed out that China had issued a joint statement with the earlier regime of Hamid Karzai and this latest reiteration comes soon after the Taliban government inked a MoU with a Chinese firm to prospect for oil in the Amu Darya basin in northern Afghanistan. It is estimated that Afghanistan has mineral resources estimated at \$1 trillion. Seven Indian companies headed by SAIL had been allocated a huge iron ore mine in Bamyan district by the previous regime but the project now appears to have been mothballed.

India is also building a communication route into Afghanistan from Iran's Chabahar port. It has also built a road connecting Afghanistan's Garland Highway with a town on the border with Iran. Another enduring road or rail link from that town of Zahedan to Chabahar will make it the shortest route from the sea into non-Pashtun areas.

The latest announcement, however, did not involve the Taliban side because it is under economic sanctions. With Taliban Interim Foreign Minister Amir Khan Muttaqi was also part of the deliberations, the decision was presented as one taken between Chinese Foreign Minister Qin Gang and his Pakistani counterpart Bilawal Bhutto Zardari in Islamabad on Saturday, a day after the duo returned from the Shanghai



Cooperation Organisation (SCO) meeting in Goa.

In 2016, the joint statement had welcomed Afghanistan's participation in the BRI and China agreed to support Kabul's "integration into regional cooperation by taking advantage of its location as a natural continental bridge and the center of Asia". The latest joint statement signed by China and Pakistan agreed to enhance development cooperation in Afghanistan, "including through extension of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC)". Last December, China began implementing zero tariff on 98 per cent of products from Afghanistan.

The decision to extend the BRI into Afghanistan followed several meetings between Pakistan and China. The CPEC,

however, has so far not lived up to its original intentions. IT has suffered delays and cost overruns due to the Covid pandemic, Pakistan's bankruptcy, the regime turnover in Afghanistan and attacks on some of the projects.

India too is attempting trust building with the Taliban regime, having provided huge amounts of humanitarian assistance. A 'technical team' now means its Embassy in Kabul which is attempting to maintain or complete projects financed by India. Recently, Afghan Foreign Ministry officials have been joining MEA's training programmes for diplomats from developing countries. However, unlike China, India still recognises the previous regime's envoy in Delhi. (TNS)

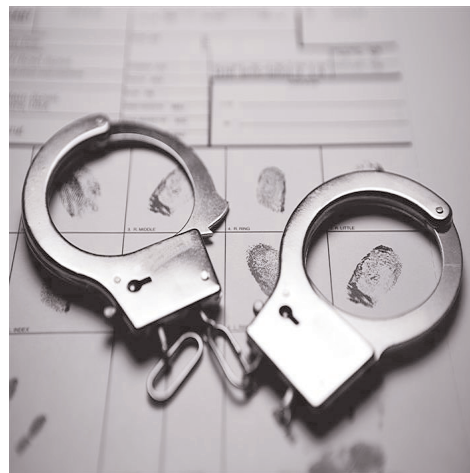
Nepal police arrest 10 Indians for illegally acquiring citizenship cards

MAY 8

KATHMANDU (TIP): Ten Indian nationals, including three women, have been arrested here for allegedly acquiring Nepali citizenship cards illegally by producing fake documents, police said.

A KATHMANDU VALLEY CRIME INVESTIGATION OFFICE TEAM APPREHENDED THE INDIAN NATIONALS, ALL HAILING FROM BIHAR, FROM VARIOUS PARTS OF KATHMANDU ON MAY 8, DEPUTY SUPERINTENDENT OF POLICE RAVINDRA REGMI SAID.

Of those arrested, seven were males, while three were females. The



Kathmandu Valley Police Office revealed their identities at a press conference at its office on Sunday.

The Indian nationals were found to have obtained the Nepali citizenship certificates on different dates from the district administration offices of Rupandehi, Bara and Parsa districts by producing fake documents, Regmi

said.

Police said those arrested have lived in Nepal for a long time, some since as far back as 2006, The Kathmandu Post newspaper reported.

The arrests took place after a three-month-long investigation, and those apprehended were engaged in the business of making sweets and ran sweet shops in Nepal, MyRepublica newspaper quoted the police as saying.

Nepali citizenship certificates, voter identity cards, Indian passports and Aadhar cards were also seized from those arrested, police said.

The Indian nationals have been identified as Bharat Prasad Gupta, 55; Rahul Gupta, 30; Gyanmati Devi Gupta, 50; Gopal Gupta, 39; Ram Sundar Gupta, 44; Ram Prabesh Gupta, 43; Bharat Gupta, 46; Snehalata Gupta, 42; Mindevi Gupta, 49, and Rajesh Kumar Gupta, 52, all of them are from Bihar and currently reside in different parts of the Kathmandu Valley. (PTI)

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Why you are not losing weight?

So you have been spending hours at the gym, and religiously trying out every diet you read about, but still not losing weight? Sometimes, the reason behind this could be as simple as not keeping track of what you are eating, even if it's diet food. Here are a few reasons why you may not be shedding those pounds.

Losing it without realising it

It is quite common to see the scale reflect the same weight for a few days or weeks. However, that doesn't mean you aren't losing fat. Body weight keeps fluctuating because of factors like the food that you eat, hormones or water retention. Besides, it is possible to gain muscle at the same time as you lose fat. Use something other than the scale to gauge your progress. For example, measure your waist circumference and get your body fat percentage measured once a month. Also, how well your clothes fit and how you look in the mirror can be very telling.

Not eating enough protein

Protein is extremely important if you are looking to lose weight. If the amount of protein you consume is 25 to 30 per cent of your total calorie intake, then you can boost your metabolism by 80 to 100 calories per day. Proteins also drastically reduce cravings and help prevent slowdown in metabolism and weight regain.

Drinking sugar

Sugary beverages are at the top of the list when it comes to reasons behind weight gain. Our brains don't compensate for the calories in them by making us eat less of other foods. But even if you have given up on colas and diet sodas, you can still



gain weight from fruit juices or vitamin water, which are loaded with sugar. Instead, have whole fruits.

Consuming too many calories

You need to keep a track of the amount of calories you are consuming, even if it is healthy food that forms a part of your diet. Keep a calorie calculator handy and figure out how many calories you need to eat. Tracking also helps if you are trying to reach a certain nutrient goal, like getting 30 per

cent of your calories from protein. But don't track calories like a hawk, do it for a few days to find out your consumption, and then adjust accordingly.

Not lifting weights

Lifting weights help you build muscle mass, which is often burned along with body fat if you are not exercising. Resistance training like weight lifting helps prevent metabolic slowdown, and also helps the body burn calories even when at rest.



Foods to nix the period pain

You know it is that time of the month when you see-saw between fluctuating hormones, water-retention, bloating, cramping, cravings, and mood swings. It's certainly not one of the best times of the month for a woman. It's a well-documented fact that Premenstrual Symptoms (PMS) have disrupted diets. Remember the time when you've caught yourself raiding the fridge at odd hours? During your monthly cycle you can optimise your energy levels, and have a better handle over your mood swings. All you need to do is follow a healthy balanced diet, or simply eat correctly. Devika Prakash, dietician-nutritionist, suggests, "Keep it simple and get back to basics. All you need to do is eat a balanced diet every day (get all your food groups in every day), eat fruits and vegetables with as many meals as possible, get a variety within each food group—enjoy the seasonal headliner or shop for frozen foods that are picked at their prime to get a variety of vitamins and minerals daily." She adds, "To prevent, and cope with PMS symptoms, replace seriously unhealthy cravings with these seven healthy foods by adding them to your diet to consume the adequate amount of nutrients needed."

Spinach

Spinach delivers a megaload of magnesium. Just one leafy cup provides 40 percent of your daily value—so try subbing it for lettuce on sandwiches and salads. Or whip up a hot side of wilted spinach to pair with your next PMS-busting dinner.

Oranges

Studies indicate that women who get a larger amount of calcium and vitamin D experience less intense PMS symptoms. Why? Calcium reduces depressive and anxious feelings in the brain while vitamin D regulates the enzyme that converts tryptophan into serotonin, a neurotransmitter that helps regulate moods. You can also try yoghurt, which also contains live cultures to promote healthy digestion.

Almonds

It's especially important during your period to get enough lean protein and fibre, which help even your blood sugar, therefore reducing cravings for the no-no stuff. Try some almonds or even a pear when the mid-afternoon cravings begin!

Whole wheat

Whole grains are filled with health benefits. They're an excellent source of magnesium, which helps to reduce muscle tension, and have Vitamins B and E that chase away the fatigue and depression.

Ginger-honey tea

Got nausea and bloating? Care for a cuppa ginger-honey tea? If you're not a ginger-honey person, then a pot of chamomile tea is good for you! Tea is known to relieve muscle spasms and reduce tension that leads to anxiety and irritability.

FOOD

PEPPER ROAST CHICKEN

INGREDIENTS

Eight chicken thighs, 1 teaspoon black pepper, 1 teaspoon coriander powder, salt as required, 20 curry leaves, 1/2 teaspoon black mustard seeds, 1 teaspoon tamarind extract, 1 tablespoon finely chopped curry leaves, 4 tablespoon coconut oil, 1 teaspoon cumin powder, 1 teaspoon turmeric, 2 cloves minced garlic, 2 sliced green chilli, 1 medium chopped onion, 1/4 cup chopped coriander leaves.

- Preheat oven to 420F. Line a baking tray with parchment paper. In large mixing bowl combine chicken, 2 tbsp oil, 1/2 tsp of black pepper, turmeric, cumin and coriander.
- Add salt to taste, half of the garlic, ginger and curry leaves. Mix well, cover and marinate in refrigerator for 1/2 hour.
- To cook chicken, spread it in a single layer on baking tray, scraping up all the marinade over it. Oven roast for 20 minutes or until lightly browned and crisped.
- Warm remaining oil in a deep skillet over medium heat. Add mustard seeds and let them splutter for 30 seconds. Add remaining garlic, ginger, curry leaves and saute for 1 minute.



- Now add onions and saute for 5-7 minutes or until they are softened and lightly browned. Add remaining turmeric, black pepper, cumin and coriander as well as more salt if necessary. Cook for a minute or so.
- Mix in the tamarind extract or lemon juice, water and chicken with all its juices. Reduce heat to low and cook covered for 12-15 minutes, stirring occasionally.
- The sauce should be very thick and clingy at this point. Fold in the fresh coriander, slivered curry leaves and fresh sliced chili. Serve hot.

Talking over mobile for more than 30 minutes linked to developing hypertension

Researchers have found talking on a mobile phone for 30 minutes or longer per week to be linked with a 12 per cent increased risk of developing high blood pressure or hypertension.

Almost three-quarters of the global population aged 10 and over own a mobile phone. Mobile phones emit low levels of radiofrequency energy, which has been linked with rises in blood pressure after short-term exposure, the study said.

Hypertension is a major risk factor for heart attack and stroke and a leading cause of premature death globally.

"It's the number of minutes people spend talking on a mobile that matter for heart health, with more minutes meaning greater risk," said study author Xianhui Qin of Southern Medical University, Guangzhou, China.

"Years of use or employing a hands-free set-up had no influence on the likelihood of developing high blood pressure. More studies are needed to confirm the findings," said Qin.

The study is published in the European Heart Journal - Digital Health.

Using data from the UK Biobank to examine the relationship between talking over phone calls and new-onset hypertension, a total of 212,046 adults aged 37 to 73 years without hypertension were engaged in this study.

Information on the use of a mobile phone to make and receive calls was collected through a self-reported touchscreen questionnaire at baseline, including years of use, hours per week, and using a hands-free device/speakerphone.

Over a median follow up of 12 years, 13,984 (7 per cent) participants developed hypertension. Mobile phone users, who for the purposes of this study used a mobile phone at least once a week for making and taking phone calls, were found to have a 7 per cent higher risk of hypertension compared with non-users.

Those who talked on their mobile for 30 minutes or more per week had a 12 per cent greater likelihood of new-onset high blood pressure than participants who



spent less than 30 minutes on phone calls. The results were similar for women and men.

Weekly usage time of 30-59 minutes, 1-3 hours, 4-6 hours and more than 6 hours was associated with an 8 per cent, 13 per cent, 16 per cent and 25 per cent raised risk of high blood pressure, respectively. Years of use and employing a hands-free device/speakerphone were not significantly related to developing hypertension.

A genetic risk analysis showed that the likelihood of developing high blood pressure was 33 per cent higher in those with high genetic risk and spending at least 30 minutes talking over the phone compared to those with low genetic risk and talking over the phone for less than 30 minutes.

"More research is required to replicate the results, but until then it seems prudent to keep mobile phone calls to a minimum to preserve heart health," said Qin.

Source: PTI



Here's why you should add amba haldi to your diet

Ambahaldi (Curcuma Amada) is also known as raw turmeric, mango ginger, and white turmeric. The root of the Curcuma zedoaria plant, often known as white turmeric or Zedoaria, is what produces the spice. The root of the Curcuma Longa plant, sometimes known as haldi or yellow turmeric, is abundantly available throughout the Indian subcontinent. It has a bright orange interior and an earthy yellow outside due to the high curcumin concentration. It is a crucial spice in Indian cooking.

Amba Haldi is more vibrant and has a bitterer flavour than yellow turmeric. One of the key distinctions between the two is that amba haldi does not stain as much as yellow haldi. Although it is no longer a common spice and is frequently replaced with ginger, white turmeric is still used in Asian cooking. Among its culinary applications are sauce, pickles, candies, preserves, and candy.

Turmeric is a key spice used in regular cooking in Indian households. Amba Haldi is mentioned in Ayurveda and is thought to provide a variety of medicinal benefits. It is known as an Ayurvedic miracle remedy due to its unexpected advantages. It originates at a plant's root.

The raw form of this root, referred to as kacchi haldi, is the finest way to use it. The root spice kacchi haldi, sometimes referred to as raw turmeric, is processed and turned into turmeric powder, just like ginger. It is possible to employ Amba Haldi both internally and externally.

To help us better understand Amba handi, nutritionist Lovneet Batra shares the many benefits of aamba haldi. She writes, "Turmeric or Haldi is a vital spice in Indian cuisines that adds a lovely yellow tinge to dishes and offers many wellness benefits." Source: NDTV

Don't forget your fingertips! New study shows the correct way of washing hands

A new study has shown the correct way of washing your hands is by not forgetting to clean your fingertips. Additionally, the amount of alcohol-based hand sanitisers typically used to disinfect hands is not enough, the study said.

Researchers from Budapest's Semmelweis University and Obuda University warned that thousands of people lose their lives worldwide due to hospital infections and the international guidelines seem insufficient.

On World Hand Hygiene Day, celebrated every year on May 5, the study was published in the journal Antimicrobial Resistance & Infection Control.

The study found that 1.5 ml of hand sanitiser proved insufficient in either format (gel or liquid) to completely cover the hand. Over 340 medical students were given 1.5 or 3 ml alcohol-based hand sanitisers with the same composition as commercially available ones. They



used these amounts twice – first in a liquid, then in a gel-based form.

"The gel ones, on average, left 7 per cent of the hands untreated. The liquid agent left 5.8 per cent uncovered, which is already a

significant shortcoming regarding patient safety in a clinical setting," said Dr Constantin Voniatis, resident surgeon at the Department of Surgery, Transplantation and Gastroenterology of Semmelweis University.

In contrast, the 3 ml amount worked well for both gel and liquid hand sanitisers as the uncovered area remained below 1.5 per cent. The researchers observed that most often the fingertips and the back of the dominant hand were left out while disinfecting.

Dr Tamas Haidegger, Director General of Obuda University's Research and Innovation Centre and member of WHO's Private Organizations for Patient Safety (POPS) working group said that the current WHO guidelines are not specific enough, and only state that people should use a "palmful" amount of hand sanitiser and rub for 20-30 seconds.

Source: India Today

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Are you getting spam calls over WhatsApp? Truecaller aims to help tackle the menace

Truecaller will soon start making its caller identification service available over WhatsApp and other messaging apps to help users spot potential spam calls over the internet, the company told Reuters.

The feature, currently in beta phase, will be rolled out globally later in May, Truecaller Chief Executive Alan Mamedi said.

Telemarketing and scamming calls have been on the rise in countries like India, where users get about 17 spam calls per month on average, according to a 2021 report by Truecaller.

India's telecom regulator in February directed carriers like Jio and Airtel to start blocking telemarketing calls over their networks using artificial intelligence filters. Truecaller has said it is in discussions with telecom operators to implement such a solution.

"Over the last two weeks, we have seen a spike in user reports from India about spam calls over WhatsApp," Mamedi said, noting that telemarketers switching to internet calling was fairly new to the market.

WhatsApp is the most used messaging platform in India. The company says it uses spam detection technology to spot and take action on accounts engaging in abnormal behavior and lets users block and report problematic accounts.

For Truecaller, India is its biggest market with 250 million users. *Source: Reuters*

First ChatGPT arrest in China over fake train crash news

Chinese police have detained a man for allegedly generating fake news of a train crash and disseminating it online using artificial intelligence technology, in what was reported to be China's first arrest for misuse of ChatGPT.

Police in northwestern Gansu province said in a statement on Sunday that a suspect surnamed Hong had been detained for "using artificial intelligence technology to concoct false and untrue information".

The case first caught the attention of the cyber division of a county police bureau when they spotted a fake news article that claimed nine people had been killed in a local train accident on April 25, the Hong Kong-based South China Morning Post reported.

The cybersecurity officers in Kongtong county found the article simultaneously posted by more than 20 accounts on Baijiahao, a blog-style platform run by Chinese search engine giant Baidu.

The stories had received more than 15,000 clicks by the time it came to authorities' attention, it said.

New Android malware discovered that steals your passwords, 2FA

A new Android malware known as 'FluHorse' has been discovered, which targets users in Eastern Asia with malicious apps that look like legitimate versions with over 1,00,000 installs.

According to Check Point Research, these malicious apps are designed to extract sensitive information, including user credentials and Two-Factor Authentication (2FA) codes.

FluHorse malware targets multiple sectors in Eastern Asia and is typically distributed via email.

In some cases, high-profile entities such as government officials were targeted at the initial stages of the phishing email attack.

One of the most concerning aspects of FluHorse is its ability to go undetected for long periods of time, making it a persistent and dangerous threat that is difficult to detect.

According to the report, FluHorse attacks start with targeted and malicious emails sent to high-profile individuals, urging them to take immediate action to resolve an alleged payment issue.

Usually, the target is directed to a phishing website through a hyperlink included in the email. Once there, they are prompted to download the phoney APK (Android package file) of the fake application.

The FluHorse carrier apps mimic 'ETC,' a Taiwanese toll collection app, and 'VPBank Neo,' a Vietnamese banking app.

On Google Play, both legitimate versions of these apps have over a million downloads.

Moreover, the report said that upon installation, all three fake apps request SMS access in order to intercept incoming 2FA codes in case they are required to hijack the accounts.

The fake apps mimic the original user interfaces but lack functionality beyond two to three windows that load forms that capture the victim's information.

Following the capture of the victims' account credentials and credit card information, the apps display a "system is busy" message for 10 minutes to make the process appear realistic while the operators act in the background to intercept 2FA codes and leverage the stolen data. *Source: IANS*



Twitter will soon get new features like voice and video calls, encrypted messaging

Twitter Chief Executive Elon Musk revealed details about new features including adding calls and encrypted messaging coming to the platform.

Last year, Musk flagged plans for "Twitter 2.0 The Everything App", which he said would have features such as encrypted direct messages (DMs), long-form tweets, and payments.

"Coming soon will be voice and video chat from your handle to anyone on this platform, so you can talk to people anywhere in the world without giving them your phone number," Musk said in a tweet.

The call feature on Twitter will bring the micro-blogging platform into line with the likes of Meta's social media applications, Facebook and Instagram, which have similar features.

Musk said a version of encrypted direct messages will be available on Twitter starting Wednesday, but did not say if calls will be encrypted.

Twitter this week said it will start a cleansing process by removing and archiving accounts that have been inactive for several years.

It was not immediately known if or how Twitter users will be able to access archived accounts.

Scientists say advanced aliens may soon detect life on Earth

Aliens on nearby stars could detect Earth through radio signals leaked from the planet, a new research has said.

Using crowd-sourced data, scientists from The University of Manchester and the University of Mauritius simulated radio leakage from mobile towers to study what alien civilisations might detect from nearby stars such as Barnard's star, located six light years away from Earth.

According to the research published in the Monthly Notices of the Royal Astronomical Society journal, scientists found that only more technologically advanced civilisations would be able to detect the current levels of mobile tower radio leakage from Earth.

"Although it's true we have fewer powerful TV and radio transmitters today, the proliferation of mobile communication systems around the



world is profound. While each system represents relatively low radio powers individually, the integrated spectrum of billions of these devices is substantial," said Professor Mike Garrett, Team Leader of the project and Director of Jodrell Bank Centre for Astrophysics at The University of Manchester.

"The Earth is already anomalously bright in the radio part of the spectrum; if the trend continues, we could become readily detectable by any advanced civilisation with the right technology," he added.

Ramiro Saide, an M.Phil student at the University of Mauritius and an intern at the Search for Extraterrestrial Intelligence (SETI) Institution's Hat Creek Radio Observatory, generated the models that illustrate the signals that aliens may receive from Earth.

According to scientists, the Earth's mobile radio signature includes substantial contributions from developing countries, including Africa, which they say is a remarkable development and highlights the country's success in bypassing the landline phase and moving straight into the digital age.

Source: IANS

No plan to seek insolvency proceedings, says SpiceJet

Budget carrier SpiceJet on Thursday, May 11, said it has no plans to file for insolvency proceedings and has also started the process of reviving its grounded fleet with \$50 million.

The statement from SpiceJet comes at a time when a lessor has filed an insolvency resolution plea against the airline and crisis-hit rival Go First being admitted for voluntary insolvency resolution proceedings by the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) on Wednesday, May 10.

While citing the recent developments in the Indian aviation market, SpiceJet said it has no plans whatsoever to file for insolvency. "We want to scotch any speculation that may have arisen due to the filing by another airline. The airline is firmly focused on its business and remains in active talks with investors to raise funds," it said.

On May 8, the NCLT issued a notice to the budget carrier on the insolvency plea filed by lessor AirCastle (Ireland) Ltd and the matter is scheduled for a hearing next week.

Besides, lessors have sought the deregistration of three planes of SpiceJet. "There is absolutely no question of filing for insolvency. Any rumour regarding the same is completely baseless. We are focused firmly on reviving our grounded fleet and getting more and more planes back into the air. Work on this front has already begun, and the company is using the \$50 million ECLGS funds and our own cash," SpiceJet CMD Ajay Singh said.

BharatPe co-founder Ashneer Grover, his wife, family booked

The Economic Offences Wing of the Delhi Police has filed an FIR against BharatPe co-founder Ashneer Grover, his wife Madhuri Jain Grover and family members Deepak Gupta, Suresh Jain and Shwetank Jain for an alleged Rs 81-crore fraud after a complaint by the fintech unicorn.

The case has been registered under Sections 406 (punishment for criminal breach of trust), 408 (criminal breach of trust by clerk or servant), 409 (criminal breach of trust by a public servant, or by banker, merchant or agent), 420 (cheating and dishonestly inducing delivery of property), 467 (forgery of valuable security, will, etc.), 468 (forgery for purpose of cheating), 471 (using as genuine a forged) and 120B (punishment of criminal conspiracy). The company alleged that Grover and his family caused damages of about Rs 81.3 crore through illegitimate payments to bogus HR consultants, inflated and undue payments through passthrough vendors connected to the accused, sham transactions in input tax credit and payment of penalty to GST authorities, illegal payment to travel agencies, forged invoices by Madhuri Jain and destruction of evidence.

Google rolls out chatbot Bard in 180 nations

After initially rolling out Bard in the UK and the US, Google has now opened the AI chatbot to over 180 countries, including India, with more coming soon.

Apart from English, Bard is now available in Japanese and Korean, and the company said it's on track to support 40 languages soon.

Google said Bard will soon become more visible in both its responses and your prompts. To make this happen, the company will bring Google Lens right into Bard.

Soon, Google will integrate Adobe Firefly, Adobe's family of creative generative AI models, into Bard so users can quickly turn their creative ideas into high-quality images, which they can then edit further or add to their designs in Adobe Express.

In addition, Google said that Bard will soon become more visible in both its responses and your prompts.

Google Lens

To make this happen, the company will bring Google Lens right into Bard.

"Let's say you want to have some fun using a photo of your dogs. You can upload it and prompt Bard to 'write a funny caption about these two'. Using Google Lens, Bard will analyse the photo, detect the dogs' breeds, and draft a few creative captions -- all within seconds," Google said in a blogpost on Wednesday.

Google to integrate apps

Moreover, the company said that it will introduce new ways to fuel users' imagination and curiosity by integrating the capabilities of Google apps and services they may already use, such as Docs, Drive, Gmail, Maps and others, right into the Bard experience.

In the coming months, Google will integrate Adobe Firefly, Adobe's family of



creative generative AI models, into Bard so users can easily and quickly turn their own creative ideas into high-quality images, which they can then edit further or add to their designs in Adobe Express.

Google Bard to link with Google apps

The tech giant is also working to connect Bard with helpful Google apps and many more partners, including Kayak, OpenTable, ZipRecruiter, Instacart, Wolfram and Khan Academy.

"We are at an exciting inflection point," Alphabet CEO Sundar Pichai told a packed developers conference in a speech peppered with one AI reference after another. "We are reimagining all our products, including search."

AI and Google Gmail

More AI technology will be coming to Google's Gmail with a "Help Me Write" option that will produce lengthy replies to emails in seconds, and a tool for photos called "Magic Editor" that will automatically doctor pictures.

Google to be cautious with AI transition

The AI transition will begin cautiously with the search engine that serves as Google's crown jewel.

The deliberate approach reflects the balancing act that Google must negotiate as it tries to remain on the cutting edge while also preserving its reputation for delivering reliable search results - a mantle that could be undercut by artificial intelligence's penchant for fabricating information that sounds authoritative.

The tendency to produce deceptively convincing answers to questions - a phenomenon euphemistically described as "hallucinations" - has already been cropping up during the early testing of Bard, which like ChatGPT, relies on still-evolving generative AI technology.

Google's new search lab

Google will take its next AI steps through a newly formed search lab where people in the US can join a waitlist to test how generative AI will be incorporated in search results. The tests also include the more traditional links to external websites where users can read more extensive information about queried topics. It may take several weeks before Google starts sending invitations to those accepted from the waitlist to test the AI-injected search engine.

Google to tag AI results as experimental

The AI results will be clearly tagged as an experimental form of technology and Google is pledging the AI-generated summaries will sound more factual than conversational - a distinct contrast from Bard and ChatGPT, which are programmed to convey more human-like personas. Google is building in guardrails that will prevent the AI baked into the search engine from responding to sensitive questions about health - such as, "Should I give Tylenol to a 3-year-old?" - and finance matters. In those instances, Google will continue to steer people to authoritative websites.

Indian companies invested CAD 6.6 billion in Canada creating thousands of jobs: Report

Indian companies have invested more than CAD 6.6 billion in Canada creating thousands of jobs in the country, with all of them planning to invest more in the future, according to a CII report released in Toronto.

The report 'From India to Canada: Economic Impact and Engagement' launched by Union Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal during his visit to the city is the first known attempt to capture Indian Industry's growing Canadian presence.

The report highlights the contributions made by Indian companies to the Canadian economy in the form of FDI, jobs created and saved, and funding for research and development as well as local corporate social responsibility initiatives.

"Canada has a large investible surplus and is looking for good investment



opportunities in India. Given the greater degree of engagement we've now embarked upon with high-level exchanges on both sides, the India-Canada economic relationship can improve very significantly," Goyal said at the report launch event organised by CII and Canada-India Business Council.

"We see a lot of Indian talent contributing to the Canadian economy, and even investments coming in from India to Canada. I am confident that this will be a two-way traffic, and both countries stand to benefit," he said.

According to the report, together, 30 Indian companies with an aggregate tangible investment of CAD \$6.6 billion, employ approximately 17,000 people across eight Canadian provinces.

The collective research and development expenditure by Indian companies in Canada is more than CAD \$700 million, with 85 per cent of those surveyed anticipating increased funding for future innovations, it said.

According to the report, 100 per cent of participating companies plan to invest more in Canada in the next five years, and 96 per cent plan to hire more employees.

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

WEEKLY HOROSCOPE - MAY 15, 2023 TO MAY 21, 2023



Aries

ARIES : Ganesha says, this week, you'll make experiences with relatives and close friends that you'll cherish. You will feel better if you exude affection for everyone around you. The aspirations of your heart for this week will be fulfilled. This week, you're also more likely to travel only a few miles with friends or relatives. In terms of your employment prospects, the power of your zodiac's 8th house indicates that you will land the job you longed for. This week, you'll be happy with your connections. Your companion will encourage you to partake in enjoyable activities. You must monitor your overall health.



Taurus

TAURUS : Ganesha says, the moment has arrived for you to improve upon who you currently are. Your daily routine will undergo a lot of good adjustments this week. You'll create novel components, perhaps even eliminate certain items from your life, and you'll persevere for a very long period. Your danger altering something that you ought to have left alone, therefore be certain that something you decide to change will benefit you in the long term. This week, you'll learn what affected your partner's viewpoint. calmly, answering any questions that are posed. To get a bigger reward, you need to take a few risks. Your money problems will now have a remedy. This week at the professional level, you will be able to ensure your growth.



Gemini

GEMINI : anesha says, this week will be quite low-key for you, particularly in terms of relationships and job. It won't be easy to implement your concepts either. All of this is due to a weaker light combined with an adverse period for Jupiter. Despite the fact that you are going to give your all at your job, the lack of gratitude will anger you. You shouldn't allow this to compromise the quality of your work. You won't be able to explain to your lover why you are now unable to talk to them about your romantic life. Your physical and mental well-being will both be balanced, but your mental well-being will be weak. Be at ease; everything will be OK.



Cancer

CANCER : Ganesha says, this week, you'll overcome your anxieties. When you're in first place, you'll realize how crucial your qualities and skills are to you. This week, you'll overlook a lot of mistakes. On the business front, you'll modify your operating style for the better. Generating prudent choices will provide positive outcomes this week. Your lover will want to chat to you about a great deal of things in regard to affection but won't be able to do so due to their busy schedule. Keep them pleased at work by surprising them. You're going to be OK in terms of endurance. At the end of the week, you might feel a little exhausted. Take precautions.



Leo

LEO : Ganesha says, this week will enable you to make the most of each day. You'll be forced to concentrate by your job description, which will cause you to get fixated on problems you hadn't before handled. Your companion won't be able to communicate their emotional demands, forcing you to carry out an unanticipated task on the romantic battlefield. At your job, you'll have an occupied each day. You're going to provide it you're all this week. As you think about new ideas, both your knowledge and your ability will advance. In terms of your well-being, you will be exhausted at the end of the week, but it will be beneficial to it.



Virgo

VIRGO : Ganesha says, you'll be willing to think about a variety of subjects this week. You'll like gaining new experiences and extending your professional horizons. You will also adjust to changes in your environment. This week is a fantastic time to start your own company, but don't go for it all. Be cautious, nonetheless, to place your faith in the proper individual. You will be able to focus your attention on the important concerns. In some facets of your love connection, your companion will recognize your skills. This week, you're going to have to keep an eye on your relationship and children in regard to your health. Ensure that you are there any time they need you.



Libra

LIBRA : Ganesha says, your life will progress as you follow your patterns this week. Additionally, you'll achieve your objectives for this week. For unanticipated advantages in your field of employment, you ought to invest in a stock transfer right now. Students will be able to select an appropriate environment to get experience. Shareholders of businesses should make investments in the financial and manufacturing industries since both appear to be lucrative at present. Domestically, you must use caution while selecting a future family get-together. This week, you won't need to put an excessive amount of attention into your physical health. By the end of the week, everything will be okay.



Scorpio

SCORPIO : Ganesha says, this week, you will profit wherever you go. You would be able to benefit the public greatly. Your advice will be of tremendous value to those close to you. You'll be praised for your noble action. Maintain your channels between yourselves open this week as you progress on a managerial basis. It will need a bit more work on your side, but you'll get the highest quality of what you want. Businesses currently should not hope for immediate success. Your partner will be eager to strengthen your relationship in regard to your love life, and you will silently support them. Ensure that you get sufficient rest this week for your health.



Sagittarius

SAGITTARIUS : Ganesha says the unanticipated duties you have to complete this week will make you feel burdened. You'll find it challenging to find time for yourself. Discussions will start when you encounter people who share your viewpoints, advancing your education and personal growth. Academically, you'll be able to manage challenging issues related to your existing undertaking, and the promises you create this week will facilitate your future progress. If you have diabetes or elevated blood pressure, you should exercise particular caution to safeguard your welfare. When people initially meet you, they will undoubtedly become in affection with you. Your lover will introduce you to their family.



Capricorn

CAPRICORN : Ganesha says, this week, fresh vitality will flood from your intellect and feelings. You may use this power to overcome your weaknesses. This week, you will only be concerned with deceitful people, so don't get advice from others while making decisions concerning your work. You should have faith in both yourself and your methods. Reduce your travel this week, and instruct your children to do the same, since Rahu is going to mess with your wellness. Make sure your documentation is organized appropriately. Your relatives will inquire about the connection if it relates to your love encounter. If you're thinking of telling someone a certain thing, wait.



Aquarius

AQUARIUS : Ganesha says, this week, you'll learn how to end a challenging connection with somebody. You'll have a productive week, and you'll stay away from being overworked owing to some smart methods. Be cautious what you say, hold off on expressing everything that comes to mind right away, and fight the urge to give in straight away. You've come a long way and overcome a lot of obstacles; cherish your partnership. You're more inclined to take another chance if you're merely weary of trying the exact same activity repeatedly. If you give in to the appeal of a particular playing field, you run the danger of squandering all you've worked so hard to achieve.



Pisces

PISCES : Ganesha says, when this week's harm is fixed upwards, everything will go back to typical. You'll find it easy to understand your options. This week, your optimism will cause you to miss the positive gemstones' flaw. avoid developing this tendency from getting taken aback. Spending time with your spouse can help you recall your problems, think more collected, and be able to do some easy and enjoyable tasks. Expect excellent news if you are a recent college alumnus who has sought for employment. Other people who are right now employed might expect to be evaluated.

BIRTHDAY HOROSCOPE : MAY 15, 2023 TO MAY 21, 2023 BY ASTRO FRIEND CHIRAG - SON OF ASTROLOGER BEJAN DARUWALLA

MAY 15 : Ganesha says you will experience a lot of happiness as your workplace environment improves. Interacting with influential individuals who can support your career is something you would do. It will be exciting and challenging to interact with new people. You would make more money, but you would need to start saving right away. You and your partner would have a great time together because your significant other would be in a very romantic mood. You could be interested later in remodeling, building, and pilgrimage.

MAY 16: Ganesha says you might find yourself revising your plans more frequently than usual, and making decisions on some fronts might not be simple. Later, specific changes in friendship also appear to occur. There would be frequent and successful travel. During this time, it seems likely that you will buy a house or a new car. You would place a high priority on

visiting a religious site or receiving blessings from a spiritual guide. Gaining favors and rewards from influential individuals will benefit you because of your outgoing personality.

MAY 17: Ganesha says you should try to channel your energies towards professional pursuits. You would experience prosperity and joy throughout this time since you would achieve significant success. Due to your superior talents and aptitude, you could easily outsmart your rivals. Investments made during this time would also produce substantial profits. Although fresh joint venture suggestions might be intriguing, a partnership is not in the cards for you. Through old pals, you'd make new ones.

MAY 18 : Ganesha says you should make an effort to channel your energies towards professional pursuits. You would experience incredible success and joy during this time since you

would accomplish a lot. Because of your superior talents and ability, you could easily outsmart your rivals. During this time, investments would also produce substantial profits. Despite the allure of fresh joint venture proposals, a partnership proposal should be considered thoughtfully before agreeing. You would meet new people through old friends.

MAY 19 : Ganesha says you have a fantastic day ahead, one that will bring you success and financial progress. For working women, this will also be a rewarding time. Your salary would increase, but you would also spend more money than you needed to on comforts and luxuries. For the single, romance and new connections are conceivable. You may occasionally feel uneasy around your superiors and coworkers. Your spouse's health would be a source of worry and concern.

MAY 20 : Ganesha says self-assurance would be high, and you

would negotiate financial arrangements that would result in extra money. It would be profitable to speculate, and long-term investment is advised. Long-standing legal conflicts would be resolved, providing you relief. A saintly person's blessing would offer consolation and mental comfort. Avoid spending money on others and stay away from strangers. Extra attention must be given to health.

MAY 21 : Ganesha says your stars are in a favorable alignment, bringing you joy and wealth. A few significant adjustments would also be made at home. You'd be a gracious host and extravagant with your financial contributions to others' amusement. A substantial source of joy and pleasure would come from your beloved. Overall, you should be in good health, but you should still take the required safety measures. Your schedule would likely include a pilgrimage or an extended trip.

|| SHREE GANESHAY NAMAHI ||



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contd from page 1

Karnataka witnesses 'record' 73.19 per cent voter turnout in Assembly elections

(BBMP) South limits (parts of Bengaluru city) at 52.33 per cent, the official data showed.

"Largely peaceful voting in all 224 Assembly constituencies in Karnataka, and no repoll indicated in any of the 58,545 polling stations," the Election Commission (EC) said on Wednesday night.

Karnataka recorded 72.44 per cent voter turnout in the 2018 Assembly polls which had thrown up a hung assembly with the BJP emerging as the single largest party tallying 104 seats, falling short of getting a majority. The turnout in 2013 polls was 71.83 per cent.

Counting of votes will take place on May 13.

Several pollsters have predicted that the Congress may have an edge in Karnataka, which is BJP's southern citadel, in a hung assembly with a couple of them even projecting that the grand old party may get a majority on its own.

While the BJP, riding on the Narendra Modi juggernaut, is looking to break a 38-year-old poll jinx where the state has never voted the incumbent party to power since 1985, the Congress is hoping for a morale booster victory to give it much-needed momentum to position itself as the main opposition player in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections.

It also remains to be seen whether former Prime Minister H D Deve Gowda-led Janata Dal (Secular) will emerge as a "kingmaker" or a "king" by holding the key to government formation, in the event of a fractured mandate, as it has done in the past.

Pakistan Supreme Court declares... Imran Khan's arrest 'illegal', orders his immediate release

ordered his immediate release after he was produced before a bench on its orders.

The order to produce 70-year-old Khan was issued by a three-member bench, comprising Chief Justice of Pakistan Umar Ata Bandial, Justice Muhammad Ali Mazhar and Justice Athar Minallah.

The bench, which heard Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf chairman's plea against his arrest in the Al-Qadir Trust case, expressed anger at the way Khan was taken into custody from the premises of the Islamabad High Court.

The bench had directed the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) to produce Khan by 4:30 pm (local time) when the court would reconvene.

Khan was produced before the court amid tight security. As he entered the courtroom, it was closed, and subsequently, the bench resumed the hearing of the case.

"It is good to see you," Chief Justice Bandial told Khan.

"We believe that Imran Khan's arrest was illegal," the top judge said.

He said that the Islamabad High Court should hear the case on Friday. "You will have to accept whatever the high court decides," the judge added.

Bandial also said that it is every politician's responsibility to ensure law and order.

Earlier in the day, Bandial asked how an individual could be arrested from the court premises. Justice Minallah observed that Khan had indeed entered court premises. "How can anyone be denied the right to justice?" he asked.

The court also observed that no one could be arrested from the court without permission of the court's registrar. It observed that the arrest tantamounted to denying access to justice without fear and intimidation, which was the right of every citizen.

It also said that by entering the premises of a court means surrendering to the court and how a person could be arrested after surrender. "If an individual surrendered to the court, then what does arresting

them mean?" the chief justice said.

Khan's counsel Hamid Khan informed the court that his client had approached the Islamabad High Court (IHC) seeking a pre-arrest bail but was arrested by paramilitary Rangers.

"Rangers misbehaved with Imran Khan and arrested him," the lawyer said.

The court also took note of about 90 to 100 Rangers personnel entering the court to arrest Khan. "What dignity remains of the court if 90 people entered its premises? How can any individual be arrested from court premises?" the chief Justice asked.

Chief Justice Bandial also at one point observed that the National Accountability Bureau had committed "contempt of court." "They should have taken permission from the court's registrar before the arrest. Court staffers were also subjected to abuse," he said.

Khan was arrested on Tuesday, May 9 from the Islamabad High Court and an accountability court on Wednesday, May 10 handed him over to the National Accountability Bureau for eight days in connection with the Al-Qadir Trust case.

The former premier on Wednesday, May 10 approached the apex court to set aside the warrants of NAB of May 1 for his arrest and to challenge the Islamabad High Court's decision to declare the arrest "unlawful".

Earlier, the IHC, expressing anger at the way Khan was nabbed, upheld his arrest hours after he was whisked away. (Source: PTI)

Maharashtra Governor's decision to call floor test wrong: Supreme Court of India

an unfettered discretion," a Constitution Bench led by Chief Justice D.Y. Chandrachud observed.

The court said that it could not quash the voluntary resignation of Mr. Thackeray as CM, and thus reinstate his MVA government. "Had Mr. Thackeray refrained from resigning from the post of the Chief Minister, this court could have considered the grant of the remedy of reinstating the government headed by him," it said.

Supreme Court disapproves of Amit Shah's statement on scrapping of 4pc Muslim quota in Karnataka

Justice A Amanullah said public functionaries should exercise caution in their statements about issues pending before courts.

"When the matter is pending before the court and there is a court order on Karnataka Muslim quota, then there should not be any political statements on the issue. It's not appropriate. Some sanctity needs to be maintained," it noted.

The top court was hearing petitions challenging the Karnataka government's decision to scrap four per cent reservation for Muslims under OBC category in government jobs and educational institutions and distribute it equally to Vokkaligas and Lingayats in the state.

The comments from the Bench came after senior counsel Dushyant Dave, representing the petitioners, raised the issue and said every day the Union Home Minister was making statements on the issue which amounted to contempt of court.

"They (BJP leaders) are proudly saying they have withdrawn (quota for Muslims)," Dave told the Bench.

"If what you are saying is true, then we wonder why when the matter is sub-judice before the Supreme Court, there should be statements made by anybody as such?" Justice Nagarathna commented.

Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, representing the Karnataka Government, objected to Dave's submission, saying the Bench had not been told about the "content and context" of Shah's statement.

"I don't wish to do politics here. He (Dave) may move an application. We don't know what statement is being attributed to (Shah)," Mehta said, asserting any religion-based reservation was unconstitutional even as he maintained "We understand and respect the sentiment of the court."

"Solicitor General making a statement in the court is not a problem but someone saying anything on a sub-judice matter outside the court is not appropriate... In 1971, the West Bengal CM was held for contempt for holding a press conference defending a rationing order that was the subject matter of a challenge before the court..." "We may have reservations about reservations but we can't let it be politicized in this manner..." said Justice Joseph.

"I can't respond to political [allegations] ... I can't shout like my learned friend (Dave)...," Mehta said, adding the matter was being politicized before the court.

As Dave interjected to say, "This was not religion based," Mehta said, "Lordships will have to control (Dave). Can't let this become a fish market... So far no judge has controlled him... That's the problem... Some judge will have to."

"Some sanity must prevail... There is no such statement (by Shah) to my knowledge. But in the (election) manifesto one is entitled... Even I can't be instructed as to how to argue in a vitiated atmosphere," Mehta went on.

At one point, Justice Joseph asked Dave not to shout and make political statements in the court.

The Bench deferred the hearing to July 25 after the Solicitor General said he was busy with the Constitution Bench hearing on the same sex marriage issue. However, he assured the top court that the earlier reservation regime would continue till the next date of hearing.

Dave said he will file an application and bring it on record the statements being made on the matter.

As Central Muslim Association's counsel wanted the top court to restrain the press from publishing such speeches, Mehta asserted that media can't be censored like this.

After the Karnataka Government's March 27 decision - that came weeks before the May 10 assembly elections, Muslims will be eligible to vie for 10 per cent reservation under the Economically Weaker Sections (EWS) category while the four per cent quota enjoyed by them for three decades stood distributed equally between Veerashaiva-Lingayats and Vokkaligas - considered to be numerically dominant and politically influential communities in the state.

The Supreme Court had on April 13 questioned the Karnataka government's decision to scrap the four per cent reservation for Muslims under OBC category in government jobs and educational institutions, saying prima facie it appeared to be based on "fallacious assumptions".

Twitter to have a new CEO in six weeks: Elon Musk

executive chairman and chief technology officer.

Musk has been saying for nearly six months that he plans to find a new CEO for San Francisco-based Twitter.

In mid-November, just a few weeks after buying the social media platform for \$44 billion, he told a Delaware court that he does not want to be the CEO of any company.

While testifying, Musk said "I expect to reduce my time at Twitter and find somebody else to run Twitter over time." More than a month later, he tweeted in December: "I will resign as CEO as soon as I find someone foolish enough to take the job." The pledge came after millions of Twitter users asked him to step down in a Twitter poll the billionaire himself created and promised to abide by.

In February, he told a conference he anticipated finding a CEO for Twitter "probably toward the end of this year." (Source: AP)

Achla or Aparā Ekadashi

Ekadashi fasting holds an important place in Hindu religion. Ekadashi of Krishna Paksha of Jyeshtha month is called Achala Ekadashi. Achala Ekadashi is also called Aparā Ekadashi.

By observing this fast, one gets rid of the evil deeds like Brahma Khatna, Paranda, Killing of the fetus, Parsarigami and there is an increase in fame, wealth and wealth. Lord Krishna said this to Yudhishtira.

Ekadashi means 11, in Sanskrit and is the name of the 11th day of the month in a Hindu Calendar. In the Hindu Calendar, a month is actually divided into two parts of 15 days and hence, a month has practically 2 ekadashis. Ekadashis are of very high importance in the Hindu culture and one can easily find a festival or the other being observed on this day. Aparā Ekadashi is one such day that is observed on the Ekadashi of the second half of the month of Jyeshtha.

Of all the Ekadashi's observed in a year, Aparā Ekadashi is considered the most glorious one. It is believed that a person who fasts on this day washes away all his sins and attains Moksha. With just one fast on this day, a person frees himself of all the wrong doings and short falls of the past. In Madhya Pradesh, this day is celebrated with grandeur and almost everyone tries to observe a fast. This day is given high importance and people visit temples in huge numbers to pray for forgiveness.

Observed in the month of Jyeshtha, this festival is generally observed in the month of May or June all over the country. This festival goes by many names across the nation like Achala Ekadashi, Bhadrakali Ekadashi, Vaishakh Vadi Ekadashi and Jalkrida Ekadashi. In Madhya Pradesh, it is called Aparā Ekadashi a day that washes away all the sins and reserves a place in Heaven.

Legends of Aparā Ekadashi

There are many tales associates with Achala Ekadashi. Here are a few of them:

The Tale of Lord Trivikrama

Lord Trivikrama is an incarnation of Lord Vishnu who taught a fitting lesson to King Bali. According to the puranas, it was in Treta Yug that King Bali started acting arrogant after being conferred with the title Chakravarty Samrat. Such was his pride that he made Lord Indra to leave from Heaven after attacking it.

Indra sought asylum from King Vishnu who took the avatar of Vamana (dwarf) showing that he is Trivikrama, the Lord of Three Worlds. King Bali realized his mistake and obliged to Lord Vishnu. This auspicious day is celebrated as Aparā Ekadashi. Owing to its prominence, it is also known as Jyeshtha Krishna Ekadashi, Vaishakh Vadi Ekadashi, and Achala Ekadashi.

The Story of King Yudhishtir

King Yudhishtir, the eldest of Pandavas in Mahabharata, asked about the importance of Aparā Ekadashi during one of his resting periods. According to Lord Krishna, the festival is chiefly celebrated in the dominant Hindu communities during which they seek perfect solution so that their past sins could get washed off successfully. This is the exact reason why people in large numbers maintain fast on the auspicious day. Perhaps, it is the Aparā Ekadashi festival alone that helps people in realizing more benefits on an overall.

Rituals of Aparā Ekadashi

The rituals observed on this day include fasting, pujas and yagya. The rituals of this day are given very high importance and are performed with utmost sincerity. It is said that a person who observes this day honestly gets as blessed as someone who has done innumerable good acts and observed various religious acts. Madhya Pradesh is a state of diversities. Many festivals are celebrated here with grand fervor and Aparā Ekadashi is one of them. It is of equal importance to every person in the state despite of their caste and the state they come from.

Attaining salvation is best possible for all those who believe in Lord Vishnu and offer their selfless prayers to God. Reflecting the name "Aparā" term in the festival, it is believed that people who observe fast will



Important information

Achla / Aparā Ekadashi 2023

Monday, 15 May 2023

Ekadashi Tithi Begins : Monday, 15 May 2022 at 2:46 am

Ekadashi Tithi Ends : Tuesday, 16 May 2022 at 1:03 am

be able to realize unlimited benefits in exactly the same way as it is expected. Remaining uneaten as part of the fasting ritual is something that is regarded as the most effective step from your end.

Significance of Aparā Ekadashi

The significance of Aparā Ekadashi is mentioned in the 'Brahma Purana.' The greatness of Aparā Ekadashi was narrated by Lord Krishna to King Yudhishtir. Lord Krishna also stated that a person observes Ekadashi vrat, he will be very renowned due to their meritorious deeds. Aparā Ekadashi vrat is highly beneficial for those who are suffering from the guilt of their sins. By observing a fast and worshipping Lord Vishnu with devotion, all the sins will be pardoned. Aparā Ekadashi vrat makes a person prosperous and rich. By observing Aparā Ekadashi, the devotees get the same benefits as taking a bath in the holy Ganges during the auspicious month of 'Kartik.' It is equivalent to donating cows or performing sacred yagnyas.

Celebrations

Devotees need to be cautious while performing Aparā Ekadashi vrat. All the rituals must be performed with devotion and dedication. Devotee should get up before sunrise and take a bath. Offer Tulsi leaves, flowers, dhoop and lamp to Lord Vishnu. Sweets are prepared at home and offered to the Lord. The devotees also recite the Aparā Ekadashi vrat Katha or story along with Vishnu Sahastranaam Stotra. After performing the 'Aarti', 'Prasad' is distributed among the family

members. The devotees also visit temples of Lord Vishnu. The fast of this Ekadashi begins on the 'dashami' (10th day). The person can eat only one meal on the 10th day. Many devotees keep strict fast and spend the day without eating or drinking anything. Partial vrat can also be kept by those who are unfit. They can eat fruits. The fast starts at sunrise and ends on the sunrise of the 'dwadashi' (12th day). Eating grains and rice is prohibited on Aparā Ekadashi. Applying oil on the body is also not allowed. Devotees should keep the mind free from all negative thoughts. He should not tell lies or speak badly about others. Their mind should only have thoughts of Lord Vishnu. The Devotees must be engaged in bhajans and kirtans in praise of Lord Vishnu on the day of Aparā Ekadashi.

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

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

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

Sikh History This Week

MAY 12, 2023, TO MAY 18, 2023

12th May



1710 Battle of Chaaper Chheri in which Nawab Wazir Khan was killed.
1979 Calcutta Gurdwara Burnt.
1984 Murder of Sri Ramesh, editor of Hind Samachar.

13th May



1665 Guru Tegh Bahadur reached Bilaspur.
Guru Tegh Bahadur accompanied by his mother Nanaki, and members of his Darbar reached Bilaspur. Guru Sahib was attending the bhog ceremony of Bilaspur's ruler at the urgent request of his wife Rani Champa Devi.



1673 Gobind Rai married Jitan at Chak Nanaki.
1710 Famous battle of Chapar Cheri fought near Sarhind. Banda Bahadur defeated and killed Wazir Khan, the Governor of Sirhind.
Having won the battle of Chapar Cheri, the Khalsa army seigned the city of Sirhind. Before entering the city, on this day, the Khalsa army had to face another severe battle. Five hundred Sikhs lay martyrs to the fort guns. The city, however, fell to the Khalsa army in the afternoon. destruction of life and property in the city was boundless. Various descriptions mention that the city was reduced to ruins. Whole families were killed. Large amounts of wealth plundered not only by the

victorios army but also by robbers and dacoits.



Banda Singh ransacked Saharanpur and renamed it Bhanagar. Banda Bahadur established his camp at Mukhlispur (a small fortress constructed by Mukhlis Khan for camping during hunts in the Shivalik Hills.) Banda Bahadur repaired the fortress and renamed it Lohgarh. Banda Bahadur truck coins and adopted a seal for his order. The coins were issued in the name of Guru Nanak and Guru Gobind Singh Sahib.

1835 Maharaja Ranjit Singh surrounds the forces of Mohammad Khan.

14th May

1710 Banda Singh Bahadur conquered Sirhind.
Banda Singh Bahadur conquered Sirhind and established a Sikh government. Baz Singh was appointed governor and Baba Ali Singh got Naibship (joint Governership). The Khalsa kesri flag was hoisted over Sirhind fort.

15th May

1629 Mukhlis Khan reaches Amritsar with his forces to fight Guru Har Gobind Sahib.
1765 Conquest of Lahore by the Khalsa Forces. Ahmad Shah reached Lahore via Eminabad during his 7th invasion. Sikhs attacked his outposts conquered Lahore and assembled at Amritsar.

1850 Bhai Maharaj Singh was deported to Singapore aboard ship named "Mohammed Shah" guarded by soldiers of the 70th regiment. Bhai MAHARAJ SINGH: Born in village Rabbon, near Malud, Ludhiana Dist. Parents named him Nihal Singh. As a young lad, he went to stay at Bhai Bir Singh's Dera at Naurangabad. Did sewa for many years, took Amrit at the hands of Bhai Bir Singh, was given the name Bhagwan Singh, and eventually became his chela. The Dera was practically a military camp with 1200 musketmen and 3000 horsemen. It had always been a sanctuary for political refugees. It became the centre of the Sikh revolt against Dogra dominance over the Punjab.

Hira Singh Dogra, the chief minister of the Punjab, attacked the Dera in 1844 with 20000 troops and 50 cannon. Several hundred Sikhs, including General Attar Singh Sandhanwalla, Prince Kashmira Singh and Bhai Bir Singh were killed. Bhagwan Singh became the head of the Dera.

The British, who had been waiting for the right moment to intervene and establish their authority, made their move in 1847. They deported Rani Jinda. The Sikh chiefs revolted, including Bhagwan Singh. He was welcomed by Sikhs saying "Ah Wo Maharaj", because of his sanctity, thus, soon he came to be referred to as Bhai Maharaj Singh.

16th May

1765 Sikhs assembled at Amritsar and passed a Gurmatta to regain more territorits, occupy Lahore

and strike coins in the name of their gurus as a symbol of the sovereignty of the Khalsa.

Lahna Singh, Gujjar Singh, and Sobha Singh occupied Lahore and divided the city into three administrative zones under each Sardar. Silver rupee was struck from Lahore mint.

1748 Misl Bhangian was organised.

Misl Bhangian, one of the twelve Sikh Misls, was organized by Sardar Chhaju Singh of Panjwar Dist. Amritsar. Sardar Hari Singh and Bhuma Singh, etc., the leaders of this Misl captured Lahore in 1765. This Misl also ruled over Ambala, Ferozpur and Amritsar (See description below for details on Sikh Misls).



1848 Maharani Jindan was imprisoned in the fort at Benaras.

1931 Sadhu Singh Babbar of Sandhara sent to the gallows.

17th May



1762 Jassa Singh Ahluwalia defeats Jain Khan.

1783 Baba Dyal Ji, the Nirankari leader, was born. NIRANKARI: a particular branch of GurSikh faith, established by Bhai Dayal Singh Ji. A Saehajdhari Sikh resident of Peshwar; GurSahai Ji, had a son named RamSahai Ji who married Ladhaki, daughter of Vasakha Singh (treasurer for the tenth Guru). Bhai Dayal Singh was born from this marriage on 15 Vaisakh sunmat 1840 (1783).

1973 US Government recognized Sikh Dharma as a religion.

The United States Government recognized Sikh Dharma as a religion, granting them the privileges and protection enjoyed by other churches in America.

18th May

1711 Battle of Batala between Baba Banda Singh Bahadur and followers of Saekhul Hind.

Almora: A cozy heritage town nestled in the Himalayas

Set in the background of snow-capped Himalayan ranges of Uttarakhand, the sprawling town of Almora is a beautiful hill station. With easy accessibility from Delhi and other major cities of North India, Almora is known for its rich cultural heritage, unique handicrafts, sumptuous cuisine and magnificent wildlife. This town has two major rivers- Koshi (Kaushaki) and Suyal (Salmali).

Popular pilgrimage sites like Nanda Devi and Jageshwar attract thousands of devotees each year. Almora is also popular among backpackers as it has hostels and cafes in Kasar Devi, a village near Almora.

Many routes that go deeper into the Himalayas start from Almora, and there is also single day to weekend treks near the town. Almora is also popular for mountain biking. Since it is easy to reach Almora and it is at a relatively low altitude, one does not need too much training to bike here. Many shops and resorts rent bikes by the hour or by the day, and you can also enjoy cycling across the rugged mountain paths.

Zero Point

Located in the premises of the Binsar Wildlife Sanctuary, Zero Point is the highest point in the town of Binsar which, in itself, lies at an elevation of 2412 masl. The view of the skies from Zero Point is mesmerising. While it is rare that one location is equally beautiful during sunset and sunrise, this place is especially unique. One can see a 360-degree panoramic view of the Himalayas including peaks like the Kedarnath Peak, Shivling, and Nanda Devi from Zero Point.

To reach Zero Point, one has to walk inside the sanctuary for 1.5 kilometres. A guided trek up to Zero Point is the recommended way to explore the green beauty of the Binsar Wildlife Sanctuary. It is also a great location for bird-watching.

Jageshwar

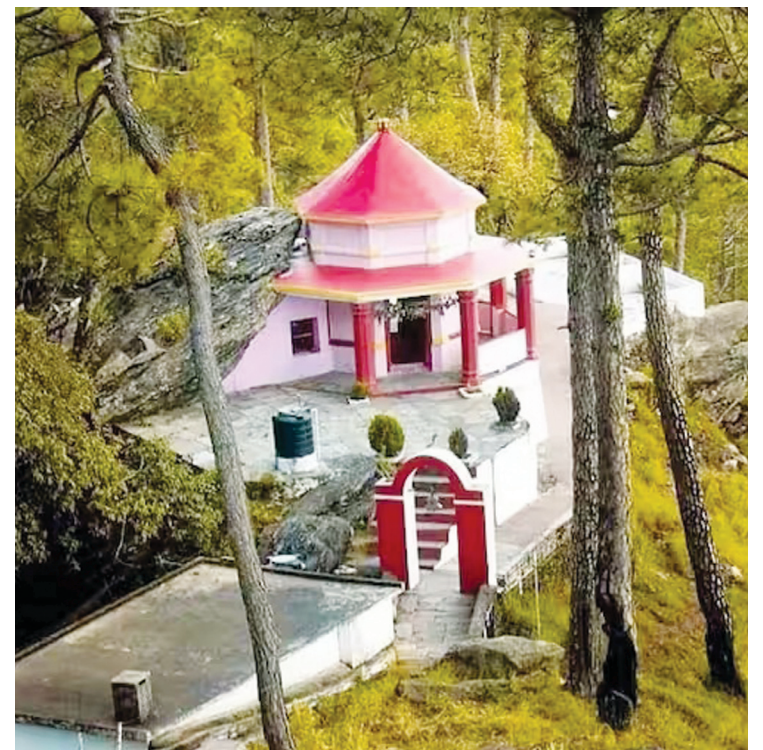
Jageshwar is believed to be the home of one among the twelve Jyothirlingas. Surabhi and Nandini rivers flow through this place that has 124 temples built in medieval architectural style, and heavily influenced by Buddhist style craftsmanship.

Mrityunjaya is the oldest temple and Dindeshwara the biggest. Jageshwar temple complex built between 8th and 18th centuries consists of 108 temples.

Kasar Devi

The amorous view of Himalayas, from Nanda Devi to 5 snow-capped peaks of Panchachuli, unwrap the famous town of Kasar Devi. The place is famous for its home temple, the Kasar Devi Temple. The nearby area is home to pine and deodar trees, offering a panoramic view of the Himalayas along with an eye-pleasing view of Hawabagh Valley. A single road runs up high with 200 houses on each side.

The village derives its name from the



namesake deity Kasar Devi, with the Kasar Devi Temple dating back to the 2nd century CE. In the 1890s, Swami Vivekananda visited the place and meditated here for days. This was the first time when people got to know more about Kasar Devi as a destination. It later became a powerhouse for the counter culture that erupted in the '60s.

The region around Kasar Devi has an enormous geomagnetic field as the region comes under the Van Allen belt. The causes behind the formation of this belt have been researched by NASA for quite some time now. Other famous locations which have been found to have similar levels of a magnetic field (Van Allen belt) are Machu Picchu in Peru and Stonehenge in England.

The Kasar Devi fair is a large fair organised every year on Kartik Purnima per the Hindu calendar. People

often trek up to the temple from the town of Kalimath, through cosy little alleys carved in the hills. The place has limited yet good options for accommodation.

Chitai Temple

The Temple of Chitai, locally known as Golu Devata Chitai Temple, is located 9 km from Almora City on State Highway No. 37. This Temple is dedicated to Gollu or Goljyu Devta, an Avtar (incarnation) of Lord Shiva in the form of Gaur Bhairav, built during the Chand regime.

The temple is known as the abode of the God of Justice. There are various beliefs that cause people to come and pray here. You will love the soft tinkle of the many bells caressed by the winds, hung by devotees as an act of offerings, wishing or thanksgiving can be heard far and wide. Hence, the temple is also called the temple of a million bells.

Dunagiri

Nestled in the glorious Kumaoni Himalayas of Uttarakhand, Dunagiri is a small hill town away known for providing solitude to travellers. Situated 43 km from Ranikhet, it is a peaceful haven of beauty and spirituality. Blessed with natural beauty and a sense of divine detachment from the rest of the world, Dunagiri has become that alluring destination where one finds oneself.

The village town has been etched in Indian mythological history from time to time. It is said that many famous Rishimunis made this place their abode of attaining divine knowledge and distributing it to the world. Today, Dunagiri is emerging as a new place of recreation and rejuvenation for tourists who have missed out on this beauty till now.

Source: *Holidify*



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Messi set for return as PSG farewell looms

Lionel Messi is in line to return for Paris Saint-Germain for Saturday's Ligue 1 game at home to Ajaccio after a club-imposed suspension for going on an unauthorised trip to Saudi Arabia.

The seven-time Ballon d'Or winner sat out last weekend's win at Troyes after missing a training session to fulfil commitments in his role as a Saudi tourism ambassador.

The Argentine later apologised to the club and his team-mates, and resumed training with PSG on Monday, but his time at the Parc des Princes is coming to a sad end.

After two uninspiring years in France, Messi looks set to play in Saudi Arabia next season as part of a blockbuster deal that would see him follow arch-rival Cristiano Ronaldo to the Gulf kingdom.

Messi, who turns 36 next month, will sign a "huge" contract with an as-yet-unnamed club, a source close to the negotiations told AFP this week.

"Messi is a done deal. He will play in Saudi Arabia next season," said the source, speaking on condition of anonymity.

"The contract is exceptional. It's huge. We are just finalising some small details," added the source, who is not authorised to speak to media.

PSG have yet to confirm the departure, while Messi's father and agent Jorge insists the World Cup winner has not decided where he will play next season.

But it appears certain his stint at PSG will conclude in June, after the club hopes to celebrate a record 11th French league crown.

"If the club had wanted to renew his contract, it would have been done earlier," said a PSG source.

Divya and Sarabjot win mixed team pistol gold at Baku World Cup

Sarabjot Singh and TS Divya beat Damir Mikek and Zorana Arunovic 16-14 to win the gold medal in mixed team 10m air pistol event at the ISSF World Cup in Baku, Azerbaijan.

The Indian pair registered a fine 581 to top the qualification round and they held their nerves in a tight final to seal the top prize. Sarabjot shot 293 in qualification while Divya scored 288.

In the final, India won the first two rounds and put the experienced Serbian team under pressure. Serbia, however, bounced back and both teams were tied 14-14. But in the final round of shots, Sarabjot fired a 10.6 and Divya 9.9 as Damir shot 10.3 and Zorana 8.6. Sarabjot has shown good form this season and won gold at World Cup in Bhopal. For Divya, it was her first ISSF World Cup medal. They were competing in mixed team event for the third time.

India's second pair of Esha Singh and Varun Tomar shot a combined 578 in the qualification and finished fifth overall.

It was India's second medal in the event after Rhythm Sangwan opened with a bronze medal in 10m air pistol on Wednesday.

IPL 2023

Yashasvi Jaiswal scripts history, slams fastest half-century in IPL

KOLKATA

Rajasthan Royals (RR) explosive batter Yashasvi Jaiswal on Thursday produced an exhibition in power-hitting to script history, becoming the first player to slam the fastest half-century in Indian Premier League (IPL).

Jaiswal achieved this feat in the match against Kolkata Knight Riders at the Eden Gardens. Jaiswal slammed the half-century in just 13 balls to script his incredible milestone to his name.

KL Rahul (14), Pat Cummins (14), Yusuf Pathan (15) and Sunil Narine (15) are the other three players to have achieved the milestone.

The milestone was previously held by KL Rahul and Pat Cummins who had scored a 50 in 14 balls. Yusuf Pathan was third on the list with a 50 in 15 balls.

Coming to the match, Jaiswal started the run chase for the RR with a flying start as he single-handedly slammed Nitish Rana for 26 runs in the first over of the innings. Earlier in the match, Yuzvendra Chahal delivered a fine performance to bag four wickets, conceding just 25 runs in his 4 overs spell. Chahal and Trent Boult's blistering spells helped Rajasthan



Yashasvi Jaiswal scored IPL's fastest fifty on his way to a 47-ball 98. PTI

Royals (RR) restrict Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) to 149/8 in their Indian Premier League (IPL) 2023 match here at Eden Gardens on Thursday.

On a day KKR's batters struggled to time the ball, the 21-year-old Jaiswal showed the way by bringing up fastest fifty in the history of the IPL in just 13 balls, bettering the previous record held by KL Rahul

and Pat Cummins (14 balls each).

Jaiswal remained two runs shy of a century (98 not out from 47 balls), a knock studded with 12 fours and five sixes as RR cantered to victory 13.1 overs. Samson gave fine support to the southpaw (48 not out from 29 balls) as the duo shared an unbroken match-winning partnership of 121 runs off just 69 balls.

IPL 2023 play-offs scenarios

RCB, LSG chasing RR; how Rohit Sharma's MI can secure their berth?

NEW DELHI (TIP)

Thwarting Kolkata Knight Riders' (KKR) bid to strengthen their playoff chances in match No.56 of the Indian Premier League (IPL) 2023, Sanju Samson's Rajasthan Royals (RR) registered a massive win over the two-time champions at the Eden Gardens on Thursday. Yashasvi Jaiswal-inspired RR side crushed Nitish Rana's KKR to remain in the playoff race of the ongoing season. Opener Jaiswal slammed a record-breaking half-century to make sure RR upstage KKR in a one-sided contest at Eden Gardens.

Jaiswal played a sublime knock of 98 off 47 balls while RR captain Samson chipped in with a crucial 29-ball 48 as the 2008 champions hammered the hosts by 9 wickets at Kolkata. With the impressive win over the former champions, Samson's RR side has climbed to the third spot on the IPL 2023 points table. Champions in the 2008 edition of the elite tournament, RR are only three points behind second-placed Chennai Super Kings (CSK), who are expected to enter the business end of the competition with defending champions Gujarat Titans (GT) this season.

Samson's RR side has enhanced their Net Run Rate (NRR) to 0.633 after completing the run-chase in 13.1 overs. Third-placed RR are followed by record-time champions Mumbai Indians (MI) in the IPL 2023 standings. KKR are placed seventh in the standings and Rana's men can only finish the season with a maximum of 14 points. Sixth-placed Royal Challengers Bangalore (RCB) are only two points behind RR and MI on the IPL 2023 points table. RR and MI are only a point ahead of fifth-placed Lucknow Super Giants (LSG) in the current



standings.

On Friday, Rohit Sharma's Mumbai Indians will meet Gujarat Titans in match No. 57 of the IPL 2023 at the Wankhede Stadium. The record-time winners can secure 16 points even if they end up losing to GT at home. MI will then have to win their remaining two matches after the home game against GT. RCB and Punjab Kings can also accumulate 16 points each this season. Thus, MI can remain in the fray for a top-two finish if Rohit's men win all of their remaining three league games this season. If they suffer two defeats in their last three matches, MI will have to rely on other results going in their favour.

Source: HT

History This Week

MAY 12-18, 2023

MAY 12

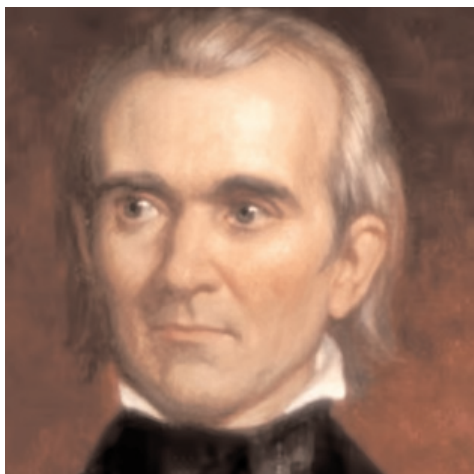


May 12, 1937 - George VI was crowned at Westminster Abbey in London, following the abdication of his brother, Edward VIII. King George reigned until his death in 1952. He was succeeded by his daughter Elizabeth, the current reigning monarch.

May 12, 1949 - Soviet Russia lifted its blockade of Berlin. The blockade began on June 24, 1948 and resulted in the Berlin airlift. For 462 days - from June 26, 1948, until September 30, 1949, American and British planes flew about 278,000 flights, delivering 2.3 million tons of food, coal and medical supplies to two million isolated West Berliners. A plane landed in Berlin every minute from 11 Allied staging areas in West Germany. The planes were nicknamed "candy bombers" after pilots began tossing sweets to children. They also flew out millions of dollars worth of products manufactured in West Berlin.

Birthdays - British nurse and public health activist Florence Nightingale (1820-1910) was born in Florence, Italy. She volunteered to aid British troops in Turkey where she improved hospital sanitary conditions and greatly reduced the death rate for wounded and sick soldiers. She received worldwide acclaim for her unselfish devotion to nursing, contributed to the development of modern nursing procedures, and emphasized the dignity of nursing as a profession for women.

MAY 13



May 13, 1846 - At the request of President James K. Polk, Congress declared war on Mexico. The controversial struggle eventually cost the lives of 11,300 U.S. soldiers and

resulted in the annexation of lands that became parts of Oklahoma, New Mexico, Arizona, Nevada, California, Utah and Colorado. The war ended in 1848 with the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo.

May 13, 1943 - During World War II in North Africa, over 250,000 Germans and Italians surrendered in the last few days of the Tunis campaign. British General Harold Alexander then telegraphed news of the victory to Winston Churchill, who was in Washington attending a war conference. The victory re-opened Allied shipping lanes in the Mediterranean.

May 13, 1981 - Pope John Paul II was shot twice at close range while riding in an open automobile in St. Peter's Square in Rome. Two other persons were also wounded. An escaped terrorist, already under sentence of death for the murder of a Turkish journalist, was immediately arrested and was later convicted of attempted murder. The Pope recovered and later held a private meeting with the would-be assassin and then publicly forgave him.

MAY 14

May 14, 1607 - The first permanent English settlement in America was established at Jamestown, Virginia, by a group of royally chartered Virginia Company settlers from Plymouth, England.



May 14, 1804 - Meriwether Lewis and William Clark departed St. Louis on their expedition to explore the Northwest. They arrived at the Pacific coast of Oregon in November of 1805 and returned to St. Louis in September of 1806, completing a journey of about 6,000 miles.

May 14, 1796 - Smallpox vaccine was developed by Dr. Edward Jenner, a physician in rural England. He coined the term vaccination for the new procedure of injecting a milder form of the disease into healthy persons resulting in immunity. Within 18 months, 12,000 persons in England had been vaccinated and the number of smallpox deaths dropped by two-thirds.

May 14, 1942 - During World War II, an Act of Congress allowed women to enlist for noncombat duties in the Women's Auxiliary Army Corps (WAAC), the Women Appointed for Voluntary Emergency Service (WAVES), Women's Auxiliary Ferrying Squadron (WAFS), and Semper Paratus Always Ready Service (SPARS), the Women's Reserve of

the Marine Corp.

Birthdays - German physicist Gabriel Fahrenheit (1686-1736) was born in Danzig, Germany. He introduced the use of mercury in thermometers and greatly improved their accuracy. His name is now attached to one of the major temperature measurement scales.

Birthdays - British landscape and portrait painter Thomas Gainsborough (1727-1788) was born in Sudbury, Suffolk, England. Among his best known works: The Blue Boy, The Watering Place and The Market Cart.

MAY 15



May 15, 1972 - George Wallace was shot while campaigning for the presidency in Laurel, Maryland. As a result, Wallace was permanently paralyzed from the waist down.

MAY 16



May 16, 1862 - During the American Civil War, Union General Benjamin Butler, military governor of New Orleans, issued his "Woman Order" declaring that any Southern woman showing disrespect for Union soldiers or the U.S. would be regarded as a woman of the town, or prostitute. This and other controversial acts by Butler set the stage for his dismissal as military governor in December 1862.

MAY 17

May 17, 1792 - Two dozen merchants and brokers established the New York Stock Exchange. In good weather they operated under a buttonwood tree on Wall Street. In bad weather they moved inside to a coffeehouse to conduct business.

May 17, 1875 - The first Kentucky Derby horse race took place at Churchill Downs

in Louisville.

May 17, 1954 - In *Brown v. Board of Education*, the U.S. Supreme Court unanimously ruled that segregation of public schools "solely on the basis of race" denies black children "equal educational opportunity" even though "physical facilities and other 'tangible' factors may have been equal. Separate educational facilities are inherently unequal." Thurgood Marshall had argued the case before the Court. He went to become the first African American appointed to the Supreme Court.

MAY 18



May 18, 1804 - Napoleon Bonaparte became Emperor of France, snatching the crown from the hands of Pope Pius VII during the actual coronation ceremony, and then crowning himself.

May 18, 1980 - Mount St. Helens volcano erupted in southwestern Washington State spewing steam and ash over 11 miles into the sky. This was the first major eruption since 1857.

May 18, 1998 - In one of the biggest antitrust lawsuits of the 20th century, American software giant Microsoft Corporation was sued by the U.S. Federal government and 20 state governments charging the company with using unfair tactics to crush competition and restrict choices for consumers. The lawsuits alleged Microsoft used illegal practices to deny personal computer owners the benefits of a free and competitive market and also alleged Microsoft extended its monopoly on operating systems to "develop a chokehold" on the Internet browser software market.

Birthdays - Hollywood director Frank Capra (1897-1991) was born in Palermo, Sicily. His quintessential American films were affectionate portrayals of the common man and examined the strengths and foibles of American democracy. Best known for *It's a Wonderful Life* (1946), *Mr. Smith Goes to Washington* (1939), *It Happened One Night* (1934) and *You Can't Take It with You* (1938).

Birthdays - Pope John Paul II (1920-2005) was born (as Karol Wojtyła) in Wadowice, Poland. In 1978, he became 264th Pope of the Roman Catholic Church, the first non-Italian elected in 456 years and the first Polish Pope.

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**Message from
Peter J. McDonnell,
M.D. Director Wilmer Eye
Institute, Johns Hopkins
University, USA on the
occasion of laying the
foundation stone on
December 10, 2020**



"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"

"There can be no keener
revelation of a society's soul
than the way in which it treats
its children". - Nelson Mandela



**POST
SURGERY**



**PRE
SURGERY**

Triples 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).

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ॐ सर्वे भवन्तु सुखिनः Sarve Bhavantu Sukhinah,
सर्वे सन्तु नरिमयाः । Sarve Santu Niramayah
May all be prosperous and happy!
May all be healthy!

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