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AN OPEN LETTER TO UNITED STATES CONGRESS

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The INDIAN PANORAMA



will bring out a profusely illustrated special edition to mark the 4th of July. Articles and advertisements for the special edition may please be emailed to Salujindra@gmail.com latest by June 28, 2023. For any questions, email at Salujindra@gmail.com or call 646-247-9458.

BORIS JOHNSON QUITS AS UK LAWMAKER AFTER BEING TOLD HE WOULD BE SANCTIONED FOR MISLEADING PARLIAMENT



Johnson, 58, had been under investigation by a parliamentary inquiry looking into whether he misled the House of Commons about lockdown-breaking parties in Downing Street during the Covid-19 pandemic. File photo

JUNE 9, 2023

LONDON (TIP): Former British prime minister Boris Johnson has shocked the nation by abruptly quitting as a member of Parliament after being told by a parliamentary committee that he would be sanctioned for misleading Parliament over lockdown-breaking parties at Downing Street during his premiership. Johnson, 58, had been under investigation by a parliamentary

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Donald Trump charged over classified documents in first federal indictment of an ex-president

"I AM AN INNOCENT MAN!": TRUMP



Former US President Donald Trump

File photo

JUNE 9, 2023

WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP) : Former President Donald Trump has been indicted on federal charges in an investigation into his handling of classified documents, according to an indictment unsealed on Friday, June 9. Trump has become the first former US President to be indicted for a federal crime.

Trump said on his social platform Truth Social that prosecutors had notified his attorneys of indictment on seven criminal counts related to his treatment of sensitive government material that he took with him when he left the White House in January 2021, according to a source familiar with the matter.

The 49-page charging document, alleging that Mr. Trump not only intentionally possessed classified documents but also cavalierly and boastfully showed them off to visitors, is startling in scope and in the breadth of allegations. The indictment is built on Mr. Trump's own words and actions as

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Rahul Gandhi speaks of making a modern India with 'love and affection, not with anger and hatred'

"Currently, there is a fight going on in our country: a fight between two ideologies. One we represent, and the other is represented by the BJP", Rahul Gandhi said addressing a strong gathering of 4000 at the Javits Center in New York on June 4, 2023.



JUNE 5, 2023

NEW YORK (TIP): "We need to build a modern India with love and affection, not with anger and hatred. Currently, there is a fight going on in our country: a fight between two ideologies. One we represent, and the other is represented

by the BJP. On one side is Mahatma Gandhi, and on the other is Nathuram Godse. Gandhiji was modern, forward-looking, and open-minded. However, Godse spoke of the past, never spoke about the future but filled with anger

CONTD ON PAGE 3

WE WILL ADJUDICATE 1 MILLION VISAS IN INDIA THIS YEAR, SAYS U.S. OFFICIAL



Assistant Secretary of State for Consular Affairs Rena Bitter at a House Congressional hearing said: "We will adjudicate 1 million visas in India this year. Our productivity there is extraordinarily high".

JUNE 8, 2023

WASHINGTON D.C. (TIP): Describing India as an important partner with whom the United States enjoyed strong people-to-people ties, top U.S. lawmakers have urged the Biden administration to address the visa waiting-period issue in the country on a priority basis. Senator Bob Menendez, Chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee; and Congressman Michael Waltz, Co-Chair of the House

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Complicated situation: On Donald Trump's indictment and American politics

WITH DONALD TRUMP'S INDICTMENT, THE U.S. POLITY WILL SEE FURTHER POLARIZATION

The indictment of former U.S. President Donald Trump by a federal grand jury in the investigation by the Department of Justice (DoJ) into his alleged mishandling of hundreds of classified documents creates an unprecedented political situation ahead of the 2024 American presidential election. This is the first time in U.S. history that a federal government is bringing charges against a former President. According to Mr. Trump's lawyers, the Republican party leader faces seven counts of charges, including violation of the Espionage Act and conspiracy to obstruct justice. Prosecutors say Mr. Trump deliberately withheld sensitive documents even after they demanded the return of such papers, which were recovered through a search warrant at his Mar-a-Lago residence in Florida. For Mr. Trump, who assailed Hillary Clinton in the 2016 presidential election campaign over her use of a private server, this is an embarrassing situation. He already faces criminal charges in investigations by the Manhattan District Attorney over the payment of hush money to an adult film actor in 2016. A prosecutor in Georgia is probing alleged attempts by Mr. Trump and his allies to topple the results of the 2020 presidential elections, with charges expected in August. Fresh charges pursued by the federal government will further deepen his legal troubles just when the election campaign is heating up.

If in New York the hush money investigation was initiated by a Democrat attorney, the classified documents probe was by a special counsel appointed by the DoJ, whose head, Attorney General Merrick B. Garland, is a Biden pick. Classified documents were found at the residences of Mr. Biden, former Vice President Mike Pence and Mr. Trump last year. While a separate special counsel probe into Mr. Biden's handling of the classified papers at the time when he was the Vice President is yet to conclude, the DoJ has decided not to seek criminal charges against Mr. Pence, who is challenging Mr. Trump in the Republican primaries. As of now, Mr. Trump is the leading contender for the Republican presidential ticket. So, what makes the indictment politically complicated is that Mr. Trump is not only a former President but also the key potential rival of Mr. Biden, the incumbent, in 2024. Mr. Trump has already seized the political angle, calling the cases a Democratic witch hunt and asking his supporters "not to surrender" the country "to the radical Left". As he seems determined to use the cases for political mobilization, America's divided polity is set to see further polarization. Amid this chaos, the DoJ cannot afford to be seen as partisan. It should ensure transparent investigations and build watertight cases based on legal merits.

(The Hindu)

Indo-US defense ties: Closer cooperation needed to counter China

Two weeks ahead of PM Narendra Modi's visit to Washington, India and the US have finalized a roadmap for defense industrial cooperation to fast-track technology tie-ups and co-produce military platforms such as air combat and land systems. Both sides have agreed to initiate negotiations on the Security of Supply Arrangement and a reciprocal defense procurement pact to promote supply chain stability.

India-US defense ties have made big strides in the past decade or so, thanks to a series of pacts, including the Logistics Exchange Memorandum of Agreement (2016), which allows their militaries to use each other's bases for repair and replenishment of supplies; the Communications Compatibility and Security Agreement (2018), which provides for interoperability between the two militaries and the sale of high-end technology from the US to

India; and the Basic Exchange and Cooperation Agreement (2020), which provides for sharing of cutting-edge military technology, logistics and geospatial maps.

Notably, despite all these initiatives, the US is third on the list of India's biggest arms suppliers with a share of 11 per cent, way behind Russia (45 per cent) and France (29 per cent). This indicates that the US has a long way to go to become a bigger stakeholder in India's defense imports and a greater contributor to the 'Make in India' programme. India's preference for Russian and French manufacturers can be attributed to factors such as reliability, quality control, cost-effectiveness and ease of doing business. Facilitating transfer of technology and spurring indigenous production capabilities in India hold the key to stronger strategic cooperation between India and the US. Amid aggressive posturing by China in the Indo-Pacific, it is hoped that both nations will work harder on removing all impediments to the growth of their defense relations.

(Tribune, India)

Another low: On the latest provocation by Canadian Sikh separatist groups in Canada

Canada is doing very little to address India's concerns on Sikh extremism

A tableau, in Brampton, Canada, glorifying the assassination of former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, has expectedly caused outrage across the polity in India. The tableau was part of an annual parade by Canadian Sikh separatist or "Khalistani" groups to mark their protest against Operation Bluestar, in 1984. An accompanying poster termed the killing as an act of "revenge". Political leaders in India have called for Canada to apologize and to acknowledge the dangers of the rise of anti-Indian separatist and extremist forces. External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar said the incident was part of a broader pattern, indicating that these forces pose a real challenge not only to the India-Canadian relationship but also to Canada itself. He suggested that the failure to act against these groups was due to a desire to cater to Canadian "vote-banks" that the much broader community of about 8,00,000 Sikhs constitute. He added that the culture of validating violence as an acceptable form of protest was one that should concern Canada's leadership as well, given past incidents such as the bombing of an Air India flight in 1985.

India-Canada relations have been fraught over similar issues, as India has been protesting incidents of vandalism and anti-India and anti-Modi graffiti on temples and community centers there, as well as over Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's remarks criticizing the Narendra Modi government's treatment of Punjab farmers who were protesting the 2020 agriculture Bill. As a result, India had called off high-level engagements and virtually snapped communications between New Delhi and Ottawa for several months before they were restored.

The latest provocation could well lead to another such spiral, and both governments need to resolve the issues diplomatically if they want to avoid another nadir in bilateral ties. While the Canadian government is within its rights to protect free speech and expression in its country, it must understand India's concern that tableaus that glorify the assassination of a Prime Minister constitute inflammatory hate speech and could fuel radicalism. Meanwhile, instead of seeking to shut down protests which are legal, or issuing *démarche* over every act of vandalism, it would be more productive if New Delhi is able to cooperate and share evidence of the extremist activity and terrorist acts such groups are conspiring on. Given that Khalistani protests have been seen in Australia, the United Kingdom, the United States and parts of Europe, the Modi government must now chalk out a broader diplomatic strategy to ensure a more effective way of dealing with the problem, which could even be discussed with the leaders of all these countries, who are expected to visit India in September for the G-20 summit.

(The Hindu)

Rahul Gandhi speaks of making a modern India with 'love and affection, not with anger and hatred'



The gathering observed silence for 30 seconds in the memory of the victims of the train accident at Balasore in Odisha, India



The full house listens intently to Rahul Gandhi

CONTD FROM PAGE 1

and hatred and was a coward who was unable to deal with his life," said Mr. Rahul Gandhi addressing a gathering of about 4000 people at the Javits Center in New York on June 4. He has been on a six-day tour of the United States, having visited San Francisco, Washington D.C, and attended this grand finale of the meeting of an enthusiastic crowd who received him with thunderous applause.

"RSS and BJP are incapable of looking at the future. They are driving the 'car of India' and looking in the rear-view mirror. They will always find someone else to blame. They may even blame the British for a train crash. Instead of blaming, we must find solutions for issues like Youth unemployment. We need to build a bridge between India and the United States, focus on the partnership, and deal with the challenges we face from the Chinese. Are we focusing on the revolution that is taking place in the fields of mobility, data and connectivity, and transformation in the energy sector"? he asked.

"There is a full-scale attack on the democratic structure and institutions in India, including the judiciary and the media, and that is an attack on the very idea of India. Modern India cannot exist without its constitution and democracy. It is our job to defend it, and one thing that excites me when I meet thousands of you is that you, too, believe in that very idea of India where people would love each other." he added.

He concluded by saying that Indian values aren't nasty, arrogant, or violent. I intend to build an affectionate relationship with you all where you can tell me what you think and effectively interact with while promoting a nation where we can live with love and affection.

George Abraham, Vice-Chairman of the IOCUSA, opened the meeting by lauding Rahul Gandhi as a profile in courage. "When others remain silent, he is willing to stick his neck out despite threats or intimidation even at the cost of his esteemed positions or even his own dwelling. He is indeed a ray of hope for all of us who are yearning for peace and harmony for our mother land."

Mohinder Singh Gilzian, President of the IOCUSA, praised Rahul Gandhi's Bharat Jodo Yatra and said, "it has



Rahul Gandhi shakes hands with the people at the meeting



Congress party and IOC leaders on the dais

inspired millions and once again provided hope for all of us who aspire for democracy and freedom. Yatra has indeed bridged gaps between communities and promoted mutual understanding". He expressed his gratitude for the opportunity to host him today and wished him great success in the future.

Sam Pitroda, the global chairman, spoke about the need to awaken and work with vigilance for a better future for India. He said, "IOC is in 30 countries now. We will continue to talk to the global community despite the misinformation, propaganda, and lies emanating from the other side. Future belongs to science, and efforts by the Government to remove evolution and periodic tables are not in the best interests of our next generation". He also led the

meeting to observe a minute of silence in the memory of those who perished in the Odisha train collision.

Mr. Pradeep Samala, who was the General Convenor of the meeting, thanked Rahul Gandhi along with all the dignitaries who were present on the dais. He expressed special gratitude to all the IOC officials and volunteers who made the meeting successful. Mr. John Joseph and Rajiv Mohan played key roles in the areas of hospitality and IT support.

The meeting was further enriched by the presence of many Congress leaders from India who also spoke at the event, including Deependar Hooda, Mani Shankar Iyer, Revanth Reddy, Vijender Singh, Rudra Raju Guduru, Madhu Yakshi, Amarinder Singh Warring,



Sam Pitroda (right), the Global Chief of IOC which has presence in 32 countries introduced Rahul Gandhi. Also seen in the picture (extreme left) is Mohinder Singh Gilzian, IOCUSA President.



IOC USA President thanked the party leaders, IOC colleagues and the gathering for their presence. Seen to his right is Sophia Sharma who proved to be an efficient MC

Venkat Reddy, Komati Reddy, Arathi Krishna, Punnala Lakshmaya, Neelima Kota, Alka Lamba, Dilip Chouhan, the Deputy Commissioner of New York City, also spoke.

IOC leaders Phuman Singh, Leela Maret, Thomas Mathew, Rajeshwar Reddy, Ram Gadula, Peter Kothari, Harkesh Thakur, Amar Singh Gulshan, Gurpeet Singh, Kulraj Grewal, Baljinder Singh Kundu, Gurmeet Singh Gill, Gurmit Singh Buttar, Rajinder Dichpally, Nikhil Thagadur, Pawan Darsi, Kawaljit Kaur and Sandeep Vangala, Sharath Chandra Vemuguti, were also present on the dais.

Sophia Sharma, General Secretary of IOCUSA, emceed the program. She holds a Master's in Law in Dispute Resolution from Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law. She started her legal career in 2015, and practices Family Law, Immigration, Human Rights, Wills, Personal Injury and Mediation.

INDIAN-ORIGIN PROFESSOR JOYEETA GUPTA AWARDED 'DUTCH NOBEL PRIZE' FOR HER RESEARCH ON JUST AND SUSTAINABLE WORLD



Professor Joyeeta Gupta is among the two scientists who have been named for the prestigious Spinoza Prize, also known as the Dutch Nobel Prize

JUNE 7, 2023

AMSTERDAM (TIP): Indian-origin professor Joyeeta Gupta is among the two scientists who have been named for the prestigious Spinoza Prize, also known as the Dutch Nobel Prize, it was announced on Wednesday, June 7.

Gupta, the faculty professor of Sustainability and professor of Environment and Development in the Global South at the University of Amsterdam, received the prize for her outstanding, pioneering, and inspiring scientific work in which she focuses on a just and sustainable world, the Dutch Research Council said.

Gupta will be officially presented with the highest distinction in Dutch science on October 4 alongside Toby Kiers, another scientist chosen for the award, the council said in a statement.

Toby Kiers is a professor of Mutualistic Interactions at the University of Amsterdam.

Gupta will receive 1.5 million euros to spend on scientific research and activities related to knowledge utilization, the statement said.

Sometimes called the 'Dutch Nobel Prize', the Spinoza prize is the highest award in Dutch academia and is awarded each year to researchers working in the Netherlands who "according to international standards belong to the absolutely best researchers worldwide".

"The scientists who have received this award in the past represent the absolute best of Dutch academia, so I'm honored to be considered alongside them," Gupta said.

Gupta, who is also co-chair of the Earth Commission founded by Future Earth and supported by the Global Challenges Foundation, said she would work towards implementing her ideas on sharing 'ecospace' (environmental utilization space) globally that aims to protect environmental conditions in an equitable manner worldwide and would be a fitting way to bring global environmental and developmental issues together.

(Read full story at
www.theindianpanorama.news)

California bill will allow Sikhs to ride motorcycles without a helmet

JUNE 5, 2023

PARMINDER AUJLA

SACRAMENTO (TIP): Sikhs and other people whose faith requires them to wear a turban or patka could soon be allowed to ride motorcycles in California without a helmet as mandated by state law, according to media reports.

The State Senate last Wednesday, May 31 voted to grant a religious exemption for the headwear. The measure, Senate Bill 847 from Republican Sen. Brian Dahle cleared the chamber by a 21-8 margin. Eight Democrats voted "no," while 13 others sided with Republicans.

"Freedom of religion is a core foundation of this country. We, as Americans, have the right to freely express our religion and I believe that right should equally extend to everyone," Dahle stated after the bill passed as cited by the Sacramento Bee.

Dahle added that existing state law doesn't intentionally discriminate against Sikhs and other peoples of faith, but that "the reality is that those who practice those religions are limited in how they can express their customs."

His office cites the 2021 American Community Survey which found an estimated 211,000 Sikhs living in California - nearly half of all Sikhs in the country.

"Although other countries and our own military make accommodations for Sikhs' deep beliefs, out of the US states that require helmets, none has exemptions for Sikhs or any other group based on religious practice," according to Dahle's office.

SB 847 now moves to the Assembly.

Eighteen states, including California, have adopted universal helmet laws since a



Sikhs have welcomed the California Senate vote to grant a religious exemption for wearing a helmet to the Sikh motorcycle riders

federal safety penalty was repealed in 1995, according to the media

The California Highway Patrol enforces the universal helmet law, and violations are punished with a fine of up to \$250 and/or a year on probation.

"The turban I tie is about 7 meters. It's not just a head covering," a member of the Sikh community was quoted as saying during a Senate committee hearing. "We are not able to ride our bikes and practice our religion."

The Automobile Club of Southern California opposes the legislation, citing concerns that it would weaken the state's universal motorcycle helmet law, according to the report.

"The Auto Club supports helmet laws because they save lives and reduce serious injuries in traffic crashes involving motorcycles," a spokesperson stated in an email to a newspaper.

"Everyone has a right to self-expression, including while riding a motorcycle or any other form of transportation, but keeping riders safe should always remain a priority." More than 5,500 motorcyclists died in 2020, and more than 180,000 were

injured in motorcycle crashes, according to the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Helmets were found to reduce the risk of head injuries from crashes by 69%.

The County Health Executives Association of California also opposes Dahle's legislation, Senate Bill 847, the report said.

"CHEAC understands that wearing turbans and patkas are deeply important religious expressions, and we encourage innovation and equity in the design of helmets to accommodate head coverings instead of weakening existing helmet laws and risking the safety of these riders," Michelle Gibbons, the association's executive director, wrote in an email.

According to an analysis of the bill, Sikhs or other groups are not exempt from helmet laws in other states due to religious practices.

Several provinces in Canada, including Alberta, British Columbia, Manitoba and Ontario exempt Sikhs from helmet laws. Exemptions have also been granted in the United Kingdom and India, the report noted.

Indian-origin woman banned from teaching in UK for 2 years for committing fraud

JUNE 5, 2023

LONDON (TIP): An Indian-origin woman has been banned from teaching by the UK's Department of Education for a minimum of two years for concealing charges of fraud against her from a school where she joined in 2018.



Dipti Patel has been banned from teaching by the UK's Department of Education for a minimum of two years for concealing charges of fraud against her from a school where she joined in 2018.

Image for representational purpose only

Patel moved to Bolton from London when she became the head of physical education at Manchester Academy in Moss Side in 2018, the media reported.

Patel said one of the reasons for the move was an armed burglary at her home, and the family made an insurance claim for tens of thousands of pounds after the incident.

But an investigation found that it was a contrived burglary, and that the insurance claim was fraudulent.

Patel was charged with an offence under the Fraud Act, but it was only when she was convicted that she told the school about the case.

(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)

Indian-origin father-son duo arrested for assaulting, exploiting and extorting teenage girls in Canada

JUNE 4, 2023

CALGARY (TIP): An Indian-origin man and his son have been arrested and charged in Canada for allegedly assaulting, exploiting and extorting multiple teenage girls over several months.

Gurpartap Singh Walia, 56, and his son Sumrit Walia, 24, were arrested after an investigation was conducted to find a missing 13-year-old girl in April, a Calgary police statement said.

The girl who was located later revealed that she was in a relationship with Sumrit who allegedly provided her with alcohol, drugs, and vapes in exchange for sex, it said.

The father-son duo worked at and owned Haddon Convenience Store in Calgary. They also own Premier Liquor Wine and Spirits, located next door to the convenience store, where the assaults occurred, the statement said.



Photo caption: Gurpartap Singh Walia, 56, and his son Sumrit Walia, 24, were arrested and charged in Canada for allegedly assaulting, exploiting and extorting multiple teenage girls over several months. Image for representational purpose only

(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)

Indian American Teenage trailblazer Tanishq Abraham earns PhD at 19

JUNE 5, 2023

PARMINDER AUJLA

SACRAMENTO (TIP): In a world where the average age for obtaining a PhD is around 31, Dr Tanishq Mathew Abraham has defied the odds by earning his doctorate in biomedical engineering at just 19, making him one of the youngest PhD holders in the world.

The path to obtaining a PhD in any discipline is filled with challenges and obstacles, but Tanishq's journey was even more remarkable given his age. This young prodigy has not only demonstrated exceptional academic prowess but has also made significant contributions in the field of medical AI.

Born and raised in Sacramento, California to Indian American parents, Tanishq displayed an extraordinary aptitude for learning from a young age of two.

His father, Bijou Abraham, a software engineer, and mother Dr. Taji Abraham, a veterinary researcher by profession quickly recognized their child's exceptional abilities and provided him with the resources and support needed to nurture his talents.

Throughout his educational pursuit, Tanishq encountered the usual academic rigor and demanding coursework while also managing the unique challenges associated with being a prodigious individual in a university environment.

However, Tanishq's unwavering focus, resilience, and support from mentors and family have played a pivotal role in overcoming these obstacles.

He specially credits the support from his parents and sister, Tiara Abraham, a teenage prodigy herself who at 17, is a 2nd year student in Master of Music degree at Indiana University.

His inspiration comes from his late grandfather Dr. Zachariah Mathew, a veterinary researcher and visionary who encouraged Tanishq's scientific mind and his 90-year-old grandma, Dr. Thankam Mathew, a trailblazer herself,



Tanishq Mathew Abraham has defied the odds by earning his doctorate in biomedical engineering at just 19, making him one of the youngest PhD holders in the world.

who became the first Indian woman veterinarian to receive a PhD and attended his dissertation defense.

Tanishq's journey began at an early age when he displayed an insatiable curiosity and passion for learning when he joined college at seven. By the age of 10, he had already graduated high school.

At 14, his passion for knowledge and innovation led him to pursue a PhD in biomedical engineering at University of California, Davis, focusing on the development of artificial intelligence (AI) systems for diagnostic pathology where he worked with Dr. Richard Levenson as his PhD advisor.

His doctoral dissertation, titled "Virtual Staining of Slide-Free Microscopy Images with Deep Learning," explores the potential of AI in revolutionizing the way medical professionals diagnose various diseases.

Tanishq's research delves into the application of advanced algorithms and deep learning techniques to

transform medical images, potentially enabling doctors to make more accurate and timely diagnoses, ultimately improving patient outcomes.

Recognizing the potential impact of medical AI during his PhD, 19-year-old Tanishq founded Medical AI Research Center (MedARC), a research center dedicated to advancing medical AI technology.

As CEO, he leads a team of collaborators from Stanford University, Princeton University and members from national and international research organizations. MedARC's mission is to develop generative AIs for medicine and build interdisciplinary teams to address clinical needs.

Under Tanishq's leadership, MedARC has already made significant strides in the field of medical AI.

Last week, the research center published its first paper on MindEye, a state-of-the-art fMRI-to-image approach that retrieves and reconstructs images from brain activity. This technology has the potential to improve neurological disease research and diagnosis.

Tanishq's radically accelerated educational journey and achievement in obtaining a PhD in biomedical engineering at 19, have positioned him as a role model for aspiring scientists, young scholars, and individuals of all ages.

He has participated in numerous conferences and events, sharing his experiences and encouraging others to follow their passions. His story resonates with those who face obstacles, encouraging them to embrace challenges and pursue their passions with hard work and perseverance.

Despite his young age, Dr Tanishq Abraham has already made an impact on the world of biomedical engineering and medical AI. As he continues to break barriers and push the boundaries of what is possible, there is no doubt that this teenage trailblazer will continue to inspire and innovate for years to come.

Indian American Shilen Patel becomes Cal Water's Chief Business Development Officer

JUNE 6, 2023

PARMINDER AUJLA

SACRAMENTO (TIP):

California Water Service (Cal Water), a subsidiary of California Water Service Group, has promoted Shilen M. Patel to Chief Business Development Officer, effective June 1, 2023.

"Shilen has played a key role in executing our business development strategy. This promotion is well-deserved recognition for his contribution to our growth, and I look forward to welcoming him to the officer team," said Martin A. Kropelnicki, Chairman, President & Chief Executive Officer in a June 1 announcement.

Prior to joining Cal Water in July 2019, Patel served as Director, Strategy & Development at Veolia North America.

A seasoned professional with more than 18 years of progressive business development and corporate strategy experience, he holds a Bachelor's Degree in Economics and Political Science from UC Santa Barbara and is expected to complete a Master of Business Administration from Santa Clara University at the end of 2023.



California Water Service (Cal Water) has promoted Shilen M. Patel to Chief Business Development Officer, effective June 1, 2023.

California Water Service Group is the largest regulated water utility in the western United States. It provides high-quality, reliable water and/or wastewater services to more than 2 million people in California, Hawaii, New Mexico, Washington, and Texas through its regulated subsidiaries, California Water Service, Hawaii Water

Service, New Mexico Water Service, and Washington Water Service, and its utility holding company, Texas Water Service.

What sets the Group apart is its commitment to enhancing the quality of life for its customers, communities, employees, and stockholders. Working as one team, the Group's 1,100+ employees lead the way in protecting the planet, caring for people, and operating with the utmost integrity, according to a press release.

Integral to the Group's strategy is investing responsibly in water and wastewater infrastructure, sustainability initiatives, and community well-being. The company has been named one of "America's Most Responsible Companies" by Newsweek and a Great Place to Work.

Indian American legislator in Michigan introduced a bill to expand the definition of hate crime and include vandalization of a place of worship

JUNE 7, 2023

MICHIGAN (TIP):

An Indian American legislator in the US state of Michigan has introduced a bill to expand the definition of hate crime and include vandalization of a place of worship in it.

Michigan State Representative Ranjeev Puri, whose parents migrated to the US from Amritsar in the 1970s, has also introduced a bill to establish the holidays of Diwali, Baisakhi, Eid-ul-Fitr, Eid-ul-Adha and Lunar New Year as official state-recognized holidays in Michigan.

Into his second term as the State Representative, Puri is now the Michigan House Majority Whip, an influential position and has been advancing social issues.

"I have introduced a bill to make Diwali, Baisakhi and Eid-ul-Fitr holidays in Michigan. I have another bill that would expand the definition of hate crimes. So, the original hate crime bill in Michigan was written in 1988 and has not been updated since. It's been 35 years and so we are updating the definitions to be more inclusive," Puri told the media in an interview.



Michigan State Representative Ranjeev Puri has introduced a bill to expand the definition of hate crime and include vandalization of a place of worship in it.

"If a religious institution such as a temple, mosque or a gurdwara is vandalized or desecrated, it is now going to be much easier to prosecute those people. There are a whole host of issues that we are tackling," he said.

Puri's parents immigrated to the US in 1970. His father was instrumental in establishing the first Sikh gurdwara in Wisconsin.

Eminent gastroenterologist Dr Jagdish Gupta takes over as President of AIA-NY chapter

JUNE 3, 2023

MINEOLA, NY (TIP): Eminent physician and community leader Dr Jagdish K. Gupta has been sworn in as President of the Association of Indians in America (AIA - NY chapter) for two years. The Oath of Office was administered by Nassau County legislator Hon. Thomas McKeivitt to Dr Gupta and his executive committee at a graceful ceremony on June 2 at the county seat in Mineola, NY.

In his presidential address, Dr Gupta said that preparations have started in earnest for AIA-NY's flagship annual program, the iconic Deepavali on South Street Seaport in Manhattan on October 1. And it will be better and bigger than it was before Covid played spoilsport for a couple of years.

Dr Gupta, M.D., F.A.C.P., F.A.C.G., former President of IALI (Indian Association of Long Island) and AAPI-QLI (American Association of Physicians of Indian Origin of Queens and Long Island), also told the august gathering of former and current AIA office holders and members as well as community leaders that time has come to add to the numerous achievements and milestones of AIA's past, both at the State and Federal Levels.

"We are working with our Assemblywoman Jennifer Rajkumar and Speaker of the House Carl Heastie to get Diwali Holiday approved for the entire New York State, not just NYC. We are also working with Congresswoman Grace Meng on Bill HR 3336 to get Diwali declared as a federal Holiday," Dr Gupta said to applause in the legislative chamber of Nassau County. Stressing that these endeavors require moral and financial commitments from all of us, he implored all to support AIA, the NY chapter, and Indian culture to the best of their capabilities.

Dr Gupta, an eminent gastroenterologist, added that post-Covid, to serve the community better they are starting a series of programs via Zoom on physical and mental health. The reach of cultural awareness and educational programs will be expanded with webinars and shows.

Dr Gupta encouraged participation in AIA activities by generation-next, adding, "We will encourage and induct young leadership. Atul Kukar, Anuj Goenka, Pallavi Manvar, Amar Manvar and many others like them, who grew up with our motto of 'Indian Heritage and American Commitment', have great potential to become young AIA leaders."

Dr Gupta praised his able executive committee team, which includes Dr Tara Lodha as Secretary, Nilima Madan as Joint Secretary, Antia Harish Thakkar as Treasurer, Vice Presidents Dr Vijaypal Arya, Vimal Goyal, Dr Sunil Mehra and Beena Kothari.

Passing the baton to Dr Gupta, Harish Thakkar, who served two terms as President from 2019-22, wished him



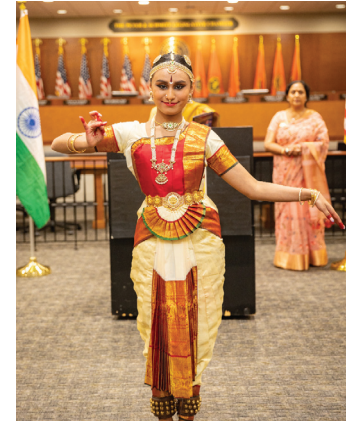
Dr. Jagdish Gupta is sworn in by Nassau County Legislator Hon Thomas McKeivitt



Dr. Jagdish Gupta gives his presidential address



Outgoing President Harish Thakkar holds the plaque presented to him. Seen in the picture, among others, are Prem Bhandari (extreme left), Nilima Madan (2nd from left), Dr. Narinder Kukar (6th from left), Dr. Shashi Shah, Dr. Jagdish Gupta, Hon Thomas McKeivitt, Animesh Goenka, Dr. Sunil Mehra, and Beena Kothari



Shreya, a student of Satya Pradeep, gives a classical dance performance

success and all his support. Thakkar said that when they could not hold the popular Deepavali event in 2020 and 2021 due to Covid, they organized an event at Nasdaq in Manhattan with the massive Nasdaq screen flashing Diwali greetings. They also extended all help possible to the distressed members of the community, including serving food to the needy. PPP materials were provided to health and essential workers.

Others who spoke briefly included Animesh Goenka, Dr Shashi Shah, and Dr Narinder Kukar, all past Presidents of AIA National. Nilima Madan and Beena Kothari ably emceed the program.

A classical Indian dance performance was given by Shreya, a student of Satya Pradeep.

A vegetarian dinner concluded the event. The program was covered by the television media.

Incoming President Dr Gupta has many

accomplishments in the medical profession. Born and raised in Hisar, Haryana, he graduated from the All-India Institute of Medical Sciences in New Delhi in 1966. He completed his residency and fellowship training at Long Island College Hospital (LICH). He is a diplomate of the American Board of Internal Medicine and the American Board of Gastroenterology. He is also on the Board of Trustees of the Academy of Medicine in Brooklyn. An Assistant Clinical Professor at SUNY Health Science Center in Brooklyn, he has been on the TOP DOCTORS list of Castle Connolly for over 20 years consecutively and was designated as SUPER DOC by New York Times for three years. Last year he had the opportunity to serve as the President of the King County Medical Society during its Bicentennial Year Celebrations. He is very active in National AAPI and is on the board of the AAPI Charitable Foundation.



Participants in the webinar in celebration of the Nurses Week

JUNE 5, 2023

NEW YORK (TIP): Dr Renee Mehrra of Reenbow Media and Indian American Forum Organized a webinar in Honor of national Nurses Week, Celebrations on May

National Nurses Week celebrated: Many participated in the Webinar organized to mark the event

25. Mrs. Indu Jaiswal RDN Chair of IAF together with Dr Urmilesh Arya Co-Chair of the event, presented the program at the ZOOM at 8.00 PM.

Dr Renee Mehrra in her welcome remarks spoke about the importance of Health Care workers and to recognize for their services. Co Host of the evening Dr Bhavani Srinivasan spoke about the importance of Nurses in providing Quality care to [patients all over the world.

Indu Jaiswal RDN introduced Honorable Deputy Supervisor from Town of Hempstead MS Dorothy Goosby Goosby also congratulated all Honorees and thanked Nurses and health care employees for their Valuable services. Also present was Nassau County Legislature Rosemarie Walker again thanked the nurses and Congratulated all Honorees.

MS Tara Shajan, RN, NAINA Treasure and Director of Nursing from Lincoln Hospital spoke about the History of

Nursing profession, how Nurses are advancing in the Medical Field and Paid tributes to Florence Nightingale, Lady with lamp.

Ms Anuradha Khanna started the program with Ganesh Vandana. Five nurses were recognized, Honored and presented with Citations from Nassau County Executive Bruce Blakeman and Nassau County Legislature Rosemarie Walker.

MS Suda Sharma Born in Nairobi, studied in London and worked in USA as Registered Nurse. Along with Nursing, she is the founder of Three Community projects that started 19 years ago. She started the Annual Food Drive for Long Island Soup Kitchens and Homeless Shelters., Penny project for Foster Children, and Fundraiser for Safe Home. Suda is very active in all community activities.

(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)

IOC USA Vice Chairman George Abraham honored with Lifetime Achievement Award by Rahul Gandhi



Rahul Gandhi presenting the Lifetime Achievement Award to George Abraham, Vice Chairman of IOCUSA. Also seen in the picture are Global Chief of IOC Sam Pitroda and IOCUSA President Mohinder Singh Gilzian, among others

JUNE 3, 2023

NEW YORK (TIP): Indian Overseas Congress Vice Chair George Abraham, who is one of the founders of the Congress organization in America a quarter of a century ago, received the Lifetime Achievement Award from Rahul Gandhi in a rare honor.

The event was the IOC reception to Rahul

Gandhi at the Terrace on Park in Queens, New York, June 3, ahead of his public meeting on June 4. To everyone's surprise, IOC Chair Sam Pitroda announced the honor and invited Rahul Gandhi to present the plaque.

It was greeted by thunderous applause from the 300 plus party supporters in the audience. It was a proud moment for

Abraham, who started his association with the Congress Party during his school days. He worked in Balajanasakhyam and became the state treasurer. Later he worked in the Kerala Students Union (KSU) before moving to the US.

Now he has completed 53 years in the US and still keeps his Indian citizenship. In the US too, he kept the ideals of the Congress Party in his heart. Congress leaders who visited the US were always welcomed by him and received his hospitality. It was in the 90s that he, along with a few others, came forward with the idea of setting up an organization supporting the party. During a visit of Oomen Chandy, former Kerala chief minister, an organization was formed at a meeting held in his house. Later it grew to become a national organization as IOC.

George strongly believes in individual liberty and equal opportunity for everyone to develop their full potential. Secular to the core, he believes one's faith is purely a personal matter and should not be mixed up with politics. "Political tranquility is fundamental to societal progress and we all should strive to achieve peaceful co-existence and focus on building a progressive society for our children and grandchildren," he says.



George Abraham with his award and wife Lona who has been a constant companion, poses for a photograph

The award was a befitting recognition for a person for his dedication and hard work. His wife Lona Abraham too worked side by side with him for the organization.

Abraham retired as the chief technology officer at the United Nations where he was recognized for the 'spirit of innovation' by the United Nations Pension Fund for bringing new technologies to the U.N. to automate various processes.

IOC Kerala Chapter President Leela Maret was also felicitated on the occasion. Leela, who had prepared a souvenir to commemorate Rahul Gandhi's visit, was invited to the stage and Rahul Gandhi released the souvenir.



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An Open Letter to United States Congress

From
Devendra Makkar
568 Ashwood Rd.
Springfield, NJ 07081
davemakkar@yahoo.com
973 760 6006

June 9, 2023

To

Honorable Chairman Patrick McHenry
Financial Services Committee
2129 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515
Email: Fsr.voicemail@mail.house.gov

Honorable Chairman Ron Wyden
Committee on Finance (US Senate)
219 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510
Fax: 202-228-0554

Ref.: Unknown US companies and individuals providing services or products including raising capital in violation of The U.S. Financial Crimes Enforcement Network (FinCEN) standards and dealing with a Ghost company working for Russia in violation of US sanctions against Russia.

Hon. Chairman McHenry, Hon. Chairman Wyden & Committee Members: Greetings.

The undersigned wants to draw the attention of the Honorable Committee that unknown US companies and individuals are providing services or products including raising capital to two Indian business entities that has become a threat to US Financial System and Security of our country. It is my humble request to the Honorable members of the committees to investigate these unknown US companies and individuals that have provided or are providing services or products or capital to the two Indian corporations in gross violation of various US Laws.

1. ADANI GROUP IS RAISING MONEY IN USA FOR THE LAST 4 YEARS IN VIOLATION OF US LAWS:

Adani Group of companies is owned by Gautam Adani with personal relations with India's PM Modi dating back to the late 1990's. It won't be an exaggeration if Gautam Adani is called "The Poster Boy of Gangster Capitalism of India." Adani's status as a recipient of favors from Narendra Modi of BJP has been the subject of continuous criticism in India since Modi was Chief Minister of the State of Gujarat for 13 years from 2001 to 2014. The favors gathered speed after Modi took over as PM of India in 2014. Prior to Modi entering Gujarat politics in 1998, Adani was a key ally of Gujarat BJP leaders for years. BJP has been ruling Gujarat since 1995 to the present and it is a well-known fact that Adani helped Modi to become CM of Gujarat in 2001 and later PM of India in 2014. Harvard's ranking of states and districts in Human Development Index; Gujarat has the lowest rank at 28 out of 28. India's ranking under PM Modi in the United Nations HDI has fallen to 132 of 191 countries in 2022.

Forbes, Jul 17, 2014: Adani has, over the years, leased 7,350 hectares-much of which he got from 2005 onward-from the (Modi) government in Mundra. He got the 30-year, renewable leases for as little as one U.S. cent a square meter (the rate maxed out at 45 cents a square meter). He in turn has sublet this land to other companies, including state-owned Indian Oil Co., for as much as \$11 per square meter. Between 2005 and 2007 at least 1,200 hectares of grazing land was taken away from villagers. See Link # 12 & 8 Adani News

(<https://www.forbes.com/sites/meghabahree/2014/07/17/adani-finds-a-savior-in-the-modi-govt/?sh=1a141d54639f>)

Newslick EXCLUSIVE: How Gujarat Government Helped Adani's Port Company

(<https://www.newslick.in/eXCLUSIVE-how-gujarat-government-helped-adani-port-company#:~:text=The%202012%2D13%20report%20of,the%20country%20in%20Mundra%2C%20Gujarat.>)

The Adani Group was established in 1988 and became publicly traded in 1994. But its real rise happened under Modi's reign in Gujarat. From 2002 to March 2013 the group's revenue rose from \$765 million to \$8.8 billion while net profits climbed even faster. Gautam Adani's meteoric success started under CM Modi of Gujarat in 2001 and became an exceptional international story after Modi became PM of India in 2014. From an importer of primary polymers for small-scale industries, Adani grew to become the biggest private operator of ports, Airports, and largest producer of electricity, under the preferential patronage of PM Modi. In addition, the Adani group has substantial interests in a variety of sectors: defense, coal mining, oil and gas exploration, gas distribution, transmission and distribution of electricity, civil construction and infrastructure, multi-modal logistics, international trade, education, real estate, edible oils, and food storage. His companies currently trade in over 30 commodities with at least 28 countries. At the same time, Adani ports are

notorious for drug hauls for billions of dollars in India. See Link # 13 & 14 Adani. (<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-india-58634575>) (<https://thewire.in/government/heroin-seizure-adani-mundra-worry-indian-authorities>)

The fact that Adani Group is tightly controlled by family members with very dubious records is well known in India and in countries where they are operating. The corporate structure is totally opaque with dozens of shell companies in various tax havens since the inception of Adani Group. The money is hard to track. Most have flowed into trusts, which don't report financial results, making it impossible to tell where it ended up. In other instances, recipients simply report in filings that the funds came from a "related party," offering no other details. And public disclosure in Mauritius, the Cayman Islands and UAE is scant. Moreover in 2018, the provision of dealing with an 'opaque structure' and requiring a Foreign Portfolio Investment (FPI) to disclose every ultimate natural person at the end of the chain of every owner of economic interest with the FPI was done away with by Modi government to benefit Adani." This rickety structure has become a debt-ridden house of cards with rapid diversification after 2014 when Modi become PM of India.

Louis Vuitton. Tesla. Amazon, Apple, Microsoft; the businesses behind the richest people in the world need no introduction. But last year, Gautam Adani, a state-created Billionaire, a name that does not command the same global recognition joined this rarefied list by becoming the 2nd richest person in the world in Sep 2022, with a net worth of \$154 billion, up from \$70 Million in 1998. The overall market capitalization of the 10 Adani Group stocks stood at its peak of \$232 billion on Jan. 24, 2023, the day New York based Hindenburg Research released its report.

Hindenburg accused that Adani group has "engaged in a brazen stock price manipulation, stock parking, accounting fraud, round tripping of cash, Import-Export scams, money laundering through 38 offshore shell companies etc. over the course of decades." The report describes a galaxy of shell entities based in the Caribbean, Mauritius and the United Arab Emirates controlled by the Adani family. Further it accused that Gautam Adani's elder brother Vinod Adani has played a pivotal part in perpetuating what it alleged is "the largest con in corporate history." See Link # 1 Adani News

(<https://hindenburgresearch.com/adani/?fbclid=IwAR1o0U99rToDlglcI8s38bG2uJ3tUzQd1ijT3R2Hi7KJkeIe42u3aNkamshk>)

Then on Jan 29th, 2023, Adani group in its 413-page written rebuttal, denounced Hindenburg's report as "baseless" and "malicious," and accused the firm of having an "ulterior motive" for publishing the "missive." It said Hindenburg's actions represent a "calculated attack on India, the independence, integrity, and quality of Indian institutions, and the growth story and ambition of India." See Link # 2 Adani News

(<https://www.adani.com/-/media/Project/Adani/Invetsors/Adani-Response-to-Hindenburg-January-29-2023.pdf>)

Same day on Jan 29, 2023, Hindenburg Research replied, "Fraud Cannot Be Obfuscated By Nationalism Or A Bloated Response That Ignores Every Key Allegation We Raised." See Link # 3 Adani News

(<https://hindenburgresearch.com/adani-response/>)

What Hindenburg exposed was well known to Indian journalists for a long time, but they were forced to keep quiet about Adani's meteoric rise because of fear of reprisal and heavy legal cost for defending themselves in million dollars lawsuits filed by Adani. On top of that, the world's top reputed Mutual Fund Managers including a few Indian Managers also knew about Adani and for that reason they never invested in the Adani Group of companies. According to Fisdor Research, as of December 2022, mutual fund industry has a negligible exposure of 0.64 per cent to Adani group companies. Of which 0.18 per cent was through the passive route, where the fund manager had no option but to invest in stocks.

See Link # 7 Adani News

(<https://themorningcontext.com/business/why-do-these-foreign-funds-love-adani-group-companies>)

Tim Buckley, an analyst in Sydney, Australia, who has followed Adani's business for more than a decade said, "The big issue is that Adani has spent the last four years in raising debt on Wall Street. If you raise money in America, you have to play by America's rules."

Surprisingly even after Hindenburg Report, Rajiv Jain came up with a rosy presentation to the investors in his Fund GQG Partners, based in Florida by investing \$1.9 Billion by calling Adani stocks "could be multibaggers" over five years. Can Rajiv Jain deny the existence of Shell Companies of Adani Bros that invested in Adani Group? Can Rajiv Jain deny the fact that money used by these Shell Companies (1) Could be money stolen from Indian public with the help of politicians OR (2) Could be Drug Money OR (3) illegal Arms Sale Money to Rouge Regimes or terrorist groups OR (4) Chinese Mafia Money OR (5) Russian Mafia Money OR (6) Middle East Royal Family member's money siphoned off from their own Kingdoms.

CONTD ON PAGE 9

CONTD FROM PAGE 8

An Open Letter to United States Congress

OR (7) Give detailed response/answers to 88 questions raised by Hindenburg Research.

On top of that Rajiv Jain is peddling lies in the USA based on Modi aka Indian Media reports that Indian Supreme Court has given a clean chit to Adani. Bloomberg columnist Andy Mukherjee wrote that SC panel's job was not to return a finding on allegations against Adani by Hindenburg.

Saaransh Maurya, a 22-year-old assistant manager, has filed an affidavit in Supreme Court on behalf of SEBI (Securities and Exchange Board of India). Reacting to it, Shiv Senna (UBT) MP Priyanka Chaturvedi wrote, "Must be either super experienced...or naive enough." Meanwhile, columnist Andy Mukherjee said, "Young enough to be hero of a John Grisham...novel." See Link # 10 Adani News

(https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/company/corporate-trends/view-adani-probe-will-only-produce-heat-not-light/articleshow/100389548.cms?utm_source=contentofinterest&utm_medium=text&utm_campaign=cppst)

According to "The Morning Context, "if you remove these [offshore] funds, the effective [public] shareholding in Adani Enterprises comes down to only 10%." In Adani Transmission, the "effective public float is about 7-8%." This is in violation of SEBI's own rules that listed companies are required to maintain a minimum public holding (or free float) of 25%. This allows a company to raise money from the market. [Note that stock exchanges froze the promoter shareholding of Patanjali Foods after the company failed to meet the 25% public shareholding.] But the Supreme Court's expert committee report says that these provisions requiring FPI to disclose "ultimate natural person" were done away with in 2018.

Adani, Jeffrey Skilling, Bernie Madoff, Ken Lay, Bernie Ebbers, Scott Sullivan, Robert Maxwell.... There's an endless parade of swindlers who can pry apart accounting standards and financial regulations wide enough to drive a gigantic con through. They appear every 3 to 5 years. All of them have been prosecuted and locked up in Jails except Biggest Conman in Corporate history Gautam Adani. He is being defended by PM Modi's Cabinet Ministers, BJP MP's, Party officials, RSS & entire Media owned by friends of Modi as well as Adani; for being the biggest financial criminal in the corporate history of India; surpassing the other state created thug billionaires of India since 1947.

What the Committee needs to understand is that Adani Group has not invented anything, nor built anything, nor come up with an original business idea like Amazon. It is built on only fraudulent agenda of massively looting public wealth of India with the help of politicians. This wealth was result of the sacrifices made by millions of poor Indians who donated their hard-earned assets to build a better nation. Adani is a threat to the financial system and security of America and must be stopped from operating in America. The US companies or individuals that have helped Adani or are helping him to raise funds and investments in America must be prosecuted. These financially well qualified entities or individuals don't have a benefit of doubt that they were not aware of Adani's background and history. People like Rajiv Jain that are promoting Adani in America are a danger to the moral and ethical fiber of our society. Rajiv Jain has no moral & ethical values the proof is his investment in Fraudster Adani Group that may have been created by looting Indian public wealth with the help of criminal politicians installed with the looted money. Since Rajiv Jain is more concerned about "Returns on his Fund's Investments" than Ethics & Morality, tomorrow he can promote investments in Gambling or Prostitution or Drug or Arms Cartels that can give him better returns than Adani.

2.GATIK SHIP MANAGEMENT: A GHOST COMPANY BACKED BY RUSSIAN'S RECEIVED SERVICES FROM UNKNOWN US COMPANIES OR INDIVIDUALS IN VIOLATION OF US SANCTIONS AGAINST RUSSIA:

Gatik's Main Business: Crude Oil Shipments on the Russia-India Route. Gatik purchased services related to their shipping business from American Companies despite US sanctions against Russia. These US companies must be investigated and prosecuted for working against America. See Link # 1 Gatik News

(<https://www.wsj.com/articles/upstart-indian-shipper-helps-get-russian-oil-to-market-11674985846>)

As India does not recognize US sanctions imposed on Russia, it became the biggest buyer of Russian crude oil. Before the Ukraine war, Russia supplied less than 1 per cent of India's crude. It now accounts for about 30 per cent, according to official trade statistics. India benefited from millions of barrels of Russian oil, sold at a heavy discount than to other buyers. During the first quarter of 2023, the oil bought by India cost \$48.03 per barrel -- \$10 less than the average paid by other countries, according to Kyiv School of Economics research based on Russian oil sale records. India is leading the group of 'laundromat countries' that buy heavily discounted Russian crude oil, refine it, and sell the processed products to European countries, thus sidestepping European & US sanctions against Russia.

Gatik which means "speed" in Sanskrit, was born out of nowhere to become the biggest transporter of Russian oil. Gatik has the postal address of a rundown Neptune Magnet Mall in Mumbai and has become one of the biggest international oil shipping giants in over the past 18 months. It owned only 2 chemical tankers in 2021

and by April 2023 it had a fleet of 58 vessels with over 50 crude oil tankers with an estimated value of over \$1.6 billion. Great Eastern Shipping founded in 1948, India's biggest private ship-owner by fleet size, has 67 ships comprising just 8 crude tankers.

Gatik also shares their Mall office/address with little known Mumbai-registered company Buena Vista Shipping that has an office in Dubai also. Nautical Job boards show the company is recruiting heavily for a variety of roles on the ships in the past year, including chief cooks and oilers. There is no information available about Gatik's relationship with Buena Vista Shipping and who funded the rapid expansion of Gatik's fleet is a great mystery for the international oil market.

According to the Indian Register of Shipping data most of Gatik's ships are managed by Indian firms including Gaurik Ship Management, Geras Ship Management, Caishan Ship Management, Galena Ship Management, Zidan Ship Management and Plutos Ship Management. As per shipping database Equasis, these companies handle safety and environmental-related issues of the vessels while commercial operations are managed by Gatik.

The origins and ownership all the business associated with Gatik are a mystery and no details about the companies could be found on the Indian corporate affairs ministry's website. But shipbrokers, analysts and commodity traders suspect a link with its biggest client: Rosneft, the Kremlin-controlled and Russia's biggest crude oil producer. Because Rosneft is selling the cargos on a "Cost Insurance and Freight" basis meaning it is responsible for the delivery of the crude to the destination port in India-rather than the "Free on Board" basis before the Ukraine war, where the buyer was organizing the shipping. See Link # 3 Gatik News

(<https://www.ft.com/content/6f81585c-321a-41fb-bcdb-579e93381671>)

According to Vessels Value's Rebecca Galanopoulos out of almost 14,000 live tankers owned by 1,361 companies, 1341 own fewer than 10 live tankers; only 20 companies, including Gatik, own 50 or more. All but two of Gatik's vessels are registered to single-vessel companies registered in the Marshall Islands and the ownership of those companies is not public. **Gatik's ultimate beneficial owner/owners are unknown. It does not even have a functioning website. It is almost exclusively servicing Russian oil and thus could be an ultimate example of Russian oil companies who would want to get into shipping to evade western sanctions since the Ukraine war.**

Gatik had majority of the Ships flagged to St. Kitts & Navis till April 2023. Now it is flagged to Gabon and Mongolia. Most Gatik's ships do not hold insurance from any of the recognized large mutual providers from European countries. Gatik's 34 vessels have used the protection and indemnity insurance from the American Club, which belongs to the International Group of P&I Clubs that insures most of the global tanker fleet. **Lloyd's Register and the American Bureau of Shipping (ABS) had provided safety certification that they have withdrawn recently and now an Indian agency is providing safety certification for most of Gatik's vessels. See Link # 1 Gatik News**

(<https://www.tradewindsnews.com/tankers/shadow-fleet-linked-gatik-reshuffles-ships-as-indian-owner-is-dumped-by-lloyd-s-register/2-1-1456834>)

The Honorable Committee must investigate US insurers that were providing insurance to Gatik's vessels despite sanctions against Russia. The US companies that were providing Safety Certification along with other US companies that was providing any services or goods or technology to Gatik must also be investigated for violating US sanctions against Russia.

Respectfully Submitted
Devendra Makkar

Encls.: Links to News Articles on Adani & Gatik

REFERENCES TO THE NEWS ARTICLES ABOUT ADANI GROUP OF COMPANIES:

1. **Adani Group: How The World's 3rd Richest Man Is Pulling The Largest Con In Corporate History**

Published on January 24, 2023

<https://hindenburgresearch.com/adani/>

2. **ADANI RESPONSE TO HINDENBURG RESEARCH: (413 PAGES)**

JAN. 29, 2023

Hindenburg's actions represent a "calculated attack on India, the independence, integrity, and quality of Indian institutions, and the growth story and ambition of India."

<https://www.adani.com/-/media/Project/Adani/Invetsors/Adani-Response-to-Hindenburg-January-29-2023.pdf>

3. **Hindenburg Research replied, "Fraud Cannot Be Obfuscated By Nationalism Or A Bloated Response That Ignores Every Key Allegation We Raised.**

JAN. 29, 2023

In terms of substance, Adani's '413 page' response only included about 30 pages focused on issues related to our report. The remainder of the response consisted of 330 pages of court records, along with 53 pages of high-level financials, general information, and details on irrelevant corporate initiatives, such as how it encourages female entrepreneurship and the production of safe vegetables.

CONTD ON PAGE 10

CONTD FROM PAGE 9

An Open Letter to United States Congress

Adani Failed To Specifically Answer 62 of Our 88 Questions.

Of The Questions It Did Answer, The Group Largely Confirmed Or Attempted to Sidestep Our Findings

<https://hindenburesearch.com/adani-response/>

4. The Adani short sale puts investor trust in India in doubt

A rise in jingoistic nationalism has added a new element of impunity to the behavior of some corporate chiefs

26 January 2023, by Andy Mukherjee

<https://www.tbsnews.net/bloomberg-special/adani-short-sale-puts-investor-trust-india-doubt-574566>

5. Hindenburg Gives a Master Class. Adani Flunks

The Indian tycoon's pulled share sale shows financial globalization can mint centi-billionaires - and cancel them.

Feb. 1, 2023, By Andy Mukherjee

<https://www.bloomberg.com/opinion/articles/2023-02-02/adani-hindenburg-short-seller-s-masterclass-in-financial-globalization#xj4y7vzkg>

6. Adani Rout Puts Spotlight on Billions Flowing Through Mauritius

March 8, 2023, by Chris Kay

<https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2023-03-09/adani-short-seller-report-puts-focus-on-billions-flowing-through-mauritius#xj4y7vzkg>

7. Why do these foreign funds love Adani Group companies?

Several Mauritius-based investment funds have Gautam Adani-led companies as over 90% of their portfolios. Why?

April 26, 2021, by Jayshree P. Upadhyay

<https://themorningcontext.com/business/why-do-these-foreign-funds-love-adani-group-companies>

8. EXCLUSIVE: How Gujarat Government Helped Adani's Port Company

Feb. 7, 2020 Dilip Patel, Paranjay Guha Thakurta

<https://www.newsclick.in/exCLUSIVE-how-gujarat-government-helped-adani-port-company#:~:text=The%202012%2D13%20report%20of,the%20country%20in%20Mundra%2C%20Gujarat>

9. Probe sought into Adani company's profits from overpriced, dirty coal.

Feb 10, 2023 Nityanand Jayaraman

https://www.adaniwatch.org/probe_sought_into_adani_s_profits_from_overpriced_dirty_coal?fbclid=IwAR2JdrZl7uOX504-zIBDjeizGWZ3Feu6icsFxtmZAbmcbnc1YH4csX-5tA

10. View: Adani (SC) probe will only produce heat, not light

A toothless expert panel looking over the shoulder of a regulator that has its suspicions but no evidence, and no hope of generating any without the help of other sleuthing agencies, means only one thing: No matter how long it goes on, the Adani probe will only produce heat, not light.

May 21, 2023, by Andy Mukherjee

https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/company/corporate-trends/view-adani-probe-will-only-produce-heat-not-light/articleshow/100389548.cms?utm_source=contentofinterest&utm_medium=text&utm_campaign=cppst

11. Deloitte Flags Adani Ports Deals, Cites Need for Review

Auditor spotlights transactions with Hindenburg named firms.

Can't comment without an external independent review: Deloitte.

May 31, 2023, By Advait Palepu and Chris Kay

<https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2023-05-31/deloitte-flags-adani-port-transactions-citing-lack-of-review#xj4y7vzkg>

12. Indian Billionaire Gautam Adani Finds A Savior In The Modi Govt

Adani has, over the years, leased 7,350 hectares-much of which he got from 2005 onward-from the government in Mundra. He got the 30-year, renewable leases for as little as one U.S. cent a square meter (the rate maxed out at 45 cents a square meter). He in turn has sublet this land to other companies, including state-owned Indian Oil Co., for as much as \$11 a square meter. Between 2005 and 2007 at least 1,200 hectares of grazing land was taken away from villagers.

Jul 17, 2014, by Meghna Bahree

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/meghabahree/2014/07/17/adani-finds-a-savior-in-the-modi-govt/?sh=1a141d54639f>

13. Mundra Port: Nearly three tons of heroin seized at Gujarat port

21 September 2021

Indian anti-smuggling intelligence officials have seized nearly three tons of heroin - reportedly worth around \$2.7bn (£1.9bn) - in a major operation at a port in Gujarat state.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-india-58634575>

14. Heroin Seizures at Adani's Mundra Remain a Source of Worry for Indian Authorities

Aug. 3, 2022

<https://thewire.in/government/heroin-seizure-adani-mundra-worry-indian-authorities>

15. The Adani Files (Australia)

A short history of corruption, destruction, and criminal activity.

<https://adanifiles.com.au/#crime-corrupt>

REFERENCES TO THE NEWS ARTICLES ABOUT GATIK SHIP MANAGEMENT

1. Upstart Indian Shipper Helps Get Russian Oil to Market

Russia has successfully managed to keep the country's oil moving to markets of the world, defying the fears that sanctions levied last month would result in a plunge in the country's exports. Gatik Ship Management, which took control of 25 tankers after the invasion of Ukraine, now shuttles Russian crude along new trade routes.

By Joe Wallace, Costas Paris and Anna Hirtenstein

Jan. 29, 2023

<https://www.wsj.com/articles/upstart-indian-shipper-helps-get-russian-oil-to-market-11674985846>

2. Indian Shipper Gatik Loses US P&I Insurance

Fri, Apr 14, 2023

By: Simon Martelli, London & Emily Meredith, Washington

<https://www.energyintel.com/00000187-81c9-dc4f-a7e7-9bfd941d0003>

3. The unknown Indian company shipping millions of barrels of Russian oil

Gatik became one of the world's largest vessel owners in little over a year, transporting crude to India for Rosneft

Tom Wilson and Chris Cook in London,

Chloe Cornish in Mumbai and Anastasia Stognei in Riga

MAY 4, 2023

<https://www.ft.com/content/6f81585c-321a-41fb-bcdb-579e93381671>

4. Exclusive: Lloyd's Register drops ships of top Indian carrier of Russian oil

By Jonathan Saul and Nidhi Verma

May 25, 2023

<https://www.reuters.com/markets/commodities/lloyds-register-drops-ships-top-indian-carrier-russian-oil-2023-05-25/>

5. Shadow fleet-linked Gatik reshuffles ships as Indian owner is dumped by Lloyd's Register

A string of new management companies emerge after operator suffers flag and insurance woes.

26 May 2023

By Paul Peachey in London

<https://www.tradewindnews.com/tankers/shadow-fleet-linked-gatik-reshuffles-ships-as-indian-owner-is-dumped-by-lloyd-s-register/2-1-1456834>

6. Top shipper of Russian oil secures Indian cover as Western certifiers exit

By Nidhi Verma and Jonathan Saul

May 31, 2023

<https://www.reuters.com/business/top-shipper-russian-oil-secures-indian-cover-western-certifiers-exit-2023-05-30/>

7. India's Gatik finds alternative to Lloyd's for vessel registration - report.

May 31, 2023

India's Gatik Ship Management has found an alternative vessel registrar to the maritime classification society Lloyd's Register

<https://www.qcintel.com/article/india-s-gatik-finds-alternative-to-lloyd-s-for-vessel-registration-report-14264.html>

8. Lloyd's Register in turn excludes the Indian tanker owner Gatik Ship Management

June 2, 2023, By: Adeline Descamps

After the ABS classification society, the P&I American Club and the Saint-Kitts-et-Nevis register, the Lloyd's Register in turn withdraws its services from Gatik Ship Management.

The Indian shipowner has become one of the most active transporters of Russian crude to India by means of a clandestine fleet.

<https://euro.dayfr.com/business/324086.html>

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OPERATION BLUESTAR AND PUNJAB

Thoughts on the 39th anniversary of Operation Blue star: The game is for power not for Punjab



BY
PRABHJOT SINGH

Thirty-nine years after the traumatic Operation Blue Star, Punjabis in general and Sikhs in particular, continue to ponder what makes all ruling parties at the Centre to betray them. All agitations in this border State have ended in trading of power without anything being said about its long-standing demands, be it territorial rights, dams and water works, prime institutions and its people. Sikhs have been in the habit of hawking newspaper headlines for reasons that extend beyond the geographic boundaries of their motherland for whose independence they made nearly 80 per cent of the total sacrifices. Of late some of the world leaders while eulogizing the contributions this minute minority community has made in the Corona pandemic went to the extent of saying that there should be a gurdwara - Sikh temple - everywhere to look after the suffering humanity.

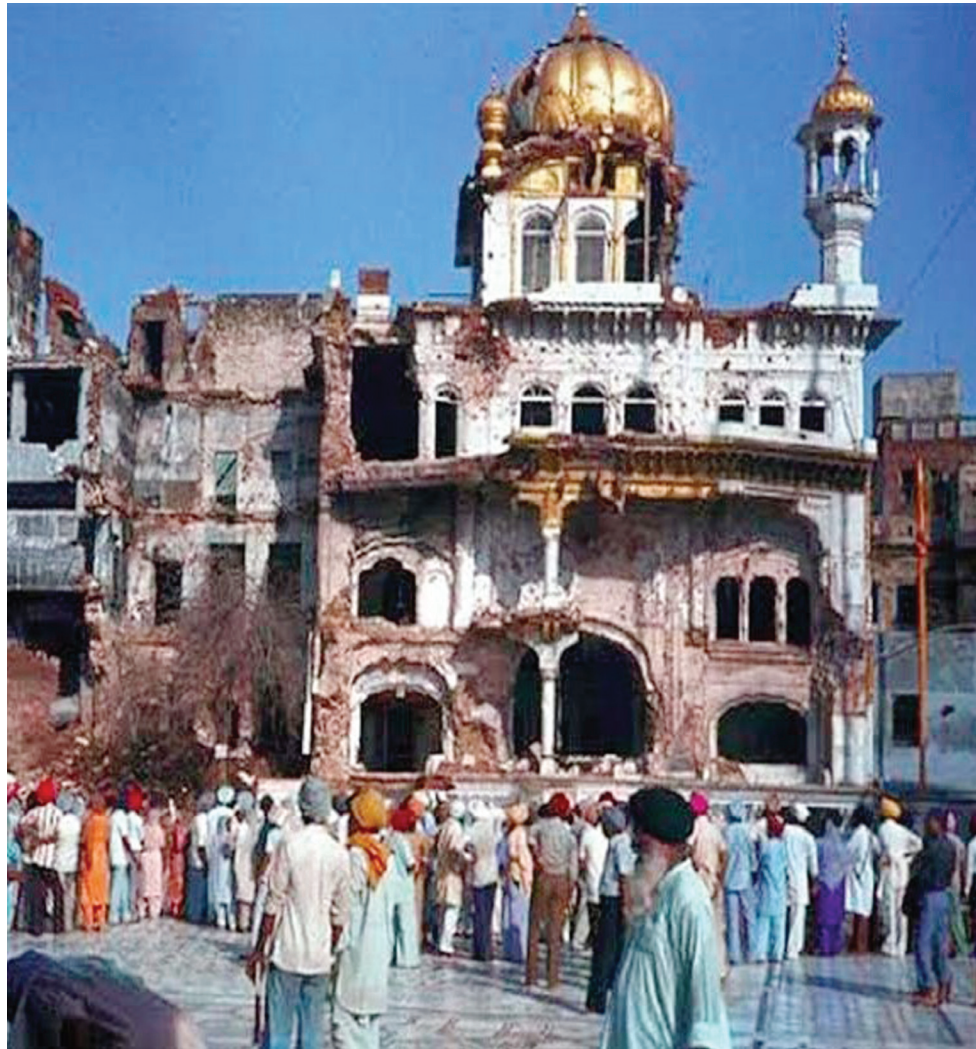
It is that institution of gurdwara that has been making the Sikh community seek answers from the Central Government in India in general and the national political parties in particular.

Questions about the attack on their sancta sanctorum have either been ignored or they remained mired in controversies. The Sikhs, a global community, have every reason to nurse a grouse both against the Congress - for engineering attack on their sancta sanctorum besides depriving the State of its rightful territorial and rivers water rights - and the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) for not assuaging their hurt psyche without taking any action to mitigate it.

Wreaked by two politics-engineered partitions, this once affluent State continues to struggle to get its long-standing demands, including territorial sovereignty and rightful claim over its rivers waters, met. While the first partition in 1947 played havoc with the life and property of this border province, the second partition took away whatever little progress or gains it had made since independence. All major projects, including its capital, dams and water works and institutions, were taken away and brought under control of the Centre.

It is all the more agonizing for the Sikhs when they look back at the history. Before the 1947 partition, says historian Research Professor Rajmohan Gandhi, the then British rulers tried to appease all major communities of northern India - the majority Hindu community and the minorities Muslims and the Sikhs. Though he did not say in many words that while the Hindus got India and the Muslims Pakistan, the Sikhs had to swallow false promises.

After partition, their agitation for a



The Akal Takht Sahib in the Golden Complex was battered under heavy artillery fire

Sikh Homeland ended in a truncated State they got which was without a capital, most of its dams and water works and many Punjabi speaking areas.

While they were still trying to come out of the trauma of the two partitions, came the Operation Blue star. Whatever are the causes or reasons behind the "Dharam Yudh" morcha that made the Sikhs launch a struggle to get autonomy for States after adopting the Sri Anandpur Sahib resolution of August 1977.

Agreed, violence has no place in any civilized society in general and liberal democracies in particular, Punjab has never been at peace with itself for a continuous period of 30 or more years. To be precise, Sikhs have always been at war, if not with the powers at the Centre then among themselves. And even in their struggle, political, religious or social, they have always pioneered a number of initiatives, both in and outside India. It is here where the role of journalists, as members of the fourth estate, becomes crucial in highlighting injustices done to the State or its people, Journalists are eyes and ears of a society as they play a critical role in preserving democracy. They are mandated to act as watchdogs in liberal democracies as while weaving their stories, they not only understand the importance or significance of Rule of Law but also keep the public good above everything else. While judging a journalist or his or her work, especially in the context of Punjab, it is important to understand the trying circumstances

continuing to discharge their role as torchbearers. They religiously follow professional ethics and discharge their duties as ears and eyes of the society they represent. A couple of years ago, I reviewed a book by one of my friends, Jagtar Singh, for The Tribune, an institution with which remained associated for 37 years.

As a veteran journalist and columnist, Jagtar Singh, remained an eyewitness from the very beginning of the fight for Sikh Homeland, to the present. His latest book "The Khalistan Struggle: Rivers on Fire" is the story of militant struggle in the border state of Punjab. It tells students of history as to what sparked this struggle, which were the people in the beginning and how this discourse shaped up as a fight for a separate Sikh state.

Not only this, several other books about the Sikh religio-political discourse in synergy of both the peaceful and militant struggle from the earlier days, have taken up only selective militant actions, as these were the incidents as these shaped the discourse at crucial moments.

For Sikhs, it is not only their emotive bondage with the institution of gurdwara in general and the sanctum sanctorum in particular but has acted as a catalyst to prove to the world that the Sikh gurdwara which the Indian defense forces attacked with mortar, grenades and guns in 1984, are the shelter homes for those in distress.

And these spiritual centers-cum-shelter homes do not discriminate with beneficiaries on the grounds of their ethnicity, color, creed, religion or language. No Sikh would ever take or accept any attack on its place of worship.

Most of those who have done work or written essays on developments in Punjab since 1947 have documented their works well. However, a few important revelations made in the book, including one about the assassination of the then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, need corroboration. The author says that the names of all those who gunned down Indira Gandhi and those who were part of the design to kill her were in public domain. At least three more people besides all those known names were part of the plan to avenge Operation Bluster.

This revelation has not been substantiated as he mentions that one of the three names - Manbir Singh Chaheru - purchased a plot in Mohali for Bimal Kaur Khalsa, wife of Delhi Police Sub Inspector Beant Singh, one of the two assassins of Indira Gandhi. It appears to be a post-action (assassination) association that brought Bimal Khalsa in contact with Manbir Chaheru and Damdami Taksal. All said and done, it was the religious hurt that made Beant and Satwant kill Indira Gandhi. The revelation cannot be dismissed, as corroboratory evidence may have remained unexplored.

CONTD ON PAGE 36

in which they worked. The State had the longest spell of President's rule besides promulgation of draconian laws to contain militancy. A State that was once acknowledged as the sword arm or sports arm of the country besides serving as the food bowl of the country is now tottering at the brink.

Some experienced journalists, both from within and outside the country, would invariably use objectivity and verification combined with storytelling skills to make a subject both credible and newsworthy. But journalists from Punjab remain suspects in the eyes of the Centre. Punjab has had more spells of curfew than any other State in the country. It is not to suggest that what a journalist writes has general acceptance.

Objectivity itself is subjective. Like everything else, criticism of journalistic works often has political dividends. Increasing attacks by politicians on the credibility of a journalist or a media house have often been part of a conscious strategy to weaken both the accountability and credibility of journalism in general and a journalist in particular.

Of late, we all have been a witness to a collapse of the notion that politically relevant facts can be discerned by news professionals, reiterating the general belief that journalists are no more apolitical leaving their readers uncertain about ingesting the messages communicated to them as credible. These changing perceptions and thoughts apart, there are old timers who are

INDIA HAS INCREDIBLY IMPORTANT ROLE TO PLAY IN WORLD: CONGRESSWOMAN PRAMILA JAYAPAL



Congresswoman Pramila Jayapal said India-US relations are very important on multiple levels -- "we are two democracies. Our constitutions both start with 'We, the People'. We have similar sets of values historically, and we have similar challenges".

JUNE 7, 2023

WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP): India has an incredibly important role to play in the world, powerful Indian-American Congresswoman Pramila Jayapal said Tuesday, June 6, adding the two countries face many similar challenges in their respective affairs, but have some great opportunities to work together to address them.

She said India-US relations are very important on multiple levels -- "we are two democracies. Our constitutions both start with 'We, the People'. We have similar sets of values historically, and we have similar challenges".

"It is clear that India has an incredibly important role to play in the world," Jayapal told PTI on the sidelines of the Indian-American Impact Summit here.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has been invited by the US President Joe Biden for an official state visit that includes a state dinner on June 22.

Modi would also address a joint session of the Congress the same day, making him only the third world leader, other than those from Israel, to make such an address twice.

"We have similar challenges in terms of efforts to try and limit participation of all individuals, of all people, regardless of religion or race, or gender. I think there are many similar challenges, but also some incredible opportunities for the two countries to work together," Jayapal said in response to a question.

The Congresswoman said she has raised concerns about the human rights situation in India in the past.

"I think it's very clear to anybody who knows me that my focus has always been on lifting up the human rights of every person. That continues to be a concern of mine. I raise it here in the United States. We have human rights concerns here with our own government. I've been very clear about those as well over time," she said.

(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)

USAID Administrator Samantha Power meets World Bank President Ajay Banga; discusses climate finance, financial support to Ukraine

JUNE 8, 2023

WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP): USAID Administrator Samantha Power has met World Bank President Ajay Banga and discussed a slew of crucial matters, including climate finance, debt sustainability and economic support to Ukraine, according to an official statement.

The meeting happened on Wednesday, June 7, and the two also discussed about Banga's vision for the World Bank and the opportunities for more collaborations with United States Agency for International Development (USAID), given the scale of issues the world faces.

"USAID Administrator Samantha Power met World Bank President Ajay Banga on Wednesday to discuss debt sustainability, climate finance, anti-corruption efforts, including how digitization initiatives can increase accountability, and economic support for Ukraine," the statement said.

According to a readout of the call, the two explored ways to engage the private sector in addressing global challenges, enhance job creation to generate sustainable economic growth, and strengthen internal measurement and evaluations to improve the effectiveness of aid and development efforts.

Power and Banga also discussed access



USAID Administrator Samantha Power met World Bank President Ajay Banga, and the two discussed climate finance, financial support to Ukraine

to multilateral finance for countries to build resilience before a disaster, respond effectively during the immediate aftermath, and rebuild post-disaster, said the statement.

SAMANTHA POWER TWEETED:

Samantha Power
@PowerUSAID
Great to meet with Ajay Banga in his new role as president of
@WorldBank

We discussed his vision for tackling the many interconnected global challenges we face & our work together on issues including debt sustainability, anti-corruption & climate change. <https://usa.gov/news-information/press-releases/jun-07-2023-administrator-samantha-power-meets-world-bank-group-president-ajay-banga>

(With inputs from PTI)

Upcoming State visit will affirm the deep and close partnership between India and US: White House

JUNE 7, 2023

WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP): The upcoming Official State visit of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to the US will affirm the deep and close partnership between the two countries and the warm bonds of family and friendship that link Americans and Indians together, the White House said Wednesday, June 7.



"The upcoming visit we believe will affirm the deep and close partnership between the United States and India and the warm bonds of family and friendship that link Americans and Indians together," White House Press Secretary Karine Jean-Pierre told reporters at her daily news conference.

File photo

bonds of family and friendship that link Americans and Indians together," White House Press Secretary Karine Jean-Pierre told reporters at her daily news conference.

"The Prime Minister and the President will discuss ways to strengthen our two countries, shared commitment to a free, open, prosperous and secure Indo-Pacific and our shared resolve to elevate our strategic technology partnership including defense. So that certainly will be talked about in clean energy and space," she said responding to a question on the State Visit.

(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)

PM Modi to address Indian Americans in Washington on June 23: Community leader

JUNE 8, 2023

WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP): Prime Minister Narendra Modi will address a gathering of Indian Americans from across the US in Washington on June 23 on the role of diaspora in India's growth story, an eminent community leader has said.

Prime Minister Modi is visiting the US from June 21-24 at the invitation of US President Joe Biden and First Lady Jill Biden. The US president and the First Lady will host Modi at a state dinner on June 22. The visit also includes an address to the Joint Session of the Congress on June 22.

Modi will address an invitation-only gathering of diaspora leaders from across the country on the evening of June 23, Indian American community leader Dr. Bharat Barai said.

The prestigious Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center, which has hosted several high-profile meetings in the past, has been reserved for the prime minister's address. The venue, named after former US President Ronald Reagan, has a capacity of 900 people, Barai told PTI on Wednesday.

It is the first federal building in Washington designed for both governmental and private sector purposes. Preparations are in full swing for the only community event to be held during the visit of the prime minister. A national organizing committee of 25 eminent people has been constituted, he said.

(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)



Modi will address an invitation-only gathering of diaspora leaders from across the country on the evening of June 23, Indian American community leader Dr. Bharat Barai has said.

Two Indian Americans among those running for 2024 US President

JUNE 8, 2023

NEW YORK (TIP): Former Vice President Mike Pence and former New Jersey governor Chris Christie are among those who have announced they are running for president, joining former president Donald Trump in a growing list of Republicans seeking to unseat Democratic President Joe Biden.

Here is a list of 2024 hopefuls, as on June 8, in both the Democratic and Republican parties.

REPUBLICAN PARTY

DONALD TRUMP

Trump, 76, announced his election campaign last November as he faced some of the loudest criticism yet from within his Republican Party over his support for far-right candidates who were defeated in the midterm elections. Like Biden, he remains unpopular with great swaths of the electorate. But he has retained a firm grip on his base and strengthened his standing in polls after he was indicted by New York prosecutors in connection with an alleged hush money payment to a porn star.

Trump is the front-runner in the Republican race.

RON DESANTIS

After the glitch-filled launch of his campaign on Twitter, DeSantis has moved to further position himself to the right of Trump on a number of key issues. DeSantis, 44, who ranks second to Trump in most polls, has already signed bills imposing new restrictions on abortion and further loosening gun laws, positions that may help him in the Republican primaries but would likely hurt him among independent and more moderate voters in the general election. His battle with Walt Disney Co over its Florida theme park has unnerved some donors, as has his mixed messaging on continued US support for Ukraine.

TIM SCOTT

The only Black Republican US senator has low name recognition outside his home state of South Carolina, but his optimism and focus on unifying his divided party have helped him draw a contrast with the more aggressive approach by Trump and DeSantis. Scott supporters, however, acknowledge that while his sunny demeanor is a selling point it may not be enough to win.

Scott, 57, has only 1% of support among registered Republicans, according to Reuters/Ipsos polling. He launched his campaign on May 22.

NIKKI HALEY

A former governor of South Carolina and Trump's ambassador to the United Nations, Haley, 51, has



Nikki Haley and Vivek Ramaswamy are the two Indian Americans among those running for 2024 US President

emphasized her relative youth compared to Biden and Trump as well as her background as the daughter of two Indian immigrants. Haley has gained a reputation in the Republican Party as a solid conservative who has the ability to address issues of gender and race in a more credible fashion than many of her peers. She has also pitched herself as a stalwart defender of American interests abroad. She attracts about 4% support among Republican voters.

VIVEK RAMASWAMY

A former biotechnology investor and executive, Ramaswamy, 37, launched a firm in 2022 to press companies to abandon environmental, social and corporate governance initiatives. He announced in February he was running for the Republican nomination. The political outsider has excited a lot of grassroots chatter as a potential alternative to Trump but he remains a longshot candidate.

MIKE PENCE

Trump's vice president has broken with his former boss over the 2021 attack by Trump supporters on the US Capitol, while Pence was inside the building. Pence, 63, says "history will hold Trump accountable" for his role in the attack. However, Pence, like other Republican White House hopefuls, came to Trump's defense after New York prosecutors charged him in the hush money case, underscoring the fear of alienating Trump's supporters in the primaries. Pence, a staunch conservative, is appealing directly to the evangelical Christian community. He will launch his campaign in Iowa on June 7.

CHRIS CHRISTIE

Former New Jersey governor Chris Christie, 60, who advised Trump's White House campaign in 2016 only to become a vocal critic of the former president, enters the

race as a decided underdog. Only 1% of Republicans said he would be their preferred 2024 nominee in a Reuters/Ipsos poll conducted from May 9-15. He plans to launch his bid on June 6.

ASA HUTCHINSON

The former Arkansas governor launched his bid for the White House in April with a call for Trump to step aside to deal with his indictment. Hutchinson, 72, has touted his experience leading the deeply conservative state as proof he can deliver on policies Republican voters care about, citing tax cuts and job creation initiatives as particular sources of pride. Still, his name recognition remains limited outside Arkansas.

DOUG BURGUM

Burgum, who is serving his second term as North Dakota's governor, plans to launch his campaign on June 7. Burgum, 66, built a successful software business before selling it to Microsoft Corp in 2001. A proponent of low taxes and fewer regulations, he will likely seek to portray himself as a traditional conservative who will focus on the economy and national security.

DEMOCRATIC PARTY

JOE BIDEN

Biden, 80, already the oldest US president ever, will have to convince voters he has the stamina for another four years in the White House, amid voter concerns about his age and his poor approval ratings. Biden allies say he is running because he feels he is the only Democratic candidate who can defeat Trump.

In announcing his candidacy, he declared it was his job to defend American democracy. He does not face a serious threat from a Democratic challenger.

MARIANNE WILLIAMSON

The best-selling author and self-help guru has launched her second, longshot bid for the White House. She ran as a Democrat in the 2020 presidential primary but dropped out of the race before any votes had been cast. She launched her latest campaign on March 23.

ROBERT KENNEDY JR

An anti-vaccine activist, Kennedy, 69, is making a longshot bid to challenge Biden for the Democratic nomination. He is the son of US Senator Robert F Kennedy, who was assassinated in 1968 during his own presidential bid. Kennedy has been banned from YouTube and Instagram for spreading misinformation about vaccines and the Covid-19 pandemic.

India, US need to have much stronger relationship, says Congressman Shri Thanedar

JUNE 8, 2023

WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP): India and the US must work on making bilateral ties stronger and focus on collaboration on education and cultural fronts, Indian-American Congressman Shri Thanedar has said.

He expressed hope that the two sides will talk about cooperation in the education and

business sectors and find ways to strengthen the bilateral relationship during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to the US this month.

"As an Indian American Congressman, I am excited to welcome him to the United States Congress and to this country as a leader of the largest democracy in the world," Thanedar told PTI on Tuesday, June 6, ahead

of Modi's visit.

Prime Minister Modi is visiting the US from June 21-24 at the invitation of President Joe Biden and First Lady Jill Biden. The US president and the First Lady will also host Modi at a state dinner on June 22.

"Not only was I born there in India, but I also grew up in India. I believe that the United States and India, the two large democracies, need to have a much stronger relationship," said Thanedar, who grew up in Belgaum.

(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)



Congressman Shri Thanedar hopes US and India will focus on collaboration on education and cultural fronts



41st Annual

AAPI CONVENTION & SCIENTIFIC ASSEMBLY

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'Not good for ties': India on Indira killing float in Canada

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on June 8 warned Canada against giving space to separatist elements saying it was not good for bilateral ties, days after a video of a float, depicting the assassination of former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, at a parade in Brampton went viral on social media.

The minister said he was at a "loss to understand" for Canada permitting the celebration of the ex-PM's killing. Jaishankar said he had a similar message to the UK and Australia against allowing pro-Khalistani elements to operate from their soil. On the issue of around 700 Indian students facing deportation from Canada due to fraudulent admissions, he said they should not be penalised for someone else's crime. He also termed as "ultra chor kotwal ko daante" (thief turns round to threaten the police) Canadian NSA Jody Thomas calling India among "top sources of interference in Canada". "Our point is the students studied in good faith. If there were people who misled them, the culpable parties should be acted against. It's unfair to punish the students," said Jaishankar while addressing a press conference on nine years of the Modi government. Hundreds of Punjabi students facing deportation due to forged offer letters have hit the streets in Greater Toronto Area in Canada. They laid mattresses and slept at night in the open after one student was asked to leave the country by June 13. But Jaishankar did not think the Canadian system was fair in allowing the glorification of PM Indira's assassination. "The float wasn't a one-off incident, however egregious it may be. I think there is a larger underlying issue about the space which is given to separatists, to extremists, to people who advocate violence... it's not good for the relationship... not good for Canada," he said.

Gyanvapi litigant seeks 'permission for euthanasia' from President Murmu

The main litigant in the Gyanvapi-Shringar Gauri complex case has sought "permission for euthanasia" from President Droupadi Murmu, alleging that her fellow petitioners are spreading false propaganda to defame her. Rakhi Singh said claims that she is withdrawing from the case are false.

Lawyer for the Hindu litigants in the case, Harishankar Jain, however, refuted Rakhi Singh's allegations, saying these were baseless. In her letter to Murmu, Rakhi Singh said, "I request you to grant me permission of euthanasia and help me getting rid of the mental pain and agony so that I can get peace and sleep eternally." She also said she would wait for a reply till June 9 till 9 am and after that she would take her own decision.

RBI holds rates, vows to keep price stability

NEW DELHI (TIP)

The Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), on the basis of an assessment of the current and evolving macroeconomic situation, on June 8 decided to keep the policy repo rate under the liquidity adjustment facility (LAF) unchanged at 6.50%

The standing deposit facility (SDF) rate remains unchanged at 6.25% and the marginal standing facility (MSF) rate and the Bank Rate at 6.75%, RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das said.

This is the second time that the policy rate has been paused after a 250 basis point conservative rate hike to curb inflation.

The MPC also decided to remain focused on withdrawal of accommodation to ensure that inflation progressively aligns with the target, while supporting growth, he said.

"These decisions are in consonance with the objective of achieving the medium-term target for consumer price index (CPI) inflation of 4% within a band of +/- 2%, while supporting growth," he added.

On the outlook, Das said going forward, the headline inflation trajectory was likely to be shaped by food price dynamics. Wheat prices could see some correction on robust mandi arrivals and procurement.

Milk prices, on the other hand, are likely to remain under pressure due to supply shortfalls and high fodder costs. The forecast of a normal south-west monsoon by the India Meteorological Department (IMD) augurs well for kharif



While the unanimous decision to keep the policy rate unchanged at 6.5% was widely accepted, withdrawal of accommodation being retained as the monetary policy stance saw a dissension within the Monetary Policy Committee.

crops; however, the spatial and temporal distribution of the monsoon would need to be closely monitored to assess the prospects for agricultural production, he said. "Crude oil prices have eased but the outlook remains uncertain. According to the early results from the Reserve Bank's surveys, manufacturing, services and infrastructure firms polled expect input costs and output prices to harden," he said. Taking into account these factors and assuming a normal monsoon, CPI inflation has been projected at 5.1% for 2023-24, with Q1 at 4.6%, Q2 at 5.2%, Q3 at 5.4% and Q4 at 5.2%. The risks are evenly balanced.

On growth, Das said higher rabi crop production in 2022-23, the expected

normal monsoon, and the sustained buoyancy in services should support private consumption and overall economic activity in the current year.

The government's thrust on capital expenditure, moderation in commodity prices and robust credit growth are expected to nurture investment activity. Weak external demand, geoeconomic fragmentation, and protracted geopolitical tensions, however, pose risks to the outlook, he added.

Taking all these factors into consideration, real GDP growth for 2023-24 has been projected at 6.5% with Q1 at 8.0%, Q2 at 6.5%, Q3 at 6.0%, and Q4 at 5.7%, with risks evenly balanced, he further said. Source: *The Hindu*

Mumbai woman murder: Accused boiled chopped body parts, fed them to stray dogs

NEW DELHI (TIP)

A 32-year-old woman in suburban Mumbai was killed by her live-in partner of nine years who then used an electric saw to hack her body into so many parts that the police couldn't pin a number. For three days after the alleged murder, Manoj Sane, 56, tried to dispose of the body. In his frantic efforts to evade detection, he pressure-cooked some body parts, roasted others, and ground some more in a mixer and fed them to stray dogs.

When the police entered the sparsely decorated seventh-floor apartment at Geeta Akashdeep society, a middle-class enclave of 10 buildings on Mira Road, they found themselves in a veritable house of horror.

"The kitchen was a complete mess — there were buckets and multiple pots and pans full of chopped and minced human flesh," said assistant police inspector Rahul Bhagvat who along with police inspector Jilani Sayyad was the first to enter the two-bedroom house.

The two officers were sent there by the Nayanagar station house officer to investigate neighbours' complaints of the stench emanating from flat number 704.

When they broke open the door, the first thing they saw in the house was a bloodied electric saw. In the kitchen, other than in the three buckets, the pressure cooker on the gas stove and the pan on the platform they also found human bones in the basin. Adding to the horror was a pair of chopped off feet that sat on the platform.

On Wednesday, June 7, night, the police arrested Sane for the murder of his live-in partner Saraswati Vaidya. The police say that Sane, who is employed at a kirana shop in the area, met Saraswati, who was orphaned, in 2014, and the two began living together. Sane, say the police, was sure that if he could dispose of Saraswati's body in time, no one would ever come looking for her and he could escape undetected.

The gruesome manner in which the accused tried to dispose of the body

brought back memories of the Shradha Walkar murder case. In the Delhi case, Walkar's live in partner Aaftab Poonawala killed her on May 18 last year, chopped her body into at least 35 pieces over two days, stored them in a refrigerator for three months, and dumped the parts piece by piece. The crime remained undetected till November 12, when Poonawala was arrested. Delhi Police then spent the next few weeks recovering Walkar's body parts in parts of the Capital, as well as Gurugram.

While the police say that Saraswati Vaidya and Manoj Sane did not interact with their neighbours, it was on account of their neighbours that the killing came to light.

When Somesh Shrivastav, who stays in flat 701 across from Sane, came home for lunch from his office on Wednesday, he found himself overwhelmed by the stench on their floor and began to investigate the source. At 4.30pm he bumped into Sane on the stairs and told him about the foul smell.



Filed false charges against WFI chief: Father of minor

The father of the minor wrestler has claimed they deliberately filed a false police complaint of sexual harassment against WFI chief Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh because they wanted to get back at him for the perceived injustice against the girl.

The startling admission substantially weakens the case against the WFI chief who has been facing protest by wrestlers, including Bajrang Punia, Vinesh Phogat and Sakshi Malik.

The father said the sexual harassment complaint was filed in anger as his daughter was denied a victory during the trial for the Asian Championships in 2022. "Her opponent was a Delhi girl. The referee and the mat chairman were also from Delhi. I objected as it is not allowed as per rules, but he (Brij Bhushan) didn't pay heed to it," he said.

"We were angry as we lost one year because of unfair calls. There were some false and some true allegations in the complaint. We went in front of the judge and cleared it. Also, we have not withdrawn the complaint," he said, claiming that his daughter was a minor as opposed to some reports claiming otherwise.

Wrestlers suspend protest till June 15 after meeting sports minister Anurag Thakur

NEW DELHI (TIP)

India's top wrestlers suspended their protest against sexual harassment till June 15 after a six-hour-long meeting with Union sports minister Anurag Thakur on Wednesday, June 7, marking the first sign of resolution in the months-long deadlock in talks between the players and the government amid indications that options were narrowing for former wrestling federation boss Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh.

Wrestlers Bajrang Punia, Sakshi Malik, Satyavrat Kadian along with some of their coaches met Thakur at his residence and later said that they were satisfied with the talks and withdrew their protest till June 15, by when a charge sheet against Singh will be filed. Singh is facing two first information reports (FIRs) alleging sexual harassment, one by a group of six women wrestlers and another by a minor complainant.

"It's a very positive development and everyone was understanding with each other. We want them to be back on the mat as soon as possible for the Asian Games and the Olympics," Thakur told HT after the meeting.

The wrestlers and the government also agreed on a raft of other issues, including withdrawal of all criminal cases against the wrestlers, setting up of an Internal Complaints Committee (ICC) within Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) with a female chief, security for the complainants, removal of Singh and his associates from WFI, scrapping of cases against affiliated academies, coaches and



Wrestlers Bajrang Punia and Sakshee Malik meet Union Sports Minister Anurag Thakur at his residence. Photo: ANI

athletes, and transparent elections to WFI by June 30. HT has seen a copy of the list of wrestlers' demands that the sports ministry agreed on.

The meeting, which began at around 11am and ended by 5pm, was termed "successful and positive" by Thakur.

"I extended an invitation to wrestlers on behalf of the government yesterday. The discussions happened on a lot of sensitive issues in a very conducive environment. The talks were very positive and our meeting went on for about six hours," Thakur later told reporters.

"Police will file a charge sheet by June 15 and WFI elections will be held by June 30. The wrestlers demanded an Internal

Complaints Committee be formed within WFI and its president should be a woman," Thakur said.

The meeting is a welcome development after months of logjam between the government and the wrestlers. The positive signs from both sides showed that a resolution was likely soon in what is a very important year for Indian sport.

Singh, a Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) parliamentarian from Kaiserganj who has lorded over Indian wrestling for 12 years, is facing charges of sexual harassment of athletes, including at least one minor. Though he has been removed from WFI, which stands suspended, and two FIRs have been filed against him, he is yet to be arrested. *Source: HT*

Manipur violence: 35 weapons, warlike stores recovered by security forces during combing operations

KOLKATA (TIP)

At least 35 weapons and warlike stores were recovered during joint combing operations by security forces in ethnic violence-affected Manipur, an official said.

Domination of the arterial national highway 37, connecting capital Imphal with Assam and other parts of the country, was carried out to ensure free movement of essential goods to and from Manipur as part of the operations, he said.

Stating that 35 weapons of different types, ammunition and warlike stores were recovered on the second day of joint combing operations on Thursday, June 8, in the hills and valley sector, the official said that the security forces are adopting confidence building measure and a people centric approach to alleviate the hardships of the people, affected by the month-long ethnic strife in the northeastern state.

On the first day of the joint combing operations on Wednesday, June 7, the security forces recovered 29 weapons, mostly



automatic, mortar, hand grenades, small arms, ammunition and warlike stores. He said that magistrates were present during combing operations in non-AFSPA areas.

Adequate measures were being taken during the combing operations, aimed at de-escalation of tensions amongst

communities through physical domination besides recovery of weapons and ammunition, to ensure that the local population are not inconvenienced, the official added.

At least 100 people lost their lives and 310 others were injured in the ethnic violence in

Manipur that broke out a month ago.

Home ministry grants Rs 102 crore for Manipur relief

The Centre has approved a Rs 101.75 crore relief package for displaced citizens in Manipur where the situation remains peaceful with no fresh incidents of violence in the past 48 hours, state security adviser Kuldip Singh said. Since May 3, the northeastern state has been roiled by ethnic clashes largely between the Meitei and Kuki communities. At least 102 people have died, 300 injured and nearly 40,000 displaced, with 2,000 houses and shops burnt. Singh, a former Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) chief, said that last week, Union home minister Amit Shah directed the Manipur government to send a request to the Union home ministry seeking relief for the displaced citizens. During his four-day visit to the state, Shah met different Kuki and Meitei groups, civil society organisations, and groups of citizens.

India in history this Week

JUNE 09, 2023, TO JUNE 15, 2023

09 JUNE

1964 Lal Bahadur Shastri became the second Prime Minister of India.

2001 The pair of Leander Paes and Mahesh Bhupathi won the French Open doubles title.

1900 Freedom fighter Birsa Munda died in Ranchi jail under suspicious circumstances.



2011 India's famous painter MF Hussain died in London.

10 JUNE

1986 India won the Test match at Lord's for the first time by defeating England by 5 wickets.

1888 The famous agitator Balraj Bhalla was born.

1900 General Jayantinath Chaudhary of the Indian Army was born.

1946 Gandhiji refused to be excited for his victory. This is because it was not a triumph of truth over liars.



1955 Internationally renowned badminton player Prakash Padukone was born.

1987 Famous Hindi film actor Jeevan passed away.

2008 The 54th National Film Awards were announced, 'Lage Raho Munnabhai' being voted the best popular film.

1958 Litterateur and public servant Anup Sethi was born on 10 June 1958

11 JUNE



1897 Ramprasad Bismil, the freedom fighter of

India, was born.

1866 Allahabad High Court was established. It was earlier known as Agra High Court.

1964 Ashes of Jawaharlal Nehru, the ashes of his ashes were scattered all over the country.

1930 A cyclonic storm blew a train off the railway near Himtnagar, Gujarat, in which one person was killed and many more were injured.

1932 Renowned businessman Meenu Modi was born.

12 JUNE

1932 It is the birthday of India's famous Bharata Natyam dancer and actress Padmini.

1975 The Allahabad High Court found the then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi guilty of corruption.

1972 D.G., who wrote an eight-volume treatise on the life of Mahatma Gandhi. Tendulkar died

1998 Decision not to give loans to India and Pakistan by G8 countries due to nuclear tests.

2001 India-Bangladesh talks on border issue begin.

2002 Beginning of child labor prohibition day. The purpose of this day was to spread awareness among the people about child labor.

2007 Sikh students in schools in Australia were allowed to carry the religious symbol Saber.

1752 Chanda Sahib surrendered in 1752 in Karnataka.



2016 Saina Nehwal won the Australian Open title for the second time in 2016.

2008 Renowned film director Mrinal Sen was awarded at the 10th Osiana Cinefan Film Festival in 2008.

1935 Shyama was born one of the famous actresses of Indian cinema.

1972 The author of the biography of Mahatma Gandhi, Mr. DG Tendulkar, passed away.

1976 Sanskrit scholar and great philosopher Gopinath Kaviraj died.

13 JUNE

1757 Robert Clive of East India Company traveled to Murshidabad to battle Siraj-ud-Daula.

1997 As many as 59 people who had come to see the film had lost their lives due to the fire in Delhi's Pratima Cinemas.

1943 Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose reached Tokyo from Germany.



1997 59 people died in a fire during a show at the gifted cinema in the capital Delhi.

1909 Birth of EMS Namboodiripad in Palaghat, Kerala.

1879 Revolutionary Ganesh Damodar Savarkar was born.

1923 Famous lyricist Prem Dhawan of Hindi cinema Jagat was born.

2016 India's famous writer, novelist, playwright, critic and satirist Mudrarakshasa died.

14 JUNE

1922 India's famous filmmaker and director K.K. It is Asif's birthday.

1928 The revolutionary Che Guevara was born. He played a pivotal role in the liberation of Cuba.

1905 Birth of famous music practitioner Hirabai Barodkar.

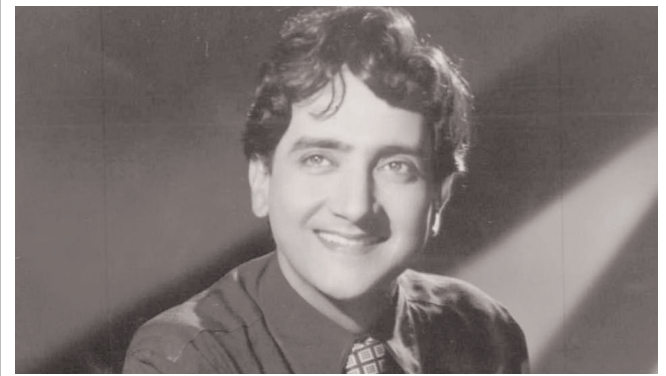
1922 Birth of director Asif of Mughal-e-Azam.

1958 Dr. C.V. Raman was awarded the Lenin Peace Prize in the Kremlin.

2012 The explosion at the Indian steel plant in Visakhapatnam on 2012 killed 11 people and injured 16.

1595 Guru Hargobind Singh, the sixth Guru of the Sikhs was born.

1880 Scientist Satish Chandra Dasgupta was born.



1920 Indian actor Bharat Bhushan was born

1967 Kumar Mangalam Birla, an Indian industrialist and president of the Aditya Birla Group, was born.

15 JUNE



1937 Social worker Anna Hazare was born today.

1950 Lakshmi Mittal, known as the Steel King, was born on this day.

1908 Start of Calcutta Stock Market.

1947 The All India Congress accepted the British plan for the partition of India in New Delhi.

2006 India and China decided to open the old Silk Route.

1981 The Supreme Court rules that in 1981, all children are entitled to public education, regardless of civic education

1991 In 1991, Congress won the tenth Lok Sabha election.

1899 Renowned painter and sculptor Devi Prasad Rai Chaudhary, born with Padma Bhushan, was born.

1878 Shiva Dayal Sahab, the founder of the Dixit Hindu sect Radha Swami Satsang, died.



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319 Jerusalem Ave, Hicksville, NY 11801

Kindly RSVP: Email: yashmd@hotmail.com or 516-840-9810

NJS RINGS IN CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION FINALE

BY MABEL PAIS

Grammy award-winning violinist Joshua Bell returns to perform Bruch Violin Concerto No. 1 with the New Jersey Symphony led by Music Director Xian Zhang, June 9-11.



left to right: Xian Zhang (Music Director), Daniel Bernard Roumain (Resident Artistic Catalyst), Joshua Bell (Star Guest Performer).
Photo Credit/ njsymphony.org

The program also features the world premiere of Daniel Bernard Roumain's *Farah (Joy)* for Voice and Orchestra and Stravinsky's 'The Rite of Spring.' Violinist and composer Daniel Bernard Roumain (DBR) is a musical polymath who has embraced electronica, jazz, R&B, pop, hip-hop, gospel and traditional African American music, in addition to classical. *Farah (Joy)* is Roumain's second work commissioned by the New Jersey Symphony in his capacity as the orchestra's first Resident Artistic Catalyst.

Scored for solo vocalist and orchestra, *Farah (Joy)* is in complete contrast to DBR's commission last year, "Symphonic Scenes and Samples from *We Shall Not Be Moved*", a work that centered on protest. Collaborating again with librettist Marc Bamuthi Joseph, DBR and Joseph chose to focus on joy.

Grammy-Award winning violinist Joshua Bell brings life to Bruch's Violin Concerto No. 1. With a renowned career spanning decades, he has established himself as one of the most celebrated and influential musicians of our time, captivating audiences worldwide with his performances.

The program continues with *The Rite of Spring*, Stravinsky's energetic and dark tale based on pagan rituals in Russia - a truly groundbreaking piece - became among the most important musical works of the 20th century.

PROGRAM

Season Finale with Joshua Bell
Friday, June 9, 8:00 pm | New Jersey Performing Arts Center in Newark
Saturday, June 10, 8 pm | Count Basie Center for the Arts in Red Bank
Sunday, June 11, 3 pm | New Jersey Performing Arts Center in Newark
Xian Zhang conductor
Joshua Bell violin
Becky Bass vocalist

NEW JERSEY SYMPHONY

NEW CENTURY GALA

Sunday, June 11, at 1:30 pm
The New Jersey Symphony is excited to present the culminating event of its centennial season and launch of its next century in conjunction with the New Century Gala. The event includes a pre-concert reception, premiere seating for the Season Finale with Joshua Bell concert and a post-concert dinner. (For information about the Young Professionals After Party - contact Jesse!)

CLASSICAL CONVERSATION

Friday, June 9, at 7 pm and Saturday, June 10, at 7 pm
Enjoy a lively Classical Conversation before the performance. Learn more about the music from New Jersey Symphony musicians, guest artists and other engaging insiders.

XIAN ZHANG

Grammy Awards-Winning Conductor Xian Zhang's recording with Time for Three and The Philadelphia Orchestra, *Letters for The Future* (on Deutsche Grammophon), won awards in both the Best Contemporary Classical Composition (specifically Kevin Puts' *Contact*), and Best Classical Instrumental Solo categories in 2023.

Xian Zhang is currently in her seventh season as Music Director of the New Jersey Symphony, which marks its 100th anniversary season in 2022-23. With New Jersey Symphony, Zhang has commissioned composers such as Wynton Marsalis, Jessie Montgomery, Qigang Chen, Chen Yi, Steven Mackey, Thomas Adès, Daniel Bernard Roumain, Christopher Rouse, Vivian Li, Gary Morgan, Christian McBride and Paquito D'Rivera. She is also responsible for introducing their annual Lunar New Year celebrations.

Zhang previously served as Principal Guest Conductor of the BBC National Orchestra's Chorus of Wales, the first female conductor to hold a titled role with a BBC orchestra. In 2002, she won first prize in the Maazel-Vilar Conductor's Competition. She was appointed New York Philharmonic's Assistant Conductor in 2002, subsequently becoming their Associate Conductor and the first holder of the Arturo Toscanini Chair.

DANIEL BERNARD ROUMAIN

Daniel Bernard Roumain's acclaimed work as a composer, performer, educator and activist spans more than two decades, and he has been commissioned by venerable artists and institutions worldwide. "About as omnivorous as a contemporary artist gets" (New York Times), DBR is perhaps the only composer whose collaborations span Philip Glass, Bill T. Jones, Savion Glover and Lady Gaga.

Known for his signature violin sounds infused with myriad electronic, urban and African American music influences, DBR takes his genre-bending music beyond the proscenium. He is a composer of chamber, orchestral and operatic works; has won an Emmy for Outstanding Musical Composition for his collaborations with ESPN; has been featured as keynote performer at technology conferences; and created large-scale, site-specific musical events for public spaces. DBR earned his doctorate in Music Composition from the University of Michigan and is currently Institute Professor and Professor of Practice at Arizona State University. Learn more at dbrmusic.com.

JOSHUA BELL

With a career spanning almost four decades, Grammy award-winning violinist Joshua Bell is one of the most celebrated artists of his era. Having performed with virtually every major orchestra in the world, Bell continues to maintain engagements as soloist, recitalist, chamber musician, conductor and Music Director of the Academy of St Martin in the Fields.

Bell has been named 2010 "Instrumentalist of the Year" by Musical America, a 2007 "Young Global Leader" by the World Economic Forum, nominated for six Grammy awards, and received the 2007 Avery Fisher Prize. He has also received the 2003 Indiana Governor's Arts Award and a Distinguished Alumni Service Award in 1991 from the Jacobs School of Music. In 2000, he was named an "Indiana Living Legend."

Bell has performed for three American presidents and the justices of the Supreme Court of the United States. He participated in former president Barack Obama's Committee on the Arts and Humanities' first cultural mission to Cuba, joining Cuban and American musicians on a 2017 Live from Lincoln Center Emmy nominated PBS special, *Joshua Bell: Seasons of Cuba*, celebrating renewed cultural diplomacy between Cuba and the United States. Learn more at joshuabell.com.

BECKY BASS

Becky Bass is an award-winning vocalist, steel pannist and actor from St. Croix, US Virgin Islands, currently based in Providence, Rhode Island. A graduate of Brown University in 2013 in Theatre Arts & Performance Studies, Bass was awarded the prestigious Weston Award for Excellence in Musical Theatre upon graduation.

As a multi-award winner, Bass performs her Caribbean Soul music as a solo artist and with several bands including Zili Musik and Sidy Maiga & Afrimanding. She also lends her talents to RPM Voices, a cross-cultural multi-generational gospel choir.

Bass opened for and performed with international Grammy & Emmy-Award winning artists including Oumou Sangare, Daniel Bernard Roumain, Yellowman, Warrior King and Wyclef Jean. She also performed at the National Gallery of Art's Jazz in the Garden concert series, Lincoln Center, Off-Broadway theater LaMaMa and numerous festivals. Learn more at beckybass.com.

TICKETS

Tickets are available at njsymphony.org or by phone at 1.800.ALLEGRO (255.3476). For more information, visit njsymphony.org/season-finale-with-joshua-bell.

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. Learn more at njsymphony.org.

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

NORTH 2 SHORE FESTIVAL EXPANDS TO SECOND CITY

BY MABEL PAIS

TOO BIG FOR ONE CITY.
TOO BIG FOR ONE WEEKEND.
THE FESTIVAL ONLY NEW JERSEY COULD
CREATE:
NORTH TO SHORE June 2023



Architects of N2S NJ Summer Festival: (left to right) - Asbury Park Mayor John Moor, Newark Mayor Ras Baraka, Governor Phil Murphy, Atlantic City Mayor Marty Small, First Lady Tammy Murphy, NJPAC President & CEO John Schreiber. Photo Credit/ NJPAC

NJPAC produces first-of-its-kind celebration of music, technology, comedy, and film over three jam-packed weekends in June 2023

Watch the promo video - youtu.be/u8o8pcvbspA

With the astounding success of the first week of the North to Shore Festival on which New Jersey embarked, Asbury Park will continue the celebrations in the second week: June 14-18.

The NJPAC-produced June mega-festival continues to showcase theatricals, comedy performances, visual arts exhibits and workshops, hip hop concerts, spoken word poetry readings, dance performances, storytelling events, fashion shows, street fairs and more added to expanding calendar of events.

Hundreds of New Jersey artists will take center stage at more than 60 new events added to the lineup of the inaugural North to Shore Festival, the three-city, three-weekend summer celebration of the arts, film and tech slated for June 2023.

An extraordinarily diverse roster of artists who've built their creative careers in three of the state's most iconic and culture-rich cities - Newark, Asbury Park and Atlantic City - will perform thanks to grants from the North to Shore Festival. This unprecedented festival is designed to illuminate the breadth of New Jersey's cultural offerings and provide a unique window into the thriving arts scenes in each city.

Dozens of North to Shore grants have been awarded to artists and groups in each city to enable them to bring this spectacular tapestry to life on each weekend of the festival.

Listen to the announcements of the Governor & First Lady Tammy Murthy: youtu.be/yJtrwwZnJU0

Governor Phil Murphy and First Lady Tammy Murphy took the stage at NJPAC's Prudential Hall, in March this year, alongside NJPAC President and CEO John Schreiber, Newark Mayor Ras J. Baraka, Asbury Park Mayor John Moor, and Atlantic City Mayor Marty Small to announce the North to Shore Festival, an extraordinary three-city celebration of arts and technology launched on June 7.

This inaugural, month-long festival showcases the talent, diversity and creativity this great state has to offer. Hosted by three incredible and unique cities, Atlantic City (June 7-11), Asbury Park (June 14-18) and Newark (June 21-25), the North to Shore Festival brings together 50+ venues for an

unprecedented celebration of Jersey-wide excellence, aligned with Governor Phil Murphy and First Lady Tammy Murphy's vision for a festival worthy of the Garden State's legacy in the arts and innovation.

"Today, we are thrilled to announce North to Shore - New Jersey's first multi-city festival celebrating the very best of music, comedy, film, and technology," said Governor Phil Murphy.

"This superstar event, held over three weekends in June, will attract folks from all over, creating another great reason for tourists to visit the Garden State as well as opportunities for local businesses in three of our iconic cities to shine. These festivals will generate economic activity and have a significant impact on our region and we look forward to shining a light on the diversity, creativity, and energy that makes New Jersey unique this summer."

"Beyond our global superstar headliners, North to Shore will also showcase the headliners of tomorrow. From producers to artists, filmmakers to comedians, this month-long celebration will also serve as an opportunity to elevate dozens of local performers and talent," said First Lady Tammy Murphy. "We look forward to sharing New Jersey's exceptional culture with the rest of the country and enjoying a festival that will undoubtedly be like no other."

ASBURY PARK (JUNE 14 - 18)

PARTNER VENUES:

Asbury Park Library
Turf Club
Springwood Ave Park
McLoones Supper Club
Robinson's Ale House
Stone Pony Summer Stage
Asbury Lanes
The House of Independents
The Wonder Bar
6/14 - Brian Fallon w/ Donovan Woods - The Stone Pony

Brian Fallon of Gaslight Anthem
June 14, 2023 - Stone Pony Summer Stage
NJ's Brian Fallon of The Gaslight Anthem strips it down this summer with an intimate singer/songwriter performance showcasing the joy of living in the moment

6/14 - Sensational Soul Cruisers - The Wonder Bar
6/15 - TechUnited: NJ BetterCapital Conference - Asbury Lanes

TechUnited: BetterCapital Conference
Thursday June 15, 2023 - Asbury Lanes
Celebrate and explore technology with other top innovators at the TechUnited: BetterCapital Conference on June 15 at Asbury Lanes.

6/15 - TechUnited: NJ Catalyst Awards - Asbury Lanes
TechUnited: Catalyst Awards
Thursday June 15, 2023 - Asbury Lanes

Celebrate entrepreneurs at the Catalyst Awards Ceremony June 15 in Asbury Park with North2Shore
6/15 - Dentist with Special Guests Little Hag and Low Light - The Wonder Bar

6/16 - Vintage Turf Club Show - The Turf Club/AP African-American Music Project
6/16 - Demi Lovato - Stone Pony Summer Stage

Demi Lovato
June 16, 2023 - Stone Pony Summer Stage
Get ready for pop-rock powerhouse Demi Lovato to bring the house down with raw honesty and pure passion this summer.

6/16 - Brick and Mortar - House of Independents

6/16 - Nicole Atkins - The Wonder Bar

Nicole Atkins

June 16, 2023 - The Wonder Bar

Shore native Nicole Atkins brings her unique fusion of Broadway theatricality, classic rock, 60s psychedelia + plenty of soul to the stage this summer.

6/17 - The B-52's - Stone Pony Summer Stage

The B-52's

June 17, 2023 - Stone Pony Summer Stage

American new wave sensation The B-52s are bringing their pop music lovefest to the Summer Stage.

6/17 - The Haunting w/ Echo Plum + Surf Haven - House of Independents

6/17 - The Smithereens with Marshall Crenshaw - The Wonder Bar

The Smithereens with Marshall Crenshaw

June 17, 2023 - The Wonder Bar

The Smithereens and Marshall Crenshaw bring catchy 1960s-influenced pop-rock tunes with attitude to the Jersey Shore.

6/18 - Clarence Clemons Celebration: Jarod Clemons and the Late Nights - The Wonder Bar

Clarence Clemons Celebration

June 18, 2023 - The Wonder Bar

Jarod Clemons youngest son of legendary E Street Band saxophonist Clarence Clemons hosts this special celebration with his band "The Late Nights", one of the brightest lights on the current Asbury Park music scene!

ADDITIONAL EVENTS

Westside Wednesday

June 14, 2023 - Asbury Park Library

An Evening of Springwood Ave. Art (featuring Turf Club Photography Collection) Presented by The Turf Club/Asbury Park African American Music Project.

Sensational Soul Cruisers

June 14, 2023 - Wonder Bar

When you want to shake your groove thing, New Jersey's own Sensational Soul Cruisers is just the ticket.

Dentist/Little Hag/Low Light

June 15, 2023 - The Wonder Bar

It's a three-in-one as Dentist, Little Hag, and Low Light share a bill to rock Asbury Park at The Wonder Bar for N2S.

Brick and Mortar

June 16, 2023 - The House of Independents

Don't miss the sick beats, brilliant tunes + off-the-hook performances by Jersey's own Brick + Mortar.

Vintage Turf Club Show

June 16, 2023 - Turf Club

The Turf Club is back and ready for rejuvenation. Celebrate the West Side of Asbury Park with Asbury Park African American Music Project.

Old School Dance party featuring the Bouie Brothers Disco Dance Party

June 17-18, 2023 - Springwood Avenue Park

Shake your groove thing at the Old School Dance Party featuring the Bouie Brothers Disco, presented by The Turf Club/Asbury Park African American Music Project.

NORTH2SHORE:

For the latest updates and new concert listings, visit northtoshore.com

@north2shore

THE NEW JERSEY PERFORMING ARTS CENTER (NJPAC)

Learn more at NJPAC.org.

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

"BROADWAY DEITY" PERFORMS AT FTH GALA

BY MABEL PAIS

The Flushing Town Hall (FlushingTownHall.org) holds its annual gala, theme: 'Around the World & Home Again,' on Thursday, June 15. The gala will celebrate the Smithsonian affiliate's mission to bring people together through arts and culture from around the globe.

This year, the gala will honor Broadway Deity André De Shields, President and CEO of the Chinese-American Planning Council (CPC) Wayne Ho, and Founder of the Guru Krupa Foundation Mukund Padmanabhan.

PROGRAM

The evening will consist of a cocktail hour, a sit-down dinner in the theater, and live entertainment, including a show-stopping performance from none other than De Shields himself.

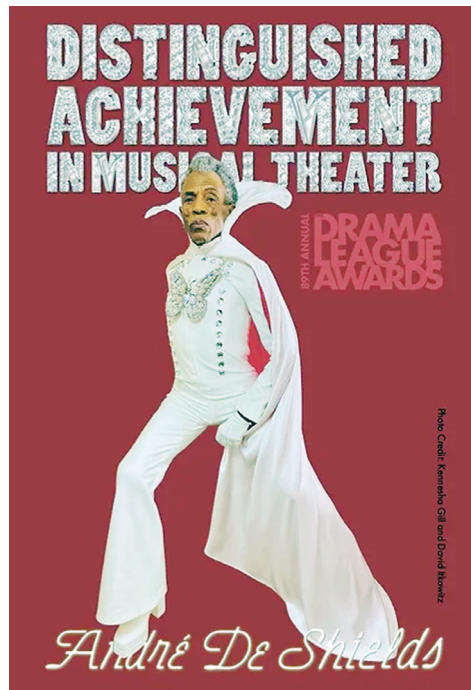
As the nonprofit's main benefit event of the year, the Gala raises critical funds for Flushing Town Hall.

"Like all of our programming at Flushing Town Hall, our gala is an opportunity to bring the community together in celebration of the arts and our borough's rich, global culture. It is also a chance to celebrate the remarkable individuals who, through their leadership, generosity, and extraordinary craft, have helped Flushing Town Hall to thrive and educate and inspire our audiences," said Ellen Kodadek, Executive & Artistic Director at Flushing Town Hall.

THE HONOREES

ANDRÉ DE SHIELDS

"The shifting cultural paradigm calls for every artist to advocate for Foundational Democracy--the doing of the greatest good for the greatest number of people. During the month of February in both 2021 and 2022, Flushing Town Hall provided the forum for my demonstrating the



Andre de Shields

Photo Credit/andredeshields.com

intersection of art and activism by inviting me to perform my tribute to Frederick Douglass--Mine Eyes Have Seen the Glory--in commemoration of Black Heritage Month. Accepting the Award for Life Achievement and serenading the audience with song are my expressions of immense gratitude." says André De Shields

Perennially known for his show-stopping performances in four legendary Broadway musicals--The Wiz, Ain't Misbehavin (Emmy Award), Play On!, and The Full Monty--Mr. De Shields has achieved the status of "Broadway Deity." Learn more at andredeshields.com.

WAYNE HO

Wayne Ho is the President and CEO of the Chinese-American Planning Council (CPC), the nation's largest Asian American social services agency. With a mission to promote the social and economic empowerment of Chinese

American, immigrant, and low-income communities, CPC serves over 280,000 community members in education, family support, and community and economic empowerment at 35 locations throughout New York City.

Since the pandemic started, CPC has led successful advocacy efforts to secure \$20 million from the State and \$5 million from the City to promote Asian American recovery and safety, spoken out against the rise in anti-Asian hate crimes, led the #Providers4FairPay campaign in support of living wages for home care workers, distributed over \$7.4 million in cash assistance and over 400,000 pounds of food to community members, and has been quoted in over 250 news stories.

Most recently, Ho served on the transition teams for Mayor Eric Adams, Manhattan Borough President Mark Levine, Manhattan District Attorney Alvin Bragg, and the joint nonprofit procurement task force of Mayor Eric Adams and Comptroller Brad Lander.

Ho has been recognized by City and State in the inaugural Asian Power 100 in 2020, in the inaugural Nonprofit Power 50 in 2018, and as a member of the 40 Under 40 New York City Rising Star in 2014. He was one of 10 leaders invited to meet with President Obama during the White House's Asian Pacific Islander Heritage Month Celebration in 2011. Ho serves on numerous boards, including the Human Services Council and Coro New York Leadership Center. He has also been appointed to several New York City and State advisory boards, including the NYC Independent Budget Office. Learn more at cpc-nyc.org.

MUKUND PADMANABHAN

Dr. Mukund Padmanabhan, founder of the Guru Krupa Foundation (guru-krupa.org - GKF). He has worked as a Research Scientist at the IBM T. J. Watson Research Lab. Then he pivoted to Wall Street, applying his technical expertise at

the hedge fund Renaissance Technologies. Dr. Padmanabhan's work has been published prolifically in several international technical journals. He is also a recipient of the Professional Achievement Award from UCLA Samueli School of Engineering and the Distinguished Alumnus Award from IIT Kharagpur. The foundation takes a holistic approach to charity and philanthropy, addressing various issues from social, educational, cultural/spiritual to environmental. GKF gives grants to partner organizations in the United States and India. GKF handed out over 70 grants in 2022 alone.

GKF's social projects assist vulnerable groups to help them break out of the cycle of poverty. The projects address child welfare (funding orphanages, schools, and book banks), food insecurity (funding food banks), and youth, women, and disabled empowerment (funding skill training programs). GKF's higher educational projects provide scholarships to students at institutions of higher learning. GKF's cultural/spiritual projects support preserving Hindu traditions and promoting cross-cultural integration and collaboration. Their environmental projects focus on water preservation and cleanup in India.

TICKETS

Single gala tickets and table packages are available. Gala ads and donations are greatly appreciated. For more detailed ticket, sponsor, and advertising information or to make a contribution, visit flushingtownhall.org/gala or contact Jessica Peña, Director of Development, at jpena@flushingtownhall.org

FLUSHING TOWN HALL

Learn more at flushingtownhall.org

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NJYS WITH KOREA BLIND GROUP PRESENTS CONCERT

BY MABEL PAIS

New Jersey Youth Symphony Joins Korea Blind Performance Group and Bella Music Foundation at Merkin Hall



Top left to right: Helen Cha Pyo, NJYS Music Director with three Visually Impaired Musicians.

Bottom: New Jersey Youth Symphony (NJYS).

Photo Credit/ NJYS

The New Jersey Youth Symphony (NJYS) performs the captivating concert "Darkness to Light: Hanbit Trio J," presented in collaboration by Korea Blind Performance Group and Bella Music Foundation on Friday, June 16 at 8:00 p.m. at the Kaufman Music Center's Merkin Hall in New York City.

Hanbit Trio J (Jae Hyouk Lee, piano; Jisun Kim, violin; Minjoo Kim, cello) is an exceptional group of visually impaired musicians who belong to the renowned Korean music company of persons with visual disabilities, Hanbit Performing Arts Company. The ensemble's accomplished soloists have honed their skills at prestigious institutions including the New England Conservatory and Manhattan School of Music and have garnered acclaim with

their performances across the globe.

The trio's captivating performance of Mendelssohn's Piano Trio No. 1 in D Minor, Op. 49 in the first half will be followed by a stirring rendition of Beethoven's Triple Concerto in C Major, Op. 56 with the acclaimed NJYS Youth Symphony conducted by Helen H. Cha-Pyo, promising an unforgettable musical experience.

TICKETS

Ticket to the performance are available at kaufmanmusiccenter.org/mch/event/darkness-to-light-hanbit-trio-j-with-new-jersey-youth-symphony

"We are honored to collaborate with the Korea Blind Performance Group and

Bella Music Foundation in presenting this extraordinary concert featuring the incredibly talented Hanbit Trio J and the New Jersey Youth Symphony," said Helen H. Cha-Pyo, Artistic Director and Principal Conductor of NJYS. "This promises to be an unforgettable musical experience for both performers and audience alike, showcasing the unifying power of music that transcends borders and brings people together from across the globe. We cannot wait to share this unique and powerful performance with our audiences."

WHARTON ARTS

Learn more at whartonarts.org.

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



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Swara Bhasker announces pregnancy with Fahad Ahmad

Swara Bhasker is beaming with joy and love as she is expecting her first child with husband Fahad Ahmad. The actress announced the news with mushy photos of herself and Fahad caressing her baby bump. In no time, her friends and colleagues from Bollywood swamped the comments section with congratulatory wishes. From "masi" Sonam Kapoor to Richa Chadha, heartwarming wishes arrived for the parents-to-be from every corner. "Sometimes all your prayers are answered all together! Blessed, grateful, excited (and clueless!) as we step into a whole new world! #comingsoon #Family #newarrival #gratitude #octoberbaby," read Swara's caption that sent the internet into a tizzy.

Resharing the post on her Instagram Stories, Sonam Kapoor extended her warm wishes to her Veere Di Wedding co-star with these words: "Congratulations Swara, I'm so so happy for you both." Swara Bhasker replied to it with an equally adorable note: "Thank you, Sonam masi."

In the comments section of Swara Bhasker's post, new mom Gauahar Khan commented: "Many congratulations (red heart icon) all blessings and love." Richa Chadha sent "badhaai, badhaai, badhaai" with lots of heart emojis.

Vicky Kaushal calls his marriage to Katrina Kaif 'paranthas weds pancakes'

Vicky Kaushal recently called his wedding to actor Katrina Kaif 'paranthas weds pancakes.' While Vicky is known for his desi Punjabi boy charm, Katrina has spent most of her time in London. Despite their differences, the two make one of the most popular couples in Bollywood.

Vicky and Katrina were rumoured to be dating, however, they kept it a secret for quite some time and never confirmed their relationship. They finally made their relationship public when tied the knot in Rajasthan in December 2021. Their wedding was one of the biggest events of the year.

Talking about Katrina, Vicky was recently asked if his wife Katrina likes to eat parantha as she is health conscious. Vicky revealed that Katrina loves eating parantha prepared by her mother-in-law. He told News Tak, "Our marriage is paranthas weds pancakes. They are the same only. She loves pancakes, I love paranthas." He also said, "Even she eats parathas. She loves mom ke haath ke paranthe (Katrina loves paranthas made by my mom)."

During the same interview, Vicky also shared his thoughts on love marriages and arranged marriages. He was asked which one he would recommend as he is a married man now. He said, "Love is important, marriage could be love or arranged. Understanding and compassion are important. It is important to understand that they are a different person, you are a different person and you have to come to an understanding as a couple. She doesn't have to agree with me fully, and I don't have to agree with her always. If that understanding exists, it doesn't matter if the marriage is arranged or love. It should give happiness to the family, and to them most importantly."

Vicky is currently busy with the success of his latest film, Zara Hatke Zara Bachke. The film stars him with Sara Ali Khan for the first time. Directed by Laxman Utekar, the romantic comedy is currently doing well at the box office. It has made a collection of Rs 30 crore so far. *Source: HT*



Manoj Bajpayee's Joram heads to Durban International Film Festival

The upcoming Manoj Bajpayee-starrer film Joram is set to be screened at the Durban International Film Festival which will be held from July 20 to July 30. The film has been directed by Devashish Makhija and marks his third collaboration with Manoj Bajpayee. Reacting to the news of the film heading to the film festival, Manoj said, "Joram is a very special film and I am simply fascinated with all the love that the film is garnering at the global level. Devashish has done a laudable job and no one could have backed the project better than Zee Studios. Am delighted that now the film is going to the Durban International Film Festival."

The film, which also stars Mohammed Zeeshan Ayyub, Smita Tambe and Megha Mathur in pivotal roles, and Tannishtha Chatterjee and Rajshri Deshpande in special appearances, is a hard-hitting psychological thriller about a displaced man who is on the run to protect his daughter. *Source: IANS*



Lust Stories 2 teaser eclipsed by comments on Tamannaah & Vijay

The teaser of the Netflix anthology Lust Stories 2 released on Tuesday afternoon and it navigated its way to the top of trends list soon after it released. The teaser consists of four anthology stories. However, there is one pairing in the film that the Internet is most thrilled about - Vijay Varma and Tamannaah, who are rumoured to be dating in real life as well. On the post shared by Vijay Varma, the comments are all about Tamannaah. An Instagram user wrote, "You and Tamannaah, Oh my God." "Meri tamannaah hai ki aapki yeh series bahut hit ho (I wish for this series to be a big hit)," a second read. A third added, "Humari tamannah hai ki aapki story tamam darshakon ko pasand aye (we wish that your story is liked by the audience)," inputs from another user. "So we get to see you and Tammy," another one added. "Can't wait to see my most favourite actors Vijay and Tamannaah," another comment read.





Jared Leto seen climbing hotel wall in Berlin

In an unexpected turn of events, actor Jared Leto was spotted climbing a wall of a hotel in Germany without using any harness. The video went viral on the internet soon after and sparked hilarious reactions.

Jared Leto was spotted wearing a black tee with a pair of joggers, as he was seen climbing the stone wall of the five-star Hotel De Rome in Berlin without a harness. He climbed only a few feet off the ground to the hotel balcony, before tracing his way down by climbing back through the stone wall again. Although the intentions behind this act is still unclear, he was seen there with TikTok Younes Zarou, according to a report by TMZ. The actor was also seen shooting some other segments near the hotel, that included a smoke-filled shot as well.

The small clip of Jared climbing the hotel wall went viral on Twitter, and generated hilarious responses. A tweet read, "bro thinks he is tom cruise."

Jennifer Aniston's idea of workout at the age of 54

Jennifer Aniston has stopped doing "painful" workouts and is more "mindful" of exercises these days so she can remain on her feet forever.

The 54-year-old actress explained that she used to force herself to do up to an hour of intense physical exercise every day but in recent times she has started to favour "small movements" to keep her in shape.

She said, "The workouts I used to do were exhausting and painful. It's functional exercise. It's mindful, it's small movements. My mind used to (tell) me that if I didn't do 45 minutes to an hour workout, I wasn't drenched, (it wasn't enough). I put my body through it and over time, breaking your body, pushing your body that hard is just diminishing returns. And as long as I'm going to live, I want to be able to move!"

The Friends star went on to urge her fans to do a small amount of exercise every day. She said, "Just do 10 to 20 minutes, you can do anything for 10 to 20 minutes. You start to enjoy it, that's the other thing. I really do push myself, just at least do that little bit. I'll immediately feel incredible. You just instantly start to feel those endorphins and that energy. "Not so much my parents' generation. So I would watch their bodies decline. If I'm going to be 75, 85 years old, I don't want to be in a wheelchair. I don't want someone to have to lift me up and take me to the bathroom. Mindfulness, mindfulness. That's all it is!"

Source: IANS



Are Shakira and Lewis Hamilton dating?

Rumours are rife that Shakira and Lewis Hamilton are dating after the pair was spotted over the weekend in Spain. The two were seen having dinner together on Sunday night, June 4. It is believed that the couple first crossed paths at Cipriani in Downtown Miami.

Earlier, a group of people including Mustafa the Poet and Kendall Jenner's friend Fai Khadra, celebrated Hamilton's success at the Spanish Grand Prix, where he made a second place finish. He was spotted at one point with his arm wrapped around Shakira's waist as they posed for a group photo. Hamilton even joked recently that he needs to look for a "Latina" girlfriend.

Shakira and Hamilton were first seen together last month. While many fans have assumed the two are dating, they have not officially confirmed the news. Shakira, a mother of two children, was spotted boating with a group in Miami last month. Hamilton was also spotted in the group. The athlete was seen helping her as she boarded the yacht outside her waterfront mansion.

This comes after Shakira's bitter separation from Gerard Piqué last June. The couple parted ways after Piqué allegedly cheated on her. The two began dating in 2011 and were together for 11 years. Shakira and Piqué met on the set of her song 'Waka Waka' back in 2010. The song's music video featured several popular soccer stars, including Piqué.

Source: HT



Taylor Swift and Matty Healy reportedly break up

Taylor Swift and Matty Healy have called it quits after fueling romance rumours for about a month.

Taylor and Healy have been linked since early May and have been spotted in public together several times.

"She had fun with him, but it was always casual," says a source. "They are no longer romantically involved." Healy was also seen at all six of Swift's Eras Tour shows in Nashville and Philadelphia, along with Swift's father Scott and friends like Blake Lively and Gigi Hadid.

Source: ANI



GRIM HOMECOMING FOR SOUTH SUDANESE FLEEING SUDAN VIOLENCE

RENK (SOUTH SUDAN) (TIP): When fighting erupted in Sudan, Rosa Yusif Elias escaped on foot with her seven children over the border to her homeland, South Sudan, where she thought they would be safe.

Instead, they have been stranded for weeks in an isolated camp that has been overwhelmed by the sudden arrival of tens of thousands of people fleeing the violence next door.

"This place is full of flies and snakes, and the food is not good," said Elias, who fled Sudan after fighting erupted between the army and a powerful paramilitary force on April 15.

She said children were coming down with diarrhoea. "In the last few days, three children have died in this camp."

The influx adds to an already dire situation in South Sudan, a troubled country that has struggled with war, famine and natural disasters since gaining independence from Sudan in 2011. Those arriving have turned to aid groups already under strain trying to provide basic services in a country where two-thirds of the population rely on humanitarian assistance to survive.

The scene near the border is grim, with children suffering malnutrition, tensions over limited resources, and families sleeping in the open as the camp's population climbs by the day.

"We are suffering in this camp, children are dying," said Santuke Danga, who is stuck at the camp near Renk, a frontier town that has become the epicentre of this latest crisis.

"We queue up in order to get porridge for the children, at the water point people fight, (there is) no security and sometimes hyenas come."

The UN refugee agency UNHCR said over 100,000 people have crossed from Sudan since fighting there began about two months ago -- an average of more than 1,000 per day. Some arrive on donkeys, too weak to walk any further. Children have been particularly affected, dehydrated and malnourished after the long journey overland through the harsh country. At a health clinic in the camp, a long queue stretched out the door.

only Puk waited with his one-and-a-half-year-old girl to see a doctor. She was admitted for severe acute malnutrition, a life-threatening condition. "The child felt sick earlier, and there was no medication in Khartoum because there was fighting. That is why he is malnourished," the father of two told AFP. "We took two weeks to arrive here, and on the road, she was only taking water and milk from her mother." Asunta Agok, from UNHCR, said a number of people had died upon arriving, including an infant. "The child had a very short illness, and there was no medical team on the ground to provide medical assistance," she told AFP.(AFP)

Four children wounded in knife attack in French town, two in critical condition; assailant arrested

ANNECY, FRANCE (TIP) : A Syrian national wounded four young children and an adult in a knife attack in a park in the southeastern French town of Annecy on June 8, police said, and some of the victims were in critical condition.

The attacker was a Syrian national with legal refugee status in France, a police official told Reuters. He was not known to security agencies and his motives were unclear, an investigative source said.

FRENCH INTERIOR MINISTER GERALD DARMANIN SAID ON TWITTER THAT THE ATTACKER HAD BEEN ARRESTED. BFM TV SHOWED FOOTAGE OF SEVERAL POLICEMEN OVERPOWERING AN INDIVIDUAL IN THE PARK.

Two children and one adult were in life-threatening condition, while two children were slightly hurt, police said.

The wounded children were aged between 22 months and 3 years, they said.

"Children and one adult are between life and death. The nation is in shock," French President Emmanuel Macron said in a statement on Twitter, calling the attack "an act of absolute cowardice".

Witnesses said at least one of the children wounded in the attack was in a stroller. The incident took place at around 0745 GMT in the playground of a picturesque lakeside park in Annecy, a town in the French Alps.



"He jumped (in the playground), started shouting and then went towards the strollers, repeatedly hitting the little ones with a knife," a witness who gave his name as Ferdinand told BFM TV.

"Mothers were crying, everybody was running," said George, another witness and owner of a nearby restaurant.

Several witnesses described the scene of the attack, the Le Paquet park, as an usually tranquil place popular with tourists for its stunning views of Lake Annecy and the mountains.

"It's a place where babysitters and parents take young children to play. I often see around 15 toddlers there in the morning, and the atmosphere is fantastic," said Yohan, who works at an

ice-cream parlour just opposite the park.

France has been shocked by a number of violent incidents over the past few months, including the fatal stabbing last month of a nurse in the northern town of Reims. Also last month, a drunk driver accidentally killed three policemen.

Macron has denounced what he calls a "de-civilisation process" in the country, while opposition lawmakers say his government has been too lax on law and order.

"Nothing more abominable than to attack children," National Assembly speaker Yael Braun-Pivet said on Twitter. Parliament observed a minute of silence to mark the incident. (Reuters)

Israeli troops fire tear gas at protesters along Lebanon border

KFARCHOUBA (LEBANON) (TIP): Israeli soldiers fired tear gas to disperse scores of protesters who pelted the troops with stones along the border with Lebanon on June 9, leaving some Lebanese demonstrators and troops suffering breathing problems.

The tension on the edge of the Lebanese border village of Kfarchouba began earlier this week over the Israeli military digging in the area that Lebanon claims.

On Wednesday, a Lebanese villager tried to stop an Israeli bulldozer from digging a trench along the border. Once the villager's legs were covered with sand as the bulldozer moved ahead, U.N. peacekeepers jumped in and convinced the driver to move back. Videos of the elderly man with his legs stuck in the sand dune went viral on social media.

Israel ended an 18-year occupation of southern Lebanon when its troops

withdrew from the area in May 2000.

Friday's protest took place on the edge of Kfarchouba hills, which Beirut says is Lebanese land occupied by Israel. Kfarchouba hills and the nearby Chebaa Farms, are areas captured by Israel during the 1967 Mideast War and claimed by Lebanon.

On June 9, some of the protesters tried to break through a fence in the rugged area overlooked by an Israeli military post. Israeli forces fired tear gas to disperse them while Lebanese troops and U.N. peacekeepers later moved in and pushed the protesters back.

"DO NOT CROSS THE BLUE LINE," read a banner carried by a U.N. peacekeeper in Arabic, English and French, referring to the border drawn after Israel's withdrawal in 2000. Israeli troops and several vehicles, including a heavily armoured Merkava tank, were seen in the area.

Lebanese troops were on alert in the area and reinforcements were brought in.

In a statement, the Israeli military said protesters tried to damage a border barrier and threw stones at Israeli soldiers in the area. The military said forces responded with "riot dispersal means," which typically means tear gas or stun grenades. The military said it "would not allow any attempt to violate Israeli sovereignty."

Andrea Tenenti, a spokesman for the U.N. peacekeeping force United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL), said peacekeepers are on the ground working to decrease tension in the area.

"We have urged the parties to utilize our coordination mechanisms effectively to prevent misunderstandings, violations, and contribute to the preservation of stability in the area," Tenenti said. (PTI)

Syrians lose life-saving care as Turkey halts medical visits

HALZOUN (TIP): Huddled inside a tent in rebel-held northwestern Syria, Umm Khaled says she fears her baby will die unless she gets specialist treatment in neighbouring Turkey for a congenital heart defect.

Seriously ill Syrians in the country's last rebel bastion of Idlib used to be able to access life-saving care across the border.

But the main crossing there for medical visits slammed shut after a deadly earthquake ravaged southern Turkey on February 6, prompting Ankara to prioritise its domestic needs.

In just a week before the disaster, baby Islam needs urgent cardiac surgery, unavailable in Syria's war-scarred Idlib region where the healthcare system fell into further disarray after the quake.

"I watch my daughter suffer and I can't do anything about it," said Umm Khaled, showing only her eyes and hands beneath her black niqab.

The 27-year-old said her baby was losing weight and her condition worsening.

Islam often struggles to breathe, and a doctor has warned that repeated such episodes, which put further strain on her heart, could be deadly without an operation or treatment. But only cancer patients have been allowed to cross into Turkey after months of waiting -- and only since Monday.

"When she cries, she turns blue and her heart beats very fast," Umm Khaled said, as her three other young children sat on the ground in their tent in the village of Halzoun.

"I hope they'll open the crossing soon," she said, baby Islam squirming in her



lap.

TREATMENT 'UNAVAILABLE'

Doctors in Idlib refer most heart and cancer patients to Turkey, where they can receive free treatment under an agreement between local authorities and Ankara. Burns victims, premature babies and people requiring complicated surgery have also been allowed to cross.

But after the quake-ravaged health facilities on the Turkish side of the border, Ankara halted medical visits through the Bab al-Hawa crossing -- the sole access point for patients from Idlib.

The border has remained open for United Nations humanitarian aid, goods and even Syrians visiting relatives in the area. Firas al-Ali, diagnosed with a benign tumour near his brain in 2017, has undergone surgery and tests in Turkey, where he usually gets medication and treatment every three months. He had been waiting for treatment on February 23, but then the

earthquake struck. "Due to the delay, I'm getting pain in my eyes and my head," the 35-year-old blacksmith said.

"My treatment is unavailable here and if it is, it is expensive and I can't afford it." Rebel-held Idlib is home to around three million people, many of them displaced from other parts of Syria and dependent on humanitarian aid.

Government-held areas of Syria are off-limits to civilians from Idlib. The Syrian side of the Bab al-Hawa crossing into Turkey is controlled by the country's former Al-Qaeda affiliate, Hayat Tahrir al-Sham (HTS).

SYRIANS 'RISK DYING'

The Syrian American Medical Society (SAMS) runs the only centre in Idlib for cancer patients. Paediatric oncologist Abdel Razzaq Bakur said the clinic lacked diagnostic equipment and medications and had been overwhelmed by "numerous patients who urgently need to be admitted in Turkey." (AFP)

OFFICIALS SAY TWO MIGRANTS DROWNED WHILE ATTEMPTING TO REACH SPAIN, 132 ARRIVE SAFELY

MADRID (TIP): The bodies of two migrants were found on a beach in southeastern Spain after 132 other people arrived in two boats on June 9, a government official said. José María Martín, a central government official in the city of Almería, told reporters that the two died while trying to swim to the coast. Martín said that they were victims of criminal human smuggling gangs. The two boats carrying migrants are believed to have set sail from Morocco. Spain's state news agency said the operators had forced the people who died to leave their boat. There were no details on their nationalities. Thousands of migrants from the northwest and sub-Saharan African countries try to reach Spain in overloaded boats each year. Many die in the attempt. (AFP)

AFTER DAM BREACH, RUSSIA SHELLS UKRAINE'S KHERSON



KHERSON (TIP) : Russian forces on June 8 shelled a southern Ukrainian city, Kherson, that was inundated in a catastrophic dam collapse, Ukrainian officials said, forcing a suspension of some rescue work hours after President Volodymyr Zelenskyy travelled to the area to assess the damage.

At least five people have died, many are homeless, and tens of thousands are without potable water after the Kakhovka dam's destruction. Ukraine accused Russia of blowing of the facility, which Moscow's forces controlled, while Russia said Ukraine bombarded it. Hundreds of Ukrainians were rescued from rooftops.

Meanwhile, Ukraine dismissed reports about its counteroffensive.

Media reports suggested the offensive by Ukraine had begun, but a spokesperson for the General Staff of the Ukrainian Armed Forces said, "We have no such information." Ukraine's military said the flooding in Kherson had forced Russian troops to retreat by a few kilometres. — Agencies

Canadian border agency urged to stop deporting Indian students caught in fake admission letter scandal

TORONTO (TIP): A Canadian parliamentary committee has voted unanimously to urge the border services agency to stop the deportation of nearly 700 Indian students who were duped by unscrupulous education consultants in India to enter the country with "fraudulent college admission letters."

The Indian students, mostly from Punjab, face deportation from Canada after authorities found that their admission offer letters to educational institutions were fake.

The matter came to light in March when these students applied for permanent residency in Canada.

In a symbolic move, the all-party immigration committee voted unanimously on Wednesday to call on the Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA) to waive the inadmissibility of the affected students, The Toronto Star newspaper reported.

The committee also asked the CBSA to provide the students, as many as 700



from India, with an alternative pathway to permanent residence on humanitarian grounds or through a regularisation programme, the report said.

Calling the students victims of fraud, Jenny Kwan, a lawmaker who tabled the motion said, "So as a first step, this is absolutely essential and necessary. The

students are victims of fraud and should not be penalised."

These students, I've met with many of them, now are just in such a terrible state. They've lost money, and they are stuck in a terrible situation. And some of them have deportation orders. Others have pending meetings with CBSA," she added. (PTI)

'NEVER SEEN SUCH A PROLONGED HEATWAVE IN 50 YEARS': BANGLADESH SHUTS SCHOOLS, CUTS POWER

DHAKA (TIP): Bangladesh has shut thousands of schools as it struggles through its lengthiest heatwave in half a century, with widespread power cuts only compounding locals' misery.

Temperatures in the South Asian nation's capital of Dhaka have surged to around 40 degrees Celsius (104 degrees Fahrenheit), with the poor bearing the brunt of the blazing sun.

"We have never seen such a prolonged heatwave since Bangladesh's independence in 1971," said Bazlur Rashid, a senior official at the Bangladesh Meteorological Department.

Tens of thousands of primary schools were shut down by the government, and electricity production has been drastically cut, even as demand for air conditioners and fans has surged.

On June 6, the country was forced to suspend operations at its biggest power plant because the government was unable to afford the coal to fuel it.

The Bangladeshi taka depreciated about 25 percent against the US dollar last year, driving up the cost of fuel imports and power utilities.

Other plants have fallen well short of meeting demand, leading to hours-long blackouts.

'FALLING SICK'

Housewife Tania Akhter said that her youngest child was resting at home with classes cancelled, but her 12-year-old daughter was still going to school.

"Those classes should also be shut down because the students are suffering a lot in this heat -- they are falling sick," Akhter said.

The heatwave began in April and ran into early May before easing, then resumed late last month, with forecasters predicting the mercury will remain high until the end of the week.

"Every summer Bangladesh witnesses heatwaves, but this year's heatwave is unusual," Rashid told AFP. "In the past, heatwaves would only continue for a few days or a week, but this year it has continued for two weeks and more."

A study last month by the World Weather Attribution group found that climate change had made record-breaking deadly heatwaves in Bangladesh -- as well as India, Laos and Thailand -- at least 30 times more likely.

On June 3, the temperature in the northern Dinajpur district hit 41.3 degrees Celsius (106.3 degrees Fahrenheit), the highest recorded there since 1958.

"The heatwave in the past would affect only some parts of the country," Rashid added. "This year it is very extensive and spread to almost all parts of the country." (AFP)

Crisis-hit Pakistan unveils \$51 billion budget, with half to service debt

KARACHI (TIP): Pakistan's cash-strapped government unveiled a 14.5 trillion rupee (around \$50.5 billion) budget on June 9, with over half set aside to service 7.3 trillion rupees of debt.

Pakistan's economy has been stricken by a balance-of-payments crisis as it attempts to service crippling external debt, while months of political chaos have scared off potential foreign investment.

Inflation has rocketed, the rupee has plummeted and the country can no longer afford imports, causing a severe decline in industrial output.

About 950 billion rupees was earmarked for vote-winning development projects ahead of a general election later this year, while other populist measures include civil service pay rises of up to 35 per cent and a 17.5 per cent increase for state pensions.

Presenting the budget to the National Assembly on Friday, Finance Minister Ishaq Dar insisted targets had been prudent.

"There are general elections in the country soon, but despite that the next fiscal-year budget is prepared as a responsible budget instead of an election budget," he said.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif blamed his predecessor Imran Khan -- ousted by a vote of no-confidence in April last year -- for the morass. "Our preceding government has battered the economy," he said.

Poor being 'humiliated'

Akhtar Khan Nawaz, a labourer at a fruit and vegetable market in the capital Islamabad, said "the poor were being humiliated."



"(The budget) will be of no use unless inflation is reduced, the poor will only get relief if inflation is eased," he told AFP.

Sharif said he was optimistic for an extension later this month on an International Monetary Fund (IMF) loan facility crucial to keeping the economy afloat. "The IMF chief has given his verbal commitment... there is no hindrance," he said. The IMF has told Pakistan it needs to secure additional external financing, scrap a swathe of populist subsidies, and allow the rupee to float freely against the dollar before unlocking another tranche of the \$6.5 billion facility. Still, the latest budget sets aside 1.07 trillion rupees for subsidies.

"The government definitely has to take such popular decisions as it is the election year," said Nasir Iqbal, an economist at the Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE).

The country failed to meet any economic growth targets for the fiscal year 2022-23,

according to a key government report released Thursday, with GDP growth a miserly 0.3 per cent.

Dar said Friday that the latest budget was based on GDP growth of 3.5 per cent, although the World Bank projected a less-ambitious two per cent growth in a report issued earlier this week. It also had an annual inflation forecast of 21 per cent, against a current year-on-year rate of 37.97 per cent.

The economy has also been ravaged by record monsoon floods last year that left almost a third of the country underwater, laying waste to vast swathes of farmland and leaving tens of millions homeless.

But the political crisis remains the biggest risk factor in the months ahead.

Former premier Khan's hugely popular campaign to return to office spilled into street violence after his brief arrest last month, prompting a massive crackdown on his party including mass arrests and trials scheduled for military courts. (AFP)

Bomb explodes during funeral of Taliban deputy governor; another official killed

BADAKHSHAN (TIP): A bomb exploded on June 8 in Afghanistan's northeastern Badakhshan province killing a former Taliban police official. The official identified as Safiullah Samim, was killed during a memorial ceremony for a deputy governor who was killed in another blast two days earlier.

SAMIM, TALIBAN'S FORMER POLICE CHIEF FOR NORTHERN BAGHLAN PROVINCE, WAS AMONG THOSE KILLED IN THE BLAST DURING THE FUNERAL CEREMONY, AS PER THE INFORMATION GIVEN BY MOAZUDDIN AHMADI, THE PROVINCIAL DIRECTOR OF INFORMATION AND CULTURE. HE SAID THERE ARE CASUALTIES AND AN INVESTIGATION IS ONGOING.



The latest explosion occurred near Nabawi mosque during a funeral for Mawlavi Nisar Ahmad Ahmadi, the deputy governor of Badakhshan.

Ahmadi was killed by a bomb placed in a car on Tuesday, along with his driver in Faizabad, the capital of Badakhshan. Ten people were also wounded in the

blast.

Local sources who spoke on condition of anonymity said that the latest blast happened inside the mosque where Taliban officials and local people were present, killing at least 13 people including Samim.

THE ISLAMIC STATE GROUP HAD CLAIMED RESPONSIBILITY FOR JUNE 6 CAR BOMBING.

Ahmadi was wounded in the explosion and died shortly after at a local hospital, according to the director of the information and culture in Badakhshan.

In December, a car bombing killed Badakhshan's provincial police chief as he made his way to work.

The regional affiliate of the Islamic State group known as the Islamic State in Khorasan Province said at the time that it had carried out that attack. IS said it had parked an explosive-laden car on the road and detonated it when the police chief was close by. (AP)

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Harness benefits of cinnamon for healthy hair

Are you suffering from excessive hair fall? Are those tangled hair strands on the comb giving you nightmares? If yes, then it's time to buckle up and pay attention to your hair health. We understand the sight of dull and rough hair may trigger a frantic search for home remedies, with people resorting to expensive hair oils and shampoos. But what we often fail to realise is that our diet has a crucial role to play. It is rightly said, we are what we eat and there are a variety of food ingredients to prevent hair fall and promote hair growth as well. The best part is, you do not need to go miles to get hold of those foods; instead, scan through your kitchen pantry and pick a jar of cinnamon.

Cinnamon, also called dalchini in Hindi, has been a part of our diet since time immemorial. It is aromatic, flavourful and adds a good dose of healthy nutrients to our diet. Cinnamon is packed with antioxidants, anti-inflammatory and anti-viral properties, potassium, magnesium and several essential vitamins and minerals that are known to help us detox, lose weight, manage diabetes and heart health among others.

As mentioned earlier, cinnamon is packed with various essential vitamins and minerals and these nutrients may help boost hair health too by reducing hair fall, promoting hair growth and treating dandruff.

How Cinnamon Helps Slow Hair Fall?

Hair fall ranging between 50 and 100 strands a day is considered normal, but when the number increases it becomes a matter of



concern. That is where a dose of cinnamon may come to help. According to a study, published in the International Journal of Ayurveda and Alternative Medicine, a compound in cinnamon, named cinnamaldehyde, may help with blood circulation in hair follicles, reducing the risks of hair fall.

How Does Cinnamon Help Promote Hair Growth?

A study conducted by researchers at the University of

California found that cinnamon contains a compound named procyanidin, which is linked to the growth of hair. Besides, it is also a potent source of antioxidants, which help you detox, promoting blood and oxygen flow in the body. How Does Cinnamon Help Prevent Dandruff? Cinnamon is packed with anti-bacterial and anti-fungal properties and according to several studies, these properties may work against Malassezia, a fungus that is known to cause dandruff in hair.



Folic acid during pregnancy could cut obesity risk in children

Thank your doctor for asking you to have folic acid during pregnancy. By doing so you may have shielded your child's future risk of obesity, a study reveals. This is more in the case of mothers who were obese.

Folic acid or folate -- an essential B vitamin -- reduces the foetus' risk for neural tube defects, which are malformations affecting the brain, spine and spinal cord.

"Maternal nutrition during pregnancy can have long-lasting effects on child health, as well as the health of a mother after pregnancy," said lead researcher Xiaobin Wang, from Johns Hopkins University in the US.

The study, published online in JAMA Pediatrics, suggested that adequate maternal folate may mitigate the effect of a mother's obesity on her child's health.

"Folate is well known for preventing brain and spinal cord defects in a developing foetus, but its effects on metabolic disorders, such as diabetes and obesity, is less understood," added Cuilin Zhang from the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD) in the US.

During pregnancy, maternal obesity increases the risk for a range of pregnancy complications, such as stillbirth, birth defects and preterm birth, the researchers said.

The findings showed that babies born to obese mothers have long-term health risks, including a higher risk of obesity in childhood. Obese mothers in the study tended to have lower folate levels than normal weight mothers.

Children of mothers who had the lowest levels of folate in the gestation period showed the highest risk of obesity.

"This study uncovers what may be an additional benefit of folate and identifies a possible strategy for reducing childhood obesity," Zhang noted.

However, the children of obese mothers with adequate folate levels (at least 20 nm/L) showed a 43 per cent lower risk of obesity compared to children of obese mothers with lower folate (less than 20 nm/L).

Conversely, when folate levels reached approximately 20 nanomoles per litre (nm/L), which is within the normal range for adults, further increases in folic acid did not confer additional benefits, indicating a threshold or ceiling effect.

Establishing an "optimal" rather than "minimal" folate concentration may be beneficial for women planning a pregnancy, especially obese women, the researchers suggested. For the study, the team analysed health records of more than 1,500 mother-child pairs, ranging from two to nine-years-old.

FOOD CORNER

Nawabi Pulao



Ingredients

- 1/2 kg chicken
- 1/4 kg mutton
- 1/2 kg rice
- 1 cup curd, well beaten
- 1 cup milk
- 3 onions
- 2 eggs
- 1/2 cup green peas, shelled

- 1 pod arlic
- 1 big piece of ginger
- 1 tsp rose water
- Ghee or oil for frying
- Salt to taste

Method

1. Clean and wash rice and soak it in water for 15 minutes.
2. Cook the rice till half done. Keep aside.
3. Clean and cut the mutton into cubes. Joint the chicken. Boil the eggs and keep aside.
4. Slice the onions. Grind ginger and garlic to a paste.
5. Heat ghee in a frying pan, add onions, ginger-garlic paste and fry well.
6. Add the jointed chicken and fry. Add 3 cups of water and salt to taste and cook on slow fire till the meat is tender and only 1/3 of the gravy is left.
7. Add some more ghee and the well beaten curd. Cook on a slow fire until the curd gets absorbed.
8. Add 1 tsp of rose water after the meat has cooled.
9. Take a heavy bottomed pan and arrange alternate layers of rice and cooked meat taking care that the first and last layers are that of rice.
10. Place in an oven and cook for about 15-20 minutes on low heat.
11. Garnish with fried onions, quartered boiled eggs and boiled green peas.

Eating junk food linked with reduced deep sleep quality: Study

Consuming an unhealthier diet is associated with a lower quality of deep sleep, according to a small-scale study.

Deep sleep, the third stage of sleep, repairs and restores necessary functions such as memory, muscle growth, and immunity.

Researchers at Uppsala University in Sweden analysed how junk food affects sleep. Healthy participants consumed an unhealthier as well as a healthier diet in a randomised order.

The study, recently published in the journal *Obesity*, shows that after eating the junk food, the quality of the participants' deep sleep deteriorated, compared with those who followed the healthier diet.

"Both poor diet and poor sleep increase the risk of several public health conditions," said Jonathan Cedernaes, Associate Professor at Uppsala University.

A total of 15 healthy normal-weight young men participated in two sessions of the study. Participants were first screened for aspects such as their sleep habits, which had to be normal and within the recommended range of seven to nine hours per night.



The participants were randomly given both a healthier diet and an unhealthier diet. The two diets contained the same number of calories, adjusted to each individual's daily requirements.

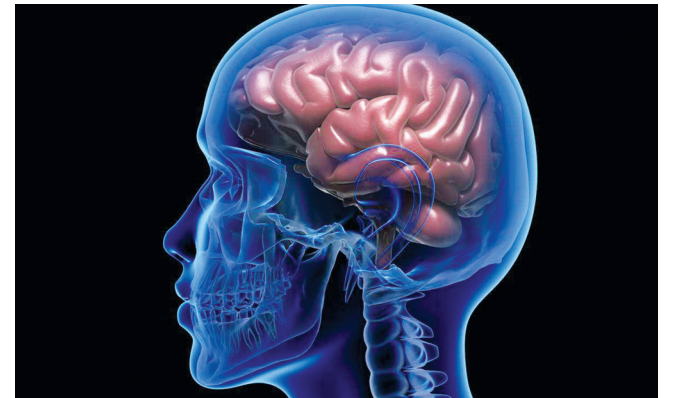
Among other things, the unhealthier diet contained a higher content of sugar and saturated fat and more processed food items. Each diet was consumed for a week, while the participants' sleep, activity and meal schedules were

monitored at an individual level.

"What we saw was that the participants slept for the same amount of time when they consumed the two diets. This was the case both while they were following the diets, as well as after they had switched to another, identical diet," said Cedernaes.

The researchers looked at slow-wave activity, a measure that can reflect how restorative deep sleep is.

Source: PTI



New drug to stop deadly brain cancer from worsening shows promise

The first clinical trial analysing a targeted therapy drug specifically developed to treat deadly brain cancer has shown that it can extend the amount of time people with glioma are on treatment without their cancer worsening.

The finding suggests a possible new treatment option for people with the slow-growing but deadly brain tumor.

Researchers from the University of California-Los Angeles found the drug vorasidenib, manufactured by French drug company Servier Pharmaceuticals, more than doubled progression-free survival in people with recurrent grade 2 glioma.

Compared with people who received a placebo, people who took vorasidenib went for nearly 17 more months without their cancer worsening, delaying the time before they needed to begin chemotherapy and radiation.

The results of the trial were published in the *New England Journal of Medicine* and were also presented at the ongoing annual meeting of the American Society Clinical Oncology in Chicago, US.

The type of glioma studied in the paper, recurrent grade 2 glioma with IDH1 and IDH2 mutations, tends to affect younger people, often those in their 30s.

The current standard treatment, a combination of radiation and chemotherapy, can cause neurological deficits that make it hard for patients to learn, remember new things, concentrate or make everyday decisions -- all of which can be especially challenging for people who have young families or are in the early years of their professional lives.

According to Dr Timothy Cloughesy, Professor of neuro-oncology at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA, the availability of a treatment that enables patients to go for longer periods of time between chemotherapy and radiation treatments could have a major impact.

"We're always concerned about the delayed effects of radiation," said Cloughesy. "Having the ability to hold off on getting radiation therapy to the brain with effective therapy is really critical and very meaningful to this population of patients." Vorasidenib is a brain-penetrant inhibitor, which means that it has the ability to cross the blood-brain barrier. The drug has not yet been approved by the US FDA for clinical use.

Source: IANS

Higher blood pressure risk linked to oral estrogen hormone use in women

According to research, women aged 45 and more who used oestrogen hormone treatment in tablet form were more likely to develop high blood pressure than those who used transdermal (topically applied to the skin) or vaginal formulations. The findings of the research were published in *Hypertension*, a peer-reviewed American Heart Association journal. According to the American Heart Association, a woman's body generates less oestrogen and progesterone after menopause, which may raise her risk for cardiovascular disorders such as heart failure.

Previous research has found that some hormone therapies may reduce cardiovascular disease risk in menopausal women under 60 years old or who have had menopause for less than 10 years. While high blood pressure is a modifiable risk factor for cardiovascular disease, the possible effects of different forms of hormone treatment on blood pressure in menopausal women remain unknown, according to the authors of this study.



"We know estrogens ingested orally are metabolized through the liver, and this is associated with an increase in factors that can lead to higher blood pressure," said lead study author Cindy Kalenga, an M.D./Ph.D.-candidate at the University of Calgary in Alberta, Canada.

"We know that post-menopausal women have increased risk of high blood pressure when compared to pre-menopausal women, furthermore, previous studies have shown that specific types of hormone therapy have been associated with higher rates of heart disease," Kalenga said. "We chose to dive deeper into factors associated with hormone therapy, such as the route of administration (oral vs. non-oral) and type of

estrogen, and how they may affect blood pressure."

This study involved a large group of over 112,000 women, ages 45 years and older, who filled at least two consecutive prescriptions (a six-month cycle) for estrogen-only hormone therapy, as identified from health administrative data in Alberta, Canada between 2008 and 2019. The main outcome of high blood pressure (hypertension) was identified via health records.

First, researchers investigated the relationship between route of estrogen-only hormone therapy administration and risk of developing high blood pressure at least one year after starting the treatment. The three different routes of hormone therapy administration were oral (by mouth), transdermal and vaginal application.

Additionally, researchers evaluated the formulation of estrogen used and the risk of developing high blood pressure. For this study, the researchers reviewed medical records of individuals taking estrogen-only hormone therapy.

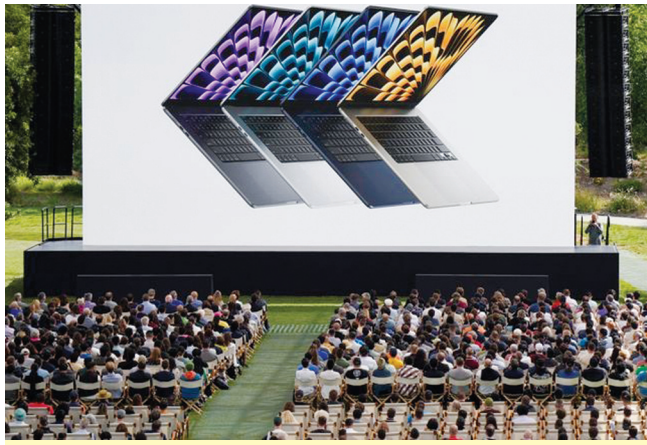
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A new MacBook laptop is presented at Apple's annual Worldwide Developers Conference at the company's headquarters in Cupertino, California, US, on June 5, 2023. Reuters

Apple reveals 15-inch MacBook Air at developer conference

Apple Inc has said it will add a 15-inch MacBook Air to the company's lineup, powered by an Apple-designed M2 processor chip.

The laptop with six speakers will start at \$1,299 and be available next week. The 13-inch MacBook Air will drop to \$1,099.

Apple updated its Mac Studio desktop machine, saying its new M2 Ultra chip can process artificial intelligence work that rival chips do not have enough memory to handle.

Apple also introduced a new version of the Mac Pro, its highest-performing desktop, with an M2 Ultra chip. Until Monday, the Mac Pro was the last computer in Apple's lineup that still used an Intel chip.

Apple's Mac lineup has experienced a revival since it started using its own chips in 2020, but in recent quarters sales have slumped along with the broader PC market.

The big highlight of the day is expected to be Apple unveiling a mixed-reality headset, its first big move into a new product category since the introduction of the Apple Watch nine years ago.

The launch will see Apple test a market crowded with devices that have yet to gain traction with consumers and put it in direct competition with Facebook-owner Meta Platforms.

Google introduces new 'Reading practice' feature for Play Books

Tech giant Google has introduced a new 'Reading practice' feature for its Play Books Android application and Kids Space, which will help new readers independently improve their vocabulary and comprehension skills.

Now available in the US, the new feature will highlight the text as the user reads out loud, tracking where they are in the book and helping them to focus on the next word, the tech giant said in a blogpost.

If the user gets stuck on how to pronounce a word, they can tap it to hear what it sounds like.

Also, the new feature provides a child-friendly definition of a word, if the user wants to learn more about the word.

"At the end of the page, they'll have the option to practice any words they skipped or mispronounced," the company said.

The tech giant further mentioned that users can use the "Reading practice" filter in Google Play Books to narrow down their store or library searches to ebooks that offer Reading practice.

Scientists find mysterious cosmic threads in the centre of milky way

An international team of scientists has discovered hundreds of mysterious structures in the centre of the Milky Way galaxy. According to The Guardian, these 'cosmic threads' point towards the supermassive black hole. Each of these filaments stretches about five to 10 light years and appears like dots and dashes of Morse code on a vast scale, the outlet further said. A study detailing the discovery of these elongated bodies of luminous gas has been published in The Astrophysical Journal Letters.

These structures are located 2,500 light years away from Earth.

Farhad Yusef-Zadeh, the lead author and an astronomer at Northwestern University in Illinois' Evanston, said he was "stunned" by the discovery.

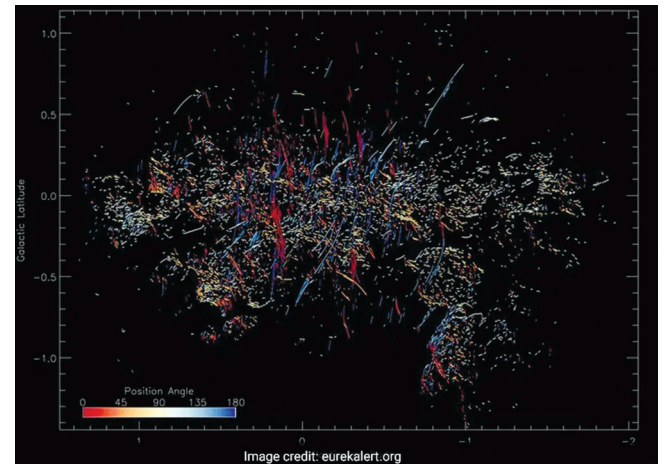
"They all seem to trace back to the black hole. They are telling us something about the activity of the black hole itself," he told The Guardian.

The data was captured by South African Radio Astronomy Observatory's MeerKAT radio telescope. It is the most sensitive radio telescope in the world and captured the images of the threads during an unprecedented 200-hour survey of the galactic core.

"The new MeerKAT observations have been a game changer," Mr Yusef-Zadeh. "It's really a technical achievement from radio astronomers."

CNN said the findings come 40 years after Mr Yusef-Zadeh discovered another population of nearly 1,000 one-dimensional filaments.

The findings about the black hole located about 26,000 light-years from Earth are "really exciting" and



The discovery is based on an analysis of the data captured by South African Radio Astronomy Observatory's MeerKAT radio telescope.

"demonstrate how beautiful the universe is," said Erika Hamden, an assistant professor of astronomy at the University of Arizona. She was not involved in the study.

The vertical filaments are located perpendicular to the galactic plane, while the horizontal ones are parallel to the plane and point radially toward the black hole, according to the news release. The vertical filaments surround the nucleus of the Milky Way, but the horizontal ones appear to spread out to one side toward the black hole.

How AI could soon take over elections and undermine democracy, free will

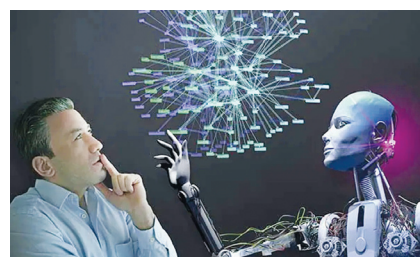
Could organizations use artificial intelligence language models such as ChatGPT to induce voters to behave in specific ways?

Sen. Josh Hawley asked OpenAI CEO Sam Altman this question in a May 16, 2023, U.S. Senate hearing on artificial intelligence. Altman replied that he was indeed concerned that some people might use language models to manipulate, persuade and engage in one-on-one interactions with voters.

Altman did not elaborate, but he might have had something like this scenario in mind. Imagine that soon, political technologists develop a machine called Clogger – a political campaign in a black box. Clogger relentlessly pursues just one objective: to maximize the chances that its candidate – the campaign that buys the services of Clogger Inc. – prevails in an election.

While platforms like Facebook, Twitter and YouTube use forms of AI to get users to spend more time on their sites, Clogger's AI would have a different objective: to change people's voting behavior.

As a political scientist and a legal scholar who study the intersection of technology and democracy, we believe that something like Clogger



While platforms like Facebook, Twitter and YouTube use forms of AI to get users to spend more time on their sites, Cloggers AI would have a different objective: to change peoples voting behavior.

could use automation to dramatically increase the scale and potentially the effectiveness of behavior manipulation and microtargeting techniques that political campaigns have used since the early 2000s. Just as advertisers use your browsing and social media history to individually target commercial and political ads now, Clogger would pay attention to you – and hundreds of millions of other voters – individually.

It would offer three advances over the current state-of-the-art algorithmic behavior manipulation. First, its language model would generate messages – texts, social media and email, perhaps including images and videos – tailored to you personally.

Whereas advertisers strategically place a relatively small number of ads, language models such as ChatGPT can generate countless unique messages for you personally – and millions for others – over the course of a campaign.

Second, Clogger would use a technique called reinforcement learning to generate a succession of messages that become increasingly more likely to change your vote. Reinforcement learning is a machine-learning, trial-and-error approach in which the computer takes actions and gets feedback about which work better in order to learn how to accomplish an objective. Machines that can play Go, Chess and many video games better than any human have used reinforcement learning.

Third, over the course of a campaign, Clogger's messages could evolve in order to take into account your responses to the machine's prior dispatches and what it has learned about changing others' minds. Clogger would be able to carry on dynamic "conversations" with you – and millions of other people – over time. Clogger's messages would be similar to ads that follow you across different websites and social media.

Source: *The Conversation*

RBI retains FY24 GDP growth forecast at 6.5%

The Reserve Bank on Thursday, June 8, retained the GDP growth projection for current fiscal year at 6.5 per cent, on the back of supportive domestic demand conditions.

In April, the central bank had marginally revised upwards the 2023-24 GDP growth projection to 6.5 per cent, from its earlier forecast of 6.4 per cent.

Domestic demand condition remains supportive of growth and also the demand in rural areas is on the revival path, RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das said while announcing the 2nd bi-monthly policy for 2023-24.

India's economy grew 6.1 per cent in the fourth quarter of 2022-23, pushing up the annual growth rate to 7.2 per cent, as against 7 per cent anticipated earlier.

Das said the higher rabi crop production in 2022-23, the expected normal monsoon, and the sustained buoyancy in services should support private consumption and the overall economic activity in the current year.

The government's thrust on capital expenditure, moderation in commodity prices and robust credit growth are expected to nurture investment activity, said the Monetary Policy Statement, 2023-24.

Weak external demand, geo-economic fragmentation and protracted geopolitical tensions, however, pose risks to the outlook, it added.

Source: PTI

Rs 89,047-crore revival package for BSNL gets Cabinet nod

The Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, on Wednesday, June 7, approved the third revival package for BSNL with a total outlay of Rs 89,047 crore.

The package includes allotment of 4G and 5G spectrum for BSNL through equity infusion, an official statement said. Also, the authorised capital of BSNL will be increased from Rs 1,50,000 crore to Rs 2,10,000 crore.

The package comprises allotment of premium wireless frequencies 700 MHz band spectrum worth Rs 46,338.6 crore; 70 MHz of frequencies in 3300 MHz band worth Rs 26,184.2 crore; frequencies in 26 GHz band worth Rs 6,564.93 crore; in 2500 MHz band worth Rs 9,428.2 crore and Rs 531.89 crore for miscellaneous items. The spectrum allocation will enable BSNL to roll out pan-India 4G and 5G services, 4G coverage in rural and uncovered villages under various connectivity projects, provide Fixed Wireless Access (FWA) services for high-speed internet and provide services/spectrum for Captive Non-Public Network (CNPN). The government had provided first revival package worth Rs 69,000 crore for BSNL and MTNL in 2019. The second package worth Rs 1.64 lakh crore was announced in 2022.

Rising imports, falling exports push US trade deficit to six-month high

WASHINGTON (TIP)

The U.S. trade deficit widened by the most in eight years in April as imports of goods rebounded while exports of energy products declined, a trend that if sustained, could result in trade being a drag on economic growth in the second quarter.

The increase reported by the Commerce Department on Wednesday was the biggest since April 2015 and pushed the trade gap to the highest level in six months. It led economists to expect that trade could chop off as much as 2.5 percentage points from gross domestic product this quarter, unless imports reversed course, a tall order given the persistent strength in domestic demand. A strong dollar and slowing global demand could curb exports.

"The terms of trade are worsening and this will bring down second-quarter estimates of real GDP growth closer to the 1% stall speed where bad things can happen and the economy can stumble and go over the cliff," said Christopher Rupkey, chief economist at FWD BOND in New York.

The trade deficit jumped 23.0% to \$74.6 billion. Data for March was revised to show the trade gap narrowing to \$60.6 billion instead of the previously reported \$64.2 billion. The government revised the goods trade data from 2018 while the trade services figures were revised from 2017.

Those revisions showed the trade deficit was not as large as previously thought in the first quarter. As a result, economists expect the government to raise its GDP growth estimate for the January-March quarter to as high as a 2.3% annualized rate when it publishes its third estimate later this month.

The revisions to the trade data



followed on the heels of last week's solid construction spending data. The government's second estimate of first-quarter GDP last month showed trade made no contribution to the economy's 1.3% growth rate after adding to GDP for three straight quarters.

Adjusted for inflation, the goods trade deficit shot up 16.5% to \$95.8 billion in April. Goldman Sachs lowered its second-quarter GDP growth tracking estimate by half a percentage point to a 1.7% rate.

Stocks on Wall Street were trading mostly lower. The dollar slipped against a basket of currencies. U.S. Treasury prices fell.

Goods imports rose 2.0% to \$263.2 billion in April, boosted by motor vehicles, parts and engines. There were also increases in imports of industrial supplies and materials, though petroleum imports fell to the lowest level since August 2021.

Imports of consumer goods surged \$1.8 billion, driven by cellphones and other household goods. Food imports were the lowest since December 2021. Imports of services decreased \$0.4 billion to \$60.4 billion, weighed down by declines in transport and travel. Overall imports increased 1.5% to \$323.6 billion.

Exports of goods plunged 5.3%, the most in three years, to \$167.1 billion. That was the lowest level since February 2022.

Exports are being crimped by slowing global demand. Though the dollar gave up some gains early in the year in the wake of 500 basis points worth of interest rate increases from the Federal Reserve since March 2022, the greenback has regained ground in recent weeks against the currencies of the United States' main trade partners. That trend could make U.S.-made goods less competitive on the global market in the months ahead.

Source: Reuters

Pizza Hut Australia purchased by US group that owns Taco Bell, Wendy's locations

Franchise operator Flynn Restaurant Group is acquiring Pizza Hut Australia, marking the US company's first international acquisition.

Flynn is buying the Australia franchising license from Sydney-based private investment firm Allegro Funds, adding 260 Pizza Hut restaurants in the country to its lineup, according to a statement Wednesday, June 7. The San Francisco-based group already owns 945 Pizza Huts in its home market. Flynn didn't disclose terms.

The acquisition will give Flynn about 2,600 locations across the two countries and boost annual sales to roughly \$4.5 billion from \$4.2 billion. Flynn says it is the largest franchise operator in the world, with a portfolio of restaurants that includes Applebee's, Taco Bell,



Panera Bread, Arby's and Wendy's locations in 44 US states.

The group looked abroad for growth

because it already has a large domestic share, founder and Chief Executive Officer Greg Flynn said in an interview. Australia made sense as the company's first international market because it is culturally similar to the US and diners there like American brands, he said.

Flynn Co-Chief Operating Officer Ron Bellamy will oversee the Australian business, though the existing management team will continue to run the operation. Pizza Hut Australia has notched 50 consecutive months of positive same-store sales growth, a key gauge of restaurant momentum, according to the statement.

The acquisition is subject to regulatory approvals and consent from Pizza Hut's owner, Yum! Brands Inc. The process is expected to be completed by the end of June.

Source: Bloomberg

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

WEEKLY HOROSCOPE - JUNE 12 - 18, 2023

ARIES



Ganesha says your position in your field and at business will grow more apparent to you this week. Your current job will have an impact on the extent to which you advance as well as how little you earn.

Academically, it will be quite difficult for you. You appear to be interested in a recognizable individual, but you are still holding on to your breakup partner. This will soon start to have an impact on your personal interactions. Your wellbeing will have a difficult day. Eventually in the day, you will have bodily aches and headaches. This week, according to your planetary positioning, you will need to utilize all of your physical strength and stamina.

TAURUS



Ganesha says, "this week, you will be inspired to put out greater energy. Whatever you undertake, you will give it your best. During this week, your energies will let you to take up your faith. This week, your life will undergo a huge change. You will look for the advice of experts on matters relating to your career and trade, but you should not completely rely on what they are saying. Due to their anxiety about familial problems, this week is a fantastic time for a little break with your lover psychologically. Even if this week is a great time to buy stocks, you should not buy any precious metals. Regarding your health, you will have to put up with your headaches this week.

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GEMINI



Ganesha says, you will feel a little balanced this week. In all of your partnerships, you will need greater confidence than normal. This week, you must make a number of crucial professional choices. Ensure that you correct any errors you have already made. The contemporary business executive must avoid speculating. In terms of your personal connection, your spouse will encourage you to finish the task you began but did not accomplish this week. It may be a degree, a brand-new business concept, or a protracted disagreement. Now is the time to take them properly. Going outdoors when the air is bad is not a competent option. The most crucial thing is to avoid things that might make you vulnerable. Make the most of oneself this week.

Academically, it will be quite difficult for you. You appear to be interested in a recognizable individual, but you are still holding on to your breakup partner. This will soon start to have an impact on your personal interactions. Your wellbeing will have a difficult day. Eventually in the day, you will have bodily aches and headaches. This week, according to your planetary positioning, you will need to utilize all of your physical strength and stamina.

CANCER



Ganesha says, making informed judgements on things will make your week fulfilling. Your life will change negatively as a result of Rahu's influence, and stressing

about them won't hardly them go away. This week, try to restrain your feelings as they will inevitably go in the opposite direction. Keeping your cool may be beneficial on the side of professionalism. Instead, then only relying on yourself, think about outsourcing your task. This week, your partner will in fact be very understanding of your personal relationships. This week will profit from their confidence in your kindness since they will do all in their ability to maintain you upbeat. This week, you will consider changing your everyday routine for the sake of your health. As quickly as you can, finish the modification.

LEO



Ganesha says, this week, you will have a fantastic, gratifying week, but you will also make attainable ambitions. On a business front, you will consider switching positions. In today's society, businesspeople are more prone to suffer harm. Now that you know they would not aid you, you should reject quick approaches to earn cash. Those who have been married before will try to establish a specific bond with their wives. You will need to wait a little longer if you are seeking the ideal fit. When it involves your wellness, you will find it difficult to cope with spine problems. Occasionally, keep moving to improve your mindset.

VIRGO



Ganesha says, this week, you are going to feel a strong feeling of enthusiasm. You will be inspired to carry on the task you started this week where you left it. You will also meet individuals who can help you in a variety of ways. Do not put back doing anything this week because Jupiter's position is favorable now; it will not be in this position for long. On an administrative extent, you will be allowed to establish a welcoming environment for oneself. People will like collaborating on initiatives with you. On the job, you will undoubtedly learn something new. Business managers currently ought to be more cautious and attentive when interacting with individuals who have a history of unethical behavior. This week, your companion will be more emotionally enticed by your expertise and wisdom.

LIBRA



Ganesha says, this week, the grace of Lord Krishna will help everyone feel healthier. You will be in a stifling situation this week, making cognitive circulation challenging. Seek for expert guidance in this field. This week, you are going to put in more effort

than normal at the workplace. This week, your superior will turn over control of the office to you; it is up to you to carry out the tasks assigned to you. To avoid disruptions and blunders this week, you must stay vigilant and maintain mental clarity. Intolerance will affect your personal reputation. There will be unpleasant remarks made about you, but you have to possess the strength to absorb criticism in a positive way without being offended. Your significant other will criticize your bad coping strategy.

SCORPIO



Ganesha says, this week, your financial situation and productivity will be very important to you. Each source of income should be sufficient and the potential of producing extra income, but managing your accounts without a strategy might put you in a bind. You will choose how to split your funds this week and discover how to keep them in good hands. Do a little research before making a decision when a buddy invites you to partner with them in launching a fresh company. A close companion is likely to harbor resentments towards you and your achievements. Do not allow envy to destroy a successful connection. This week, as they struggle with illnesses, those closest to you could need your help.

SAGITTARIUS



Ganesha says, if you appreciate the good people in your life, achieving your goals will be simpler. The women in your family have given you amazing assistance, and this week you will show your appreciation for their efforts by being kind to them. These days, you may get a high-quality home for an affordable cost. You will become more compassionate as a result of the day, and you will be thankful for all your possessions as a result. It can be humiliating if a long-lost friend calls and asks to meet up. It seems like you are about to give someone too many personal details! Keeping your emotions in control. This experience may also usher in a fresh romance and forge new bonds of kinship. your wellbeing will be fine this week.

CAPRICORN



Ganesha says, this week, you are committed to a lot of things. This week, there will be a ton of work for you to do. The easiest approach to prevent this issue is to delegate your tasks. This week will provide fresh

CONTD ON PAGE 33

BIRTHDAY HOROSCOPE : JUNE 12 - 18, 2023

BY ASTRO FRIEND CHIRAG - SON OF ASTROLOGER BEJAN DARUWALLA

JUNE 12 : Ganesha says you are an extremely intelligent individual who is knowledgeable in every field. You will see you rise like a brilliant star. Because of your exceptional mental acuity, you can solve puzzles quickly. However, high-paying endeavors could be inconsistent for you despite your organized risk-taking skills. Because you have unmatched communication skills, which are crucial today, you are familiar with the pace of the competition.

JUNE 13 : Ganesha says although you may not have as many friends due to your shyness, you will be able to manage the direction of your life in a methodical manner because of your unstoppable thoughts and strong ability to draw conclusions. Doing consistently excellent work would also improve your standards. Your close ones should be warned when you exhibit your introverted

side since it needs to be changed to prevent misunderstandings. In terms of love, don't hold back from expressing your sentiments.

JUNE 14 : Ganesha says you will have many opportunities to demonstrate your abilities at work, and everyone will be impressed. You'll have to spend time with your family due to circumstances, and you'll steal the show with your electrifying gestures. Your life's stability may improve if you strike it rich. You are a sensible individual. The early games you played with obstacles shaped your tough nature and made you difficult to dominate. The public will like you for who you naturally are. They frequently adhere to you.

JUNE 15 : Ganesha says your creative spirit will produce win-win circumstances for you everywhere. Today is expected to be good for your devout soul, yet a small slip-up

can chafe you. Your job will always be your first passion, and since you spend most of your time there, it will bring you incredible glory, honor, and surprises. You detest bigots and constantly work to cast a ray of optimism into the gloomy corners. As a result, you are a seasoned warrior.

JUNE 16 : Ganesha says despite their best efforts, your coworkers and associates are unable to adopt your working style. However, it is essential that you adhere to all policies and procedures at work so that no one can ever call your attention to any flaws. Thanks to your unshakable focus and ferocious resolve, you would surely become the centre of attention on the professional front. It would also be simpler for you to advance and earn more money.

JUNE 17 : Ganesha says you are a fountain of intelligence, talent, and

potential. No one will ever be able to defeat you at work since you are above all others and unbeatable. You only need a reliable source of money if you have sharp, refined acumen skills. All of your obstacles will be simply overcome by you. Your communication style will propel you to the top position in your field. Your genre includes serving humanity highly.

JUNE 18 : Ganesha says you come up with your own inventory. Having undiscovered artistic or musical talent might serve as a physical representation of your distinction in life. In this well-known sector, you're likely to start your own business. Not just the home market, but also the global one, will be populated with your ideas. Your life will be easy and peaceful as a result, both in terms of your financial situation and your physical well-being.

WEEKLY HOROSCOPE - JUNE 12 - 18, 2023

CONTD FROM PAGE 32

chances and pursuits for you. This week, you will plant your seeds of prosperity. At the end of the day, you will be able to cross everything off your job list. Your rising crescent will pass by a place that will make you consider your current predicament. In your current as well as individual lives, you will assess your choices and determine where you belong. You are unmarried and feeling an emptiness in your life as a result of your sensitive and caring personality. You will make room in your way of life for passion.

AQUARIUS



Aquarius

Ganesha says, this week, you will focus a great deal of your attention on creating progress. Your present course of action will

almost certainly lead to positive consequences down the line. Your original thoughts and thorough expertise will eliminate existing voids in your respective spheres of employment. This week, you will also take the first step towards entering the stock market. In terms of your romantic connection, your partner will value you more this week, but it may require some time for them to comprehend the improvements you have achieved for oneself. You need to look after your health. This week, you must get a medical checkup.

PISCES



Pisces

Ganesha says, this week, you will have a straightforward and delightful week. You can

now successfully juggle your emotional and business lives. Your boss will be impressed by your management abilities and dedication. If you work in an enterprise, you will realize that this week is a great one for your company. Your romantic life will bring you

pleasure. This week, you will have some alone time with your pal. Additionally, you will assist your professor in resolving any existing legal problems they may be having. This week, you will be able to manage a challenging circumstance easily. You are in great

athletic shape at the moment. You have been enabled to focus on your job and improve efficiency by maintaining a normal exercise regimen and making improvements to your workstation.

|| SHREE GANESHAY NAMAH ||



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Nastur Bejan Daruwalla

Sikh History This Week

JUNE 09, 2023, TO JUNE 15, 2023

9th June



1716 Baba Banda Singh Bahadur and select Sikhs were tortured to death under orders of Badshah Farukhsiyar. Baba Banda Singh Bahadur was offered life on embracing Islam. After his refusal, his son was murdered before his eyes. The child's heart was thrust into Banada Singh's mouth. Then his right eye was pulled out followed by the pulling out of his left eye. Then his left foot was chopped off, next to fo were his arms. Then his flesh was cust off bit by bit. His brain was struck with a hammer. So was Baba Banda Singh Bahadur, along with his infant son and a few select followers, was mercilessly tortured to death in Delhi by the order of Emporer Farukh Siyar (successor to Bahadhur Shah). The remaining Sikhs were beheaded on June 10, 1716.

1946 Punjab board established.
1946 Sikhs rejected Cabinet Mission proposals.
1949 Hindu members of the Panjab University opposed Punjabi as a medium of instruction.

10th June

1716 Remaining Sikhs captured with Baba Banda Singh Bahadur were beheaded.



1746 Lakhpat Rai killed more than 10,000 Sikhs. This is known as "Chhota Ghallughara", small carnage. Over 10,000 Sikhs out of a total population of 15,000 were killed. This disaster goes by the name of "chhota ghalughara", small holocaust (as against the great holocaust of 1762). After the 1745, Sarbat Khalsa resolution, Sikhs attacked Lahore one evening and decamped with a large booty. Yahya Khan who had taken over as Governor asked Diwan Lakhpar Rai to displace the Sikhs from the nearby swamp hounts. One of the units led by Jassa Singh Ahluwalia on the way to the hills clashed with his younger brother Jaspat Rai and chopped of his head. Lakhpat Rai now in rage vowed to erase the Sikhs from the pages of history. Lakhpat Rai with the help of the provincial forces fell upon the Sikhs concentrated in the marshes of Kahnawan on Ravi. Some cut their way through hostile hillmen to Kiratpur. The main body turned back and after heavy losses crossed the Bease and the Sutlej into Malwa. 7000 Sikhs were killed, and another 3000 taken prisoners were executed at Nakhas, horse market. In March of 1747, Yahiya Khan, the Governor of Lahore, was ousted by his brother Shah Nawaz Khan and Lakhpat Rai was put in prison.

1842 During midnight, at the instance of Dhian Singh Dogra, Maharani Chand Kaur's skull was crushed with grindstone by her maids who themselves were put to death later in the day.

1896 Death of Attar Singh Bhadaur.
1957 Vir Singh passed away.
1974 Giani Kartar Singh, an Akali Leader died at Patiala.
1978 Nirankari Gurbachan Singh declared apostate by Akal Takht. A Hukamnan was issued to the Sikhs for social boycott of the' Nirankari Mafia organization by Akal Takht.

11th June



1595 Prakash Utsav, Sixth Patshah, Guru Hargobind Ji.

1982 Kulwant Singh Nagoke killed in fake encounter. This murder marked the begining of the era of fake encounters.

1982 15 Birs of Sri Guru Granth Sahib were burned at village Makha, district Bathinda.

1984 Dal Khalsa announced its Government in Exile.
1984 Dawinder Singh Garcha, an Congress(I) member for Ludhiana, resigned his position in protest of Indian Army's attack on Darbar Sahib, Amritsar.

12th June

1985 Jathaedar Pritam Singh Gojran demanded the formation of sovereign Sikh State.

1960 The Sikh procession in connection with Punjabi Suba agitation was fired upon at Delhi. Sardar Harbans Singh and three others accepted shahadat.

1984 Badal and Surjit Singh Barnala arrested under Indian Security act.

1984 Sikh Solidier roits errupted at 6 places and and count reach over 1000.

1984 Firing can be clearly heard in the broadcast of Hukam from darbar Sahib, Amritsar:

The broadcast of Darbar Sahib program from Amritsar, also relayed the gun-fire while Head Granthi Sahib, Giani Sahib Singh Ji was reading the day's Hukam.

13th June

1647 Pir Budhu Shah was born. BUDHU SHAH: a Sadhora (district Ambala) resident muslim Pir (holy man). His real name was Sayed Shah Badrudin. He had enrolled 500 Pathans in service of Sri Guru Gobind Singh Patshah. The four chiefs of these Pathans were Kala Khan, Bhikan Khan, Nijabat Khan, and Hayat Khan. Only Kala Khan turned out to be trustworthy, who did not betray Guru Sahib's trust. The remaining three chiefs simply abandoned Guru Sahib during the Bhangani battle and joined the enemy forces.

1886 Khalsa Akhbar newspaper in Gurmukhi started in Lahore.

1940 Udham Singh of Sunam was sentenced to death for avenging the killings of Jallianwala Bagh by killing



Sir Michael O' Dwyer in London.

1984 Dr. Jagjit Singh Chauhan announced a government in exile.

1984 The rebel Sikh soldiers count reached over 2000. They are headed towards Amritsar.

14th June



1539 GUR GADHI, Patshahi Second, Guru Angad Dev Ji.
1698 Janam Utsav, Sahibjada Baba Fateh Singh Ji.

1964 Partap Singh Kairon resigned as Punjab Chief Minister.

1984 Historian Ganda Singh, returns his Padam Shri in protest for the Indian armed forces attack on Sri Harmindar Sahib, Amritsar.

15th June



1606 Foundation Stone of Sri Akal Takht is laid by Sri Guru Har Gobind Sahib Ji. Foundation Stone of Sri Akal Takhat is laid by Sri Guru Har Gobind Sahib Ji. This event marked the official declaraion of the sovereignty of the Sikh nation. The Sikhs reject all other sovereignty and owed their allegiance to the Almighty only. After the revelation the Akal Takht, Guru Hargobind Sahib issued the first Hukamnama (the royal letter) from the throne.

1984 Akali Dal Youth Wing President, Prof. Prem Singh ChandMajra, arrested under National Security Act.

1984 Buya Singh replaces Chaudhary Subae Singh as SSP of Amritsar. Under Buya Singh, Sikhs suffered terrible autrocities. So much so that to protect his life he was transfered to Moscow.

Yogini Ekadashi

Ekadashi fasting holds an important place in Hinduism. Ekadashi of Krishna Paksha of Ashadha month is called Yogini Ekadashi. In this fast, the idol of Lord Narayana is bathed in the Ganges water and offered prasada, aarti is offered with flowers and lamps.

In Yogini Ekadashi fast, donations should be given to poor Brahmins. By observing this fast, the sin incurred by cutting the Peepal tree is destroyed and the heaven is attained.

Importance

On the day of Yogini Ekadashi, Shri Hari or Lord Narayan, one of Lord Vishnu's other names, is worshipped. The day is significant for devotees who believe that the Yogini Ekadashi Vrat or fast gives them prosperity and joy in their lives. Since this fast occurs only once a year, those who observe it gain virtues equivalent to feeding 88 thousand Brahmins. According to the Padma Purana, everyone who religiously observes the Yogini Ekadashi rituals experiences meaningful life changes.

Yogini Ekadashi Vrat Katha

There are two Yogini Ekadashi Stories. One is Yudhishtir, the Pandavas eldest son, and the other is Hem Mali, the gardener of Kubera, the Lord of Wealth.

Lord Krishna had also counselled his cousin Yudhishtira, the eldest Pandava, on the significance of the Yogini Ekadashi vrat. Lord Krishna, Lord Vishnu's Avatar on Earth, had stated: "Oh, king, I will tell you about the best of all fasting days, the Ekadasi, which occurs during the dark part of the month of Ashadha. It is known as Yogini Ekadasi, and it eliminates all types of immoral responses and grants ultimate salvation.

This Ekadasi carries people who sink in the vast ocean of material life and transports you to the shore of the spiritual realm. The day is the core of all holy fasting days in all three worlds. Fasting on Yogini Ekadashi is really strong and fortunate.

King Kuber was a devout Shiva devotee who offered flowers to the Lord on a daily basis. A Yaksha named Hem Mali worked as a gardener. He will get Kuber flowers from Mansarovar on a daily basis. However, he did not receive the flowers but neglected to send them to Kuber because he was too preoccupied with his lovely wife. As a result, the king sent his servant to ascertain the true cause of Hem's carelessness.

When Kuber found out, he became enraged and cursed Hem with the deadly disease leprosy and forced him to be divorced from his wife. Hem had left the palace and was suffering greatly as a result of the illness.

The hem came across the ashram of Rishi Markandeya after roaming for several years in the jungle, and after hearing his tale, he advised him to observe Yogini Ekadashi Vrat.

Hem Mali observed the fast with zeal and prayed for forgiveness to Lord Vishnu. As a consequence of the Lord's acceptance of his prayers, Hem was cleansed of all his sins. He was no longer afflicted and was reunited with his loving wife.

Similarly, on Yogini Ekadashi, all devotees who observe this fast and pray to Lord Vishnu with pure thoughts and feelings will be liberated from all problems and health-related concerns.

On this day, you may offer prayers to the Lord of the Lotus Feet by reciting Vishnu Mantras or Vishnu Sahasranamam. Fasting on Yogini Ekadashi is said to be equivalent to feeding 88 Brahmins.

The best day to get rid of worrying health problems is Yogini Ekadashi. Learn the proper Puja rituals method from our experts to obtain Lord Vishnu's divine blessings.

Rituals

Yogini Ekadashi devotees or observers are expected to rise early and take a holy bath before beginning the ceremony's rituals.

When conducting all of the rituals, it is important to have complete commitment and devotion. Yogini Ekadashi Vrat must be observed by devotees.



Yogini Ekadashi

Wednesday, 14 June 2023

Ekadashi date start :Thursday, 13 June 2023 at 09:28 AM

Ekadashi date end : Wednesday, 14 June 2023 at 08:48 AM

Devotees must worship and pray to the goddess, as well as bring incense sticks, candles, and tulsi leaves. To complete the fast, you must recite the tale of Yogini Ekadashi. The deity's aarti must be done, and then holy food (prasada) must be distributed to everyone.

Devotees must attend Lord Vishnu's temple during the Yogini Ekadashi festival to receive the deity's divine blessings. All Yogini Ekadashi Fast rituals begin on the eve of Dashami (tenth day).

On this particular day, observers are expected to eat a single Satvik meal before the sunset date. The Vrat will last until the end of the Ekadashi tithi.

Nighttime sleep is not permitted for the observers. To appease Lord Vishnu, they must spend their whole day reciting Mantras. The recitation of the 'Vishnu Sahasranama' is considered extremely auspicious. Devotees worship Lord Vishnu with great reverence on this day.

On the eve of Yogini Ekadashi, doing charity is thought to be extremely rewarding. The observer should help the Brahmins by donating food, clothing, and funds. Yogini Ekadashi fast is considered the most important Ekadashi fast by Hindus.

Yogini Ekadashi fasting begins on the night of Dashami (the tenth day) of the lunar month's dark half. Here are some of the advantages of fasting on this day.

This fasting cycle is very beneficial for getting rid of different illnesses and diseases. It aids devotees in attaining salvation from sins and evil deeds. Fasting during this time frame heightens moral consciousness.

It strengthens trust and loyalty to Lord Vishnu, who fulfills all wishes and provides his devotees with a

luxurious life. You can also perform an online Vishnu Puja for that.

On this day, penance leads to the forgiveness of sins and the clearing of the road to Moksha.

Yogini Ekadashi has a strong effect on one's life if the fast and puja is followed strictly. The fast like other Ekadashi fasts begin from sunrise and continues until the next day sunrise. The person observing the vrat should not consume any kind of cereal or grain like wheat, barley, or rice.

The food eaten should be made separately without salt. He/she should wake up before sunrise of the day of yogini Ekadashi and have a bath. It is also important that one remains clean throughout the day and chant Lord Vishnu chants. As per the fast demands, the devotee should remain awake during the night and pray for good health to Lord Vishnu.

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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."

70-year-old Indian American motel manager pleads guilty to human trafficking



Shreesh Tiwari admitted to misusing and abusing his position of power over a female tenant by compelling her to engage in "commercial sex acts".

Image for representation only

JUNE 4, 2023

ATLANTA, GA (TIP): A 70-year-old Indian American motel manager has pleaded guilty to trafficking with respect to peonage, slavery, involuntary servitude or forced labor, according to the US Department of Justice.

Shreesh Tiwari, an Indian national and legal US permanent resident, admitted to misusing and abusing his position of power over a female tenant by compelling her to engage in "commercial sex acts".

"We refuse to tolerate human trafficking of any kind and this conviction reinforces our commitment to protecting all victims of crime in our community -- regardless of their status," said US Attorney Ryan K Buchanan for the Northern District of Georgia.

According to court documents, Tiwari began managing the Budgetel Motel in Cartersville, Georgia, in 2020, and hired the victim to work as a house cleaner at the motel.

He was aware that prior to her coming to the Budgetel, the victim had experienced homelessness, struggled with a heroin addiction and lost custody of her young child.

Tiwari promised the victim that he would help her regain custody of her child by providing her with pay, an apartment, and an attorney.

Instead of following through with his promises, Tiwari monitored the victim's interactions with motel guests and employees and forbade her from speaking to them.

In addition, he also made numerous sexual overtures to her and threatened to evict her from the room, report her to law enforcement and child welfare agencies whenever he became angry at her, knowing that she would become homeless as a result.

Eventually, Tiwari began to regularly "evict" the victim from her motel room, and even locked her out of her room at night without warning, forcing the victim to provide sexual favors.

(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)

Indian-origin Jaspal Singh Juttla jailed for defrauding property buyers in UK

JUNE 4, 2023

LONDON (TIP): An Indian-origin man has been sentenced to three years' imprisonment for fraud offences after he admitted to fleecing potential property buyers, many of them also of Indian origin, out of nearly 16,000 pounds, Scotland Yard said.

Jaspal Singh Juttla, 64, was sentenced at Isleworth Crown Court in London on Thursday, June 1, on four counts of fraud by false representation and one count of carrying on a regulated activity when not authorized to do so.

The offences occurred between May 2019 and January 2021 and Juttla pleaded guilty to the offences at an earlier hearing in August last year at Uxbridge Magistrates' Court, the Metropolitan Police said in a statement. The offences relate to four victims, where property buyers were conned into handing over approximately 15,790 pounds to Juttla impersonating as a mortgage adviser.

"Jaspal Singh Juttla is a persistent fraud who has exploited people in his own community, using their hard-earned money to fund his lifestyle," said Detective Constable Anita Sharma, Financial Investigator in the Central Specialist Crime Unit of the Met Police.

"We are grateful to those victims who have been brave enough to come forward in this case but there may be other people conned by Juttla who have not spoken to police. I urge anyone who suspects they may be a victim of Juttla to come forward and report it by calling Action Fraud on 0300 123 2040 or contacting them online," she said.



Jaspal Singh Juttla has been sentenced to three years' imprisonment for fraud offences after he admitted to fleecing potential property buyers, many of them also of Indian origin, out of nearly 16,000 pounds, Scotland Yard said.

Image for representational purpose only

The financial investigators from the Met's Economic Crime team believe that there are other victims that have been scammed by the ruse and are yet to come forward.

Juttla claimed to be a mortgage adviser and offered to assist victims with property purchases. He would meet his clients - who were predominantly of Indian heritage, and some spoke little to no English - at various locations in London, including Southall and Hayes in west London. Some victims were targeted at open house viewings.

The Met Police investigation found that Juttla often promised victims to fill out their mortgage applications, arrange a survey for them and put them in touch with a solicitor that would assist with a house purchase. Once the victims paid the fee requested by Juttla, he would ask for more money to cover other services that he had made up. None of these services were

carried out and all arrangements failed to surface for the property buyers.

On occasions, victims contacted him to ask what was going on, but Juttla would make up excuses in an attempt to put the victims at ease. In some instances, Juttla did provide victims with a refund by bank transfer, but it was never the full amount of the payments he had originally received, the police said.

Juttla came to the attention of police in January 2021 after Action Fraud, the UK's national reporting center for fraud, received a crime report from one of his victims. The Met Police said that Juttla was charged in July last year following a thorough investigation.

Indian American father dies in an attempt to rescue 12-year-old son from water at a beach in California



Srinivasa Murthy Jonnalagadda who entered the water to rescue his minor son was drowned
Photo for representation only

JUNE 5, 2023

SANTA CRUZ, CA (TIP): An Indian American has lost his life while rescuing his 12-year-old son at a beach in the US state of California, a report said. Multiple agencies were dispatched to Panther State Beach in Santa Cruz County just after 6 pm last Monday, May 29 when Srinivasa Murthy Jonnalagadda

entered the water to rescue his minor son who was unable to get out of the water, California Fire said on Twitter.

Jonnalagadda, who did not know how to swim, managed to rescue his son but was then dragged by the riptide into deeper waters and drowned as his family helplessly bore witness. (Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)

OPERATION BLUESTAR AND PUNJAB

CONTD FROM PAGE 11

Incidentally, I covered most of the militant actions, including assassinations of Indira Gandhi and Beant Singh, besides Operation Bluestar, Kapuri Morcha and the Dharam Yudh morcha.

Coming to the emotive issue of rivers waters, it has been proved that the State Assembly never ratified none of these awards. The assembly took up the issue twice, first during the Akali Government of Surjit Singh Barnala that annulled the 1981 award, and the second by the Congress Government of Capt Amarinder Singh that set aside all water agreements. It may sound strange that none of these Legislative pronouncements could become effective. The issue has been once again thrown open by the Apex Court necessitating the Centre to get back to the

rigmarole of holding meetings with the Chief Ministers of Punjab and Haryana. When the Barnala government annulled the 1981 award (Indira-Darbara award), the State Assembly simultaneously endorsed the Rajiv-Longowal accord that mandated the setting up of a Tribunal to resolve the water sharing problem. And the Tribunal so set up - Eradi Tribunal - after submitting its interim report in 1987, failed to give its final report even after

24 years costing the state exchequer several crores. When we talk of Punjab Rivers' waters issue, reference to Riparian principle or law becomes imminent. Going by Encyclopaedia Britannica, "In property right doctrine pertaining to properties adjacent to a waterway that

(a) governs the use of surface water and (b) gives all owners of land contiguous to

streams, lakes, and ponds equal rights to the water, whether the right is exercised or not.

The riparian right is un-usufructuary, meaning that the landowner does not own the water itself but instead enjoys a right to use the water and its surface".

Going by the basic philosophy of the Riparian Law or principle, the actual rights rest with the people who live adjacent to waterways. Intriguingly, in the case of Punjab, the actual beneficiaries were uprooted and the State or the center claimed ownership rights over the waters. And select powerful people, holding high positions both in the state and the center, forget about the water awards without ever getting to the beneficiaries, the people, for their endorsement.

Now coming back to the Operation Blue star, after 39 years, there is no credible or

authentic version of the whole unfortunate episode that reveals actual drills of the operation, exact total casualties, the fate of the archives, artifacts, books and documents that were there in the SGPC museum damaged during the attack on Golden Temple as a part of Operation Blue star.

Complicity of other powers, including the British government, in the events leading to the Operation Blue star, is still to be told. The only conclusion that can be safely drawn is that the people of Punjab have suffered immensely. And their agony continues unabated.

(Prabhjot Singh is a veteran journalist with over three decades of experience of 14 years with Reuters News and 30 years with The Tribune Group, covering a wide spectrum of subjects and stories. He has covered Punjab and Sikh affairs for more than three decades besides covering seven Olympics and several major sporting events and hosting TV shows.)

Situated amidst lush green, forested hills on the highest peak in the Aravali range, Mount Abu is the summer capital for the Indian state of Rajasthan. Its cool and soothing climate makes it an ideal retreat. Explore a number of Jain temples, including the Dilwara Temples, a complex carved of white marble, or visit the nearby Achalgarh fort, which houses many beautiful temples of its own.

NAKKI LAKE

Recognized as the first ever manmade lake in India, Nakki Lake is also a preferred place to see in Mount Abu. You can choose to take a boat ride at the lake and watch the sun set past the beautiful hills surrounding this place. Nakki Lake is also popular for being the place where the ashes of Mahatma Gandhi had been immersed. Toad rock, a place for sightseeing in Mount Abu is located close to Nakki Lake.

GURU SHIKHAR

Recognized as the highest point on this mountain range, Guru Shikhar is an exquisite place for sightseeing in Mount Abu. Taking about 300 steps up to Guru Shikhar, you reach the temple of Guru Dattatreya, an incarnation of the Divine Trinity (Brahma, Vishnu and Shiva). People flock to this place both for its religious aspects and the panoramic views.

TOAD ROCK VIEW POINT

Known for being surrounded by a number of strangely shaped rocks, Nakki Lake offers numerous photo ops to visitors. One of the most popular destinations near Nakki Lake however, has to be the Toad Rock View Point. Located on the main trekking trail near the Lake, the Toad Rock has often been referred to as the mascot of Mount Abu. The massive rock structure is an excellent illustration of igneous rocks found in amazing shapes and is shaped, as the name suggests, like a toad. One of the most frequented places in the hill station; people visit this place out of sheer curiosity. It is pretty easy to climb the rock and the views that it offers of the Nakki Lake and the surrounding greenery are unparalleled. Apart from the novelty of the rock itself, the breathtaking scenery from atop just adds to whole experience, making it well worth your while.

DILWARA JAIN TEMPLE

Established some time in between the 11th and 13th centuries, the Dilwara Jain temples are considered to be among the best specimens of architectural perfection in the country. A complex of five temple structures, the Dilwara Jain temples are located at a distance of about 2.5 kilometres from Mount Abu. Carved out of white marble, these temples features interiors that have intricate designs spreading everywhere from doorways to ceilings. Dilwara Jain temples are a must visit place in Mount Abu.

MOUNT ABU SANCTUARY

Covering 288 square kilometres of area, the Mount Abu Wildlife Sanctuary is a part of the subtropical forest in this region. Containing rich flora and fauna, this sanctuary allows you to come close to some rare and exotic species of wild animals, including the Indian fox, pangolin,

grey jungle fowl, striped hyena, and also Indian leopard, the apex predator here.

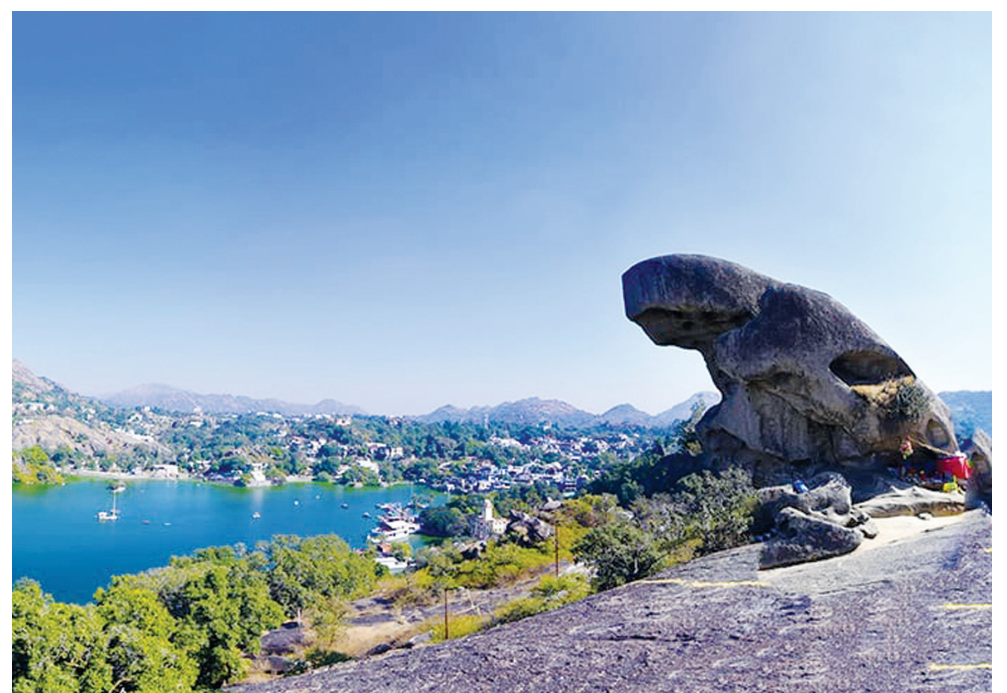
PEACE PARK

Nestled in between two famous Aravali peaks, the Guru Shikhar and Achalgarh, the Peace Park in Mount Abu is a part of the Brahma Kumaris' establishment. With an ambiance that creates the perfect blend of serenity and tranquillity, the park offers a beautiful backdrop for silence and peaceful recreation. At the Peace Park, one can visit the rock garden that houses a wide variety of Cactaceae, the orchard, citrus corner, and view the numerous floral displays that include coleus, shrubs, hibiscus, creepers and climbers, and an exquisitely beautiful rose garden. The park also has a number of areas, like a stone cave and huts, where people can meditate in a tranquil environment. The Brahma Kumaris also provide a guided tour of the park, and you can also watch a short video film that explains interesting meditation concepts. This place of solitude in the lap of nature is something you must experience.

LAL MANDIR

Located on Delwara Road, near the Delwara Jain Temple, is this small temple dedicated to Lord Shiva. The temple offers a very peaceful ambiance and is considered as one of the most ancient holy places located in Mount Abu. A small and beautiful temple, the Lal Mandir gets its name from the fact that all the walls of the temple have been painted red. The temple is one of the must visit spots in Mount Abu, popular among the religious tourists as well as others. The temple is also quite well-known for being a Swayambhu 'Shiva Temple, so named because the idol placed inside the temple can be seen wearing a 'jenau'.

Mount Abu: The hill station of Rajasthan



contd from page 1

Donald Trump charged over classified documents in first federal indictment of an ex-president

recounted to prosecutors by lawyers, close aides and other witnesses, with prosecutors even using against Mr. Trump his own words as a candidate and president professing to respect and know procedures related to the handling of classified information.

The indictment includes 37 counts - 31 of which pertain to the willful retention of national defense information, with the balance relating to alleged conspiracy, obstruction and false statements - that taken together could result in a yearslong prison sentence.

The case adds to deepening legal jeopardy for Mr. Trump, who has already been indicted in New York and faces additional investigations in Washington and Atlanta that also could lead to criminal charges. But among the various investigations he has faced, legal experts - as well as Mr. Trump's own aides - had long seen the Mar-a-Lago probe as the most perilous threat and the one most ripe for prosecution. Campaign aides had been bracing for the fallout since Mr. Trump's attorneys were notified that he was the target of the investigation, assuming it was not a matter of if charges would be brought, but when.

Enumerating the defense and foreign intelligence-related information included in the documents, prosecutors wrote that their "unauthorized disclosure ... could put at risk the national security of the United States, foreign relations, the safety of the United States military, and human sources and the continued viability of sensitive intelligence collection methods."

Investigators had seized a cache of 13,000 documents from Trump's Mar-a-Lago estate in Palm Beach, Florida, nearly a year ago. Of those, 100 were marked as classified.

"I am an innocent man!" Trump wrote in all caps on his Truth Social platform on Thursday, June 8, after announcing that he had been indicted. It is the second criminal case for Trump and the first federal case against him. He is due to go on trial in New York next March in a state case stemming from a hush-money payment to a porn star.

The indictment of Trump, who has repeatedly denied any allegations of impropriety, is unprecedented for a former president. (Source: Agencies)

Boris Johnson quits as UK lawmaker after being told he would be sanctioned for misleading Parliament

inquiry looking into whether he misled the House of Commons about lockdown-breaking parties in Downing Street during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Johnson's decision came on Friday, June 9, as he received a confidential letter from the MP-led privileges committee over the crucial matter.

Johnson accused the Commons inquiry of attempting to "drive me out".

In a statement, he said: "They have still not produced a shred of evidence that I knowingly or recklessly misled the Commons."

Earlier on Friday, he received a copy of the yet-to-be-published report, which he claimed was "riddled with inaccuracies and reeks of prejudice".

In evidence given to the Privileges Committee in March, Johnson admitted misleading Parliament, but denied doing it on purpose.

He said social distancing had not been "perfect" at gatherings in Downing Street during Covid lockdowns.

But he said they were "essential" work events, which he claimed were allowed.

He insisted the guidelines - as he understood them - were followed at all times.

Announcing he would step down, Johnson issued a lengthy statement in which he said: "I did not lie, and I believe that in their hearts the committee know it."

"They know perfectly well that when I spoke in the

Commons I was saying what I believed sincerely to be true and what I had been briefed to say, like any other minister," he said.

Johnson said he corrected the record as soon as possible and claimed committee members "know that".

He said the "current prime minister and then occupant of the same building, Rishi Sunak" also believed they were "working lawfully together".

Johnson condemned the committee as a "kangaroo court" and claimed that its "purpose from the beginning has been to find me guilty, regardless of the facts".

Johnson's departure from political life comes less than four years after he won an 80-seat political majority and nine months after he stood down as prime minister after a police fine for breaking his own Covid rules.

In his statement, Johnson hit out at political enemies for targeting him after he was shown the privileges committee findings against him earlier this week.

"It is very sad to be leaving Parliament - at least for now - but above all I am bewildered and appalled that I can be forced out, anti-democratically, by a committee chaired and managed, by [the Labour MP] Harriet Harman, with such egregious bias," he said.

The resignation will trigger an immediate by-election in Johnson's Uxbridge and South Ruislip constituency.

It was the second in a day for Prime Minister Rishi Sunak after Nadine Dorries resigned as MP for Mid Bedfordshire after her inclusion on Johnson's peerage list was blocked.

Labour sources view both the seats as winnable. (Source: PTI)

We will adjudicate 1 million visas in India this year, says U.S. official

India Caucus, during two separate Congressional hearings on Consular Affairs Budget asked top State Department officials why people in India were facing waiting periods of up to 600 days for approval of visa applications.

"The United States enjoys strong people to people ties with India. India is now part of the Quad. We are constantly engaging it in geo-strategic interests that we have. New Jersey is home to a great number of Indian Americans and their families. I appreciate and applaud the department's heightened focus towards reducing wait times for first-time B1-B2 applicants in India," Menendez said.

"But despite that progress this past year, India continues to face the longest wait times globally with average wait times for an appointment for the first time B1-B2 applicant ranging between 450 and 600 days. Could you please speak to me as to why that is the case? Why does it take up to 600 days for an adjudication?" Menendez asked during a hearing at the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

"I'm the co-chair of the U.S.-India Caucus. I think it's one of the most consequential economic diplomatic security relationships we have in the 21st Century. However, one of the consistent and painful complaints that I receive from Indian-Americans and from our Indian colleagues is the wait time, despite the fact that in India, I believe you have the second or third most consular affairs officers," Congressman Waltz said during a hearing by the House Foreign Relations Committee.

"The data that I have is that the average waiting period in Mumbai, India, was 587 calendar days. With our trade over \$150 billion with the consequential relationship with Prime Minister Narendra Modi [who came] for a state dinner and visit just this month, what are we doing to fix this? Have you looked at any India-specific policy fast-tracks or issues?" he asked.

He said that the delay in visa would impact the business relationship.

"Have you looked at even perhaps a Quad umbrella or bubble for some of these critical business relationships. My state just in Florida, it's estimated that \$8 billion in trade conferences, events and visitors - that's 250,000 jobs - are affected by these delays. So what are we doing



to fix it?" Waltz asked.

Assistant Secretary of State for Consular Affairs Rena Bitter told the lawmakers at the two different Congressional hearings that the State Department was working hard on it and had taken several steps to address this issue.

"India is a place where we have historically had high demand for visas and there's just a tremendous amount of pent-up demand. One of the things about India is that every post is unique, but they also had a really devastating bout with Covid 19 quite late and so that their ability to meet the pent-up demand lasted quite a bit longer," she said.

The visa wait times have been reduced by about two-thirds.

"We have opened appointments for Indian nationals, dedicated appointments in other posts for specific appointments and in all other categories. I'm sure you're aware of this and you've mentioned it, wait times are pre-pandemic levels better," she said.

"We will adjudicate 1 million visas in India this year. Our productivity there is extraordinarily high," Bitter said.

In the House Congressional hearing Bitter said the US has opened appointments for Indian applicants at other posts that are dedicated just to Indians to make sure that they are able to get their travel needs met.

"We surge staff to India. We reduced wait times by about two thirds at the beginning of the year and we'll continue to focus on it. We're very aware of these issues," she said.

(Source: PTI)



French Open 2023: Unseeded Karolina Muchova to face World No 1 Iga Swiatek in final

As it is, Karolina Muchova was the unseeded, unexpected participant in the French Open 2023 semifinals. And then, dealing with cramping legs nearly three hours into the match, she was just one point from losing to No. 2 Aryna Sabalenka, who entered Thursday, June 8, with a 12-0 Grand Slam record in 2023, including an Australian Open title. Muchova somehow worked her way out of that difficult situation, grabbing the last five games against an error-prone Sabalenka for a 7-6 (5), 6-7 (5), 7-5 victory at Roland Garros to reach her first major final at the last place she expected. "A roller coaster," Muchova said.

In Saturday's, June 10, title match, she will meet No. 1 Iga Swiatek, the defending champion, who got past No. 14 Beatriz Haddad Maia 6-2, 7-6 (7) on Thursday night. Swiatek is seeking a third title in Paris and fourth major championship in all and her win in the semifinals assured the 22-year-old from Poland of remaining atop the WTA rankings.

At No. 43, Muchova is the fourth-lowest-ranked women's finalist in French Open history. On the other hand, she is now 5-0 for her career against players ranked in the Top 3. It was tough to decide which was more stunning: that Sabalenka lost — or the way she lost.

World Test Championship final

Top-order failure leaves India with mountain to climb after Day 2

LONDON (TIP)

India reached 151 for five at stumps on the second day of the World Test Championship Final against Australia here on Thursday, June 8, trailing their opponents by 318 runs in the first innings.

The Australians were bowled out for 469 in their first essay, having resumed from overnight 327 for three at The Oval.

The Indian pacers did well to restrict Australia after struggling against centurions Steve Smith and Travis Head on the first day.

While Head went on to make a counterattacking 163, Smith notched up his 31st Test hundred before getting dismissed for a solid 121.

Mohammed Siraj was the most successful Indian bowler, finishing with figures of 4/108 in 28.3 overs, while there were two wickets apiece for Mohammed Shami and Shardul Thakur.

Dissecting the cheap dismissal of India's world-class top-order, legendary cricketer Sunil Gavaskar issued an eye-catching statement about Indian skipper Rohit Sharma, who perished for an embarrassing individual score against Australia. After hammering Australia in their backyard to punch their tickets for the summit clash, a lot was expected from Team India's formidable batting lineup when Rohit and Co. squared off against



Australia's Mitchell Starc dismisses India's Virat Kohli. photo: Reuters

Pat Cummins' men in the final of the ICC World Test Championship at The Oval.

With Indian bowlers making a strong comeback after taking a heavy beating on the opening day, Indian openers had their task cut out when Rohit and Shubman Gill kickstarted India's innings on Day 2 at The Oval. After showing signs of a resurgence, Rohit was eventually out LBW (Leg Before Wicket) by Aussie skipper Cummins in the sixth over. Three balls later, Scott Boland bamboozled Gill in the next over before premier batter Cheteshwar Pujara followed suit and capped off a forgetful outing.

Discussing the batting failures of the Indian batters, Gavaskar acknowledged that skipper Rohit

has struggled for form since the Indian Premier League (IPL) 2023. "I think it's a couple of misjudgements from probably like Shubman Gill, who has been in great form. Losing him was a big blow. Rohit Sharma has been not in the best of touches in the IPL. So, him playing across the line was not that much of a surprise. But again Pujara, not quite covering his stumps and getting out. So these were the dismissals that could have been avoided. But to Australia's credit, they bowled a much fuller length, and got the batters into thinking that the line was such that most batters - however good you are, that off stump, there is always a little bit of uncertainty," Gavaskar told Star Sports.

FIH Pro League: 3 cheers for India, go top of table

EINDHOVEN (TIP)

India displayed great resilience a day after suffering a stunning loss to outclass Argentina 3-0 in a FIH Pro League match here on June 8.

A profligate India squandered a one-goal lead to go down 1-4 to hosts Netherlands on Wednesday night, but the Harmanpreet Singh-led side bounced back in style with a commanding win over Argentina.

Skipper Harmanpreet led from the front, converting a penalty corner in the 33rd minute. Amit Rohidas also converted from a penalty corner in the 39th minute before Abhishek's field goal in the 59th minute nailed it for India. By virtue of this win, India moved to the top of the standings with 27 points from 14 games, ahead of Great Britain (26 points from 12 matches). India will next play Netherlands in their reverse tie here on Saturday.

On June 7 night, Harmanpreet (11th minute) had scored India's lone goal despite the visitors being awarded as many as five penalty corners and two penalty strokes. Pepijn Reyenga (17th), Boris



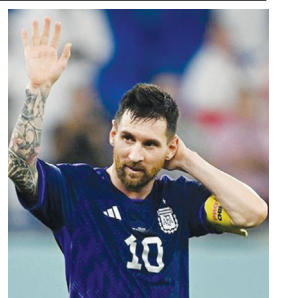
Burkhardt (40th) and Duco Telgenkamp (41th, 58th) scored in the home team's victory. Source: PTI

Lionel Messi picks MLS's Inter Miami

MIAMI (TIP)

Lionel Messi has pulled off his latest stunning feat: He is headed to Major League Soccer and joining Inter Miami.

After months — years, even — of speculation, Messi finally revealed his decision to join a Miami franchise that has been led by another global soccer icon, David Beckham, since its inception but has yet to make any real splashes on the field. That likely will soon change. One of Inter Miami's owners, Jorge Mas, tweeted out a photo of a darkly silhouetted Messi jersey shortly before the Argentinian great revealed his decision in interviews with Spanish news outlets Mundo Deportivo and Sport. It was widely believed that Messi eventually would choose to play for Al-Hilal in Saudi Arabia, following longtime rival Cristiano Ronaldo to a nation where some clubs now are funded by the state's sovereign wealth fund. Going back to Barcelona, a storied franchise where he spent most of his career, was another possibility. Source: AP





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History This Week

JUNE 09 - 15, 2023

JUNE 9

June 9, 1898 - The British signed a 99-year lease for Hong Kong, located on the southeastern coast of China. Hong Kong, consisting of an area measuring 400 square miles, was administered as a British Crown Colony until July 1, 1997, when its sovereignty reverted to the People's Republic of China.



Birthday - Composer and lyricist Cole Porter (1893-1964) was born in Peru, Indiana. He published his first song The Bobolink Waltz at the age of ten. His Broadway career was launched in 1928 when five of his songs were used in the musical play Let's Do It. Among his many contributions to the Broadway stage; Fifty Million Frenchmen, The Gay Divorcee, Anything Goes, Leave It to Me, Du Barry Was a Lady, Something for the Boys, Kiss Me Kate, Can Can and Silk Stockings.

JUNE 10

June 10, 1942 - In one of the most infamous single acts of World War II in Europe, all 172 men and boys over age 16 in the Czech village of Lidice were shot by Nazis in reprisal for the assassination of SS leader Reinhard Heydrich. The women were deported to Ravensbrück concentration camp where most died. Ninety young children were sent to the concentration camp at Gneisenau, with some later taken to Nazi orphanages if they were German looking. The village was then completely leveled until not a trace remained.



Birthday - African American actress Hattie McDaniel (1889-1952) was born in Wichita, Kansas. She won an Academy Award in 1940 for her role as 'Mammy' in Gone with the Wind.

Birthday - Judy Garland (1922-1969)

was born in Grand Rapids, Minnesota (as Frances Gumm). She is best remembered for her portrayal of Dorothy Gale in The Wizard of Oz (1939) and other films including Meet Me in St. Louis (1944) and Easter Parade (1948). She became one of the most popular concert performers of the 1950s and '60s and broke box-office records in New York City and London. She was found dead of an overdose of sleeping pills in London on June 22, 1969.

JUNE 11

June 11, 1991 - Mount Pinatubo in the Philippines erupted, spewing ash into the air, visible over 60 miles. The surrounding areas were covered with ash and mud created by rainstorms. Nearby U.S. military bases were also damaged.

June 11, 1994 - After 49 years, the Soviet military occupation of East Germany ended. At one time there had been 337,800 Soviet troops stationed in Germany. Over 300,000 Russians died during World War II in the Battle for Berlin.



Birthday - German composer Georg Richard Strauss (1864-1949) was born in Munich. His best known works include; Till Eulenspiegel (1895), Also Sprach Zarathustra (1896) and Don Quixote (1898).

Birthday - Undersea explorer Jacques Cousteau (1910-1997) was born in Ste-Andre-de-Cubzac, France. In 1943, he helped invent the first underwater breathing apparatus, called the Aqualung. He is best known for his Emmy Award winning television series, The Undersea World of Jacques Cousteau, which premiered in the U.S. in 1968.

JUNE 12

June 12, 1963 - Civil rights leader Medgar Evers was assassinated in Jackson, Mississippi, by a rifle bullet from an ambush. He had been active in seeking integration of schools and voter registration for African Americans in the South. Widespread public outrage following his death led President John F. Kennedy to propose a comprehensive Civil Rights law. Evers was buried in Arlington National Cemetery.

Birthday - Anne Frank (1929-1945) was born in Frankfurt, Germany. She is perhaps the best known victim of the Nazi Holocaust. Anne and her family moved from Germany to Amsterdam to flee Nazi persecution, then went into



hiding in a small attic after Holland was invaded by Nazis. Anne, a girl on the verge of womanhood, was unable to go outside for any reason. In 1942, she began a diary to cope with the boredom, fear, annoyances, and loneliness of captivity. Her family's hiding place was eventually discovered and Anne and her family were deported to Nazi concentration camps. She contracted typhus and died at Bergen-Belsen in 1945. After the war, her father published her diary, which inspired the world, revealing a young woman who had managed to remain hopeful, despite it all.

JUNE 13

June 13, 1971 - The New York Times began publishing the Pentagon Papers, a collection of top secret documents exposing U.S. strategy in the Vietnam War.



Birthday - Nobel Prize-winning Irish poet and dramatist William Butler Yeats (1865-1939) was born in Dublin, Ireland. Among his plays; The Countess Cathleen (1892) and Cathleen ni Houlihan (1902).

Birthday - American Army General Winfield Scott (1786-1866) was born in Petersburg, Virginia. Nicknamed "Old Fuss and Feathers" because of his formality, he served in three wars; the War of 1812, the Mexican War, and the American Civil War. He was also nominated for the presidency by the Whig party in 1852 but was defeated by Franklin Pierce.

JUNE 14

June 14, 1951 - Univac 1, the world's first commercial electronic computer was unveiled in Philadelphia. It was installed at the Census Bureau and utilized a magnetic tape unit as a buffer memory.



Birthday - Photojournalist Margaret Bourke-White (1906-1971) was born in New York City. In 1936, she became one of four original staff photographers for Life Magazine. She was the first woman to become an accredited war correspondent during World War II. She covered the Italian campaign, the siege of Moscow and the American crossing of the Rhine into Germany. Her photographs of Nazi concentration camps stunned the world. She later photographed Mahatma Gandhi and covered the migration of millions of people after the Indian subcontinent was subdivided. She also served as a war correspondent during the Korean War. Her best known book was a study of rural poverty in the American South, You Have Seen Their Faces (1937).

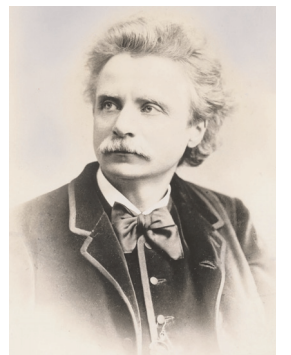
Birthday - American editor and compiler John Bartlett (1820-1905) was born in Plymouth, Massachusetts. Although he had little formal education, he created Bartlett's Familiar Quotations, one of the most-used reference works of the English language, which today contains 22,000 entries.

Birthday - German psychiatrist and pathologist Alois Alzheimer (1864-1915) was born in Markbreit am Mainz, Germany. In 1907, he published an article first describing 'Alzheimers,' a degenerative disease, usually beginning at age 40-60, affecting nerve cells of the brain and leading to severe memory impairment and progressive loss of mental faculties.

JUNE 15

June 15, 1215 - King John set his seal to Magna Carta, the first charter of British liberties, guaranteeing basic rights that have since become the foundation of modern democracies around the world.

Birthday - Pianist and composer Edvard Grieg (1843-1907) was born in Bergen, Norway. He incorporated the rhythms and melodies of Norwegian folk music into his songs and instrumentals including Piano Concerto in A Minor, Peer Gynt Suite, Norwegian Peasant Dance, and Ich liebe Dich.





A World without Childhood Blindness

Only by doing good can one benefit
-Rig Veda



An Eye Institute in Rajahmundry,
Andhra Pradesh to prevent
avoidable childhood blindness

Vision of Dr. V.K. Raju,
the Eye Foundation of America
and Goutami Eye Institute

- * 3.5 million + served
- * 350 thousand + surgeries
- * 30 thousand + on children

**Message from
Peter J. McDonnell,
M.D. Director Wilmer Eye
Institute, Johns Hopkins
University, USA on the
occasion of laying the
foundation stone on
December 10, 2020**



"On behalf of all my colleagues of the Wilmer Eye Institute in Baltimore, MO, I send my best wishes and congratulations to our friends in Goutami on this extremely important occasion. This beautiful facility will match the wonderful world class work of your doctors, nurses and staff in preserving and restoring the vision of so many patients. We in the United States are inspired by your dedication and admire your tireless efforts to serve so many who need your skills and compassion. Best wishes, Peter"

"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**

Triplets Prasanth, Susanth and Nisanth, who were treated by Goutami Eye Institute three years ago and gifted vision for life, as ROP babies under GEMROP (Goutami Eye tele Medicine Retinopathy Of Prematurity).

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The work by the Eye Foundation of America team started in 1977 and has spread from India to 21 different countries. Additionally, EFA focuses on teaching and training of health professionals who receive the Foundation's support at every level.
<https://youtube/B23VvUaloN4> <https://youtube/KiCzqLQe2VE>

To know more about the work of Eye Foundation of America or to donate, visit www.eyefoundationofamerica.org

ॐ सर्वे भवन्तु सुखिनः Sarve Bhavantu Sukhinah,
सर्वे सन्तु नरिमयाः । Sarve Santu Niramayah
May all be prosperous and happy!
May all be healthy!

The Eye Foundation of America
695, West View Avenue, Morgantown, WV 26505
Phone: 304-599-0705
www.eyefoundationofamerica.org