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INTERNATIONAL DAY OF YOGA

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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.

Blinken not expecting breakthrough in China : NSA Jake Sullivan



Blinken will travel to Beijing on June 18 and 19. File photo

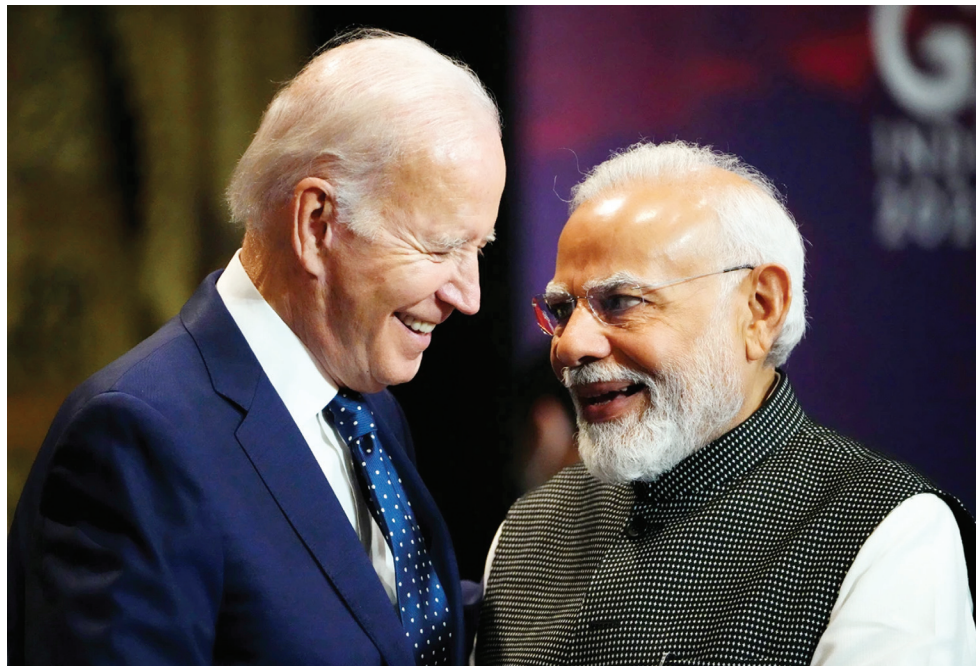
JUNE 16, 2023

WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP): The U.S. expects a "transformational moment" in India ties during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's upcoming trip to Washington, President Joe Biden's National Security Adviser said as he downplayed chances for a diplomatic breakthrough in China

CONTD ON PAGE 40

Prime Minister Modi's historic state visit to US will strengthen ties between the two democracies

MODI IN HIS ADDRESS TO THE JOINT MEETING OF THE US CONGRESS WILL SPEAK ABOUT HIS VISION FOR INDIA'S FUTURE AND THE GLOBAL CHALLENGES US AND INDIA FACE



Prime Minister Narendra Modi comes on a historic state visit to the United States from June 21 to 24 at the invitation of President Joe Biden. File photo

JUNE 15, 2023

I.S. SALUJA

NEW YORK (TIP): A warm welcome awaits Prime Minister Narendra Modi on his historic state visit to the United States from June 21 to 24 at the invitation of President Joe Biden.

It would be Modi's sixth visit to the US since he became Prime Minister in 2014, but his first official state visit, a rare honor extended to only two Indian leaders before him - President S Radhakrishnan in June 1963 and Prime Minister Manmohan Singh in November 2009.

Modi will also be making history when he addresses a joint meeting of the US Congress on June 23 - one of the highest honors Washington affords to foreign dignitaries - for the second time in seven years. It will make him only the third world leader, outside of Israel, to do so.

CONTD ON PAGE 40

US eases norms on eligibility criteria for those awaiting Green Card



JUNE 16, 2023

WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP): The Biden administration has eased norms by releasing policy guidance on the eligibility criteria for those waiting for green cards to work and stay in America, days ahead of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to the US.

USCIS Guidance will help thousands of Indian technology professionals who are in the long wait for a Green Card.

Photo for representational purpose only

The guidance issued by the US Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) regarding the eligibility criteria for initial and renewal applications for Employment Authorization Document (EAD) in compelling circumstances is expected to help thousands of Indian technology professionals who are in the agonizingly long wait for a Green Card or permanent residency.

CONTD ON PAGE 40

Indian security forces partisan; Manipur groups write to UN

JUNE 15, 2023

GUWAHATI (TIP):

A conglomerate of 15 Manipur organizations has submitted a memorandum to the United Nations and international rights bodies seeking global attention to the ongoing crisis in the northeastern State. The organizations include the influential All Manipur United Clubs' Organisation, Manipur Students' Federation, All Manipur Women's Voluntary Association, and Pangal (Muslim) Students' Organisation.



Unidentified miscreants torch two houses belonging to a particular community to retaliate the killing of nine civilians by Kuki militants, in Manipur, on June 15, 2023. Photo Credit / PTI

CONTD ON PAGE 40

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GUEST COMMENT

Code red: On the 22nd Law Commission and a uniform civil code

THE PUSH FOR A UNIFORM CIVIL CODE SHOULD NOT BECOME A DIVISIVE TOOL

The Law Commission's decision to solicit views from the public on the idea of a uniform civil code appears to be a political initiative aimed at bringing the potentially divisive issue under focus in the run-up to next year's general election. The Commission, the 22nd such panel, has claimed that years have elapsed since similar views were sought by the previous panel, and that a fresh effort was needed to garner varied opinions. The 21st Commission had released a consultation paper in 2018 that categorically said a uniform civil code was "neither necessary nor desirable" at that stage. In a well-reasoned document, it had then argued that the focus of initiatives to reform the various personal laws should be the elimination of all forms of discrimination rather than an attempt to bring about uniformity in the laws governing various religions. The document was progressive in nature, inasmuch as it

emphasized non-discrimination over uniformity, and recognized that there could be diverse means of governing aspects of personal law such as marriage, divorce, inheritance and adoption instead of imposing a single set of rules on society. This would entail the removal of discriminatory provisions, especially those that affect women, and adoption of some overarching norms rooted in equality. Nothing significant has happened since to warrant a fresh look, except perhaps a political need for the current dispensation to bring the issue to the electoral arena.

A uniform civil code for the entire country is indeed a lofty goal, but the question whether introducing one for all aspects of personal law would impinge on the freedom of religion has been part of the debate. B.R. Ambedkar viewed it as desirable but favored its being voluntary. It is possible that a uniform code may be adopted without offending

any religion, but the concept evokes fear among sections of the minorities that their religious beliefs, seen as the source of their personal laws, may be undermined. In fraught times such as the present, a common code will inevitably be seen as an imposition by the majority. Basic reforms can be given priority - such as having 18 as the marriageable age for all across communities and genders. Introducing a 'no-fault' divorce procedure and allowing dissolution of marriage on the ground of irretrievable breakdown, and having common norms for post-divorce division of assets were other matters the previous Commission threw up for a debate. Within each community's laws, it will be desirable to first incorporate universal principles of equality and non-discrimination and eliminate practices based on taboos and stereotypes.

(The Hindu)

Mounting tensions: On the threat to social harmony in Uttarakhand

CRIMINAL CASES SHOULD NOT BE ALLOWED TO TAKE A COMMUNAL COLOR

Festering communal tensions in Purola in Uttarakhand, nearly 400 kilometers north of Delhi, have resulted in the fleeing of most of the town's handful of Muslims. A clutch of self-styled protectors of Hindu interests had called for a congregation on June 15, which was cancelled at the eleventh hour, even as the Uttarakhand High Court asked the State government to ensure that law and order was maintained. Tensions arose from an alleged attempt by a Muslim man to kidnap a minor Hindu girl from the town, on May 26. The man and his Hindu friend were arrested, and the incident soon became the new war cry for outfits that have been peddling the notion of love jihad, an alleged Islamic scheme to entrap Hindu girls in liaisons. Muslims in Purola became the target of a social boycott, and Hindu landlords were reportedly forced to evict their Muslim tenants. Several such incidents of

targeting interfaith relationships have been reported in Uttarakhand in recent months. In a rather bizarre case, an interfaith couple had to call off their marriage even after their families had agreed to their match. Individual rights and choices are being trampled upon by hooligans who claim to protect community interests, a trend that is a serious threat to the rule of law and social harmony.

The Chief Minister of Uttarakhand, Pushkar Singh Dhami, has amplified the hate rhetoric of love jihad in recent months even as these disturbances continue. He also ordered the demolition of over 600 tomb shrines associated largely with Muslims, on grounds of encroachment of public or forest land. He has promised strict action against the so-called love jihad and a vaguely framed 'verification drive' of people to keep the State free of disturbances. Meanwhile, random organizations that seek the

cleansing of 'devbhoomi' - a reference to Hindu shrines in the Himalayan State - of other faiths, are finding the ruling party's tacit or direct endorsement. A demand for excluding Muslims from the businesses associated with the Chardham pilgrimage circuit is also being given a sympathetic hearing by the administration. Since 2017, Uttarakhand has been in the news for campaigns and hate speeches against people from the minority community, which has been noted by both the Supreme Court of India and the High Court. The State should remain impartial in enforcing the law. The criminal case of attempted kidnapping in Purola should be investigated quickly, and nobody should be allowed to make use of it to propagate communal politics. The leaders should be fair and impartial and be seen so.

(The Hindu)

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Indian-origin medical student among 3 killed in UK's Nottingham knife attacks

GRACE O'MALLEY KUMAR, 19, WAS A 'TALENTED HOCKEY AND CRICKET PLAYER'



Grace O'Malley Kumar
Photo: @hockeyforlondon/Twitter

JUNE 14, 2023

LONDON (TIP): An Indian-origin teenage medical student described as a talented hockey and cricket player was named on Wednesday as one of three victims of a frenzied series of knife attacks on the streets of Nottingham in central England that has shocked the country.

Grace O'Malley Kumar, 19, was with fellow University of Nottingham student cricketer friend - Barnaby Webber, also 19 - when the as-yet unnamed attacker is said to have fatally stabbed the duo in the early hours of Tuesday.

Nottinghamshire Police said the 31-year-old suspect, who remains in custody, then went on to stab a man in his 60s to death and also attempted to run over

three people - still in hospital - with a van stolen from that man.

"I know the whole house will want to thank the emergency services for their ongoing response to the shocking incident in Nottingham yesterday. Our thoughts are with those injured and with the families of those who lost their lives," said British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak at the start of the House of Commons session on Wednesday.

UK Home Secretary Suella Braverman later made a statement to update Parliament on the "horrific events" and confirmed that it is not being treated as a terrorist attack at this stage.

"I can tell the House that the police are working flat out to establish the full facts and provide support to everyone affected. They are currently keeping an open mind as to the motives behind these attacks but I can confirm Nottinghamshire police are being assisted in their inquiries by counter terror police. Though, this does not mean that it is currently being treated as a terrorist attack," said Braverman.

Tracing some of the details, the minister said a knife was used in the attacks, two of the victims were students at Nottingham University and the third victim - a local school caretaker Ian Coates in his 60s - was the owner of the van that police believe the suspect stole and was used to run down three pedestrians who remain in hospital.

"We are keeping an 'open mind' and are

working alongside Counter Terrorism Policing to establish the facts - as we would normally do in these types of circumstances," Kate Meynell, Chief Constable of Nottinghamshire Police, said in a statement.

"A dedicated team of detectives is investigating the circumstances surrounding these incidents and will continue to gather evidence over the coming days," she said.

While the victims are yet to be formally named by the police, local media reports from Nottingham have thrown light on some information around Grace Kumar as the daughter of London-based doctor of Indian-origin, Dr Sanjoy Kumar.

He is being dubbed a "hero" doctor who had saved the lives of some teenage stab victims in his local surgery back in 2009. Tributes have been pouring in for Grace, who was studying to become a doctor like him and played for the England under-18s hockey team and was also a talented cricketer.

"Grace was an adored daughter and sister; she was a truly wonderful and beautiful young lady," Kumar's family said in a statement.

"Grace was not just a sister to James but his best friend. He is completely heartbroken. As parents, words cannot explain our complete and utter devastation. She will be so dearly missed. We were so incredibly proud of Grace's achievements and what a truly lovely person she was. She was resilient and wise beyond her years," they said.

They said Grace was full of life.

"Grace was so happy in life fulfilling her ambition of studying to become a doctor whilst playing topflight hockey at university. She leaves behind devastated extended family and friends," they added.

England Hockey, the sport's governing body, also paid tributes to her.

"We are all deeply saddened by the news of the tragic death of Grace Kumar in Nottingham on Tuesday," England Hockey said in its tribute.

Woodford Wells Cricket Club in Essex described Grace Kumar as a "fiercely competitive, talented and dedicated cricketer".

Earlier, the University of Nottingham confirmed the "sudden and unexpected death" of two of its students.

"All of us at Nottingham are deeply shocked and saddened by the deaths of two of our students following a major incident in Nottingham city center. I know our entire university community will join me in offering our deepest condolences to their family and close friends, as well as the other victims of the incident. Our thoughts are very much with them all at this incredibly difficult time," said Vice-Chancellor Shearer West.

"The university is supporting the students' family and friends, as well as staff and students. Our security team is working closely with Nottinghamshire Police and the authorities to support the ongoing investigation into the incident," she said.

Man charged with murder of Hyderabad student Tejaswini in UK

The second victim of the knife attack, Akhila, remains in hospital but is said to be out of danger



Tejaswini Kontham
Instagram photo

JUNE 15, 2023

LONDON (TIP): A 23-year-old man was on Thursday, June 15, charged with the murder of Indian student Tejaswini Kontham and the attempted murder of her friend at a residential address in Wembley, north London.

The Metropolitan Police said Keven Antonio Lourenco De Morais, previously referred to as a Brazilian national, has been remanded in police custody to appear at Uxbridge Magistrates Court in London. Two other people, one man and a woman, arrested in connection with the murder investigation at the crime scene have now been released with no further action.

"Keven Antonio Lourenco De Morais, 23, of Neeld Crescent, Wembley was charged on Thursday, 15 June with the murder of Tejaswini Kontham and the attempted murder of a second woman," the Met Police said in a statement. On Tuesday, Met Police officers attended a flat in Neeld Crescent, Wembley, along with the London Ambulance Service and found Tejaswini and another woman, aged 28, suffering from knife injuries.

(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)

Indian American man Srinivasrao Alaparathi sues boat captain and Florida resort owner for wife's death



Srinivasrao Alaparathi has filed a lawsuit against a boat captain and his resort for negligence that killed his wife and injured their son while parasailing on vacation in Florida

JUNE 10, 2023

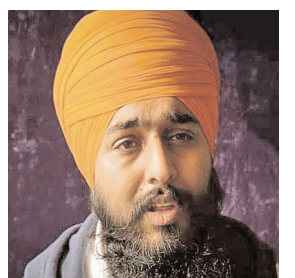
NEW JERSEY (TIP): An Indian American man has filed a lawsuit against a boat captain and his resort for negligence that killed his wife and injured their son while parasailing on vacation in Florida, a media report said. Srinivasrao Alaparathi filed a 68-page lawsuit in Monroe County circuit court this week against the boat captain, his first mate and the resort, Captain Pip's Marina & Hideaway, alleging negligence and wrongful death.

(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)

Accused of attack on Indian High Commission, Amritpal's supporter Avtar Singh Khanda dies in UK

JUNE 15, 2023

LONDON (TIP): Avtar Singh Khanda, a close associate of arrested Khalistan supporter Amritpal Singh and self-styled chief of the banned Khalistan Liberation Force (KLF), died of blood cancer at a hospital in Birmingham, the UK, this morning. He was linked to anti-India activities, including the attack on the Tricolor at the High Commission of India in London.



Avtar Singh Khanda

According to reports, the Sikh Federation (UK), which is considered to be one of the largest Sikh organizations based in the country, has confirmed that Khanda was terminally ill with blood cancer and had been on a life-support system for the last few days.

Khanda's health conditions started worsening late last night soon after the NIA released a list of 45 suspects, including him, who were wanted in the March 19 anti-India protest at the Indian High Commission in London, sources in the agency said.

Indian investigating agencies have long been accusing Khanda of radicalizing the youth in Punjab and in countries like the UK, Canada, the US, Germany, Australia against India.

(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)

Indian American couple Ramesh Chopra and Neena Chopra gifts \$250K for India Center chair at UCF

JUNE 9, 2023

TAMPA, FL (TIP): A \$250,000 gift from an Indian American couple, Ramesh Chopra and Neena Chopra will help University of Central Florida set up the Indian Community Endowed Chair for The India Center.

The generous support of the two Port Orange, Florida residents will help amplify the mission of the center, which is to broaden the awareness and understanding of India's role in the world today, according to a university release.

Establishing an endowed chair highlights the importance of studying India at UCF, it said. In Fall 2022, over 3,000 students from 149 countries enrolled at UCF. Students from India represented the second-largest group of international students with 460 individuals enrolled.

Chopra's gift will be amplified by a \$50,000 match from the university through the UCF Challenge. This strategic initiative provides matching funding from the transformational \$40 million gift made in 2021 by philanthropist MacKenzie Scott.

With the Chopra family's gift, donors to date have pledged more than \$2.5 million toward the \$5 million goal to establish the endowed chair position.

"It is our hope that our gift will help The India Center create a strong foundation for ongoing research and teaching about India, a diverse and dynamic culture that is both ancient and modern," says Ramesh Chopra.

Ramesh and Neena Chopra have both practiced medicine in Florida for over 40 years and live in Port Orange. The couple first moved to Florida in 1982 from Minneapolis, Minnesota.

They are active in the Indian American community in Central Florida and helped



Ramesh Chopra and Neena Chopra have gifted \$250,000 to University of Central Florida to set up the Indian Community Endowed Chair for The India Center

establish CAPI, a network of Indian American medical professionals who fundraise and pool resources to support health and wellness initiatives, professional growth and leadership development.

The couple has a son and daughter, who are both physicians, and four grandchildren.

"We are honored that the Chopra family has chosen to support The India Center at UCF," says Kerstin Hamann, interim director of The India Center, an associate dean in the College of Sciences and a Pegasus Professor in the School of Politics, Security and International Affairs. "Their gift makes a significant contribution to support the work and enhance the reputation of the center as we strive to become the nation's preeminent

location for the study of contemporary India."

The mission of The India Center at UCF is to broaden the awareness and understanding of India's role in the world today. The center is housed in the School of Politics, Security, and International Affairs in the College of Sciences, according to the release.

Established in 2012, the center hosts symposia and events of interest to the regional Indian American community and to UCF students and faculty interested in India and its impact in Florida, the nation and beyond.

The center has supported the work of UCF scholars and students in India and has received a variety of delegations from India.

The India Center at UCF develops India-

US partnerships among universities, companies, governmental, cultural, and other organizations to address issues and opportunities important to both India and the US in areas ranging across technology, politics, security, medicine and more.

UCF and The India Center have established partnerships with eight educational institutions in India for student and faculty collaborations and joint graduate degree programs with two colleges in India.

"We are grateful to the Chopra family for their generosity and vision in advancing our goal of creating the Indian Community Endowed Chair for The India Center at UCF," says Michael D. Johnson, UCF provost and vice president for Academic Affairs.

"The endowed chair will help The India Center expand opportunities for students and faculty to better understand one of the world's most influential countries and how it impacts us."

Among the most ethnically diverse countries in the world, India is estimated to surpass China as the world's most populous country in 2023, the release noted. India is also a major player on the world stage of economics, security, politics and technology.

People of Indian origin are one of the fastest growing migrant populations in the United States, according to the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. The Carnegie Endowment notes that between 2000 and 2018, the Indian American population grew by 150%.

In Florida, Orange County is home to the state's third largest population of immigrants from India behind Hillsborough and Broward counties in 2021, according to the Migration Policy Institute.

British-Indian Priti Patel, Kulveer Ranger in Boris Johnson's honors list



Priti Patel and Kulveer Singh Ranger have been rewarded in former UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson's honors list

JUNE 12, 2023

LONDON (TIP): British Indians Priti Patel and Kulveer Singh Ranger have been rewarded in former UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson's honors list, which came hours before he stepped down as an MP.

The honors list, a tradition granted to outgoing prime ministers, included 38 honors and seven peerages, and was approved by Prime Minister Rishi Sunak nine months after Johnson stepped

down as premier.

Former home secretary Priti Patel was named Dame Commander of the Order of the British Empire, while Ranger, former director of transport, was elevated to the Lords.

Patel, 51, served as Home Secretary under Boris Johnson beginning July 2019, and tendered her resignation from the post in September 2022, just before the appointment of Liz Truss as prime minister. A day after Johnson's resignation last week, Patel praised the leader calling him as the UK's "most electorally successful prime minister since Margaret Thatcher".

"Boris Johnson has served our country and his constituency with distinction. He led the world in supporting Ukraine, got Brexit done, and was our most electorally successful prime minister since Margaret Thatcher. Boris is a political titan whose legacy will stand the test of time," Patel tweeted. (Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)

Indian origin students in Canada facing deportation get a reprieve

CANADA SAYS WILL PROVIDE 'APPROPRIATE REMEDY' FOR INDIAN STUDENTS FACING DEPORTATION

JUNE 13, 2023

TORONTO (TIP): The Canadian government is developing a process to ensure that a large number of Indian students facing the prospect of deportation on charges of obtaining visas using fake admission letters will get an opportunity to prove that they were taken advantage of, immigration minister Sean Fraser has said.

The Indian students, mostly from Punjab, face deportation from Canada after the authorities here found their admission offer letters to educational institutions fake. The matter came to light in March when these students applied for permanent residency in Canada.

Responding to a question in Parliament on Monday, June 12, Fraser, the Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Sean Fraser asserted that the "innocent students, who are the



Students take up their case with an official in Mississauga, Ontario. File photo / PTI

victims of fraud", would be allowed to "prove that they were taken advantage of." The government will provide an "appropriate remedy" for them, he said while noting that many students were "dealing with serious mental health concerns with the uncertainty they are struggling with." (Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)

The awakening with world renowned Reiki Gurus Dr. N. K. Sharma and Dr. Savita Sharma

MAY 18TH, 2023 - MAY 23RD, 2023

JUNE 15, 2023

FLUSHING, NY (TIP): Sriniketan Foundation - a nonprofit organization - was established in 2015 by Mrs. Purnima A. Desai who is also the President of the organization. The mission is to bring awareness (jagruti) among all age groups to bring body, mind, and soul in alignment and to celebrate life with the best of health, happiness and bliss. The sole purpose is to give healing through various energy science therapies in order to save and serve humanity!

Sriniketan Foundation organizes International music festival - sangeet Mahotsav- every year with the participation of internationally renowned artists. Sriniketan President said, "It has been a great pleasure and we have been fortunate, conducting programs for senior citizens- especially free for those above 70 years in age as music therapy among other therapies; workshops are being conducted: naturopathy, mantra therapy, listening therapy, kriya yoga, laughing therapy, reflexology, and reiki healing individual sessions including distant healing". Purnima Ji told The Indian Panorama that she had done a total of 11 energy science courses from Reiki Healing Foundation (RHF) and was now a Grand Reiki Master.

Confident of healing through Reiki, Purnima ji invited wanted her Reiki Gurus, Dr. N. K. Sharma and Dr. Savita Sharma to come to the USA to give healing sessions and give Reiki lessons through workshops. She wanted to help those who were suffering physically, financially and emotionally due to the covid-19 pandemic!

This year, Sriniketan Foundation, under Mrs. Purnima A. Desai's leadership as founder/ president, organized a very amazing "awakening workshop" (Reiki level 1 and advanced Reiki 2) from May 18th to May 23rd, 2023



Sriniketan Foundation Founder and President and Grand Reiki Master Mrs. Purnima A. Desai speaking at the Reiki Workshop

followed by one on May 27th on zoom with world renowned Reiki Gurus Dr. N.K. Sharma and Dr. Savita Sharma in the Lakshmi Hall of the Community Center in Flushing. During the Reiki workshops, all attendees were fully satisfied by learning how to heal themselves and heal others. Reiki is a sacred science and a very powerful and effective way to heal by invoking Reiki energy using two hands praying to cosmos and Reiki masters.

The Reiki Grand Masters Dr. N. K. Sharma and Dr. Savita Sharma,



A Reiki Workshop in progress



Dr. N.K. Sharma at the workshop

founders of Reiki Healing Foundation have a mission for humanity and earth. The workshops conducted by them were very effective and attendees were healed during healing sessions. Reiki Healing Foundation is one of the world's largest certified Reiki institutions. They have trained more than 1,500,000 students and 3,200 Reiki Masters worldwide.

A select few individuals were taken to a past-life experience through the soothing and focused voice of Dr. N.K. Sharma. The very first past life regression therapy session was perfect: a joy to partake in and easy to see visuals and answer all questions asked during the past life



Dr. Savita Sharma treating a patient who, after 5 minutes of treatment told The Indian Panorama that she felt she had half recovered in just the brief session



A group of participants at the workshop

session. Past life awakening for self-realization. Several discourses were organized at senior citizen homes in New Jersey and New York. Those who missed them can hear and watch them on YouTube channel of the Reiki Healing Foundation.

For further information, please contact Mrs. Purnima Desai, Founder & President of Sriniketan Foundation and Shikshayatan at 1-646-472-9255 or via email at gurupurnima24@aol.com

Long Island Indo American Lions Club organizes a Fundraising Gala



JUNE 15, 2023

NEW YORK (TIP): Long Island Indo American Lions Club organized a gala to raise funds for charitable causes. Speaking on the occasion, Indu Gajwani, Charter Founder President said that she was grateful to her team who made it possible to take up charitable projects. She detailed the projects done in the past. They included donations to Sunrise Associates,



Elmhurst Hospital Hope Clinic Oncology department, South Nassau Community Hospital Oncology for cancer affected children. Backpacks were distributed among schools. Food for the needy was donated in churches in USA as well as in India. Blankets were donated to Veterans in New York as well as in India. Winter jackets were distributed among the needy in



Queens and Long Island. She also spoke about a current project of collecting used eyeglasses and donate them to the needy in underdeveloped countries. Indu Gajwani thanked supporters and donors for their generosity.

She also thanked the Executive Committee, Event Chair, Project Chairs, Program Coordinators, & all the members for their Commendable Services.

Economic ties at heart of India, US strategic partnership, says Secretary of State Blinken

JUNE 15, 2023

WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP): Ahead of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's State Visit, US Secretary of State Antony Blinken has said economic ties are at the heart of the Indo-US strategic partnership and added that the two countries are helping shape innovations of the future and the norms governing them.

Modi has been invited by President Joe Biden and First Lady Jill Biden for an official State Visit, which will include a State Dinner on June 22.

Addressing the annual India Ideas Summit of the US-India Business Council (USIBC) here on Monday, June 12, Blinken said, "At the heart of our strategic partnership is our economic ties. And under the leadership of President Biden and Prime Minister Modi - and private sector leaders like you - it is growing stronger by the day."

Blinken added that last year, trade between the two countries reached a record USD 191 billion, making the US the largest trading partner for India. American companies have invested at least USD 54 billion in India - from manufacturing to telecommunications.

In the US, he said, Indian companies have invested over USD 40 billion - in IT, pharmaceuticals and more - supporting 4,25,000 jobs from California to Georgia.

This February, Air India announced the historic purchase of more than 200 Boeing

aircraft that will support an estimated one million-plus jobs across 44 states, the diplomat said during his address.

"We're here ahead of a historic State Visit by Prime Minister Modi - one that will further solidify what President Biden has called a 'defining relationship' of the 21st century," Blinken said.

"We see this defining relationship in our unique connection as the world's oldest and largest democracies, with a special obligation to demonstrate that our governments can deliver for and empower all our citizens."

Blinken said both the US and India are making transformative investments in their own countries - through Biden's USD 1.2 trillion Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and Modi's Rs 100-trillion infrastructure plan - to make their respective economies more productive and attractive for investors.

"India has joined three pillars of our new Indo-Pacific Economic Framework - committing to build more resilient supply chains, seize clean energy opportunities and combat corruption," he said.

"Together, we are helping shape the innovations of the future and the norms governing them - from artificial intelligence to quantum computing," Blinken said and added that in January, USIBC co-hosted a roundtable where the two governments inaugurated a new Initiative on Critical and

Emerging Technologies.

"We're elevating and expanding the strategic technology partnership between governments, businesses, and academic institutions in the US and India because we believe how technology is designed and used should be informed by democratic values and respect for human rights," he said.

Central to that cooperation is diversifying and deepening the supply chains with trusted countries while also reducing strategic dependencies, he said.

Secretary of Commerce Gina Raimondo and her counterpart Union Commerce and Industries Minister Piyush Goyal recently established a partnership to make the semiconductor supply chain more resilient.

In Tamil Nadu, the US International Development Finance Corporation provided USD 500 million to help a leading US company build a solar manufacturing facility. This project will power roughly 30 million light bulbs in homes, schools, and businesses across India, create over a thousand jobs for Indians and Americans, and shift a key component of the US's clean energy supply chain to a close partner, the diplomat noted.

According to Blinken, the trajectory of the Indo-US partnership is unmistakable and filled with promise.

"It is being written in places like North Carolina, where our growing engagement is



US Secretary of State Antony Blinken

benefiting both our countries," he said.

The Tar Heel State has become a hub for Indian investment with tech companies such as HCL creating 2,400 jobs and training American high-schoolers for careers in the IT industry. On the other hand, Charlotte-based Honeywell is employing 13,000 people from Kolkata to Mumbai, making safer airplanes and energy-efficient buildings. Duke University has established a presence in Bangalore, strengthening academic and research exchanges between the people of the two countries, he said.

According to the top diplomat, one North Carolina entrepreneur from Gujarat - commenting on this explosion of US-India commercial activity - observed, "This couldn't have happened 15 years ago!"

(Source: PTI)



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The saga of dubious defense deals and inconclusive probes



BY
RAHUL BEDI

IT IS NOBODY'S CASE THAT CORRUPTION AND TRANSGRESSION IN MILITARY CONTRACTS SHOULD, IN ANY WAY, BE OVERLOOKED AND NOT PROBED. BUT THE CBI'S OVERALL TRACK RECORD IN THIS REGARD IS AS DISAPPOINTING AS THE MOD'S DEBATABLE DECISION-MAKING IN BUILDING INDIA'S MILITARY CAPABILITY.

Inquiries by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) into innumerable cases of questionable Indian materiel purchases over the past four decades have largely failed not only in securing convictions or conclusively proving criminality, but conversely, they have impeded military modernization, in turn adversely impacting operational efficiency.

Beginning with the Bofors howitzer import scandal in the late 1980s, followed soon after by the interminably investigated purchase of German HDW Type 209/1500 diesel-electric conventional submarines (SSKs), anti-materiel rifles, air defense systems, surface-to-air missiles (SAMs), VVIP helicopters and other assorted equipment, the probe agency has come a cropper.

The latest such case it registered in late May was against Rolls-Royce, two London-based Indian expatriates - deemed 'middlemen' or agents - and 'unnamed' officials from Hindustan Aeronautics Limited and the Ministry of Defense (MoD) for supplying Adour Mk871 engines to power the license-built BAE Systems Hawk 132 advanced jet trainers for the Indian Navy and the Indian Air Force. The CBI registered this case a whopping 19 years after the deal was signed in 2004, and nearly a decade after launching its preliminary enquiry (PE) into the reportedly dubious purchase.

And while its outcome will only be known in due course, the CBI's past record in conclusively proving anybody's culpability in a raft of allegedly dodgy military deals inspires little confidence, as a cursory audit reveals, in its competence in probing suspect military



Kickbacks: The Bofors howitzer import scandal rocked India in the late 1980s.

File Photo

acquisitions.

L'affaire Bofors, for instance, was largely responsible for Rajiv Gandhi-led Congress' defeat in the 1989 General Election, lasted 25 years and cost the exchequer Rs 250 crore in investigations, but resulted in a nebulous outcome. It also led to the MoD deferring till 2012 the option to domestically license-build the Bofors FH-77B 155mm/39 caliber howitzers based on blueprints that were transferred to the then Ordnance Factory Board alongside the Swedish gun purchase.

This chronic delay exacerbated the Indian Army's dire artillery shortfall during the 1999 Kargil war and an extended period thereafter, when it faced challenges from a recidivist Pakistan along the Line of Control in Jammu and Kashmir. Eventually, after the CBI came up with nothing, the MoD operationalized the howitzers' drawings to develop the upgraded 155mm/45 caliber Dhanush howitzers that are presently being inducted into service to make up for enduring artillery shortfalls.

Similarly, CBI investigations into the HDW submarine contract, which included the outright purchase of two SSKs from Germany and the Mazagon Dock Limited (MDL) license-building the remaining two platforms via the transfer of technology, proved detrimental to the Navy's underwater asset inventory. It spawned what the Navy even today distressingly refers to as the 'lost decade' between 1995 and 2005, when the MDL's submarine construction facilities were rendered idle, predicated on the CBI's inquiries which, after some two decades, were terminated without an outcome.

However, this hiatus in submarine building led to the MDL's specialized submarine workforce, especially skilled underwater welders, seeking alternative employment abroad. And, in 2005, after India signed a deal with France to license-build six Scorpene SSKs, the MDL had to resurrect its submarine construction facilities and re-induct a specialized workforce at a great cost. This fiasco also ensued when the Navy's depreciated conventional underwater fleet was ageing, and it remains woefully inadequate even today.

The CBI's probe into the procurement of 12 AW-101 helicopters for the IAF from AgustaWestland in 2010 to ferry VVIPs - with regard to alleged contravention of the MoD's Integrity Pact - led to the termination of all contracts with its parent company Finmeccanica (later, Leonardo) and all its other 38 subsidiaries. This latter proscription included Italy's Whitehead Alenia Sistemi Subacquei that had been contracted to supply the Navy 98 Black Shark heavy weight torpedoes (HWTs) for its Scorpene, of which five have already been commissioned. Terminating the HWT contract, however, resulted in the Scorpene being armed with upgraded German-origin SUT torpedoes acquired in the mid-1980s that Navy officers themselves concede remain a 'poor substitute'.

Earlier, in 2008, the CBI's PE into the procurement of three Brazilian Embraer EMB-145 aircraft by the Defense Research and Development Organization (DRDO) for its indigenous aircraft early warning and control programme had revealed that \$5.76 million was illegally paid as commission to an 'overseas agent'

to facilitate the sale. The CBI, for its part, was reacting to a report by Brazilian newspaper Folha De S. Paulo, but then it seemed that the trail went cold. The CBI has now filed a chargesheet against arms dealer Arvind Khanna, advocate Gautam Khaitan and businessman Anup Gupta in the case.

In another case, in late 2013, the CBI filed a closure report on its eight-year-long inquiry into alleged wrongdoing by South Africa's state-owned armaments maker Denel, to secure the contract to supply 1,000 NTW-20 anti-materiel rifles and 3,98,000 rounds of ammunition to the Army for an estimated \$40 million. In its report filed before a special CBI court in New Delhi, the investigative agency claimed it had failed to uncover any 'credible' evidence of corruption in the rifle procurement. However, Denel, which produced a range of competitively priced weaponry which India needed and could have acquired, remained blacklisted for years.

Another case pertained to the contract with Israel Aerospace Industries to locally manufacture Barak-8 SAMs for all three services in conjunction with the DRDO. The CBI also investigated terminated tenders for air defense guns once, and twice for light utility helicopters, but failed to ascertain culpability.

It is nobody's case that corruption and transgression in military contracts should, in any way, be overlooked and not probed. But the CBI's overall track record in this regard is as disappointing as the MoD's debatable decision-making in building India's military capability.

(The author is a senior journalist)

Washington DC Gifts Modi a Pre-Election Propaganda Bonanza



BY PIETER
FRIEDRICH

The prime minister is naked, but DC still wants fashion tips

A4H FOUNDER ROMESH JAPRA SAYS IT WILL BE "THE VERY FIRST TIME WE ARE DOING A HINDU AMERICAN SUMMIT FOR POLITICAL ENGAGEMENT." YET HE OMITTS THAT THE "POLITICAL ENGAGEMENT" APPEARS TO BE ENTIRELY ON BEHALF OF ONE PARTICULAR INDIAN POLITICAL PARTY. MENTIONING "20 ORGANIZATIONS" INVOLVED IN THE SUMMIT, HE FAILS TO MENTION THAT THE MOST ESTABLISHED OF THESE ARE ALL LINKED TO THE TIGHT-KNIT "SANGH PARIVAR" (FAMILY OF ORGANIZATIONS) WHICH SPEARHEADS INDIA'S HINDU NATIONALIST MOVEMENT.

When Prime Minister Narendra Modi arrives in Washington, DC on 21 June 2023, what those officials in the US government who invited him may not have accounted for is that his visit grants his ruling Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) the benefit of propagandizing in America at a time when Modi's regime is putting democracy under the knife at home in India.

From marches to political summits to diaspora events, Modi's visit enables sympathizers of the BJP - and the fascist Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) paramilitary which serves as its parent organization - to shore up his brand within the United States less than a year before India's upcoming 2014 General Election. The only reason, however, that Modi and his international RSS-BJP backers are able to avail themselves of this golden opportunity for a US propaganda bonanza is thanks to his dual invitations to join a formal State Dinner with President Joe Biden at the White House as well as to address a Joint Session of Congress.

Modi will owe a debt of gratitude to the US officials who helped him obtain these platforms since, as he faces re-election to a third term, his American devotees are using his visit to his full political advantage.

A week-long series of events launched on 14 June, when Americans4Hindus (A4H) Political Action Committee hosted a so-called "Hindu American Summit" on Capitol Hill, with US House Speaker Kevin McCarthy allegedly in attendance. The A4H founder and many of its funders are deeply tied to various international affiliates of the RSS-BJP and the group, undoubtedly, used the summit to advocate for Modi's Hindu nationalist policies.

A4H founder Romesh Japra says it will be "the very first time we are doing a Hindu American summit for political engagement." Yet he omits that the "political engagement" appears to be entirely on behalf of one particular Indian political party. Mentioning "20 organizations" involved in the summit, he fails to mention that the most established of these are all linked to the tight-knit "Sangh Parivar" (Family of Organizations) which spearheads India's Hindu nationalist movement.

Those groups are, namely: the Hindu Swayamsevak Sangh (HSS), the Vishwa Hindu Parishad of America (VHPA), SEWA International, and Ekal Vidyalaya. Not only are all of these groups linked to the RSS-BJP in one way or another, but

many of their leaders have been directly involved in helping to get Modi elected.

Moreover, Japra himself is far from apolitical when it comes to Indian politics.

His documented relationship with the party traces at least as far back as 2013, when he hosted a top BJP executive in his California home and, joined by OFBJP leaders, applauded the "change" Modi, then a candidate for prime minister, could bring to India. In 2019, he donned a BJP scarf and spoke at an Overseas Friends of the BJP (OFBJP) event, demanding that Modi be brought "back to power." Meanwhile, since A4H first began collecting funds in 2019, approximately 40 percent of its donations have come from just 12 individuals who have long track records as either leaders in American Sangh Parivar groups, campaigners for Modi's election, or both. Those funds have apparently gone for purposes such as hosting events with infamous RSS-BJP leader Ram Madhav as well as various other Hindu nationalist commentators.

Not to let A4H get all the attention, another group will organize an 18 June march from the Washington Monument to the Lincoln Memorial. Although a flyer for the event claims it is organized by the "Indian American diaspora," the only spokesperson quoted in media coverage is Adapa Prasad, President of the OFBJP.

Prasad is also pushing another event, this one a "cultural show" on 21 June in DC's Freedom Plaza (just outside the White House). That same evening, the Biden family hosts Modi for an "intimate" supper. As Modi's trip continues with the actual State Dinner on 22 June, the administration reportedly plans to turn it into a picnic extravaganza by holding it in a tent on the White House's South Lawn.

That same day, before the dinner, Modi will address a Joint Session of Congress, making him - as has been made much of in the press - not only one of the few foreign leaders but the only Indian Prime Minister to have ever done so twice.

"As State Dinners have come to signify the President's utmost respect for visiting heads of state, granting a joint address to Congress is a commensurate honor for the leader of the world's largest democracy," noted the letter from congressional representatives who initiated the demand that Modi be invited to give an address. In other words, it's not just a routine laying out of the red carpet for a foreign leader, but rather the diplomatic equivalent of kissing their feet.

It's also a way, by featuring Modi on the most prominent podium in the world, for

the prime minister of a democratic country which has been downgraded to an "electoral autocracy" - and whose most strident critics accuse him of overseeing an impending genocide of religious minorities - to get, gratis, the most enviable and valuable publicity imaginable. Curiously, the propaganda value for Modi doesn't seem to be a consideration to any major players in the US government.

Reportedly, Representatives Jamie Raskin (D-MD) and Ilhan Omar (D-MN) will both boycott the Joint Session, which is commendable but still leaves 533 members of the House and Senate in presumptive attendance. Meanwhile, human rights issues are just not on the agenda: rather, a White House spokesperson actively rebuffed a question about it by praising India's "vibrant democracy." Such claims starkly contradict even official US State Department reports, let alone the US Commission on International Religious Freedom, which has repeatedly flagged the precarious condition of the country's religious minorities.

The most current example is India's state of Manipur, which even now burns as Hindu mobs - with apparent silent sanction by the BJP - attack Christians; perhaps as many as 200 have been killed, hundreds of churches torched, and thousands of homes razed.

As Manipur is ablaze, Modi's invite to DC enables his devotees to organize yet one more event in America's capital: a 23 June, invitation-only diaspora event where he'll talk about "The Role of Diaspora in India's Growth." A more accurate title might be "the role of the American Sangh Parivar in Modi's success." Bharat Barai, one of the lead organizers and the event's sole spokesperson thus far, is a longtime VHPA executive who personally led a team of hundreds of Indian-Americans to India in 2014 to campaign for Modi's election.

From beginning to end, the packed schedule of events, while billed as "Indian diaspora" celebrations of India" are all, upon examination, nothing more than thinly-veiled partisan rallies organized by RSS-BJP linked activists to prop up and promote Modi himself. Coming just a year before India's 2024 General Election, could the incumbent prime minister have asked for a better pre-election gift?

In 2022, raising concerns about the rapidly deteriorating human rights situation in India, Representative Omar asked: "What will it take for us to



India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi
Photo credit / Twitter

outwardly criticize the actions that the Modi administration is taking?" Certainly, no one could imagine Turkey's Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, China's Xi Jinping, or Russia's Vladimir Putin being so feted and honored by the US government. Yet, no matter how bad the situation gets in Modi's India, the vast majority of politicians on both sides of the political aisle in Washington, DC can't stop stumbling over themselves to be the first ones to babble about the stunning suit of "democracy and shared values" worn by a man whom even the tiniest child can see is a stark-naked fascist.

What will it take for America to wake up and see that, indeed, Prime Minister Modi is wearing no clothes whatsoever and that our nation must stop providing him - and his zealots - platforms from which to claim otherwise? At this rate, one fears that even the outbreak of the impending anti-minority genocide about which experts are warning won't do a thing to shake the American political establishment's pig-headed commitment to "balancing" concerns about human rights with the supposed "need" to expand a "strategic partnership" with India.

Without a course correction, it won't end well for either America or India, and years from now, the US government's approach towards Modi will serve as yet another cautionary tale from which we will pray our descendants learn.

The hope, however, is the same as it has always been. With the establishment begs the naked ruler to put them in touch with his tailor, the common people in the street are the ones whose very separation from power permits them to speak the truth.

Truth topples regimes.

(Pieter Friedrich is a reader-supported publication. To receive new posts and support my work, consider becoming a free or paid subscriber)

There's Only One Way to Fix New York's Traffic Gridlock

By Charles Komanoff and Gernot Wagner

THE FIRST IS THAT CONGESTION PRICING WILL CUT TRAFFIC NOT JUST WITHIN THE SO-CALLED CHARGING ZONE BUT ON THE HUNDREDS OF STREETS AND HIGHWAYS THAT CARS USE TO GO TO AND FROM THAT ZONE. THIS REDUCTION OF ALMOST TWO MILLION MILES TRAVELED IN THE REGION EACH DAY WILL FREE MANY DRIVERS FROM THE TRAFFIC SNARLS THAT POLLUTE THE AIR AND CRUSH THE SOUL.

The plan to charge drivers to enter Manhattan south of 60th Street, which last month moved closer to federal approval, will deliver two notable gifts to New York and the region when it begins, perhaps as soon as next April.

The first is that congestion pricing will cut traffic not just within the so-called charging zone but on the hundreds of streets and highways that cars use to go to and from that zone. This reduction of almost two million miles traveled in the region each day will free many drivers from the traffic snarls that pollute the air and crush the soul.

Using a detailed benefit-cost analysis that assumes a pricing structure of \$15 at peak times, \$10 as traffic begins to thicken and \$5 at off-peak times, we calculate that the value of those projected time savings to drivers and truckers amounts to nearly \$3 billion a year, with time saved in the boroughs and counties surrounding Manhattan exceeding those on the island.

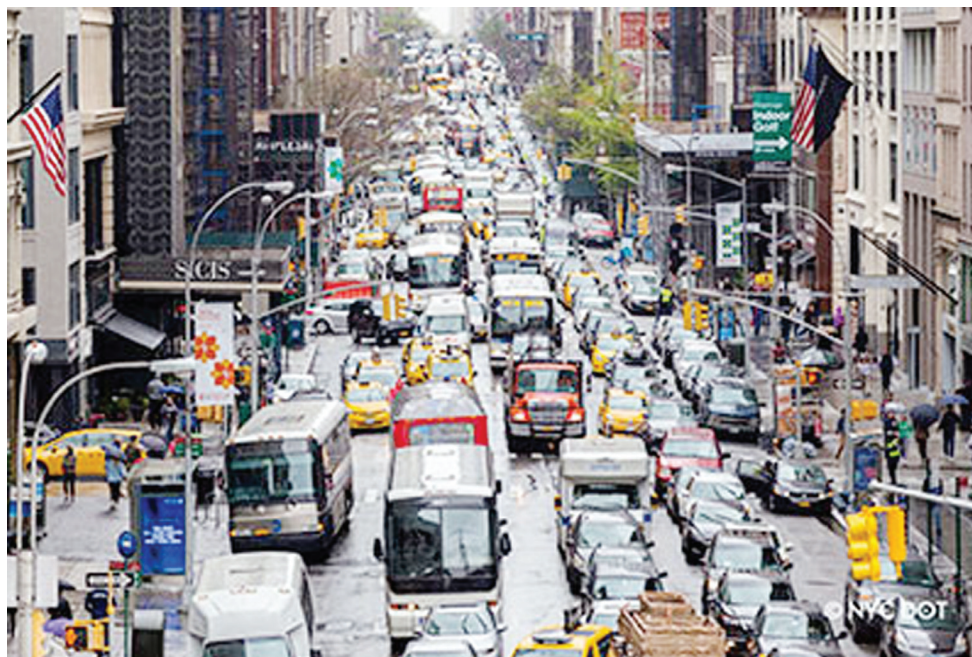
These estimates are based on a comprehensive spreadsheet model of the region's traffic, developed by one of us (Mr. Komanoff). State officials used that model to write the statute authorizing congestion pricing, which the New York State Legislature passed in 2019.

The other gift will be the \$1 billion a year in congestion pricing revenue that the Metropolitan Transportation Authority will use to secure \$15 billion in bonds to pay for improvements to mass transit in the city. Those upgrades will reduce waiting times and onboard delays - and the precious time subway passengers lose as a result.

Either outcome would be a godsend. The combination has the potential to be transformational for New Yorkers.

Why, then, do many people seem anxious about, if not downright opposed to, congestion pricing? Entitlement plays a part: Why should we suddenly be forced to pay for something that had been free? Another reason surely is disbelief. Many people don't believe that the revenues - the \$1 billion a year from drivers - will actually improve mass transit services. The M.T.A. is a money pit, people say.

They may have a point. But the subway, bus and commuter rail services that the M.T.A. operates are also a marvel and a necessity. After the pandemic lockdowns, the system still delivers 2.5 times as many people a day into the Manhattan core as cars and trucks do, though that is down from four times as many before Covid struck. Still, the M.T.A. must build and manage far more effectively. The same political will that got congestion pricing written into law must be marshaled to



Gridlock. Driving in NYC can be a stressful and time-consuming experience, and New Yorkers on average spend more than 100 hours per year in traffic. Photo credit / NYC DOT

eliminate layers of consultants, to bring work rules into the 21st century and to make design-build contracting, in which the project designer and the contractor work together under one contract from the beginning, the rule.

People are also unconvinced that congestion pricing will, in fact, cut congestion. Urban gridlock has come to appear immutable in the United States, perhaps nowhere more so than in the Manhattan core, where travel speeds were averaging a maddening 7 miles per hour before the pandemic. Why should congestion pricing succeed where a century of other remedies - like widening roads to only then narrow them again - has failed?

This question is even more salient after the M.T.A.'s environmental study of congestion pricing, released last summer, which concluded that Manhattan traffic will diminish only because trips that now pass through the city's center would divert around the island, possibly adding traffic and air pollution to parts of the Bronx, Staten Island, Nassau County on Long Island and Bergen County in New Jersey.

We believe that the M.T.A., through a few fateful, faulty assumptions, underestimated drivers' propensity to switch trips from cars to other transit options. We don't say this idly - our estimation is based on decades of studying traffic in and around Manhattan and on basic economic principles.

How much traffic will diminish will depend on the toll design selected by the civic leaders who make up the city-state Traffic Mobility Review Board. They'll be

aiming for the same sweet spot that London, Stockholm and Singapore have attained through their successful congestion pricing programs: 15 to 20 percent fewer car trips into the zone, a cut big enough to reduce the many negatives traffic brings and enough to reap the targeted \$1 billion a year in revenues to improve the subways, buses and commuter rail systems. (New Jersey Transit rail and bus and PATH would not share in these revenues.)

The congestion charges have not been set. But the M.T.A.'s model and ours agree that if exemptions are kept to a minimum, it could be as little as \$15 for a rush-hour trip into Midtown and \$5 to \$10 during off-peak hours for E-ZPass holders. (In London, drivers pay 15 pounds during the day, or nearly \$19.)

The benefits of congestion pricing - faster, less stressful travel above and below ground and safer, healthier streets and communities - don't negate the distress of drivers who understandably don't want to pay where they now drive free, but they assuredly eclipse it.

In addition to the nearly \$3 billion worth of saved time for drivers, we estimate that the myriad other benefits add up to an additional \$2.5 billion. Those benefits include fewer crashes, better health from cleaner air and more walking and biking, and time saved for transit riders, thanks to improvements enabled by the congestion pricing revenue. Subtracting the \$1 billion drivers will pay to enter the congestion zone, the result will be over \$4 billion in annual net benefits, or almost \$12 million each day.

Moreover, only a small slice of area

residents habitually drive into the Manhattan core. Very few are among the working poor, as the Community Service Society of New York, one of the nation's oldest antipoverty organizations, found when it endorsed congestion pricing in 2019 and again last year. Many drivers, too, may come to feel less of a sting from paying the toll once they actually experience the less-snarled roads.

Last month, the Federal Highway Administration tentatively approved an M.T.A. report that identified how to alleviate possible harm to disadvantaged communities. Now the public has until Monday to review it.

To opponents of the plan, we say:

The M.T.A. is responding to public concerns. To hasten federal approval, the agency has committed to toll discounts for frequent low-income drivers into the zone and also to encourage pollution reductions such as electrifying diesel-powered refrigeration trucks at the Hunts Point Market in the South Bronx and expanding New York City's clean trucks voucher program to help pay to electrify diesel trucks elsewhere. These commitments followed public feedback on earlier versions of the plan.

Every car is causing congestion. Stalled highways and jammed streets aren't just the fault of Uber or U.P.S. or bike lanes or public plazas. Everyone driving to or in New York's central business district (except in the wee hours) adds to congestion. We estimate that right now, a single round trip by car from Sheepshead Bay in Brooklyn to Radio City Music Hall in Midtown during most of the day causes \$100 to \$200 worth of additional delay for everyone else. That makes a prospective \$15 or even a \$20 peak congestion toll a downright bargain in comparison.

Congestion pricing is the only durable antidote to persistent traffic congestion. The Columbia University economist and Nobel laureate William Vickrey demonstrated 60 years ago that there's no way out of gridlock without making drivers pay for taking up limited street space. Otherwise, there will always be more car owners wanting to use the available space than there is space to accommodate them.

Drivers all over the city and well beyond stand to gain from this plan. Yes, it will be painful to pay for something that has been free. But it is even more painful to spend hours idling in traffic, knowing that a better path beckons.

(Charles Komanoff is a transportation analyst in New York. Gernot Wagner is a climate economist at Columbia Business School)

(Source: The New York Times)



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Former President Trump charged with 37 federal counts, including 31 violations of Espionage Act; pleads not guilty



Former President Donald Trump File photo

JUNE 14, 2023

WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP): Donald Trump has pleaded not guilty to charges that he broke the law dozens of times by hiding classified documents in his Florida home as he was formally arraigned at a Miami court, becoming the first former US president to face federal criminal charges.

Wearing a navy suit and red tie, Trump, 77, was brought in about 15 minutes before the hearing began on Tuesday at the federal courthouse in Miami, Florida, and sat slumped over in his chair, hands clasped in his lap, as he waited for the judge to arrive.

Trump's son, Eric Trump, accompanied his father to the courthouse for the historic case that could alter the country's political and legal landscape ahead of the 2024 race for the White

House.

Trump, who has announced his second bid for the presidency, looked down at the floor for most of the hearing and his lawyer waived a reading of the 49-page indictment, ABC News reported.

Federal prosecutors accused Trump, a Republican, of willfully withholding classified documents obtained during his presidency and obstructing justice in his efforts to conceal those materials from authorities, as a detailed indictment unsealed on Friday. The former president was charged with 37 federal counts, including 31 violations of the Espionage Act.

"We most certainly enter a plea of not guilty," Trump's lawyer Todd Blanche said at the arraignment in a small but packed courtroom.

Flanked by two of his lawyers, Blanche and Christopher Kise, the former president listened impassively as US Magistrate Judge Jonathan Goodman said he planned to order the former president not to have any contact with witnesses in the case - or his co-defendant, Waltine "Walt" Nauta - as the case proceeds. Trump did not speak except to whisper to Blanche and Kise.

Blanche objected to the judge's proposal, saying that Nauta and a number of witnesses are members of Trump's staff or security detail who rely on him for their livelihood. The facts of the case, Blanche said, revolve around "everything in President Trump's life."

The judge relented somewhat, saying that Trump should not speak to Nauta or

witnesses about the facts of the case. As to which Trump employees might be affected by the restriction, the judge instructed the prosecution team to provide a list.

During the hearing, Goodman repeatedly referred to Trump as the "former president," while his attorneys referred to him as "President Trump."

Nauta did not enter a plea, because he did not have a local Florida lawyer to represent him. An arraignment for him was scheduled for June 27.

There was no discussion during the 45-minute court hearing of when, or where, Trump must next appear in court.

Nauta served in the White House before and during Trump's presidency and then followed him to Mar-a-Lago, the former president's home and private club in Palm Beach. He is charged with conspiring with Trump to hide some of the classified documents from the government agents trying to recover them.

The first former US president to stand accused of federal crimes, Trump could be sentenced to years in prison if found guilty. He publicly attacked special counsel Jack Smith, who is leading the investigation, in the hours before his court appearance, calling the veteran prosecutor a "thug" and a "lunatic" in social media posts.

Smith, who was tapped by Attorney General Merrick Garland in November, sat in the courtroom on Tuesday but did not speak at the hearing.

While Tuesday's court appearance was

the second time in a little over two months that Trump had pleaded not guilty to criminal charges in a courtroom - he also pleaded not guilty in April to charges brought by the Manhattan district attorney - the federal charges are a more serious legal threat to the former president, CNN said.

Trump, who is again seeking the Republican presidential nomination, faces the prospect of sitting at a defendant's table for federal and state trials that may overlap with the presidential primaries or nominating conventions.

The former president and his body man Walt Nauta shuffled boxes containing the classified documents around Mar-a-Lago for months in an effort to elude federal authorities, moving the material from a ballroom to a bedroom, bathroom and storage room, the indictment says.

At Trump's direction, prosecutors allege, Nauta also hid some of the material from the former president's attorneys, causing them to wrongly tell the Justice Department and FBI in June 2022 that a "diligent search" in response to a grand jury subpoena had yielded only a few dozen documents.

The FBI in August seized more than 100 classified documents kept in Trump's private residence. Meanwhile, Trump, received a hero's welcome on Tuesday night as he returned to his New Jersey golf club for a private fundraiser after pleading not guilty.

(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)

Indian-American Congressman Shri Thanedar announces plans to form 'Hindu Caucus' in US Congress

JUNE 15, 2023

WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP): Leaders of the Hindu community from across the country gathered at the US Capitol for the summit, organized by Americans4Hindus and supported by 20 other organizations.

Dr Romesh Japra, Founder and Chairman of American4Hindus said that the event was the first-ever summit held for political engagement. He further claimed that Hindu Americans are being discriminated in the US, which is why the diaspora group thought of bringing all the organizations together.

"This is the first-ever summit we are holding for political engagement. We've done a lot of great work in every field but politically, we are way behind. We feel that Hindu Americans are being discriminated. That is why we thought it is a good idea to bring all the organizations together," California-based Japra told ANI.

"The purpose of this caucus is not only to ensure that there is no hate against Hinduism, to ensure that there is no bigotry and no discrimination towards (the) Hindu religion and those who practice Hindu religion," he further said.

During the summit, Indian-American Congressman Shri Thanedar announced plans to form a 'Hindu Caucus' in the US Congress that will bring like-minded lawmakers under



Indian-American Congressman Shri Thanedar with U.S. President Joe Biden in Washington. File photo

one umbrella to ensure that there is no hate and bigotry against Hindus in the country.

"It is important that every person has a right to choose a religion, pray (to) a God that he or she chooses without persecution, without discrimination, without hate or for those who may choose not to pray to a God," Thanedar, who represents the 13th District of Michigan, said.

"These are freedoms that are fundamental. These are fundamental human rights," he added.

Congressional caucuses are groups of members of the

US Congress that meet to pursue common legislative objectives. Caucuses are formed as Congressional Member Organizations through the US House of Representatives and governed under the chamber's rules.

"With that thought in mind, I am pleased to work with Dr (Ramesh) Japra, I am pleased to work with Americans4Hindus to form a 'Hindu Caucus' in the United States Congress," Thanedar said amid applause from the scores of Indian-Americans gathered at the Capitol Visitor Center here.

Community leaders applauded Thanedar for taking the lead in forming the caucus, which will be open to members of both the Democratic Party and the Republican Party.

Indian-Americans now plan to reach out to their local representatives to join the caucus.

"Everybody's welcome. This is an inclusive caucus. This is a positive caucus, not a hate caucus. We are not against anybody. We are for all the people and for improving the quality of life, opportunities for all. That is what we are going to focus on," Thanedar said.

When asked about how far the caucus has progressed, Thanedar said it is at the early stages and they are inviting all members of the Congress to join.

(Source: PTI)

Indian Embassy in Guatemala Celebrates Mission LiFE and World Environment Day

HON'BLE VICE PRESIDENT OF GUATEMALA, H.E. MR. GUILLERMO CASTILLO REYES PLANTS A SAPLING AT INDIA HOUSE

JUNE 9, 2023

GUATEMALA CITY (TIP): In a significant event marking the celebration of Mission LiFE and World Environment Day, H.E. Guillermo Castillo Reyes, Vice President of Guatemala and his team visited India House on 7 June 2023. The Vice President was warmly welcomed by Ambassador H.E. Dr. Manoj Kumar Mohapatra and other dignitaries from the Embassy.



Hon'ble Vice President of Guatemala, H.E. Mr. Guillermo Castillo Reyes and Indian Ambassador to Guatemala Dr. Manoj Kumar Mohapatra planting a sapling at the India House

The highlight of the visit was a tree plantation ceremony organized as part of the Mission LiFE (Living in a Friendly Environment) initiative. The Vice President and Ambassador Mohapatra planted saplings to symbolize the commitment to environmental sustainability and promote a greener future. This gesture underscored the importance of preserving nature and mitigating the impact of climate change.

Mission LiFE (Lifestyle for Environment) is an innovative initiative undertaken by the Government of India to address the pressing global issue of environmental sustainability. As part of this initiative, Embassy of India in Guatemala, recognizing the urgent need to protect the environment and ensure a greener future, is actively promoting and implementing eco-friendly practices, aiming to create a positive impact on the environment and inspire others to adopt sustainable living. The aim of Mission LiFE is to foster a sense of responsibility and commitment towards the environment. By actively engaging in sustainable practices, the mission seeks to contribute to the global efforts in mitigating climate change, preserving biodiversity, and promoting a healthier planet for future generations.



Dr. Manoj Kumar Mohapatra in discussion with H.E. Mr. Guillermo Castillo Reyes and other dignitaries

During the visit, fruitful discussions were held on strengthening the bilateral relationship between Guatemala and India. The focus was on exploring avenues for mutual cooperation in the areas of Science & Technology, Education, and Community Development. The discussions on science and

technology emphasized the potential for joint research projects, technology transfer, and innovation exchanges. The exchange of ideas and experiences in the field of science and technology laid the foundation for future cooperation in these areas. Both nations recognized the significance of educational exchanges and capacity building initiatives to foster greater understanding and promote cultural ties. The discussions explored possibilities for student and faculty exchange programs, scholarships, and joint academic projects, aimed at nurturing a stronger educational partnership between Guatemala and India. Community development was also a focal point of the discussions, reflecting the shared commitment of both nations to uplift marginalized communities and promote inclusive growth. Both sides expressed their keenness to foster closer ties in these key sectors to benefit the people of both nations.



Hon'ble Vice President of Guatemala, H.E. Mr. Guillermo Castillo Reyes delivering a speech at the dinner reception

The evening concluded with a dinner hosted by Ambassador Dr. Manoj Kumar Mohapatra in honor of Vice President Guillermo Castillo Reyes. The dinner provided an opportunity for informal exchanges and further discussions on enhancing bilateral cooperation.



Members of the delegation at the dinner reception with H.E. Mr. Guillermo Castillo Reyes and Dr. Manoj Mohapatra

The visit of Vice President Guillermo Castillo Reyes to India House on World Environment Day served as a powerful testament to the shared commitment of Guatemala and India towards preserving the environment, fostering innovation, and building a brighter future for both nations. The discussions held during the visit were characterized by a spirit of collaboration and mutual respect, highlighting the commitment to further strengthen bilateral ties.



Members of the Delegation with H.E. Mr. Guillermo Castillo Reyes, Vice President of Guatemala and Indian Ambassador to Guatemala Dr. Manoj Kumar Mohapatra attending tree plantation



If proven guilty, WFI president may get maximum 5-year jail

The Delhi Police have filed a 1,500-page chargesheet against Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) chief Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh under Sections 354, 354A and 354D of the IPC and if proven guilty, he could get a maximum five-year jail term.

Sources in the police said the charges were based on elaborate statements of all the six women wrestlers. Though more than 200 statements of witnesses were recorded as “supporting evidence”, only those relevant and backing the allegations levelled by the wrestlers were mentioned in the chargesheet, they said.

Section 354 deals with cases of “outraging a woman’s modesty”. The punishment ranges from a jail term of up to five years or fine, or both.

Section 354A entails “physical contact and advances involving unwelcome and explicit sexual overtures”; or “demanding or requesting sexual favours”; or “showing pornography against a woman’s will”, or “making sexually coloured remarks”. In 2013, this section was amended to say that anyone who sexually harassed a woman by unwelcome physical contact, advances, a demand or request for sexual favours or showing her pornography could face up to three-year imprisonment, a fine, or both.

Panel seeks views on revisiting ‘age of consent’

With several cases of minor girls above 16 eloping with men being reported from various parts of the country, the Law Commission has sought the views of the Union Ministry of Women and Child Development on the contentious issue of “age of consent”.

The age of consent in India was 16 until 2012 when the Prevention of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act raised it to 18, criminalising consensual sexual activities if at least one of the parties was an adolescent.

The Law Commission wrote to the ministry last month, highlighting the fact that it had received references from the Karnataka High Court and the Madhya Pradesh High Court in this regard, sources said.

Biparjoy leaves Gujarat battered and flooded



A drone view of a broken bridge after Cyclone Biparjoy made landfall along the Naliya-Bhuj highway in the western state of Gujarat, India. REUTERS

BHUJ (TIP)

Thirty kilometres from the Jakhau port, where cyclone Biparjoy made landfall on Thursday, June 15, evening, 48-year-old farmer Mubarak Jagan spent the last two days inside a government school, listening to the sounds of the violent wind and pouring rain outside. All that time, he wondered what the damage to his property would be, but was grateful that he was safe. Every one of the 75 families in his village of Kosha were evacuated from their homes, part of a massive exercise in the state to take over a hundred thousand people to safety as one of the most intense cyclones in the Arabian Sea bore down on the country’s west coast.

On Friday, June 16, evening, the winds still howled but the worst had passed, and Jagan went back home. The roofs of the animal shelters he had built, which his family used as temporary homes during the summer, had all been swept away. “We were relocated two days ago, and there is some damage, but at least we are alive. There is no electricity and we are using our tractors to charge our phones,” Gajan said.

In areas across coastal Gujarat like Bhuj and Dwarka, people stayed off the roads, and businesses such as hotels, restaurants and petrol stations remained shut. Dwarka district collector MA Pandya said teams from the government had spent four sleepless nights, relocating 12,000 people into safe houses, arranging logistics like cooked meals from makeshift but functional in-house kitchens. “Despite facing winds reaching speeds of up to 120 k/hr for 12 hours, the district has fortunately not reported any



A drone view of a flooded village in Mokhada after Cyclone Biparjoy. REUTERS

casualties,” Pandya said.

In all, 249 villages were affected in the district. Pandya said that the district administration, like others around Gujarat, were being careful in allowing people to return home. A key consideration through Friday was electricity, with 13,000 power towers affected in Dwarka alone. Officials said efforts were underway to restore supply and clear roads blocked by fallen trees. “For the past three days, there has been no electricity. The power lines are faulty, and the restoration process is still underway,” said Bharmal Sanjot, a Kutch resident.

“Fortunately, our village has not

suffered much damage. But I have heard that the cyclone has caused significant destruction to the trees and greenery in Banni, known for its grasslands, greenery, and diverse wildlife,” Sanjot said.

On Gujarat’s wind and rain swept roads, all travel came to a standstill with truckers cowering under whatever shelter they could find. Ismail Shaikh, one such driver, said he had not heard from his family since Thursday as his phone battery was dead. “I had unloaded goods from Delhi to the Kandla port and was supposed to carry more goods from Mundra to Haryana, but now have to wait because of the storm,” Shaikh said. *Source: HT*

Army kills 5 terrorists at LoC, foils biggest infiltration bid since 2021

Avverting a major threat ahead of the annual Amarnath Yatra, security forces killed five heavily armed foreign terrorists belonging to an outfit commanded by an Afghan war veteran along the Line of Control in Kupwara district of Jammu and Kashmir on Friday, June 16.

It was the biggest infiltration bid to have been foiled since 2021, when India and Pakistan effected a ceasefire understanding, officials said.

The operation in the Jumagund area in the Keran sector was launched Thursday night based on intelligence input gathered by the Jammu and Kashmir police.

Srinagar-based defence PRO Col Emron Musavi said the terror groups in Pakistan are using the "facade" of ceasefire to perpetrate terror in the Union territory.

Additional director general of police of Kashmir Vijay Kumar said the slain terrorists were affiliated to the Jammu and Kashmir Ghaznavi Force, which has Rafiq Nai and Shamsheer Nai alias Zafar Iqbal -- both residents of Poonch but presently settled in Pakistan-occupied Jammu and Kashmir, as handlers. The JKGf has Murtaza Pathan alias Ghaznavi, a resident of Faisalabad in Pakistan "who is an Afghan (war) veteran affiliated with Deoband School of thought, as operational commander supervising tactical aspect from POJK", Kumar said. Briefing the media in Srinagar, the general officer commanding of the army's 28 Division, Major General Girish Kalia, said that based on the input, multiple ambushes were set up along the expected routes of infiltration.

Source: PTI

Karnataka govt to repeal law on conversions

The Congress government in Karnataka is all set to repeal the anti-conversion law that the BJP had brought through the ordinance route last year.

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah-led state Cabinet today approved to annul The Karnataka Protection of Right to Freedom of Religion Act (anti-conversion law) which came into effect in 2022.

The Cabinet further decided to revise Kannada and Social Science textbooks of Classes VI to X in the state for this academic year after dropping chapters on RSS founder KB Hedgewar and Hindutva ideologue Veer Damodar Savarkar. The Cabinet also approved inclusion of chapters on social reformer Savitribai Phule, late PM Jawaharlal Nehru's letters to Indira Gandhi and poetry on BR Ambedkar. BJP general secretary CT Ravi said, "Congress is the new Muslim League and it will go to any extent to hurt Hindus."

Name change of Nehru memorial triggers political war of words

NEW DELHI (TIP)

The government has renamed the Nehru Memorial Museum and Library Society as Prime Ministers' Museum and Library Society, drawing strong condemnation on Friday, June 16, from the Congress that termed the dropping of the name of India's first PM it as "petty act" and asserted that legacies don't get erased by renaming buildings.

The BJP also slammed the Congress, saying they are suffering from Modiabind --blind opposition to Prime Minister Narendra Modi. BJP chief JP Nadda also said the Congress' inability to accept that there are leaders beyond "one dynasty" is a classic example of 'political indigestion.'

The move to rename the Society comes nearly a year after the 'Pradhanmantri Sangrahalaya' was inaugurated on the premises of the iconic Teen Murti Bhavan, which served as the official residence of India's first prime minister Jawaharlal Nehru.

In a special meeting, presided over by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh who is the vice president of the Society, it was decided to change its name, the culture ministry said in a statement on Friday.

In his address at the meeting, Singh "welcomed the proposal for the change in the name", since in its new form the institution exhibits the contributions of all prime ministers from Jawaharlal Nehru to Narendra Modi and their responses to various challenges, the statement said.

Describing prime minister as an institution and comparing the journey of



The Nehru Memorial Museum and Library in the Teen Murti Bhavan complex in New Delhi. PTI Photo

various prime ministers to the varied colours of a rainbow, Singh emphasised that "all the colours of a rainbow have to be proportionately represented in order to make it beautiful".

Thus the resolution has given a new name, respect to all our previous prime ministers and is democratic in content, the statement said.

The Congress termed it an act of "vengeance" and asserted that legacies don't get erased by renaming buildings.

Reacting to the development, Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge said this shows the "low mentality and dictatorial attitude" of the Bharatiya Janata Party and the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh as they can never reduce the huge

contribution of Nehru, "the architect of modern India".

"Those who do not have any history are erasing the history of others. The ill-fated attempt to change the name of the Nehru Memorial Museum and Library cannot belittle the personality of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, the architect of modern India and fearless guardian of democracy," Kharge said in a tweet in Hindi.

"This only shows the low mentality and dictatorial attitude of BJP-RSS. The petty thinking of the (Narendra) Modi government cannot reduce the huge contribution of 'Hind ke Jawahar' towards India," he said.

Source: PTI

Giani Raghbir Singh replaces Giani Harpreet Singh as Akal Takht Jathedar

AMRITSAR (TIP)

The Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee (SGPC) on Friday, June 16, appointed Giani Raghbir Singh as the new Jathedar of the Akal Takht, the highest temporal seat of Sikhs.

The decision was taken at an emergency meeting of the SGPC executive body that took place here.

Giani Harpreet Singh, however, will continue to be the Jathedar of the Takht Damdama Sahib in Bathinda.

Addressing the media here, SGPC chief Harjinder Singh Dhama said Giani Harpreet Singh, who was the acting Jathedar of the Akal Takht, himself expressed his wish to relinquish the charge.

"At our executive body meeting, we decided that Giani Harpreet Singh will continue to be the Jathedar of the Takht Damdama Sahib," Dhama said.

Giani Raghbir Singh has been



appointed as the Jathedar of the Akal Takht, he added.

Giani Harpreet Singh was holding the officiating charge as the Jathedar of the Akal Takht since 2018. He was also holding the regular charge of the Takht Damdama Sahib, another Sikh temporal seat at Talwandi Sabo in Punjab's Bathinda.

Giani Harpreet Singh's presence at the engagement event of Aam Aadmi Party

(AAP) MP Raghav Chadha and actress Parineeti Chopra in Delhi had sparked a row last month. Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) leader Virsa Singh Valtaha had opposed Singh's attendance at the event.

Giani Sultan Singh Takht Kesgarh Sahib head

Harmandar Sahib (Golden Temple) granthi Giani Sultan Singh has been appointed as the jathedar of Takht Kesgarh Sahib. He is said to be close to the chief of a religious dera in the Gurwali locality of Amritsar City, which is known for its proximity to the Badal family.

Giani Raghbir Singh has also been given the additional charge of head granthi of the Golden Temple. Similarly, Giani Sultan Singh will also continue as a granthi at Harmandar Sahib.

Dhama said that the executive panel fully appreciated the services rendered by Giani Harpreet Singh as the acting jathedar of the Akal Takht.

India in history this Week

JUNE 16, 2023, TO JUNE 22, 2023

16 JUNE



1950 Mithun Da, who was called the disco dancer of Bollywood, was born.

1925 Nationalist leader Chittaranjan Das dies

1606 The fifth Sikh Guru Arjun Dev passed away.

1858 The battle of Morar was fought during the First Indian War of Independence.

2007 Sunita Williams became the longest-lived woman in space.

1983 Guru Ghasidas University of Chhattisgarh was established in 1983.

2008 A panel of Uttar Pradesh state finance ministries agreed in 2008 on the reduction in sales tax on petroleum fuels.

2008 In 2008, ArcelorMittal, the world's largest steel making company, acquired American company Bambhu Steel.

1928 The great freedom fighter Chittaranjan Das died.

17 JUNE



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

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

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

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

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

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

18 JUNE

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

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

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

1956 The Hindu Succession Act passed.



1987 MS Swaminathan received the first World Food Prize.

19 JUNE

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



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

1970 Birth of Congress leader Rahul Gandhi.

1981 India successfully launched its geostationary satellite Apple.

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

20 JUNE

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

1873 YMCA in India establishment.

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

1916 SNDT in Pune Establishment of Women's University.



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

2014 Announcement of Jnanpith Award to eminent poet Kedarnath Singh.

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

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

1923 Proficient journalist and writer Gaur Kishore Ghosh was born.

21 JUNE

1912 Birth of famous Hindi litterateur Vishnu Prabhakar.

2004 China supported the India-Pakistan talks.

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

1982 World Music Day was celebrated.

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

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

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



1991 PV Narasimha Rao became the ninth Prime Minister of India.

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

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

22 JUNE

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

2016 ISRO created history in 2016, launching 20 satellites.

1900 Indian freedom fighter Ganesh Ghosh was born.

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

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

Tech the 'master key' to unlocking real potential of Indo-US relationship, says Ambassador Sandhu

JUNE 13, 2023

WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP):

Describing technology as the force multiplier for the Indo-US partnership, India's Ambassador to the US Taranjit Singh Sandhu said tech is the "master key" to unlocking the real potential of the relationship.

Sandhu's comments come ahead of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to the US next week. Modi has been invited by President Joe Biden and First Lady Jill Biden for an official State Visit, which will include a State Dinner on June 22.

"If you ask me, what I would bet on the most, what is that one force multiplier for this relationship, and for global wellbeing indeed, it is tech. It is that master key to unlock the real potential in the relationship," Sandhu said on Monday.

"There is a lot of synergy and complementarity between us in the tech space. Tech, to me, is powered by trust. It is as much strategic as (it is) commercial," he added.

Sandhu was addressing the annual India Ideas Summit of the US-India Business Council.

"It was just four-and-a-half months ago that we had launched the iCET Industry Roundtable at this very location in the presence of both the NSAs (National Security Advisor) and (Commerce) Secretary (Gina) Raimondo.

"And we have (US) NSA (Jake) Sullivan in Delhi today, including for the follow-up

to the first round of iCET discussions," he said.

Biden and Modi announced the US-India Initiative on Critical and Emerging Technology (iCET) in May 2022 to elevate and expand strategic technology partnership and defense industrial cooperation between the governments, businesses, and academic institutions of the two countries.

The two sides are finalizing the joint statement, which is being described as a robust outcome document and as something that would shape the nature and contour of the Indo-US relationship for decades, according to multiple people familiar with the matter.

Sandhu further said, "Under each iCET vertical, our teams have been in regular touch. Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin was in Delhi last week when India's Foreign Secretary Vinay Kwatra was in (Washington) DC.

"We launched the inaugural India-US Strategic Trade Dialogue, another game-changer dialogue, to discuss export controls. Delhi-DC depth has never been better." Referring to Modi's visit, the Indian envoy said there is great excitement on both sides.

"My prime minister is only the third Indian leader in our independent history to be accorded the honor of a State Visit by the US President. He also becomes the only Indian leader to address the US Congress twice," he said.

According to the White House

Historical Association, this will be the 11th State Dinner that a US President is hosting for an Indian leader. However, in the last 75 years, only two other Indian leaders have been given the honor of an official State Visit.

The previous two State Visits included the one for President S Radhakrishnan in June 1963 and then for Prime Minister Manmohan Singh in November 2009.

When Modi addresses a joint meeting of the US Congress on June 23, it will make him only the third world leader, outside of Israel, to make such an address twice.

The other two are Winston Churchill in 1941, 1943 and 1952 and Nelson Mandela in 1990 and 1994. Modi earlier addressed the US Congress in 2016.

Sandhu said, "While I will not spill the beans, I can tell you with confidence that the ceremonial and substantive parts of the visit will fully complement each other and will be unparalleled.

"This is not just because the governments have been working hard, this is because all of you have been working hard."

Asserting that the speed and the scale in the transformation of the relationship between the two countries have been phenomenal, Sandhu said India today has a mobile subscriber base of over 1.2 billion and 825 million Internet users.

This means, in the last seven years, India has added one mobile subscriber and three Internet users every second.



India's Ambassador to the US Taranjit Singh Sandhu said tech is the "master key" to unlocking the real potential of the relationship

The cost of data has been cut by 98 per cent - one of the lowest globally. It is about inclusion, innovation and empowerment, the Indian envoy said.

"While we are keen to attract US companies to invest in India and step-up R&D (research and development), given our own strengths and talents, we are delighted that Indian companies are investing and creating new jobs in the US.

"Our companies are actively involved in skilling initiatives here and are contributing to local neighborhoods, just as US companies are doing in India," Sandhu added. (Source: PTI)

Immigrants help Canada attain a milestone as its population touches 40 million



New immigrants have contributed in a big way to help Canada achieve yet another milestone as its population touched the 40 million mark on Thursday, June 15.

According to data released by Statistics Canada, the country's population is currently growing at a record-setting pace. In 2022, the number of Canadians rose by 1,050,110. This marks the first time in Canadian history that its population grew by over 1 million people in a single year, and the highest annual population growth rate (+2.7%) on record since 1957 (+3.3%).

While that previous record is mostly attributed to the high number of births during the post-war baby boom, international migration accounted for nearly all growth recorded in 2022 (96%).

If this rate of population growth was to stay constant in the years to come, the

Canadian population could double in about 26 years, Statistics Canada said.

In 2021, more than 8.3 million people, or almost one quarter (23%) of the population, were or had ever been, landed immigrants or permanent residents in Canada. This was the largest proportion since Confederation, topping the previous 1921 record of 22.3%, and the highest among the G7.

This growth is reflected across Canada. In 2022, every single province and territory recorded a growing population, except for the Northwest Territories.

Canada's population clock uses a real-time model based on Statistics Canada's quarterly demographic estimates. The numbers for Canada and for each province and territory are updated in real-time based on the most recent birth, death and migration data.

The clock also shows the time it takes for a demographic event (birth, death or migration component) to occur in Canada. However, the clock does not reflect when the events themselves actually occur. Rather, it shows the average pace of Canada's population renewal in real-time.

The census of population is conducted every five years. It provides a snapshot of

Canada at a specific point in time and also provides counts for small regions and characteristics of the population according to various variables. Statistics Canada complements this data with ongoing population estimates that track demographic shifts between censuses.

Canada is by far leading the G7 countries for population growth. This was certainly true in 2022 and has been the case for the last two decades.

In 2021, more than 8.3 million people, or almost one quarter (23%) of the population, were, or had ever been, a landed immigrant or permanent resident in Canada. This was the largest proportion since Confederation, topping the previous 1921 record of 22.3%, and the highest among the G7.

Canada's Indigenous population continues to grow much faster than the national average. It increased by 9.4% from 2016 to 2021, surpassing the growth of the non-Indigenous population over the same period (+5.3%).

The 2021 Census counted 1.8 million Indigenous people, accounting for 5% of Canada's total population, up from 4.9% in 2016. Statistics Canada has been tracking the growth of Canada's population since the very first national census, conducted in



BY
PRABHJOT SINGH

1871.

Canada has known several important waves of immigration. One of the biggest was at the very beginning of the 20th century, which saw many immigrants settling the Prairies. In 1913, Canada welcomed over 400 000 immigrants. A record that was only surpassed in 2021 (and again in 2022).

The period after the Second World War (1946-1965) also saw very high rates of population growth, mostly because of the baby boom. The average number of children per woman at that time peaked at 3.94 in 1959, compared to 1.4 in 2020.

The fertility rate started declining after the 1960s. By 1995, immigration overtook natural increase (births minus deaths) as the main source of population growth.

In 2015, there were more Canadians aged 65 and older than between 0 and 14 for the first time in Canada's history.

Canada's immigration targets have been increasing since 2016, in an effort to address labor shortages and an aging population. In 2020-2021 population growth slowed due to border restrictions put in place to curb the spread of COVID-19. But as recent numbers show, it quickly bounced back.

(Prabhjot Singh is a senior journalist)

International Day of Yoga

International Day of Yoga is an occasion celebrated on June 21 to recognize the divine power of yoga that the world has witnessed over the years. Yoga is a healthy activity and a form of exercise done by millions of people daily. People use yoga for the divine connection of the mind and the body with the soul.



Yoga in India originated over 5,000 years ago. Thus, it is an ancient form of exercise and meditation that was practiced as a way to get closer to enlightenment. Later, with its gaining popularity yoga found its place as a form of exercise and relaxation. Celebration is done every year with great passion and zeal with the participation of thousands of people in India.

This practice was adopted by people since ancient times to connect the body with the mind and soul as well as for enlightenment. Later, with the popularity of yoga in the western countries, it was adopted by people as a way of relaxation and form of exercise that works towards the well-being of the body.

The initiation of the International Day of Yoga was done by PM Narendra Modi in September 2014, at the United Nations General Assembly while giving his speech. Later the announcement of 21 June as International Day of Yoga was done by passing a resolution, which was approved by 177 countries across the globe. This was the maximum number of countries to approve any UN resolution so far.

The reason for choosing June 21 as yoga day is that it is the day of Summer Solstice – a day with the longest period of daylight and when the Sun is at its highest position in the sky.

This will be the 9th Edition of the International Day of Yoga, which was first celebrated on 21 June 2015. On September 27, 2014, India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi had proposed the idea of International Yoga Day in the UN General Assembly while introducing a resolution to ascertain June 21 as the International Day of Yoga. The proposal was appreciated and approved by 177 countries.

Theme of International Day of Yoga 2023

The theme of International Day of Yoga, 2023 is 'Yoga for Humanity'.

Along with being a significant form of exercise to stay active on a daily basis, yoga has given the world the spiritual expertise through meditation and various postures. Yoga has served as the best way to connect mind, body and soul for thousands of years.

The draft resolution establishing the International Day of Yoga was proposed



by India and endorsed by a record 175 member states. The proposal was first introduced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in his address during the opening of the 69th session of the General Assembly, in which he said: "Yoga is an invaluable gift from our ancient tradition. Yoga embodies unity of mind and body, thought and action ... a holistic approach [that] is valuable to our health and our well-being. Yoga is not just about exercise; it is a way to discover the sense of oneness with yourself, the world and the nature."

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

But yoga is more than a physical

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

PM to lead Yoga Day event at UN headquarters in New York

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will lead the global community in celebrating the International Day of Yoga at the UN headquarters in New York this year.

Csaba Korosi, president of the UN General Assembly, diplomatic representatives of almost the entire UN membership of over 190 countries, the mayor of New York, Eric Adams, US political leaders from the New York area, and top Indian-American diaspora figures in various domains will join Modi on the north lawns of the UN complex in New York on the morning of June 21, said a person familiar with the planning of the event.

177 countries had co-sponsored and

supported the Yoga Day resolution at the UN in December 2014. The following year, the world saw the first celebrations. And now, the author of that idea will return to the UN to lead the celebrations and send a message.

India's permanent representative to the UN, Ruchira Kamboj, who has earlier served as the chief of protocol of the foreign ministry in New Delhi, India's permanent representative to UNESCO in Paris, high commissioner to South Africa and ambassador to Bhutan, and her team at the permanent mission of India in New York, are reaching out to counterparts to firm up the details of the event.

UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres will, however, miss the event as he will be in Paris at the time to attend a conference on a new global financing pact.

India has not only booked all the open spaces within the UN complex and the riverside promenade overlooking the Hudson river, but also parts of Roosevelt City and Long Island city to make space for over 2,000 people who are expected to participate in the event. A live feed of the yoga celebrations will be broadcast at Times Square, a few blocks away. The event will have a brief cultural component, with the UN choir performing. Modi and Korosi are expected to speak before the Indian Prime Minister leads the yoga event. "The event will be inclusive. It will be international. It will attempt to showcase what India has to offer to the world. It will bring together the world, north and south, east and west, parties in conflict with each other, to send a message of oneness," said the person quoted above.

In the week leading up to the Yoga Day celebrations, the UN will also see a special yoga exhibition inside its premises by Isha Yoga, a non-profit.

UN Declaration

On 11 December 2014, India's Permanent Representative Asoke Mukherji introduced the draft resolution in the United Nations General Assembly. The draft text received broad support from 177 Member States who sponsored the text, which was adopted without a vote. This initiative found support from many global leaders. A total of 177 nations co-sponsored the resolution, which is the highest number of co-sponsors ever for any UNGA resolution of such nature.

When proposing 21 June as the date, Modi said that the date was the longest day of the year in the northern hemisphere (shortest in the southern hemisphere), having special significance in many parts of the world. In Indian calendars, the summer solstice marks the transition to Dakshinayana. The second full moon after summer solstice is known as Guru Poornima. In Hindu mythology, Shiva, the first yogi (Adi Yogi), is said to have begun imparting the knowledge of yoga to the rest of mankind on this day, and became the first guru (Adi Guru).

Following the adoption of the UN resolution, several leaders of the spiritual movement in India voiced their support for the initiative. The founder of Isha Foundation, Sadhguru, stated, "this could be a kind of a foundation stone to make scientific approach to the inner well-being of the human being, a worldwide thing... It's a tremendous step for the world." The founder of Art of Living, Ravi Shankar, lauded the efforts of Modi, saying, "It is very difficult for any philosophy, religion or culture to survive without state patronage. Yoga has existed so far almost like an orphan. Now, official recognition by the UN would further spread the benefit of yoga to the entire world."

The first International Day of Yoga was observed around the world on 21 June 2015. The Ministry of AYUSH made the necessary arrangements in India. 35,985 people, including PM Modi and dignitaries from 84 nations, performed 21 asanas (yoga postures) for 35 minutes at Rajpath in New Delhi, becoming the largest yoga class ever held, and with the largest number—84—of participating nations. Similar days have been held in cities in India and around the world each year since then.

An Associated Press report in 2015 noted that the first "International Yoga Day" involved "millions of yoga enthusiasts" who "stretched and twisted", as well as Modi and members of his cabinet. It stated that the main road in Delhi had become an exercise area for the occasion, and reported that while Modi was speaking of "peace and harmony", some people in India thought the promotion of yoga was a partisan Hindu operation. It reported that a sequence of Surya Namaskar (sun salutations) was dropped because Muslims objected to the implication that the sun was the Hindu god of the sun, Surya; the chanting of the Hindu sacred syllable "Om" was also dropped. Others considered that the money spent on the event might have been better spent on cleaning Delhi's streets.

The Christian Science Monitor wrote in 2016 that the 2014 United Nations resolution had been "wildly popular" but noted that yoga had a "meditative component" and had become known as not only a form of physical exercise but



File photo



File photo



File photo

also a mental and spiritual practice. It gave as evidence the 2015 sermon by Pope Francis cautioning Roman Catholics about the idea that yoga could be a path to God; it noted, too, that Modi had replied to the charge that the Day was intended to promote Hinduism with the words "Yoga is not about the other life. Therefore, it is not a religious practice".

The Week stated in 2015 that the government of India's purpose in holding International Days of Yoga was to have yoga recognized around the world as "India's cultural property", [24] citing India's minister of yoga, Shripad Yesso Naik as stating "We're trying to establish to the world that it's ours." [24] The Week wrote that this was not likely to succeed, not least because many types of yoga were already being practised in the Western world. The article noted that Christian evangelicals agreed with the

Indian government that yoga was "primarily a Hindu spiritual practice", but quoted the scholar of religion Ann Gleig as saying that most Western yoga was markedly changed by being in the West, and was devoid of religious content; the "ironically" agreeing views of strongly religious Hindus and Christians were "historically flawed".

Events to mark IDY- 2023

Following are some flagship initiatives were taken up by the Ministry of Ayush (MoA), to maximize participation in the 9th International Day of Yoga (IDY- 2023).

100 Days, 100 Cities, and 100 Organization

Morarji Desai National Institute of Yoga under the Ministry of Ayush is organising a campaign of 100 days, 100 cities, and 100 organizations from 13th March 2023 to 21st June 2023 across the

globe regarding the celebration of 9th IDY-2023. The campaign aimed to promote and disseminate knowledge and practice of Yoga among the people, at the national level, for the improvement of their health and well-being.

Ocean Ring of Yoga

IDY-2023 will witness an innovative program 'Ocean Ring of Yoga' on June 21st when with the help of the Ministry of Defense, Ministry of External Affairs and the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways, Yoga demonstrations at many ports, on many ships will take place and many friendly countries will also join hands in this exercise.

Aligned with the theme of 'Yoga for Vasudhaiva Kutumbkam' for this year, the Ocean Ring of Yoga program aims to showcase the transformative power of yoga in fostering global unity and harmonious coexistence.

Arctic to Antarctica

Yoga demonstrations will be conducted across a vast geographical range, spanning from the Arctic to Antarctica. Countries located along or in close proximity to the Prime Meridian will actively participate in these demonstrations. Furthermore, the flight decks of INS Vikrant and INS Vikramaditya will serve as impressive platforms for showcasing yoga demonstrations in perfect harmony.

Yoga sessions will also take place in the pristine regions of the North and South Poles. Yoga sessions will also be held at the Indian Research Base in Svalbard, Arctic as well as Bharati — the third Indian Research Base in Antarctica. These unique and remote locations will serve as serene settings for engaging in yoga practices, further exemplifying the universal reach and adaptability of this ancient discipline.

Yog Bharatmala

As part of this initiative, the Indian Army, Indian Air Force, Indian Coast Guard, and Border Road Organisation will organize yoga demonstrations at the borders, coasts, and islands, collectively forming a Yog Bharatmala. This concerted effort aims to showcase the unifying power of yoga in diverse geographical locations and foster a sense of well-being and harmony among the personnel and communities stationed in these strategic areas.

Yog Bharatmala seeks to promote the practice of yoga as an integral aspect of the nation's cultural fabric and enhance the overall physical and mental well-being of those serving in these crucial roles.

Har Aangan Yog

At the grassroots level, the participation of Panchayats, Anganwadis, Asha/ANM workers, and local communities will be integral to the Yoga demonstrations. These essential pillars of community outreach will actively engage in showcasing yoga at various levels. Furthermore, the Health and Wellness Centers established by both the Health and Ayush Ministries, which are abundant across the country with a count exceeding 150,000, as well as the numerous Amrit Sarovars (approximately 50,000) will host Yoga demonstrations. This year, we can anticipate the immersive experience of 'Har Aangan Yog,' which will embody the true essence and spirit of this holistic practice.

NORTH 2 SHORE FESTIVAL VISITS NEWARK FOR FINALE

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**
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



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 / Courtesy NJPAC

With the astounding success of the first two weeks of the North to Shore Festival on which New Jersey embarked, Newark will continue and close the celebrations in the final week: June 21-25.

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 continue to 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."

"What I love about it is that it's a combination of the biggest names in entertainment and comedy and film," (when speaking to 'The New York Times') said John Schreiber, president and chief executive of the New Jersey Performing Arts Center in Newark, which is producing the festival, "but it's also a chance to turn up the volume on the local folks I call the local heroes - the artists, the creators, the presenters, the producers - who work in these cities 365 days a year."

Mr. Schreiber coaxes the reader, "I know you'll enjoy the performances by the artists you already know and love. But I urge you, while you're with us, to explore an event or performance by a New Jersey artist you may not be familiar with yet. The talent in our state runs deep - and we hope this celebration of everything New Jersey will give you a perfect opportunity to see, and hear, that for yourself."

NEWARK (JUNE 21- 25)

Partner Venues:

NJPAC, Prudential Hall
NJPAC, Victoria Theater
NJPAC, Chase Room
Prudential Center Arena
ODR
QXT
Swahili Village
Dutch's
Bar Vanquish

6/21 - Santana - Prudential Center

Santana

Wednesday, June 21, 2023 - Prudential Center Arena

When Santana shows up with that signature Latin-blues-rock groove, you know you're in for an electrifying experience.

6/21 + 6/22 - Halsey with Live String Ensemble - NJPAC - SOLD OUT!

Halsey with Live String Ensemble

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 21 AND THURSDAY, JUNE 22, 2023 - NJPAC, PRUDENTIAL HALL

A special two-night only engagement to benefit arts programs and arts education across New Jersey.

6/22 - TechUnited: NJ BetterX Summit - NJPAC

Daymond John - A Better Future for All, Starts with Entrepreneurship

TechUnited: BetterX Summit

JUNE 22, 2023 - NJPAC, VICTORIA THEATER

Daymond John comes to North2Shore to share the philosophies and practices that have helped him in his continued success.

6/22 - Alanis Morissette with Special Guest Aimee Mann - Prudential Center

Thursday, June 22, 2023 - Prudential Center Arena

Alt-rock goddess Alanis Morissette returns to New Jersey for an exclusive metro area performance with special guest Aimee Mann.

6/23 - Southside Johnny and the Asbury Jukes - NJPAC

Southside Johnny and the Asbury Jukes?

FRIDAY, JUNE 23, 2023 - NJPAC, VICTORIA THEATER

Straight from the Jersey Shore... get on your feet with Southside Johnny and the Asbury Jukes!

6/23 - Marisa Monte - NJPAC Maris Monte

FRIDAY, JUNE 23, 2023 - NJPAC, PRUDENTIAL HALL

Experience multi-Latin GRAMMY® winner Marisa Monte's sophisticated swirl of Brazilian pop, rock and samba.

6/24 - Bill Burr Live - Prudential Center

BILL BURR : Saturday, June 24, 2023 - Prudential Arena

American comedian, podcaster and actor Bill Burr is bringing his irreverent, self-deprecating brand of humor to the Garden State.

6/24 - An Evening with Stephen Colbert and Jim Gaffigan - NJPAC

Stephen Colbert and Jim Gaffigan

SATURDAY, JUNE 24, 2023 - NJPAC, PRUDENTIAL HALL

Join comedians Stephen Colbert and Jim Gaffigan for an evening of conversation

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CONTD FROM PAGE 20



Stephen Colbert with Jim Gaffin.

Photo / Courtesy NJPAC

between two of the wittiest and most insightful voices in the biz.

6/25 - Ross Mathews: I Gotchu Gurl! An Evening of Standup Comedy - NJPAC
Ross Mathews

JUNE 25, 2023 - VICTORIA THEATER

The hilarious Ross Mathews joins North2Shore at the Victoria Theater June 25 for a night of storytelling, comedy + fun.

6/25 - An Evening with Natalie Merchant: Keep Your Courage Tour - NJPAC
Natalie Merchant

SUNDAY, JUNE 25, 2023 - NJPAC, PRUDENTIAL HALL

Folk rock singer/songwriter Natalie Merchant of 10,000 Maniacs mesmerizes audiences with her strong, clear voice, heart-on-her-sleeve lyrics + catchy melodies. This will be a very special performance with The Orchestra of St. Luke's.

ADDITIONAL EVENTS

NIFF: 4/26/92 Screening: "4/26/92"
June 21, 2023 - City Plex

Newark International Film Festival screens "4/26/92", an iconic film about the days leading up to the LA riots of 1992.

NIFF LIGHTING FOR FILM AND TELEVISION

June 22, 2023 - The Atrium @ 744 Broad Street
Learn how to light your set for film and television from professional lighting designers in the industry.

NIFF Screening: DAME DASH STUDIOS

June 22, 2023 - City Plex

Dame Dash Studios premieres a new film at the Newark International Film Festival June 22.

NIFF Special Screening

June 22, 2023 - City Plex

Newark International Film Festival premiers a special screening with top Hollywood Talent. Secure your seat today!

NIFF Acting Workshop with Tobias Truvillian

June 22, 2023 - Express Newark

Tobias Truvillian leads this workshop on the craft of acting and how to achieve your goals as a performer.

Leading Men in Hollywood Panel

JUNE 23, 2023

NIFF brings you a sit-down chat with Lance Gross, Jay Ellis, Tobias Truvillian, Larenz Tate, J. Alphonse Nicholson.

Leading Women in Hollywood Panel

JUNE 24, 2023

Sit down with Hollywood's Leading Ladies Michelle Mitchener, Logan Browning, Eva Marcille, and Brandee Evans as part of NIFF at North2Shore.

NIFF Acting Workshop with Wendy McKenzie

JUNE 24, 2023 - EXPRESS NEWARK

Acting coach and entrepreneur Wendy McKenzie leads this informal acting workshop to talk about the what, who, how, and why of acting.

From Hip Hop to Hollywood Celebrity Panel

JUNE 24, 2023

Newark International Film Festival presents From Hip Hop to Hollywood with Dupre (DoItAll) Kelly, Redman, Ludacris + Lady London.

TechUnited: BetterX Summit

A part of the North to Shore Festival

Thursday, June 22, 2023

NJPAC, Newark, NJ

BetterX: Building a Better Future for All

TechUnited's BetterX programming was created to leverage technology, innovation, and regional strengths to solve our greatest challenges.

BetterX programming marquee experiences are the startup challenges, which provide innovators with a cash prize, executive mentorship and connections, and brand exposure.

The BetterX Summit convenes local innovators & global leaders to inspire, grow, & build a better future for all.

BetterX Summit

Join the team for a summit focused on the best ways to inspire growth and innovation in New Jersey.

While you'll have ample opportunities to network & pitch, the event agenda will focus on inspiring talks from global tech leaders, successful founders, and investors.

Watch the promo video -

youtube.com/watch?v=Wqp5zNOcqFQ

AGENDA

12:30 PM | Check-In, Networking, & Startup Alley

Check-in and checkout the cool new startups building their tech right here in Newark.

1:30 PM | Welcome Remarks

TechUnited CEO Aaron Price shares the history of the TechUnited: NJ & the BetterX programs.

Aaron Price

CEO, TechUnited - Founder, Propelify

linkedin.com/in/arprice

1:45 PM | The Newark Advantage

Financial innovators share their predictions and calls to action for the future of financial security, democratization, & innovation.

Citi Medina

Founder, EQUAL SPACE

linkedin.com/in/medinaciti

Aaron Meyerson

Chief Innovation Economy Office & Director of Broadband, City of Newark

linkedin.com/in/aaron-meyerson

Kathy Naasz

Vice President Strategic Partnerships & Entrepreneurship NJII

linkedin.com/checkpoint/challengesV2/AQGCiTnTmc12hgAAAYi6eywRxCeLIw2CZGDjeMtAf_wJHdDrHdtQxW1CfbBIWb7WGiyQh7UxOv6_ZLTdFUWVphkGSvaHXeMbJw

2:15 PM | Solving Sustainability's Biggest Challenges

Startups and big corporates alike are turning their attention to opportunities to reduce emissions & leverage clean energy in the supply chain. Dive into the challenges facing this industry, and how the tech community can help.

(Photo N 3 here)

Faith Taylor

VP, Global Sustainability

Officer, Kyndryl

President,

Women@NJPAC



Faith Taylor

Photo / Courtesy NJPAC

linkedin.com/in/faithlouisetaylor

Dr. Shihab Kuran

CEO, Power Edison

linkedin.com/in/shihabkuran

2:45 PM | More than Mojo

From Diapers.com to Some Spider, Vinit has sold and grown business for over ten years. His newest venture, in partnership with household names like ARod, is the

first ever licensed sports stock market. Find out why this new venture has the biggest upside yet, starting right here in New Jersey.

Aaron Price

CEO, TechUnited

Founder, Propelify

linkedin.com/in/arprice

Vinit Bharara

CEO & Founder, Mojo

linkedin.com/in/vinit-bharara-2302306

3:15 PM | What Opportunities 5G Connectivity

Provides to Startups

Explore the potential market opportunities for startups created by the adoption and evolution of 5G.

Massimo Peselli

Chief Revenue Officer, Verizon Business

linkedin.com/checkpoint/challengesV2/AQE2sTQM

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C2Sz7npYVvk9yvygcganK91rYaFT0gHrBzoXBog

3:45 PM | Technology's Role in Growing your

Business

How much do social media and business tech tools impact the way we do business, maintain relationships, and provide education?

Vince Hudson

Head of NA Business Marketing, Meta

Marci Hopkins

Host, Creator & Executive Producer of Wake Up with Marci, Author

linkedin.com/in/talkshowhost

4:15 PM | Creating an Equitable Healthcare Future

This expert explains the importance of tech and innovation to build a more equitable healthcare workforce.

Michellene Davis

Esq, President & CEO, National Medical Fellowships

4:45 PM | Emerging

Mecca Imani

Founder, GroTru

Startup Showcase

Three startups will be presenting their pitch & sharing their entrepreneurial journeys.

Alex Simeon

Founder & CEO, MoneyUp

5:30 PM | Happy Hour

This happy hour is co-hosted with Women@NJPAC (njpac.org/support/women-at-njpac).

REGISTRATION

Registration is required to attend the FREE BetterX Summit.

Register at techunited.co/betterxsummit.

TICKETED PROGRAM

7:00 PM | Additional Ticketed Experience: Daymond John Keynote

TechUnited:BetterX Summit Keynote: Daymond John - A Better Future for All Starts with Entrepreneurship

After the BetterX Summit,

get your ticket to the big

finale - a keynote with

Daymond John, star of

Shark Tank! Purchase your

tickets at ticketmaster.com/event/00005E69A5B71C5C

North2Shore: For updates

and new concert listings,

visit northtoshore.com

@north2shore



Daymond John

Photo / Courtesy NJPAC

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)

JUNETEENTH REMEMBERED & HONORED IN NEW JERSEY & AROUND THE COUNTRY

BY MABEL PAIS

"Juneteenth is a reminder that Black lives matter-not just during Black History Month or on Martin Luther King Jr. Day. Black lives matter every day."
- Maya Richard-Craven



JUNETEENTH

Photo Credit/ NJPAC

The New Jersey Performing Arts Center (NJPAC) with PSEG'S True Diversity Film Series presents: 'The Forgotten Story of New Jersey's Enslaved People' with a panel discussion. This FREE event takes place at NJPAC's Chase Room, One Center Street, Newark, New Jersey 07102 on Monday, June 19th at 6 p.m. Register at njpac.org/event/slaverys-impact-on-the-black-experience-in-new-jersey-pseg-true-diversity-film-series

OR njpac.org/event/slaverys-impact-on-the-black-experience-in-new-jersey-pseg-true-diversity-film-series/?utm_source=dedicated&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=sis_juneteenth_2023

While Juneteenth is a celebration of the emancipation of all enslaved people, it is also a time to consider the brutal history of slavery and its legacy. Unpaid labor underpinned the economic prosperity of New Jersey in the 18th and 19th centuries and its location along the coast facilitated the slave trade. The people who built the state, and their descendants, never received compensation and today's Black community in New Jersey continues to experience harms such as high rates of infant mortality, incarceration and one of the highest racial wealth gaps in the country.



Car Parade: Juneteenth Celebration in 2021

Photo Credit / Ringo H.W. Chiu: Courtesy, sierraclub.org

This month's 'True Diversity Film Series' selection, 'The Forgotten Story of New Jersey's Enslaved People,' preserves the legacy of slavery in New Jersey and how it prevented Black property ownership and access to other resources. It raises important questions such as what types of government policies can repair generations of inequality? And how should slavery and its impact be taught in schools?

This month's 'Standing in Solidarity' panel is curated by the New Jersey Institute for Social Justice and is part of NJPAC's Juneteenth celebrations.

REGISTRATION & PARTICIPATION

To RSVP, Register at njpac.tfaforms.net/145?id=a2F8X000009pLU1UAM

Watch the two-part series 'The Forgotten Story of New Jersey's Enslaved People' at home:

Part 1: youtu.be/r15Tp0ww3nM

Part 2: youtu.be/9PaQtE_TcB8

Join NJPAC for an in-person discussion at NJPAC on Monday, June 19, at 6PM. This event will not be hosted through Zoom.

Preceding the conversation, NJPAC's African American Employee Resource Group is hosting a Juneteenth celebration in Harriet Tubman Square featuring drumming, dance, poetry and jazz. A spirited

parade will lead celebrants to NJPAC for the 'Standing in Solidarity' conversation and a Juneteenth Marketplace - with live music and other surprises - will follow in the Prudential Hall lobby from 7:30 - 10PM.

RSVP at <https://njpac.tfaforms.net/145?id=a2F8X000009pLU1UAM>

PANELISTS

Elaine Buck and Beverly Mills, Authors, 'If These Stones Could Talk'

Linda Caldwell Epps, President and CEO, '1804 Consultants'

Damon Jones, Associate Professor, University of Chicago

Tomas Varela Jr., Executive Director, 'New Jersey Black Empowerment Coalition'

MODERATOR

Jean-Pierre Brutus, Senior Counsel in the Economic Justice Program, The New Jersey Institute for Social Justice.

Learn more about each of the panelists and moderator at njpac.org/event/slaverys-impact-on-the-black-experience-in-new-jersey-pseg-true-diversity-film-series

NJPAC

Learn more by calling 888.GO.NJPAC (888.466.5722)

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Hashtag: #NJPACTakeAStand

Youtube: [youtube.com/playlist?list=](https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PLfbUCnKcogFuVGRL32zeiw8uTHAnungBo)

[PLfbUCnKcogFuVGRL32zeiw8uTHAnungBo](https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PLfbUCnKcogFuVGRL32zeiw8uTHAnungBo)

JUNETEENTH ON PBS

BY MABEL PAIS



Buffalo Soldiers

Photo Credit / PBS.org

Capturing the profound and often contradictory roles played by Black soldiers in the U.S. military, the film 'BUFFALO SOLDIERS: FIGHTING ON TWO FRONTS'

(worldchannel.org/episode/local-usa-buffalo-soldiers-fighting-on-two-fronts/?utm_source=Iterable&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Race%20in%20America&utm_content=Race%20in%20America_6_2_23) explores how the

iconic Buffalo Soldiers fought on two very different sets of front lines: military conflicts abroad and civil rights struggles at home.

Established by Congress in 1868, the 14th Amendment promised citizenship in exchange for military enlistment, prompting many African American men to do so. But they were denied this right due to Jim Crow laws (the system of segregation and discrimination in America in the late 19th and early 20th centuries that enforced racial segregation) established during the Reconstruction Era. In spite of this, the men helped lead the expansion of the U.S. westward; they built and guarded the Pacific Railroad, and served as park rangers in places like Yosemite before the government's establishment of the National Park Service.

The soldiers fought bravely in the Indian Wars, the Philippine-American War, the Mexican Punitive Expedition, and World Wars I & II. Buffalo Soldiers, in particular, participated in the subjugation of Native peoples as the U.S. appropriated tribal land, the persecution of striking silver miners in Idaho, and went up against Filipinos fighting for independence during the Spanish-American War, resulting in a

complicated legacy.

By combining a multitude of diverse perspectives, the film examines the profound and often-contradictory roles played in American history by the Buffalo Soldiers, and how they fought on two sets of front lines: military conflicts abroad and civil rights struggles at home.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Host your own Buffalo Soldiers Juneteenth Watch Party at worldchannel.org/press/article/buffalo-soldiers-juneteenth-watch-party-toolkit with friends and family. Follow along with @worldchannel with this Juneteenth challenge on

Facebook (facebook.com/WORLDchannel),

Instagram (instagram.com/worldchannel),

Twitter (twitter.com/worldchannel) and

TikTok (tiktok.com/@worldchannel)

and join the social conversation with #BuffaloSoldiersPBS.

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

Father's Day

Father's Day is celebrated worldwide to recognize the contribution that fathers and father figures make to the lives of their children. This day celebrates fatherhood and male parenting. Although it is celebrated on a variety of dates worldwide, many countries observe this day on the third Sunday in June.

Father's Day is celebrated every year to honoring fathers and father figures, appreciating their contributions and influence in our lives. This special day, typically observed on the third Sunday in June, allows us to express gratitude for the love, support, and guidance that fathers provide.

Founded in early 20th century in U.S., the father's day was inspired by Mother's Day as a way to recognise and honor paternal bonds. It serves as a reminder of the significant role fathers play in nurturing and shaping their children's lives. The day provides an opportunity to reflect on the sacrifices fathers make and the positive impact they have on their families.

Father's Day is celebrated with various traditions and customs around the world. Families often express their appreciation through heartfelt gestures such as spending quality time together, giving thoughtful gifts, or preparing special meals. It's a time to show fathers how much they are valued and cherished.

On this day, children often express their love and admiration for their fathers by presenting handmade cards, personalised gifts, or sharing heartfelt messages. It's a day filled with love, laughter, and creating lasting memories with the father figures in our lives.

Father's Day reminds us to celebrate and honor the paternal bonds that have shaped us, providing an opportunity to strengthen the relationship between fathers and their children. It serves as a reminder to express gratitude and love, not just on this particular day, but throughout the year.

The history of Father's Day

The history of Father's Day goes back to 1908, when a church in West Virginia held a sermon to honor 362 men who had been killed the previous year in a coal mining explosion. This was the country's first-ever event to strictly honor fathers, but it was just a one-and-done thing, at least in that community.

The following year, however, a woman named Sonora Smart Dodd started her quest to establish Father's Day as a national holiday. Dodd was one of six children raised by their single father, and she thought fathers should be honored in the same way as mothers.

After she'd petitioned her local community and government for a year, Dodd's home state of Washington celebrated its first official Father's Day on June 19, 1910. Over the years, the celebration of Father's Day spread from state to state, and after a long fight, it was finally declared a national holiday in 1972 when President Richard Nixon signed it into law. Now, we celebrate with funny Father's Day quotes, dad quotes, father-son quotes, and even stepdad quotes for the bonus dad in our lives.

It took more than 60 years from the birth of the idea to Father's Day actually being recognized as a federal holiday, and a lot happened to threaten the parent-celebrating holidays during that time. In



the 1920s and 1930s, there was a national movement to get rid of both Mother's and Father's Day and replace them with one "Parent's Day." Beyond that, some men didn't even want a Father's Day to begin with. They saw it as a "Hallmark holiday," invented for the sole purpose of a commercial gimmick, and as many fathers were the sole breadwinners at the time, they didn't particularly want their hard-earned cash spent on flowers and chocolates. The Great Depression and World War II, however, helped boost the idea of Father's Day. Struggling retailers pushed the gift-giving holiday during the Depression, and during the war, Father's Day became a way to honor the many fathers serving overseas. By the time President Nixon signed the proclamation making Father's Day a holiday, it was already a national institution.

If you have trouble remembering dates, you can stop fretting about this one! Much like the Thanksgiving rule (it falls on the fourth Thursday in November), Father's Day has a set day, but there's no set date for dad's day (at least here in the United States). Each year, the date of Father's Day changes, but it always falls on the third Sunday in June. In 2022, it will share a date with Juneteenth and fall on June 19. So, all you need to remember is June, and where to find these free Father's Day cards if you're caught short on your way to dad's house come the third Sunday.

Father's Day is celebrated on different days in different countries. For example, in Europe, the United States, and the majority of other countries, the holiday is celebrated on the third Sunday in June. In many Catholic countries, especially in Latin America, fathers are celebrated on St. Joseph's Day, which falls on March 19. In many Pacific countries, including Australia, New Zealand, and Fiji, Father's Day occurs on the first Sunday in September.



Now that you know the history of Father's Day, you're probably wondering how to celebrate with your dad. Spending time together is the best place to start, even if it's just watching one of these Father's Day movies together.

Significance and celebration
On Father's Day each year, children acknowledge and appreciate their fathers and father figures who play an important role in their lives, be it emotionally, mentally or even financially. On this day, children understand the importance of the role of a father in one's life and acknowledge the

contribution of fathers to their own families and society at large.

Children buy or make presents for their father or father-like figure, write and draw cards, spend the day engaging in activities that can be enjoyed with one's father be it hiking, fishing or just sitting around watching some television series. Since most kids have a closer bond with their mothers, this day definitely helps forge a closer relation with one's dad. Father's Day is a celebration of fathers, honouring fatherhood, paternal bonds and the role fathers play in society.



Emraan Hashmi makes Telugu debut; joins Pawan Kalyan, Priyanka in 'OG'

Bollywood actor Emraan Hashmi, who is known for films like 'Gangster', 'Zehar', 'Awarapan' and 'Shanghai', has joined the cast of director Sujeeth's gangster drama 'OG'. The film also stars power star Pawan Kalyan and Priyanka Mohan in the lead. Emraan joined the cast as the film's third schedule currently progresses in Hyderabad. He will make his foray into Telugu cinema with the movie and will be seen essaying the role of Pawan Kalyan's nemesis in the film.

Talking about making debut in the Telugu film industry, Emraan shared: "I am excited to embark on this new journey with 'OG'. The movie has a strong and gripping script and it offers me a challenging role that I am looking forward to working with Pawan Kalyan Sir, Sujeeth, Danayya Sir and the team. I am confident that we will create a memorable cinematic experience for the audience."

The film also stars Arjun Das and Sriya Reddy in key roles in the film. With music by Thaman S., 'OG' is produced D.V.V. Danayya, written and directed by Sujeeth under DVV Entertainments banner. The film also has veteran actor Prakash Raj in a prominent role.

Tamannaah Bhatia says 'marriage is not a party' after confirming relationship

Actor Tamannaah Bhatia recently talked about marriage, days after confirming their relationship with Vijay Varma. She who believes that marriage comes with a lot of work and responsibility, said that one should not be done just because others are doing it. She said she once thought she would have finished work and gotten married and had kids by the age of 30.

Tamannaah is currently dating Vijay Varma. She recently confirmed her relationship after much speculation about them. While she called Vijay her 'happy place', Vijay in a recent interview said that he is happy too.

Talking to India Today, Tamannaah opened up if she feels pressured to tie the knot and settle down. She said, "I feel you should get married when you want to get married. Marriage is a big responsibility. It's not a party. It takes a lot of work, and so is having a plant, having a dog, or having kids. So when you are ready for a responsibility like that which is important then you do it. Not because time or sab kar rahe hain toh karlo (everyone is doing it so you should too)."

"When I started working years back it was like an actress's career span was only for 8-10 years. So I did the math and was like by the age of 30 I would have finished working, married, and would have two kids. I had not planned post-30. So, when I actually became 30 years old, I realised that I am just born, it was like a purna janam (re-birth), I felt like a brand new baby. Today we do things out of choice and it makes us feel a certain way and we have that choice. The generation before would always think 'yeh time ho gaya to yeh kar lo (It's time so get married)' etc. Apart from scientifically a biological block, there is nothing really else going against you as a woman. So suddenly I have realized that my ideas then were so people friendly, they weren't my ideas. I only discovered my ideas when I turned 30," the actor further added.

Tamannaah's latest release Jee Karda released on Thursday. She will be next seen in Netflix's Lust Stories 2. It stars her with Vijay Varma for the first time.



Kangana returns to intensive workout routine for action film



Bollywood actor Kangana Ranaut recently wrapped up shoot for her directorial debut 'Emergency.' In this movie the actress plays the role of former Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi. Currently, she is busy with the post-production of this movie.

As soon the actress wrapped her recent shoot, Kangana Ranaut has started preparing for her new project. In her recent post shared on Instagram, Kangana shared her exercise routine with her fans and talked about her transformation journey for her upcoming film. In the video, she can be seen doing functional training with forms like jumping jacks, mountain climbing, rope skipping and spot jogging. Along with the video, she also penned a note in the caption.

She wrote, "After two years break from my exercise routine to play Mrs Gandhi now I am back to my fitness routine,

looking forward to a great transformation for an upcoming action film..."

As soon the Kangana shared the video, her fans started appreciating her efforts and dedication for her work. A user wrote, "This is inspiring Kangana. Pls make a full workout video if possible."

While another wrote, "Speed and finesse is incredible @kanganaranaut ... very inspiring!"

a third one wrote, "Absolutely awesome especially the effortless handstand."

Veteran actor Anupam Kher also commented to her post. He wrote, "Aap to dara rahe ho ji. Jai Ho."

On the work front, Kangana has many interesting projects in the queue. She has Tejas - which features her as a fighter pilot with the Indian forces. Recently, she has completed her directorial debut 'Emergency.' Kangana has also released the trailer of her first production 'Tiku Weds Sheru'.

Source: TNS



Emma Watson dating American bizman?

Harry Potter actress Emma Watson has been in the headlines time and again for her personal life. The actress was in a relationship with Brandon Green and split with him after dating for 18 months. He is the son of one-time King of the High Street Sir Philip Green and the duo broke up during the Christmas period. Now, she has been spotted with an American businessman Ryan Walsh vacationing in Italy, sparking yet another dating rumours.

Emma Watson's photos are going viral on the internet in which she is seen enjoying a trip to Italy with Ryan Walsh as they visited Venice - a city she once spent time in with her ex-beau. Emma is said to love someone who can "match her intelligence" and has always had "brainy" boyfriends.

"From Brandon, who is an executive at his dad Philip Green's company, she has been linked to tech CEOs William 'Mack' Knight, Brendan Iribe and Brendan Wallace. Ryan is a very intelligent man too and Emma seems to be enjoying spending time with him," The Sun quoted a source saying.

Tom Holland calls his relationship with Zendaya 'sacred'

Tom Holland and Zendaya have captured the hearts of fans worldwide as one of the most adored couples in the entertainment industry. Their star power shines brilliantly at the pinnacle of their careers. Recently, during the promotion of his upcoming psychological thriller, *The Crowded Room*, Tom spoke about his relationship with Zendaya. He said that they are incredibly protective of their relationship.

Speaking to *The Hollywood Reporter*, the Spider-Man actor said, "Our relationship is something that we are incredibly protective of, and we want to keep it as sacred as possible. We don't think that we owe it to anyone, it's our thing, and it has nothing to do with our careers."

He also clarified why Zendaya was not at the New York premiere of *The Crowded Room*, stating that she was busy. "She's visiting her grandma. We're two very busy people, and we're on the opposite sides of the world at this present time, so she couldn't come," the actor shared.

The actor also discussed being in the public eye all the time and taking a break from social media. "It's tough when every time you leave your front door, you are working. You're on camera. I can't walk around New York without clicking everywhere I go. And



social media was bringing that outside world into my house. I just had to get rid of it. I needed to get back to reality, remind myself of who I am and where I'm from, and just live my life as normally as possible, in my abnormal way. Which is my career, I guess," he said.

Speaking of *The Crowded Room*, Holland stars opposite Amanda Seyfried. The series is written by *A Beautiful Mind* writer Akiva Goldsman. Tom Holland also serves as an executive producer on the 10-part series, which premiered on Apple TV+ on June 9.

Source: India TV

Megan Fox is 'much happier' since her reconciliation with Machine Gun Kelly

Megan Fox and Machine Gun Kelly have reconciled and the 'Transformers' star "seems much happier now", though the couple are not planning a wedding any time soon.

"They have done a lot of work to make their relationship strong again and are back together, a source told *People* magazine. "They are engaged, but are not wedding planning."

Fox and MGK have been engaged since January 2022. The source added: "Megan wears her ring too. She seems much happier." Last week, Fox, 37, was seen supporting Kelly, 33, as she watched the rapper perform at the WaldbAhne in Berlin, Germany.

As per *People*, in February, the 'Jennifer's Body' actress had hinted at a possible breakup, and removed photos of her musician fiance from her Instagram account and posted a cryptic caption.

However, a week later, she returned to Instagram to break her silence amid speculation that their relationship may have ended.

Fox wrote at the time: "There has been no third party interference in this relationship of any kind. That includes, but is not limited to...actual humans, DMs, AI bots or succubus demons."

In March, a source told *People* that the couple was back together and that they had explored therapy. "Things are still not back to normal though." Source: IANS



Amber Heard's film premiere ignites controversy

The world of cinema is buzzing with anticipation as Amber Heard prepares to make her comeback at the illustrious Taormina Film Festival with her latest film, "In The Fire." While fans celebrate her return, a storm of controversy surrounds the festival's decision to showcase



Heard's movie amidst ongoing disputes with her ex-husband, Johnny Depp. As battle lines are drawn on social media, Hollywood finds itself at a crossroads, with calls for support of survivors echoing throughout the industry.

Renowned as the Italian equivalent of the Academy Awards, the Taormina Film Festival has a prestigious history spanning over six decades. As it gears up for its 69th edition in Sicily, Italy, the inclusion of Amber Heard's film has stirred up heated debates across the virtual landscape.

MOST OF 108 DROWNING VICTIMS IN NIGERIA BOAT ACCIDENT WERE WOMEN AND CHILDREN

ABUJA, NIGERIA (TIP): Most of the 108 people who drowned after a boat broke apart in north-central Nigeria were women and their children, survivors and local authorities told The Associated Press on Thursday as search efforts ended.

The wooden boat was carrying more than 250 people across the Niger River in Kwara state as they returned home from a late-night wedding when the craft hit a log and split early June 13, survivors said.

"We took some little children to the ground, but some of the women did not want to leave their children behind and they drowned," said Ibrahim Mohammed, who survived the accident.

One of the survivors, Ibrahim Mohammed, said they carried some little children to shore, "but some of the women did not want to leave their children behind and they drowned."

Villagers ended the search operation Thursday afternoon, with the victims all buried near the river in accordance with local customs, he added.

At least 144 people survived the accident on the Niger River, which is one of Africa's longest at about 4,100 kilometers (2,500 miles). The boat was meant to carry about 200 people but was holding at least 250, said Mohammed Ibrahim Liman, chair of the Pategi district where the accident happened.

"People rushed to render help, but it was difficult to see the passengers considering how large the river was," Liman told AP. As many as 68 of the dead were from one village, he said.

Boats are commonly used for transportation in Pategi and many other communities surrounded by water across Nigeria. Accidents involving them are common and are usually blamed on overloading and the use of poorly maintained vessels. A boat capsizing in May killed 15 people, including children.

Monday's accident was one of the deadliest in Nigeria in recent years, authorities said.

As the villagers mourned, they called on authorities to improve the roads in the area as the preferred means of transportation.

"The lives lost are already gone. The government should do whatever it can do to help us," said Muhammed Alhassan, who lost six family members in the accident.

Nigerian President Bola Tinubu has promised that his administration will look into the challenges of inland water transportation to ensure compliance with safety standards.

After visiting the Pategi district Wednesday, Kwara state Gov. AbdulRahman AbdulRazaq said the state would roll out more safety guidelines for water transportation. (AP)

Japan raises age of consent from 13 to 16 years old

TOKYO (TIP): Japan's age of consent was raised from 13, among the world's lowest, to 16 years old on June 16 as lawmakers passed key reforms to sex crime legislation.

The reforms, which also clarify rape prosecution requirements and criminalise voyeurism, cleared parliament's upper house in a unanimous vote.

Campaigners welcomed the reforms, with the Tokyo-based group Human Rights Now calling them "a big step forward".

The lifting of the age of consent in particular will "send a message to society that sexual violence by adults against children is unacceptable", the group said in a statement.

The age of consent -- below which sexual activity is considered statutory rape -- is 16 in Britain, 15 in France, and 14 in Germany and China.

Japan's had been unchanged since 1907, with children aged 13 and above deemed capable of consent.

In practice however, across many parts of the country regional ordinances banning "lewd" acts with minors were sometimes seen as effectively raising the age of consent to 18.

Under the new law, teen couples no more than five years apart in age will be exempt from prosecution if both partners are over 13.

Japan last revised its criminal code on sexual offences in 2017, for the first time in more than a century, but campaigners said the reforms were insufficient.

And in 2019, a string of acquittals in



rape cases triggered nationwide rallies.

Under the previous law, prosecutors had to prove victims were incapacitated due to violence and intimidation.

Critics argued that requirement effectively blamed victims for not resisting enough.

CRIMINALISING VOYEURISM

The bill that passed Friday contains a list of examples under which rape prosecutions can be made.

These include victims being under the influence of alcohol or drugs, being frightened and perpetrators taking advantage of social status.

A justice ministry official told AFP earlier this year that the clarifications were not "meant to make it easier or harder" to secure rape convictions, but "will hopefully make court verdicts more consistent".

The bill also contains a new "visitation request offence", according to the justice

ministry.

It means that people who use intimidation, seduction or money to coerce children under 16 to meet for sexual purposes will face a prison sentence of up to a year or a fine of 500,000 yen (\$3,500).

The reforms also include language that for the first time criminalises voyeurism, which had only been regulated by regional ordinances before.

A penalty of up to three years' imprisonment or a fine of up to three million yen will be imposed for secretly filming private body parts, underwear or indecent acts without a justifiable reason.

Tokyo resident Sohei Ikeda, 39, welcomed the reforms but said he felt "Japan is quite late".

But Natsuki Sunaga, a 22-year-old student, said she was skeptical that the reforms would stop people secretly filming others. (AFP)

North Korea fires two short-range ballistic missiles

SEOUL (TIP): North Korea fired two short-range ballistic missiles, South Korea's military said June 15, shortly after Pyongyang warned of an "inevitable" response to ongoing US-South Korea joint military drills.

South Korea and the United States, which have ramped up defence cooperation in response to growing threats from the nuclear-armed North, are currently carrying out joint large-scale live-fire "annihilation" exercises.

Seoul's Joint Chiefs of Staff said it had detected the launch of "two short-range ballistic missiles from the Sunan area into the East Sea between 19:25 and 19:37 (1025 to 1037 GMT)," referring to the body of water also known as the Sea of Japan.

"We have stepped up monitoring in case of further provocations and are maintaining readiness in close coordination with the United States," the military said.

Tokyo also confirmed the missile launches, with a defence ministry official telling reporters that the two missiles had

landed in waters within Japan's exclusive economic zone.

"The missiles may have flown on irregular trajectories," Japan's top government spokesman Hirokazu Matsuno told reporters, adding that one had flown 850 kilometres (530 miles) and the other around 900 kilometres at altitudes of 50 kilometres, before landing in Japan's EEZ.

In a joint statement, the United States, South Korea and Japan condemned the launches, saying they violated UN Security Council resolutions and demonstrate the threat "unlawful weapons of mass destruction and ballistic missile programs pose to the region."

And in a separate move, Washington on Thursday imposed sanctions against two North Koreans based in Beijing over their alleged connection to Pyongyang's weapons program.

"The DPRK's development of its missile programs directly threatens regional and international security, and the United States will continue to take action to

curtail activities in support of those programs," State Secretary Antony Blinken said in a statement, using the acronym for North Korea's official name.

'INEVITABLE' RESPONSE

Relations between the two Koreas are at one of their lowest points in years, with diplomacy stalled and the North's leader Kim Jong Un declaring his country an "irreversible" nuclear power, as well as calling for ramped-up weapons production, including of tactical nukes.

North Korea has conducted multiple sanctions-busting launches this year, including test-firing its most powerful intercontinental ballistic missiles, and last month attempting to put a military spy satellite into orbit.

In response, the hawkish administration of South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol has bolstered defence cooperation with the United States and Japan, including expanding joint drills, which had been scaled back because of Covid-19, and during a bout of ill-fated diplomacy. (AFP)

15 killed as bus carrying seniors to casino in Canada collides with truck

MONTREAL (TIP): A semi-trailer truck and a bus carrying seniors collided in central Canada's Manitoba province on June 15, killing at least 15 people and injuring 10 more, authorities said.

Canadian police said on Twitter that officers were responding to a "mass casualty collision" near the town of Carberry, west of Winnipeg, and that first responders and other Royal Canadian Mounted Police units were on the scene.

"What I can confirm right now is that a bus carrying approximately 25 people collided with a semi at the intersection of Highway One and Highway Five," RCMP Manitoba officer Rob Hill told reporters, adding most of the people in the minibus were elderly.

"Fifteen people have been confirmed deceased," while 10 others were transported to hospital with various injuries, he said.

Hospitals in the region confirmed they were responding to large numbers of victims and that all facilities were on alert.

The crash occurred on the Trans-Canada Highway north of Carberry.

Several tarps were laid on the ground, apparently covering some of the victims, according to the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation, which said witnesses described a burned vehicle in a ditch near the highway.

According to Nirmesh Vadera, who works near the accident site in a roadside hotel restaurant, numerous



emergency vehicles and two helicopters were at the scene of the crash, which occurred around midday.

"It was really, really surreal to see the extent of (the accident), because I've never seen this kind of fire on any vehicle," Vadera told AFP by telephone, adding there was lots of smoke visible around the site and dozens of emergency responders were on the scene.

"The news from Carberry, Manitoba is incredibly tragic," Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said on his official Twitter feed, adding he was sending his "deepest condolences" to those who lost loved ones.

"I can't imagine the pain you're feeling, but Canadians are here for you," he said.

"My heart breaks hearing the news of the tragic accident near Carberry. My most sincere condolences go out to all those involved," tweeted Manitoba's

premier Heather Stefanson.

She said flags at the province's legislative building have been lowered to half-staff "out of respect for those we have tragically lost."

Authorities said the highway was closed in both directions and they were asking motorists to avoid the area.

"There were people all over the place, some looked like they were getting medical attention," truck driver Josh Carson, who had driven past the accident site, told Global News television.

"It for sure looked like a pretty bad one."

Thursday's crash echoes a 2018 tragedy in which 15 people were killed in an accident in the neighboring western province of Saskatchewan when a truck collided with a bus carrying young ice hockey players. (AFP)

7.2-magnitude quake strikes off Pacific island nation of Tonga

THERE WERE NO IMMEDIATE REPORTS OF CASUALTIES OR DAMAGES. THE PACIFIC TSUNAMI WARNING CENTRE SAID THERE WAS NO TSUNAMI THREAT, BASED ON AVAILABLE INFORMATION.

WELLINGTON (TIP): A powerful 7.2-magnitude earthquake struck off the Pacific island nation of Tonga on June 16, but no tsunami warning was issued, US monitoring agencies said.

THE EARTHQUAKE STRUCK SHORTLY AFTER 7:00 AM (1800 GMT THURSDAY) AT A DEPTH OF 167 KILOMETRES (103 MILES) SOME 290 KILOMETRES SOUTHWEST OF THE CAPITAL NUKU'ALOFA, THE UNITED STATES GEOLOGICAL SURVEY SAID.

There were no immediate reports of casualties or damages. The Pacific Tsunami Warning Centre said there was no tsunami threat, based on available information.

Tonga sits on the Pacific "Ring of Fire", where tectonic plates often shift, frequently experiencing seismic activity. (AFP)

Donor nations commit USD 10.3 billion for millions of Syrians at home and as refugees abroad

BRUSSELS (TIP): International donors said June 15 they would commit \$10.3 billion in aid for millions of Syrians battered by war, poverty, and hunger, both at home and as refugees abroad.

The pledges by 57 nations and 30 international organizations at an annual European Union-hosted conference in Brussels for Syria fell about \$800 million short of a United Nations humanitarian appeal.

"This is a tangible demonstration that the international community stands by the Syrian people," said EU Humanitarian Aid Commissioner Janez Lenarcic, who closed out the day-long meeting at the headquarters of the 27-nation bloc.

He said the total of grants and loans was about \$875 million higher than last year's pledge. However, exact comparisons are difficult: commitments can be spread over years and different institutions. They can be affected by inflation and devaluations, and can partly recur later.

Yet the total seemed higher than what



many had expected.

U.N. Secretary-General António Guterres had asked donors for \$11.1 billion, what he called "our largest appeal worldwide." "My appeal is simple: Help us help the Syrian people," Guterres said. "We have no time to spare."

The money raised will provide aid to Syrians inside the war-torn country and to some 5.7 million Syrian refugees, mostly in Turkey, Lebanon and Jordan.

Syria's uprising-turned-conflict, now

in its 13th year, has killed nearly half a million people and displaced half of its prewar population of 23 million.

Amid pressing needs across the globe from Ukraine to Sudan, the annual donor conference raised fears of a serious shortfall of expectations. Lenarcic's figures countered that.

The gathering also had more political overtones as Syrian President Bashar Assad is slowly carving his way back from being an international pariah to the regional mainstream. Finding hard cash,

though, remained key.

But for nations hit by economic difficulties, a surge in inflation that has hurt the poor in even the wealthiest nations and the seemingly hopeless situation that drags on in Syria's conflict, money is increasingly hard to come by.

Because of the funding crisis, Guterres said food aid to the 5.5 million people in Syria who had been receiving assistance would have to be drastically cut. "Our cash assistance will run out for two and a half million Syrians next month alone," Guterres said, calling it "priority number one."

The crisis is also hitting the neighboring nations which host some 5.7 million refugees and are facing economic crises of their own.

Foreign Minister Ayman Safadi of Jordan, which hosts about 1.3 million Syrians, said, "Handling the burden of refugees is a partnership between donor states and host states." If donor states didn't play their role, he added, host states couldn't be expected to do as much. (AP)

Cyclone Biparjoy: 82,000 people evacuated to safe places in Pakistan

KARACHI (TIP): The coastal regions of Pakistan were on high alert on June 15 with over 82,000 people being evacuated to safer places in the southern Sindh province as Cyclone Biparjoy, currently classified as a "very severe cyclonic storm", was expected to make landfall later tonight or after midnight.

Biparjoy, meaning disaster or calamity in Bengali, is inching closer to Pakistan, prompting authorities to take preventive measures to minimise the damage it may cause to life and property in the coastal region of the country which was hard hit by the devastating floods last year.

In its latest updates, the Pakistan Meteorological Department Thursday evening said that the cyclone has moved further east-northeastward and now lies at a distance of about 245km south of Karachi, 200km south Thatta and 150km south of Keti Bandar.

Climate Change and Environmental Coordination Minister Sherry Rehman said that cyclone Biparjoy had "slowed down" and will not make landfall before night.

Speaking at a press conference in Islamabad, she said it was previously expected that the cyclone would hit the shore around 11:00 am.

"But, since the speed at which it is moving has slowed by 6-7km, its times of landfall is delayed and it is now expected to hit the shores until after dusk," she added.

However, she stressed that while the



cyclone had "slowed down", its core was still "intense", and the areas identified earlier as vulnerable still needed to stay alert.

"We had earlier marked four districts at risk. Thatta, Badin, Sujawal and Malir (Karachi). Now, since the trajectory is towards the northeast, the Tharparkar region also needs to be aware of the impact of the cyclone," she said.

She said the evacuation process in the affected coastal belt areas had been completed, and some 82,000 people had been shifted to safer places.

"All institutions including Navy, Police Force, Rangers are involved," Rehman said, adding that the Air Force is not needed now but would provide assistance when needed. Meanwhile, Cyclone Biparjoy started making landfall near

Jakhau Port in Gujarat's Kutch district on Thursday evening after churning across the Arabian Sea for over 10 days.

Officials said that about half of the evacuated people have been kept in the relief camps while others have opted to live with their relatives in safe areas.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has directed the authorities concerned to ensure the relocation of thousands of people from the coastal areas to safer locations as part of the preparedness to deal with the cyclone.

"I just spoke to CM Sindh Syed Murad Ali Shah and discussed the preparations to deal with the cyclone. I commend the Sindh government for the arrangements it has made under the leadership of the Chief Minister. I assured the Sindh government of complete support of the

federal government. God willing, we will be able to overcome this situation with the support of the people," he tweeted on Wednesday.

Pakistan has already mobilised the civil administration and personnel of the armed forces to help in the rescue operations along the coastal areas.

Rehman said that Karachi was not under immediate threat, but emergency measures are being taken to deal with accompanying winds and rain that are expected to batter the country's economic hub.

According to the Pakistan Meteorological Department (PMD) alert, strong winds, storm surges and lashing rains would hammer a 325-kilometre coastal stretch between Karachi and Mandvi in the Indian state of Gujarat.

Earlier, Sindh Information Minister Sharjeel Memon told the media that evacuations have taken place in Thatta, Keti Bundar, Sujawal, Badin, Umerkot, Tharparkar, Shaheed Benazirabad, Tando Muhammad Khan, Tando Allahyar and Sanghar.

He said those evacuated had been moved to government schools, colleges, and government offices with solid walls, and roofs and stocked with plenty of food, water, and medical aid.

He said in many areas of Thatta, Keti Bandar and Sujawal some families were not ready to evacuate and had to be removed forcibly. (PTI)

Sri Lankan Army doctors set Guinness World Record by removing world's largest kidney stone

COLOMBO (TIP): A group of Sri Lankan Army doctors have set a Guinness World Record by removing the world's largest kidney stone, surpassing the previous record registered by Indian doctors in 2004. The stone, removed early this month at the Colombo Army Hospital, is 13.372 centimetres long and weighs 801 grams, a statement by the Army said on June 14. According to the existing Guinness World Records, the erstwhile largest kidney stone in the world, around 13 centimetres, was found in India in 2004, while the heaviest kidney stone, weighing 620 grams, was reported in Pakistan in 2008. Confirming the record, the Guinness World Record said, "The largest kidney stone is 13.372 cm (5.264 in), and was removed from Canistus Coonghe (Sri Lanka) in Colombo, Sri Lanka, on 1 June 2023. "It added that the previous record of 13 cm had not been surpassed since 2004. Consultant Urologist Lieutenant Colonel (Dr) K Sutharshan, Head of Genito Urinary Unit at the hospital, led the surgery together with Captain (Dr) WPSC Pathirathna and Dr Thamasha Premathilaka. (PTI)

Fierce fighting in Myanmar between army, resistance groups kills at least 26, groups say



BANGKOK (TIP): Recent fierce fighting between Myanmar's army and local militant groups has killed at least 26 civilians, including six children, in area east of the capital, according to reports on June 15 by a resident, a rights group and a medical assistance group.

The fighting took place in Shan State's Pekon township, a hotly contested area in the armed struggle that arose after February 2021 when the army seized power from the elected government of Aung San Suu Kyi.

The takeover prompted widespread public protests, whose violent suppression by the security forces triggered an armed resistance that now spans much of the country.

The recent fighting has focused on Moby, a conglomeration of villages covering about 175 square kilometers (about 70 square miles) located about

100 kilometers (60 miles) east of the capital, Naypyitaw.

The area is between the capital and an area dominated by the Karenni ethnic minority group, which also has been fighting against the military-installed government.

Newly formed militia units opposed to military rule are part of a loosely organized People's Defence Force (PDF) which has allied with well-established armed ethnic minority groups such as the Karenni, the Karen and the Kachin.

The ethnic groups have been fighting the central government for more than half a century, seeking greater autonomy in border regions.

More than 100 soldiers marched into one of Moby's villages on May 27, arresting about 100 residents, most of whom were released after being detained for a few days in two Buddhist monasteries.

Most have since fled the area.

A Moby resident told The Associated Press on Wednesday that some villagers had hidden in their homes to avoid arrest, and were among at least 26 people killed, either shot dead in their homes or when they went out onto the street or killed by artillery strikes. (PTI)

Sri Lanka can't afford to hold snap Presidential election this year due to economic crisis

COLOMBO (TIP): Sri Lanka is not in the position to hold a snap presidential election this year because of the ongoing economic crisis and the government's focus is on debt restructuring, Cabinet Spokesman Bandula Gunawardena said on June 15.

"No election would be possible this year as the state finances have not improved," Gunawardena said while responding to speculation that the government might opt to hold a snap presidential election.

He said the government's focus, for now, is centred on successfully ending the process of debt restructuring.

Former prime minister Ranil Wickremesinghe was elected as the President of Sri Lanka by the Parliament to serve the remainder of ex-president Gotabaya Rajapaksa's term, which was supposed to end in November 2024.

The IMF extended a nearly USD 3 billion bailout facility to debt-ridden Sri Lanka to help stabilise the country's economy after it was jolted by a devastating economic crisis last year. (PTI)



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Walnuts may help fight ageing effects

Eating an overall healthy diet, including certain foods such as walnuts and other whole foods, may reduce the risk of physical function impairments throughout the ageing process in women, a new study has found.

Women who consumed 1-2 servings of walnuts per week (1/4 cup per serving) showed reduced risk of developing impairments in physical functions, the study said. Walnuts are unique among nuts in that they are primarily composed of polyunsaturated fat (13 grams per ounce), which includes alpha-linolenic acid (ALA), the plant-based omega-3 fatty acid.

They are the only nut to contain a significant amount of ALA with 2.5 grams per one ounce serving, the study noted.

"There is a lot of research that looks at specific health conditions in ageing, such as diabetes and heart disease, but less attention to research on quality of life and ability to maintain independence with ageing," said Francine Grodstein, Professor at Brigham and Women's Hospital and Harvard Medical School in the US.

Further, a higher intake of fruits and vegetables, lower intake of sugar-sweetened beverages, trans fat and sodium and moderate alcohol intake were diets most associated with reduced rates of incident physical impairment.

Among food components, the strongest relations were found for increased intakes of oranges, orange juice, apples, pears, romaine or leaf lettuce and walnuts.

Overall diet quality, rather than individual foods, may have a greater impact on reducing risk of physical function impairments, emphasised the paper published in the Journal of Nutrition.

For the study, the team looked at data from 54,762



women in the Nurses' Health Study, which tracked women for over 30 years.

Between 1992 and 2008, the team examined these participants' association between the dietary habits of the participants and subsequent impairment in physical function.

Helps weight loss

Contrary to what people believe, walnuts can form a part of weight management diet. Several studies have suggested that regular consumption of walnuts is unlikely to cause weight gain or obesity. In fact, an ounce of walnuts contains 2.5g of omega 3 fats, 4g of protein and 2g of fibre that help provide satiety. Any successful weight management plan must include satiety factor; so walnut is undoubtedly the right food to consider if you are into a weight management programme. Despite being 'dense in calories, walnuts can be an important tool in helping you lose weight.

FOOD CORNER

Mango Custard



Ingredients

Ripe Mangoes - 3 to 4 (approximately 200 gms), Vanilla Flavoured Custard Powder - 1 tblsp, Milk - 500 ml. Fresh Cream - 500 ml, Sugar - 1/4 cup

Method

- Peel and finely chop the mangoes into small pieces. Reserve a few pieces for garnishing and grind the remaining to a thick pulp.
- No need to add water. Mix the custard powder with 100 ml (1/2 cup) of milk and stir until fully mixed without any lumps. Boil the remaining milk over medium flame.
- Add the custard mixture and stir gently. Ensure no lumps form and keep stirring constantly. Add sugar and switch off the flame.
- Add the mango puree, cream and mix well.
- Stir gently for a minute and keep it in the fridge for 4 to 6 hours.
- Garnish with the reserved mangoes and serve chilled.

Paneer Samosa

Ingredients

Paneer - 250 gms, finely chopped, Maida - 2 cups, Onion - 1, finely chopped, Green chillies - 2, finely chopped, Red chilli powder - 1 tsp, Cumin seeds - 1/2 tsp
Lemon juice - 1 tsp, Butter - 50 gms, melted, Salt as per taste, Oil as required

Method

- Combine the maida, butter and salt in a bowl.
- Mix well to a puri dough consistency.
- Heat a little oil in a pan.
- Fry the cumin seeds for 30 seconds.
- Add the onions, green chillies and saute for a minute or two. Add red chilli powder, lemon juice, salt and paneer. Mix well and stir-fry for a minute.
- Remove from flame.
- Make small balls of the dough and roll them in small/medium puris. Shape the prepared puris into cones and add 1 or 2 tblsp of the paneer mixture.



Ways to use rose water to elevate your beauty routine

Roses have always been associated with beauty and love. So what better way to enhance your natural beauty than using rose water? It is gentle, smells amazing, and has properties that can work wonders for your skin. The aromatic liquid is made by distilling rose petals with steam and thus each drop of it has the goodness of roses. Rose water is no less than a magic potion when it comes to caring for your skin. It is anti-inflammatory, anti-bacterial, and loaded with antioxidants. So there are many reasons to include this in your beauty routine. But how exactly do we do that? Here are 7 ways you can make use of rose water to elevate the beauty quotient.

Reduces Redness

With its anti-inflammatory properties, rose water can be effectively used to reduce the redness of the skin. It is even found in some beauty products and can help soothe the skin and treat puffiness. Rose water also fights acne and keeps the skin clearer.

Hydrating Agent

For those with dry and flaky skin, just keep a bottle of rose water handy. Make sure to spray some rose water on your body after a shower before applying a moisturiser. This will be helpful, especially in winter when the air is too dry.

Restores pH Balance

Rose water can be used to restore the natural pH balance of your skin. The liquid tightens up the pores on your skin and rejuvenates it.

Removes Oil And Dirt

This is one of the most effective ways you can utilise the goodness of rose water. Just dip a cotton ball in some rose water and remove the excess oil and dirt built up on your skin. Keeping the pores clean will also prevent acne breakout.

Use With Sheet Mask

If you often use a sheet mask to hydrate your skin then some rose water could boost the benefits of it. Just soak a cotton pad in some rose water and then lay the sheet mask on it. This will offer extra hydration and keep the skin moist for longer.

Doubles Up As A Makeup Remover

Rose water can work as a natural and chemical-free makeup remover. Besides getting rid of makeup, it will provide a dose of freshness once you are back home from a party or occasion.

Hair Nourisher

Yes, rose water can also make your hair look and smell good. Just pour a cup of rose water mixed with water over your hair after shampooing them. Try keeping the rose water in the refrigerator to keep it fresh.

Source: NDTV

Adolescent binge drinking may cause long-lasting brain changes

Heavy alcohol consumption may cause permanent dysregulation of neurons, or brain cells, in adolescents, according to a new study in mice.

The findings, published in the journal *Neuropharmacology*, suggest that exposure to binge-levels of alcohol during adolescence, when the brain is still developing, leads to long-lasting changes in the brain's ability to signal and communicate.

This potentially sets the stage for long-term behavioural changes and hinting towards the mechanisms of alcohol-induced cognitive changes in humans.

"What we're seeing here is that if adolescent binge drinking knocks neurons off this trajectory, they might not be able to get back, even if the alcohol consumption stops," said Nikki Crowley, Assistant Professor in biology and biomedical engineering at The Pennsylvania State University.

The prefrontal cortex is a key brain region for executive functioning, risk assessment and decision-making.

According to Crowley, it's not fully formed in adolescents and is still maturing in humans until around age 25. Disruptions to its development in young people may



have serious and long-lasting consequences, added Crowley.

"Heavy binge drinking is problematic for everyone, and should be avoided, but adolescent brains appear to be particularly vulnerable to the consequences, which in humans, will follow them for decades," Crowley said. The team used a model of adolescent ethanol exposure in mice to understand how different populations of neurons in the cortex, the outermost layer of the brain, are changed by voluntary binge alcohol consumption.

They gave mice access to alcohol

during a 30-day period. Due to their faster development and shorter lifespan, this corresponded to roughly ages 11-18 in human years.

The results showed that somatostatin neurons, a key population of cells that provides inhibition of neurotransmitter release from other cell types throughout the brain and helps to "dampen the noise", appeared to be permanently dysregulated in the mice that binge drank as compared to mice that were only provided water throughout development.

Source: IANS



Researchers find taurine a key to longer, healthier life

Taurine is a vitamin produced by the body and found in many foods. According to a new study led by Columbia academics and including hundreds of ageing specialists from across the world, taurine insufficiency is a factor in animal ageing.

The same research revealed that taurine supplementation can delay the onset of ageing in worms, mice, and monkeys and can even boost the healthy lifespans of middle-aged mice by up to 12 per cent.

The findings of the study were published June 8 in *Science*.

"For the last 25 years, scientists have been trying to find factors that not only let us live longer, but also increase healthspan, the time we remain healthy in our old age," says the study's leader, Vijay Yadav, PhD, assistant professor of genetics & development at Columbia University Vagelos College of Physicians and Surgeons.

"This study suggests that taurine could be an elixir of life within us that helps us live longer and healthier lives." Over the past two decades, efforts to identify interventions that improve health in old age have intensified as people are living longer and scientists have learned that the aging process can be manipulated.

Many studies have found that various molecules carried through the bloodstream are associated with aging. Less certain is whether these molecules actively direct the aging process or are just passengers going along for the ride. If a molecule is a driver of aging, then restoring its youthful levels would delay aging and increase healthspan, the years we spend in good health.

Taurine first came into Yadav's view during his previous research into osteoporosis that uncovered taurine's role in building bone. Around the same time, other researchers were finding that taurine levels correlated with immune function, obesity, and nervous system functions.

"We realised that if taurine is regulating all these processes that decline with age, maybe taurine levels in the bloodstream affect overall health and lifespan," Yadav said.

Study finds cause and cure for common type of high blood pressure

Researchers discovered a gene mutation that causes a common type of hypertension (high blood pressure) and a treatment for it.

This study was published in the journal, *Nature Genetics*. A little benign nodule, occurring in one out of every twenty persons with hypertension, is the cause. The nodule generates aldosterone, a hormone that regulates how much salt is in the body. The latest finding is a gene mutation in some of these nodules that causes a massive, although intermittent, overproduction of the hormone.

The gene mutation found causes various issues, making it difficult for clinicians to diagnose some hypertensive patients. To begin, the variation disrupts a protein called *CADM1*, which prevents cells in the body from 'talking' to one another and signalling that it is time to cease producing aldosterone. Doctors are particularly concerned about the variable release of aldosterone throughout the day, which produces salt overload and hypertension at its peak. This variation explains why people with



the gene mutation can go undetected until they receive blood testing at different times of the day.

The researchers also discovered that this form of hypertension could be cured by unilateral adrenalectomy -- removing one of the two adrenal glands. Following removal, previously severe hypertension despite treatment with multiple drugs disappeared, with no treatment required through many subsequent years of observation.

Fewer than 1% of people with hypertension caused by aldosterone are identified because aldosterone is not routinely measured as a possible cause. The researchers are

recommending that aldosterone is measured through a 24-hour urine test rather than one-off blood measurements, which will discover more people living with hypertension but going undiagnosed.

The initial patient in this study was detected when doctors noticed a fluctuation in his hormone levels during his participation in a clinical trial of treatments for difficult hypertension.

In most people with hypertension, the cause is unknown, and the condition requires life-long treatment with drugs. Previous research by the group at Queen Mary discovered that in 5-10% of people with hypertension, the cause is a gene mutation in the adrenal glands, which results in excessive amounts of aldosterone being produced. Aldosterone causes salt to be retained in the body, driving up blood pressure. Patients with excessive aldosterone levels in the blood are resistant to treatment with the commonly used drugs for hypertension and are at increased risk of heart attacks and strokes.

Source: ANI

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WhatsApp rolling out message editing feature on Windows beta

Meta-owned messaging platform WhatsApp is rolling out a message editing feature on Windows beta. Beta users will now see an edit action within the message menu which will allow them to edit text messages, reports WABetaInfo.

However, users can only edit a message within 15 minutes of sending it.

Also, it is not possible to edit a message that has been sent from a different device.

This feature will be helpful as sometimes we send messages with typos or inaccurate information because we are typing quickly or because autocorrect is on.

The ability to edit messages is currently available for some beta testers that install the latest WhatsApp beta for Windows update, the report said.

The feature is expected to roll out to more users over the coming days.

Meta founder and CEO Mark Zuckerberg had announced this message editing feature last month.

Meanwhile, last week, it was reported that the messaging platform was rolling out a new crop tool for the drawing editor in Windows beta.

The tool helps users to crop their images within the app itself, making it easier for them to edit media.

Microsoft launches voice chat feature to AI-powered Bing Chat

Microsoft has launched a new 'voice chat' feature to its AI-powered Bing Chat on the desktop, which will let users talk to the AI chatbot by clicking on the microphone icon in the Bing Chat box.

Currently, the voice chat feature supports five languages -- English, Japanese, French, German, and Mandarin.

The company said it will add more languages soon.

"We currently support English, Japanese, French, German, and Mandarin, with more languages on the way. Try asking Bing Chat -- How much wood could a woodchuck chuck if a woodchuck could chuck wood?," Microsoft said in a blogpost on Friday.

Moreover, the company said that Bing Chat also supports text-to-speech answers, which will respond to your questions in its own voice.

"Using voice input, ask Bing Chat -- What's the toughest tongue twister you know?" the company said.

Meanwhile, Microsoft has again increased Bing Chat's turn limit to 30 chats per session and 300 chats per day.

"Good news, we've increased Bing Chat turn limits again to 30 per conversation and 300 per day," Microsoft CVP of Search & AI, Jordi Ribas tweeted.

Over the past couple of months, the company has gradually increased the chatbot's limit to enhance its usability.

Mountains 3 To 4 times higher than Mount Everest found deep inside earth: Scientists

The deep Earth contains mountains with peaks three to four times higher than Mount Everest, scientists have found. According to the BBC, a team of experts from Arizona State University used seismology centres in Antarctica and found these astonishingly huge mountains in the boundary between the core and mantle, around 2,900 kilometres deep inside our planet.

"The mountain-like structures they revealed are utterly mysterious," the BBC report read. Scientists explained that these underground mountain ranges - dubbed ultra-low velocity zones or ULVZs - had managed to escape the experts' gaze all these years until earthquakes and atomic explosions generated enough seismic data to be spotted by them.

Scientists believe that these huge mountain ranges are over 24 miles (38 kilometres) in height, while Mount Everest is around 5.5 miles (8.8 kilometres) from the surface. "Analysing 1000's of seismic recordings from Antarctica, our high-definition imaging method found thin anomalous zones of material at the CMB [core-mantle boundary] everywhere we probed," Arizona State University geophysicist Edward Garnero said in a statement. "The material's thickness varies from a few kilometres to 10's of kilometres. This suggests we are seeing mountains on the core, in some places up to 5 times taller than Mt. Everest," he added.

Further, as per the report, experts explained the possible reason behind the formation of these mysterious mountain peaks. They believe that these ancient formations were created when oceanic crusts were formed into Earth's interior. They also argue that



it might have begun with tectonic plates slipping down into our planet's mantle and sinking to the core-mantle boundary. These then slowly spread out to form an assortment of structures, leaving a trail of both mountains and blobs. This would, therefore, mean that these mysterious mountains are made of ancient oceanic crust, which is a combination of basalt rock and sediments from the ocean floor.

Now, with this recent discovery, scientists are seeking to argue that these underground mountains may play a critical role in how heat escapes the Earth's core.

Source: India Today

AI won't gain human-like cognition, unless connected to real world through robots: Researchers

Artificial intelligence (AI) systems are unlikely to gain human-like cognition, unless they are connected to the real world through robots and designed using principles from evolution, a study has found.

Cognition is the mental process of acquiring knowledge and understanding through thought, experience, and senses.

The research, published in the journal Science Robotics, found that AI systems will not resemble real brain processing no matter how large their neural networks or the datasets used to train them might become, if they remain disembodied.

Researchers from the University of Sheffield in the UK noted that current AI systems, such as ChatGPT, use large neural networks to solve difficult problems, such as generating intelligible written text.

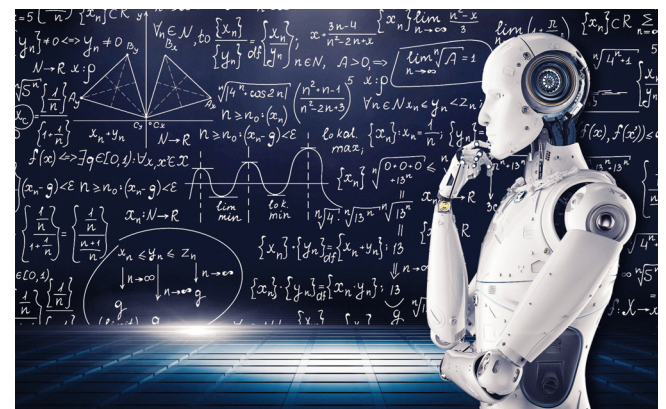
These networks teach AI to process data in a way that is inspired by the human brain and also learn from their mistakes in order to improve and become more accurate.

Although these models have similarities to the human brain, the researchers said there are also important differences, which are preventing them from gaining biological-like intelligence.

Firstly, they said, real brains are embodied in a physical system—the human body—that directly senses and acts in the world. Being embodied makes brain processes meaningful in a way that is not possible for disembodied AIs, which can learn to recognise and generate complex patterns in data but lack a direct connection to the physical world, the researchers said.

Therefore such AIs have no understanding or awareness of the world around them, they said.

Secondly, human brains are made up of multiple subsystems, which are organised in a specific configuration - known as architecture - that is similar in all vertebrate animals from fish to humans, but not in AI.



The study suggests that biological intelligence - like in the human brain - has developed because of this specific architecture and how it has used its connections to the real world to overcome challenges, learn and improve throughout evolution.

This interaction between evolution and development is rarely factored into the design of AI, according to the researchers.

"ChatGPT, and other large neural network models, are exciting developments in AI which show that really hard challenges like learning the structure of human language can be solved," said Professor Tony Prescott, Professor at the University of Sheffield.

"However, these types of AI systems are unlikely to advance to the point where they can fully think like a human brain if they continue to be designed using the same methods," Prescott said.

"It is much more likely that AI systems will develop human-like cognition if they are built with architectures that learn and improve in similar ways to how the human brain does, using its connections to the real world," he added.

Source: PTI

Debt affordability key to India's financial strength, says Moody's

Moody's Investors Service on Thursday, June 15, said the key determinant of India's fiscal strength and the credit profile will be debt affordability and projected a downward trend for the debt burden. "As long as nominal GDP growth holds, India's debt burden will be stable or decline slightly," Moody's said. India has low debt affordability, in terms of general government interest payments as a percentage of revenue, which for India is estimated at 26% for 2022-23. It should be 8.4%.

India's GDP, estimated to average 11% in nominal terms, is a key driver of the projections of a downward trend in the country's debt burden. "As in the past, the key determinant of fiscal strength and the credit profile will be debt affordability and in particular the proportion of revenue absorbed by interest payments," Moody's said in a report.

India's government debt today has shot up as compared to 2014 and is now estimated at around 81.8% of GDP for 2022-23. The appropriate amount of debt should be around 56%.

"At 26% currently, it is a large proportion, which, if not further addressed via a continued broadening of the revenue base, will remain an important constraint on the government's ability to provide more support for growth and address developmental needs," said the report.

Exports fall 10.3% in May; trade deficit widens to 5-mth high

Exports declined for the fourth consecutive month by 10.3% year-on-year to \$34.98 billion in May, while the trade deficit widened to a five-month high of \$22.12 billion.

According to the data released by the commerce ministry on Thursday, June 15, key export sectors recording negative growth include petroleum products, gems and jewellery, engineering goods, ready-made garments of all textiles and chemicals. Imports also declined 6.6% for the sixth month in a row to \$57.1 billion against \$61.13 billion in the same month last year, the data showed. The trade deficit in May 2022 stood at \$22.13 billion. The last high was in December 2022, when the gap was \$23.89 billion.

Cumulatively, exports during April-May this fiscal contracted by 11.41% to \$69.72 billion, while imports declined 10.24% to \$107 billion.

Briefing reporters on the data, Commerce Secretary Sunil Barthwal said headwinds still continue at the global trade front as there is a "whole lot of" recession and slowdown in many countries. The fall in economic growth in certain developed markets has impacted import demand, he said, adding there is also low demand in OECD nations.

US central bank keeps interest rate unchanged, projects two hikes by end of year

WASHINGTON (TIP)

Federal Reserve officials paused on Wednesday, June 14, following 15 months of interest-rate hikes but signaled they would likely resume tightening to cool inflation, projecting more increases than economists and investors expected.

"Holding the target range steady at this meeting allows the Committee to assess additional information and its implications for monetary policy," the Federal Open Market Committee said in a statement released in Washington Wednesday.

Policymakers also adjusted the language in their post-meeting statement, referring to how they would determine "the extent of additional policy firming that may be appropriate," rather than "the extent to which additional policy firming may be appropriate."

The decision left the benchmark federal funds rate in a target range of 5% to 5.25%. Fresh quarterly Fed forecasts showed borrowing costs rising to 5.6% by year end, according to the median projection, compared with 5.1% in the previous round of projections.

The FOMC vote was unanimous.

Of the 18 policymakers, 12 penciled in rates at or above the median range of 5.5% to 5.75%, showing most policymakers agree further tightening is needed to contain price pressures.

Chair Jerome Powell will add further guidance to the outlook at a 2:30 p.m. press conference.

Wednesday's hold is the first pit stop in the central bank's most aggressive tightening campaign in decades to curb inflation that saw rates lifted from levels near zero starting in March 2022.

Earlier this year, stock and bond



markets were roiled and four regional banks collapsed as policymakers raced to catch up after being slow to respond to mounting price pressures. Yet the job market has remained sturdy and the inflation rate is still more than twice the Fed's 2% target.

Both Powell and Fed Governor Philip Jefferson -- nominated for vice chair by President Joe Biden -- signaled they supported skipping a rate move in comments before this meeting, arguing they could afford to wait for more data as they assess the evolving outlook.

Other officials, including Fed Governor Christopher Waller, indicated they could go along with a skip but were cautious about calling an end to rate hikes with inflation stubbornly high.

US central bankers are counting on slowing demand and less robust hiring to help temper price pressures, which

have run above their 2% target for more than two years. Yet signals on the economic slowdown anticipated by Fed officials are mixed.

Consumers in May were less confident about the economy, according to a survey, but their spending picked up in the latest reading for April.

The labor market remains strong with employers adding 339,000 to payrolls in May while job openings remain high.

The inflation rate has declined from last year's peak but is still elevated: Prices rose 4.4% for the 12 months through April, according to the personal consumption expenditures index, the gauge preferred by the Fed. A separate measure, the Labor Department's consumer price index, cooled further in May and the details showed encouraging signs of a slowdown, according to data.

Source: Bloomberg

Vodafone, Hutchison merge to create UK's biggest operator

LONDON/HONG KONG (TIP)

Vodafone and CK Hutchison finally unveiled the 15 billion pound (\$19 billion) merger of their British mobile operations on Wednesday, saying the creation of a new market leader would drive competition and investment in the country.

The long-awaited deal, after the two companies disclosed talks in October, will now trigger prolonged scrutiny by the anti-trust regulator into whether an operator with 27 million customers could lead to higher mobile prices.

Seeking to win over politicians, unions, and the competition authorities, the two groups said they would invest £11 billion to create what they described as "one of Europe's most advanced standalone 5G networks".

Vodafone's new CEO, Margherita Della Valle, said the deal was a "game changer" in its home market. "The UK will benefit from the creation of a sustainable, strongly competitive third



operator with a clear £11 billion network investment plan over 10 years driving growth, employment and innovation." Under the terms, Vodafone will own 51 per cent and Hutchison 49 per cent of the combined group, which will be led by current Vodafone UK boss Ahmed Essam. The finance chief of Hutchison's Three UK, Darren Purkis, will take the same role.

Vodafone, UK's third-biggest operator, will have an option to buy-out

the Hong Kong-based conglomerate three years after completion, if it agrees.

The deal will face intense scrutiny from regulators who have previously opposed deals that reduce the number of networks in major markets from four to three. Hutchison's attempt to merge with Telefonica's O2 in Britain seven years ago was blocked.

The companies will present the deal to Britain's Competition and Markets Authority (CMA) in the coming weeks.

"We believe that this case stands on very strong grounds," Vodafone's Essam told reporters, adding that customers would be getting a much better network for the same price. "We're very confident on our case."

Hutchison's Three UK boss Robert Finnegan pointed out that the planned investment was substantially higher than rivals, and while a rejection by the CMA would not lead to Hutchison exiting Britain, it would have to reduce investment.

VEDIC ASTROLOGER NASTUR
BEJAN DARUWALLA

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www.bejandaruwalla.com**

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

WEEKLY HOROSCOPE - JUNE 19 TO JUNE 25, 2023

ARIES



Ganesha says, you can expect the day to go just as planned. However, you will discover a fact that you have all agreed is false and it will start being important to you again, Dear Aries. Think about this while you go about your day. You will judge yourself against other people and experience dejection as a result. Be content with what you're made of and avoid comparing yourself to others since you should be aware that someone somewhere is lacking the characteristics you offer. Even if they can be busy with everyday duties, your buddy nevertheless longs to be in your presence. All of this week's deals will be profitable. It will happen if decisions are made this week. If you make this week's usual diet changes, you'll feel a little healthier.

TAURUS



Ganesha says, your home problems will be resolved, allowing you to concentrate on more crucial matters. Make sure you work this week with an emphasis on the details. You may forget about a crucial person in your life who might have altered your course as a result of your fixation with physical appearance. Look into the hearts and minds of people. Consider making changes to your current business. The folks that work for you deserve your gratitude. Your relationship is likely to have a few small difficulties. Think about embracing their viewpoint and paying attention to what they have to say. This week, make room for them to be open with you in order to strengthen your bond. It is advised that you work out for overall health.

GEMINI



Ganesha says, you will feel sympathetic and friendly during the entire day. Your main objectives should be to disseminate optimism and to be respectful and courteous to others. You will assist somebody in letting go of their anxiety and focusing on the positive aspects of their life. When your Jupiter travels to a new position and begins to deliver you contradictory messages, connecting with the person you are intrigued in may assist you figure things out. This week, proceed with precaution while nearing hot things since you run the risk of becoming burned. You will spend a lot of effort into developing brilliant ideas for your company. The company will progressively improve.

CANCER



Ganesha says, if you are looking for help or guidance, do not set off on your adventure too soon. If you have already made up the choice, there is no rush, but there is also not an incentive to put it off. You should be on the alert for adults of Scorpio zodiac sign. As your Venus is rising, you will be able to ensure that there are good things happening this week. Stop debating whether you should arrive first or not. People you are concerned about need to hear these things directly from you. If you are honest with each other, you will be able to stay together for a very long period. The best time to search for new and improved solutions is this week. Try to find a profession that is pleasant for you.

LEO



Ganesha says, this week, you will shine brilliantly. This week, no one will be able to steer clear of you or your business. At work, people will gravitate towards you because of your fresh ideas and in-depth research. This week, the coworkers' apprentices look eagerly at having you as their role model. This week, you will be a dazzling demonstration of commitment and brilliance. Your personal position is also getting better this week, despite some disputes and real estate issues at your home. Your romantic life has been off and lifeless lately but this week will be different. This week, your mate will ask for some privacy since they need it. This week, the effects of your unsafe sleeping patterns will be felt.

VIRGO



Ganesha says, you might expect a challenging and distressing in the first half of the week, but you will be all fine by the end of the week. This week, your astrological motions cause some of your delicate subjects to dominate your thoughts, which will affect how productive you are at your job and how well you can focus. It will be difficult to get through in the first half of the week. By dusk, you will have a better understanding of the situation and it appears that the problem has been resolved. Your intentions of seeing that special someone might not go as planned, and you might find yourself spending some time trapped at work. This week, your supervisor will anticipate more and tougher hours from you, but you might be able to work something out.

LIBRA



Ganesha says, when you have to go to a key convention with your clientele this week, your interpersonal skills will be pushed to the test. Since the interview will determine whether you are encouraged, you must do well there. Your coworkers are going to attempt to control and conquer you at work, but this week you will outperform them. The two of you will have a good time and celebrate your career achievement. You will have happy romantic connections today. As your time spent on computers grows, you will feel eye discomfort.

SCORPIO



Ganesha says, you will have a range of activities and tasks during the week. You will come up with creative concepts that you may pitch to a startup business. This week, you will receive a call from the position of your choice. This week, your governing concept will be to follow the crowd, even though doing so involves some danger. The path of the fresh moons will have an effect on your life, relationships, and economic standing. This week, you will have to pay some unforeseen bills. Despite the reality that finances are an issue right now, everything is going to improve shortly. At some point in the week, knee discomfort is probably going to strike. Sit back and try to avoid taking any lengthy excursions.

SAGITTARIUS



Ganesha says, this week, you will get confirmation that you are headed in the correct direction. You will be prepared to move much more quickly towards your goals this week. You will look for deeper purpose throughout your existence this week. On a managerial level, you will be able to offer your best at work. Your wise choices will surprise your old coworker. You will be able to look after your health independently. We will talk about your issues with cognitive anomalies this week. Your caring actions in respect to your romantic connection will astound your lover. You will be able to communicate effectively with one another as well. Be cautious because medical professionals may likely need you to deal with certain renal difficulties.

BIRTHDAY HOROSCOPE : JUNE 19 TO JUNE 25, 2023 BY ASTRO FRIEND CHIRAG - SON OF ASTROLOGER BEJAN DARUWALLA

JUNE 19

Ganesha says today is a day of boundless creativity and unwavering ambition for you. Your imagination knows no limits, and you have the power to transform your ideas into reality. Embrace the challenges that come your way, for they will only fuel your determination. Remember to strike a balance between your work and personal life to ensure long-term success and fulfillment.

JUNE 20

Ganesha says your magnetic personality shines brightly today, as you are destined to lead with confidence and enthusiasm. Others are naturally drawn to your charisma and energy. Trust your instincts and make use of your natural organizational skills to bring structure to your endeavors. Take some time to rest and recharge, as it

is essential to maintain your energy levels.

JUNE 21

Ganesha says your wisdom and intuition are your greatest assets today. Trust the deep understanding you possess and let it guide your actions. Your empathetic nature and ability to connect with others will lead you to success. Embrace your inner wisdom and use it to make thoughtful decisions. Remember to engage in self-reflection and self-care to nurture your intuitive gifts.

JUNE 22

Ganesha says today, your attention to detail and practicality will set you apart from the crowd. You have a keen eye for opportunities and a knack for finding efficient solutions. Embrace your analytical nature and let it guide your decision-making process. Your dedication and discipline will pave

the way for success. Stay adaptable and open to new ideas while maintaining your methodical approach.

JUNE 23

Ganesha says today, your charismatic and charming aura will captivate those around you. Your words hold immense power, and you have the ability to inspire and uplift others. Embrace your gift of expression and use it to spread positivity. Your optimistic outlook will help you overcome challenges with ease. Remember to stay true to yourself and maintain authenticity as you navigate through life's adventures.

JUNE 24

Ganesha says today, your nurturing and compassionate nature will be your guiding light. You have a natural ability to provide comfort and support

to those in need. Embrace your empathetic qualities and let them shine through your actions. Your intuition will be your trusted companion as you navigate through complex situations. Remember to prioritize self-care alongside caring for others, as your well-being is equally important.

JUNE 25

Ganesha says today, your adventurous spirit and thirst for knowledge will lead you on a remarkable journey. Embrace your love for learning and exploration, as they are your key to personal and professional growth. Your adaptability will be your greatest asset, allowing you to thrive in new and unfamiliar situations. Remember to celebrate each milestone along the way and enjoy the beauty of the journey itself.

WEEKLY HOROSCOPE - JUNE 19 TO JUNE 25, 2023

CONTD FROM PAGE 34

CAPRICORN



Ganesha says, you will have a joyful and pleasurable week. You will invest a lot of time and effort in your friendships and connections. You will also achieve financial success. Throughout your career, the type of work you do will change frequently, but your ability to adapt will continue to keep you healthy. The merchants of this week should be careful of their competitors. This week, anybody may fool others on their own. If you are in a love connection, your spouse will cheer you up if you have been having a bad day. Make sure that you're giving them delight as well. You will not be consuming enough water, which will affect your health in a variety of ways. Ensure that you implement the necessary safety precautions.

AQUARIUS



Ganesha says, you will be in command of how your day is conducted. The first item on the agenda will be your intentional effort. You will be accountable for your errors and make sure that your relationships with others are clear. The business-related components will provide you with a slight challenge. A personnel scarcity will be the issue rather than a monetary catastrophe. Make sure you are still in touch with the appropriate persons. Regarding your love connections, you will meet the individual of your prayers before God and instantly feel drawn to

them. You should be cautious about your health because your stomach discomfort will be terrible in the latter half of the week.

PISCES

Ganesha says, this week, you will be in a better position to make decisions



about the confusing events in your life. You will be able to ensure the equilibrium of your entire finances. Your business concepts will be original, which will provide you with more assurance regarding your spending.

This week will provide you the opportunity to focus on finding your partner's better traits. For you, Pisces, crucial conversations between both partners are at stake this week. This week will be difficult for your children. By being extra cautious in regard to renal issues, you will gain a lot.

|| SHREE GANESHAY NAMA ||



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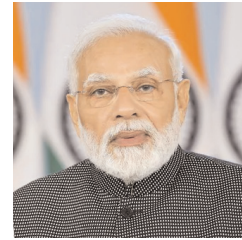


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INDIAN AMERICANS PREPARING FOR A CULTURAL EXTRAVAGANZA TO WELCOME PRIME MINISTER MODI



Prime Minister
Narendra Modi is
visiting US from June
21 to 24 on invitation
from President Joe
Biden

Photo credit / PTI

NEW YORK (TIP): Indian-Americans are preparing for a cultural extravaganza for Prime Minister Narendra Modi as he arrives in the American Capital from New York City after leading a yoga session at the UN Headquarters.

On the 9th International Day of Yoga on June 21, Prime Minister Modi will lead a yoga session for the first time at the UN Headquarters.

Modi will address an invitation-only gathering of diaspora leaders from across the country at the Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center in Washington on June 23.

More than 160 artists are rehearsing for the past week to stage as many as 25 cultural programs representing 15 Indian states. Most of them are dances, songs and musicals reflecting the rich cultural diversity of India.

The performance would be staged at the historic Freedom Plaza near the White House in front of the Willard Hotel from 10 am in the morning to 2 pm, which would coincide with the arrival of the Prime Minister.

A large number of Indian Americans are planning to gather at the Freedom Plaza to welcome the Prime Minister with 'Vande Mataram' and wave the tricolor. Engagement with the Indian Diaspora has been a signature part of Modi's overseas travel. Most of the time, the prime minister spends some time with his diaspora followers, interacts with them and takes selfies. (Source: PTI)

US companies have made substantial contributions to India's progress, and they stand ready to do more: Atul Keshap



US India Business
Council (USIBC)
president Atul
Keshap said that
American
companies support
India's ambitions
and align with its
national interests.

JUNE 13, 2023
WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP: American companies have made substantial contributions to India's progress, and they stand ready to do more, the head of a top American business advocacy group has said. Addressing a gathering of top American corporate leadership at the

Sikh History This Week

JUNE 16, 2023, TO JUNE 22, 2023

16th June

1984: Sadhu Singh Hamdard, editor of daily newspaper Ajit, returns his Padam Shri in protest for the Indian armed forces attack on Sri Harmandir Sahib, Amritsar. He was deeply disturbed by this attack. As a result he died of a heart attack on July 29, 1984.

1984: Villagers are fined Rs. 1 crore for braking the river banks of main Bhakada river near Ropar, in protest of Operation Bluestar.



17th June

1662 Bhai Sahib Singh Ji, one of the first five initiated into the Khalsa order, was born.

Bhai Sahib Singh Ji was born at Bidar (Karnatak Sate) to father Chaman and Mata Sonna Bhai. He was baptised by Guru Gobind Singh on the day of Khalsa's creation. After five years in 1704, he was killed in the battle of Chamkaur. He had participated in several battles prior to his baptism. Particularly, his active role in the battle of Bhangani in 1689 is described by Guru Gobind Singh Ji in the eighth Adhiyae of Bachiter Natak.

1923 Kar Sewa of Sri Amritsar sarowar was initiated by Panj Payara. The Kar-Sewa of the scared tank at Amritsar was performed for the second time. The Panj payaras removed the first Kar with golden spades and silver buckets. Subsequently, the saewadars (including rich, poor, Hindu, Muslim, and Sikhs) carried out the kar sewa with humility and devotion.

1983 Jathedar Talwinder Singh arrested by German police on the information given by traitor Satnam Singh.

1983 Railroad stoppage morcha initiated.

1984 Sikhs observed "Prayer Day" to protest against the Indian Army's attack on Sri Darbar Sahib (1984).

Sikhs observed "Ardas Diwas (prayer day)" to protest against the Indian Army's attack on Sri darbar Sahib. On this day congregations were held in Gurudwaras, Shaheeds were uligized, Sikhs men wore black turbans while Sikh women used black dupatas. All Sikh houses went without lighting any cooking.



Baba Harbans Singh Ji from Delhi given the responsibilities for reconstruction of Sri Akal Takhat. However, he request Singh Sahiban to bestow this responsibility upon Baba khadak Singh.

1984 Supreme Sikh Council decided to demolish the damaged Akal Takhat and to allocate the KarSewa for its rebuilding to Sant Harbans Singh. This meeting of the Five Head Priests was held in the damaged Darshani Deori of the Darbar Sahib complex. Buta Singh and Tarlochan Singh were also present at this

meeting. To normalize the situation, about 14 essential conditions were given in writing. Baba Karak Singh gave his assent to this note.

18th June

1926 First elections to the Central Board under the Gurudwara Act.

1996 Indian Prime Minister, H.D. Deve Gowda, said a decision to send the army into the holiest of Sikh shrines in 1984 to flush out armed guerrillas was an unfortunate event. But he stopped short of offering a formal apology which Sikh leaders have been demanding for more than a decade from the government over the army action in which thousands of innocent people were killed. In the 1984 action called Operation Bluestar, the army stormed the Golden Temple under the pretence of driving out armed militants who had occupied the shrine as part of their fight for an independent state, called Khalistan. Sikh leaders have demanded an apology for the operation from successive governments in New Delhi.

19th June



1640 Guru Har Rai was married to Mata Krishen Kaur, daughter of Baba Daya Ram, of Bulsand-shair. Guru Sahib was 10 years of age at the time of his marriage. Two sons were born from this marriage, Ram Rai born in 1646 when Guru Sahib was sixteen years old and Har Krishan born in 1656, when Guru Sahib was twenty six years old.

1665 Baba Gurditta, son of Baba Buddha Ji, laid the foundation stone for a new town of Nanaki Chak, at the site of Makhawal in village Sohota. Guru Sahib spent the rainy seasons at Chak Nanaki.

1757 Diyal Singh and Lehna Singh killed Jahan Khan.

1919 Five Ghadri Babas were hanged to death.

1924 6th Shahidi Jatha of 500 Akalis, led by Sant Prem Singh Ji Kokari, courted arrest upon reaching Jaito.

1925 Shiromani Gurudwara Prabandak Committee received Legislative sanction. It is for the first time that women were granted right to vote. This event opened the way for all women of India the right to vote.

1984 Buta Singh announced the Prime Minister, Indira Gandhi's acceptance of conditions for a settlement. These conditions were given in writing by the Singh Sahibans on June 17, 1984. As Indira Gandhi was to visit Darbar Sahib on June 20, Buta Singh made the announcement in a hurriedly called press conference at the residence of Bua Singh, SSP, Amritsar. The Army Generals and Deputy Commissioner, Amritsar were also present. However, immediately after the announcement and return of Buta Singh to Delhi, Indira Gandhi did a volte-face and admonished him for making the announcement.

1984 General Vadiya visits Sri Darbar Sahib, after Operation Bluestar

1994 Foundation stone laid for Nanakana Sahib Foundation was laid down by Hon. Rai Bashir Ahmad Khan Bhatti, Member National Assembly Pakistan and



Chairman, Education Standing Committee, Government of Pakistan, at Nanankana Sahib. Mr. Bhatti is the oldest living descendent of Chowdhary Rai Bular Bhatti.

20th June



1670 Guru Tegh Bahadur Ji arrested in Delhi.

1923 Babu Santa Singh arrested at Tapa Railway Station.

1972 20 GurSikhs killed in Gurdwara Sadabarat.

1977 Parkash Singh Badal became the Chief Minister of the Punjab.

1984 Major General R.K. Ghoad, announced 4 officer, and 4 JOC, and 92 soliers killed while 287 injured during the bluestar operation. Later Rajiv Gandhi, while addressing a Congress gathering in Nagpur, announced 700 soliers killed and 2400 Sikhs arrested. The actual count as per eye witnesses in thousands.

1984 Sirdar Harinder Singh Khalsa resigned his position at Indian Embassy, Norway, in protest of Indian Army's attack on Sri Darbar Sahib and sought asylum along with his family.

21st June

1661 Guru Tegh Bahadur Ji visited Banaras.

1936 Anup Singh of Manko was murdered.

1984 Panj Payaras successfully pressured the Indian government to open all Gurudwaras (except Sri Harimandir Sahib) for public visits.

22nd June

1713 Sikhs fought a fierce battle with the ruling forces at Sadhaura. After four months of siege, Banda Bahadur escaped into the Himalayas.

1984 Panj Payaras excummunicated Baba Sant Singh Ji for co-operating with the Indian government. He was the main Nihang leader of Budha Dal, who cooperated with government in its forced kar Sewa under curfew. This was against the wishes of Sikh Sangats and Sikh Sahibans at that time. Thus the result decision of the Panth.

Somvati Amavasya

Somvati Amavasya is a very important day in Hinduism. Amavasya which falls on Monday is called Somvati Amavasya. Somvati Amavasya falls only once or twice in a year. This fast is observed by married women for the long life of their husbands.

Somvati Amavasya Vrat is also known as 'Ashwath Pradakshina Vrat' in the scriptures. 'Ashwath' means Peepal tree. Lord Vishnu resides on the Peepal tree. Therefore Lord Vishnu is also worshiped on the day of Somvati Amavasya. On this day, bathing and charity are considered to be the best of all. According to the words of sage Vyasa, on this day, by meditating, fasting, fasting, one gets the virtuous fruit of thousands of cows.

It is believed that in the Mahabharata, Bhishma, explaining the importance of this day to Yudhishtira, said that a person who bathes in the holy rivers on this day will be prosperous, healthy and free from all miseries. It is also believed that taking a bath gives peace to the souls of the ancestors.

Somvati Amavasya Worship

On this day, there is a rule to worship Peepal by wrapping the thread 108 times and doing circumambulation. There is also a law to worship Lord Vishnu on this day. Paddy, betel and standing turmeric are mixed and offered ritually on the Tulsi plant. At the time of Pradakshina, 108 fruits should be kept aside and donated to Vedapathi Brahmins at the time of completion.

Fruits and Significance of Somvati Amavasya Puja

This is the main fast of women. Women observe this fast for the longevity of their husbands. On the day of Somvati Amavasya, charity should be given according to one's ability. Women who cannot observe fast on every new moon should observe fast on Somvati Amavasya and circumambulate the Peepal tree 108 times by wrapping it in a thread. Peepal tree should be worshiped lawfully. By observing this fast one gets eternal good fortune. Monday is the day of the moon. On this day the Sun and the Moon remain in a straight line. Therefore, this festival is considered to be of special merit.

Somvati Amavasya Katha

There are many stories related to Somvati Amavasya. Tradition has it that these stories are recited ritually on the day of Somvati Amavasya. There was a poor Brahmin family, which had a husband, wife and a daughter. The daughter slowly started growing up. With time, all the feminine qualities were developing in that girl. The girl was also beautiful, cultured and virtuous, but due to being poor, she could not get married. One day a monk came to the Brahmin's house, who was very pleased with the service of the girl. Blessing the girl for a long life, the sage said that there is no marriageable line in the girl's palm. The Brahmin couple asked the sadhu the remedy that what should the girl do in such a way that marriage becomes a yoga in her hands. After contemplating for some time, the sage meditated with his insight and told that in a village at some distance, a woman of Dhubi caste named Sona lives with her son and daughter-in-law, who is very well-mannered and well-mannered and husband. is paranoid. If this girl serves him and that woman puts vermilion on her demand in her marriage, after that this girl is married, then the Vaidya yoga of this girl can be erased. The monk also told that that woman does not go anywhere. Hearing this, Brahmani asked his daughter to serve the washerman.

The girl would wake up early in the morning and go back to her home after going to the washerman's house, cleaning and doing everything else. Sona Dhobin asks her daughter-in-law that you wake up early and do all the work and do not even know. The daughter-in-law said that mother, I thought that you wake up in the



Important information

Somvati Amavasya 2023

Monday, 20 February 2023

Amavasya Start : 19 February 2023 at 04:18 pm

Amavasya Ends : 20 February 2023 at 12:35 pm



morning and finish all the work yourself. I get up late. On this, both the mother-in-law and daughter-in-law started monitoring who is the one who leaves early in the morning after doing all the household chores. After several days, the washerman saw that one girl came face to face in the dark house and left after doing all the work. When she started leaving, the Sona washerman fell at her feet, asking who are you and why do you hide like this in my house. Then the girl told everything that was said by the sage. Sona was a washerwoman husband, she had brilliance. She got ready. Sona Dhobin's husband was a little unwell. He asked his daughter-in-law to stay at home till his return. As soon as Sona Dhobin applied vermilion to the girl's demand, her husband went. He came to know about this. She had left the house without water, thinking that if she finds a peepal tree somewhere on the way, she

will take water only after giving her a whirlpool and circumambulating it. That day was Somvati Amavasya. Instead of the poo-dish found at the Brahmin's house, he circumambulated the peepal tree 108 times by giving bhavri 108 times with pieces of brick and after that took water. As soon as she did this, the dead body of her husband started vibrating.

Rituals of Somvati Amavasya

Devotees must take a holy bath before sunrise and wear fresh and tidy clothes.

The devotees must observe a fast of Somvati Amavasya and worship Peepal tree.

After offering prayers to the Peepal tree, married women tie a red or yellow colored sacred thread around the trunk of the tree by taking 108 Parikrama (rounds) of the tree in a row.

After that, devotees offer vermilion, sandal paste, milk, and flowers to the tree and sit under it and recite the sacred mantras.

Devotees should also worship Lord Vishnu and recite Shani Mantra

Devotees must also take a dip in sacred rivers in order to attain prosperity and pray for the salvation for the forefathers.

Devotees must make donations and perform charities of clothes, food, money and other essentials to the needy.

Observing a silence vow (Maun Vrat) by the devotees is also regarded as very beneficial and fruitful.

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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."

contd from page 1

Prime Minister Modi's historic state visit to US will strengthen ties between the two democracies

House Speaker Kevin McCarthy, Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer, Senate Republican Leader Mitch McConnell, and House Democratic Leader Hakeem Jeffries have invited Modi "to share your vision for India's future and speak to the global challenges our countries both faces.

Modi will fly into Washington on June 21 after attending the International Yoga Day celebrations on the north lawns of the UN complex in New York. The official visit will begin with the Bidens hosting a state dinner for Modi on June 22.

According to the White House Historical Association, this would be the 11th state dinner that a US President is hosting for an Indian leader, but in the last 75 years, only Radhakrishnan and Manmohan Singh have been accorded the honor of an official state visit.

Over the next two days, the two leaders would spend several hours together, beginning with a welcome ceremony on the South Lawns of the White House on the morning of June 22 attended by several thousand Indian Americans.

This is expected to be one of the biggest White House welcome ceremonies, with the exception of the 2008 papal visit when, according to record, more than 13,500 people attended.

More than 1,500 Indian Americans are reported to be planning to come to Washington from the New York and New Jersey areas. Over 500 Indian Americans each are coming from states like California, Illinois, Texas, Georgia and Florida.

After the welcome ceremony, which would be addressed by the two leaders, Biden and Modi are then expected to walk towards the Oval Office for a one-on-one talk followed by a delegation-level meeting in the Cabinet meeting room.

Vice President Kamala Harris would host the Prime Minister for lunch on June 23 at the Foggy Bottom headquarters of the State Department, which is being co-hosted by the Secretary of State Antony Blinken and the Second Gentleman. The two leaders are likely to deliver remarks during the luncheon.

In between, several Cabinet ministers in the Biden administration and key leaders are likely to call on the Prime Minister for meetings.

Interaction with the diaspora and the business community is one of the hallmarks of the Prime Ministers' overseas trips, which is expected to consume most of the day's proceedings on June 23. Modi will also address CEOs of top US companies at John F Kennedy Centre in Washington.

Leading community organization Indiaspora and the US-India Strategic Partnership Forum (USISPF) are jointly hosting a speech by Modi on "We The People: Celebrating the US-India Partnership" at Ronald Reagan Center in Washington on June 23.

A reception at the Hall of Nations Terrace (Kennedy Center) will follow the Prime Minister's address.

More than 600 community members are planning to gather at Freedom Plaza in front of the Willard Intercontinental in Washington located near the White House where the PM will be staying during his visit.

(With inputs from agencies)

Blinken not expecting breakthrough in China : NSA Jake Sullivan

when U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken visits next week.

"Secretary Blinken's trip to China will be a significant event, but it's likely not even the most significant event of next week when it comes to US foreign policy," Jake Sullivan said.

Mr. Blinken will travel to Beijing on June 18 and 19, before Mr. Modi arrives in Washington on Thursday, June 22. Mr. Biden has made deepening ties with India

a cornerstone of his efforts to contain China's expanding influence, with his administration also hoping to persuade India.

In China, one of Mr. Blinken's objectives will be to manage escalation to ensure that the world's two biggest military powers do not "veer into conflict", Mr. Sullivan said. "Vigorous competition requires vigorous diplomacy," he added.

That visit to Beijing will be the first by a high-ranking official since Mr. Biden took office in January 2021, and comes after he postponed a trip in February after a suspected Chinese spy balloon flew through U.S. airspace.

US eases norms on eligibility criteria for those awaiting Green Card

A Green Card, known officially as a Permanent Resident Card, is a document issued to immigrants to the US as evidence that the bearer has been granted the privilege of residing permanently.

Immigration law provides for approximately 140,000 employment-based green cards to be issued each year.

However, only seven per cent of those green cards can go to individuals from a single country annually.

The USCIS guidance outlines specific requirements that applicants must meet to be eligible for an initial EAD based on compelling circumstances.

These include being the principal beneficiary of an approved Form I-140, being in valid non-immigrant status or authorized grace period, not having filed an adjustment of status application, and meeting certain biometrics and criminal background requirements.

Further, USCIS will exercise discretion to determine whether an applicant demonstrates compelling circumstances justifying the issuance of employment authorization.

"These measures are a significant step towards supporting individuals facing challenging situations and ensuring their ability to work lawfully in the United States," said Ajay Bhutoria, a prominent community leader and advocate for immigrant rights. He highlighted the importance of these measures for individuals and their dependents who find themselves in challenging situations such as serious illness or disability, employer disputes or retaliation, significant harm, or disruptions to employment.

"For instance, individuals with approved immigrant visa petitions in oversubscribed categories or chargeability areas may submit evidence like school or higher education enrollment records, mortgage records, or long-term lease records to demonstrate compelling circumstances," he said.

This provision can prove crucial in situations where families face the potential loss of their home, withdrawal of children from school, or the need to relocate to their home country due to job loss, Bhutoria added.

Foundation of India and Indian Diaspora Studies (FIIDS), which has been advocating for laid-off H1-B workers, applauded USCIS for taking such a step that would help a large number of Indian IT professionals.

"I really feel proud that a sustained advocacy for more than six months started reflecting in considerations and adjustments by USCIS," said Khanderao Kand from FIIDS. (Source: PTI)

Indian security forces partisan; Manipur groups write to UN

The memorandum was submitted on June 13 to the Secretary-General of the United Nations, the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, the UN Office on Drugs and Crime, the International Committee of the Red Cross, and other agencies apart from the Amnesty International.

"UNABATED VIOLATION" : Flagging the issues of hunger, poverty, and militarization of Manipur, the organizations flagged the "partisan role" of India's Central Security Forces and "unabated violation" of the ground rules of the tripartite Suspension of Operations

(SoO) by the Kuki extremists.

Of some 30 outfits belonging to the Kuki-Zomi group of tribes, 25 are bound by the SoO, requiring them to stay in designated camps and not move around with firearms. The Manipur government and Imphal Valley-based organizations have been accusing the Kuki-Zomi extremists of killing Meitei people.

The 15 organizations underlined the "breach of inter-community ties and peace" in Manipur and elsewhere in the northeast due to the involvement of "foreign (Myanmar-based) Chin-Kuki-Mizo mercenaries in inciting inter-ethnic violence" in the State.

"An unbiased international attention and intervention is the need of the hour in accordance with the established international humanitarian laws," they wrote.

They also sought to draw the attention of the UN to the human rights violation and the blockade of highways, Manipur's lifelines, by Kuki extremists along with members of the Committee on Tribal Unity, the Kuki Students' Organisation, and the Indigenous Tribal Leaders' Forum. The action of these groups has led to price rise, hunger, and poverty in Manipur, they said.

The organizations blamed the "mobilization for the Greater Chin-Kuki homeland, also known as the Zalengam project" for affecting the inter-ethnic relations in the region and asserted that the ethnic Zo politics had worked in collusion with "narco-financed capital terror network" to tear the social fabric in Manipur.

Insidious cross-border economic activities such as human-trafficking, poppy cultivation, deforestation, illegal immigration, and space politics have added to the complications in Manipur, they argued. Consequently, the region has transformed itself from a consumer to an opium producer, which is a cause of alarm for every ethnic community, they claimed.

(Source: The Hindu)

contd from page 37

US companies have made substantial contributions to India's progress, and they stand ready to do more: Atul Keshap

Addressing a gathering of top American corporate leadership at the annual India Ideas Summit here ahead of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Official State visit to the US on June 22, US India Business Council (USIBC) president Atul Keshap said that American companies support India's ambitions and align with its national interests.

"Our companies have made substantial contributions to India's progress, and they stand ready to do more. We understand the challenges, and we are ready to adapt, to listen, and to respond," he said.

"We are here to offer world-class products, choices, technologies, and services that support India's ambitions and align with its national interests. Indeed, the rise of India in world affairs is good for Indians, good for America, and good for free people everywhere," he said.

Keshap said in his recent visits to India. He has witnessed a nation on the move, building, innovating, and growing with unprecedented vigor.

"The metro lines, highways, and airports that are sprouting across the country symbolize the aspirations of its people and their journey towards a more prosperous future," he said.

"And, at the most fundamental level of humanity, drinking water, sanitation, electricity, food, and healthcare are transforming the lives of hundreds of millions and uplifting so many out of poverty. What is happening today in India is truly a modern miracle," said the USIBC president.

The former American diplomat who played a key role in strengthening the India-US relationship, Keshap, during his two-year tenure as USIBC president, witnessed US-India relations transform and approach what a friend of his has been calling escape velocity.

(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)

Known for its majestic and moon shaped terrains, Ladakh is visited by nature lovers and adventurous enthusiasts. Sitting in the lap of the mighty Himalayas, trekking in Ladakh is an experience with countless thrilling and exciting trekking routes and trails. From traversing over a glacier, climbing long stretches of mountainous terrain, and manoeuvring their way through a long and steep ridge, Ladakh treks have easy to difficult challenges, even for professional trekkers. The diverse landscape and altitudes at Ladakh ranging from 9000 ft to 25,170 ft offer numerous trekking options. One of the most pristine and beautiful destinations of the country, the region has countless unexplored trekking trails. Summers are the perfect time for trekking in Ladakh since winters are harsh with temperatures dropping to -30 degrees Celcius.

Jhunglam Hemis To Padum Trek

Duration: 12 days

This trek runs through beautiful monastery of Hemis and Latza Kongmaru and then passes through Zalung Karpo La, Tilat Sumdo, Zangla Sumdo, and ends at Padum.

Lamayuru To Alchi Trek

Duration: 5 Days

The trek offers a chance to interact with people from remote villages. A number of monasteries are also spotted across the route.

Lamayuru To Darcha Trek

Duration: 5-7 days

Regarded as one of the world's most thrilling trekking trail with a peak altitude of 5000 meters, Lamayuru To Darcha Trek is well connected to the Zaskar valley. The monasteries, such as Lamayuru, Phuktal, and Lingshed are sure to lift up the spirit of the trekkers on this route.

Kang Yatse and Dzo Jongo Trek

Duration: 13 days

Undertaken mostly by professional trekkers, this route offers spectacular views of Zaskar, Karakorum, and Stok ranges from the Ganda La pass. It is a wonderful experience including the dopamine-enhancing camping en route, the view of the wildlife at Hemis National Park, hike through valleys, and the visit to monasteries.

Padum To Darcha Trek

Duration: 12 days

The Darcha-Padum trek passes through a number of regions with varied topographies and landscape. It extends from the Padum region of Zaskar valley, passes through Tokpa, Chalang, Ramjak, and Lakong, and goes up to Darcha region of Himachal Pradesh. The trek also leads to one of the most famous parts of Ladakh - Kargil.

Ripchar Valley Trek

Duration: 9 days

This trek begins at the Lamayuru monastery, Ladakh and is one of the most intriguing treks in Ladakh region. With a number of small villages and pasture lands, the irrigated crop fields of the Zaskar and Karakoram Range, and the valleys blooming with flowers in July and August are a treat for the eyes of the trekkers.

Lamayuru to Alchi Trek

Duration: 9 Days

Treks in Ladakh



This trek takes you to two of the most ancient monasteries from the 11th century. The route covers the beautiful valley of Wanla and Sumdochoon and many high mountain passes like Penji La and Prinkiti La. The starting point is Lamayuru and the route passes through Prinkiti La (3750m), Shilla, Wanla, Base of Tar La, Tar, Man Gyu and then to Alchi. There's ample scope to witness and contemplate the culture and scenic beauty of Ladakh.

Nubra Valley Trek

Duration: 10 to 12 Days

This exhilarating trek to the most remote regions of the Himalayan belt is nothing short of an adventure. Following the Indus Valley and the trail moves towards Zaskar Valley. The cold desert of Hunder and the splendid Diskit village and monastery are the major attractions. The trek begins from Sabu Village and covers the high altitude Digar La pass at an altitude of 6000 meters to reach Digar Village. The trail moves along the Shyok river and continues towards Agyam Village and Khalsar Village and comes to an end with a descent to Diskit village via Sumur.

Indus Valley Trek

Duration: 8-10 Days

One of the easiest but most mesmerizing treks in Ladakh, the Indus Valley Trek is ideal for beginners. Trekking along the Indus Valley trail, the oldest civilization known in history is a walk through the beautiful Sham Valley and its villages, high mountain passes like Phobe-La and a number of Tibetan Gompas like Likir, Thiksey, and Alchi. There are dramatic changes to the landscapes with snow-clad mountains and ground on one side and lush green valley on the other. The trek covers areas of Leh, Skardu and a barren desert.





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12-year-old English boy takes double hat-trick in an over

A bowler taking a hat-trick in any form of cricket is a rarity but 12-year-old junior player Oliver Whitehouse bagged a 'double hat-trick' in an astonishing over for his club.

Whitehouse, playing for Bromsgrove Cricket Club against Cookhill this month, removed six opposition batsmen in six balls and across two overs took eight wickets without conceding a run.

"I couldn't believe the significance of what he had achieved," Jayden Levitt, the first team captain of Bromsgrove Cricket Club told the BBC.

"It's absolutely amazing to get a double hat-trick in one over is absolutely mind-blowing, it's an amazing effort and I think he probably won't realise the significance until he's a lot older." Whitehouse, who described his feat as unbelievable, became something of a social media sensation with a Twitter post about his heroics garnering 45,000 views.

His sporting prowess should perhaps come as no surprise as his maternal grandmother is 1969 Wimbledon tennis champion Ann Jones.

France, England ease to Euro qualifying wins

England and France cruised to victories over international minnows in Euro 2024 qualifying on Friday, but Wales saw their hopes of reaching next year's finals in Germany suffer a setback in a 4-2 home defeat by Armenia. Gareth Southgate's England scored twice from the penalty spot as they eased to a 4-0 win away to a Malta side ranked 172nd in the world and kept up their perfect record in Group C. Malta defender Ferdinando Apap turned Bukayo Saka's cross into his own net to give England an early lead, and Trent Alexander-Arnold made it 2-0 with a superb strike.

Harry Kane, who became England's all-time top scorer during the last international window in March, made it three goals in three games in this campaign with a penalty to make it 3-0.

Substitute Callum Wilson then completed the scoring late on from another spot-kick awarded for a handball following a VAR check.

"Of course we know we have the quality to win the game and then it's about the mentality. I thought that was excellent from the start," said Southgate.

INDONESIA OPEN

Satwik-Chirag stun top seeds to make semifinals; Srikanth bows out

JAKARTA (TIP)

India's Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty shocked top seeds Fajar Alfian and Muhammad Rian Ardianto to sail into the men's doubles semifinals as HS Prannoy beat Kodai Naraoka to enter the last-four stage of the men's singles competition at the Indonesia Open on June 16.

The seventh-seeded duo of Rankireddy and Shetty displayed a flawless game to outwit Indonesia's Alfian and Ardianto 21-13 21-13 in 41 minutes.

Seventh seed Prannoy prevailed over the third-seeded Naraoka 21-18 21-6 to book his semifinals berth. Prannoy will now take on top seed Viktor Axelsen of Denmark, who mauled Chinese Taipei's Tien Chen Chou 21-5 21-19.

However, Kidambi Srikanth bowed out after going down fighting to China's Li Shi Feng in the quarterfinals. The first Indian to take the court, Srikanth lost 14-21 21-14 12-21 in one hour and nine minutes to the world No. 10. The win enabled Feng to restore parity in the head-to-head record against



Srikanth, which stands at 1-1 now.

In the first game, it was the Chinese who came out on top despite a sluggish start.

World No. 22 Srikanth opened up an early 2-0 lead before Feng bounced back with five straight points, with the Indian guilty of committing too many unforced errors.

Ashes: Root holds England together

BIRMINGHAM (TIP)

A superb century from Joe Root, his first against Australia since 2015, helped England race to 393/8 before declaring on the opening day of the first Ashes Test, a move that did not bear fruit as the tourists held firm to finish on 14/0 at stumps.

It was a bold move to declare after 78 overs of a first innings, the earliest any team has ever declared in an Ashes series, but it's not out of character for this team. That is now five first innings declarations from England in 14 Tests.

A thrilling opening day, however, belonged to Root, who, as all eyes were on England's free-scoring batters to see whether they would stick with their attacking principles, proved his more reserved approach is still as effective as 'Bazball'.

"Once Joe had got his 100, there were quite a few shots being played, so we sort of sensed it (the declaration) was coming," Australia's Josh Hazlewood said.

Many experts predicted in-form England, who had scored at almost five runs per over in 11 Test wins from 13 under Brendon McCullum and skipper Ben Stokes, would struggle to still score freely in an Ashes series against such a strong Australian bowling attack.

But such doubts were quickly put to bed as Zak Crawley hammered a boundary off the first ball of the innings. It was in stark contrast to the first ball of the last Ashes series, when Mitchell Starc clean bowled England opener Rory Burns, ahead of Australia's rampant 4-0 success.

Root joined Crawley at the crease after the dismissals of Ben Duckett and Ollie Pope, with Crawley reaching his 50 off just 56 balls.



England's Joe Root made an unconquered 118 vs Australia. Reuters

Asia Cup: Pak to split games with Sri Lanka

Original hosts Pakistan will split Asia Cup matches with Sri Lanka under a new "hybrid model" for the tournament beginning on August 31, the Asian Cricket Council (ACC) said.

The move clears the way for Pakistan's participation in the subsequent 50-overs World Cup in India in October-November.

"The tournament will be hosted in a hybrid model with four matches being held in Pakistan, and the remaining nine matches being played in Sri Lanka," the ACC said in a statement.

India had ruled out travelling to Pakistan because of the soured political relations between the neighbours who play each other only in multi-team tournaments.

In reply, Pakistan had threatened to boycott the ODI World Cup in India if they were made to stage the entire Asia Cup in another country.

Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) chairman Najam Sethi thanked the ACC for accepting what he called "the best solution" to navigate the crisis.

Source: Reuters

Bajrang returns to training, IOA approaches OCA for extension




A day after the Delhi Police filed a charge sheet against former Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) president Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh for offences of sexual harassment, stalking and assault or force to outrage a woman's modesty, Bajrang Punia returned to the training mat on June 16.

Olympic bronze medallist Bajrang, who has been at the forefront of the protests along with Vinesh Phogat and Sakshi Malik, started training at the Sports Authority of India (SAI) centre in Bahalgarh, Sonipat, with sparring partner Jitender Kinha, reported PTI.

The development comes after some wrestlers met senior coaches who advised them to return to training and let the courts decide on the matter. The protesting wrestlers are keen to compete at the Asian Games trials but need time to get in good physical shape following the long-drawn protest.

If Bajrang participates in the selection trials for the Asian Games where he is the defending champion in 65kg, his main rival will be Surjeet Kalakal. The upcoming wrestler is the reigning national as well as the U-23 Asian champion.

Source: HT


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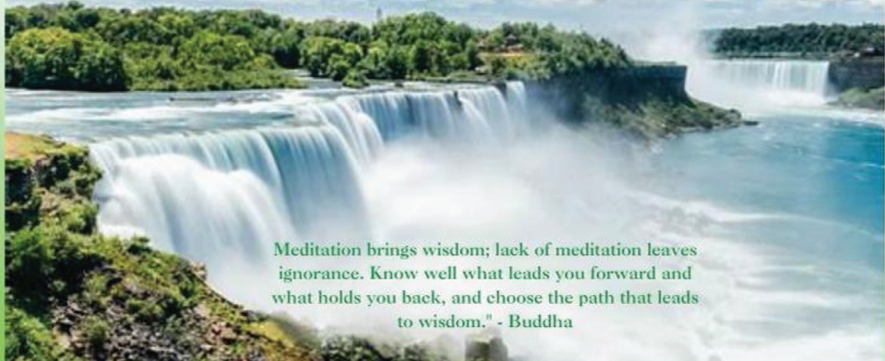
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History This Week

JUNE 16 - 22, 2023

JUNE 16



June 16, 1963 - Valentina Tereshkova, 26, became the first woman in space as her Soviet spacecraft, Vostok 6, took off from the Tyuratam launch site. She manually controlled the spacecraft completing 48 orbits in 71 hours before landing safely.

Birthdays - Film comedian Stan Laurel (1890-1965) was born in Ulverston, England. He teamed up with Oliver Hardy as Laurel & Hardy delighting audiences for more than 30 years.

Birthdays - American author and photographer John Griffin (1920-1980) was born in Dallas, Texas. He darkened his white skin using chemicals and ultraviolet light, then kept a journal on his experiences while posing as an African American traveling through the deep South. The journal was published as the book, *Black Like Me*.

JUNE 17

June 17, 1972 - Following a seemingly routine burglary, five men were arrested at the National Democratic Headquarters in the Watergate complex in Washington, D.C. However, subsequent investigations revealed the burglars were actually agents hired by the Committee for the Re-election of President Richard Nixon. A long chain of events then followed in which the president and top aides became involved in an extensive cover-up of this and other White House sanctioned illegal activities, eventually leading to the resignation of President Nixon on August 9, 1974.



Birthdays - Russian composer Igor Stravinsky (1882-1971) was born near St. Petersburg. Among his best known works, the ballets *The Firebird* (1910), *Petrushka* (1911) and *The Rite of Spring*

(1913), and the choral work *Symphony of Psalms* (1930).

JUNE 18

June 18, 1812 - After much debate, the U.S. Senate voted 19 to 13 in favor of a declaration of war against Great Britain, prompted by Britain's violation of America's rights on the high seas and British incitement of Indian warfare on the Western frontier. The next day, President James Madison officially proclaimed the U.S. to be in a state of war. The War of 1812 lasted over two years and ended with the signing of the Treaty of Ghent in Belgium on December 24, 1814.

June 18, 1815 - On the fields near Waterloo in central Belgium, 72,000 French troops, led by Napoleon, suffered a crushing military defeat from a combined Allied army of 113,000 British, Dutch, Belgian, and Prussian troops. Thus ended 23 years of warfare between France and the other powers of Europe. Napoleon was then sent into exile on the island of St. Helena off the coast of Africa. On May 5, 1821, the former vain-glorious Emperor died alone on the tiny island, abandoned by everyone.



June 18, 1983 - Dr. Sally Ride, a 32-year-old physicist and pilot, became the first American woman in space, beginning a six-day mission aboard the space shuttle Challenger, launched from Cape Canaveral, Florida.

Birthdays - British explorer George Mallory (1886-1924) was born in Mobberley, Cheshire, England. When asked why he wanted to climb Mount Everest, the highest mountain in the world, he simply answered, "Because it is there." He disappeared while climbing through the mists toward its summit on the morning of June 8, 1924. His body, perfectly preserved due to the cold conditions, was discovered by climbers in 1999, just 600 meters (2,030 feet) from the summit.

JUNE 19

June 19, 1865 - In Galveston, Texas, upon the arrival of Union troops, Maj. Gen. Gordon Granger read General Order No. 3: "The people of Texas are informed that, in accordance with a proclamation from the Executive of the United States [President Lincoln], all slaves are free. This involves an absolute equality of personal rights and rights of property between former masters and

slaves..." As a result, an estimated 250,000 enslaved African Americans in Texas were finally freed. The day is now celebrated as Juneteenth to commemorate Emancipation and to recognize the struggle for freedom and equality of African Americans.

June 19, 1953 - Julius and Ethel Rosenberg were executed by electrocution at Sing Sing Prison in New York. They had been found guilty of providing vital information on the atomic bomb to the Soviet Union during 1944-45. They were the first U.S. civilians to be sentenced to death for espionage and were also the only married couple ever executed together in the U.S.



Birthdays - Baseball great Lou Gehrig (1903-1941) was born in New York City. He played in 2,130 consecutive games and seven World Series for the New York Yankees and had a lifetime batting average of .340. He contracted the degenerative muscle disease amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, now called 'Lou Gehrig's disease,' and died on June 2, 1941.

JUNE 20

June 20, 1782 - The U.S. Congress officially adopted the Great Seal of the United States of America.



Birthdays - American military hero and actor Audie Murphy (1924-1971) was born in Kingston, Texas. He was the most decorated American soldier of World War II, awarded 37 medals and decorations, including the Medal of Honor for single-handedly turning back a German infantry company by climbing on a burning U.S. tank destroyer and firing its .50-cal. machine gun, killing 50 Germans. He later became an actor in western and war movies and made 45 films including; *The Red Badge of*

Courage (1951), *Destry* (1954), and *To Hell and Back* (1955), based on his autobiography. He died May 28, 1971, in a plane crash near Roanoke, Virginia.

JUNE 21

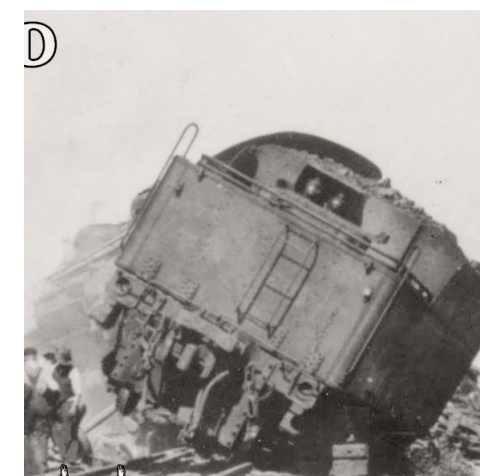
June 21, 1964 - Three white civil rights workers - James Chaney, Andrew Goodman and Michael Schwerner - left Meridian, Mississippi, at 9 a.m. to investigate a church burning. They were expected back by 4 p.m. When they failed to return, a search was begun. Their murdered bodies were discovered on August 4th.



Birthdays - French philosopher Jean-Paul Sartre (1905-1980) was born in Paris. Dubbed the "father of existentialism," in 1964, he rejected the Nobel Prize for Literature when it was awarded to him.

Birthdays - Britain's Prince William (William Arthur Philip Louis) was born in London, June 21, 1982.

JUNE 22



June 22, 1918 - A Michigan Central Railroad troop train struck the rear of the Hagenbeck-Wallace Circus train in Ivanhoe, Indiana. Fifty-three circus performers were killed. Of the circus animals not killed, most were maimed and had to be destroyed. The performers, of whom only three could be identified, were buried in a mass grave.

June 22, 1941 - Starting at 3:15 am, some 3.2 million German soldiers plunged headlong into Russia across an 1800-mile front, in a major turning point of World War II. At 7 am that morning, a proclamation from Hitler to the German people announced, "At this moment a march is taking place that, for its extent, compares with the greatest the world has ever seen..."



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**Message from
Peter J. McDonnell,
M.D. Director Wilmer Eye
Institute, Johns Hopkins
University, USA on the
occasion of laying the
foundation stone on
December 10, 2020**

"On behalf of all my colleagues of the Wilmer Eye Institute in Baltimore, MO, I send my best wishes and congratulations to our friends in Goutami on this extremely important occasion. This beautiful facility will match the wonderful world class work of your doctors, nurses and staff in preserving and restoring the vision of so many patients. We in the United States are inspired by your dedication and admire your tireless efforts to serve so many who need your skills and compassion. Best wishes, Peter"



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