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PM NARENDRA MODI'S VISIT TO US IN PICTURES

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WORLD CELEBRATES INTERNATIONAL DAY OF YOGA

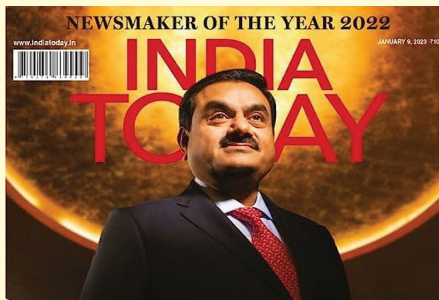
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The INDIAN PANORAMA



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 Salujaindra@gmail.com latest by June 28, 2023. For any questions, email at Salujaindra@gmail.com or call 646-247-9458.

US AUTHORITIES INVESTIGATING US INVESTORS THAT INVESTED IN ADANI GROUP



The authorities are looking into the representations that Adani made to its American investors following short-seller Hindenburg's report. Photo credit /India Today

JUNE 23, 2023

NEW YORK (TIP): US authorities on Friday, June 23, said that they are investigating the representations made by the Adani Group to its American investors, in response to a report by the short seller Hindenburg Research, accusing the conglomerate of stock manipulation and accounting fraud.

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There can be 'no ifs or buts' in dealing with terrorism: PM Modi

CLOUDS OF COERCION ON INDO-PACIFIC, SAYS MODI IN HIS SECOND ADDRESS TO US CONGRESS



Addressing the joint session of the U.S. Congress, PM Modi stressed on shared value of democracy ; he also touched on global concerns such as the war in Ukraine and the Indo-Pacific situation

JUNE 23, 2023
I.S. SALUJA

WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP): Terrorism is an enemy of humanity and there can be "no ifs or buts" in dealing with the scourge, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said as he sought action against its state sponsors, in an oblique attack on Pakistan.

In his address to the joint meeting of the US Congress on Thursday, June 22, Prime Minister Modi said that more than two decades after 9/11 and over a decade after the 26/11 attacks in Mumbai, radicalism and terrorism still remain a pressing danger for the whole world.

"These ideologies keep taking new identities and forms, but their intentions are the same. Terrorism is an enemy of humanity and there can be no ifs or buts in dealing with it. We must overcome all such forces sponsoring and exporting terror," Modi said in his 60-minute address in English.

CONTD ON PAGE 40

17 Non-BJP Opposition parties pledge to stand together to unitedly contest BJP in 2024 Lok Sabha elections

Amidst anti-BJP rhetoric and promises to contest together, the Opposition concludes its first strategy meet on 2024 Lok Sabha election, without any common statement or declaration of seat sharing formula



Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) chief Lalu Prasad Yadav and Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge during a press briefing after the conclusion of the Opposition leaders' meeting, in Patna on June 23, 2023

Photo Credit / ANI

JUNE 23, 2023

PATNA (TIP): Framing the next general election as a fight between "democracy and dictatorship", 17 Opposition parties came together, projecting a united front in Patna on June 23. At the end of the four-hour long

meeting, no joint statement was issued, nor a seat-sharing formula declared. It concluded on the promise of fighting the BJP together and leaving behind the burden of past prejudices.

CONTD ON PAGE 40

Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann Assailed for Arm-twisting Major Punjabi Newspaper



Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann

JUNE 23, 2023

NEW YORK (TIP): A meeting of representatives of the Punjabis in New York was held on Sunday, June 18 in which the Punjab Chief Minister's action against the Daily Ajit was strongly condemned.

CONTD ON PAGE 40

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GUEST COMMENT**Warm welcome: On Narendra Modi U.S. state visit and bilateral ties****NARENDRA MODI'S VISIT FURTHER STRENGTHENED TIES BETWEEN INDIA AND THE UNITED STATES**

Rolling out the red carpet for Prime Minister Narendra Modi during his state visit to Washington, U.S. President Joseph Biden underlined his belief that the India-U.S. partnership will be one of the "defining relationships of the 21st century", one that he has had a strong belief in as U.S. Vice-President in the Obama administration. The phrase mirrored the one used by U.S. President Barack Obama at the state banquet for former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh in 2009 - one of the "defining partnerships of the 21st century" - denoting the consistent strengthening of ties over the first two decades of the century. The visit by Mr. Modi, his first state visit to the U.S., has not disappointed votaries of the relationship. The two sides announced new deals involving high-end defense cooperation, semiconductor industry investments, and a partnership in quantum and advanced computing and AI. The deal for co-production of jet engines in India - White House called it

"trailblazing" - will involve an unprecedented level of technology transfer. India's decision to join the 11-nation mineral security partnership for critical minerals, where China has a global monopoly, and cooperation on critical and emerging technologies, particularly in clean energy, will strengthen future cooperation here. Finally, India's move to sign on to the 27-nation Artemis Accords for cooperation in space exploration, and the NASA-ISRO partnerships for human spaceflight will also catapult India's ambitions in the sphere.

It is significant that areas of discord, such as the differences in policies towards Russia's war in Ukraine, and confrontation with China, where New Delhi has been more diffident, were sidestepped. Perhaps more difficult to sidestep were increasingly loud questions over the state of democracy and human rights in India, which 75 U.S. members of the Congress raised in a letter to Mr. Biden. While some uber-liberal Democrat lawmakers took the

extreme step of boycotting Mr. Modi's address to the joint session of Congress, it would be harder to ignore the pointed words from Mr. Obama in an interview the same day, on India's minority rights. Eventually, Mr. Modi's response, in a rare press availability with Mr. Biden, dismissed some misgivings over his administration - he denied alleged discrimination against minorities and a crackdown on dissent. Rights issues are not a bilateral concern, and with his warm welcome, Mr. Biden made it clear he did not share the concern. If Mr. Modi wishes to address public concerns, however, he may find it more effective to make the case in a press conference on his return, emphasizing his belief that "if there are no human values and there is no humanity, there are no human rights, then it cannot be called a democracy".

(The Hindu)

Chip deal: Micron entry a boost for India's plans

American chipmaker Micron Technology investing up to \$825 million in a new assembly and test facility in Gujarat fits well into the plans of both India and the US. Support from the Central and state governments would take the total investment in the facility to \$2.75 billion, as Prime Minister Modi pushes his ambitious \$10-billion incentive plan for chip manufacturing. For Washington, Micron's decision is in sync with its policy to decrease the risks of doing business in China while integrating the US economy with that of India. Last month, Beijing barred Micron products, saying it had failed a security review, angering the Biden administration.

The construction of the new facility is

expected to begin soon and the first phase will be operational in late 2024. The unit will test and pack semiconductor chips, but not manufacture them. Still, Micron's plant is a boost to the vision of making India a semiconductor base. US semiconductor toolmaker Applied Materials will also invest \$400 million in a new engineering center. Lam Research plans to train 60,000 engineers. For decades, India had a relentless focus on software-related knowhow. The results are visible in an array of digital technologies. Cracking the hardware puzzle is a different ballgame. Subsidies alone will not result in relocation of chip supply chains. Larger clusters that can support manufacturing and sustain long-term

operations as well as transfer of technology are key.

The global chips market is expected to grow to \$1 trillion by 2030. Resource-intensive, it requires highly-skilled workers and is already facing a competence gap. As India embarks on its silicon journey, semiconductor job openings are set to rise. With its talent pool, India needs to leverage the opportunity and find ways to provide hands-on and industry-relevant training to engineering students. Taiwan provides a cue. Its success is attributed to public-private partnerships that focus on training and certification.

(Tribune, India)

Readers comment

As far as the State visit of Prime Minister Modi is concerned, I may be one of those who have mixed feelings about its timing. I am proud that India's Prime Minister was honored at the highest level in the United States. India, which has the fifth-largest growing economy, is also being recognized in that regard. At the same time, America is also seen as a nation that can put its ideals and principles on the back burner when it is convenient to

them. If Americans think that India could be an ally in case of a US-China conflict, they are sadly mistaken. For India also, America may not be a reliable ally as they continue to supply F-16 fighter jets to Pakistan, and their abrupt withdrawal from Afghanistan is still fresh in everyone's memory. Therefore, what we have witnessed in the last few days was a marriage of convenience, and the US industry is looking for alternative space to replace China's and having an eye toward the mushrooming middle class with enormous purchasing power.

In between, they could also help Boeing and Raytheon with defense purchases, which would be a bonus, and replace Russia as their leading arms supplier. In the process, America has buried its idealism and concerns for Human rights to placate an authoritarian and religiously fundamentalist regime allowing Manipur to burn and become a killing field while raising a champagne toast welcoming Mr. Narendra Modi.

George Abraham
New York



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Indian American officials urge President Joe Biden to set up Hindi language fund



Seventeen Indian American state and local elected officials have urged President Joe Biden to establish a new Hindi language fund through the Asia Society to teach Hindi in American middle and high schools.

JUNE 23, 2023

WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP):

Seventeen Indian American state and local elected officials have urged President Joe Biden to establish a new Hindi language fund through the Asia Society to teach Hindi in American middle and high schools.

The officials made the request in a letter to Biden Thursday, June 22, during Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's ongoing official state visit to the United States.

"Although there's a strategic argument for such funding, we believe there's an even stronger economic argument for investing in teaching Hindi in American schools," they wrote, according to a media release.

The letter cites a recent Standard & Poor Global forecast that India would surpass Japan and Germany as the third largest economy in the world by the end of the decade.

The officials argue that American foreign language offerings in American schools do not match the rapidly growing and evolving global economy.

"We believe a joint New Hindi Language Fund to teach Hindi in American schools would accelerate the need to address this mismatch where the federal government has failed to provide foreign language support in these growing foreign markets," the officials wrote.

"Today, we have just 19 Hindi foreign language programs in our high schools across the country, even though the Indian economy will surpass \$7.5 trillion in 2031," said North Carolina State Senate Minority Whip Jay J. Chaudhuri, who led the effort to establish a joint language fund.

"Just as France's President Macron did with his most recent initiative to provide more access to French during his official visit last December, we should do the same with Hindi," the letter stated.

In December, French President Emmanuel Macron announced a new initiative to support access to French language instruction across the United States, including the French Dual Language Fund, a program that expands and supports K-12 programs in Title I schools, and the New Pathways to Teaching French Programs, a program that targets the shortage of foreign language instructors in American Schools. *(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)*

Over Forty Indian-origin medics, business leaders and community champions on King Charles III's first Birthday Honors List

JUNE 17, 2023

LONDON (TIP) : Over 40 Indian-origin medics, business leaders and community champions are among those on King Charles III's first Birthday Honors List released by the UK government.

Dr Parvinder Kaur Aley, Director of Global Operations at the Oxford Vaccine Group, University of Oxford, has been honored as an Officer of the Order of the British Empire (OBE) for her services to vaccination during Covid-19.

Professor Prokar Dasgupta, Foundation Professor of Surgery, King's Health Partners and Chair in Robotic Surgery and Urological Innovation at King's College London, has also been conferred with an OBE for services to surgery and science.

Among the British Indian business leaders honored are Anuj Chande, Partner and Head of South Asia Business Group at Grant Thornton UK LLP, who receives an OBE for services to international trade and investment, and Member of the Order of the British Empire (MBE) for Hina Solanki, founder of Sol Cosmetics, for services to business and charity.

The list was released by the UK government in London on Friday night.

"This year's honors list is a testament to ordinary people who have demonstrated extraordinary community spirit, and I pay tribute to all those who have been recognized today," said Oliver



Over 40 Indian-origin medics, business leaders and community champions are among those on King Charles III's first Birthday Honors List released by the UK government.

Dowden, UK Deputy Prime Minister.

A total of 1,171 people have received an honor, of which 52 per cent are people who have undertaken outstanding work in their communities either in a voluntary or paid capacity and 11 per cent of the successful candidates come from an ethnic minority background.

Among some of the topmost honors is a knighthood for novelist Martin Amis, who passed away recently, for services to literature.

Also knighted is award-winning British filmmaker Stephen Frears. Fashion magazine 'Vogue' editor Dame Anna Wintour and author Sir Ian McEwan join the elite Companions of

Honor.

Among some of the other Indian-origin recipients of honors include OBEs for consultant obstetrician and gynecologist Anju Kumar for services to women's health and welfare in Wales; District Crown Prosecutor Varinder Hayre for services to law and order in London; and Sunand Prasad, Chair of UK Green Buildings Council, for services to regeneration.

Also receiving MBEs are Roma Bhopal, physiotherapist and specialist hand therapist, for services to physiotherapy; Bawa Singh Dhallu, lately Councilor and lately Mayor, Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council, West Midlands, for political and voluntary service; violinist Jyotsna Srikanth for services to music; and Ritu Khurana, disc jockey and broadcaster, for services to music and broadcasting.

The list also covers around 10 British Empire Medal (BEM) recipients of Indian heritage, including Balvir Mohan Bhalla, founder Super Cool Friends Charity, for services to the community in Ilford, London Borough of Redbridge, particularly during Covid-19; Relesh Chauhan, pianist and composer, for services to music, charity and mental health in the British Asian community, particularly during Covid-19; and Kailash Malhotra, Peer Educator Volunteer, Kidney Research UK, for services to kidney organ donation for minority ethnic groups.

Gujarat couple seeking to enter US illegally held captive in Iran by Pak national: Cops



Gujarat couple seeking to enter US illegally held captive in Iran by Pak national: Cops

Photo for representational purpose only

JUNE 19, 2023

AHMEDABAD (TIP): A young couple from Naroda in Gujarat's Ahmedabad city who planned to enter the United States of America illegally has been held hostage in Iran by a Pakistani agent who has sought money for their release, a police official said here on Monday.

A FIR in this regard is being lodged at Krushnanagar Police Station of Naroda area and the Ahmedabad city crime branch has started investigation, said Deputy Commissioner of Police (Crime) Chaitanya Mandlik. *(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)*

20-year-old Indian gets jail for rape in UK



Preet Vikal has been sentenced to six years and nine months' imprisonment in the Welsh capital of Cardiff after admitting to have raped a woman in the city.

Photo for representational only

JUNE 18, 2023

LONDON (TIP): A 20-year-old Indian-origin man has been sentenced to six years and nine months' imprisonment in the Welsh capital of Cardiff after admitting to have raped a woman in the city.

Preet Vikal was caught on a CCTV camera carrying the victim in his arms and later across his shoulders in Cardiff city center, Wales, in the early hours of June 4 last year.

It was this footage, along with an Instagram message exchange between him and the victim that led to Vikal being identified and arrested by the South Wales Police. *(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)*

Indian-origin man stabbed to death outside an apartment block in UK



Aravind Sasikumar was stabbed to death outside an apartment block in south London.

Photo for representational purpose only

JUNE 18, 2023

LONDON (TIP): A 38-year-old Indian-origin man was stabbed to death outside an apartment block in south London and a 25-year-old man has been charged with his murder, as the Scotland Yard said its Specialist Crime Command is leading the investigation.

Aravind Sasikumar died after being found with stab injuries outside a residential property in Southampton Way in Southwark on Friday, June 16.

The Metropolitan Police launched a murder investigation and charged Salman Salim (25) with murder on Saturday, when he appeared before Croydon Magistrates' Court to be remanded in custody. *(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)*

Indian American Congressman Shri Thanedar backs bill to remove Green Card backlogs

JUNE 23, 2023

WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP):

Asserting that Immigration needs to be merit-based and not dictated by arbitrary caps, Indian American Congressman Shri Thanedar announced that he will be co-sponsoring a bill on eliminating visa backlogs.

Eliminating Backlogs Act of 2023, the bipartisan bill introduced in the House of Representatives earlier this year, seeks to effectively utilize the employment-based visas that are allocated each year under existing federal immigration law.

"Proud to co-sponsor the H.R. 1535 Eliminating Backlogs Act of 2023, bipartisan legislation which increases employment-based immigration visas. Immigration needs to be merit-based, not dictated by arbitrary caps," Thanedar tweeted on Thursday.

The Congressman had earlier said that the long Green Card backlog is creating hardships for skilled workers, including Indians, at a time when American businesses need more immigrants.

According to estimates, there are only six available workers for every 10 job



Shri Thanedar announced that he will be co-sponsoring a bill on eliminating visa backlogs

openings in the US.

The bill, introduced by Congressmen Larry Bucshon and Raja Krishnamoorthi on March 10, would recapture the unused employment-based Green Cards accumulated over the past three decades, going back to 1992 when the current Green Card allotment system took effect.

Unused Green Cards are the ones left unissued due to bureaucratic delays and

slow USCIS processing.

In addition, the bill would exempt these recaptured Green Cards from the 7 per cent per-country cap.

As a consequence of numerical limits, per-country caps, and administrative delays, the employment-based Green Card backlog reached 1.6 million by the end of Fiscal Year 2022, according to National Immigration Forum.

The US sets aside 140,000 employment-based green cards for skilled, unskilled, and professional workers from all around the world every year.

In addition to the numerical limit, Congress has put a limit on the maximum number of Green Cards that can be allocated to nationals of a particular country.

As per the existing federal law, individuals from any one country cannot be issued more than 7 per cent of the total number of Green Cards each year.

The existence of these per-country caps means that individuals from countries with high numbers of Green Card applicants, such as India, China, Mexico, and the Philippines, face backlogs lasting years or even decades.

Indo-British MP Tanmanjeet Singh Dhese bats for air connectivity between UK, Punjab



Tanmanjeet Singh Dhese has emphasized the urgent need for starting more direct flights between the UK and the Punjab at Guru Ram Das Ji International Airport in Amritsar and Shaheed Bhagat Singh International Airport in Chandigarh.

JUNE 22, 2023

LONDON (TIP): Tanmanjeet Singh Dhese, the first turban-wearing Sikh elected Member of Parliament in Britain, had a productive meeting in the UK Parliament with Caroline Rowett, the British Deputy High Commissioner to India.

Expressing his enthusiasm, Dhese, who is a native of Jalandhar, informed that he had discussed a wide array of topics aimed at strengthening ties, trade, and tourism between both nations; as well as the concerns of the diaspora around land disputes, British nationals imprisoned abroad and respect for human rights. Of particular importance was the urgent need for starting more direct flights between the UK and the Punjab at Guru Ram Das Ji International Airport in Amritsar and Shaheed Bhagat Singh International Airport in Chandigarh," he added.

Dhese reiterated that he has been tirelessly advocating for direct air connectivity between the UK and Punjab with different international airlines, besides the government of India, as well as with the Punjab Government. He emphasized such direct flights would benefit the large NRIs residing in the UK and Europe, enabling them to conveniently visit their families and relatives in Punjab. Moreover, improved air connectivity with the North region of India would facilitate seamless travel options for passengers from northern states.

Highlighting the significance of this demand, Dhese stated, "We also need cheaper fares to ensure that everyone can afford to travel. The initiation of direct air routes between these destinations would not only enhance people-to-people contact, but also foster economic growth, cultural exchange and tourism opportunities for both regions.

"It's good that we have a small number of direct flights every week between Amritsar and both London Gatwick and Birmingham, but we also need daily flights between London Heathrow and Amritsar, since Heathrow is the major hub for connectivity to other destinations in North America," he emphasized.

Dr Mandeep Singh is the first Indian-origin doctor in UAE to perform In-Utero Spina Bifida Repair



Dr Mandeep Singh has become the first Indian-origin doctor to perform In-utero spina bifida repair surgery

JUNE 20, 2023

DUBAI (TIP): A team of doctors led by an Indian-origin fetal medicine expert in the UAE have successfully performed a potentially life-changing in-utero procedure on a pregnant patient from South America.

Dr Mandeep Singh, a renowned fetal medicine expert, who became the first Indian-origin doctor to perform In-utero spina bifida repair surgery, says he is hopeful of collaborating with institutes and specialists in India to increase accessibility to such advanced treatments.

Singh, who has family roots in Mumbai, performed the highly complex surgery along with a team of doctors at The Burjeel Medical City Hospital in Abu Dhabi.

They repaired a spinal defect in a baby of 24 weeks gestation, a press release said on Tuesday.

The patient from Colombia underwent the rare open spina bifida fetal procedure in the hopes of preventing short-term and long-term complications for her baby, the hospital said.

Spina bifida is a birth defect that happens when the bones of the spine do not form, leading to the spinal cord being left exposed to amniotic fluid and resulting in permanent disability.

The condition can often lead to permanent loss of bowel and urinary bladder control, paralysis, or weakness of both lower limb muscles.

Calling the procedure, a "cutting-edge treatment" that has the potential to greatly improve outcomes in babies, Singh said, "I am hopeful that collaborating with institutes and specialists in India, we can increase accessibility to such advanced

Indian American doctor Rachandeep Singh arrested for sexually assaulting co-worker in California

JUNE 21, 2023

SAN FRANCISCO (TIP): An Indian American doctor is facing sexual assault charges for inappropriately touching a co-worker at a medical facility in California.

Rachandeep Singh, a medical director at the River Pointe Post-Acute Care Facility in Carmichael, was arrested on June 17 at the San Francisco International Airport and was booked into custody at the San Mateo County Jail.

He was released on bail the same day and is scheduled to appear in court in Sacramento on August 17 for his alleged sexual misconduct, the Sacramento County Sheriff's Office said.

The Office began an investigation after receiving a report of a sexual assault on April 26.

The victim, an employee at the medical facility, alleged that Singh touched her sexually against her will.

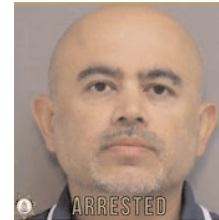
Based on the subsequent investigation results, the District Attorney's Office elected to file felony sexual battery charges against Singh.

According to the Sheriff's Office, Singh was removed from the River Pointe Post-Acute Care Facility by their administration.

He oversaw at least two other facilities as the medical director in the City of Stockton and the San Joaquin County areas.

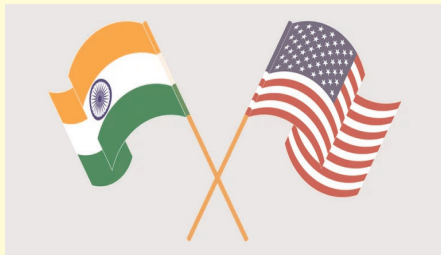
Due to Singh's position in several areas throughout the region, detectives are looking for other potential victims, the Sheriff's Office said.

(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)



Rachandeep Singh, a medical director at the River Pointe Post-Acute Care Facility in Carmichael who is facing sexual assault charges for inappropriately touching a co-worker at a medical facility in California, was arrested on June 17

US INTENDS TO OPEN CONSULATES IN BENGALURU, AHMEDABAD & INDIA IN SEATTLE: WHITE HOUSE



A senior White House official said on Thursday, June 22 that the US will open two new consulates in Bengaluru and Ahmedabad while India will establish a mission in Seattle

JUNE 22, 2023

WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP): The US will open two new consulates in Bengaluru and Ahmedabad while India will establish a mission in Seattle to boost people-to-people relationships, a senior White House official said on Thursday, June 22.

The official said the US issued a record 125,000 visas to Indian students last year. Indian students are set to become the largest foreign student community in the United States with a 20 per cent increase last year alone, the senior administration official said.

"The United States intends to open new consulates in Bengaluru and Ahmedabad. India is likewise welcoming the 2023 opening of its consulate in Seattle and look forward to also announcing a new consulate in the United States," the official said.

The US Department of State is going to launch a pilot to adjudicate domestic renewals of certain petition-based temporary work visas later this year, including for Indian nationals with the intent to implement this for an expanded pool, the official said.

India has five consulates in the US in New York, San Francisco, Chicago, Houston and Atlanta, apart from the embassy in Washington.

The US embassy in New Delhi is one of the largest US diplomatic missions in the world. The embassy coordinates the activities of four consulates - in Mumbai, Kolkata, Chennai and Hyderabad - ensuring that the US-India relationship is strong throughout the country, according to the information on its website.

US set to introduce in-country renewable for H-1B visa: official

JUNE 22, 2023

WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP): The US is set to introduce in-country renewable H-1B visas, a significant decision that would help thousands of Indian professionals in staying in the country to continue with their jobs without the hassle of travelling overseas for the renewal of their work visas.

This is part of the people-to-people initiative, a senior administration official said ahead of the bilateral meeting between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and President Joe Biden at the White House here on Thursday, June 22.

The much-sought-after H-1B visa is a non-immigrant visa that allows US companies to employ foreign workers in specialty occupations that require theoretical or technical expertise.

Technology companies depend on it to hire tens of thousands of employees each year from countries like India and China.

The United States last year issued 125,000 visas to Indian students, which is a record and they are on pace to become the largest foreign student community in the United States with a 20 per cent increase last year alone, the official



The US is set to introduce in-country renewable H-1B visas, a significant decision that would help thousands of Indian professionals in staying in the country to continue with their jobs without the hassle of travelling overseas for the renewal of their work visas.

Photo for representational purposes only

Photo credit / Thinkstock

explained.

"The second thing that we're doing is the United States Department of State is going to launch a pilot to adjudicate domestic renewals of certain petition-based temporary work visas later this year, including for Indian nationals with the intent to implement this for an expanded pool of H-1 and L visa holders," a senior Biden administration official said.

The programme would be eventually broadened to include other eligible categories. "It is good for people in India, good for people in the United States, really good for our businesses," said the official.

Until 2004, certain categories of non-immigrant visas, particularly the H-1B, could be renewed or stamped inside the US. After that, for the renewal of these visas, in particular, those on H-1B, the foreign tech workers have to go out of the country, mostly to their own country to get the H-1B extension stamped on their passport.

The H-1B visas are issued for three years at a time.

For all the H-1B visa holders, when their visa is renewed, they need to get their passports stamped with renewal dates. This is required if they wish to travel outside of the US and re-enter the US. As of now, H-1B visa restamping is not allowed within the US. Restamping can only be done at any US consulate.

This was a big inconvenience for foreign guest workers and also for their employees, particularly at a time when the visa wait time is more than 800 days or more than two years. (Source: PTI)

India is ready to contribute in any way to restore peace in Ukraine: PM Modi

JUNE 22, 2023

WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP): India is ready to contribute in any way it can to restore peace in Ukraine, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Thursday, June 22, reiterating that New Delhi favors the resolution of the dispute through dialogue and diplomacy.

Prime Minister Modi's remarks came during a joint news conference with President Joe Biden at the White House after their talks.

"From the very beginning of the events in Ukraine, India has laid emphasis on the resolution of the dispute through dialogue and diplomacy," Modi, who is here on his maiden state visit, told reporters.

"We are completely ready to contribute in any way we can to restore peace.



New Delhi favors the resolution of the dispute between Russia and Ukraine through dialogue and diplomacy.

Photo credit / National Institute of Economic and Social Research

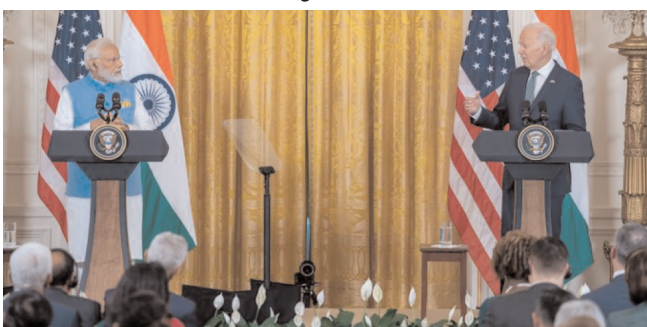
Under India's G-20 presidency, we are emphasizing the spirit of one earth, one family, one future," he said.

Since the Ukraine conflict began in February last year, Modi spoke to Russian President Vladimir Putin as well as Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy a number of times during which he insisted that the conflict should be resolved through dialogue and diplomacy.

India has not yet condemned the Russian invasion of Ukraine.

Biden said the two leaders talked about their shared efforts to mitigate the humanitarian tragedies unleashed by Russia's brutal war in Ukraine and to defend the core principles of the UN Charter on sovereignty and territorial integrity.

Democracy is in our veins, no discrimination against minorities: PM Modi



US President Joe Biden and India's Prime Minister Modi at the press conference at the White House on June 22, 2023

JUNE 23, 2023

WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP): Asserting that democracy is "in our spirit...and flows in our veins", Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday, June 22, said there is no question of discrimination in India on the grounds of caste or religion because his government follows the Constitution, which is formed on the basic values of democracy.

Responding to a question at a joint press conference with US President Joe Biden after their comprehensive deliberations, Modi also strongly defended India's record on democracy and his government's

performance and human rights, saying that the basic foundation stone of his government has been 'Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas and Sabka Prayas' which means together for everyone's growth, with everyone's trust.

"India is a democracy. And as President Biden said democracy is in the DNA of both India and America. Democracy is in our spirit. Democracy flows in our veins. We live democracy. Our forefathers moulded it in words, which we call the Constitution.

(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)

PM Modi, President Biden hail decision to manufacture of GE F-414 engines in India



India's Tejas fighter jet

Photo credit / PTI

JUNE 22, 2023

WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP): The decision taken by General Electric to manufacture jet engines in India through transfer of technology is a landmark agreement, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Thursday, June 22, noting that this will give India-US defense cooperation a "new character".

GE aerospace has announced it has inked a pact with Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) to jointly produce fighter jet engines for the Indian Air Force's Light Combat Aircraft (LCA)-Mk-II Tejas.

"The decision taken by General Electric to manufacture engines in India through transfer of technology is a landmark agreement," Prime Minister Modi told reporters at a joint news

conference with US President Joe Biden at the White House.

This also opens up new job opportunities in both countries, he said and added that "this will give our defense cooperation a new character in the times to come".

"The defense industries and startups of both countries are important partners in this cooperation. Bringing them together is the key objective of our defense industrial roadmap," Modi said.

In a joint statement, President Biden and Prime Minister Modi hailed the landmark signing of the MoU between GE and HAL.

"This trailblazing initiative to manufacture F-414 engines in India will enable greater transfer of US jet engine technology than ever before. The leaders committed their governments to working collaboratively and expeditiously to support the advancement of this unprecedented co-production and technology transfer proposal," it said.

Modi said the close defense cooperation between India and the US symbolizes the mutual trust and shared strategic priorities.

"Moving away from the old buyer seller relationship we had earlier, we have transitioned today to a relationship involving transfer of technology, co-development and co-production," he said.

Expressing their desire to accelerate defense industrial cooperation, the two leaders in the joint statement welcomed the adoption of a Defense Industrial Cooperation Roadmap.

This will provide policy direction to defense industries and enable co-production of advanced defense systems and collaborative research, testing, and prototyping of projects. Both sides are committed to addressing any regulatory barriers to defense industrial cooperation, according to the statement.

Modi and Biden also noted the decision of India's Ministry of Defense and the US' Department of Defense to commence negotiations for concluding a Security of Supply arrangement and initiate discussions about Reciprocal Defense Procurement agreement.

They also welcomed India's emergence as a hub for maintenance and repair for forward deployed US Navy assets and the conclusion of Master Ship Repair agreements with Indian shipyards, the

statement said.

This will allow the US Navy to expedite the contracting process for mid-voyage and emergent repair.

It said as envisaged in the Defense Industrial Roadmap, both countries agree to work together for the creation of logistic, repair, and maintenance infrastructure for aircraft and vessels in India.

The two leaders welcomed the setting up and launch of the US-India Defense Acceleration Ecosystem (INDUS-X).

The statement said as a network of universities, startups, industry and think tanks, INDUS-X will facilitate joint defense technology innovation, and co-production of advanced defense technology between the respective industries of the two countries.

The US Department of Defense's Space Force has signed its first International Cooperative Research and Development Agreement with Indian start-ups 114 AI and 3rdiTech. Both companies will work with General Atomics to co-develop components using cutting edge technologies in artificial intelligence and semiconductors respectively, said the joint statement. (Source: PTI)

GOPIO / Consulate General of India, New York / The Indian Panorama & Tirlok Malik / Happy Life Yoga Celebrate International Yoga Day 2023

THE ZOOM SESSION WILL BE HELD ON SUNDAY, JUNE 25TH FROM 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM



passcode: GOPIO

The event promises to be energetic, knowledgeable, inspiring, and celebratory in nature. Malik will interact with all the prominent speakers on the panel to discover their own personal mantras for happiness. While emphasizing the growing importance of Yoga in today's times, session host Malik explains his vision behind Happy Life Yoga and its underlying philosophy as "a way of living inspired by the wisdom of Ayurveda, Yoga and Indian Philosophy." Malik created the Happy Life Yoga workshop (No mats needed!) inspired by Ayurveda yoga and Indian philosophy as a practical way to live a happier and healthier life in today's time. This interactive workshop emphasizes "love yourself," and if you love yourself, it's your responsibility to take care of your happiness and health, using the tools shared by Malik in this workshop. It's the gift of ancient India, tested by science & time! The event is supported by many New York media outlets. Malik and the whole team look forward to the celebration of International Yoga Day 2023 and invite everybody to join!

Join Zoom Meeting
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7095368686?pwd=c3J5UUdncDJYOExpR3ByTU14OXprZz09>
Meeting ID: 709 536 8686
Passcode: gopio

JUNE 23, 2023

NEW YORK (TIP) : On the occasion of International Yoga Day 2023, GOPIO, and Emmy-nominated filmmaker & Happy Life Yoga speaker Tirlok Malik along with The Indian Panorama & Indian American Forum will be hosting a highly interactive and informative Yoga event featuring experts and speakers from various walks of life. Ambassador Randhir Jaiswal, Consul General of India in New York will be the chief guest. Other speakers will include Dr. Thomas Abraham, Professor Indrajit Saluja, Indu Jaiswal, Anil Narang, Lal Motwani (GOPIO International President), Neeta Bhasin, Dr. Renee Mehra, Deborah Fishman, Neha Lohia, Radhika Bhagat, Dr. Tara Shajan & Victoria Moran. The Zoom session will be held on Sunday, June 25th from 11:00am - 12:00pm. Interested participants can join the session using the meeting ID: 709 536 8686 and

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An organized counter to organised hate

THERE NEEDS TO BE AN INSPIRING ALTERNATIVE AGENDA THAT ENTHUSES INDIA AND WHICH CAN MOVE THE SILENT MAJORITY AWAY FROM THE CLIMATE OF HATE



BY PUSHPARAJ
DESHPANDE

TODAY, MORE THAN EVER, INDIA NEEDS AN ORGANISED, PROGRAMMATIC AND POLITICAL COUNTER TO HATE. WE DO NOT HAVE THE LUXURY TO WAIT FOR AN ORGANIC MASS PSYCHOLOGICAL REALIGNMENT. THE ONLY QUESTION IS: CAN WE TRANSCEND NARROW INTERESTS, AND WORK COLLABORATIVELY IN THE NATIONAL INTEREST?

The communal disturbances in Maharashtra, the performative religiosity in the new Parliament's inauguration and The Kerala Story are all intrinsic to the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh-Bharatiya Janata Party (RSS-BJP)'s larger cultural war. Vitiating mass consciousness, such issues typically pit Hindus against Muslims, elite establishmentarians against grounded 'nationalists' and constitutional values against 'traditional' values. Despite this war's profound impact on India's social fabric, little attention has been devoted to analyzing why atavistic tendencies acquire a social base. If most Indians live by the Ganga-Jamuni tehzeeb, nothing could make them communal, xenophobic, casteist, patriarchal or racist. Yet, studies show that India has become radicalized and socially conservative. To reverse the flames engulfing India (and other nations, as reports suggest in the context of the Leicester riots), dissecting the black box of hate is critical.

THE ANATOMY OF ORGANISED HATE

There are broadly three types of hatred today - organised, inherited and absorbed hate. The first is methodically spearheaded by organizations like the RSS-BJP, invariably for partisan ends. Inherited hate is generationally passed down (usually caste, communal and gender prejudices), which is fertile soil for the champions of organised hate. Finally, absorbed hate is a disease afflicting the silent majority. The Sangh Parivar systematically targets both these constituencies, for short-term goals (influencing voting behavior, consensus on key issues and fundraising) and to convert permanently.

Progressive forces invariably counter the visible champions of organised hate, including party spokespersons, aligned influencers and organizations, as well as troll armies. They also resort to debunking misinformation or cornering regressive stances/action. Unfortunately, the RSS-BJP cannot be shamed, for they are unhinged from constitutional or institutional norms. Furthermore, their propaganda is complemented by a vast network of socio-cultural and religious organizations that subterraneanly spearhead ideological projects. In stark contrast, by striving only to shape public discourse, progressives put the onus of psychological consonance on the people. They assume that people will organically be swayed to progressive positions. Both empirical and anecdotal evidence suggests that this tactic is failing. Moreover, this strategy inadvertently oxygenates those historical-cultural issues that the Sangh deploys to frame every state policy and election as an existential war.

Unfortunately, there is no organised programmatic counter to hatred today. Bulldozers raze brazenly, mobs lynch with impunity, processions/films disrupt harmony and economic boycotts are organised with tactical precision, while the State maintains a studied indifference. Sadly, progressive parties avoid interventions against the forces of hate, as Karnataka's Bajrang Dal and Maharashtra's Kolhapur episodes suggest. This is partly because the Sangh can easily instigate retaliatory conflagrations, that invariably benefit the BJP electorally. However, given the BJP's insatiable electoral greed, it is near-



Unfortunately, there is no organised programmatic counter to hatred today'

Photo credit / un.org/en/hate-speech

impossible for progressive parties to limit the impact area of any disturbance. But there are also structural reasons for this programmatic inertia. Most parties do not plan and execute programs on ideological issues, remaining excessively dependent on the State. They have forgotten the Congress movement's lessons, which functioned independently of state machineries.

STRUCTURALLY COMBATING HATE

Whole communities have shriveled in the face of the hatred engulfing India. Given this, there are both moral and pragmatic considerations to frontally tackle the fear that breeds regressive attitudes. First, we progressives need to acknowledge pre-existing societal fears of losing out on economic and political opportunities, and redress them. Not doing so enables the BJP to exploit those fault lines. For example, even though unemployment is a national problem, in the absence of a comprehensive strategy from progressives, the BJP successfully spins mass unemployment as a consequence of Muslim overpopulation (that is, jobs meant for Hindus are being 'stolen' by Muslims). Similarly, shrinking public sector jobs and educational opportunities are cynically blamed on reservations (indirectly holding Dalits, Adivasis and backward communities responsible), and not on the fire sale of public sector assets or on policies that make education inaccessible. Given this, progressives need to carefully assuage such fears. A first step could be posing an inspiring alternative agenda that enthuses India. Only then can we wean away the silent majority from the claws of hatred.

But progressive parties also need to put boots on the ground. In that spirit, they must actively collaborate with civil society, which transcends electoral exigencies. Serving as a complementary system, this could become both a response mechanism to conflagrations, and a network of progressive

ideological projects. This would facilitate the forging of fresh relationships with new constituencies. One such constituency must be religious leaders/organizations, which progressives inexplicably avoid (thereby giving the RSS-BJP a blank cheque to assert that they represent all Hindus). Such a system would undoubtedly delegitimize atavistic causes.

Furthermore, progressive parties can substantively constrict regressive activities when in office, as the recently elected Karnataka government is doing. Just to cite some obvious examples, organizations frequently showcase movies to vitiate public discourse, conduct processions and sansads to disrupt the peace. While states can ban such organizations, this is only a stopgap since they invariably remerge in a new avatar. A more sustainable solution would be to spearhead out-of-the-box solutions that include shanti senas inculcating societal harmony, promoting films that espouse liberal, secular and democratic values, aggressively disseminating a constitutional narrative through alternative media, and ideological projects.

Fourth, progressives also need to check benefactors of regressive causes. A conflagration is sometimes a smokescreen to promote narrow economic interests. For example, the attack on abattoirs was both ideologically motivated and backed by economic competitors. Similarly, select diaspora groups support regressive projects for preferential treatment in commercial ventures in India. Mapping this financial infrastructure of hate would enable targeted counters using state instruments. A body blow can be delivered if the taps that empower regressive organizations can be closed. But this would need to be complemented by also addressing the non-partisan concerns of interest groups, satyagrahas against benefactors (who can be shamed), ensuring foreign funding does not foment hatred in India (which the compliance rules of most nations prohibit), and organised legal retribution.

IDEOLOGICAL AND POLITICAL COMMITMENT

India does not deserve ideological malleability or unprincipled politics (as witnessed during the Delhi riots in 2020). In this context, Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru's spirited fight against communalism offers a toolkit. Apart from making it a central theme in the 1951-52 general election, he tirelessly campaigned against hatred through public/parliamentary speeches, radio broadcasts, as well as letters to Chief Ministers and party units. Urging the Congress Party to "live up to our ideals and declarations" and "not let India be slaughtered at the altar of bigotry", he ensured the party "(fought) it in houses, in fields and in marketplaces... (and) in the council chambers and the streets" (Letters to Chief Ministers, Volume 1, pp 479 and 487; and Jawaharlal Nehru's speeches, Vol. 2, p.175). Today, more than ever, India needs an organized, programmatic and political counter to hate. We do not have the luxury to wait for an organic mass psychological realignment. The only question is: can we transcend narrow interests, and work collaboratively in the national interest?

(Pushparaj Deshpande is the Director of the Samruddha Bharat Foundation and the series editor of the Rethinking India series (Penguin))

PM Modi in US - A major leap forward for India-US ties?



BY
SUHASINI HAIDAR

This week we are looking at Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Washington, which saw US President Joseph Biden roll out the red carpet for him. PM Modi's visit included a private dinner at the White House, a ceremonial welcome, a state banquet, an address to the US Congress joint session and lunch at the State Department.

PM Modi is the third international leader, after French President Macron and South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol to be invited as a State guest to the Biden White House. He is also the third Indian leader to be invited as a State visitor to Washington. In 2009, Prime Minister Manmohan Singh was invited by President Barack Obama, and in 1963, President Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan was invited by President John F Kennedy.

"Decades from now - decades from now, people will look back and say the Quad bent the arc of history toward 'global good,' as the Prime Minister describes it. Together, India and the United States are working closely on everything from ending poverty and expanding access to healthcare to addressing climate change to tackling food and energy insecurity stoked by Russia's unprovoked war on Ukraine," US President Joe Biden said

"We were strangers in defense cooperation at the turn of the century. Now, the United States has become one of our most important defense partners. Today India and the US are working together, in space and in the seas, in science and in semi-conductors, in start-ups and sustainability, in tech and in trade, in farming and finance, in art and artificial intelligence, in energy and education, in healthcare and humanitarian efforts, PM Narendra Modi said.

HIGH-TECH PARTNERSHIP

1. The big deal announced during this visit was the MoU for a co-production deal between GE and HAL to manufacture GE-F414 jet engines in India for Tejas Light Combat Aircraft

2. Semiconductor supply chains: Micron Technology will invest \$800 million toward a new \$2.75 billion semiconductor assembly and test facility in Gujarat- the Indian Semiconductor mission will fund the rest of the project

3. Under the newly launched Initiative on Critical and Emerging Technology (iCET), a number of innovation partnerships, also on India and the United States have established a Joint Indo-US. Quantum Coordination Mechanism to facilitate joint research looking at Quantum, Advanced Computing, and Artificial Intelligence

4. India to join the 11-nation minerals security partnership (msp) meant to reduce dependence on China for critical minerals

DEFENSE COOPERATION

1. India will buy 16 Drones- armed MQ-9B SeaGuardian UAVs.

2. The US Navy has concluded a Master Ship Repair Agreement (MSRA) with Larsen and Toubro Shipyard in Kattupalli (Chennai) and is finalizing agreements with Mazagon Dock Limited (Mumbai) and Goa Shipyard (Goa).

3. Placing Indian liaison officers at 3 US commands

4. Launch of India-U.S. Defense Acceleration Ecosystem (INDUS-X)- between private defense industries in US and India

SPACE COOPERATION:

1. India signed the Artemis Accords, joining 26 other countries working on exploration of the Moon, Mars, and beyond.

2. NASA will provide advanced training to Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) astronauts with



Modi received a warm welcome in US, and India and US strengthened their partnership in various sectors

the goal of launching a joint effort to the International Space Station in 2024.

3. NASA and the ISRO are developing a strategic framework for human spaceflight cooperation by the end of 2023

TRADE AND CONSULAR ISSUES

1. Resolution of six of seven outstanding WTO disputes between the two countries through mutually agreed solutions, market access

2. India to set up consulate in Seattle, 2 other US cities. US to set up new consulates in Ahmedabad and Bengaluru

3. Relaxation in H1B visa norms for in country renewal and more availability of visas

THE BROAD GEOPOLITICAL TAKEAWAYS OF THE MODI VISIT

1. Reaffirmation of India-US strategic ties, also within Quad and the Indo-Pacific, although no specific messaging on China.

2. High technology partnerships will drive the next phase of the relationship, just as the nuclear deal, or the defense agreements, or the search for an FTA once did. In particular, the Jet engine deal if it goes through could pave the way for more technology transfer that has thus far eluded the relationship

3. Leadership level summits and meetings continue to ensure India-US ties grow year on year as they have over the past two decades. Biden will visit India for the G20 summit in September, and there's speculation PM Modi will be invited to California for the APEC summit in November, where leaders of 21 countries including US and China will meet.

READING THE FINE PRINT- THE LEFT-OUTS

1. The big-ticket item on this visit- for the GE F414 jet

engines to be co-produced in India still has a long regulatory road ahead- a manufacturing license agreement has now been submitted for Congressional Notification. US Congress will need to clear the deal on two counts of Export Administration Regulations (EAR) and International Traffic in Arms Regulations (ITAR). Questions are still open on just how much technology will actually be transferred- and whether India will accept conditions attached to that....some of the reasons previous attempts on jet engine tech transfer, as the two countries attempted from 2010-2019 under DTTI, failed.

2. Indian regulations have similarly held up the Indo US nuclear deal between Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited (NPCIL) and Westinghouse Electric Company (WEC) for the construction of six nuclear reactors in Kovvada, Andhra Pradesh. 8 years after Modi-Obama announced the nuclear deal is done, and worked a way around the CLNDA, there's still no techno-commercial offer.'

3. The Biden administration has made it clear it has no interest in continuing the Trump-era FTA talks, and the Modi government has made it clear it still expects the Biden administration to restore India's GSP status for exports. But no movement during this visit

4. The big ticket deal from 2019 on an Indian investment in a US LNG plant- specifically the \$2.5 bn planned by Petronet in Tellurian's Driftwood LNG project- has not been revived, nor was any announcement made on GAIL India's plans to invest in US LNG plants.

5. India and US agreed to disagree, but differences over the Russian war in Ukraine remained- while Biden referred to what he called Russia's brutal war on two occasions, PM Modi didn't, nor did the Joint statement reflect it.

6. Human Rights- this remains as prickly an issue as it was in 2014, when PM Modi visited India for the first time after his visa was revoked in 2005. Ahead of this visit as many as 75 members of the US Congress wrote to President Biden demanding that he raise concerns over human rights and democracy in India publicly, which he did not.

And former President Obama said this in an interview that released the same day as the State visit:

"I think it is true that if the President meets with Prime Minister Modi, then the protection of the Muslim minority in a majority Hindu India, that's something worth mentioning. Because, and by the way, if I had a conversation with Prime Minister Modi, who I know Well, part of my argument would be that if you do not protect the rights of ethnic minorities in India, then there is a strong possibility, and at some point, starts pulling apart. And we've seen what happens when you start getting those kinds of large internal conflicts"

When asked at a rare press event with - where he answered a few questions from the media, here's what PM Modi said

"We have proven that democracy can deliver, and there is no discrimination in India on the issues of cast, creed, religion"

WORLD VIEW TAKE

Quite aside from the moment at hand, the underlying logic for India-US relations, especially between its people has always been strong- and is the reason relations remained close despite cold war tensions. PM Modi's state visit to Washington is one more step in ties that have grown year on year over 2 decades and are poised to take the next leap on technology transfer. When it comes to questions over Indian democracy, that are internal to India, PM Modi made a rare exception in taking questions in the US, but it is the answers he gives to Indians in India on democratic freedoms that will actually count.

Misplaced Priorities of PM Narendra Modi

MODI CONFABULATES WITH WORLD LEADERS ABROAD WHILE A PART OF INDIA IS BURNING



BY GEORGE
ABRAHAM

"Although the Biden Administration promised to put human rights, religious freedom, and press freedom at the forefront of foreign policy, they appear to be very selective in their approach to building relationships. If America should continue to be a shining city on a hill for all those who love freedom and liberty, President Biden should have a frank talk and sincere discussion with Prime Minister Modi urging him to uphold shared values, without which a stronger or more reliable friendship can never be achieved. Mr. President, please ask Mr. Modi why he didn't utter a word until now on the continuing bloodshed and suffering of his own people in Manipur as he readies to raise his champagne glass in the White House."

Last month, in Hiroshima, Japan, Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni announced in the middle of the Group of Seven (G-7) summit that she would leave the meeting a day earlier than scheduled to lead the response to floods which hit the north of her country very hard that week. Torrential rains devastated eastern parts of the Emilia-Romagna region, killing 14 people and causing enormous damage.

Compare that to Mr. Modi, the Prime Minister of India, who is on a state visit to the United States when the state of Manipur is burning, hundreds of people are being killed, and thousands are made homeless by Hindu militants by burning the entire villages often with people inside as part of a broader agenda to ethnically cleanse the tribal people who are mostly Christians from the land they have inhabited for hundreds of years.

Mr. Modi also traveled to Australia after the Quad summit in Papua New Guinea



Modi toasts with Biden at the White House dinner on June 21

Screen grab NDTV

while the Manipur mayhem was getting out of hand in the name of strengthening bilateral relations between the two countries. However, the primary discussion reported to the news media was the recent attacks on the Hindu temples in Australia. The foreign secretary Vinay Mohan Kwatra, responding to a question about the attacks, reiterated that the Indian government had made its case very clearly. "The attack on the temples and activities of the other separatist elements were also discussed by the two prime ministers earlier and today. From the discussions last time till this time, the progress is clearly reflected in the fact that PM Modi thanked PM Albanese for the action that the Govt of Australia has taken against these elements," said Kwatra.

There is absolutely nothing improper about a leader concerned about his people in foreign lands, especially for their security and safety. However, it is ironic for a man to engage in primary discussion protecting the places of worship of his own faith on a foreign land while allowing 253 churches to be torched by his supporters back home. Christian organizations in the area have recorded the burning, damage, or destruction of those churches and six Christian Institutions amid the wave of violence. Significantly, these churches primarily served as places of worship for Meitei Christians. It is alleged that these structures were primarily targeted and destroyed by Meitei Hindus. The RSS, the militant Hindu Group, is believed to be behind these attacks. One also wonders that in the middle of the fight between

Meiteis and Kukis over land rights, why did the mob burn down and destroy 249 churches in the Meitei heartland in the first wave of violence?

Mr. Joshua Hangshing, one of the victims of this dastardly attack, said, "Mobs shouted threatening at my wife, accusing her of converting to Christianity. Moments later, she and her son Joshua were burned alive while the perpetrators rejoiced in their macabre victory. The last words of my innocent son were Papa, Papa". This ongoing violence could have been prevented within days if the government in Manipur and the Home Ministry in Delhi had acted responsibly.

In a parliamentary democracy, elections are competitive and often fought bitterly. However, once a party leader takes the oath of office, that person becomes the leader of the entire nation. However, what we are witnessing in India today contradicts that norm. Prime Minister Modi and the party he represents, BJP, may be interested only in one religious group's welfare and appear unconcerned about its implications. The consequences are out in the open where minorities fall victim to his party's nefarious agenda pressing ahead for a majoritarian rule.

For Indian Americans, a state visit by the leader of their motherland should be a heartwarming occasion. Undoubtedly, it signifies the importance the U.S. government attaches to this relationship. They would like to see a warm relationship built on shared values and shared interests. However, the Diaspora is polarized over this overture as numerous reports indicate how the Modi administration's efforts to undermine its democratic institutions, including the

judiciary, muzzling the media and driving the nation on a perilous path towards authoritarianism.

Although the Biden Administration promised to put human rights, religious freedom, and press freedom at the forefront of foreign policy, they appear to be very selective in their approach to building relationships. If America should continue to be a shining city on a hill for all those who love freedom and liberty, President Biden should have a frank talk and sincere discussion with Prime Minister Modi urging him to uphold shared values, without which a stronger or more reliable friendship can never be achieved. Mr. President, please ask Mr. Modi why he didn't utter a word until now on the continuing bloodshed and suffering of his own people in Manipur as he readies to raise his champagne glass in the White House.

It is a sad spectacle that a good portion of the Indian Diaspora shows little or no compassion for the suffering people in Manipur. According to Arthur Schopenhauer, compassion is the basis for morality. When we restrain compassion, our moral identity is compromised. It is time to ponder that India's success as a democracy is seriously compromised by a serious deficit of compassion and a pervasive absence of integrity. India's own treatment of its vulnerable minorities is not a good indicator of the well-being of Non-resident Indians across the world, where they will not have a leg to stand on demanding fairness, equality, and justice.

(Author is a former Chief Technology Officer at the United Nations. He is Vice Chairman of IOC USA. He can be reached at gta777@gmail.com)



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PM Modi applauds role of Indian Americans, says they strengthened India-US relationship

JUNE 23, 2023

WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP): Indian Americans have played a significant role in the all-round development of the nation they live in and also in strengthening the India-US relationship, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Thursday.

Modi was addressing the State Dinner hosted in his honor by US President Joe Biden and First Lady Jill Biden at the North Lawn of the White House.

More than 400 guests were invited for the dinner and they included big names in the tech world and billionaire industrialists such as Mukesh Ambani, Anand Mahindra, Google CEO Sunder Pichai, Microsoft CEO Satya Nadella and Apple CEO Tim Cook.

During his address at the State Dinner, Modi raised a toast for his 'wonderful' hosts.

He raised it for good health, prosperity and the pursuit of happiness to liberty, equality and fraternity, and to the everlasting bonds of friendship between India and the US.

"With every passing day, Indians and Americans are getting to know each other better. We can pronounce each other's names correctly. We can understand each other's accent better. Children in India become Spider Man on Halloween, and America's youth is dancing to the tune of 'Naatu Naatu'," the prime minister said.

Americans love baseball, but cricket is also becoming popular in the US, he said.

"The American team is trying its best to qualify for the Cricket World Cup to be



President Joe Biden and First Lady Jill Biden receive PM Modi at the State dinner at the White House

held in India later this year. I wish them good luck and success," the prime minister said.

Modi told Biden that he has gathered a group of exceptionally talented and remarkable people tonight.

"I must commend you for that. These people symbolize so much about India-US relations, our energy, our dynamism and our nation," he said.

"Indian Americans have come a long way in the US. They are proud of India's values, democratic traditions and culture and have always found a respectful place in America's melting pot. Indian

Americans have played a significant role in further strengthening the inclusive society and economy of the US," Prime Minister Modi said.

"Be it hospitals or hotels, universities or research labs, gas stations or logistics management, they are making their mark everywhere," the prime minister said.

Modi spoke in Hindi with the speech being translated to English.

President Biden in his remarks said the bonds between India and the US stretch back to America's earliest days.

"In 1792, our first president, George Washington, established one of the first

consulates in Calcutta a hub of commerce and culture..." he said.

Biden said there are reasons the two democracies endure, allow and reflect to renew generation after generation.

"I see in my visit to India. I see in the diaspora here in America, in the arts, education, in the media, law, medicine, science and businesses of every size, in Spelling Bee champions, even in cricket clubs across the country, including back in my home state of Delaware and a record number of Indian Americans in Congress who are here tonight," the President said.

Prime Minister Modi is visiting the US from June 21-24 at the invitation of President Joe Biden and the First Lady.

The guest list also included human rights activist Martin Luther King III, tennis legend Billie Jean King, filmmaker M Night Shyamalan, fashion designer Ralph Lauren, Grammy award winner Joshua Bell and entrepreneur Frank Islam.

Indian Americans lawmakers on the list were Pramila Jayapal, Shri Thanedar, Ro Khanna, Ami Bera and Raja Krishnamoorthi.

Members of the Biden family at the dinner included Hunter Biden, Ashley Biden, James Biden and Naomi Biden Neal. Vice President Kamala Harris, who will host a luncheon for Prime Minister Modi, was also present.

India's National Security Advisor Ajit Doval and External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar attended the dinner along with US diplomats and members of the Biden administration. (Source: PTI)

India is the only G20 country that fulfilled all the promises on climate change, says PM Modi

JUNE 22, 2023

WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP): India is the only G20 country that has fulfilled all the promises it made in Paris on climate change, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Thursday, asserting that India will not only fulfil its responsibilities but will also help others including the US in this critical area.

The Prime Minister was referring to obligations under the 2015 Paris Agreement.

As far as India is concerned, the environment, and climate, are extremely important in our cultural traditions for us. The environment is an article of faith. This is not just something that we need to do for convenience. We believe this. We do not believe in the exploitation of nature., Modi said in response to a question by PTI at a joint news conference with President Joe Biden in the East Room of the White House.

In order for all of creation to work, we can make nature -- we cannot have exploitation of nature and we have always believed this," he said.



G-20 countries Photo/ courtesy Al Jazeera

And on the basis of these values, India is not only doing things for itself but is taking some global initiatives as well, he said.

You perhaps know that of the G20 countries, the promises they made in Paris, of all the G20 countries, India is the only country that has fulfilled all the promises it made at the G20. Not just that, in the area of solar energy in Glasgow, we have set ourselves a target to achieve 500GW of renewable energy by 2030, Modi said. India has set itself the target to make Indian Railways net zero.

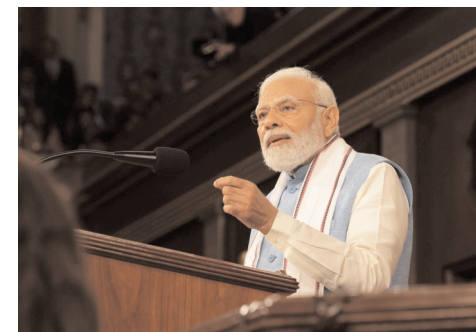
(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)

"Shaping Lives, Dreams, Destinies": PM Concludes Power-Packed US Visit

JUNE 23, 2023

WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP): Prime Minister Narendra Modi doubled down on the "Make in India" push in the last leg of his power-packed US visit today, flagging it to a huge gathering of Indian expats in Washington. "Investments from US will give a boost to job creation, innovation in India," he told them, listing the multiple tech-linked accords that would help India break new grounds -- the jet engine technology, semiconductor chain, big investments from Apple and Google. Speaking at Washington's Reagan Centre, PM Modi flagged not only the achievements of the country, but also the "new journey" it started with the US during his state visit, which will "reshape the world".

"In these three days, in India and US relations, a new and glorious yatra has begun This new yatra is about our cooperation for Make in India, Make for the World," said the Prime Minister, who was pitching India as an investment destination to US entrepreneurs a short while ago. Together, US and India are "not just forming policies, we are shaping lives, dreams and destinies... Be it convergence



PM Narendra Modi said US, India "not just forming policies, but shaping lives, dreams and destinies".

on global issues or tech transfer, both countries taking strong steps for better future," said PM Modi, whose landmark state visit saw US and India drawn together closer than ever, focusing on new areas to explore and collaborate on.

In his second address at the joint sitting of the US Congress on Thursday -- a rare distinction for any world leader -- PM Modi had spoken of India's fast-growing economy, rapid pace of development in terms of infrastructure, digitization and commitment to democratic values. (Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)

India US cooperation will serve the global good, says joint statement

JUNE 22, 2023

WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP):

Affirming a vision of the US and India as among the closest partners, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and President Joe Biden on Thursday, June 22, said that the diverse partnership between the two nations will serve the global good.

The US-India Comprehensive Global and Strategic Partnership are anchored in a new level of trust and mutual understanding and enriched by the warm bonds of family and friendship that inextricably link the two countries together, said a joint statement issued by the White House after the talks between Prime Minister and the President in the Oval Office and the Cabinet meeting room.

"Together, we will build an even stronger, diverse US-India partnership that will advance the aspirations of our people for a bright and prosperous future grounded in respect for human rights, and shared principles of democracy, freedom, and the rule of law," said the joint statement.

"Our cooperation will serve the global good as we work through a range of multilateral and regional groupings - particularly the Quad- to contribute toward a free, open, inclusive, and resilient Indo-Pacific. No corner of human enterprise is untouched by the partnership between our two great countries, which spans the seas to the stars," said the statement.

Upbeat about the relationship, Prime Minister Modi told reporters during a news conference that now even the sky is not the limit.

"In fact, in short for India and America partnership, even this -- even the sky is not the limit. Friends, the most important pillar of our relations is our people-to-people ties," he said.

"Two of the world's largest democracies, India and America can together make an important contribution to global peace stability and prosperity. I'm confident that based on these values, we will be able to fulfil the expectations and aspirations of not only the people of our two countries but of the entire world," he said.

Affirming that technology will play the defining role in deepening our partnership, the joint statement said the leaders hailed the inauguration of the initiative on Critical and Emerging Technology (iCET) in January 2023 as a major milestone in US-India relations.

"They called on our governments, businesses, and academic institutions to



US President Joe Biden and India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the press conference

realize their shared vision for the strategic technology partnership. The leaders recommitted the United States and India to fostering an open, accessible, and secure technology ecosystem, based on mutual confidence and trust that reinforces our shared values and democratic institutions," it said.

Observing that the US-India Major Defense Partnership has emerged as a pillar of global peace and security, the statement said that through joint exercises, strengthening of defense industrial cooperation, the annual "2+2" Ministerial Dialogue, and other consultative mechanisms, the two countries have made substantial progress in building an advanced and comprehensive defense partnership in which the militaries coordinate closely across all domains.

"The leaders appreciated the strong military-to-military ties, mutual logistics support, and efforts to streamline implementation of foundational agreements. They noted that information sharing and placement of Liaison Officers in each other's military organizations will spur joint service cooperation.

They also reiterated their resolve to strengthen maritime security cooperation, including through enhanced underwater domain awareness. The leaders welcomed the launch of dialogues in new defense domains including space and Artificial intelligence, which will enhance capacity building, knowledge, and

expertise, said the joint statement.

As climate action and clean energy leaders, the United States and India share a common and ambitious vision to rapidly deploy clean energy at scale, build economic prosperity, and help achieve global climate goals.

"They recognize the critical role of the US Inflation Reduction Act and India's ambitious production-linked incentives scheme for cutting-edge clean and renewable technologies. The leaders highlighted the U.S.-India Climate and Clean Energy Agenda 2030 Partnership and Strategic Clean Energy Partnership (SCEP) as reflective of this commitment," said the joint statement.

As global partners, the United States and India affirmed that the rules-based international order must be respected.

They emphasized that the contemporary global order has been built on principles of the UN Charter, international law, and respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of states, the joint statement said.

As two of the world's largest democratic economies, the United States and India are indispensable partners in advancing global prosperity and a free, fair, and rules-based economic order, the joint statement said.

Biden highlighted the impactful participation of Modi in the G7 Hiroshima Summit and looks forward to the G20 Summit in September in New Delhi.

He applauded India's leadership in its ongoing G20 Presidency, which has brought renewed focus on strengthening

multilateral institutions and international cooperation to tackle global challenges such as climate change, pandemics, fragility and conflict, along with work to accelerate the achievement of the UN Sustainable Development Goals, and lay the foundation for strong, sustainable, balanced, and inclusive growth, said the joint statement.

HERE IS THE TEXT OF THE JOINT STATEMENT .

Joint Statement from the United States and India

June 22, 2023

1. President Joseph R. Biden, Jr. and Prime Minister Narendra Modi today affirmed a vision of the United States and India as among the closest partners in the world - a partnership of democracies looking into the 21st century with hope, ambition, and confidence. The U.S.-India Comprehensive Global and Strategic Partnership is anchored in a new level of trust and mutual understanding and enriched by the warm bonds of family and friendship that inextricably link our countries together. Together, we will build an even stronger, diverse U.S.-India partnership that will advance the aspirations of our people for a bright and prosperous future grounded in respect for human rights, and shared principles of democracy, freedom, and the rule of law. Our cooperation will serve the global good as we work through a range of multilateral and regional groupings - particularly the Quad- to contribute toward a free, open, inclusive, and resilient Indo-Pacific. No corner of human enterprise is untouched by the partnership between our two great countries, which spans the seas to the stars.


Charting a Technology Partnership for the Future

2. President Biden and Prime Minister Modi affirm that technology will play the defining role in deepening our partnership. The leaders hailed the inauguration of the Initiative on Critical and Emerging Technology (iCET) in January 2023 as a major milestone in U.S.-India relations. They called on our governments, businesses, and academic institutions to realize their shared vision for the strategic technology partnership. The leaders recommitted the United States and India to fostering an open, accessible, and secure technology ecosystem, based on mutual confidence and trust that reinforces our shared values and democratic institutions.

Charting a Technology Partnership for the Future

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CONTD ON PAGE 44



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Mob torches Manipur minister's godown, tries to burn down residence

A group of people set on fire a private godown of Manipur minister L Susindro at Chingarel in Imphal East district, reducing it to ashes, police said on Saturday, June 23.

An attempt was also made to torch another property of the consumer and food affairs minister and his residence at Khurai in the same district on Friday night but timely intervention prevented it.

Security forces fired several rounds of teargas shells till midnight to prevent the mob from gheraoing his Khurai residence, police said.

No casualty was reported in the incident.

Centre suggests common exam for govt engineering colleges, IITs object

An April IIT Council meeting saw the Union government suggesting that one way to lessen the pressure on students and lessen the hold of test-prep institutes over admission to the premier engineering institutions was to perhaps have one common entrance exam for all centrally funded technical institutions (CFTIs) -- an idea that was promptly shot down by the IITs.

The government's plan would entail scrapping the JEE (Advanced). The minutes of the April 18 meeting were released on Thursday.

According to the minutes, an item titled "need for common admission test for all CFTIs" was introduced during the meeting by NAAC (National Assessment and Accreditation Council) chairperson Anil D Sahasrabudhe.

"A detailed discussion was followed in the matter among chairmen of IITs and other members of the council. It was decided to have brainstorming sessions in the next three to four months to examine the various facets of the issue in light of the assertions of the NEP (National Education Policy) 2020, and the overall well-being of students across the country," the minutes said.

Indian immigration agent arrested, charged in fake admission letter scandal in Canada

JALANDHAR (TIP)

Brijesh Mishra, an Indian immigration agent accused of involvement in a scandal related to fake Canadian college admission letters, has been apprehended in Canada and is currently facing criminal charges.

Mishra, who operates an immigration agency called EMSA in Jalandhar, went missing just before the scandal came to light. This situation has put hundreds of students from Punjab and other Indian states at risk of deportation due to the fraudulent college admission letter scam.

The Canada Border Services Agency took action against Mishra on Friday, June 23, charging him with offering immigration advice without a licence and counselling others to misrepresent or withhold information from authorities. Mishra's inadmissibility to Canada was discovered when he attempted to enter the country, leading to his arrest. After being held in custody, charges were officially filed against him on Friday for his alleged role in issuing fraudulent letters of acceptance to prospective Indian students seeking admission to Canadian institutions.

Notably, Brijesh Mishra is currently in pre-trial detention in British Columbia. According to a source, since he has been criminally charged, his custody has been transferred from the Canada Border Services Agency to law enforcement in British Columbia. "A bail hearing for Mishra is scheduled for tonight, although



there is a possibility of an adjournment, in which case, the bail hearing would take place on Monday", he informed.

These developments follow the recent announcement by Immigration Minister Sean Fraser, who pledged to halt the pending deportations of international Indian students who claim to have been deceived by Mishra and other unscrupulous agents.

Meanwhile, a group of affected students, numbering in hundreds, had recently written a letter addressed to the Chief Minister of Punjab, urging swift action to address the issue. They emphasised the importance of identifying the immigration agents and agencies involved in these fraudulent activities.

The affected students allege that they were deceived by Mishra and other

unscrupulous agents, including Maan Singh Gill of Global Education in Amritsar, Jasmeet Kaur and Atul Mahajan of Orange Overseas in Mohali, Tarun Kalia of Dream Glow Education in Sahibabad (UP), and Gurbaj Gill of Fly Overseas, whose whereabouts are not known to anyone.

They said their admission letters were tampered with, and they only discovered the issue when flagged by border officials during their postgraduate work permit or permanent residence application processes.

Reacting to Mishra's arrest, Inderjit Aulakh, a student, said, the most wanted individual in the case has been arrested, and "we hope he exposes the possible nexus on how he defrauded thousands".

Source: TNS

Assam CM Himanta Sarma's 'Hussain Obamas' tweet sparks row, Oppn reacts sharply

NEW DELHI (TIP)

Assam chief minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on Friday, June 23, - a day after former US president Barack Obama commented on the protection of Muslims in India - stirred a controversy by claiming that there are many "Hussain Obamas" in the country and the state police will act according to its priorities. The Opposition was quick to hit back at the Assam chief minister.

Sarma's tweet was in response to a journalist's post on Obama's interview to CNN on Thursday, in which he said that if US President Joe Biden met Prime Minister Modi, then the protection of the Muslim minority in a majority Hindu India is "something worth mentioning."

"Has an FIR been filed in Guwahati yet against Obama for hurting sentiment? Is Assam police on its way to Washington to get Obama offloaded from some flight and arrest him?" the journalist tweeted.

The tweet was apparently referring to FIRs being lodged in Assam against opposition leaders over their remarks in different parts of the country.

The Assam Police had travelled to different locations and even made arrests,



including deplaning and apprehending Congress leader Pawan Khara in February and arresting then-Independent Gujarat MLA Jignesh Mevani last year.

In response, Sarma wrote, "There are many Hussain Obama in India itself. We should prioritize taking care of them before considering going to Washington. The Assam police will act according to our own priorities."

The Assam chief minister's comment comes hours after Prime Minister Narendra Modi, at a joint White House press conference with President Biden,

claimed that "there is no discrimination in India" on the grounds of caste or religion because his government follows the Constitution, which is formed on the basic values of democracy.

The Assam chief minister's comment comes hours after Prime Minister Narendra Modi, at a joint White House press conference with President Biden, claimed that "there is no discrimination in India" on the grounds of caste or religion because his government follows the Constitution, which is formed on the basic values of democracy.

Congress spokesperson and social media head Supriya Shrinete tweeted, "My friend Barack' is now Hussain Obama! Actually Himanta has answered what PM Modi was asked at White House. His insinuation - about President Obama being a muslim and Indian Muslims need to be taught a lesson - was the question's premise. What is the PM, MEA and Govt of India's stand on this?"

Shiv Sena (UBT) MP Priyanka Chaturvedi also reacted to Sarma's tweet. "From Barack to Hussain. A sitting BJP CM proving Barack Obama's comments were not misplaced," she tweeted.

'Socialist', 'Secular' missing from Preamble published on Telangana's Class 10 textbook cover

The Telangana State Council of Educational Research and Training (SCERT) has got mired in a controversy following the publication of the Preamble of the Constitution on the cover page of a school textbook allegedly without the words 'socialist' and 'secular'.

The SCERT, however, maintained that the error occurred due to oversight. The Telangana State United Teachers' Federation (TSUTF) submitted a representation to the secretary of education department on Thursday, June 22, complaining that the words 'socialist' and 'secular' were "removed" from the Preamble published on the cover page of the class 10 social studies textbook published by the SCERT.

The two words were included in the Preamble through the 42nd Constitutional amendment, the TSUTF recalled.

However, the Preamble, including the two words, was published in the pages inside class 8 and 10 social studies books, it said.

At a time when there is a debate "across the globe" that secularism was in danger in India, the publication of the old Preamble "the way some people want it" instead of the one that is in force gives rise to several doubts, the Federation claimed.

UP adds biographies of 11 leaders, including Nehru, Savarkar, to curriculum for Classes 9-12

The Uttar Pradesh board of secondary education has included biographies of Hindutva ideologue V D Savarkar, Maratha king Chhatrapati Shivaji and tribal leader Birsra Munda in the curriculum for classes 9 to 12.

Biographies of India's first prime minister Jawaharlal Nehru, spiritual leader Swami Vivekananda, Arya Samaj founder Swami Dayanand Saraswati, and writer and freedom fighter Pandit Shriram Sharma have been included in the curriculum.

Uttar Pradesh Madhyamik Shiksha Parishad (UPMSP) Secretary Dibyakant Shukla told PTI that biographies of 11 leaders have been included in the moral education syllabus for Classes 9 to 12.

Students will read about these leaders from academic session 2023-24, he said.

Apart from this, many things from the field of science and technology have been included in the computer syllabus, Shukla said.

He said the objective behind including new things in the curriculum is to ensure the all-round development of children. Surya namaskar, asanas, mudras and pranayama have been included in the Class 9 curriculum.

Congress not a team player, must clear ordinance stance: AAP after Patna Opposition meet

NEW DELHI (TIP)

The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) on Friday, June 22, said that it will find it difficult to attend future meetings of opposition parties where the Congress is present if the latter does not publicly denounce a controversial ordinance granting the Centre control over Delhi's bureaucracy, highlighting fissures within the opposition camp.

Four leaders from the AAP – Delhi chief minister Arvind Kejriwal, his Punjab counterpart Bhagwant Mann, and parliamentarians Raghav Chadha and Sanjay Singh – attended the meeting at Bihar chief minister Nitish Kumar's residence, but hours later, the party released a statement strongly criticising the Congress.

The statement said that in the meeting, many political parties urged the Congress to publicly denounce the ordinance. "However, the Congress refused to do so," added the statement that was issued even as other opposition leaders were speaking in a joint press conference in Patna, which the AAP leaders skipped. "In personal discussions, senior Congress leaders have hinted that their party might informally or formally abstain from voting on it in the Rajya Sabha. The Congress' abstention from voting on this issue will help the BJP immensely in furthering its attack on Indian democracy. It is high time that Congress decides whether it stands with the people of Delhi or the Modi government," the statement said.

In the meeting, people aware of developments said that Kejriwal insisted



Delhi chief minister Arvind Kejriwal and Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann attend the Opposition leaders' meeting regarding a joint strategy for the 2024 Lok Sabha elections, in Patna. ANI

that the Congress must clarify its stand on the ordinance in this meeting. But Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge maintained that any such decision could only be taken after the Congress discussed the issue in its parliamentary party meeting. "We have a system in place," Kharge said, according to the people cited above.

While the issue of the ordinance is important given that it has wider ramifications and is not limited to one state, the meeting was also a moment where opposition parties rose above their differences to forge a national political strategy and narrative.

Last month, the Centre promulgated an ordinance restoring to itself the power over services in Delhi by making a raft of

major amendments in the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi (GNCTD) Act, 1991. The ordinance effectively rolled back a Constitution bench judgment of the Supreme Court that handed over control of the bureaucracy in the Capital to the elected government, excluding those connected to police, public order and land.

The ordinance is likely to be brought before Parliament in the upcoming monsoon session for approval, presenting a key challenge for Opposition unity. While several parties such as the Trinamool Congress, Left parties and Bharat Rashtra samithi have assured the AAP of support, the Congress is yet to make a public declaration.

First made-in-India GE engine to be rolled out in three years

NEW DELHI (TIP)

The first made-in-India General Electric (GE) engine, the GE-F414, will be rolled out within three years, while the jet engine deal signed between GE and Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) yesterday will see 80 per cent technology transfer by value.

The US company will transfer to HAL critical and restricted technologies, some of which are among the most elusive and only the US, the UK, France and Russia have these.

"India will be getting the technology that has never been transferred to any country," said a top functionary in the defence establishment.

The GE-F414 engines are compatible with the Light Combat Aircraft Tejas Mark-2, the forthcoming twin-engine deck-based fighter jet of the Navy and the initial lot of the Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft (AMCA). For the later version of the AMCA, the GE has submitted a separate proposal of co-developing and co-manufacturing higher-powered engine having 110 Kilo Newton thrust.

The F414 engine has a thrust of 95 Kn. The GE had yesterday announced a partnership with HAL. "The deal is done and dusted, the commercial part will be done soon. We are ready to sign the contract," sources said. The Ministry of Defence (MoD) had, two weeks ago, given the permission to test the



prototype of Tejas Mark-2. The GE has already supplied eight engines for the testing process.

The GE and the MoD had, in 2012, agreed to produce F414 engine in India, with 58 per cent local content. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh had been working on the project closely on signing the agreement with the US. Now, the local content and technology transfer will be augmented to 80 per cent

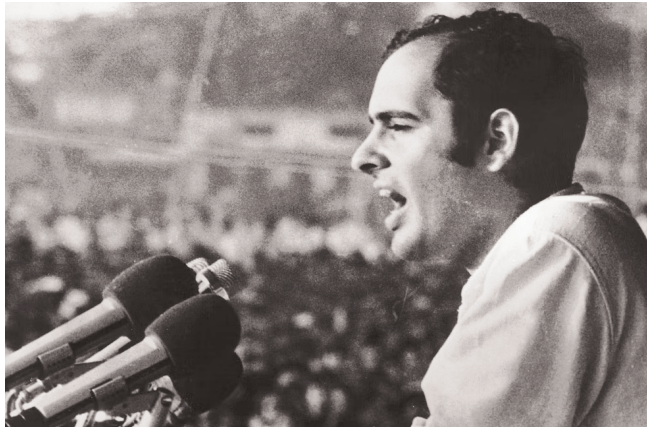
The MoD will be indexing the costing from the 2012 agreement, added to it will be the cost of inflation and technology transfer.

Source: TNS

India in history this Week

JUNE 23, 2023, TO JUNE 29, 2023

23 JUNE



1980 Sanjay Gandhi, a member of the Nehru-Gandhi family, died in the plane crash.

1985 An Air India passenger plane crashed into the air near the coast of Ireland. All 329 passengers aboard the plane were killed in this accident.

1761 Death of Maratha ruler Peshwa Balaji Baji Rao.

1810 Construction of Duncan Dock of Bombay completed.

1953 Jana Sangh founder Shyama Prasad Mukherjee died in a hospital in Kashmir.

2008 JK Tire India Limited, the country's leading tire maker, acquired Mexico's tire company Tormal and its subsidiaries for \$ 270 million.

2008 The selection committee recommended in 2008 to confer the Dadasaheb Phalke Award on famous Bengali actor Soumitra Chatterjee.

2014 Gujarat's 'Rani Ki Vav' and Himachal's 'Great Himalayan National Park' were included in the 2014 World Heritage List.

1934 Gandhian thinker and social worker Chandi Prasad Bhatt was born.

24 JUNE

1654 Rani Durgavati was martyred during the war with the Mughals.

1961 India's first indigenous HF24 supersonic fighter aircraft took off in 1961.



H.J. Bhabha and 116 die in plane crash



Air India Boeing hits Mont Blanc in fog

No survivors; five bodies recovered so far

Bad weather hampers salvage operations

1966 117 people died when an Air India aircraft going from Mumbai to New York crashed in Mount Blanc, Switzerland. Homi Jehangir Bhabha, an Indian nuclear physicist, founding director, and professor of physics at the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research, was among those killed.

1974 The Indian team was reduced to 42 against England in the second innings of the 1974 Lord's Test. This is India's minimum score in the Test and it lost by innings and 285 runs.

1986 The government announced that unmarried mothers will also get maternity leave under their employment scheme.

1989 A majority of opposition members resigned from the Lok Sabha in 1989 over the issue of the CAG report on the Bofors gun deal.

1990 Defense scientists successfully tested the country's first third-generation anti-tank missile 'NAG' in 1990.

1885 Famous politician and staunch Sikh leader

Tara Singh was born.

1869 Damodar Hari Chapekar, one of the revolutionary immortal martyrs of India, was born.

1863 Vishwanath Kashinath Rajwade, the famous Indian writer, historian, best orator and scholar was born.

1980 The fourth President of India, V.V. Giri died.

25 JUNE



1908 Sucheta Kripalani, the first female Chief Minister in the country, was born.

1975 On the advice of Indira Gandhi-led Congress government, President Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed announced the imposition of Emergency in the country.

1932 The Indian cricket team played its first Test match at the Lord's ground in Britain.

1983 India defeated the West Indies by 43 runs to win the Cricket World Cup title for the first time.

2004 Russia decided to extend a strategic partnership with India.

1903 Chandrashekhar Pandey - was born a litterateur.

1950 Swami Sahajanand Saraswati social reformer and revolutionary died.

1931 Vishwanath Pratap Singh, the eighth Prime Minister of India was born.

1975 Captain Manoj Kumar Pandey, an Indian Army officer who was posthumously awarded India's highest gallantry medal Paramveer Chakra for exceptional bravery in the 1999 Kargil War, was born

26 JUNE

2004 Famous filmmaker Yash Johar died on this day.



1838 The birth of Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay, Bengali novelist and creator of Vande Mataram.

1873 Birth of Indian singer and dancer Gauhar Jaan.

1888 Birth of Bal Gandharva, the great hero and famous singer of Marathi theater.

1918 Birth of Indian Lieutenant Second Lieutenant Rama Raghoba Rane, awarded Paramveer Chakra.

1961 Famous litterateur Govind Shastri Dugvekar passed away.

1967 The birth of Tarun Sagar, the famous saint of the Indian Digambara sect of Jainism.

1975 India's first woman Prime Minister Indira Gandhi declared a state of emergency in the country.

1982 Air India's first Boeing Gourishankar crashed in Mumbai.

27 JUNE



1839 Maharaj Ranjit Singh, the founder of the Sikh Empire, died.

1838 Nationalist author Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay was born

1939 Music composer RD Burman, who gave music in more than 300 films, was born.

1964 PT Usha, who was known worldwide by the name of Udanpari, was born.

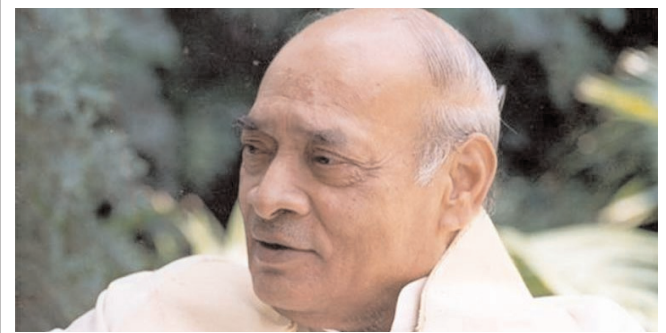
1964 Teen Murti Bhawan was made Nehru Museum.

2008 India and Pakistan have overcome bottlenecks in the commissioning of the Iranian gas pipeline project.



2008 Former Army Chief Sam Manekshaw, who played a key role in the Indian Army's victory against Pakistan in the 1971 war, died

28 JUNE



1921 Former Prime Minister PV Narasimha Rao, who had knowledge of 17 languages, was born.

1975 In the backdrop of anti-government protests during the Emergency in India, the Center implemented the most rigorous press censorship since Independence.

1986 Agreement with Mizo National Front, Lal Denga becomes Chief Minister of Mizoram.

1986 The Central Government also enacted a law to provide maternity leave to unmarried girls.

1996 India opened its mission in Palestinian-controlled Gaza City.

29 JUNE

1757 Mir Jafar succeeded the Nawab of Bengal, Bihar and Odisha.

1888 The first (known) recording of classical music was made.

2005 Composite 10-year agreement between India and the United States.

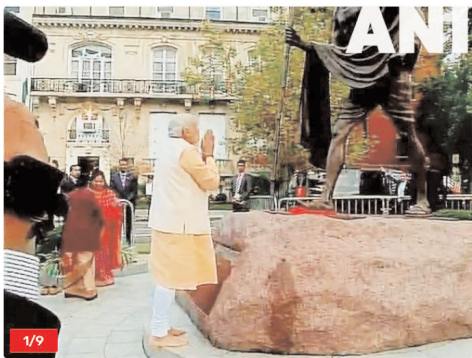
1893 Indian scientist and statistician Prashant Chandra Mahalanobis was born.

MODI FOOLS AMERICAN PUBLIC AND MEDIA



BY DAVE MAKKAR

When it comes to foreign relations, America's policy is never based on "Human Rights Abuse" or "Religious Persecution" in a country. When White House can host Taliban Leaders in the past it makes it less controversial if they host a known communal and a criminal PM of India, Narendra Modi. US Foreign Relations are purely based on "Economics" and dictated by America's vast Military and Industrial complex and its MNC's to profit from the sales of their merchandise.



PM Narendra Modi pays tribute at Mahatma Gandhi's statue in front of the Indian Embassy in Washington DC on Tuesday.

India with its border with 2 enemies; China and Pakistan and a middle class of 350-450 million out of 1.425 billion population is a cash cow to sell high profit margin American War Toys, selective technology, Aircrafts, and junk food like Beverages, Burgers, Fries, Shakes, Pizzas in India.

For America there are 2 Indias - one with the middle class that is bigger than its own total population of 330 million, and the other is that they don't care, with almost 1 billion people. Out of that, according to PM Modi, his government is providing subsidized food to 800 million every month merely to stay alive. This India is living under the very dark and thick smog of hunger, poverty, unemployment, lack of housing, healthcare, education, basic hygiene, drinking water etc. Surprisingly, it is invisible to well to do rich Indians, Indians abroad as well as foreigners. American politicians and Media have never bothered to discuss this India with any Indian PM even if they have an opportunity when they are in America on an "Official State Visit".

Since 2002 Modi has not held a Press Conference or an interview within or outside India with Indian or Foreign Media. His event managers know money is not an issue; so, they have to create a narrative that looks good to the foreigners and, after editing, it can also be used in election campaigns in India.

Modi is a phony Showman with unlimited funds that he spends lavishly on his personal grooming like customized clothing made of exotic fabrics with most expensive accessories, makeup artist etc. Then he can have well organized high tech public Rallies with hired crowds stretching up to 15-25 kilometers in India. The other trait that he has which no other world

MUMBAI MERI JAAN BY MANJUL



leader has, is to organize well attended public events in foreign countries with 20,000 to 50,000 attendees along with top local & national top-ranking politicians including the President or Prime Minister of that country.

The first narrative specially created for American Public, Politicians and Media, after landing in America on 06-20-23, Modi went to pay homage to Mahatma Gandhi near the Indian Embassy in Washington. For Modi it is a standard ritual; when in a foreign country, he must pretend to honor Mahatma Gandhi. While in India, the same Modi publicly worships Savarkar, a British stooge and his follower Nathuram Godse who killed Mahatma Gandhi!

Just on 06-09-23 in India, Modi's Minister Giriraj Singh termed Nathuram Godse a 'sapoot' (worthy son) of India and said the assassin of Mahatma Gandhi was not an invader like Mughal rulers Babar and Aurangzeb as he was born in India. "If Godse was Gandhi's assassin, he was also a worthy son of India." And those who feel happy to call themselves children of Babar cannot be true worthy sons of India."

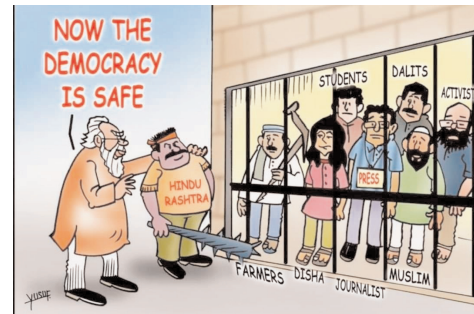
But Modi, the man who turned Mahatma Gandhi's spectacles into a logo for Swachh Bharat (Clean India Mission) by rebranding Nirmal Bharat Abhiyan (Total Sanitation Program started in 1999 by PM Atal Behari Vajpayee of Modi's BJP), said nothing and takes no action to pull up his Minister Giriraj Singh for praising Mahatma Gandhi's assassin Nathuram Godse.

Giriraj Singh is still a Minister in the Union Cabinet of Modi. In 2018 Singh was named in a case of grabbing land belonging to a Dalit in his native Bihar. When Modi never terminated him for this case; how you can expect Modi to terminate Singh for merely making a statement against Mahatma Gandhi, who he also trashes and abuses in all his election rallies.

Mahatma Gandhi's name reminds me of



an incident that happened in Howdy Modi, paid & managed by Modi in 2019 in Texas with almost 50,000 attendees. Modi who is used to bashing, rather abusing Father of the Nation Mahatma Gandhi and the first PM Jawahar Lal Nehru in his all-political rallies, was forced to learn history of India and how the foreigners look at India. US House Majority Leader Steny Hoyer said, "India, like America, is proud of its ancient traditions to secure a future according to Gandhi's teaching and Nehru's vision of



India as a secular democracy where respect for pluralism and human rights safeguard every individual." He also recalled that Nehru on the eve of Independence had spoken of Gandhi's ambition "to wipe every tear from every eye" and that "as long as there are tears and suffering, so long our work will not be over." "In that sense, the work of our country is not over."

Still the shameless and self-praising Modi lied in 8-10 Indian languages, "All is well in India". He is "Promoting Transparency, Public Participation, and is anti-corruption" by gutting the Right To Information, turning the CBI & ED into agencies that give Free Ride to the politicians & corporates that are on his side of the political divide and put anyone in jail who opposes Modi! Recently his government brought a Bill in Parliament that to be a Fact Checker you must have government approval. Bravo Modi Ji.

Then on June 21, 2023, Modi created a bigger extravaganza- a narrative - by promoting Yoga in USA to fool the American public. Modi will use this for his re-election campaign that he is the one who got Yoga international recognition and he is the only one who can promote Hindu ideology abroad and can protect Hindus in India.

Entire mainstream Indian Media owned by his billionaire friends who stole public wealth, since April 2023, is paddling Modi's USA visit as if no other PM has ever been invited on a state visit to US, or to address the US Congress. PM Manmohan Singh was the first who visited USA on an "Official State Visit", addressed US



Congress and had dinner at the White House in 2009. Jawahar Lal Nehru, Rajiv Gandhi, PV Narasimha Rao, and Atal Behari Vajpayee of Modi's BJP have also addressed US Congress before Singh & Modi.

It is customary for US President and the foreign leader on Official State Visit to have a joint press conference. First, Modi refused a press conference, and then agreed with a condition that only 2 reporters can ask questions. Modi's aides insist that social media, which his party's vast communications apparatus has mastered, has made news conferences redundant.

When questioned about India's human rights record. Modi said, 'I'm actually really surprised that people say so,' he started his answer, then adding, 'there's absolutely no discrimination neither on the basis of caste, creed, or age' or any kind of geographic location.'

Sabrina Siddiqui of the Wall Street asked both leaders about human rights, pointing to Modi that while India has 'long prided itself as the world's largest democracy' a



number of human rights groups have said 'your government has discriminated against religious minorities and sought to silence its critics.'

Modi pushed back telling the journalist, 'India is indeed a democracy.'

'Democracy is in our DNA. Democracy is our spirit; democracy runs in our veins. We live democracy and our ancestors have actually put words to this concept and that is in the form of our Constitution,' Modi continued.

'Our constitution and our government have always proved that democracy can deliver. And when I say deliver, this is regardless of caste, creed, religion, gender, there's absolutely no space for discrimination,' Modi said.

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PM Narendra Modi's visit to US in pictures



PM Narendra Modi and US President Joe Biden - instant chemistry

India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi arrived on his first State visit to US from June 21 to June 23 at the invitation of US President Joe Biden and the First Lady Jill Biden. He arrived in New York on the first leg of his visit on June 20, 2023. The same day he met with Nobel Laureates, CEO's, Think Tank leaders and politicians.

On June 21, Modi participated in the International Day of Yoga celebrations at the United Nations where 175 nations were represented, and this being the largest gathering of diplomats at any event, it created a Guinness Book record.

On June 21, PM Modi had private dinner with Bidens at the White House.

On June 22 afternoon, PM Modi addressed the joint meeting of Congress. In the evening, Modi attended the State dinner in his honor at which about 400 guests were present. They included Mukesh Ambani, Sundar Pichai and many other CEO's, eminent personalities from all walks of life, besides lawmakers and politicians.

On June 23 morning, PM Modi had a meeting with Vice President Kamala Harris and other leaders.

In the evening PM Modi attended Diaspora events at Kennedy House and Regan Center.

He was to depart for Egypt on June 24 morning.

We bring you here the visit of PM Modi in pictures. For articles on Modi's visit, please turn to other pages.

Prime Minister Modi met with Elon Musk, CEO of Tesla, and Senator Chuck Schumer, Senate Majority Leader, among others on June 20.



Prime Minister Modi attended the International Day of Yoga at the United Nations on June 21 morning. The event was attended by diplomats from 175 nations, and the event got recorded in the Guinness Book of Records. President of the United Nations General Assembly Csaba Korösi was among those present.

Prime Minister Modi arrived in Washington D.C. on June 21 afternoon to a warm



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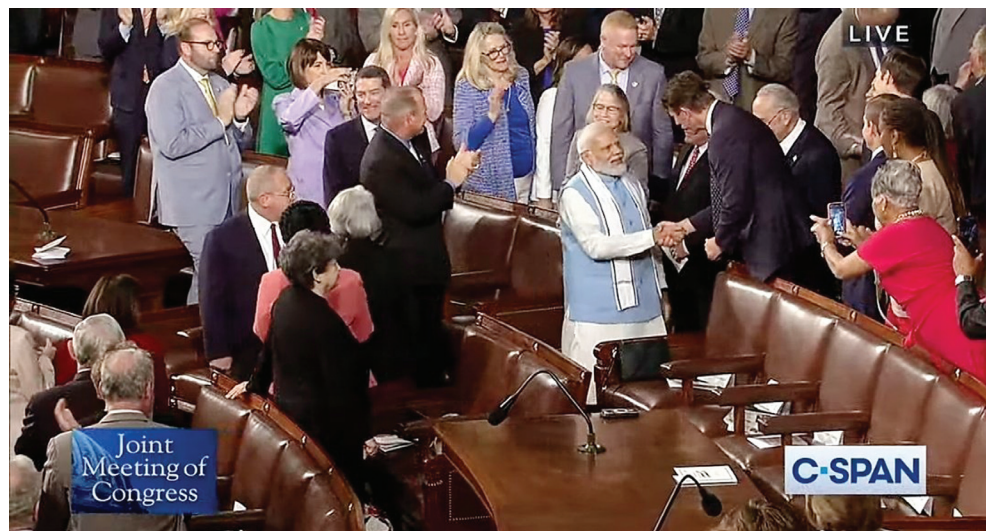


Prime Minister Modi, on June 22 afternoon, addressed the joint meeting of US Congress.



welcome by Indian Americans, and by President Biden and the First Lady Jill Biden. Modi had a private dinner with the Bidens at the White House in the evening.

The next day, June 22, US President Biden and India's Prime Minister Modi had talks followed by a press conference.



World celebrates International Day of Yoga

The world on June 21 marked the 9th year of the International Day of Yoga. UN recognised June 21 as the International Day of Yoga through a resolution in 2014. While the global celebration of IDY 2023 was led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the UN Headquarters in New York, USA, the national celebration of IDY 2023 was led by Vice-President of India, Jagdeep Dhankhar at Jabalpur in Madhya Pradesh.

'Yoga is a way of life', says PM Modi in New York

In a grand display of India's soft power, Prime Minister Narendra Modi participated in the International Day of Yoga celebrations at the United Nations headquarters in New York on June 21, and described yoga as a "truly universal" and unifying force across ethnicities, faiths and cultures.

The UN north lawns, overlooking the Hudson river, turned into a sea of white with an estimated 2,000 people representing around 135 nationalities joining Modi, the UN General Assembly president Csaba Korosi and the New York mayor Eric Adams in performing yoga. The participation of the most number of nationalities in a single yoga session hit the Guinness Book of World Records, and the Prime Minister hailed this unprecedented coming together of people from across the world.

"Yoga comes from India. It is a very old tradition. But it is living and dynamic. Yoga is free from copyright, from patents, from royalty payments. Yoga is adaptable to your age, gender and fitness level. Yoga is portable — you can do it at home or work or in transit. Yoga is flexible — you can practice it alone or in a group, learn from somewhere or be self taught. It is unifying, for all ethnicities, faiths, cultures. Yoga is truly universal. When we do Yoga, we feel fit, mentally calm and emotionally content," Modi



Prime Minister Narendra Modi led the celebration of the International Yoga Day at the UN Headquarters in New York, US.

Photo Credit : @narendramodi on Twitter

said, speaking in English.

The exercises were led by Annelies Richmond, a yoga trainer and the director of Art of Living, US. Among others present at the event were UN's deputy secretary general Amina Mohammed, actor Richard Gere, award-winning chef Vikas Khanna, Grammy winner Ricky Kej, and a host of US

corporate leaders, military veterans, television personalities, Yoga practitioners and teachers, and members of the Indian diaspora.

But the event was as much about India showcasing its leadership in multiple domains.

Modi reminded the audience, as did the UNGA president, that India proposed

marking June 21 as the International Day of Yoga nine years ago. "It was wonderful to see the world come together to support the idea back then," he said.

On peacekeeping, with India contributing the highest number of troops among all countries to UN forces, Modi said he in 2015 spoke of building a memorial in honour of those who had



PM Modi meeting the children who came to perform along with him at the UN Headquarters lawns.

Photo Credit : @narendramodi on Twitter



PM Modi and India's Permanent Representative to the UN, Ruchira Kamboj receive the Guinness record for most nationalities in one yoga session. Photo Credit : @MEAIndia on Twitter



Defence Minister Rajnath Singh performs yoga onboard INS Vikrant in Kochi and (left) President Droupadi Murmu performing yoga.



Some 650 people gather to practise yoga to mark the day on the grounds of Tsukiji Honganji Temple in Tokyo. Image Credit: AFP



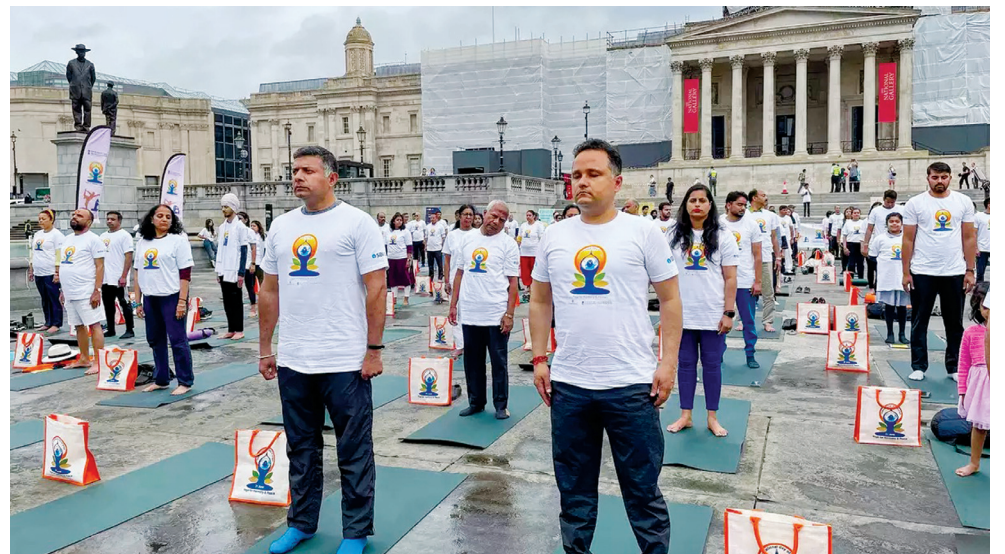
People perform Yoga in Batu Caves, Selangor, Malaysia. Image Credit: REUTERS



Yoga enthusiasts take part in a mass yoga session at the amphitheatre lawns at North Beach in Durban, South Africa. Image Credit: AFP



Nepal police personnel perform yoga at National Police Academy in Kathmandu, Nepal. Image Credit: REUTERS



International Day of Yoga 2023 celebrations at Trafalgar Square, London.

given up their lives.

“In 2015, I had called for a new memorial at UN in their memory. Last week, the whole world joined hands to make this reality soon. As the largest troop contributing nation, we are grateful to all nations for their support.”

And last year, Modi said, the whole world came together to support India’s proposal to mark 2023 as the International Year of Millets. “Millets are a superfood, they promote holistic health and are good for the environment.”

Returning to the theme of yoga, Modi said that it was not just about an exercise on a mat. “Yoga is a way of life. It is a holistic approach to health and well-being. It is way to bring mindfulness in

thought and action. It is a way to live in harmony with self, with others and with nature.”

Expressing his happiness that many were working on scientifically validating different aspects of yoga, Modi urged everyone to use the power of yoga to be kind to oneself, to each other, and to nature; to build bridges of friendship and peace; to build a cleaner and more sustainable future; and to build “one earth, one family and one future” — the last is the theme of India’s G20 presidency.

Adams, the influential New York mayor, said an individual had two mothers — one who gave birth, one who sustained. “Yoga keeps us connected to both mothers and to each other.”

In a video message, UN secretary general Antonio Guterres said Yoga offered a “haven of calm”, reduced anxiety, promoted well-being, helped develop discipline and patience and connected people to the planet “which so badly needs our protection”.

Explaining how yoga diplomacy had become a part of India’s soft power, Harsh Pant of New Delhi’s Observer Research Foundation (ORF) said, “The global acceptance of Yoga Day is a testament to both Modi’s effective leadership on the issue and India’s growing global clout. This has allowed India to shape its soft power in ways that were not anticipated a few years back.”

Pant said it was an interesting exercise that showed how soft power can be

wielded and how it intersected with a country’s strategic rise.

Since the International Day of Yoga began, yoga has emerged as one of India’s biggest soft-power brands, allowing the country to take the lead in the global health and wellness sectors. The widespread celebrations have allowed the centuries-old practice to gain global recognition and popularity, propelled by government backing.

After the New York leg of his visit, Modi arrived in Washington DC on Wednesday afternoon eastern time for the official state visit. The US administration, particularly the White House, has gone all out in welcoming him with both ceremony and substance.

EPIC HISTORICAL FILM DRAMA FROM INDIA COMES TO NJ STAGE

BY MABEL PAIS

Mughal-e-Azam, the epic historical film drama from India, comes to the New Jersey stage for an Unforgettable Theatrical Experience!



Akbar (left) & Salim

Photo credit / cinemaonstage.com

MUGHAL-E-AZAM: The Musical, has embarked on its North America Tour 2023. The critically acclaimed and highly anticipated theatrical production will grace the stage at the New Jersey Performing Arts Center (NJPAC) from June 30th to July 2nd, transporting audiences into a captivating era of love, loyalty, and grandeur.

Don't miss this unique opportunity to witness this epic masterpiece live on stage. Whether you are a fan of theater, music, or simply looking for an unforgettable night out, Mughal-E-Azam: The Musical, promises an immersive experience that will leave you in awe.

This mammoth musical, nothing less than a Bollywood extravaganza, gives the U.S. audience a glimpse of Indian art and talent. This spectacular musical is a Cinema on Stage presentation, directed by Feroz Abbas Khan and produced by Shapoorji Pallonji.



Salim

Photo credit / cinemaonstage.com

The production, based on K. Asif's classic film Mughal-e-Azam (1960) and winner of seven Broadway World India Awards, showcases India's rich culture intertwined in a legendary love story between Mughal Prince Salim and courtesan Anarkali. It portrays the conflict faced by Mughal Emperor Akbar: his responsibility towards the future of his empire and his duty as the father of a beloved son. Set in the 16th-century Mughal court of Emperor Akbar, heir to the throne, Prince Salim, falls in love with the beautiful commoner Anarkali. Salim's father, Emperor Akbar, refuses to let his son marry below his status and a mighty battle of wills ensues. Underpinning this doomed story of love is the troubled relationship between father

and son.

Mughal-E-Azam, the first Indian Broadway-style Musical is a true feast for the senses, rooted in Indian classical music and Kathak dance. With a cast and crew of over 150, the musical is a breathtaking celebration of art, music, and storytelling. This larger-than-life Broadway-style spectacle brings together a stellar cast, extravagant sets, dazzling costumes, and unforgettable melodies to create an unforgettable experience for theater enthusiasts of all ages. With the addition of English subtitles, a wider audience can now immerse themselves in the timeless tale of love and sacrifice.



Salim surrounded by courtesans

Photo credit / cinemaonstage.com

After an astounding reception at the previous US stops, promoters of 'Mughal-E-Azam: The Musical' expect the same until August 2023. Director Feroz Abbas Khan said the response is overwhelming. "We never expected this kind of a response. We know that this play is something that has a very special place in the heart of the audience because of the original film. But the way they're responding to the play, it is simply outstanding. I'm quite speechless with what's been happening here in the United States. I believe that India has so much to offer. But yes, we have been presenting our work in a certain way because that's our Indian tradition," director Feroz Abbas Khan said in an interview.

Since its premiere, Mughal-E-Azam: The Musical has received immense acclaim, captivating audiences in various cities with its grandeur and soul-stirring performances. With its stunning visuals, powerful storytelling, and unforgettable music, the production has garnered rave reviews and bagged multiple awards, at Broadway World India Awards cementing its place as one of the most spectacular theatrical experiences of our time:

1.	BEST PLAY	SHAPOORJI PALLONJI
2.	BEST DIRECTOR	FEROZ ABBAS KHAN
3.	BEST CHOREOGRAPHY	MAYURI UPADHYA
4.	BEST LIGHTING DESIGN	DAVID LANDER
5.	BEST COSTUME DESIGN	MANISH MALHOTRA
6.	BEST SET DESIGN	NEIL PATEL
7.	BEST ENSEMBLE CAST	

Besides the entertainment factor, producer Deepesh Salgia said most audience members are taking pride in the Indian artists' ability to execute such a grand vision. "That brings us the biggest joy. After pride, people are now feeling that this is actually a soft power of India as it shows the cultural aspect of the country. I'm very glad that this show achieved that. And that's all because of the audience's support. The biggest pleasure was when I saw three generations of Indians watching this show together. When they enjoy together and one generation explains to the younger generation, this is what India is about," concludes Deepesh Salgia.

Executive Producer of the Mughal-E-Azam North America Tour, Dushyant Kansara, mentioned "People over here are used to doing and watching concerts and the regular Bollywood shows. But they never had an experience like this before. That's the reason why people are so amazed... So many people told us that we cannot

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EPIC HISTORICAL FILM DRAMA FROM INDIA COMES TO NJ STAGE

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Anarkali (standing) with courtesans

Photo credit / cinemaonstage.com



Anarkali and Salim

Photo credit / cinemaonstage.com

travel all the way to India, even though we wanted to watch this show."

Aanand Dawda, the Executive Producer of the Mughal-E-Azam North America Tour, has been organizing Bollywood concerts in the USA for about 20 years. He said bringing 'India's Broadway' to the country has been a challenge. "Every city we see, Friday grows into Saturday, Saturday grows more into Sunday. And then, people want us to stay here for one more week and come back after the tour. But technically it's very challenging for us to extend the tour over here, at least this season. We will be back very soon," he said. "I have always endeavored to bring innovation to the Entertainment arena with larger-than-life stages and heart-touching performances and we shall be coming up with more for our lovely audience," he added.

MUGHAL-E-AZAM NORTH AMERICAN TOUR SCHEDULE 2023

MAY 26TH - 28TH	ATLANTA	COBB ENERGY CENTER
JUNE 2ND - 4TH	NEW YORK	DAVID H. KOCH THEATER
JUNE 9TH - 11TH	BALTIMORE	THE LYRIC BALTIMORE
JUNE 17TH - 18TH	ORLANDO/ LAKELAND	RP FUNDING CENTER
JUNE 23RD - 24TH	CHICAGO	AUDITORIUM THEATER
JUNE 30TH - JULY 2ND	NEW JERSEY	NEW JERSEY PERFORMING ARTS CENTER
JULY 7TH - 9TH	TORONTO	MERIDIAN HALL
JULY 14TH - 16TH	HOUSTON	BROWN THEATER
JULY 21ST - 23RD	DALLAS	MUSIC HALL AT FAIR PARK
JULY 28TH - 30TH	SEATTLE	MCCAW HALL
AUGUST 4TH - 6TH	VANCOUVER	QUEEN ELIZABETH THEATRE
AUGUST 11TH - 13TH	SAN JOSE	SAN JOSE CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS
AUGUST 18TH - 19TH	PHOENIX	SYMPHONY HALL



Anarkali in chains.

Photo credit / cinemaonstage.com

TICKETS

Tickets for Mughal-E-Azam: The Musical in New Jersey are available for purchase at [ticketmaster.com](https://www.ticketmaster.com). Secure your seats early to ensure you don't miss out on this grand production.

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



Nawazuddin mentions Hrithik in Kangana's Tiku Weds Sheru

It came as a surprise when actor Nawazuddin Siddiqui mentioned actor Hrithik Roshan's name during the promotion for Tiku Weds Sheru, a film produced by Kangana Ranaut.

For the unversed, Kangana and Hrithik were at loggerheads after the actress claimed of once having an affair with him. She even called him a "silly ex" in an interview. Now, on Instagram, Nawazuddin shared a promo for the upcoming film. In the clip he is seen sitting on a sofa and introducing himself.

He says: "Hello doston, mera naam Sheru hai and log mujhe pyaar se Sheru hi bulate hain. Main Bollywood main kaam karta hun. Chhoti moti filmo ka bada producer hun." Nawazuddin then starts showing pictures of him with Shah Rukh Khan, Salman Khan and Aamir Khan. He adds: "Hrithik gaya hua tha isliye nahi hai." The actor then gives a spin to his popular line from Gangs of Wasseypur 2 as he talks about his preferences for a suitable girl for marriage. "Main aisi ladki dhund raha hu jo mera dhyaan rakhe lekin mujhse zyada mere bhai ka, baap ka, dada ka sabka dhyaan rakhe." Tiku Weds Sheru also stars Avneet Kaur.

Adipurush sees a new low after minting Rs 400 crore globally

Prabhas and Kriti Sanon's Adipurush successfully completed a week in theatres amid multiple controversies and calls for a ban. Despite negative reviews, the film, directed by Om Raut, raked in over Rs 400 crore at the box office worldwide. However, the mythological drama registered its lowest collection yet on June 22 in India. Adipurush is now relying on the weekend to see some incline in collection. If the film doesn't pick up pace during the weekend, then Adipurush will be heading towards a disaster.

Adipurush is a 3D film which hit theatres on June 16 in multiple languages. Ever since its release, the film has been receiving negative reviews from the critics and audiences alike.

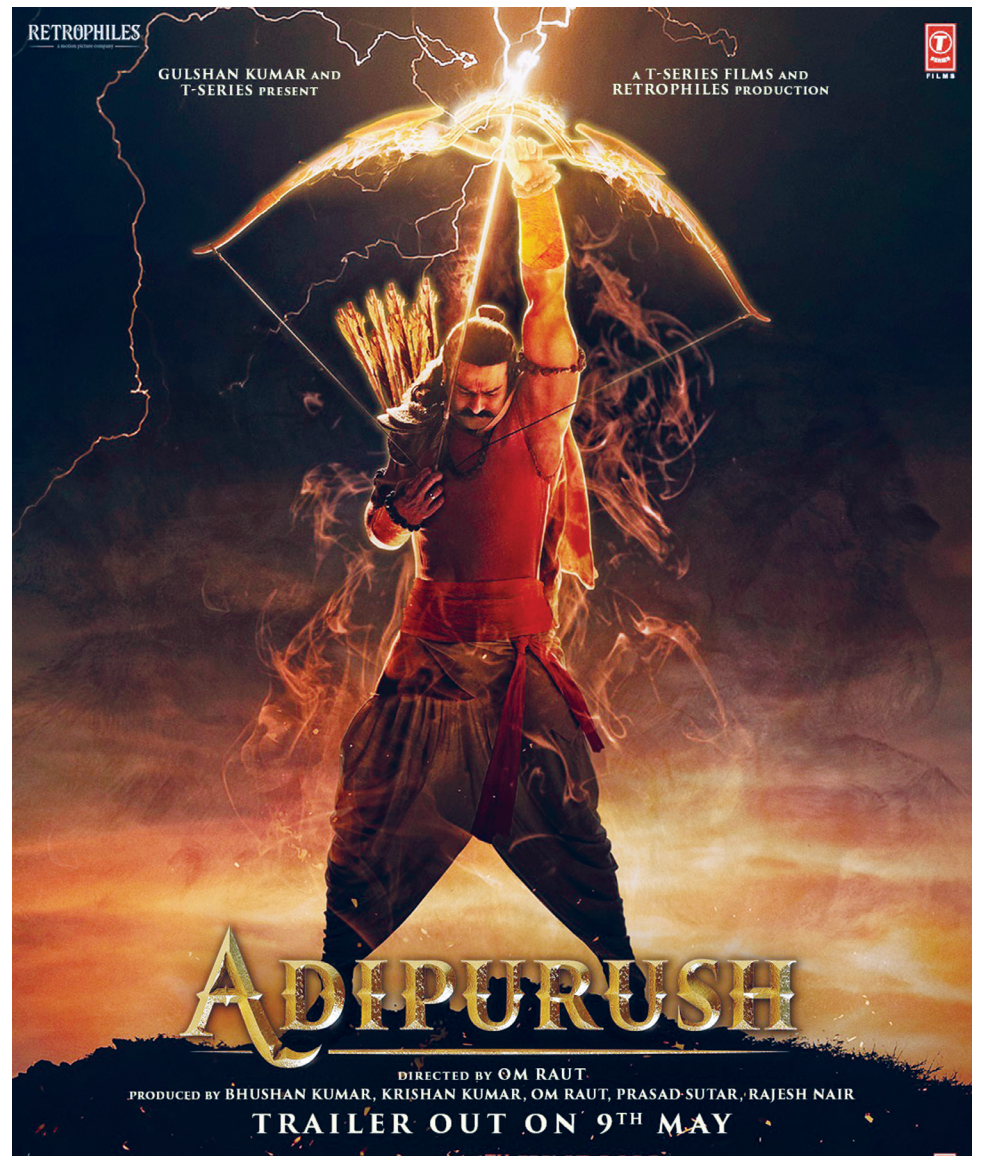
The Prabhas-starrer, which was made on a massive budget, finally crossed Rs 400 crore at the box office globally. However, after the opening weekend, the film has been seeing a decline in collection. Now all eyes are on the weekend. The film will have to pick up pace to breakeven.

On June 22, Adipurush completed one week in theatres and it is estimated to have earned Rs 5.50 crore in India (net). This takes the total collection to Rs 260.55 crore with an occupancy rate of 10.17 per cent in Hindi.

'Adipurush' makers revise Lord Hanuman's dialogue

The makers of 'Adipurush' have been receiving flak for majorly two reasons - VFX and dialogues. A while back, the makers of the film decided to revise cringe-worthy dialogues from the film. One of which, was Lord Hanuman telling Indrajeet 'jalegi tere baap ki'.

'Adipurush' makers have now revised the same. We came across a leaked visual where the word 'baap' was



replaced' with that of 'Lanka'.

Prabhas-starrer 'Adipurush' has been brutally trolled online for its crass dialogues. After all the flak, the makers had promised the audience to release a revised version of the film with a few changed dialogues. And so, they did.

In a clip released online, we can see Lord Hanuman (played by Devdatta Nage), telling Indrajeet "Kapda teri Lanka ka, tel teri Lanka ka, aag bhi tere Lanka ki, jalega bhi teri Lanka hi." In case you still missed, 'baap' has been replaced with 'Lanka'.

Neeyat has eerie resemblance to Knives Out



The trailer of Neeyat, a murder mystery starring Vidya Balan as a detective, was released on Thursday. Directed by Anu Menon, the classic whodunit seems like straight out of an Agatha Christie novel. And from recent memory, it reminds one of Rian Johnson's Knives Out (2019).

A rich man invites his entire family for his birthday dinner at an isolated, old mansion. But by the end of the night, he's found dead. The detective investigating the case claims it's a murder, instead of the suspected suicide. She discovers how every member of the family is a suspect with a valid motive. But who's really the killer?

Replace Daniel Craig with Vidya Balan, the late Christopher Plummer with Ram Kapoor, and the Knives Out ensemble with the rest of the cast here. There's also a late entrant here, like Chris Evans in Knives Out. The only key Knives Out

character missing, at least in the trailer, is the caretaker played by Ana de Armas. And unlike Knives Out, the patriarch of the family is not found dead in the house, but is allegedly thrown off a cliff near his mansion.

Neeyat isn't the first time Vidya will be seen as a detective. She played a desi detective in Bobby Jasoos (2014), set in Hyderabad, which failed at the box office. But we've often seen Vidya investigate on screen in different avatars, from Sujoy Ghosh's 2012 cult film Kahaani, Ribhu Dasgupta's Te3n (2014), or most recently, Amit V Masurkar's 2021 forest thriller Sherni.

Neeyat will mark Vidya Balan's long-awaited return to the cinemas after four years. Her last theatrical release was Jagan Shakti's 2019 sci-fi ensemble Mission Mangal. Her last solo theatrical outing, however, was Suresh Triveni's 2017 blockbuster Tumhari Sulu.



Lisa Rinna to star in American Horror Stories Season 3

Days of our Lives actress Lisa Rinna is set to star in the third season of 'American Horror Stories', the horror anthology series.

According to 'Deadline', the former star of 'The Real Housewives of Beverly Hills' (RHOBH) will appear in an episode of the upcoming season titled 'Tapeworm'.

Details of the episode remain under wraps but we hear that Rinna has concluded most of the filming and is back in LA.

'American Horror Stories' is a spinoff of 'American Horror Story' with each episode telling a different horror tale. Created by Ryan Murphy and Brad Falchuk, Stories has a total of 15 episodes between two seasons.

Some of the actors that have appeared in the series include Matt Bomer, Billie Lourd, Dylan McDermott, Denis O'Hare, Gabourey Sidibe, Max Greenfield, Paris Jackson, Bella Thorne, Kevin McHale, Danny Trejo, Judith Light, Alicia Silverstone, among others.

Emilia Clarke finds it easier to keep Marvel secrets vs Game of Thrones

Actor Emilia Clarke says it was 'easier' to keep important plot details under wraps for her new Marvel Studios show Secret Invasion than the cult series Game of Thrones.

The British star, who shot to global fame for her portrayal of Daenerys Targaryen in HBO series Game of Thrones, is set to make foray into the Marvel Cinematic Universe with Secret Invasion. "I'll tell you what, it's so much easier now because whenever it comes up or people want to ask, you just get to be like, 'Dude, Marvel. I can't say anything.' That's just what I kept saying over and over again," Clarke told about keeping the spoilers secret.

In the latest Marvel series, the 36-year-old plays G'iah, the daughter of Talos, (Ben Mendelsohn) the leader of a Skrull sect and an ally of Nick Fury (Samuel L Jackson). Clarke also recalled that David Benioff and Dan Weiss, showrunners of Game of Thrones, had once told her that they took a leaf out of Marvel's book about protecting the spoilers.

"When we were doing Game of Thrones, when it started to get to the later seasons, some massive security changes happened. I was chatting with David and Dan and they were like, 'Marvel. Whatever Marvel's doing, we just want to do that.' So that became, you don't print anything — and then there was like me and Peter Dinklage (who played Tyrion Lannister) being like, 'I need it on paper! I can't learn my lines without it being on paper!'" she added.

Source: PTI



Will Gal Gadot essay the role of Wonder Woman again?

Actor Gal Gadot, who is currently gearing up for the release of their upcoming action film 'Heart of Stone', recently spilled beans on the future of 'Wonder Woman'.

According to Deadline, a US-based media house, during Netflix's Tudum fan festival, the actor was questioned about whether she will reprise her role as Diana Prince.

Gadot said, "Things are being worked behind the scenes and once the right moment arrives, you'll know about it," Citing ET's interview, Deadline stated.

The third Wonder Woman movie, in which Gadot was supposed to reprise her superhero role, was cancelled after Peter Safran and James Gunn changed the course of the DC Universe.

Gadot pondered back on her Wonder Woman casting towards the end of 2022 and posted her reflections online.

Last year in December, Gadot tweeted, "A few years ago it was announced that I was going to play Wonder Woman. I've been so grateful for the opportunity to play such an incredible, iconic character and more than anything I'm grateful for YOU. The fans. Can't wait to share her next chapter with you."

Gadot recently shared how uncertain it is for Wonder Woman's future that she feels "empowered" to tell new storylines.

Coming back to her movie, 'Heart of Stone', the makers of the film unveiled the trailer.

Source: ANI



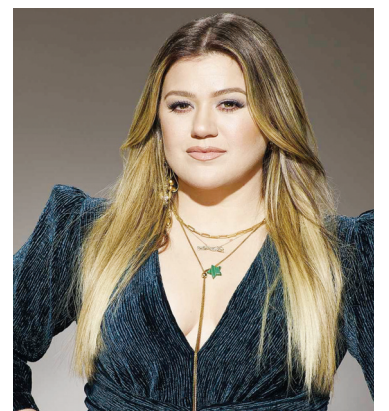
Kelly Clarkson opens up on her 'doomed' marriage with ex-husband

Kelly Clarkson "knew in her heart" her marriage was doomed. The 41-year-old star was married to Brandon Blackstock between 2013 and 2021, and while the pair tried to save their relationship by attending counselling sessions, Kelly just had a feeling it wasn't going to work.

Kelly Clarkson added, "It was like, when we first started talking, it was marriage counselling. It was trying to make it work. 'We're trying to figure it out. I desperately want to make this happen,' but I think I knew in my heart it just wasn't going to."

Kelly admitted she didn't want people telling her to not "worry" amid her divorce.

Clarkson added: "You're like, 'Shut up.' At the time, you're just like, 'I don't want to hear that. I don't want to hear the light at the end of the tunnel. I don't want to hear all the bumper stickers you're about to feed me.'"



TUNISIA TO FREE OPPOSITION FIGURE AFTER 4 MONTHS IN JAIL

TUNIS (TIP): A Tunisian judge on June 23 ordered the release of opposition figure Chaima Issa four months after her arrest on suspicion of "plotting against state security", her lawyer told AFP.

Issa should walk free later in the day unless the prosecution appeals by 5:00 pm (1600 GMT) against the decision taken by a judge from the anti-terrorism unit, said defence attorney Dalila Msaddek.

A member of Tunisia's main opposition coalition, the National Salvation Front (NSF), Issa was arrested along with some 20 other opposition, media and business figures in February.

They were detained in connection with an investigation into claims of "plotting against state security" and branded as "terrorists" by President Kais Saied. The president froze parliament and sacked the government in a dramatic July 2021 move against the sole democracy to emerge from the Arab Spring uprisings. His critics have dubbed the move a "coup" while local and international rights groups decried a "witch hunt" aimed at "repressing" free opinion in the North African country. (AFP)

SUSPECTED RUSSIAN DIPLOMAT SEEN SQUATTING IN VETOED EMBASSY SITE IN AUSTRALIA

CANBERRA (AUSTRALIA) (TIP): A suspected lone Russian diplomat was seen squatting on the site of Moscow's proposed embassy after the Australian government vetoed the plan on security grounds and with legislation that Russia will try to overturn in Australia's highest court, sparking a national security standoff between Canberra and the Kremlin on June 23.

Prime Minister Anthony Albanese dismissed the Russian act of defiance in occupying the site in the capital city, saying a "bloke standing in the cold on a bit of grass in Canberra is not a threat to our national security."

Albanese also said he was confident that the eviction would stand up to any Russian legal challenge. Parliament passed emergency legislation last week blocking on security grounds Russia's lease on the largely empty block because the new embassy would have been too close to Parliament House.

A man has been living on the site in a portable building since Sunday, when passersby first saw Australian Federal Police outside the fenced block in Canberra's Yarralumla diplomatic precinct. The Russian Embassy refused to comment on media reports that the man seen smoking cigarettes outside his accommodation was a Russian diplomat. (AFP)

Cyprus rescues 45 Syrian migrants from boats in distress; two placed in custody

NICOSIA (CYPRUS) (TIP): Cypriot emergency services rescued 45 Syrian migrants from two boats after receiving information that they were in distress near a coastal tourist resort, authorities said on June 23.

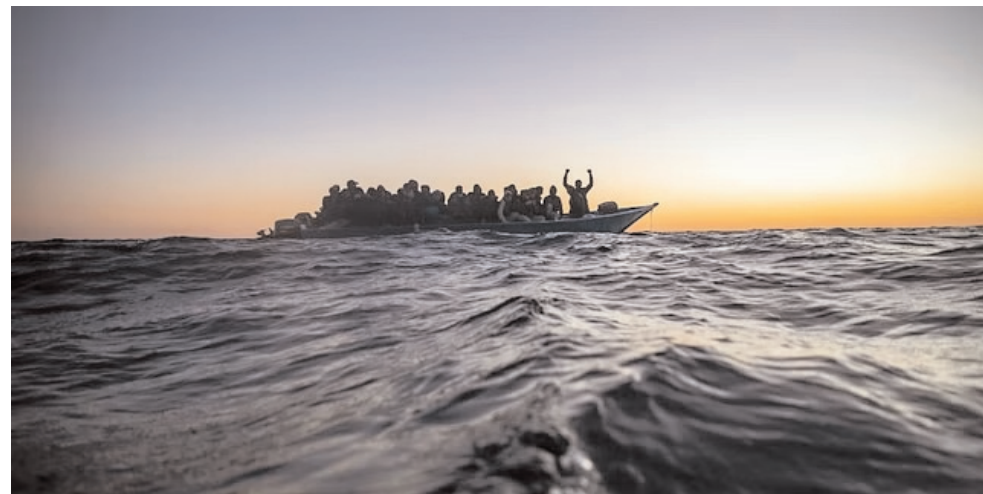
The eastern Mediterranean island's Joint Rescue Coordination Centre said it had brought ashore 29 men, five women and 11 children who had been afloat off Cape Greco on Thursday evening.

Police said they were in good health and had been transferred to a migrant reception centre on the outskirts of the capital Nicosia.

Two people, aged 20 and 18, were arrested on suspicion of navigating the two boats and were scheduled to appear in court on Friday.

A court in Cyprus ordered that two Syrian men remain in police custody for seven days on suspicion of people smuggling after authorities rescued the Syrian migrants aboard two rickety vessels off the island nation's southern coast.

European Union member Cyprus says it is on the front line of the bloc's irregular migration flows, and last year registered the EU's highest number of



first-time asylum applicants per capita.

Those rescued on Thursday evening were 18 irregular migrants on a wooden boat and another 27 aboard an inflatable craft.

Police said they had set off from war-torn Syria before being detected off Cape Greco, near the tourist resort of Aya Napa on the island's southeast coast.

The rescue operation comes after a boat carrying 37 Syrian migrants was intercepted off Cape Greco and escorted to shore on Wednesday.

Cypriot authorities say there has been a rise in migrants arriving by boat, with a 60 per cent increase recorded in the first five months of 2023 compared with last year.

They say most migrants arriving on boats set out from the port of Tartus in Syria, which has been ravaged by more than a decade of war, although fighting has subsided since 2020.

(With inputs from AFP and Associated Press)

Former New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern is writing a book on leadership

WELLINGTON, NEW ZEALAND (TIP): Former New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern announced on June 23 she is writing a book, with the focus more on leadership than on politics.

In an Instagram post, Ardern said she is often asked whether she will write about her five years as New Zealand's leader.

"At first, my answer was no. I didn't want to write a book that hauled over the internal politics of the last five years, and then someone convinced me that I didn't have to," Ardern wrote.

"THAT MAYBE IT MIGHT BE WORTH EXPANDING ON SOME OF THINGS I TALKED ABOUT IN MY VALEDICTORY INSTEAD – LIKE THE IDEA YOU CAN BE YOUR OWN KIND OF LEADER AND STILL MAKE A DIFFERENCE. AND SO THAT'S WHAT I'M PLANNING TO DO."



Ardern said she had no date for when the book will be published.

"But I hope when it's done, it's the kind of book that would have made a difference to my 14-year-old self," Ardern wrote.

Just 37 when she became prime minister in 2017, Ardern was seen as a global icon of the left. She shocked New Zealanders in January when she said she was stepping down because she no longer had "enough in the tank" to do the job justice in an election year.

Since then, Ardern has announced she will temporarily join Harvard University this year after being appointed to dual

fellowships at the Harvard Kennedy School. She has also taken on an unpaid role combating online extremism.

This month, Ardern received one of New Zealand's highest honors for her service leading the country through a mass shooting and pandemic. She was made a Dame Grand Companion, meaning people will now call her Dame Jacinda.

Ardern said she was working with a team of publishers — Penguin in New Zealand and Australia, Macmillan in Britain and Crown in the United States. The publishers did not immediately respond to requests for comment. (AP)

Chinese human rights lawyer chased out of 13 homes in 2 months as pressure rises on legal advocates

TAIPEI, TAIWAN (TIP): A disbarred Chinese human rights lawyer has been forced to move 13 times in two months as part of a pattern of harassment against him and three other prominent rights advocates in Beijing that is further squeezing the country's battered civil rights community.

Wang Quanzhang said he is now living in a borrowed apartment in the suburbs where the power is frequently cut off, while another lawyer left Beijing entirely in hopes of ending the harassment. His colleague Bao Longjun said he is still in the apartment he owns, but has been barred from leaving it multiple times by unidentified groups of men who loiter outside his door. Bao said a fourth lawyer was detained along with his wife.

All four are prominent members of a group known as the 709 lawyers, after the date — July 9, 2015 — when a crackdown on independent legal advocacy began in which hundreds were arrested. Such advocates are a rare source of help for people facing political charges, or trying to access benefits denied by often unaccountable bureaucracies.

Their work has ranged from defending members of Falun Gong, a religious movement opposed to China's government that Beijing bans as an "evil cult," to helping people lobby for increases to their pensions.

All four men were disbarred after their 2015 arrests, but after being released from prison they continued to do similar work that doesn't require a law license.

Yaqiu Wang, senior China researcher at Human Rights Watch, said in a statement that the lawyers' ordeals



coincided with a series of high-profile visits by foreign dignitaries. French President Emmanuel Macron visited Beijing in early April, followed by Germany's foreign minister, and most recently U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken.

The meetings, she wrote, were intended to "signal China is open for business and engagement again. But the petty and inhumane treatment of human rights lawyers and their families show that, the authorities only want to double down on repressing the Chinese civil society."

Beijing's police department did not respond to a faxed request for comment.

In mid-April, disbarred rights lawyer Yu Wensheng and his wife were detained by Beijing police while on their way to the European Union Delegation, said Bao Longjun, another one of the four advocates.

Around the same time, two other rights lawyers were sentenced to more than 10 years in prison on charges of "subverting state power."

Wang, the lawyer who was chased out of his home, and Bao faced more bewildering situations.

Groups of men began hanging out in front of Bao's and Wang's doors, and told them they were not allowed to go outside.

The men did not say who they were or why they were there. The lawyers believe they are informal contractors for the police, a practice widely used by local Chinese governments to apply extralegal pressure to people they view as troublesome.

More pressure came via Wang's landlord. Around the time that the men appeared, the landlord told Wang that his lease was no longer valid and his family had to move. Initially, they refused, but after a few days the apartment's electricity, water and gas were cut off.

Fellow disbarred rights lawyer Li Heping and his family left Beijing after similar pressure, according to Wang and Sophie Luo, an activist based in the U.S. Li declined an interview.

Bao was not forced out of his home, which he owns. He says groups of men in plain clothes come and go intermittently, sometimes confining him to his house.

Bao said the harassment is intended to pressure advocates to leave Beijing. He said that authorities likely hope the advocates will return to their hometowns, where they will be another local government's problem.

Wang and his wife, Li Wenzu, are still in Beijing, after a month and a half during which the couple has moved from apartment to hotel to apartment 13 times.

They've been followed to each location by groups of men in plain clothes who loiter nearby, unnerving landlords and neighbors.

At times, Wang said, hotels have asked him to leave the same day he's checked in. The longest they've managed to stay in one place was a hotel that allowed them to stay for nine days. The couple eventually sent their 10-year-old son to live with relatives.

For the last week, the couple has been living in an apartment in suburban Beijing owned by a friend, where the electricity is frequently cut off.

The first time, Wang said, he was able to restore it by flipping a switch in a fuse box outside the apartment; on later occasions, he found a bicycle lock on the fuse box, or more complex damage that required an electrician to repair.

AP journalists saw seven men hanging around the courtyard of the apartment building on Tuesday.

To cope with blackouts, the couple has installed a solar panel to charge their phones, and stockpiled drinking water, rice and instant noodles. (AP)

South African authorities say 31 illegal miners killed in explosion in May; found only now

JOHANNESBURG (TIP): At least 31 people were believed to have died in a gas explosion in a disused mine shaft in South Africa that happened last month but was only now coming to light, authorities said on June 23.

The suspected illegal miners were believed to have been killed on May 18 and most of their bodies were still underground, South Africa's Department of Mineral Resources and Energy said.

Authorities were being prevented from sending a search team into the mine to retrieve bodies because there were still dangerously high levels of methane gas in the shaft, the department said in a statement.

It said it was considering various options to "speedily deal" with what was "a unique and strange situation."

The government department said it had received information that three bodies had been recovered after they



were brought to the surface by other illegal miners. Another 16 suspected illegal miners who were also in the shaft have handed themselves over to authorities, police said.

Authorities said they believe the miners are nationals from neighboring country Lesotho. Lesotho's foreign ministry recently passed information

onto South African authorities on the incident.

The mine, which was previously owned by Harmony, South Africa's largest gold-mining company, was last operational in the 1990s, the mineral resources department said. It is located in the city of Welkom in the central Free State province. (AP)

Beijing records hottest June day as extreme heat sears northern China

BEIJING (TIP): Beijing logged its hottest June day since records began on June 22, the national weather service said, as swathes of northern China sweltered in 40-degree heat. Scientists say rising global temperatures -- caused largely by burning fossil fuels -- are aggravating extreme weather worldwide, and many countries in Asia have experienced deadly heatwaves and record temperatures in recent weeks. At the Nanjiao weather station in southern Beijing, considered a benchmark for temperatures in the capital, the mercury hit 41.1 degrees Celsius (106 degrees Fahrenheit) at 3.19 pm (0719 GMT) on Thursday, the weather service said in a statement also carried by state broadcaster CCTV. The figure is half a degree higher than the station's previous monthly record of 40.6 C taken in June 1961, and second only to the 41.9 C measured in July 1999, according to weather data. (AFP)

EXPLODING FIRE EXTINGUISHER KILLS A STUDENT AND INJURES 5 DURING SCHOOL FIRE DRILL IN BANGKOK

BANGKOK (TIP): A fire extinguisher exploded and killed a student during a fire drill held outdoors in sweltering heat at a high school in Thailand's capital on June 23, police said.

Five other students were injured.

The carbon dioxide canister was being displayed in bright sunshine near students during the demonstration in Bangkok when it exploded and sent metal scraps into the chest of the boy who died, city police chief Thiti Saengsawang said.

Temperatures in Bangkok reached as high as 36 C (97 F) on June 23.

At least three people could face charges of death by negligence, Thiti said, but he did not identify them.

Police and rescuers said five students were injured.

Education Minister Treenuch Thienthong said it was the first time in six years that the school had held a fire drill and that it was coordinated by Bangkok's fire department.

She said the department hadn't experienced such an accident before during the many drills it has conducted at schools. (AP)

ENTREPRENEURS CASH IN ON SOARING POPULARITY OF TIKTOK SHOPPING IN INDONESIA

JAKARTA (TIP): Indonesian livestreamer Christine Febriyanti stood in a room crammed with clothes in Jakarta, hawking colourful garments to hundreds of viewers on a TikTok livestream for a local fashion brand.

"For the Vitamin C kind of girls, you'll fulfil all of your nutrient needs with these orange pants," the 25-year-old told the sales session.

Her pitch is part of a clamour for TikTok shopping in Indonesia, where users spent more money on the app than anywhere else in Southeast Asia over the past year.

The region is a bright spot for TikTok, owned by Chinese tech firm ByteDance, following months of intense scrutiny in the United States and other nations over users' data security and the company's alleged ties to Beijing.

TikTok CEO Shou Zi Chew announced plans last week to invest billions of dollars in Southeast Asia, where it counts 325 million users, of whom 125 million are in Indonesia.

As TikTok Shop grows in popularity, with Indonesians buying more than a third of goods sold in Southeast Asia over the past year, entrepreneurs are flocking to the platform to promote a range of tech, fashion and homemade products.

(AP)

After devastating floods in Pakistan, some have recovered but many are struggling a year later

ISLAMABAD (TIP): Last summer's flooding in Pakistan killed at least 1,700 people, destroyed millions of homes, wiped out swaths of farmland, and caused billions of dollars in economic losses. All in a matter of months. At one point, a third of the country was underwater. Pakistani leaders and many scientists worldwide blame climate change for the unusually early and heavy monsoon rains.

A year on, the country hasn't fully recovered. The aftermath runs the length of the country; survivors living in makeshift huts where their homes used to be, millions of children out of school, and damaged infrastructure waiting to be repaired.

Pakistan's national disaster authority said most people have returned to their towns or villages, but its flood records stop in November 2022. Almost 8 million people were displaced at the height of the crisis. But there is no information on how many people remain homeless or live in temporary shelters. Aid agencies and charities provide up-to-date pictures of life, saying millions remain deprived of clean drinking water and that child malnutrition rates have increased in flood-affected areas.

And the impact of recent heavy rainfall augurs ill for Pakistan should there be more flooding this year. Torrents have caused rivers to overflow, flash floods, fatalities, infrastructure damage, landslides, livestock loss, ruined crops, and property damage in parts of the country.



UNICEF estimates around 20 million people, including 9 million children, still need humanitarian aid in flood-affected areas. Many of the hardest-hit districts were already among the most impoverished and vulnerable places in Pakistan. What little people had was washed away, forcing them to start their lives over again.

This journey through Pakistan looks at how the unprecedented flooding of 2022 affected everyday life - and future generations.

RESTORING WATER

The high altitudes and sharp peaks of the Hindu Kush Mountains mean that heavy rains barrel down through the northwest province of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. That's good because the waters quickly drain to lower-lying areas. But it's bad because of the damage they wreak along the way.

Last summer's raging floods were so powerful that some rivers changed course. They wrecked more than 800 drinking water supply systems across nearly half of the province's 34 districts, damaging pipelines, supply mains, storage tanks and wells.

The impact on residents living by stagnant water and forced to rely on contaminated water for drinking was seen around two weeks after the flooding. Healthcare teams started receiving thousands of patients with diseases like dengue, malaria, acute diarrhoea, cholera and skin infections.

Villagers often had to walk several kilometres to find water. With access more difficult, water consumption dropped drastically, from 30 litres (8 gallons) per person per day before the floods to as low as 10 litres (2.6 gallons) after, according to the UK-based charity WaterAid. (AP)

Ex-Sri Lanka president ordered police records destroyed to stall mass grave probes, report alleges

COLOMBO, SRI LANKA (TIP): Sri Lanka's former President Gotabaya Rajapaksa was accused in a report released June 22 of tampering with police records in order to hamper investigations into mass graves discovered in an area where he was a military officer at the height of a bloody Marxist insurrection in 1989.

The report by activist groups including the International Truth and Justice Project, Journalists for Democracy in Sri Lanka and Families of the Disappeared said even though hundreds of remains were unearthed in some 20 exhumations of mass graves in the past three decades, no action has been taken to identify the victims and return their remains to their families.

Tens of thousands of remains could still be buried in undiscovered mass graves, it said.

None of the numerous commissions of inquiry established by successive Sri

Lankan governments were mandated to look into mass graves. Instead, efforts to uncover the truth were stymied, the report said. When mass graves were discovered and investigations began, judges and forensic experts were transferred abruptly, families' lawyers were denied access to sites, no effort was made to find living witnesses, no post-mortem data was collected and, in the very rare cases where someone was convicted, they were later pardoned, it said. "It is a story of a lack of political will — an inadequate legal framework, a lack of a coherent policy and of insufficient resources. For the families of the disappeared it is a story of unresolved tragedy; the bereaved are forced to live and die without ever finding their loved ones," it said.

Rajapaksa's alleged role in the exhumations of mass graves was an example of political interference, it said.

The report said Rajapaksa, then a

powerful defense official, ordered the destruction of all police records older than five years at police stations in the region after mass graves were discovered in the Matale district of central Sri Lanka in 2013.

The mass graves were suspected to date from the time of a violent Marxist insurrection in 1989, when Rajapaksa, as a military officer, was involved in counter-insurgency in the region.

The report called for action against Rajapaksa and senior police officials involved in the alleged hampering of the investigations.

Rajapaksa was elected president in 2019 but was forced to resign last year amid angry public protests over the country's worst economic crisis in history. Sri Lanka has faced three major armed insurgencies, including a 25-year separatist civil war, since gaining independence from the British 75 years ago. (AP)



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Benefits of aloe vera for your face & skin

A "miracle," or wonder plant, aloe vera is a modest houseplant that frequently hides in plain sight. It is a plant that has been used for centuries as medicine and that feeds the body from the inside out. It has a lot of nutrients, aids in digestion, and even fortifies the immune system. Aloe vera can also be used topically, which means that one can use its gel to improve their skin, particularly their face and hair.

Helps soothe sunburn

Aloe Vera gel is anti-inflammatory and has cooling effects. As a result, it is one of the most organic treatments for burned or sunburned skin. Applying this gel helps the skin retain moisture and creates a protective layer for the skin. It is abundant in minerals and antioxidants, both of which speed up the healing process. So you may now use aloe vera to maintain the health of your summer skin.

Boosts healing of wounds

Aloe Vera is now well acknowledged to be quite helpful for burns, cuts, and other wounds. This is due to the fact that aloe vera speeds up and shortens the healing process for wounds. This is particularly true for burns of the first and second degrees. It works well for treating skin burns. Additionally, it aids in accelerating skin cell proliferation by up to eight times. Aloe Vera is also recognised for penetrating the epidermis, or the skin's outer layer, faster than water.

Fights skin-ageing

The gel of aloe vera is rich in beta-carotene and vitamins C and E. As a result, it contains anti-aging qualities. Additionally, it has anti-inflammatory and antibacterial qualities. Additionally, it aids in removing age spots and wrinkles from the skin. It also helps to improve skin elasticity and the body's generation of



collagen.

Reduces infection and acne

Aloe Vera offers relief to people who have acne. It aids in gentle washing and treats pimples with antibacterial characteristics without harming the skin. It is an antiseptic that offers bacterial protection. Gibberellins and polysaccharides are found in aloe vera. These promote the development of new cells while also reducing inflammation and redness. Additionally, it functions as an astringent, shrinking pores and clearing them of extra sebum, bacteria, and dirt.

Helps to moisturise the skin

Aloe Vera gel, when used as a moisturising gel, does not leave a greasy film on the face or the skin, in contrast to typical, store-bought moisturisers. In actuality, it has the exact opposite effect-it opens up the pores and softens the skin.

Source: ZeeNews



Dangerous side effects of using bleach on skin

Bleaching skin is a widely used beauty practice among women to brighten the look of skin and conceal imperfections. Before going to a party or just out for the weekend, getting bleaching done for your skin or hair is important for many individuals. Although you should know about the harmful side effects bleaching has on your skin.

What is bleaching?

To get a lighter complexion, bleaching is a popular cosmetic procedure. In addition to using it to lighten hair, some individuals also use it to cover up excessive facial hair. This chemical dyeing method removes colour from your hair.

Bleach is a harsh threat that destroys your hair proteins to eliminate colour, whether it is applied to your skin or your hair.

To lighten and even out the tone of your skin, you can bleach by applying chemicals like hydrogen peroxide to your skin. However, hydrogen peroxide may be highly damaging to your skin because of its acidic nature.

Side effects of bleaching skin

Mercury poisoning

There have been instances of hazardous levels of mercury in some skin-bleaching products manufactured outside of the US. Although it is illegal to use mercury in skin-lightening cosmetics in the United States, mercury is nonetheless used in skin-lightening goods from other nations.

Dermatitis

The use of skin-bleaching products and contact dermatitis have been connected in case studies and reports. This is skin irritation brought on by coming into touch with certain chemicals.

Exogenous ochronosis

A skin condition called exogenous ochronosis (EO) Trusted Source results in blue-black colouring. It typically happens as a side effect of long-term usage of hydroquinone-containing skin-bleaching products. It is more probable for people to get EO if they apply it to their entire body or big portions of their body.

Steroid acne

Steroid acne can be brought on by skin-bleaching products that include corticosteroids.

In addition to the chest, the back, arms, and other areas of the body can also develop steroid acne with prolonged corticosteroid usage.

FOOD

Mutton Sukha

Ingredients

Mutton - 500 gms, boneless, chopped, Water - 3 cups (750 ml), Onions - 2, small, finely sliced
Green Chilli - 1, slit lengthwise
Tomato - 1, sliced
Urad Dal - 1/2 tsp
Cinnamon - 1 one inch stick
Cloves - 4, Cardamoms - 5 to 6
Star Anise - 1, Curry Leaves - handful, chopped
Red Chilli Powder - 2 tbsp
Coriander Powder - 1/2 tbsp, Cumin Powder - 1/2 tsp
Garam Masala Powder - 1 tsp, Turmeric Powder - 1/2 tsp, Salt as per taste
Oil - 1 1/2 tbsp, Black Pepper Powder as per taste

For the marinade

Garlic - 5 to 6 cloves, peeled
Small (Sambar) Onions - 100 gms, peeled
Ginger - 2 two inch piece, peeled
Green Chillies - 2 to 3
Saunf - 1 tsp
Water - 1/2 cup

Method

1. Grind together the marinade ingredients until smooth.
2. Add turmeric powder and mix well.
3. Marinate the mutton pieces in this for 1 to 1 1/2 hours.
4. Bring a pan of water to a boil.
5. Add the marinated mutton pieces and boil until half-cooked.



6. Add red chilli powder, coriander powder, cumin powder, garam masala powder and salt.
7. Cook till the mutton pieces are tender and water has almost evaporated.
8. Keep aside.
9. Heat oil in a different pan.
10. Fry the dal until golden.
11. Add cinnamon, cardamom, cloves and star anise.
12. Fry for a minute or two.
13. Add the onions and green chillies.
14. Fry until onions are golden brown.
15. Add the tomatoes and curry leaves.
16. Cook for another 2 minutes and add the mutton pieces.
17. Add pepper powder and increase flame to high.
18. Cook until oil starts to separate and the mixture becomes dry.
19. Transfer to a serving dish.
20. Serve hot with rice or roti.

30 min daytime nap may boost brain health, delay ageing by 7 years: Study

People who take about 30 minutes of nap during daytime may have improved brain health that can significantly lower risk of dementia, according to a study.

The study led by researchers at University College London in the UK and the University of the Republic in Uruguay showed that daytime napping slowed the rate at which brains shrink as we age, by seven years.

The study, published in the journal *Sleep Health*, gathered data from almost 400,000 people in Britain aged between 40 and 69.

The findings showed that the average difference in brain volume or the size of the organ between people programmed to be habitual nappers and those who were not was equivalent to 2.6 to 6.5 years of ageing.

"Our findings suggest that, for some people, short daytime naps may be a part of the puzzle that could help preserve the health of the brain as we get older," said Dr Victoria Garfield, MRC Unit for Lifelong Health & Ageing at UCL.

In the study, the researchers looked at 97 snippets of DNA thought to determine people's likelihood of habitual napping. MRI scans revealed that their brain



volume was 15.8 cubic centimetres bigger than those who did not nap.

They however, found no link between napping and the size of the hippocampus -- the region of the brain linked to memory and learning. "This is the first study to attempt to untangle the causal relationship between habitual daytime napping and cognitive and structural brain outcomes. Our

study points to a causal link between habitual napping and larger total brain volume," said lead author Valentina Paz, from University of the Republic and UCL. "I hope studies such as this one showing the health benefits of short naps can help to reduce any stigma that still exists around daytime napping," added Dr Garfield. *Source: IANS*

Heavy drinking linked to lower muscle mass

Heavy drinking has long been associated with various health problems, including cirrhosis of the liver, cancer and heart disease.

But our latest study has found that these aren't the only issues that excess drinking can cause. We found that heavy drinkers had lower levels of muscle mass than those who didn't drink, or drank moderately.

To conduct our study, we used data from the UK Biobank, a large database of lifestyle and health information from half a million people in the UK. We included data from nearly 2,00,000 people aged between 37 and 73, looking at their average alcohol consumption and their muscle mass.

We made adjustments for any factors that may affect the results of our analysis, such as a person's physical activity levels, how much protein they ate and whether they smoked.

Our analysis looked at men and women separately because there are differences in body composition between the sexes. We also only included white participants in our study because we only had data from a small number of people from other ethnic groups -- and this wasn't enough to model them separately.

We used a statistical model that would illustrate the way muscle mass differed according to the amount of alcohol people drank. Because larger people have more muscle, we scaled muscle for body size.

Overall, people had lower amounts of muscle the more that they drank. This effect happened after about one unit of alcohol a day for men (just under a small glass of wine) and just under two units for women (the equivalent of a pint of lager).

The men and women who were among the heaviest drinkers -- consuming around 20 units a day, the



equivalent of two bottles of wine or ten pints of beer -- had 4 per cent-5 per cent less muscle than those who did not drink at all. Comparing this difference with the average yearly loss of muscle (around 0.5 per cent), our findings may have important implications when it comes to our health as we age.

Our study can't conclude that alcohol is directly causing muscle loss, because we measured both alcohol consumption and muscle mass at the same time. In the same study, we also tracked changes in people's muscle mass over time, compared to their alcohol consumption.

This could give a better idea of whether this relationship was cause and effect. But this data was for a much smaller group and we didn't find any associations. *Source: PTI*



Researchers get new insights into human gut-brain connection

A study led by Laureate Institute for Brain Research researchers has made significant progress in understanding the mysterious gut-brain connection, a complex relationship that has long baffled scientists due to the difficulty of accessing the body's interior.

The study was published in the peer-reviewed scientific journal *'Nature Communications.'* The researchers were able to successfully have participants swallow a minimally invasive vibrating capsule in order to measure neural responses during gastrointestinal stimulation, providing a novel approach to studying this intricate connection. The capsule was designed by Vibrant Ltd. Healthy adult male and female volunteers ranging in age from 18 to 40 took part in the study. According to the researchers, the volunteers detected stimulation of the vibrating capsule under two conditions: normal and enhanced. The improved stimulation condition resulted in improved perceptual accuracy, faster stimulation detection, and reduced variability in reaction time, indicating that this method has the potential to be studied in various clinical populations. This is a significant breakthrough because it shows that this novel approach to studying gut feelings is viable.

The researchers also discovered the "gastric evoked potential," a late neural response induced by capsule stimulation in specific brain areas. The amplitude of these neural responses increased with stimulation intensity and was significantly related to perceptual accuracy. This finding opens up new possibilities for measuring and understanding the neural processes that govern the gut-brain connection. "We were able to localize most of the capsule stimulations to the gastroduodenal segments of the digestive tract using abdominal X-ray imaging," said Dr Sahib Khalsa, a psychiatrist and neuroscientist at LIBR, and senior author of the study. "This finding is crucial as it provides a more precise understanding of where these gut-brain interactions are originating." "The potential clinical implications for the results of this study are substantial," said Dr Khalsa. *Source: ANI*

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WhatsApp users can now silence incoming calls from unknown contacts

Meta Founder and CEO Mark Zuckerberg has announced a new privacy feature 'Silence Unknown Callers' to provide users more control over their incoming calls on WhatsApp.

This new feature helps to automatically screen out spam, scams and calls from unknown people for increased protection, the company said in a statement.

When the feature is enabled, unknown calls will not ring on the users' phone, but will be visible in their call list. Additionally, the company has introduced 'Privacy Checkup' to help make sure that everyone knows about the options of protection on the messaging platform. This step-by-step feature guides users through important privacy settings to help them choose the right level of protection, all in one place.

"Protecting the privacy of your messages remains the driving force behind what we're building at WhatsApp," the company said. "While end-to-end encryption is the foundation to ensure your calls and messages are secure, we continue to add more layers of privacy on top including the recently launched Chat Lock to protect sensitive chats behind a password, Disappearing Messages that vanish, screenshot blocking for View Once, and the ability to keep your online presence private," it added.

Scientists develop synthetic embryos using stem cells

In a major breakthrough in the world of In Vitro Fertilisation (IVF) and human reproduction, a team of scientists in the US and the UK has developed the world's first ever synthetic human embryo-like structures using stem cells.

This major development reportedly dodges the need for eggs or sperms for the creation of human embryos.

According to the report by The Guardian (article beyond paywall), these embryos resemble natural embryos in the earliest stages of human development. While they lack a beating heart or the beginnings of a brain, they contain cells that would give rise to the placenta, yolk sac and the embryo. These models would also help scientists understand the impact of genetic disorders and the biological reasons behind recurrent miscarriages. Professor Magdalena Zernicka-Goetz of the University of Cambridge and the California Institute of Technology, who is leading the research, said, "Our human model is the first three-lineage human embryo model that specifies amnion and germ cells, precursor cells of egg and sperm." However, the research also raises major ethical and legal consequences as the use of synthetic embryos for clinical purposes is not legally imminent in the UK and most other countries. Implanting them into a patient's womb is currently illegal, and it remains uncertain whether these structures have the potential to progress beyond the earliest stages of development.

Signalling potential life, phosphorous detected in Saturn's moon's ocean

Phosphate, a key building block of life, has been detected in one of Saturn's moon's, Enceladus's, ocean, and in what scientists call the "first finding of phosphorus on an extraterrestrial ocean world".

The phosphates were detected in particles ejected from the ice-covered global ocean of Saturn's moon Enceladus, the international team of scientists led by the Freie Universität Berlin, Germany, found using data from NASA's Cassini space mission.

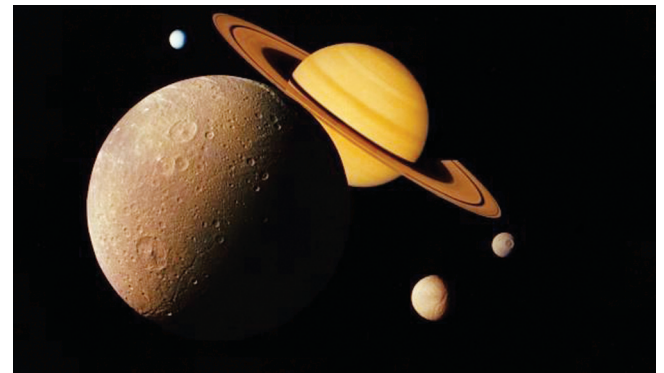
The team also found phosphate to be present in Enceladus' ocean at levels at least 100 times higher than in Earth's oceans.

Phosphorous, in the form of phosphates, is known to be vital for life on Earth. It forms the backbone of DNA and is part of cell membranes and bones.

"By determining such high phosphate concentrations readily available in Enceladus's ocean, we have now satisfied what is generally considered one of the strictest requirements in establishing whether celestial bodies are habitable," said Fabian Klenner, a postdoctoral researcher in Earth and space sciences at the University of Washington, US, and third author of the study published in the journal Nature.

Worlds with oceans beneath a surface layer of ice is common in our solar system and occur on the icy moons of Jupiter (Ganymede) and Saturn (Titan and Enceladus), as well as even more distant celestial bodies, like Pluto.

Cassini, the spacecraft, first discovered that



Enceladus' harboured an ice-covered watery ocean, and analysed material erupting through cracks in the moon's south pole region using its Cosmic Dust Analyzer. NASA's Cassini mission explored Saturn, its rings and moons from 2004 to 2017.

The analyser studied individual ice grains emitted from Enceladus and sent those measurements back to Earth. To try and match their unknown signatures in Cassini's observations, Klenner tried different chemical compositions and concentrations in his samples.

"I prepared different phosphate solutions, and did the measurements, and we hit the bullseye. This was in perfect match with the data from space," Klenner said.

Source: PTI

Humans could be replaced by AI, finds study

Researchers have found that AI, particularly large language models (LLMs) may alter the nature of their work.

The study was published in Journal, 'Science'. Grossmann and colleagues observed that large language models trained on massive amounts of text data are becoming more capable of simulating human-like responses and behaviour. This opens up new avenues for testing theories and hypotheses about human behaviour at unprecedented scale and speed.

"What we wanted to explore in this article is how social science research practices can be adapted, even reinvented, to harness the power of AI," said Igor Grossmann, professor of psychology at Waterloo.

Traditionally, social sciences rely on a range of methods, including questionnaires, behavioural tests, observational studies, and experiments. A common goal in social science research is to obtain a generalized representation of the characteristics of individuals, groups, cultures, and their dynamics. With the advent of advanced AI systems, the landscape of data collection in social sciences may shift.

"AI models can represent a vast array of human experiences and perspectives, possibly giving them a higher degree of freedom to generate diverse responses than conventional human participant methods, which can help to reduce generalizability concerns in research," said Grossmann.

"LLMs might supplant human participants for data collection," said UPenn psychology professor Philip Tetlock, adding, "In fact, LLMs have already demonstrated their ability to generate realistic survey responses concerning consumer behaviour. Large language models will revolutionize human-based forecasting in the next 3 years. It won't make sense for humans unassisted by AIs to venture probabilistic judgments in serious policy debates. I put a 90 per cent chance on that. Of course, how humans react to all of that is another matter." While opinions on the



feasibility of this application of advanced AI systems vary, studies using simulated participants could be used to generate novel hypotheses that could then be confirmed in human populations.

But the researchers warn of some of the possible pitfalls in this approach - including the fact that LLMs are often trained to exclude sociocultural biases that exist for real-life humans. This means that sociologists using AI in this way couldn't study those biases.

Professor Dawn Parker, a co-author of the article from the University of Waterloo, notes that researchers will need to establish guidelines for the governance of LLMs in research.

"Pragmatic concerns with data quality, fairness, and equity of access to the powerful AI systems will be substantial," Parker said, adding, "So, we must ensure that individuals, groups, cultures, LLMs, like all scientific models, are open-source, meaning that their algorithms and ideally data are available to all to scrutinize, test, and modify. Only by maintaining transparency and replicability can we ensure that AI-assisted social science research truly contributes to our understanding of human experience." Source: ANI

Fitch ups India's growth forecast to 6.3% on mfg, infra spending

The Indian economy is expected to clock a higher growth of 6.3% — one of the highest in the world — in the current fiscal aided by sustained momentum in manufacturing output and infrastructure spending, Fitch Ratings said on Thursday, June 22.

The agency has revised upwards the growth forecast from 6% projected in March.

The economy also continues to benefit from high bank credit growth and infrastructure spending (with more to come from the latter), Fitch added.

"The stronger outturn in 1Q23 (March quarter) and near-term momentum have prompted us to upgrade our FY23-24 growth forecast to 6.3% — revised up from 6% in March — one of the highest growth rates in the world," said the June update to Fitch's Global Economic Outlook.

RBI has projected India's GDP to grow 6.5% in the current fiscal year.

Amazon to collect expiring Rs 2,000 notes from customers

Amazon said on Wednesday it will collect soon-to-be-withdrawn Rs 2,000 notes from customers and credit them to online wallets to help people struggling with the exchange process.

The Reserve bank of India had decided last month to withdraw the largest denomination notes from circulation, asking people to deposit or exchange them at banks by the end of September.

Amazon said its customers can hand over up to Rs 50,000 worth to delivery agents for orders meant for payment via cash.

The amount will then be credited to their Amazon Pay wallets.

"Don't stress if stores are refusing to accept 2,000 rupee notes for payments," the e-commerce giant said in a statement.

Unlike in 2016, India's latest currency note change has not disrupted the markets.

Since the RBI's May 19 order, Indians began to use the 2,000 rupee notes to pay for daily essentials, premium brands and online orders, with Zomato's food delivery sales using cash payments surging in the first few days. "The facility to top up your Amazon Pay balance with cash handed to delivery agents at your doorstep is one of our unique services in India," Vikas Bansal, whole-time director at Amazon Pay India, said in a statement.

US economy seen skirting recession but with sticky inflation

WASHINGTON (TIP)

The US economy is now expected to narrowly dodge a recession this year but underlying inflation will be faster than previously thought, according to the latest Bloomberg monthly survey of economists.

Gross domestic product is now forecast to only contract in the final three months of the year, and it's projected to merely stagnate in the third quarter instead of shrink, the June survey showed.

While estimates were marked up for the current quarter and next — due to stronger consumer spending and upward revisions to business investment — GDP growth is seen slightly weaker through the end of 2024.

At the same time, economists see the personal consumption expenditures price index, excluding food and energy, rising at a faster pace over the next year than they did in the May survey. That corroborates the Federal Reserve's view as well, supporting policymakers' assertion that another two interest-rate hikes will probably be appropriate this year.

According to the median forecast, economists see one more rate hike in the third quarter, with the federal funds rate holding in a 5.25%-5.5% range through yearend before an expected quarter-point cut in early 2024.

The survey of 71 economists from June 16-21 showed stronger views of the labor market. Forecasters mostly see increased hiring this year and next, and they also expect the unemployment rate will peak at a slightly lower level. That helps explain projections for sustained consumer spending.

The findings also support the notion



that the housing market bottom has passed. While sales of previously owned homes are struggling for momentum, buyers are seeking new construction and builders have been responding to demand. Economists see that trend continuing with higher new-home sales over the next year and more housing starts.

US jobless claims hold at 20-month high

The number of people filing for state unemployment benefits for the first time held steady at a 20-month high last week, remaining elevated for a third straight week in what may be an early indication of a softening labor market in the face of the Federal Reserve's aggressive credit tightening.

The housing market, meanwhile, showed further signs of stabilizing last month after standing out last year as the sector most visibly upended by the Fed's rate hikes. However, selling prices for existing homes — the largest slice of the U.S. residential property market — tumbled from a year earlier by the most in more than a decade, a demonstration of the choppy nature of the recovery underway.

Data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics on Thursday showed 264,000 new claims were filed for jobless benefits on a seasonally adjusted basis in the week ended June 17, unchanged from the prior week's upwardly revised level, which is the highest level of initial claims activity since October 2021.

Apple set to launch its credit card in India: Report

LONDON/HONG KONG (TIP)

Technology giant Apple is gearing up to launch its own credit card in India. The iPhone maker's chief executive officer (CEO) Tim Cook recently met HDFC Bank CEO and managing director Sashidhar Jagdishan during his recent trip to India in April, Moneycontrol reported.

As per report, Apple is having talks with the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) to launch 'Apple Pay' in the country. It is unclear whether the discussions pertained to the credit card being powered by the Rupay platform or for the unified payments interface (UPI). Rupay credit card can be linked to UPI too.

In India, only banks can launch credit cards while UPI is for customers to make seamless and fast payments by scanning QR codes through mobile phones. According to the Moneycontrol report, Apple has held talks with the Reserve Bank of India over the modalities of the card. The RBI



reportedly asked the company to follow regular procedure for co-branded credit cards.

As per reports, Apple is set to launch its co-branded credit card with HDFC Bank in India. The discussions are in the early stages. At present, the tech behemoth currently operates a premium credit card in the United States, made of titanium and launched in partnership with Mastercard and Goldman Sachs. For the past couple of years, Apple has been focusing on India. According to report, the iPhone

maker's sales in India touched around Rs 50,000 crore in the financial year 2022-23. Recently, Tim Cook during his visit to India had launched two exclusive stores in Mumbai and Delhi. Apple has been shifting a significant portion of iPhone production to India. It has a four per cent share of overall smartphone market in India, which amounts to two crore users.

As mentioned earlier, only banks can issue credit cards to the customers. In India, Apple cannot introduce a card with its logo and customer's name on the front. In the US, the brand names of Goldman Sachs and Mastercard appear on the Apple card. But the tech giant cannot take these liberties in India.

Talking about rewards, the Apple card is integrated with Apple Pay and the reward will be deposited into the Apple wallet. This card does not have any annual fees. In the United States, the company let its card users buy the products in installment without interest.

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

WEEKLY HOROSCOPE - JUNE 26 TO JULY 2, 2023

ARIES



Ganesha says, this week, more people will be interested in your ideas than normal. This week is an excellent week for demonstrations since you can convince others that they endorse your goals. Your extensive effort on the business level will allow you to see things more clearly than before. Even though you will be working alone this week, you will still be able to complete tasks promptly and competently. This week, your relationship with your spouse will be your pillar of support. They will assist you in persuading others to view events from your point of view. Their endearing characteristics will be able to win over your household. This week, be sure to express your gratitude to them. You will be on guard.

TAURUS



Ganesha says, you are the kind of man that always follows the crowd. This week, you need to put away your impulses and focus on your reasoning because you need to be saner. For the protection of your wellness, you must travel responsibly and drive cautiously. The age gap between you and your lover will make it difficult for you to comprehend one another emotionally. Even if there is only a minuscule age disparity between you, your thoughts will still mesh. This week, a single endeavor will take up most of your time in your working life. Those that are late will be something you must cope with. This week will be difficult for business owners. This week, avoid carrying anything delicate.

GEMINI



Ganesha says, this week, a significant amount of hope will seep into your circle. Despite the fact that you have been down for a long time, this week will feel brand-new. You can choose to plunge into the depths of the sea. Your recovery will be aided by the agreements that you sign this week, but your employer will expect you to assume financial risks. It will be up to individuals in positions of authority to persuade their superiors to change. After a challenging week, your companion will improve your outlook on your romantic life. Spending a lot of time is the goal for this week. Joint issues are likely to negatively impact your well-being this week. When visiting places, avoid unhealthy food.

CANCER



Ganesha says, you will decide something very important for your career this week. Even though you will want to minimize other people's

viewpoints, refraining from doing so will make things more difficult. This week, an expert's standpoint will be necessary. This week will be a good one for businesspeople in terms of their working lives as their earnings will rise. This week, refrain from utilizing any ecological products. Daily employees will recite their beginnings from a list of recognition this week. This week, you will be annoyed by your stomach aches in terms of your health. The best course of action that is currently open to you is visiting a doctor. Organizations trying to control this week's events should let them unfold naturally.

LEO



Ganesha says, this week, everything you do will be done with extraordinary care. It is great that you would behave madly in pursuit of your objectives. Be careful not to aggravate your grandparents or coworkers while explaining the rationale you were forced to postpone your plans. Additionally, you will develop your own business sphere that you will not want to leave. You will be pushed and worn out on the economic boundaries. The financial for stocks will provide huge wealth to entrepreneurs. Purchases in telecom stocks will yield large long-term gains. With reference to your existing connection, your spouse will act as an intermediary for you to forge new interpersonal and professional contacts.

VIRGO



Ganesha says, this week, you will make people happy. You will have a sensation of altruism. This week, individuals will remain safe because of your kindness. You are going to make the most of this week. You will be able to complete the tasks assigned to you by your superiors. Your supervisors will appreciate how independent you are. The job that we do now frequently involves tense situations, therefore you will need extra time to make decisions for your business. To make it possible for you to begin making preparations for the future as soon as is practical in regard to your love life, your partner would instantly introduce you to their parents. If you are still youthful, you should be cautious this week about misleading people.

LIBRA



Ganesha says, this week, you will assist an extended family and relative with a technology-related issue. The other individual will be stunned and appreciative of you. Your kindness and compassion will draw beneficial

energy to you, which will be advantageous. You had good luck this week. Despite the fact that your wages are currently a little out of whack, celestial movement in your zodiac sign will ensure your financial security. You will also comfort and assist your partner this week. This week, you will work with your companion to resolve a tricky problem. You will probably spend the days outside, which will sap your vitality. To avoid migraines, be sure to have energy boosters on hand this week.

SCORPIO



Ganesha says, your week will be uncertain; you will experience a positive period in the first half of the week and become motivated by the environment. As a consequence, your workers will try to improve your business this week. You will be prepared to finish this week's unfinished assignments without distractions. This week, you will adhere to all workplace morals. On a professional level, the week will not be easy, but you will be able to keep your cool at work. Your income is in excellent shape right now, but given your spending habits, it will be tough for you to keep it as such in the near future. This week, your companion will entrust you with the guardianship of everything truly valuable. Though challenging, you will be able to complete it correctly.

SAGITTARIUS



Ganesha says, by connecting people and serving as their intermediary, you have missed out on possible relationships. This week, a particular someone will cross your path in an unlikely place. So, keep an optimistic mindset, your workweek will go off without any issues. It will be a positive interaction, and they will like you straight away. The location where you are currently has no bad reputation. You will not experience any negative emotions. This week is probably going to be a rocky one for your love life! Despite the fact that you are worn out at the end of the week, your thoughts and feelings will remain pleasant and kind. This week, you will have both since a cheerful outlook means well-being.

CAPRICORN



Ganesha says, you will be able to get your confidence back this week. You are in an accomplishing mood this week, so be sure to be specific with your objectives. You will begin experiencing new things this week. You will make an error by making the wrong choice in order to take advantage of all that has been

CONTD ON PAGE 35

BIRTHDAY HOROSCOPE : JUNE 26 TO JULY 2, 2023 BY ASTRO FRIEND CHIRAG - SON OF ASTROLOGER BEJAN DARUWALLA

JUNE 26

Ganesha says today, the celestial forces urge you to draw upon the caring and nurturing characteristics inherent in your identity. These traits, centered on kindness and empathy, are your superpowers. Your intuition, sharp as ever, may lead you towards individuals or situations that require a gentle touch and a listening ear. Don't hold back from demonstrating genuine emotions; these authentic displays can help strengthen bonds and deepen connections with those you cherish.

JUNE 27

Ganesha says the universe gives you an abundance of creativity today. This may manifest itself in various forms, such as a flair for art, a knack for writing, or an innovative

approach to resolving issues. Allow yourself to be taken by surprise at your own resourcefulness. Stay patient, maintain an open mind, and let the ideas flow. Remember, the most brilliant flashes of inspiration often occur when you least anticipate them.

JUNE 28

Ganesha says the cosmos urges you to step into the social arena today. An excellent day for networking and meeting new people, let your true colors shine, inspiring others with your unique perspective. Reach out, connect, and let conversations flow organically. Remember, authenticity has a magnetic pull - you never know whose life you might touch.

JUNE 29

Ganesha says the power of

perseverance takes centre stage today. You may encounter hurdles and obstacles, but remember that your strength lies in your unwavering determination and resilience. Trust your capabilities and soldier on, because even the tiniest steps, when taken consistently, can lead to impressive progress over time.

JUNE 30

Ganesha says today's guiding principle is balance. Strive for equilibrium in all aspects of your life, whether it's between work and play, or giving and receiving. Your peace of mind and satisfaction hinge upon achieving this delicate harmony. Remember, it's not just okay, but essential, to decline when you need to - taking care of yourself should always be a priority.

JULY 1

Ganesha says today, the cosmos seems to align favorably for you, nudging you towards personal growth and self-improvement. Don't hesitate to step beyond your comfort zone. Explore uncharted territories, seek fresh experiences, and you may discover new facets of your personality. Remember, life begins at the end of your comfort zone.

JULY 2

Ganesha says as you wake up today, it's the perfect time for introspection and goal-setting. Reflect on the day that's passed and think about what you want from the day ahead. This is not about the month or the year, but about now. Set your intentions, plan your actions, and remember that every sunrise presents a brand-new opportunity to begin afresh.

WEEKLY HOROSCOPE - JUNE 26 TO JULY 2, 2023

CONTD FROM PAGE 34

provided. It will not be live constantly this week. You can feel that your lover does not give you enough thought. Maintain your composure and show your mate your commitment without giving in. You will lag ahead if you consider your options carefully. Your desire to succeed will motivate you to set greater standards. See what happens when you improve at things you are already excellent at. Be selective about what you eat!

AQUARIUS



Aquarius

Ganesha says, whatever you choose to undertake this week, you will be on the correct track. This week, you will give a few viable possibilities some thought. You will labor a bit less diligently and depend more on chance. Do not let anything happen by happenstance since your future will only be determined by the choices you make now. Envy wants to break up the relationship you already have, therefore, avoid frenzy over little things your partner does. Try to control it or communicate how you feel to your spouse honestly and openly. You could now have any misunderstandings that this will enable you to resolve. In your future interview, you will excel. Never forget to be flexible and patient. Take a stroll and breathe in the fresh air in a beautiful setting. Avoid taking

PISCES



Pisces

Ganesha says, you will discover the answers you have been looking for this week. You shouldn't give up on your concepts even

if they do not work out this week. This week, someone will benefit from your compassion. Do not let this experience change who you are in the hereafter. Tell your lover anything that is going through

your mind. This week, your love relationship will flourish. This week should see a boost in your revenue. Your company is on the right track. So, all you have to do now is wait. Substantial

investments should not be made right now. If you have young kids in your home, take extra safety measures. Schedule them in for their routine inspections every month without hesitation.

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Sikh History This Week

JUNE 23, 2023, TO JUNE 29, 2023

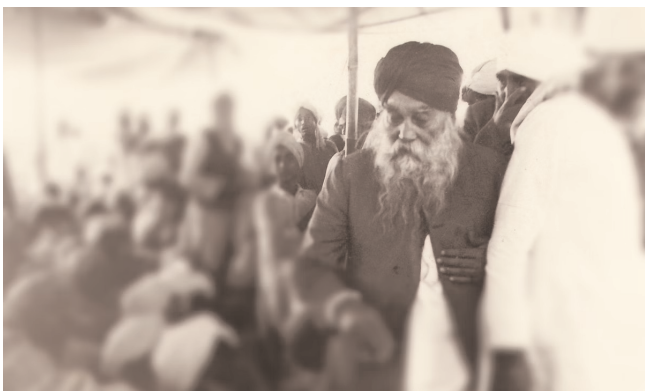
23rd June

1982 Sikh shops burned in Patiala.



1984 Indira Gandhi, then Prime Minister of India, visits Darbar Sahib after operation Bluestar. All Singh Sahibans were present but boycotted this visit. No sarropa was given as a protest and exhibition of Sikh anger.

24th June



1885 Master Tara Singh was born on 24 June, 1885, in Haryal in Rawalpindi district of North Western Province of undivided India. His mother, Moolan Devi, was a pious lady and his father, Bakshi Gopi Chand, was a patwari of the village and was a well known and respected person. Tara Singh's original name was Nanak Chand. In 1902 Nanak Chand embraced Sikhism and came to be called Tara Singh. Tara Singh had a bright educational career and was a scholarship holder almost at all stages of his education. In 1907 he passed his B. A. examination from Khalsa College, Amritsar. Later Tara Singh joined as headmaster of Khalsa High School, Lyallpur, at an honorarium of Rs. 15 per month. Since then he came to be known as Master Tara Singh. His career as a teacher ended in 1921, following the Nankana tragedy. He also edited two Akali newspapers, Akali (Udru) and Akali te Pardesi (Grumukhi) in which he forcefully put forward the aims and objectives of the Akali Dal. He took an active part in national politics till his death on 22 November 1967.



1962 Punjabi University established.

25th June

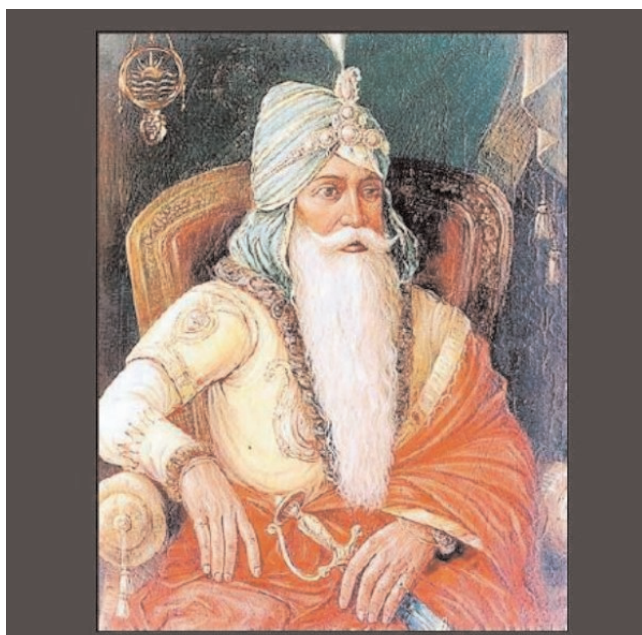


1700 Sikhs forces defeated the combined forces of Hill chiefs and imperial troops.

Guru Gobind Singh Ji's forces routed the 10,000 combined forces of Hill chiefs and the imperial troops. It was from the Baisakhi of 1699 that the hill chiefs became thirsty for Guru Gobind Singh's blood and resolved to destroy the Sikh Panth which they considered inimical to varnashram dharam. They resolved to try all venues suggested to them by Kautilya's statecraft: weakening the movement from within; instigating people of other faiths against it; and involving it straight away in an armed struggle with the forces of the state to retard its momentum, if not destroy it. This was the first battle of Anandpur Sahib.

1889 Maharaja Dalip Singh sent message from Geneva to initiate uprising against the British government. 1924 9th Shahidi Jatha of 500 Akalis, led by Sardar Kaesar Singh of Vidang (Amritsar), courted arrest upon reaching Jaito.

26th June



1838 Maharaja Ranjit Singh signed a tri-party agreement with the British and Shujah and British. Under this agreement, Maharaja Ranjit Singh was to give 5000 troops, British to give officers and financial assistance to Shah Shujah against Dost Mohd. Maharaja Ranjit Singh was virtually forced into this treaty by British diplomacy.

1839 Maharaja Ranjit Singh suffered another stroke.

1984 Baba Nihal Singh Hariawalae arrested.

1984 Panj Payaras demanded from the President, Prime Minister, and Governor of Punjab to give control of kar Sewa to SGPC.

27th June

1745 Nawab Zakaria Khan's orders were carried out and Bhai Taru's scalp was removed. On Harbhagat Naranjania's complaint, Bhai Taru Singh of his village was arrested and accused of providing rations to the Sikhs. Bhai Taru Singh admitted the facts. Nawab Zakaria Khan ordered the removal of his scalp. Bhai Taru Singh said that the Governor would suffer as much torture. And Bhai Taru would take Zakaria Khan along with him to the other world.

1839 Maharaja Ranjit Singh passed away in Lahore. Maharaja Ranjit Singh, the great ruler of Punjab for 40 years, breathed his last at 7 P.M. on this day and thus the most brilliant period of Sikh history came to a close.

28th June



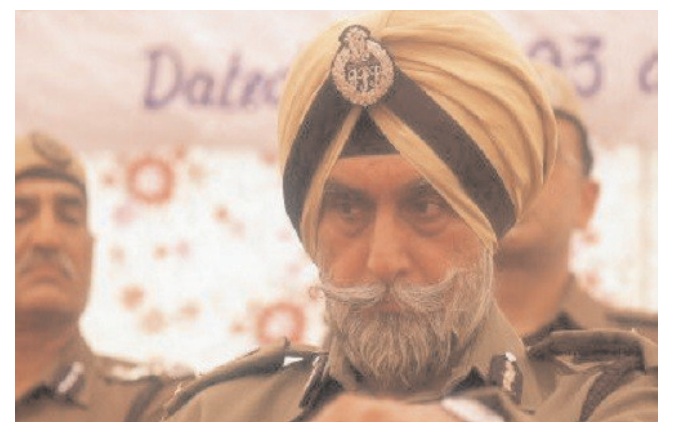
1984 Ujagar Singh, acting President, Akali Dal and Atma Singh, acting President SGPC were arrested from their temporary offices in Sri Guru Ram Das hospital. These arrests were conducted to sabotage the Akali Dal meeting announced for Jun. 29, 1984.

1996 Kamaljit Singh Sandhu's body found in a canal. He was one of the seven convicts in the hijacking of an Indian Airlines Boeing on August 23, 1984.

29th June

1924: 7th and 8th Sahidhi Jathas of 500 Akali Satyagrahis each, under the leadership of Karmveer Sardar Pratap Singh of Kuradpur (Jalandhar) and Sardar Man Singh Hunboo (Shakhupuraa) respectively, courted arrests upon reaching Jaito.

1984 First meeting of Akali Dal in Darbar Sahib, Amritsar, after Operation Bluestar. This meeting strongly condemned the attack and its resulting destruction, innocents killed.



K.P.S. Gill became the new Director General of Police in Punjab. Under Gill a fresh reign of terror was unleashed in Punjab. Numerous innocent families were destroyed; youth subjected to extra-judicial killings, women raped. Even the very young and old weren't spared.

contd from page 17

MODI FOOLS AMERICAN PUBLIC AND MEDIA

Whereas the fact is under Modi since 2002 as CM of Gujarat and after becoming PM of India in 2014, minorities, namely Muslims, Christians, Sikhs, Buddhist, tribals and dissidents are undergoing intensely antidemocratic censorship, discrimination, and extrajudicial violence and long jail terms under repressive colonial British laws.

'The job of comedy is to offend! Comedians should be allowed to make jokes about 'absolutely ANYTHING'



In India, Modi is not answerable to anyone including print and TV media on any matter related to the wellbeing of Indians or his anti-minorities policies or his party re-writing Indian history with false narratives. The Media's job is only to praise Modi

24X7 in every Indian language, trash all the opposition leaders, Islam, Christianity, and other religious minorities including Tribals and Dalits. Neither Modi gives a chance to foreign media to ask him about minorities undergoing religious discrimination, public beatings, and lynchings, nor does he want to answer uncomfortable questions like India slipping to 107 out of 121 countries in UN's Hunger Index or 132 in Human Development Index, or 135 out of 146 in Gender Gap Index of the World Economic Forum. Thomson Reuters Foundation calls India the world's most dangerous country for women. Cato Institute, which measures human freedom, downgraded India between 2015 and 2022 from 75 to 112. India ranks 160 out of 180 countries in Press Freedom Index by Reporters Without Borders in 2022. They cited violence against journalists with an average 3-4 journalists killed in connection with their work every year.

People should know that BJP and Modi's own Cabinet of Ministers have the most criminals in the current Indian Parliament. Out of 303 BJP MP's, 116 have criminal records, including one charged with bomb making, a terrorism accused, and 22 are in Modi Cabinet. Out of that number, 16 ministers have serious criminal cases registered against them. Serious criminal cases include terrorism, treason, arson, murder, rape, robbery, burglary, communal disharmony/hate speeches, electoral law violations, and kidnapping, among others.

Unfortunately, of the 539 winning candidates analyzed by the ADR, as many as 233 MPs or 43% have criminal charges. Nearly 29% of the cases are related to rape, murder, attempt to murder or crime against women. "There is an increase of 109% [in 2019] in the number of MPs with declared serious criminal cases since 2009," it said. If that is the plight of India's Parliament and government run by criminals; one can for sure say the states must be doing worse than that!

I leave it to the fellow Americans, especially the Indian Americans, to do some serious thinking why America under its morally and ethically corrupt politicians, is supporting foreign leaders who are communal and criminal, like Narendra Modi.

Comments are welcome.

(The author is a social activist, based in New Jersey. He can be reached at davemakkar@yahoo.com)



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Amarnath Yatra

Arnath Yatra is among the most revered pilgrimage circuits among Hindus. This annual event starts in July and goes on till mid-August every year. This holy Yatra is undertaken by thousands of people from all over the country.

This year, the Amarnath ji Yatra will commence on 1 July 2023 and will culminate on 31 August 2023.

Nestled in the lap of the mighty Himalayas in the Anantnag District of Kashmir, Amarnath Cave is one of the most celebrated Hindu shrines that hold spiritual significance among the devotees.

Situated at an altitude of 3,888 m above sea level, Amarnath Cave houses an ice stalagmite that symbolizes the mythical power of Lord Shiva. This ice Shiva Lingam is the prime attraction of the Amarnath Cave, which shrinks and grows with the phases of the moon.

This prominent Hindu shrine is dedicated to Lord Shiva, which has many lore and legends related to pilgrimage and Amarnath Yatra.

Who discovered the Amarnath Cave?

According to the local folklore, the Amarnath Cave was discovered by a Muslim shepherd Buta Malik in 1850. According to the lore, he was roaming with his herds in the mountains, and a saint met him there.

The saint gave him a bag full of coal, and when he reached home, he opened the bag, and he found a bag full of gold instead of coal. He was overjoyed and ran back to the same place to thank the saint, but he did not find the saint. Instead, he found the cave and the ice Lingam.

He informed the villagers about this and shared this story, after which the pilgrimage to Amarnath Cave started.

According to myths, the Kashmir Valley was submerged underwater, and Sage Kashyap drained it through a series of rivers and creeks. After this incident, Rishi Bhrgu was the first to have discovered Amarnath.

He has had a darshan of Lord Shiva at Amarnath, and after listening to this story, people started to undertake the pilgrimage circuit to Amarnath Cave, which takes place in July and August.

Legends and Mythology of Amarnath Cave

There are numerous legends related to the Amarnath Cave. Among them, there is a most famous legend, which depicts that Lord Shiva has chosen this place to share the secret of immortality and the process of formation of the universe with Goddess Parvati.

He shared the story with Goddess Parvati about why he wears a bead of heads and what it implies. He told her that the head in the bead increases every time she is reborn. To this, Goddess Parvati asked about the reason behind Lord Shiva's immortality.

He told her that she demanded to hear Amar Katha, which is a difficult task to listen for a human in one go and without sleeping.

She keeps insisting on Lord Shiva narrating the story, and then after a long time, he agrees to tell her the story at this place. For this, he was looking for a lonely place where no one could hear the story except for Mata Parvati.

On the way to Amarnath Cave, he left all these belongings en route, including his snake at Sheshnag Lake, Nandi bull at Pahalgam, his moon at Chandanwari, his son at Mahagunas Parvat, and at Panjtarni he left his five elements (Earth, Fire, Water, Air, and Sky).

Lord Shiva entered the holy cave with Goddess Parvati, sat on the deerskin, and took a Samadhi. To ensure that there was no one in the cave, he created a Rudra named Kalagni and ordered him to set the cave ablaze so that everything living there will be destroyed.

He then started narrating the story of immortality to the Goddess Parvati. But, Lord Shiva was unaware that there was an egg that remained protected under the deerskin on which the Lord was sitting.

A pair of pigeons were born out of that egg and allegedly became immortal after listening to the story while in the egg form.

Today, after all these years, the pilgrims can see the



pair of pigeons while going towards the Amarnath Cave. They are fondly referred to as 'Amarnath Pigeon,' and it is believed that they are the same pigeons who have listened to the story of immortality.

Significance of Amarnath

The most prominent feature of Amarnath Cave Temple is the Shiva Lingam, which is 40 m inside the cave. It is formed due to the dripping of freezing water from the cave's ceiling and grows vertically on the cave floor to form the Lingam.

As per scientific terms, it is a stalagmite. As per Hindu mythology, the Lingam comprises the mythical energy of Lord Shiva. It is believed that the Shiva Lingam grows and shrinks as per the phase of the Moon, although there is no scientific proof for the same.

Apart from the main Linga, two other ice formations can be seen in the cave, which is believed to be Goddess Parvati and Lord Ganesha.

Now, you have gained knowledge about the religious and mythological significance of Amarnath Yatra. As Amarnath Cave is where Lord Shiva narrates the Amar Katha or story of immortality to Goddess Parvati, it is one of the holiest pilgrimage sites for the devotees.

There are two ways to complete this Yatra. One starts from Pehelgaam and another one from Sonmarg Baltaal. The route from pehelgaam is simple and convenient. The route from Sonmarg is just 14 KM but it is very difficult and has security concerns also. People following this route do it at their own risk and also govt of India is not responsible for any mishap on this route.

Pehelgaam is at a distance of 315 KM from Jammu. The Yatra on foot starts from here. The first stop is at Chandanbadi which is at 8 KM from Pehelgaam. The devotees spend the first night here. On the next morning, they resume the Yatra for Pissoo Ghati along Lidder river. This part of Yatra is simple as compared to the rest of the Yatra.

The next stop from Chandanbadi is Sheshnaag. The route is dangerous and has steep height. One can see pissoo ghati here. This area is very dangerous. There are many beautiful lakes of blue water coming out of hills. The devotees spend night here and resume their third day Yatra from here.

Panchtarni is at a distance of 8 miles from Sheshnaag. One has to cross Baijwell and Mahagunass on the way to Sheshnaag. The place gets its name because of five small rivers flowing here. It is surrounded by high hills from all the sides. The devotees have to be extra careful here because of lack of oxygen at this place.

The holy cave is at a distance of only 8KM from here. The whole of route is filled with ice all along the way. This route is very difficult. One forgets all the tiredness as soon as he reaches the holy cave and attains spiritual bliss on witnessing the the Shiva-linga made of natural ice.

Age Limit for Amarnath Yatra

There are also some age restrictions for the Amarnath Yatra. No one below 13 years of age or above 75 years of age can take part in Amarnath Yatra. There is a ban on Amarnath Yatra for women who are more than 6 weeks pregnant.

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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

There can be 'no ifs or buts' in...

The Prime Minister also talked about the virtues of democracy, the ties that bind India and the United States, and India's economic and development trajectory. He also touched on issues of global concern, such as the war in Ukraine and the situation in the Indo-Pacific.

Mr. Modi's speech was heard by a packed chamber and he received several standing ovations, but over 70 members of Congress had raised concerns about democratic backsliding in India ahead of his address. A handful of them boycotted the event. "Democracy is one of our sacred and shared values," the Prime Minister said as he referred to India as the "mother of democracy".

"I am here to speak about our calling for this century," he said, characterizing as an "exceptional privilege" the opportunity to address Congress twice (his first address was in June 2016).

He talked about the digitization of the Indian economy and said that India would soon be the third-largest economy in the world. "When India grows, the world grows," Mr. Modi said.

He depicted India's development as being led by women and a blend of ancient values and modern capabilities, such as in technology.

"Be it creative reels on Insta or real-time payments, coding or quantum computing... the youth of India are a great example of how a society can embrace latest technology," the Prime Minister said.

"We celebrated a remarkable journey of over 75 years of freedom, after a thousand years of foreign rule in one form or another," Mr. Modi said. (This is apparently a reference to both British rule and Mughal rule. The BJP has previously alluded to the Mughals as being essentially foreign).

He also spoke about India's environmental commitments, linking them to India's culture.

On the Russian invasion of Ukraine, Mr. Modi said the world order was based on respect for the United Nations Charter, sovereignty and territorial integrity and the peaceful resolution of disputes.

"War has returned to Europe. It is causing great pain in the region," he said, adding that the countries of the so-called Global South were particularly impacted.

"As I have said directly and publicly, this is not an era of war. But, it is one of dialogue and diplomacy," Mr. Modi said.

Modi also made a veiled reference to China, saying the global order is based on respect for the principles of the UN Charter, peaceful resolution of disputes, and respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity.

Representing 1.4 billion Indians, Modi said it is always a great honor to address the US Congress and an exceptional privilege to do so twice.

Modi became the first Indian leader to address the joint session of the US Congress twice on Thursday. He first addressed a joint meeting of the US Congress in 2016.

Modi said as there have been many advances in AI-Artificial Intelligence - in the past few years, at the same time, there have been even more momentous developments in other AI- America and India.

"We were strangers in the defense cooperation at the turn of the century. Now, the US has become one of our most important defense partners," said Modi, who is currently on his maiden state visit.

His words received a standing ovation from US lawmakers.

Modi said democracy is one of their sacred and shared values.

It has evolved over a long time and taken various forms and systems. Throughout history, however, one thing has been clear: Democracy is the spirit that supports equality and dignity. Democracy is the idea that welcomes debate and discourse," he said.

Democracy is the culture that gives wings to thought and expression, he said, adding that India is blessed to have had such values from times immemorial.

In the evolution of the democratic spirit, India is the "Mother of Democracy" he added. (With inputs from PTI)

Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant...

The Punjabi NRI's in New York are upset with the Punjab chief minister Bhagwant Mann for arm-twisting the Daily Ajit published from Jalandhar

President of Indian Overseas Congress USA Mohinder Singh Gilzian said that the AAP government of Punjab in taking action against Ajit is trying to silence the voice of the people of Punjab. He further said that Punjabis abroad will not tolerate this. We will support and defend the publication wholeheartedly. He said a larger meeting would be convened and appropriate action against the dictatorial Punjab government initiated.

Baldev Singh Grewal, who served Ajit for a long time, said that Ajit Jalandhar is the only voice of Punjabis, especially the Sikhs. When Ajit was established and earned a readership of hundreds of thousands through hard work, Hind Samachar and Tribune Group started Punjabi editions, seeing commercial possibilities. Before that, these people were campaigning against Punjabi. The action of the present government of Punjab against Ajit should be considered as an action against Punjab, Punjabis and Punjabi. The Chief Minister of the Punjabi state based on the Punjabi dialect, who himself has been making a living by making Punjabi comedy till today, should desist from taking the heinous action against the Punjabi newspaper.

Prof. Indrajit Singh Saluja, president of the international organization "Journalists Beyond Borders", said that newspapers are the voice of the people. Media is the fourth pillar of democracy. The action of forcing any newspaper with the intention of closing it cannot be tolerated. Voice will be raised against this dictatorial action of Bhagwant Mann at the international level. As a first, the media will boycott AAP politicians coming from India to US.

Gurmeet Singh Butar and Bhinda Begowalia said that Bhagwant Mann should stop the daily excesses against Ajit. This is a newspaper of the people of Punjab, not owned by any particular caste. An attack on its editor Barjinder Singh is an attack on Ajit newspaper and an attack on the voice of Punjabi.

The meeting passed a resolution unanimously and strongly condemning the action of Punjab Chief Minister against Ajit and Ajit's editor Barjinder Singh Hamdard.

US Authorities investigating US...

According to a report by Bloomberg, the US Attorney's Office in Brooklyn, New York, has sent inquiries to institutional investors who hold significant stakes in the Adani Group, focusing on the information provided by the conglomerate to those investors.

<https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2023-06-22/adani-group-statements-to-investors-draw-us-regulatory-scrutiny#xj4y7vzkg>

The Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) is also conducting a similar investigation, according to sources familiar with the matter.

The inquiries by US authorities come at a time when Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi is on a state visit to US.

On Friday, Adani Group's market capitalization fell as much as Rs 55,000 crore, its biggest single-day drop in m-cap in four months.

<https://www.businesstoday.in/latest/corporate/story/major-development-hindenburg-founder-responds-to-report-of-us-authorities-probe-into-adani-group-386861-2023-06-23>

The Indian Panorama, on June 9, published an Open letter addressed to US Congress to investigate investment by the US companies in Adani Group. The letter said, inter alia, that the investment by the US companies was in violation of US laws and was harming the interests of America. Hence, an investigation was necessary.

<https://www.theindianpanorama.news/opinion/letters/an-open-letter-to-united-states-congress/>

17 Non-BJP Opposition parties pledge...

The meeting was the first of the many that the Opposition has planned. The next meeting will be hosted by the Congress in Shimla around mid-July.

Barring a few tense moments, with bitter exchanges between the Congress and Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), the atmosphere was convivial. Many Opposition leaders urged the Congress to be "generous." It too played its part by listening more and speaking less.

The meeting began with an opening address from Bihar Chief Minister and Janata Dal (United) leader Nitish Kumar and his colleague from Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) Lalu Prasad. Mr. Kumar, according to sources, said that as "we edge closer to May 2024 many more political parties will join this block".

Mr. Prasad, who appeared for the first time in a political meeting after his recent kidney transplant, urged the Congress to be "large-hearted" and said that the larger force in each State should be given primacy - a view that was echoed by Samajwadi Party (SP) leader Akhilesh Yadav later during the meeting.

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge was urged to speak, as the leader of the largest party present, but Mr. Kharge chose to listen instead and decided to speak at the very end.

NCP patriarch Sharad Pawar wanted a joint statement issued, though the other parties disagreed, saying it is too early to frame one. Mr. Kejriwal advocated for embracing the "nation first, party second" motto, appealing for each party to be flexible.

The discussion then veered towards the widely anticipated electoral arrangement. Tamil Nadu Chief Minister and Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) president M.K. Stalin elucidated that there can be no "single formula for seat sharing across the country". It will vary from State to State according to the political equation there. It was also endorsed by National Conference leader Omar Abdullah, who called the formula of one common candidate against BJP in 543 seats "impractical".

West Bengal Chief Minister and Trinamool leader Mamata Banerjee demanded that the Opposition work with the goal of "no vote to BJP" but at the same time be conscious that this fight does not devolve into "BJP versus All". Instead, it is about "BJP vs People of India", she said. Former Congress president Rahul Gandhi who spoke towards the end underlined three things. He referred to comments by Mr. Pawar who cited the Maha Vikas Aghadi alliance of NCP, Congress and Shiv Sena (UBT) in Maharashtra as an example of how the Opposition can overcome past differences and ideological issues. "I have come here without any past memory. Congress party will not hold on to its past likes and dislikes," Mr. Gandhi said according to sources. Opposition unity, he said, begins with a clean slate. He said the BJP currently enjoys a monopoly over finances, institutions and modes of communication. To counter this, the Opposition has to build a common narrative.

CPI(M) general secretary Sitaram Yechury said the Opposition must focus on the issue of economic distress. Addressing a joint press conference at the end of the meeting, Mr. Kumar slammed BJP saying that the party in power at the Centre these days "is not working in national interest".

Ms. Banerjee said the Opposition will work to stall the BJP "even if blood flows". "We resolved three things. One we are united, second we will contest the election together against BJP and third, the next meeting will be held in Shimla," she said before adding, "History has started from here".

(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)

Khandala is a popular hill station in Maharashtra, perched on the foothills of Sahyadri in the Western Ghats. Khandala provides for a perfect weekend respite for the Mumbai population, with its scenic valleys, grassy hills, serene lakes and misty waterfalls. It is one of the twin hill stations - Lonavala and Khandala. The place immortalized by the popular Bollywood song, "Aati Kya Khandala", is a must-visit destination for everyone looking for beautiful nature, pleasant weather and the feeling of mist in the air. The natural beauty of Khandala blooms to its zenith and reveals a magical charm during the monsoons. Its meandering waterfalls and glittering lakes attributes to the majestic look an imposing ambience. The Mumbai-Pune expressway passes through Khandala. Due to this easy accessibility, it is a popular hiking spot from nearby cities. The Duke's Nose peak and Karla Hills are the two popular spots for rock climbing. Located near two more popular tourist hotspots, viz. Lonavala (3 km away) and Karjat (7 km), Khandala is one of the perfect hill retreats for both trekkers and young couples.

Rajmachi Fort

Midway between Lonavala and Khandala is a fort by the name of Rajmachi Fort, a prominent landmark that watches over some of the most breathtakingly beautiful and wide sceneries of the region.

Atop the Western Ghats, the complex comprises two forts that are individually located at the Shrivardhan and Manaranjan Peaks. From the fort, tourists can catch an aerial view of Duke's Nose, Karanala, Mahuli, Bhimashankar, Matheran and Ulhas River. The fort also enables tourists to get a view of the old caves lying at Kondhavi and Tungarli Lake.

Visapur Fort

The Visapur Fort is a popular hill fort near Visapur village located close to Lonavala. Also called Visapoor Fort, it is a popular weekend getaway from Pune and Mumbai. The majestic fort is a very popular destination for a trek. The climb to the Visapur Fort is rocky but welcoming. Starting at Bhaje village, it is about 2.5 to 3 hours long each way and ends at the height of 3556 feet.

The fort stands at the height of 1084 meters above sea level offering panoramic view hills covered in a thick blanket of green. Monsoons are definitely the best time to visit Visapur Fort - the greenery, brimming waterfalls, and the beautiful fog. This massive fort was built as a twin of the famous Lohagad fort, but at a higher elevation and covering a larger surface area.

Bedsa caves

Located slightly far from Kamshet, Bedsa Caves is a group of rock-cut Buddhist monuments dating back to 60 BC. Also known as Bedse Caves, it is one of the oldest caves of Maharashtra tracing back to the Satvahana period.

Known for their beautiful, exquisite carvings, the caves contain four 25 feet high pillars. The main cave called the 'Chaitya' has a prayer hall that enshrines a magnificent stupa. The other cave is the vihara or the monastery. It is best to visit Bedsa Caves early morning as both caves face eastward.

Lohagad Fort

Situated at the height of 3400 feet,

Khandala: The land of misty mountains



Lohagad Fort is a UNESCO world heritage site and formidable fort about 52 kilometres away from Pune. Perched atop an impressive hill near Malavali, this destination is the perfect amalgam of ancient architecture and natural beauty. Lohagad Fort was built in the 18th century and is an ideal destination for trekking and nature lovers, especially from Pune and Mumbai. Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj used to keep his treasury in this fort.

The trek to the fort is an easy one and perfect for the first-timers, making it a favourite haunt of hiking enthusiasts. In addition to its thrilling trek route, Lohagad Fort in itself is a massive structure that was once under the control of the mighty Maratha Empire and is connected to its twin Visapur Fort as well. Until a few years back, the base of the fort was quite far from the last point connected via road, but now a proper road has been built to the base of the fort, due to which a lot of people visit Lohagad during monsoon weekends, making it quite crowded. Whether you visit this destination for its lush green beauty, adventurous trekking route, panoramic views or illustrious history, Lohagad Fort is certainly worthy of a visit.

Duke's Nose

With a rather peculiar origin to its name, this site is known for some of the widest and grandest views of the surrounding mountains, valleys and forests.

Owing its name to an apparent resemblance to Duke of Wellington's nose, is this ideal picnic spot amidst beautiful surroundings. A famous spot for rock climbing, a very steep climb up rocky outcrops enables the tourists to reach the site. Trekking trail to reach the site begins from near the Khandala Railway Station. The 800-foot monolith can be reached by trekking for 1.5 hours.





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Yogeshwar Dutt leads protest against exemption for six

The decision of the ad hoc committee of the Indian Olympic Association (IOA) to exempt wrestlers who had sat on a protest from the full selection trials for Asian Games was slammed on Friday by coaches, parents of wrestlers and an Olympic medallist.

The ad hoc panel has written to the Olympic Council of Asia (OCA) asking if the July 15 deadline for entries could be extended by a month only for wrestling. This was as per the request of the protesting six – Vinesh Phogat, Bajrang Punia, Sangeeta Phogat, Sakshi Malik, Satyawart Kadian and Jitender Kinha – who wanted time to prepare and face only the winners of the trials in a one-off bout for the Asian Games and World Championships selection.

The six have been demanding the arrest of former federation president Brij Bhusan Sharan Singh for sexual harassment of women wrestlers.

While lack of time can be an issue for the Asian Games' trials, there should be no problem for the world championships in Belgrade from September 10, which is also a qualifier for the Paris Olympics. The last date for sending entries is August 16.

The panel's decision was criticised by London Olympics bronze medallist Yogeshwar Dutt, who is part of the IOA executive council. "I don't understand why only six wrestlers have been given the exemption. It is absolutely wrong and unfair. It is unprecedented and never happened in Indian wrestling. I don't understand what the criteria the ad-hoc panel has followed for the trials," Dutt said in a video posted on Twitter. Dutt, who was part of the Union sports ministry's oversight committee running WFI till April, said an exception should not have been made for being in a sit-in protest.

"If you are exempting any wrestler, there should be a criteria. If you want to give exemption, there is also Tokyo Olympics medallist Ravi Dahiya, CWG medallist Deepak Punia, Worlds medallist Anshu Malik, Sonam Malik and so many top wrestlers. Was the protest against sexual harassment charges or for seeking exemption in trials? The IOA panel has not followed any rules and criteria before taking such a decision," he said.

He also called on other wrestlers, who will be taking part in the trials, to write to sports minister Anurag Thakur.

Source: HT

Big name dropped as India name Test, ODI squads for West Indies tour

Yashasvi Jaiswal, Ruturaj Gaikwad, Mukesh Kumar named for first time in 16-member team; Pujara, Umesh dropped

NEW DELHI (TIP)

BCCI on Friday, June 23, announced India's Test and ODI squads for the West Indies tour. The selection committee's patience with veterans Cheteshwar Pujara and Umesh Yadav finally ran out as the duo were dropped from the Test side after a disappointing WTC final. Pujara's dwindling returns ever since his return to the Test side a year ago were always a concern while Umesh Yadav's lacklustre show against Australia in the WTC final put the writing on the wall. Young top-order batter Yashasvi Jaiswal and pacer Mukesh Kumar earned their maiden Test call-ups while Navdeep Saini returned to the scheme of things after a long gap.

Jaiswal was always on the selector's radar after his fantastic show in IPL 2023, where he scored 625 runs at a strike rate of 163. What also went in the left-hander's favour was his staggering record in first-class cricket. The Mumbai cricketer has an average of 80.21 in 15 matches with 9 centuries and a highest score of 265.

Mohammed Shami was given a break from both Tests and ODIs. Jaydev Unadkat, Shardul Thakur and Ajinkya Rahane held on to their places in the Test squad and so did spin-bowling all-rounder Axar Patel.

Interestingly, Rahane, who was nowhere in the scheme of things for about 15 months, was named as the vice-captain of the Test side following a successful WTC final



where he ended up as India's top run-getter riding on the back of a gritty 89-run knock in the first innings.

Ruturaj Gaikwad, who was first selected as a back-up opener for the WTC final only to be replaced by Jaiswal due to the right-hander's wedding, also found a place in the 16-man squad for the two-match Test series starting July 12 at Windsor Park, Dominica.

"The Men's Selection Committee has picked India's squad for the upcoming two-match Test series and three ODIs against the West Indies. India are also scheduled to play five T20Is and the squad for the same will be announced later," BCCI said in a release.

As far as the ODI squad is concerned, Sanju Samson was

named as wicketkeeper-batter along with Ishan Kishan. In the absence of Shreyas Iyer and Rishabh Pant, the selectors quite understandably decided to back Suryakumar Yadav at No.4, who has had a forgetful run in the 50-over format so far.

Mohammed Siraj will lead the pace battery. He will have Shardul Thakur and Jaydev Unadkat for support. Umran Malik made his comeback into the side while Mukesh Kumar was named in ODIs too.

For the spin department, there were no surprises as Yuzvendra Chahal, Kuldeep Yadav, Axar Patel and Ravindra Jadeja picked themselves.

The three-match ODI series will begin on July 27 in Barbados.

Sergio Busquets is joining former Barcelona teammate Lionel Messi at Inter Miami

Sergio Busquets is joining former Barcelona teammate Lionel Messi at Inter Miami, the team's second major addition in less than a month. The team confirmed the move Friday in a video posted on Twitter. Inter Miami displayed the phrase "Busi," referring to Busquets' nickname, accompanied by quotes from various soccer stars.

"On the field, he's always No. 5, but in reality as a player and a person, he's a 10," Messi wrote in Spanish.

The 35-year-old Messi announced on June 7 that he was joining Miami. He is expected to make his Major League Soccer debut in a home game on July 21, the team confirmed Tuesday. Owner Jorge Mas told selected outlets on Monday that his club and Messi have agreed to terms and are finalizing paperwork and a visa.

After nearly two decades with Barcelona, Busquets announced last month that he would not return to the club. His contract expires at the end of June.

Busquets arrived at Barcelona in 2005 and has played 722 matches for the club, putting him third all-time behind Xavi and record-holder Messi. One of the best defensive midfielders Barcelona has had, Busquets has



scored 18 goals and had 40 assists. He has been team captain for the last two seasons.

Adding Busquets brings another high-profile name to a team looking to establish itself in a region that is enjoying plenty of sports success, as the Miami Heat and Florida Panthers are coming off respective finals runs.

Source: AP

Rajiv Mishra, star of 1997 junior hockey World Cup, dead

Rajiv Mishra, who was one of the stars of the Indian men's junior hockey team at the 1997 World Cup, has passed away at the age of 46. The former forward was found dead at his residence in Sarsauli area of Varanasi under mysterious circumstances.

According to sources, Mishra might have died a few days back and it was his neighbours who informed the police after a foul smell started to come out of his house. Mishra used to stay alone as he was posted as chief inspector of ticket (CIT) with Northern Railway's Lucknow Division at Varanasi. Mishra, who hailed from Leeludabait village in Hajipur in Bihar, is survived by his wife and two children. Famous for his curly long hair tied in a bandana, Mishra was at one point considered the next big thing in Indian hockey.

But his booming career suffered a setback just before the 1998 World Cup (senior) in Utrecht when he sustained a career-ending knee injury following a body clash with the then Indian goalkeeper AB Subbaiah.



India US cooperation will serve the global good, says joint statement

CONTD FROM PAGE 13

3. President Biden and Prime Minister Modi set a course to reach new frontiers across all sectors of space cooperation. The leaders applauded our growing cooperation on earth and space science, and space technologies. They welcomed the decision of NASA and ISRO to develop a strategic framework for human spaceflight cooperation by the end of 2023. The leaders hailed the announcement by NASA to provide advanced training to Indian astronauts at the Johnson Space Center in Houston, Texas, with a goal of mounting a joint effort to the International Space Station in 2024. The leaders celebrated the delivery of the NASA-ISRO Synthetic Aperture Radar (NISAR) satellite to ISRO's U.R. Rao Satellite Centre in Bengaluru, India, and looked forward to NISAR's 2024 launch from India. Welcoming India's Space Policy - 2023, the leaders called for enhanced commercial collaboration between the U.S. and Indian private sectors in the entire value chain of the space economy and to address export controls and facilitate technology transfer. President Biden deeply appreciated India's signing of the Artemis Accords, which advance a common vision of space exploration for the benefit of all humankind.

4. President Biden and Prime Minister Modi committed their administrations to promoting policies and adapting regulations that facilitate greater technology sharing, co-development, and co-production opportunities between U.S. and Indian industry, government, and academic institutions. The leaders welcomed the launch of the interagency-led Strategic Trade Dialogue in June 2023 and directed both sides to undertake regular efforts to address export controls, explore ways of enhancing high technology commerce, and facilitate technology transfer between the two countries.

5. President Biden and Prime Minister Modi hailed the signing of an MoU on Semiconductor Supply Chain and Innovation Partnership as a significant step in the coordination of our countries' semiconductor incentive programs. This will promote commercial opportunities, research, talent, and skill development. The leaders welcomed an announcement by Micron Technology, Inc., to invest up to \$825 million to build a new semiconductor assembly and test facility in India with support from the Indian government. The combined investment valued at \$2.75 billion would create up to 5,000 new direct and 15,000 community jobs opportunities in the next five years. The leaders also welcomed Lam Research's proposal to train 60,000 Indian engineers through its Semiverse Solution virtual fabrication platform to accelerate India's semiconductor education and workforce development goals, and an announcement by Applied Materials, Inc., to invest \$400 million to establish a collaborative engineering center in India.

6. President Biden and Prime Minister Modi share a vision of creating secure and trusted telecommunications, resilient supply chains, and enabling global digital inclusion. To fulfill this vision, the leaders launched two Joint Task Forces on advanced telecommunications, focused on Open RAN and research and development in 5G/6G technologies. Public-private cooperation between vendors and operators will be led by India's Bharat 6G Alliance and the U.S. Next G Alliance. We are partnering on Open RAN field trials and rollouts, including scaled deployments, in both countries with operators and vendors of both markets, backed by U.S. International Development Finance Corporation (DFC) financing. The leaders welcomed participation of Indian companies in the U.S. Rip and Replace Program. They endorsed an ambitious vision for 6G networks, including standards cooperation, facilitating access to chipsets for system development, and establishing joint research and development projects. President Biden and Prime Minister Modi also stressed the need to put in place a "Trusted Network/Trusted Sources" bilateral framework.

7. President Biden and Prime Minister Modi welcomed the establishment of a joint Indo-U.S. Quantum Coordination Mechanism to facilitate collaboration among industry, academia, and government, and our work toward a comprehensive Quantum Information Science and Technology agreement. The United States welcomes India's participation in the Quantum Entanglement Exchange and in the Quantum Economic Development Consortium to facilitate expert and commercial exchanges with leading, like-minded quantum nations. The United States and India will sustain and grow quantum training and exchange programs and work to reduce barriers to U.S.-India research collaboration. The leaders welcomed the launch of a \$2 million grant program under the U.S.-India Science and Technology Endowment fund for the joint development and commercialization of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and quantum technologies and encouraged public-private collaborations to develop high performance computing (HPC) facilities in India. President Biden also reiterated his government's commitment to work with U.S. Congress to lower barriers to U.S. exports to India of HPC technology and source code. The U.S. side pledged to make its best efforts in support of India's Center for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC) joining the U.S. Accelerated Data Analytics and Computing (ADAC) Institute.

8. The leaders welcomed 35 innovative joint research collaborations in emerging technologies funded by the U.S. National Science Foundation (NSF) and the Indian Department of Science and Technology (DST). Under a new implementation arrangement between NSF and DST, both sides will fund joint

research projects in computer and information science and engineering, cyber physical systems, and secure and trustworthy cyberspace. Furthermore, NSF and India's Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology will bring fresh funding for joint projects in applied research areas such as semiconductors, next generation communication, cyber security, sustainability and green technologies and intelligent transportation systems.

9. Both President Biden and Prime Minister Modi acknowledge the profound opportunities and significant risks associated with AI. Accordingly, they committed to develop joint and international collaboration on trustworthy and responsible AI, including generative AI, to advance AI education and workforce initiatives, promote commercial opportunities, and mitigate against discrimination and bias. The United States also supports India's leadership as Chair of the Global Partnership on AI. The leaders applauded Google's intent to continue investing through its \$10 billion India Digitization Fund, including in early-stage Indian startups. Through its AI Research Center in India, Google is building models to support over 100 Indian languages.

10. President Biden and Prime Minister Modi hailed our deepening bilateral cooperation on cutting-edge scientific infrastructure, including a \$140 million in-kind contribution from the Indian Department of Atomic Energy (DAE) to the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE's) Fermi National Laboratory toward collaborative development of the Proton Improvement Plan-II Accelerator, for the Long Baseline Neutrino Facility - the first and largest international research facility on U.S. soil. They also welcomed the commencement of construction of a Laser Interferometer Gravitational-Wave Observatory (LIGO) in India. The leaders called on their administrations to extend these partnerships to advanced biotechnology and biomanufacturing, and enhance biosafety and biosecurity innovation, practices, and norms.

Powering a Next Generation Defense Partnership

11. The U.S.-India Major Defense Partnership has emerged as a pillar of global peace and security. Through joint exercises, strengthening of defense industrial cooperation, the annual "2+2" Ministerial Dialogue, and other consultative mechanisms, we have made substantial progress in building an advanced and comprehensive defense partnership in which our militaries coordinate closely across all domains. The leaders appreciated the strong military-to-military ties, mutual logistics support, and efforts to streamline implementation of foundational agreements. They noted that information sharing and placement of Liaison Officers in each other's military organizations will spur joint service cooperation. They also reiterated their resolve to strengthen

maritime security cooperation, including through enhanced underwater domain awareness. The leaders welcomed the launch of dialogues in new defense domains including space and AI, which will enhance capacity building, knowledge, and expertise.

12. Expressing their desire to accelerate defense industrial cooperation, the leaders welcomed the adoption of a Defense Industrial Cooperation Roadmap, which will provide policy direction to defense industries and enable co-production of advanced defense systems and collaborative research, testing, and prototyping of projects. Both sides are committed to addressing any regulatory barriers to defense industrial cooperation. The leaders also noted the decision of India's Ministry of Defense and the U.S. Department of Defense to commence negotiations for concluding a Security of Supply arrangement and initiate discussions about Reciprocal Defense Procurement agreement.

13. President Biden and Prime Minister Modi hailed the landmark signing of an MoU between General Electric and Hindustan Aeronautics Limited for the manufacture of GE F-414 jet engines in India, for the Hindustan Aeronautics Limited Light Combat Aircraft Mk 2. This trailblazing initiative to manufacture F-414 engines in India will enable greater transfer of U.S. jet engine technology than ever before. The leaders committed their governments to working collaboratively and expeditiously to support the advancement of this unprecedented co-production and technology transfer proposal.

14. President Biden and Prime Minister Modi also welcomed India's emergence as a hub for maintenance and repair for forward deployed U.S. Navy assets and the conclusion of Master Ship Repair Agreements with Indian shipyards. This will allow the U.S. Navy to expedite the contracting process for mid-voyage and emergent repair. As envisaged in the Defense Industrial Roadmap, both countries agree to work together for the creation of logistic, repair, and maintenance infrastructure for aircrafts and vessels in India.

15. The leaders welcomed the setting up and launch of the U.S.-India Defense Acceleration Ecosystem (INDUS-X). As a network of universities, startups, industry and think tanks, INDUS-X will facilitate joint defense technology innovation, and co-production of advanced defense technology between the respective industries of the two countries. The U.S. Department of Defense's Space Force has signed its first International Cooperative Research and Development Agreement with Indian start-up 114 AI and 3rdiTech. Both companies will work with General Atomics to co-develop components using cutting edge technologies in AI and semiconductors respectively.

(Read full story at
www.theindianpanorama.news)

History This Week

JUNE 23-29, 2023

JUNE 23

June 23, 1865 - The last formal surrender of Confederate troops occurred as Cherokee leader and Confederate Brigadier General Watie surrendered his battalion comprised of American Indians in the Oklahoma Territory.

JUNE 24

June 24, 1948 - Soviet Russia began a blockade of Berlin. Two days later the Allies responded with an emergency airlift to relieve two million isolated West Berliners. During the Berlin Airlift, American and British planes flew about 278,000 flights, delivering 2.3 million tons of food, coal and medical supplies. A plane landed in Berlin every minute from eleven Allied staging areas in West Germany. The Russians lifted their blockade of Berlin on May 12, 1949, however the airlift continued until September 30th.



June 24, 2010 - Labor Party deputy Julia Gillard became Australia's first female Prime Minister. She was born in Wales and had moved to Australia as a child. She worked as a lawyer before entering politics.

Birthdays - Boxing champ Jack Dempsey (1895-1983) was born in Manassa, Colorado. Dubbed "The Manassa Mauler," he reigned as world heavyweight champion from 1919 to 1926. Following his boxing career, he became a successful New York restaurant operator.

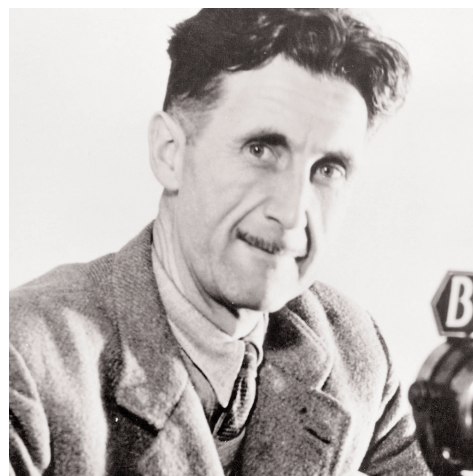
JUNE 25

June 25, 1950 - The Korean War began as North Korean troops, led by Russian-built tanks, crossed the 38th parallel and launched a full scale invasion of South Korea. Five days later, U.S. ground forces entered the conflict, which lasted until July 27, 1953, when an armistice was signed at Panmunjom, formally dividing the country at the 38th parallel into North and South Korea.

June 25, 1990 - The U.S. Supreme Court ruled (5-4) that it was unconstitutional for any state to require, without providing other options, a minor to notify both parents before obtaining an abortion.

June 25, 1991 - Following the collapse of Soviet rule in Eastern Europe, the republics of Croatia and Slovenia declared their independence from Yugoslavia. Ethnic rivalries between Serbians and Croatians soon erupted. In

1992, fighting erupted in Bosnia-Herzegovina between Serbians and ethnic Muslims. A campaign of terrorism and genocide, termed 'ethnic cleansing,' was started by the Serbs against the Muslims. At least two million people became refugees, and about 200,000 were missing and presumed dead. Violence in the region raged on through 1995 despite economic sanctions and the efforts of U.N. peacekeeping forces in the area.



Birthdays - British satirist George Orwell (1903-1950) was born at Montihari in Bengal (as Eric Arthur Blair). He is best known for two works of fiction Animal Farm (1944), and 1984 (1949).

JUNE 26

June 26, 1945 - The United Nations Charter was signed in San Francisco by 50 nations. The Charter was ratified on October 24, 1945.



Birthdays - American author Pearl Buck (1892-1973) was born in Hillsboro, West Virginia. She became a noted authority on China and wrote books including The Good Earth which revealed the mysterious Chinese culture to Western readers. She received a Nobel Prize in 1938 for her many books.

Birthdays - Champion athlete Mildred "Babe" Didrikson (1911-1956) was born in Port Arthur, Texas. Nicknamed after baseball legend Babe Ruth, she won two gold medals at the 1932 Olympics, setting world records in the javelin throw and high hurdle. She then took up golf, winning the 1946 U.S. Women's Amateur Tournament. In 1947, she won 17 straight golf championships and became the first American winner of the British Ladies' Amateur Tournament. As a pro golfer, she won the U.S. Women's Open in 1950 and 1954. She also excelled in softball,

baseball, swimming, figure skating, billiards, and even football. In 1950, she was named 'woman athlete of the first half of the 20th century' by the Associated Press. She died of cancer at age 45.

JUNE 27



Birthdays - American musician Mildred J. Hill (1859-1916) was born in Louisville, Kentucky. She composed the melody for what is now the world's most often sung song, Happy Birthday to You.

JUNE 28

June 28, 1862 - During the American Civil War, the siege of the Confederate city of Vicksburg began as Admiral David Farragut succeeded in taking a fleet past the Mississippi River stronghold. The siege continued over a year.



June 28, 1914 - Archduke Francis Ferdinand, Crown Prince of Austria and his wife were assassinated at Sarajevo, touching off a conflict between the Austro-Hungarian government and Serbia that escalated into World War I.

June 28, 1919 - The signing of the Treaty of Versailles formally ended World War I. According to the terms, Germany was assessed sole blame for the war, forced give up Alsace-Lorraine and overseas colonies, and pay reparations of \$15 Billion. The treaty also prohibited German rearmament.

Birthdays - Flemish painter and diplomat Peter Paul Rubens (1577-1640) was born in Siegen, Westphalia, Germany. Regarded as the greatest of Flemish painters, he was considered the master artist of his day. He was also skilled in science and politics and spoke seven languages. Among his masterpieces; Le Coup de Lance and The

Descent from the Cross.

Birthdays - Philosopher Jean-Jacques Rousseau (1712-1778) was born in Geneva, Switzerland. His book The Social Contract stated that no laws are binding unless agreed upon by the people, a concept that deeply affected the French. In his novel Emile he challenged harsh child-rearing methods of his day and argued that young people should be given freedom to enjoy sunlight, exercise and play. "Man is born free," he wrote in The Social Contract, "and everywhere he is in chains."

Birthdays - German-American physicist Maria Goeppert Mayer (1906-1972) was born in Kattowitz, Germany. She participated in the secret Manhattan Project, the building of the first atomic bomb. She later became the first American woman to win the Nobel Prize, sharing the 1963 prize for physics for works explaining atomic nuclei, known as the nuclear shell theory.

JUNE 29

June 29, 1972 - The U.S. Supreme Court ruled (5-4) that capital punishment was a violation of the Eighth Amendment prohibiting "cruel and unusual punishment." The decision spared the lives of 600 individuals then sitting on death row. Four years later, in another ruling, the Court reversed itself and determined the death penalty was not cruel and unusual punishment. On October 4, 1976, the ban was lifted on the death penalty in cases involving murder.



Birthdays - Social worker Julia Lathrop (1858-1932) was born in Rockford, Illinois. She fought to establish child labor laws and was instrumental in establishing the first juvenile court in the U.S. In 1912, President Taft named her to head the newly created Children's Bureau. In 1925, she became a member of the Child Welfare Committee of the League of Nations.

Birthdays - American surgeon William Mayo (1861-1939) was born in LeSeuer, Minnesota. He was one of the Mayo brothers, pioneers of the concept of the group clinic, bringing together specialists from a number of medical fields to better perform diagnoses and treatment. The Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota, became an internationally known medical center.



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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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revelation of a society's soul
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its children". - Nelson Mandela



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