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1 Indian American Weekly : Since 2006

VOL 17 ISSUE 27 • NEW YORK / DALLAS • JULY 14 - 20, 2023

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Will bring out a profusely illustrated edition to mark India's 77th INDEPENDENCE DAY



The special edition will be published on August 12, 2023.

Advertisements and articles may please be submitted by August 5, 2023 to salujandra@gmail.com

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G20 Summit in India opportunity to act on reforming global financial system amid crushing debt crisis: U.N. chief Guterres



U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres has said that the G20 Summit to be hosted under India's Presidency provides an opportunity to take action on debt relief and reform the global financial system.

File photo

JULY 13, 2023

UNITED NATIONS (TIP): U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres has said that the G20 Summit to be hosted under India's Presidency provides an opportunity to take action on debt relief and reform the

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France bestows on PM Modi Grand Cross of the Legion of Honour

UPI ENTERS FRANCE, TO START FROM EIFFEL TOWER



PM Modi was warmly received by President Emmanuel Macron at the historic Élysée Palace on Thursday, July 13.

Photo / MEA - Twitter

JULY 14, 2023

NEW YORK / PARIS / NEW DELHI (TIP): Marking a historic moment for India, France bestowed Grand Cross of the Legion of Honour on Prime Minister Narendra Modi. It is the highest French honour in military or civilian orders. Modi is the first Indian PM to receive this honour.

In the past, the Grand Cross of the Legion of Honour has been received by select prominent leaders and eminent personalities from across the world. These include Former President of South Africa Nelson Mandela, King Charles - the then Prince of Wales, Former Chancellor of Germany Angela Merkel, Boutros Boutros-Ghali, former Secretary General of the United Nations, among others.

Modi was accorded a red-carpet welcome as he arrived in Paris on a two-day visit on Thursday, July 13.

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District of Columbia includes Sikhism in social studies standards



Kids in a school in District of Columbia

Photo / US Department of Agriculture / Flickr

JULY 08, 2023

WASHINGTON, D.C (TIP): Over 49,000 students can now learn about Sikhism in the District of Columbia after the local education board voted in favor of new social studies standards that for the first time ever includes the Sikh faith in the school curriculum. The District of Columbia has adopted new social studies standards.

CONTD ON PAGE 36

Visiting Indian Minister G. Kishan Reddy accorded Civic Reception at the Indian Consulate in New York



Minister G. Kishan Reddy answering questions. Consul General of India Randhir Kumar Jaiswal is seen on the right

I.S. SALUJA

JULY 13, 2023

NEW YORK CITY (TIP): Gangapuram Kishan Reddy, Minister of Tourism, Culture and Development of North Eastern Region of India was accorded a civic reception at the Indian Consulate in New York on Thursday, July 13.

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Criminals in Indian Legislatures: Alarming Figures Reveal a Deep-Seated Challenge to Democracy



BY
INDRAJIT SALUJA

In a troubling revelation that raises serious concerns about the state of Indian democracy, recent figures have unveiled a distressing trend of criminals finding their way into the hallowed halls of the country's legislatures. The infiltration of criminal elements into the political sphere poses a significant threat to the foundations of democratic governance and calls for urgent action to address this persistent issue.

According to the latest available data, a shocking number of lawmakers in the Indian legislatures have criminal backgrounds. The figures, compiled from various sources, paint a grim picture of the growing influence of individuals with criminal records in the corridors of power. It is estimated that nearly one-third of Members of Parliament (MPs) and Members of Legislative Assemblies (MLAs) across the country have criminal cases pending against them.

Of the 4001 MLAs in the country, 1,136 or 28% have serious criminal cases against them. These are the cases that would lead to conviction of 5 years or more. 47 MLAs have murder cases, 181 with attempt to murder, 114 with crimes against women, and 14 with rape charges. The ruling BJP has the highest number with 337 MLAs with serious charges, followed by Congress Party with 194. Between 32% to 43% MLAs in smaller parties have serious criminal cases. Over 120 MPs have serious criminal cases against them. The chances of a candidate with a criminal record winning are 4 times higher than someone with a clean record. Average assets of MLAs are worth Rs 13.63 crore. (\$1,660,750) (Source: ADR).

The presence of such individuals in positions of power not only erodes public trust in the political system but also raises concerns about the effectiveness

of legislative bodies in upholding the rule of law.

One of the primary reasons behind this disheartening phenomenon is the nexus between crime and politics. Many criminals see politics as a means to acquire power, influence, and immunity from prosecution. They exploit the loopholes in the system, including slow judicial processes and inadequate scrutiny during elections, to establish themselves as political figures. Moreover, some criminal elements use their ill-gotten wealth to fund their election campaigns, thereby ensuring their entry into legislatures.

The repercussions of having legislators with criminal backgrounds are far-reaching. Such individuals often prioritize their personal interests over public welfare and governance, using their positions to further their own criminal activities. They can manipulate laws, obstruct justice, and undermine the very foundations of democracy. This not only impedes the delivery of justice but also perpetuates a culture of impunity, where the rule of law becomes subservient to the whims and fancies of the powerful.

Although the issue of criminalization of politics is not new, it demands urgent attention and comprehensive reforms. There have been sporadic efforts by the judiciary and civil society to curb this menace, but they have not been sufficient to address the scale of the problem. It is imperative for political parties, law enforcement agencies, and the judiciary to work in tandem to tackle this issue effectively.

First and foremost, political parties need to adopt stricter internal screening mechanisms to ensure that candidates with criminal records are not given tickets to contest elections. They should set a precedent of ethical conduct and take proactive steps to dissociate themselves from individuals facing serious criminal charges.

Simultaneously, law enforcement agencies must expedite the investigation and trial of cases involving legislators. Timely justice is crucial not only for

holding criminals accountable but also for deterring others from entering politics with nefarious intentions.

The establishment of special courts to handle cases against politicians could expedite the judicial process and instill confidence in the public.

Furthermore, electoral reforms are essential to maintain the integrity of the democratic process.

The Election Commission of India should collaborate with other stakeholders to devise stringent guidelines for candidates, including mandatory disclosure of criminal records and their sources of funding. Transparency and public awareness campaigns can play a vital role in empowering voters to make informed choices.

The judiciary also has a crucial role to play in combating the criminalization of politics. It should take cognizance of the gravity of the situation and ensure speedy disposal of cases involving politicians. Additionally, the courts must actively monitor the progress made in electoral reforms and provide necessary guidance to the government and other concerned agencies.

Addressing the issue of criminals in Indian legislatures requires collective action and unwavering commitment from all stakeholders. It demands a multi-pronged approach that encompasses political will, legal reforms, and public awareness. By eliminating the influence of criminal elements in politics, India can reclaim the sanctity of its legislative bodies and restore public faith in the democratic process.

The time for decisive action is now. The survival of democracy hinges on the ability to rid legislatures of criminal elements, and failure to act swiftly and effectively could have far-reaching consequences for the nation's governance and social fabric. It is high time for India to reaffirm its commitment to democratic ideals and ensure that its legislatures are sanctuaries of integrity, transparency, and public service.

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History may be rewritten; however, tradition will live on - Isaac Mar Filoxenos

CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY SHEDS TEARS FOR MANIPUR

JULY 5, 2023

NEW YORK (TIP): Christians celebrated the Indian Christian Day with prayers and tears in light of the great calamity faced by the Christian community in Manipur. The celebration, which was supposed to be held on July 3, the day of St. Thomas, was held a day earlier at the Cathedral Hall of the Malankara Catholic Church in Elmont, New York. It was a rare gathering of Indian Christians from across denominations, regions, and languages who lived in greater New York. Church Fathers, priests, and dignitaries arrived with blessings and greetings.



The Rt. Rev. Dr. Isaac Mar Philoxenos of Marthoma Church, American Diocese

Bryan Nerran, who had to spend seven and a half months in prison in India on trumped up charges, and Rev. Mark Mang, a native of Manipur whose cousin died at the hands of the militants and others, pointed to the rapid changes that are taking place as regards curtailing of religious freedom in India. Several choirs from various churches with their Singing made the ceremony more devotional.

Bishop of Marthoma Church, Isaac Mar Filoxenos Episcopa, who was the chief guest, mentioned the new trends by those in power to rewrite history. He went on to add that they may have political and social reasons to indulge in those efforts; however, the facts will not be erased from history. We should be proud of our history and heritage. The Bishop said, "Suffering and pain have also affected the people of Israel. They cried out while they were in captivity in Babylon. They lamented how we could sing God's song in a foreign land. We are safe and content here in America. But we cannot accept the pains of our brothers in India. Let us pray for peace to be restored there. Let human rights be restored there. We may belong to different churches. But the important thing is that we stand together. We must stand together in the miseries facing humanity while accepting our differences. We owe it to ourselves to raise our voices. We must also be ready to die for the kingdom of God. As successors of St. Thomas the Apostle, we should be proud. The light of the gospel



From L-R Sibu Nair, Jacob George, Mark Mang, Rev. Bryan Nerren, Rev. Dr. Isaac Mar Philoxenos, Rt. Rev. Johncy Itty, Father John Thomas, Bishop C.V. Mathew

reached our country in the first century."

"Saint Thomas is mentioned three times in the Bible. In the eleventh chapter of the Gospel of John, Jesus decides to go to Bethany to comfort the family of Lazarus. But the disciples, knowing that there were people there who could kill him, asked if it was necessary. Once Jesus decided to go, Thomas said we could go and die with him. In the fourteenth chapter, Jesus speaks of himself and his departure. Then Thomas says: 'We do not know the way you are going. How do we know that?' To which Jesus replied: 'I am the way, the truth, and the life. Those who know me know the Father.' The third opportunity is to see Jesus after the ascension. Jesus sees Thomas, who says he will not believe unless he sees Jesus face to face and touches the wound in his hand. We always remember Thomas's response looking at the hands, 'My Lord and my God.' We have the tradition of St. Thomas, who always stood firm in his faith. We should never miss it - Bishop exhorted.



Bishop Joy Allapat of Syro-Malabar Catholic Church

Bishop Mar Joy Allapat of the Syro-Malabar Church pointed out that even in America, there is no certainty of what will happen in the future. "After Manipur, some people said Kerala would be the next target. Christianity arrived in Kerala much before Europe Embraced it. However, today our brothers are facing difficulties back home in India. Historically we have faced persecution. However, Bible speaks about being strengthened in the face of persecution. As the Bible says, we are like sheep in the middle of wolves. Therefore, let us unite and encourage our brothers in Manipur," the Bishop added.

Rt. Rev. Dr. C.V. Mathew of the Evangelical Church spoke about the Manipur situation and wondered aloud

why the Indianness of Christians is being questioned. He implored the authorities to respect the constitution that guarantees the religious freedom of every citizen. He also encouraged the people to unite and support those in harm's way. Rt. Rev. Johncy Itty of the Episcopal Church applauded the organizers of the Indian Christian Day, pointing out that we would never give up faith because of persecution.



The Rt. Rev. Johncy Itty of Episcopal Church

Rev. Mark Mang explained Manipur's pain. He said he has been in America for eight years, currently serving as a Chaplain. We don't know what heaven is like. But we think it's all coming together, so as this gathering. His cousin and four others fell victim to the unlicensed gun of the assailants while defending the village. The riot could have been stopped in one day. It didn't happen. Three hundred fifty-four churches were destroyed, and it continues. It is not even possible to go and bury the dead bodies in the hospital. More than fifty thousand people are refugees in different states. There will be torture and killings, but in the end, God's glory will be revealed there. Pray for us and bring help. He said that he is thinking of going to Manipur soon.

Federation of Indian American Christian Organizations President Koshy George (Fiacona) pointed out that it has been decided to celebrate St. Thomas's Day, July 3, as Indian Christian Day everywhere. The day before, the celebration took place in Boston, and on July 3 across India as well. Efforts are being made to bring a new understanding that Christianity is two thousand years old in India, and St. Thomas came in A.D. 52 and was martyred on July 3, A.D. 72. There are thousands of denominations among



Audience

Christians. But we all worship Jesus while believing in the Trinity. He asked if it would be best to set aside all our differences and meet at least for one day.

Guests were given a history of the seven and a half churches founded by St. Thomas and a report on atrocities in India. State Senator John Lou, Sibu Nair of the Asian Outreach Officer in the N.Y. Governor's Office, Rev. Jacob George, and others spoke.

Rev. Wilson Jose offered the opening prayer, and Fr. John Thomas offered the closing prayer. Rev. N.K. Mathew offered a special prayer for the people in Manipur.

George Abraham, who expressed a vote of thanks, pointed out that those who are from Kerala do not know much about civil wars. We don't know the condition of being chased away from home and worried about the future in the corner of some school or abandoned building. He encouraged everyone to help those who are driven into such a situation in Manipur. FIACONA was formed when there was an attack on Christians in Dangs district of Gujarat. When Graham Staines and his children were burnt to death, we condemned such a heinous crime. Unfortunately, only a few people know about this organization. Many people from all spheres of life are working hard with dedication in defense of religious freedom everywhere. Some people have paid a heavy price for their advocacy. John Prabhudoss, the chairman, is currently barred from entering India. There is a fear that the OCI card is being weaponized to silence the critics abroad. He expressed hope that NRIs will be energized to defend human rights and religious freedom here in the U.S. as well as in India.

CSI Jubilee Choir, New York Men's Voices, IPC Jamaica Choir Rev. Milton James (solo), and Bethlehem Punjabi Church sang.

Koshy George, Mary Phillip, Dr. Anna George, Koshi Thomas, Paul D. Panakkal, George Abraham, Raju Abraham, Matthew P Thomas, Matthew Eapan, Jerin Joe James, Pastor Jacob George, Shaimi Jacob, Koshi Thomas, Rev. Milton G. James (Sr.), George Chacko, John Joseph, Chuck Pillai, Don Thomas, Dr. Cynthia Prabhakar, Rev. Anadhasekhar Manuel, rev. Christer Solomon, Lona Abraham, and others led the way.

Indian-origin UK Royal Mail bullied employee awarded 2.3 million pounds



UK's Royal Mail to pay record 2.3 million pounds to bullied Indian-origin employee

Photo for representational purpose only/ iStock

JULY 8, 2023

LONDON (TIP): In what is believed to be one of the largest compensation settlements for the UK's Royal Mail, an Indian-origin employee has been awarded more than 2.3 million pounds after her bullying claim was upheld.

Kam Jhuti had claimed before an employment tribunal dating back nearly eight years that she had been intimidated and harassed by her boss after she raised concerns that a colleague had secured their bonus illegitimately.

The tribunal went on to find that there had been a "catastrophic" impact on her over her boss' treatment of her; 'The Daily Telegraph' reports.

"The tribunal makes a total award of GBP 2,365,614.13, payable by the respondent to the claimant," reads an official remedy decision added to the long-running case this week.

"Subject to the paragraph below, payment of the award is stayed pending the outcome of the respondent's (Royal Mail) appeal against the tribunal's original judgment on remedies which was sent to the parties on October 3, 2022. Both parties have the liberty to apply to lift this stay," it reads.

"Of that total award, the respondent (Royal Mail) will, however, make payment of the sum of 2,50,000 pounds gross to the claimant; the stay does not, therefore, apply in relation to this sum. The parties agreed that the respondent will pay this sum to the claimant within 14 days of the date of this hearing," it adds.

Earlier, the tribunal had concluded that the postal service had been "high-handed, malicious, insulting and oppressive" in how it had conducted the case.

A 2019 Supreme Court hearing was told that Jhuti started work as a 50,000 pounds per year media specialist at the Royal Mail's MarketReach unit based in London in September 2013.

However, the following month, while shadowing a colleague, she began to suspect they were not following watchdog Ofcom's guidance and also breaching the company's policy in relation to bonuses known as Tailor-Made Incentives (TMIs), which she said helped the colleague to hit performance targets and directly securing a bonus for herself and "in effect defrauding the company", the newspaper reports. (Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)

Indian origin Keeril Makan becomes associate dean of the MIT School of Humanities

JULY 10, 2023

NEW YORK (TIP): Keeril Makan, a composer and professor of South African Indian and Russian Jewish descent, has become Associate Dean of the MIT School of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences. He began his term effective July 1.

Makan will serve concurrently as Associate Dean and in his current role as section head of Music and Theater Arts, according to Agustín Rayo, Kenan Sahin Dean of SHASS.

"Throughout my time as dean, I've been consistently impressed by Keeril's leadership and insight as head of MTA. I look forward to working with him at the school level and relying on his advice," Rayo said.

Makan, who was raised in New Jersey by parents of South African Indian and Russian Jewish descent, says he's looking forward to bringing his collaborative leadership approach to this new role.

"One of the things that excites me about being head of MTA is working on larger projects that advance the mission of the unit, the mission of the Institute, and have a large impact on the community," he said.

"This involves getting a lot of people together from different parts of MIT, working towards a common goal, skills that I've developed through my work as a



Keeril Makan has become Associate Dean of the MIT School of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences

composer," Makan said.

"I look forward to working in this way at the SHASS-wide level, as well as finding common ground between SHASS and the STEM fields."

Makan started at MIT in 2006 and was named section head of MTA in 2018. In addition to being section head, Makan is currently the Michael (1949) and Sonja Koerner Music Composition Professor.

Among the projects Makan has helped lead as section head has been the construction of the new Music Building, which is set to open in the Fall of 2024.

He's also worked to develop MTA's

music technology offerings, including the upcoming launch of a new master's program, joined with the School of Engineering. Makan says one of his biggest challenges was leading Music and Theater Arts through the Covid pandemic.

"Performance was particularly challenging in music and theater. But we worked collaboratively to create an educational experience for the students that was artistically meaningful. The experience of COVID taught the world the power of being in a room together, sharing an experience" he says.

Rayo says Makan will lead special projects, and that they'll work together over the summer to set an agenda for the new role.

After training as a violinist, Makan received degrees in composition and religion from Oberlin and completed his PhD in composition at the University of California-Berkeley, with additional studies in Helsinki and Paris.

He is a recipient of a Guggenheim Fellowship and the Luciano Berio Rome Prize from the American Academy in Rome, among other accolades.

His music has been recorded by the Kronos Quartet, the Boston Modern Orchestra Project, and the International Contemporary Ensemble, and performed at the LA Opera, Carnegie Hall, Lincoln Center, and Tanglewood.

Vimeo's Indian American CEO Anjali Sud leaving video sharing platform

JULY 8, 2023

NEW YORK (TIP): Video-hosting platform Vimeo's Indian American CEO Anjali Sud will leave the company next month to pursue a new opportunities.

Sud, 39, a former Amazon executive, who joined the company nine years ago as director of marketing, was at the helm of Vimeo for the past six years.

She will remain CEO through August 31, 2023, the company announced Wednesday. Board



Video-hosting platform Vimeo's Indian American CEO Anjali Sud will leave the company next month to pursue a new opportunities

member Adam Gross, a former Salesforce and Dropbox executive, will take over as interim CEO, effective Sep 1, while the company looks for a permanent replacement.

"We are grateful for Anjali's impact over nine years at the company and a pivotal era of transformation at Vimeo, and I have no doubt she'll continue to do big things," said Glenn H. Schiffman, Vimeo's chairman of the board.

"I believe deeply in the company's strategy, team, and future success, and will continue to be an enthusiastic supporter for every moment of what comes next," said Anjali Sud. "I am excited for Adam and for Vimeo to benefit from his experience and leadership."

Sud, who was appointed to the position in 2017, said Vimeo had "a challenging road on the growth side." The path forward, according to Sud, lies in continuing the company's pivot from serving consumers to serving businesses in order to make video a strategic tool for companies.

(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)

Indian man killed in Singapore workplace accident

JULY 13, 2023

SINGAPORE (TIP): A 33-year-old Indian worker died after being struck by a reversing vehicle at a worksite in Jurong West industrial region here.

The man was preparing his tipper truck for unloading when he was hit by a reversing wheel loader, which is used to lift materials at construction sites, reported The Straits Times, citing the Ministry of Manpower (MOM) on Wednesday, July 12.

He was a driver employed by BSN Tech Engineering, and was working at the site occupied by Star Ready-Mix.

The Singapore Civil Defense Force said he was pronounced dead at the scene by a paramedic.

The Ministry said the incident occurred at about 3.40pm at 1 Buroh Close, and it is probing the case. It has also instructed Star Ready-Mix to stop all vehicular operations there.

"As a general safety measure, employers must implement a proper traffic management plan to minimize the risks from vehicles," said the Ministry.

It cited examples such as segregating access between vehicles and people, as well as ensuring that incompatible vehicular operations do not occur at the same time in the same place.

The Ministry has raised the maximum fine for breaches of Workplace Safety and Health (WSH) laws that could result in death or serious injury - from SGD 20,000 to SGD 50,000.

There had been 14 workplace deaths in Singapore as on June 21. In 2022, there were 46 - the highest number recorded since 2016, when 66 people died.

(Source: PTI)



An Indian worker died after being struck by a reversing vehicle at a worksite in Jurong West industrial region in Singapore .

Photo for representation

Indian-origin Dr. Geeta Rao Gupta sworn-in as envoy for global women's issues

JULY 11, 2023

WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP): Dr. Geeta Rao Gupta, an Indian-born global leader on gender equity and women's economic security, has been sworn in as the Ambassador-at-Large for the Office of Global Women's Issues in the State Department.

Gupta, the first woman of color to hold the position, was administered the oath of office by Indian American Vice President Kamala Harris on July 10.

After the US Senate confirmed President Joe Biden's pick for the role by 51 to 47 votes in May, the State Department tweeted it "looks forward to her efforts to promote women and girls' rights through US foreign policy."

Mumbai-born Gupta previously worked closely with many UN agencies and programs. She was the former Executive Director of the 3D Program for Girls and Women at the UN Foundation.

Gupta also co-convened an international initiative commissioned by UNAIDS to plan the global response to HIV/AIDS over the next 25 years and was



Dr. Geeta Rao Gupta has been sworn in as the Ambassador-at-Large for the Office of Global Women's Issues in the State Department.

appointed by the Secretary-General to the role of Deputy Executive Director of UNICEF.

According to Gupta, there are many inequities and indignities that women suffer around the world, which hold them back from participating fully in the economy. They are subject to threats to their safety and have a fear of violence

even on a daily basis, and that determines their mobility.

"In situations of conflict and emergencies and humanitarian crises they are particularly vulnerable, both in terms of their safety, but also in terms of their being able to look after their families and feed their families," she said during her confirmation hearing last year.

With over a decade of experience on gender and development, Gupta has also served on an oversight committee for the World Health Organization's Health Emergencies Program, and co-chaired the World Bank's Global Gender-based Violence Task Force.

In addition, she has served as the President of the International Center for Research on Women, and has numerous awards to her credit, including Harvard University's 2006 Anne Roe Award and the 2007 Washington Business Journal's "Women Who Mean Business" Award.

She earned a PhD in Social Psychology from the Bangalore University and an MPhil and MA from the University of Delhi in India.

Indian-origin Raja Rajamannar among Insider's most innovative CMOs of 2023



Raja Rajamannar is among Insider Magazine's Top 25 Most Innovative Chief Marketing Officers

JULY 10, 2023

NEW YORK (TIP): Raja Rajamannar is among Insider Magazine's Top 25 Most Innovative Chief Marketing Officers. "These CMOs are meeting the marketing world's biggest challenges", the magazine said announcing its annual list.

"This year, they've been responsible for keeping consumers spending through the economic downturn, reaching coveted Gen Z audiences, and figuring out how new technology, such as generative AI, can transform advertising," it said.

Based on over 70 nominations and suggestions from their peers and industry experts, the picks represent a mix of big brands and smaller disruptor companies from a cross section of industries.

With an MBA degree from the Indian Institute of Management, Bangalore, and a Bachelor of Technology degree in Chemical Engineering from Osmania University in Hyderabad, Rajamannar has been the CMO of Mastercard for 10 years.

He helps keep Mastercard on the edge of innovation, Insider says. In April, he launched a Web3 program called Mastercard Artist Accelerator that helps consumers discover new music creators, who then monetize their work using Web3 and AI tools.

Musicians also get access to resources, such as learning how to resell their work. More than 100,000 people signed up for the program, Rajamannar said.

"There has been a rollercoaster in terms of Web3 technology - we've been trying to see the relevance of it within the context of our business," he said.

In May, Rajamannar launched a loyalty program in the Asia Pacific region called Mastercard Gamer XChange that gives consumers gaming points in exchange for unspent rewards points.

Rajamannar said that the program is intended to reach consumers beyond the younger, male audiences that are typically considered gamers. "Gaming is a growing passion point," he said.

He joined Mastercard in 2013, after serving as chief transformation officer of the health insurance firm Anthem (formerly WellPoint). (Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)

Indian-origin Indra Nooyi and Jayshree Ullal among America's richest



Indra Nooyi is among America's 100 richest self-made women in the Forbes list

JULY 10, 2023

NEW YORK (TIP): Four Indian-origin women, including Jayshree Ullal and Indra Nooyi, have been named by Forbes among America's 100 richest self-made women, with a combined net worth of a whopping USD 4.06 billion.

President and CEO of Arista Networks, a computer networking firm; Jayshree Ullal, co-founder of IT consulting and outsourcing firm Synte; Neerja Sethi, co-founder and former chief technology officer (CTO) of cloud company Confluent; Neha Narkhede and PepsiCo's former chair and CEO Indra Nooyi made it to Forbes list of 'America's Richest Self-Made Women'.

"Bolstered in part by a rebound in the stock market, they are cumulatively worth a record USD 124 billion, up nearly 12 per cent from a year ago," Forbes said last month at the release of its ninth annual list.

Ullal, ranked 15th on the list, has a net worth of USD 2.4 billion. She has been president and CEO of the publicly-traded Arista Networks since 2008 and owns about 2.4 per cent of its stock. Arista recorded revenue of nearly USD 4.4 billion in 2022.

She is also on the board of directors of Snowflake, a cloud computing company that went public in September 2020.

The 62-year-old studied electrical engineering at San Francisco State University and engineering management at Santa Clara University.

Sethi, 68, ranked 25th on the list, has a net worth of USD 990 million.

Syntel, co-founded in 1980 by Sethi and her husband Bharat Desai, was bought by French IT firm Atos SE for USD 3.4 billion in October 2018. Sethi got an estimated USD 510 million for her stake.

(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)

Arjun Nimmala becomes first Indian American teen and second Indian American to make it into the Major League Baseball draft

JULY 5, 2023

NEW YORK (TIP): Arjun Nimmala has become the first Indian American teen and second Indian American ever to make it into the Major League Baseball draft after being picked by the Toronto Blue Jays on Sunday, July 2.

Nimmala, 17, who originally played cricket, is a shortstop from Strawberry Crest High School in Dover, Florida. Standing 6-foot-1, he describes himself as a "patient-aggressive" hitter. He ranked 11th on the prospect rankings. In Sunday night's first round, the Blue Jays selected Nimmala as 20th overall.

No Indian American has ever played in the majors. While Nimmala is the first teen to be drafted from the Indian American community, Kumar Rocker was the first player to do so back in 2021 at the age of 21 by the New York Mets and again in 2022 by the Texas Rangers, according to a report.

The 20th pick comes with an approximate slot value of \$3.75 million. Shane Farrell, the Blue Jays' director of amateur scouting, described Nimmala as "an overall tool package, combined with the age and overall upside of the player."

Nimmala is set to attend Florida State University this fall, but the Blue Jays nonetheless expect to sign him. If all goes according to plan, Nimmala will kick off his new journey with a two-week orientation at the team's minor-league complex in Dunedin, which sits just about an hour away from his home.

(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)



Arjun Nimmala has become the first Indian American teen and second Indian American ever to make it into the Major League Baseball draft

New York City likely to hire close to 18,000 teachers to meet state mandated lower class sizes: Report

THE NEW STAFFING WILL COST BETWEEN \$1.6 BILLION AND \$1.9 BILLION EACH YEAR OVER THE NEXT FIVE YEARS, ACCORDING TO AN ANALYSIS BY THE INDEPENDENT BUDGET OFFICE



New York City Education department headquarters.

Photo / DOE

JULY 12, 2023

NEW YORK CITY (TIP): Warning of potential unintended consequences ahead, a new report from the New York City Independent Budget Office estimated that the city will likely need to hire around 17,700 teachers in order to comply with a new state law to lower class sizes in public schools over the next five years, reports City & State.

New York City's class size restrictions have been the focal point of a fierce debate even after Gov. Kathy Hochul

signed off on the measure in September. While the United Federation of Teachers and other supporters heralded the law's approval, having long pointed to research suggesting smaller class sizes can boost student test scores and classroom engagement, the city has warned about the high costs of implementation and maintained there are more cost effective ways to improve education. The report, completed by IBO at the request of Sen. Robert Jackson, estimated that hiring the number of necessary teachers will likely eventually cost the city between \$1.6 billion and \$1.9 billion each year. That's a higher number than the \$1.3 billion sum released by the city this spring, although the city also estimated about \$30 to \$35 billion in additional expenses needed to build new schools or reconfigure old buildings.

Starting this coming school year, the law requires the city to begin capping kindergarten through third grade classes at 20 students, fourth through eighth grade classes at no more than 23 students, and high school classes at 25. An additional 20% of classes will need to be in compliance every year until 2028 when

the requirements are fully phased in, although some schools can be deemed exempt by the education department and the principals and teachers' unions.

The report reiterated what New York City Mayor Eric Adams and Schools Chancellor David Banks have said about how the city shouldn't have any trouble meeting requirements in the first two years of implementation. About 39% of city classrooms already meet the new requirements. The trouble, they've said, would come down the line when leaders would likely need to make some difficult decisions about where to allocate funds.

"For the next couple of years we are in good shape. We don't think we are going to have any major issues in being able to comply with the law. By the time we hit the years three, four, and five, which the law allows for us to do, that's when you are going to see a much greater cost," Banks said in an interview with CBS New York last week. "We are going to have to build out new classrooms, new schools in order to be compliant ... The cost that we are going to have to spend to do that are dollars we could use for other programs."

While lawmakers didn't specifically tie any additional funding to the bill, state lawmakers and other supporters have adamantly pushed back on claims that the mandate is unfunded. They have pointed to huge increases in state education aid that they say can and should pay for reducing class sizes.

Leonie Haimson, executive director of the group Class Size Matters, said it doesn't seem like the education department has taken into account that some schools already have a high teacher to student ratio despite having large class sizes, meaning some schools could potentially reassign existing staff to classes without garnering additional costs. She criticized the city's plan to eliminate currently vacant positions and urged Adams to swiftly hire additional teachers.

"The conclusions of this brief reinforce the need for the city to start moving now on a realistic, effective class size reduction plan as quickly as possible, and to quickly reverse their planned shrinkage of teaching staff in order to meet the five-year timeline required in the law," Haimson said in a statement.



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Visiting Indian Minister G. Kishan Reddy accorded Civic Reception at the Indian Consulate in New York



Minister G. Kishan Reddy addressing the gathering at the Consulate



A View of the gathering

Photos / Courtesy Tirlok Malik

CONTD FROM PAGE 1

The visiting minister spoke about India as a great tourist destination, citing the history and beauty of the country. He called upon Indians to visit India with 5 non-Indians to familiarize their American friends with the rich

variety of landscape, historical monuments and culture of India. He also invited Indian Americans to invest in India tourism.

Radha Katyal Narang, Director in the Ministry of Tourism gave a presentation on "Incredible India".

Earlier, the Consul General of India in

New York, Randhir Kumar Jaiswal welcomed the minister and spoke highly about the contribution of Indian Americans in various fields here and in the growth story of India.

Deputy Consul General Dr. Varun Jeph thanked the minister and the guests for their presence.

Bank of America has been ordered to pay more than \$100 million to customers

Bank of America 

JULY 12, 2023

NEW YORK (TIP): Bank of America has been ordered to pay more than \$100 million to customers in New York and 37 other states.

The bank was accused of "systematically double-dipping on fees imposed on customers with insufficient funds in their account, withholding reward bonuses explicitly promised to credit card customers, and misappropriating sensitive personal information to open accounts without customer knowledge or authorization," according to the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau.

Bank of America is headquartered in North Carolina, with branches and ATMs located in 38 states and the District of Columbia. Bank of America has 262 branches in over 100 different cities and towns across New York, including Long Island, New York City and the Hudson Valley. The bank also has over 3,500 more offices in thirty-seven states.

(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)



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India put its foot down at SCO summit

REFUSAL TO ENDORSE RESOLUTION ON BELT AND ROAD INITIATIVE SENT STERN MESSAGE TO CHINA



BY G
PARTHASARATHY

During the SCO summit, India responded swiftly and strongly by abstaining from a Chinese-sponsored resolution praising China's much-touted Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), which runs through Pakistan-occupied Kashmir.



Much to India's satisfaction, Iran has now become a member of the SCO.

Photo credit / PTI

Playing a significant role in Central Asia has been a complex but interesting task for India. This is primarily because India shares no common maritime or land border with any of the powers in the region, which extends from the eastern borders of China to the western borders of Russia. The only convenient route for access to Central Asia from India currently lies through Iran. Nevertheless, following the end of the Cold War and the disintegration of the Soviet Union, India have realized the importance of maintaining and expanding ties with the erstwhile Soviet republics of Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan (homeland of Mughal ruler Babar) and Kyrgyzstan. Difficulties in access has been a major factor limiting India's ties, especially economic, with these Central Asian countries.

India made it clear that firm action needed to be taken against states sponsoring terrorism.

The Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) was set up on June 15, 2001, in Shanghai. It includes Russia, China, India, Pakistan and the four Central Asian republics. Much to India's satisfaction, Iran has now become a member of the SCO. The Chabahar port, built with Indian collaboration, gives India and other countries direct access to Central Asia through Iran, while bypassing Pakistan. Islamabad has, not surprisingly, been delaying or denying India access for trade with Afghanistan and Central Asia. This had compelled India to take time-consuming and expensive trade routes to Central Asia.

Russia still wields substantial influence over some SCO countries, where Russian remains a very widely spoken language. China is, however, steadily but surely increasing its influence in Russia's neighborhood, given its capabilities to undertake complex construction and transportation projects. Beijing also has a keen interest in developing the vast mineral and oil resources of the Central Asia region. Moreover, while China and Russia may have a 'bhai-bhai' relationship as of now, Russia would certainly not relish predominant Chinese influence either in the Central Asian republics or in its easy access to the mineral and oil resources of the region. The SCO summit has clearly brought to light the direction in which Sino-Russian relations are moving.

From India's point of view, the recent SCO summit was useful in terms of organizational practice before it hosts the G20 summit in New Delhi in September. The latter will, according to present indications, be attended by all five permanent members of the Security Council, and the major economic powers from North and South America, Australasia, Africa and the Gulf countries, apart from the European Union. It would be an interesting occasion for the world to see Presidents Vladimir Putin and Xi Jinping alongside President Joe Biden and his EU allies, unless Xi chooses to depute someone else for the summit.

During the SCO summit, India responded swiftly and strongly by abstaining from a Chinese-sponsored resolution praising China's much-touted Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), which runs

through Pakistan-occupied Kashmir. The very next day, Taiwan announced that it will be setting up an Economic and Cultural Centre (ECC) in Mumbai to add to its ECCs in New Delhi and Chennai. This was in response to the praise China sought and got at the SCO summit for the BRI. The Taipei Economic and Cultural Centre in Chennai also caters to Sri Lanka and Maldives, along with the states and union territories in south India. What New Delhi is really interested in is obtaining Taiwan's immense knowhow and potential to enable India to expand its semiconductor industry.

The outcome of the SCO summit meeting was predictable. Quite naturally, India made it clear that given Pakistan's continuing support for terrorism, firm action must be taken against states sponsoring terrorism. Prime Minister Narendra Modi himself came out strongly against state-sponsored terrorism.

Interestingly, China and Russia came together in giving precedence to the Chinese and Russian languages, ignoring English. India, nevertheless, stuck to its international practice of conducting its business in English, while PM Modi delivered his address in Hindi. This summit was not an earth-shaking event, but a reflection of China and Russia sparing no effort to ensure that their views prevail on all regional and international issues.

The Ukraine conflict and the relentless American and NATO pressures on Russia are inevitably compelling Russia to go along increasingly with Beijing's wishes, in what is a Central Asian grouping,

jointly controlled by Russia and China. This is certainly a far cry from the days when China was warned by Moscow not to get involved in the Bangladesh conflict. China was then described as an 'expansionist' power by Moscow. Russia and other world powers now recognize that the economically fast-growing India of 2023 is very different from India of the past. Putin's Russia has, meanwhile, been facing huge pressures from the US and its NATO allies because of the Ukraine conflict. Significantly, the joint statement of the summit gave the names of countries supporting the BRI. Naturally, India's name did not figure on this list. This was inevitable, given India's concerns about the Chinese initiative compromising its national security across its northern borders in Jammu and Kashmir.

Just prior to the New Delhi summit, President Putin spoke to PM Modi about the Wagner Group mutiny which he had crushed. He hailed PM Modi as Russia's 'big friend', while also expressing praise for his economic policies. It is clear that while Putin's Russia is appreciative of the understanding that India has shown during the Ukraine crisis, it is also highly dependent on China for military, diplomatic and economic support in the face of unrelenting American pressures. There is also a concern that American readiness to provide an ever-expanding range of weapons to Ukraine could compel Moscow to respond with low-yield tactical nuclear weapons. One hopes that all parties involved in the Ukraine conflict understand this.

(The author is Chancellor, Jammu Central University & former High Commissioner to Pakistan)

Loot, intransigence, and the darkening of a colonial blot



BY SHASHI THAROOR

MR. TRUDEAU'S WILLY BRANDT MOMENT NEEDS TO FIND ITS BRITISH ECHO

"We must understand that the return of stolen property is not a substitute for the trauma and the horrors caused by colonialism, because the agony suffered can never truly be removed through such belated restitution. The same holds for financial reparations, since the value of the human lives lost because of colonial indifference or brutality can never be accurately computed. The return of cultural artefacts is rather a moral obligation which the West owes to its colonies, just as reparations can be morally justified as the wealth and the economic success of these former colonial powers were built on the broken backs of their colonies. The return of cultural items offers a semblance of justice as well as expiates a legal and moral obligation which cannot and should not be ignored."

The recent news that the Netherlands will return 484 valuable artefacts it looted from Indonesia and Sri Lanka during the colonial period - it includes the fabled "Lombok treasure" of precious stones, gold and silver jewelry to Indonesia and the exquisitely-decorated bronze-and-gilt cannon of Kandy to Sri Lanka - once again puts the focus on an issue that will not go away. Should colonial countries continue to hold on to cultural artefacts and precious objects that were stolen during the period of imperial domination, or acknowledge their misappropriation and return them to their original homelands?

The British have stubbornly refused for decades to return the so-called Elgin Marbles, a collection of classical Greek marble sculptures purloined by Lord Elgin from the Parthenon temple in Athens, or the Rosetta Stone taken from Egypt in 1802. But they had shown more



Flaunting the Kohinoor in the British crown is a powerful reminder of the injustices perpetrated by the former imperial power

generosity in repatriating some of the Benin Bronzes (looted by British forces in 1897) to Nigeria. Yet, when it comes to their extensive treasure trove of Indian artefacts, from the Kohinoor diamond to the sculptures from the Amaravati stupa, they dig in their heels, fearful of starting a hemorrhage that, in the words of former Prime Minister David Cameron, would soon leave the British Museum empty.

We cannot blame the British for everything that is wrong in our country today; nor should we see the return of such looted items as a panacea to cure all the ills and wrongs of colonialism. One can even accept that there is a statute of limitations on colonial wrongdoings, but there is none on human memory, especially living memory, for as I have pointed out in my book, *An Era of Darkness*, there are still millions of Indians alive today who remember the iniquities of the British Empire in India. History belongs in the past; but understanding it, and doing whatever we can about it, is the duty of the present.

A TRAUMA THAT LINGERS

Equally, we must understand that the return of stolen property is not a substitute for the trauma and the horrors caused by colonialism, because the agony suffered can never truly be removed through such belated restitution. The same holds for financial reparations, since the value of the human lives lost because of colonial indifference or brutality can never be accurately computed. The return of cultural artefacts is rather a moral obligation which the West owes to its colonies, just as reparations can be morally justified as the wealth and the economic success of these former colonial powers were built on the broken backs of their colonies. The return of cultural items offers a semblance of justice as well as expiates a legal and moral obligation which cannot and should not be ignored.

The return of some of the treasures looted from India in the course of colonialism is also a much easier

solution than financial reparations would be. The money exacted by the British from India in taxes and exploitation has already been spent, and cannot realistically be reclaimed. But individual pieces of statuary sitting in British museums could be, if for nothing else than their symbolic value. After all, if looted Nazi-era art can be (and now is being) returned to their rightful owners in various Western countries, why is the principle any different for looted colonial treasures?

Flaunting the Kohinoor on the Queen Mother's crown in the Tower of London is a powerful reminder of the injustices perpetrated by the former imperial power. Until it is returned - at least as a symbolic gesture of expiation - it will remain evidence of the loot, plunder and misappropriation that colonialism was really all about. Perhaps that is the best argument for leaving the Kohinoor where it emphatically does not belong - in British hands.

NEED FOR TRUE ATONEMENT

Of course, the process should not end with a few pieces of statuary or jewelry alone. I have argued for some time that the question of retrospective justice for colonialism is not answered by financial reparations alone, but by moral atonement.

This, in my view, should take three forms aside from the (still improbable) return of looted colonial-era artefacts: teaching unvarnished British colonial history in schools in the United Kingdom, setting up with British tax money a museum to the horrors and iniquities of colonialism in the Imperial capital. And, above all, expressing an apology to the victims of colonialism.

When Willy Brandt was Chancellor of Germany, he sank to his knees at the Warsaw Ghetto in 1970 to apologize to Polish Jews for the Holocaust. There were hardly any Jews left in Poland, and Brandt, who as a Socialist was persecuted by the Nazis, was completely innocent of the crimes for which he was apologizing. But in doing so - with his historic 'Kniefall

von Warschau' (Warsaw Genuflection), he was recognizing the moral responsibility of the German people, whom he led as Chancellor. That is precisely why, when I released my book, *Inglorious Empire*, in the United Kingdom, I called for atonement, rather than financial or other compensation for India.

WHAT BRITAIN COULD DO

While no British government of 2023 bears a shred of the responsibility for the horrors of colonialism, as a symbol of the nation that once allowed it to happen, the British government could atone for the past sins of the nation. That is also what Canada's Prime Minister Justin Trudeau did in 2016 when he apologized on behalf of Canada for the actions of his country's authorities a century earlier in denying permission for the Komagata Maru to land in Vancouver, thereby sending most of them to their deaths. Mr. Trudeau's Willy Brandt moment needs to find its British echo.

It is unlikely to happen. Britain continues to persist in its intransigence. The U.K. is still well behind the Dutch on the issue of the restitution of colonial artefacts. It shelters behind de-accessioning laws that prevent anything currently in a British Museum from being returned to the place it was looted from. Since pretty much every museum in London is a chor bazaar, the British do stand to lose a lot, from the Elgin Marbles in the British Museum to the mechanical tiger devouring a British redcoat (commissioned by Tipu Sultan) in the Victoria & Albert Museum. It is safer to say no to everything than to return one item and unwittingly prise open the floodgates.

But while they say no, they are not prepared to say sorry. An apology - an act of genuine contrition at, ideally, Jallianwala Bagh, like Mr. Trudeau's over Komagata Maru - might work best as a significant gesture of atonement. And building a Museum of Colonialism would show a determination, in the metropolitan country, to learn the lessons of the Empire - to teach British schoolchildren what sources of loot, pillage and profit built their homeland, just as German children are shepherded to concentration camps to see the awful reality of what their forefathers did.

If all this is done, then true atonement - of the purely moral kind, involving a serious consideration of historical responsibility rather than mere admission of guilt or payment of money - might be achieved. Is that really too much to hope for?

(Shashi Tharoor is third-term Lok Sabha Member of Parliament (Congress) from Thiruvananthapuram, and the Sahitya Akademi Award-winning author of *An Era of Darkness* and *The Battle of Belonging*. His most recent book is *Ambedkar: A Life*)

The spirit of the university under threat

Suspension of teachers reflects the crisis emanating from the virus of 'anti-intellectualism'



BY AVIJIT PATHAK

"When I chose to join the vocation of teaching in 1990, I was guided by a very noble idea of the university. The university, I thought, should function as a vibrant and living community of students and teachers walking together, and learning and unlearning through engaged pedagogy, meaningful research and constant debate and dialogue on culture, politics, and diverse modes of resistance for creating a just and humane world. And the administration, I thought, should play only an enabling role so that students and teachers can flourish in an environment of openness and freedom. I know this ideal is likely to be laughed at and ridiculed by the techno-managers who run our universities these days. The reason is that the instrumental logic of neo-liberalism seeks to depoliticize the university and, instead, transforms it into a 'brand' that cherishes the market-driven mantra of 'productivity' and 'efficiency', and transforms students into consumers and teachers into service providers."

The other day, when I read news reports about the suspension of four teachers at Delhi's South Asian University (SAU), I was shocked, but not necessarily surprised. Well, these professors, as I know, are quite good in their respective fields of specialization. But then, instead of defining themselves as purely 'value-neutral' professionals, they, it seems, behaved like true teachers with a conscience - and in communion with their students. Not surprisingly, when their students were opposing the reduction of their monthly stipend and demanding representation in certain statutory committees, they urged the university administration to talk to the students and find a dignified way (instead of reducing the entire struggle to a 'law and order' problem to be handled by the police) to resolve the issue. Students who raise their voice are seen as disruptive elements. Teachers in touch with these students are bound to suffer.

One of them visited the hospital where a student was admitted after falling severely sick during the agitation. In a good society, these teachers should have been appreciated for these qualities or virtues. However, we live in altogether different times that transform everything into its opposite: virtue into vice, compassion into non-professionalism, and scholarship into cold indifference. Hence, as I thought, their suspension was inevitable because the university administration could not tolerate their 'misconduct'!

Well, it is not difficult to understand that this sort of disciplinary measure on the part of the university conveys two messages to the teaching community: (a) As a teacher, you should know your boundaries; draw your fairly attractive salary, remain silent and don't bring 'politics' into the classroom; otherwise, be prepared for punitive action; and (b) Don't underestimate the power of the surveillance machinery; it is continually monitoring you, observing your every move and action, and even recording whether you are taking part in 'radical' forums like the 'Marxist Study Circle'. In fact, these twin messages will further intensify the psychology of fear, and most of the teachers will play it 'safe', remain diplomatic or through their silence encourage the administration to become more and more coercive.

When I chose to join the vocation of teaching in 1990, I was guided by a very noble idea of the university. The university, I thought, should function as a vibrant and living community of students and teachers walking together, and learning and unlearning through engaged pedagogy, meaningful



A university should function as a vibrant community of students & teachers.

Photo for representational purpose only

research and constant debate and dialogue on culture, politics, and diverse modes of resistance for creating a just and humane world. And the administration, I thought, should play only an enabling role so that students and teachers can flourish in an environment of openness and freedom. I know this ideal is likely to be laughed at and ridiculed by the techno-managers who run our universities these days. The reason is that the instrumental logic of neo-liberalism seeks to depoliticize the university and, instead, transforms it into a 'brand' that cherishes the market-driven mantra of 'productivity' and 'efficiency', and transforms students into consumers and teachers into service providers. Under these circumstances, it is exceedingly difficult to retain the spirit of critical pedagogy that the likes of Paulo Freire and bell hooks embodied. Instead, a teacher/professor is supposed to be 'value-neutral'. Politics is a diversion; she/he should only publish papers, keep in mind the mathematics of the 'citation index' and the 'impact factor', and enhance the 'ranking' of the university! And a student should think only of his/her utilitarian objectives. Possibly, SAU, too, is imitating this logic. No wonder the students who raise their voice are seen as disruptive elements; and as the suspension of four teachers indicates, if you are seen to be in touch with these 'problematic' students, you are bound to suffer. In a way, the teachers' suspension cannot be seen in isolation.

Furthermore, as India is fast moving towards some sort of electoral autocracy, we are witnessing a new kind of crisis emanating from the virus of 'anti-intellectualism'. Don't think critically. Don't question the establishment. Accept the dominant discourse of development, nationalism

and religion. Is it, therefore, surprising that even the slightest trace of dissent is criminalized? Everywhere in India, the university administration is becoming overly cautious; it would not allow any activity, be it pedagogic, cultural or political, that questions the ruling regime or encourages critical thinking and radical life-practice. Well, for quite some time, I thought that SAU - a joint initiative by the eight SAARC countries - was of a qualitatively different kind. In fact, I visited this university on many occasions; my interaction with young students from Bangladesh, Nepal, Afghanistan and India gave me immense satisfaction; and the presence of bright and young teachers was a matter of great joy. Is the SAU losing its autonomy, receiving signals from the government and behaving like yet another Indian university producing a bunch of conformists and depoliticized careerists, or even hyper-nationalists?

My heart aches for these four teachers. What worries me further is that as the members of the upwardly mobile Indian middle class hesitate to take any 'risk', and prefer to live with their narrowly defined concerns - 'my job, my career, my safety, my family, my car, my apartment, my EMI' - these four victims are unlikely to get solid and sustainable emotional and political support from the larger teaching community. With their solitary struggle, they will suffer - financially and psychologically. However, I tend to believe that this turning point in their lives will further intensify their conviction, give them the strength to remain firm and help them emerge as sources of hope in these dystopian times.

(The author is a sociologist)



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 ERIC FRASER  AMIT CHATTERJEE TABLA	 PALLAB BANDOPADHYAY VIOLIN  AMIT CHATTERJEE TABLA	 SOUMYA CHAKRAVERTY SAROD  RUCHIRA PANDA VOCAL
 ANIRBAN CHAKRABORTY HARMONIUM  KASTURI BANDOPADHYAY - VOCAL	 ANIRBAN CHAKRABORTY HARMONIUM  KANKANA BANERJEE VOCAL	 ANIRBAN CHAKRABORTY HARMONIUM  ANIRBAN R. CHOWDHURY TABLA
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Trump reveals new details about \$1 billion in earnings in revised filing

IN A REVISION TO AN EARLIER FILING, THE REPUBLICAN PRESIDENTIAL HOPEFUL SHOWED SPECIFIC INCOME FROM FOREIGN VENTURES, SPEAKING FEES AND REAL ESTATE

JULY 13, 2023

WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP): Former president Donald Trump disclosed new details about roughly \$1 billion in earnings in a revised financial filing covering much of his post-presidency, including money from foreign ventures, speaking fees and a Florida golf course, says a Washington Post report.

Trump reported several hundred sources of income in an initial April financial disclosure but provided only broad ranges for the income he received from each source. The revised Trump filing provides new details, such as a dollar amount for nearly a hundred sources of income, including his largest ones, which sum to over \$1.2 billion, according to a Washington Post tally.

The polling leader for the Republican nomination in 2024 disclosed more specific earnings from speaking fees than previously known, including at least \$2 million for speaking at events hosted by Hak Ja Han Moon and a group she co-founded with her husband Sun Myung Moon, the late leader of the Unification Church, and \$2.5 million to comment on a boxing match. In addition, he disclosed that his wife, Melania Trump, earned \$1.2 million from speaking fees.

Under disclosure rules, candidates typically show a broad view of their finances by providing ranges of valuation for their income and liabilities, as Trump did on his initial filing. In the new filing, Trump provided ranges for some items but also put in a number of specific larger amounts.

In two cases in the revised filing, Trump disclosed earnings outside the range he had previously indicated, according to the Post tally. In reporting income from a golf resort in Ireland, Trump went from saying his earnings were less than \$201 to saying he received an amount in euros that today would be equal to \$6.2 million. In another instance, Trump initially reported income between \$1,001 and \$2,500 from a carousel in New York's Central Park, but revised the amount to \$2,873 in the July filing.

Trump also added in the new report that he paid off an additional loan held by Deutsche Bank, a mortgage on his Doral, Fla., golf club valued at between \$25 million and \$50 million.

The revised filing was provided by the Office of Government Ethics after the agency noted the existence of the updated paperwork in an online database accessible to the public. The new filing was certified on July 6 by the office's director, Emory Rounds, whose term expired on July 12. Rounds could not be reached for comment.

Don Fox, former general counsel and acting head of the OGE during the Obama administration, said it's not



unusual for the office to ask for clarification from filers with complicated finances.

But he said "the fact that Emory Rounds did not sign it in April would tell me that he was not satisfied that all the disclosures required by law had been made at that time. Those are pretty wild swings in valuation."

Patrick Shepherd, an OGE spokesman, asked to comment on the revised filing, said via email that the agency is "committed to transparency and citizen oversight of government. However, OGE does not respond to questions about specific individuals."

Fox said Trump, in revising the filing with specific amounts, went beyond the requirement of providing information in ranges by disclosing the exact amount he earned. It is not typical for a candidate to go beyond the ranges, and it is not clear why Trump went beyond the requirement.

The report is required under guidelines from the Office of Government Ethics that say a presidential candidate is required to file within 30 days of becoming a candidate and on or before May 15 of each year of candidacy. Trump, after receiving two extensions, filed his initial report on April 14. The filing mainly covers part of 2021 and all of 2022, and at least one reference to 2023, for a payment of \$100,000.

The new filing contains an array of updates that offer further insight into Trump's finances and his complex domestic and international business interests. In one of the most substantial revisions, Trump had reported in his April filing that he made more than \$5 million in income from a golf course at his Doral resort in Florida, while the revised filing said he earned \$159 million. While those statements don't conflict, they do provide another example of why the new filing has a larger valuation.

Trump's detailing of the more than \$1 billion came from sources including hotel sales, golf revenue and licensing fees in the July disclosure. His April filing,

which did not provide exact numbers on his income, reported more than 25 sources of income over \$5 million.

In the July filing, Trump reports three sources of income over \$100 million, including \$284 million from the sale of the Trump International Hotel in Washington, \$159 million from his Miami golf resort and \$199 million across four partnerships with Hudson Waterfront Associates.

Some of this income had been previously known but not described in detail in his initial filing. For example, while he reported in April that the Washington hotel sale brought in more than \$5 million, it had already been widely reported that the sale price was around \$284 million - the amount he declared in the July filing.

But some of the other newly disclosed details had not been known.

The new report says Trump Media & Technology Group, which runs the social network Truth Social, reported receiving about \$1.2 million in advertising, a paltry sum compared with the ad revenue of Twitter and other social media rivals Trump has long said it would supplant.

In late 2021, the company said a planned merger with a special purpose acquisition company would raise its value to up to \$1.7 billion. That merger remains frozen amid a federal investigation, and in the financial disclosure, Trump said the company was worth no more than \$25 million.

The new filing also sheds light on the money that Trump received as part of fundraising events.

In one example, Trump was paid \$900,300 for participating in a Dec. 3, 2021, event in Florida, and his wife, Melania Trump, was paid \$250,000 for what appears to be the same event, according to the filing. Before the event, the New York Daily News reported that Trump was "set to pose for 90 photos with guests" at \$10,000 a pop.

"Trump does get a piece of the pie, but the lion's share will go to charity," organizer Brad Keltner told the outlet. Keltner did not respond to a request for comment.

Trump also reported more than a dozen speaking engagements, including two at Universal Peace Federation World Summits. The events, which amounted to \$2 million, were hosted by the Universal Peace Federation and its co-founder Hak Ja Han Moon, whose late husband Sun Myung Moon co-founded the group and also founded the Unification Church. Church and federation spokesmen did not immediately respond to requests for comment.

(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)



World Bank President Ajay Banga will attend the G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors Meeting in India

World Bank President Ajay Banga to attend G20 meeting in India

JULY 10, 2023

WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP): World Bank President Ajay Banga will travel to India next week to attend the G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors Meeting in Ahmedabad, Gujarat, according to the development lender.

This would be Banga's first trip to India after he took over as the World Bank president last month.

Gujarat is hosting four meetings of G20 in the first two weeks of July.

These meetings will provide an opportunity for business representatives to share their perspectives, insights and

policy recommendations on various economic and business-related topics and will play a very significant role in shaping global economic agendas and policies, according to officials.

(Source: PTI)

Hollywood Actors Strike

TV AND MOVIE ACTORS VOTE FOR BIGGEST WALKOUT IN FOUR DECADES

JULY 14, 2023

NEW YORK / LOS ANGELES (TIP):

The Hollywood actors' union approved a strike on Thursday, July 13, for the first time in 43 years, bringing the \$134 billion American movie and television business to a halt over anger about pay and fears of a tech-dominated future.

The leaders of SAG-AFTRA, the union representing 160,000 television and movie actors, announced the strike after negotiations with studios over a new contract collapsed, with streaming services and artificial intelligence at the center of the standoff. On Friday, the actors will join screenwriters, who walked off the job in May, on picket lines in New York, Los Angeles and the dozens of other American cities where scripted shows and movies are made.



Actors and screenwriters had not been on strike at the same time since 1960,

when Marilyn Monroe was still starring in films and Ronald Reagan was the head

of the actors' union. Dual strikes pit more than 170,000 workers against old-line studios like Disney, Universal, Sony and Paramount, as well tech juggernauts like Netflix, Amazon and Apple.

"I am shocked by the way the people that we have been in business with are treating us!" Fran Drescher, the president of SAG-AFTRA, as the actors' union is known, said at a news conference on Thursday in Los Angeles. "How far apart we are on so many things. How they plead poverty, that they're losing money left and right when giving hundreds of millions of dollars to their C.E.O.s. It is disgusting. Shame on them!"

Read full story at
www.theindianpanorama.news

Olivia Chow becomes Toronto's 66th mayor



Olivia Chow has become the first person of color to be sworn in as Mayor of Canada's most populated city of Toronto

JULY 13, 2023

PRABHJOT SINGH

TORONTO (TIP): Olivia Chow has become the first person of color to be sworn in as Mayor of Canada's most populated city of Toronto. Her swearing-in ceremony, attended by councilors, guests of the elected mayor, former mayors, city staff and agency representatives was held at the city hall.

The 66-year-old Olivia Chow, widow of former NDP leader Jack Leyton, was elected in the bye election held last month. Chow, a former NDP MP and past city councilor, defeated 101 other candidates to win last month's mayoral election to replace John Tory. Her victory vaults a progressive into Toronto's top job for the first time in over a decade.

In her first address after the ceremony, Olivia Chow pledged to build what she calls a more caring and affordable city. She received a standing ovation from her colleagues on the council for her push

for a better city.

"Let's build a Toronto that is more affordable, safe and caring, where everyone belongs," she said after signing the declaration. "Together we can, and today we start."

The new Mayor has a host of issues on her plate. These include a massive budget shortfall, driven in large part by decreasing transit revenues and increased shelter costs.

During her opening remarks as mayor, she chose to call on both the federal and provincial governments to step up and help refugees who are facing housing issues in the city.

"Even in the face of those steep challenges, people have sent a clear message that change is not only possible, it's absolutely necessary," said Chow.

Chow, known for her passion for cycling, elected to bike to work on her first day in office. Cycle Toronto hosted a group bike ride to City Hall to mark her inaugural day, with Chow joining the short ride and briefly addressing the group.

Since the June by-election, she has been holding meetings with city staff, finalizing her team and holding transition engagements with civil service and non-profit groups on priority issues to get to her work.

She made it clear that she will need cooperation from everyone in her endeavor to make Toronto the most livable city. She affirmed that city councilors will continue to do "what they love to do."

"They will be contributing the way they want to contribute," she said, "and accomplish what they want to accomplish in these three years that we have in front of us."

Since John Tory's resignation and departure in February, the role and responsibilities of mayor have been held by Deputy Mayor Jennifer McKelvie.

A significant milestone for the sport as Major League Cricket begins in US



Major League Cricket

Twitter image

JULY 12, 2023

WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP): Cricket is all set to hit a significant milestone this week with the launch of Major League Cricket in the US as Texas Super Kings face off against Los Angeles Knight Riders at America's new premier venue in Dallas on Friday, July 14.

All six teams comprising some of the major cricket players and local American talents would play 18 games, leading up to the first-ever championship final on July 30.

Eleven matches will take place at Grand Prairie Stadium near Dallas in Texas, while seven games are scheduled to take place at Church Street Park in North Carolina.

All the tickets for the first match, at the cricket-specific stadium featuring 7,200 seats and a grass wicket meeting the highest levels of international standards, have been sold off, the organizers said.

The six teams are Los Angeles Knight Riders, MI New York, San Francisco Unicorns, Seattle Orcas, Texas Super Kings and Washington Freedom.

Most of the teams are owned by Indian Americans who are venture capitalists, in the IT and start-up sector.

The inaugural season will be played in a round-robin format with the four best performing teams competing in a multi-

game playoff and final round to decide a champion, to be crowned on July 30, a media release said.

Based out of Seattle Washington State, the Seattle Orcas are owned by an investor group including Microsoft's CEO Satya Nadella, Soma Somasegar, Samir Bodas, Ashok Krishnamurthi, and Sanjay Parthasarathy - and the GMR Group.

Los Angeles Knight Riders are based out of Los Angeles and is owned by Knight Riders Groups. San Francisco Unicorns is owned by Anand Rajaraman and Venky Harinarayan, co-founders of Cambrian ventures.

Texas Super Kings are co-owned by the Chennai Super Kings, Ross Perot Jr., and Anurag Jain; while Washington Freedom team is owned by Indian American entrepreneur Sanjay Govil.

"It's not only the Indian diaspora that is very excited, those from Australia, United Kingdom, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, New Zealand are also excited about the start of the Major League Cricket in the United States," said an avid cricket fan, M R Rangaswami from San Francisco, who is flying to Dallas to watch the opening match.

(Read full story at
www.theindianpanorama.news)

Coal block allocation: Ex-MP Vijay Darda, ex-coal secretary HC Gupta convicted

A Delhi court has convicted former Rajya Sabha member Vijay Darda, his son, Devendra Darda, former coal secretary H C Gupta, and four others in a case related to irregularities in the allocation of a coal block in Chhattisgarh.

Special judge Sanjay Bansal on Thursday, July 13, held the seven guilty under the Indian Penal Code (IPC)'s Sections 120B (criminal conspiracy) and 420 (cheating and dishonestly inducing delivery of property) and under the Prevention of Corruption Act. JLD Yavatmal Energy Pvt Ltd director Manoj Kumar Jayaswal and two officials K S Kropcha and K C Samria are among others who have been convicted.

The seven were acquitted under IPC's section 409 (criminal breach of trust by public servants). The matter has been listed for arguments on the quantum of punishment on July 18.

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) said 13th convictions have been secured in the coal allocation scam, which rocked then Prime Minister Manmohan Singh's government in 2012.

The Supreme Court in 2014 declared allocations of over 200 coal blocks to power, steel, and cement companies since 1993 illegal. In its report in 2012, the Comptroller and Auditor General said underpriced sales cost the exchequer. The scandal was dubbed as "Coalgate".

In its first information report (FIR) in the case related to the allocation of the coal block in Chhattisgarh, the CBI said JLD Yavatmal wrongfully concealed the previous allocations of four coal blocks to its group companies in 1999-2005. A closure report was later filed saying the coal ministry gave no undue benefit to the company.

The report said that nothing substantial emerged to establish that the coal ministry officials and JLD Yavatmal Energy directors were involved in cheating and criminal conspiracy.

The trial court in November 2014 refused to accept the closure report and directed the CBI to conduct further investigation into the matter. It said Vijay Darda "misrepresented" facts in letters written to Manmohan Singh, who then held the coal portfolio.

The court said Vijay Darda, the Lokmat Group chairman, did so to get the Fatehpur (East) coal block in Chhattisgarh allotted to JLD Yavatmal Energy. It said private parties "prima facie" committed offence of cheating in "furtherance of a conspiracy" hatched with the public servants. The 35th Screening Committee allotted JLD Yavatmal Energy the Fatehpur (East) coal block. *Source: HT*

Delhi Floods: Homes, hospitals, roads submerged; schools, offices shut

Damaged regulator makes Yamuna water in Delhi flow back towards city; red alert issued in Faridabad

NEW DELHI (TIP)

Following heavy rain in its upper catchment areas, the Yamuna has been flowing above the danger mark in Delhi for the past five days.

As the overflowing Yamuna disrupted daily life in parts of the national capital, a regulator of the Delhi Irrigation and Flood Control Department suffered damage near the Indraprastha bus stand and the WHO Building on Drain No 12, exacerbating the already dire situation.

The compromised regulator allowed the Yamuna water to flow back towards the city, intensifying the challenges faced by residents.

Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal swiftly took action, directing immediate reinforcements to be dispatched to the site, according to a statement.

The Cyclone Warning Centre has issued a red alert for the Yamuna in Faridabad. The Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) has predicted light showers in Delhi on Friday. A yellow alert has been issued for Saturday in the national capital.

Over the past three days, the ferocious river turned roads into streams, parks into watery labyrinths, and homes and shelters into submerged realms, severely disrupting daily life in the national capital. The water level, however, stabilised after reaching 208.62 metres, smashing the all-time record set 45 years



ago by a significant margin.

As water from the Yamuna inundated more areas of Delhi and rescue efforts intensified, the city stared at a drinking water shortage. The Delhi government said the inundation of a pump house at Wazirabad impeded operations at Wazirabad, Chandrawal and Okhla water treatment plants, leading to a 25 per cent drop in water supply.

Central Water Commission Director Sharad Chandra said the rate of water flow rate at the Hathnikund barrage in

Haryana dropped to 80,000 cusecs at 4 pm.

"The water level has stabilised ... It is expected to drop to 208.45 metres by 3.00 am on Friday, July 13," he told PTI.

The Delhi Disaster Management Authority on Thursday directed that non-essential government offices, schools and colleges be closed till Sunday.

The city government has banned the entry of heavy goods vehicles, barring those carrying essential items, into the city from the four borders, including Singhu. *Source: PTI*

Water level in reservoirs up, beats 10-yr average

NEW DELHI (TIP)

Unprecedented rainfall across North India over the past few days has led to an increase in water levels in the Bhakra, Pong and Ranjit Sagar dams.

Reservoirs have filled up to levels that have not been achieved in a decade, according to the weekly report released by the Central Water Commission (CWC) today. The CWC releases a weekly report on the water level at all 146 dam reservoirs of the country.

A comparison of the data released today and that of last week (July 6) shows that water level in the Bhakra dam has gone up by 30 feet within a week. The 260 sq km reservoir of the Pong dam has recorded a rise of 28 feet during this period. The water level in the Ranjit Sagar dam has risen by 34 feet.

The water level, when seen against the full reservoir capacity of these dams, is higher in percentage than the 10-year average of the water levels, the CWC said.

20 bodies recovered in rain-ravaged Kullu; Punjab bus found in Beas

The bodies of 20 people, including the driver of a Punjab Roadways bus that had been missing for the past two days, were recovered in the rain-ravaged Kullu district of Himachal Pradesh on Thursday, July 13. The district had been grappling with unprecedented heavy rain over the past five days that led to the flooding of the Beas river and triggered landslides. The district authorities confirmed that 11 of the 20 victims had been identified.

Of the bodies retrieved so far, three are of women. The bodies were found during rescue operations going for the past three days, said an official. "All these bodies have been found in different locations in Kullu. The wreckage of a PRTC bus was



spotted in Beas river on July 13. The PRTC bus which was on its way from Chandigarh to Manali was parked on the roadside when Beas washed away a portion of the road. "The bus driver has been tracked but the conductor is still untraceable, there were no passengers in the bus," said additional director general of police Abhishek Trivedi.

Among the deceased, 10 victims were swept away by the raging Beas, while seven devotees lost their lives on the treacherous route of the Shrikhand Yatra (pilgrimage) in the Nirmand area. The devotees succumbed to extreme cold and lack of oxygen in the high-altitude area. The Punjab Roadways bus, which was going from Chandigarh to Manali when it went missing two days ago, was spotted in the Beas river as the water level receded on Thursday, July 13. The body of the driver was found but that of the conductor and the rest of the passengers are untraceable. Three bodies were recovered from debris after landslides hit Lankabekar, Patlikulah and Brau, respectively. *Source: TNS and HT*

Army Intensifies Tech Operations Across Buffer Zones In Manipur

The army has intensified use of tech-driven operations in the buffer zones of violence-hit Manipur, sources in the army said. For the last two months, the army has been using Unmanned Aerial Vehicle or UAV for surveillance in the buffer zones of sensitive areas.

UAVs and high-range quadcopters have been a big help for the security forces, who are busy establishing and dominating buffer zones between the hills and valley regions to keep away the warring Kuki and Meitei communities. These are also being used to find and destroy illegal bunkers, sources said.

"Surveillance along the Indo-Myanmar Border to detect movement of insurgents who are staying in camps across, and supporting operations -- like UAV cover for patrols, combing operations and Mobile Vehicle Check Posts, convoy monitoring on NH-37 and NH-2, monitoring rescue operations, monitoring mob build-up and preventing violence by guiding security forces have seen major use of technology," said a senior army official involved in ground operations on condition of anonymity. The intensification of tech-based operations comes at a time when security agencies have reports that short-range quadcopters have been put to use by warring factions -- Meiteis, mostly concentrated in Imphal valley, and Kukis, mainly on the hillside -- to know each other's positions.

EAM raises security of envoys with Britain

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on Thursday, July 13, met his Russian counterpart Sergey Lavrov in Jakarta on the sidelines of a set of ASEAN-related ministerial dialogues. The meeting, among a large number of bilaterals, is significant, as was the one with his UK counterpart James Cleverley in which he brought up concerns pertaining to the security of Indian diplomats in the UK. Jaishankar also met his South Korean counterpart Park Jin to discuss critical minerals and cutting-edge technology. He raised the security of Indian diplomats with Cleverley days after NSA Ajit Doval asked his British counterpart Tim Barrow to take strong public action such as deportation against extremist elements threatening officers of the Indian High Commission in the UK. With Lavrov, Jaishankar discussed bilateral economic issues and matters related to the Ukraine conflict. India has become a major buyer of Russian oil, but there is no agreement with Russia on how to utilise the rupees that have accumulated due to western sanctions. India would want the rupees to be invested in its infrastructure sector or government bonds while Moscow wants the money to be repatriated before deciding what to do with it.

Some global forces use tech for social harm: Amit Shah at G20

GURUGRAM (TIP)

Union home minister Amit Shah said on Thursday, July 13, pushed for "uniformity" in global laws and a "united front" to deal with cyber threats, adding that some antisocial elements and global forces are using technology to cause economic and social harm to citizens and governments.

The home minister underlined threats emanating from cyber criminals using the darknet, metaverse, deepfakes, ransomware and toolkit-based misinformation campaigns, and who target critical information and financial systems. He asked members of the G20 to have a "dedicated common channel" to prevent financial irregularities through the use of digital currencies.

"Our vision for the internet should neither compromise the security of the nation by allowing excessive freedom nor should it adopt an isolationist structure like digital firewalls," he said, explaining the need for a balanced vision for the internet.

"Today, we live in a big global digital village. Although technology is a positive development in bringing human beings, communities, and countries closer, there are also some antisocial elements and global forces that are using technology to cause economic and social harm to citizens and governments," Shah said while inaugurating the two-day "G20 Conference on Crime and Security in the Age of NFTs, Artificial Intelligence and Metaverse" in Gurugram.

Over 900 participants from G20 countries, nine special invitee countries, international bodies such as Interpol, and technology leaders and domain experts from India and across the world are attending the conference.

While the home minister did not name



Amit Shah during the G20 conference on 'Crime and Security in the age of NFTs, AI and Metaverse', in Gurugram on Thursday, July 13. PTI

any country, there have been instances of cyberattacks by China-backed hackers on India's key establishments in the recent past, including the hacking of All India Institute of Medical Sciences servers last year. Asserting that the metaverse may create new opportunities for terrorist organisations, primarily for propaganda, recruitment, and training, Shah said, "This will make it easier for terrorist organisations to select and target vulnerable people and prepare material according to their vulnerabilities."

"Cybercriminals are perpetrating incidents ranging from ransomware attacks, sale of critical personal data, online harassment, and child abuse to fake news and misinformation campaigns with 'toolkits'. At the same time, there is also a growing tendency to strategically target critical information and financial systems. Such activities are a matter of national concern, as their activities have a direct impact on national security, law and order, and the economy. If such crimes and criminals have to be stopped, then we have to think and also act by rising above the conventional geographic

boundaries," Shah said.

The home minister noted that terrorists are leveraging technology, which is becoming a challenge for law enforcement agencies. "The transformation of our security challenges from 'dynamite to metaverse' and 'hawala to crypto currency' is a matter of concern for countries across the world. Terrorists are finding new ways to perpetrate violence, radicalise youth and raise financial resources. New methods in the form of virtual assets are being used by terrorists for financial transactions".

Cryptocurrencies are not recognised as payment instruments in India and the government is yet to take a call on whether to restrict the conversion of rupees to any of the cryptocurrencies -- which effectively amounts to a complete ban. It does, however, apply a 30% tax on inward conversions, and has urged at international forum a concerted decision on how these currencies can be used.

"And all of us, together, have to devise a common strategy against it," Shah added.

Emphasizing that no single country or organisation can combat cyber threats alone, Shah said that "it requires a united front".

"We aim to create a 'cyber success world' and not a 'cyber failure world'. Together, we can harness the potential of these technologies while ensuring a 'secure and prosperous digital future for all. Let us seize this opportunity to collaborate, share our ideas and forge international partnerships," he said.

Commenting on the rise in cybercrime involving digital currency, Shah said the nature of the cyber threat landscape has spread across national boundaries, necessitating cooperation and sharing of information by nations, organizations and stakeholders to effectively combat cybercrimes.

Source: HT

'26/11-Like Attack If...': Threat call over Pak woman who came to India for lover

MUMBAI (TIP)

The traffic control room of Mumbai Police has received a call from an unidentified person warning of a 26/11-like terror attack if Pakistani woman Seema Haider did not return to her country, an official said.

The call was received on July 12, he said on Friday, July 14.

The caller, who spoke in Urdu, said there would be a terror attack, like the one that took place on November 26, 2008, in Mumbai and that the Uttar Pradesh government will be responsible for it, the police official said.

Mumbai Police is investigating the threat call and a crime branch team has also been roped in, he said.

The call was made through an app, and the police were trying to track down the IP address of the caller, the official said.

Seema Haider, a Pakistani national, recently entered India illegally to marry her lover Sachin Meena, a resident of Greater Noida. The two had become friends while playing online game PUBG.

The Pakistani woman, around 30, and her Indian partner, around 25, were arrested by the police in connection with her illegal stay in India, but were granted bail by a court in Uttar Pradesh's Greater Noida last week.

On July 4, both Sachin and Seema confessed their love for each other in front of the media and police, urging the government to



Seema Haider, a Pakistani national, recently entered India illegally to marry her lover Sachin Meena. AFP

allow them to get married and stay together in India.

Source: PTI

India in history this Week

JULY 14, 2023, TO JULY 20, 2023

14 JULY



1945 Technology veteran and country's big industrialist Shiv Nadar was born on 14 July.

1969 85 people killed in a train and passenger train collision in Jaipur.

15 JULY

1857 Indian Rebellion of 1857: Second massacre took place in Kanpur.

1926 Buses were introduced for the first time in the Indian city of Mumbai.

1955 First President Dr. Rajendra Prasad announced the award of the highest civilian award Bharat Ratna to the then Prime Minister of the country, Jawaharlal Nehru.



1984 After the unrest of the Sikh community in Punjab, it was declared a terrorism affected area.

1903 Kamaraj, the veteran politician and reformist leader, was born.

1937 Well-known Hindi journalist Prabhash Joshi was born.

1909 Durgabai Deshmukh, the first female leader of Andhra Pradesh, was born.

1912 Mohammed Osman, a high officer of the Indian Army, was born. He was martyred in the First War of India and Pakistan (1947-48).

2004 Indian medical scientist and family planning expert Bano Jahangir Koyaji passed away.

2011 Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) successfully launched GSAT-12A from Sriharikota through PSLV C-17.

16 JULY

1909 Aruna Asaf Ali, who fought the freedom struggle, was born.

1969 27 children died in the country due to food in school.

1856 The remarriage of Hindu widows got legal recognition.



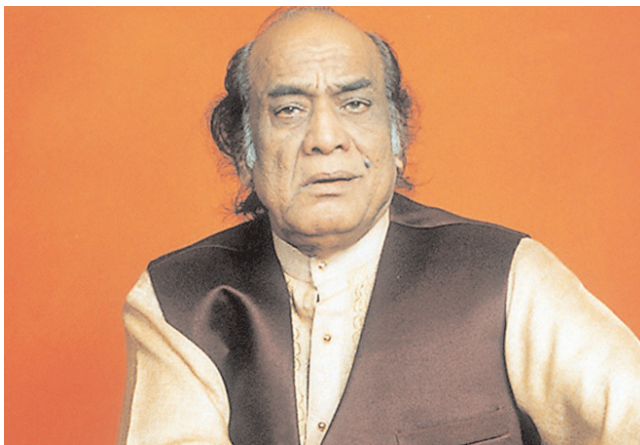
17 JULY

1948 Women in the country were declared eligible in any type of civil services including the Indian Administrative Service and the Indian Police Service.

1950 India's first plane crashed in Pathankot.

18 JULY

1927 Birthday of Ghazal Emperor Mehdi Hasan.



1947 The Indian Independence Act received royal approval.

2012 Indian films superstar Rajesh Khanna died in his bungalow Blessing.

1857 Establishment of Bombay University.

1955 Electricity produced from nuclear power was sold commercially for the first time.

1980 'Rohini-1' satellite built entirely in India, placed in the Earth's orbit.

2010 Joseph, a professor in Kerala, was attacked by eight people and cut off his hands, accusing them of insulting Islam.

2002 Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam was elected the 12th President of the country in 2002.



2003 Venugopal Reddy became the new Governor of the Reserve Bank in 2003.

2008 Indian-origin Salman Rushdie set a record for signing over a thousand books in 57 minutes during a 2008 promotion tour.



19 JULY



1827 The revolutionary Mangal Pandey was born in Faizabad district of Uttar Pradesh.

1969 The Government of India took the decision in 1969 to nationalize 14 major banks of the country.



2005 Former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh addressed the US Congress.

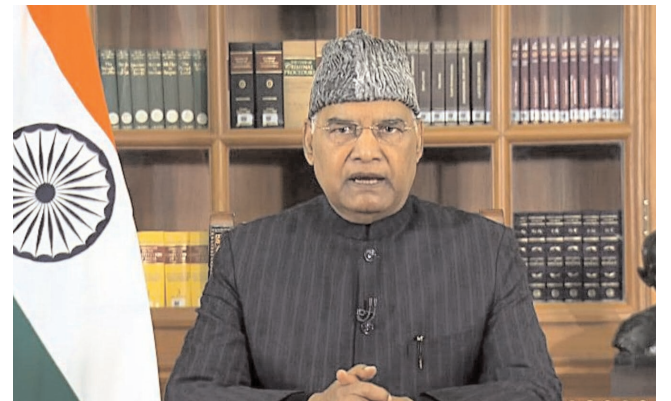
1975 The bones of Indian revolutionary Udham Singh were brought from London to New Delhi in 1974.

1938 Indian physics scientist Jayant Vishnu Narlikar was born on 19 July 1938.

20 JULY

1997 Indo-Bangladesh agreement on Teesta river water sharing.

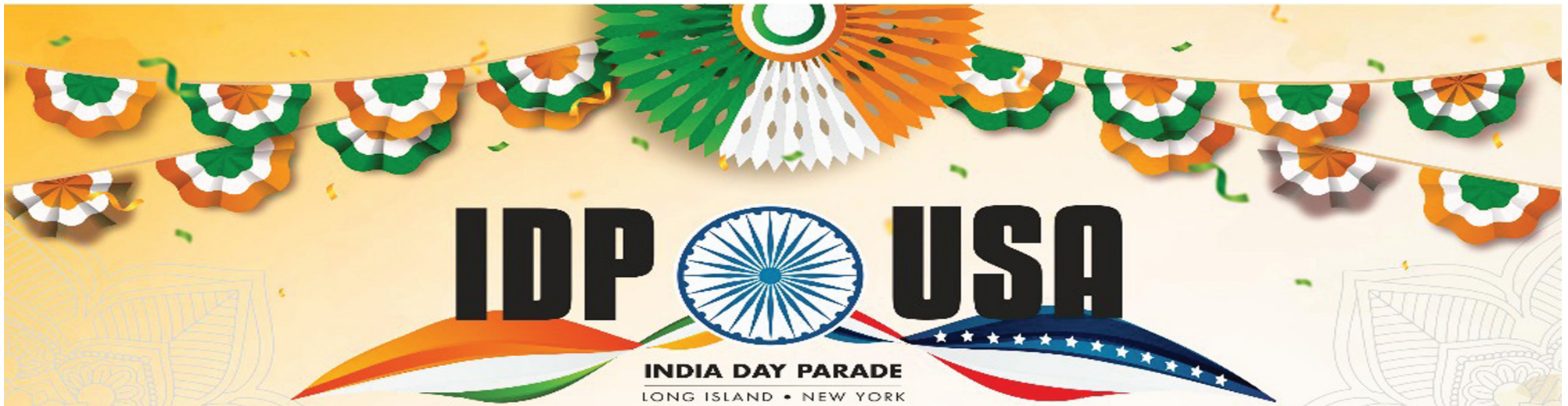
1761 Madhav Rao became the first Peshwa.



2017 Ram Nath Kovind was elected the 14th President of India in 2017.

1965 India's famous revolutionary Batukeshwar Dutt died on 20 July 1965.

1982 Meera Ben, the daughter of a British military officer, died in 1982 and who promoted Khadi in the 'Indian freedom struggle' influenced by Mahatma Gandhi's principles.



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JAZZ @ LINCOLN CENTER, LCPA WELCOME MAHINDRA BLUES SPECIAL

BY MABEL PAIS

The Mahindra Blues Festival, situated in an iconic 70-year-old Bollywood Studio, is held annually in Mumbai, India and has become one of the most important blues events in the country.



Lincoln Center NYC, Summer Stage. Credit / lincolncenter.org

This year, Mahindra Blues Festival, Jazz at Lincoln Center, and Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts (LCPA) join forces to present Mahindra Blues Special on Saturday July 15 at 6 pm & 7:30 pm, a one night only celebration of the many communities connected to the blues with performances at two special locations on the Lincoln Center campus. Both performances are FREE.

First, at 6:00 pm, catch Indian-born Aayushi Karnik with NYC veterans Russell Hall on bass and Cameron MacIntosh on drums at The Dance Floor at Josie Robertson Plaza, playing original music fusing blues guitar and jazz harmony.

At 7:30 pm, make your way to Damrosch Park to take in the incredible vocal stylings of Brianna Thomas and Ella Sang The Blues, followed by the Corey Harris Band, known for mixing New Orleans, Caribbean, and African influences into their eclectic sound.

AAYUSHI KARNIK

"Aayushi's playing, writing, and singing speak directly to the universality of the blues. She is a natural



Aayushi Karnik, Blues performer.

Credit / lincolncenter.org

with human concerns and insights that touch something deep inside all of us." -Wynton Marsalis

DESCRIPTION OF SET:

1. Blues/Rock Trio music
 2. Original music that fuses with Songwriting traditions, Blues guitar playing and Jazz Harmony
- Learn more at aayushikarnik.com.

BRIANNA THOMAS

"She brings new meaning to, if it plays in Peoria, it will play anywhere." President Bill Clinton."

Vocalist, composer, arranger Brianna Thomas is one of the most evocative and accomplished vocalists of her generation. Blessed with a sublime and soulfully syncopated soprano voice that scats, swoons, and croons at the speed of swing.

Soulful vocalist Brianna Thomas reimagines Ella Fitzgerald's 'These are the Blues,' the only all-blues album Fitzgerald ever released, performing tunes including "St. Louis Blues" and "Hear Me Talkin' to Ya."

COREY HARRIS

Corey Harris: 'Insurrection Blues' coming November 4 on M.C. Records

Corey Harris can engage an audience, or draw crowds and acclaim around the world. But for Harris, the blues involves a deeper mission, and that includes weighing in when there is something timely that needs to be said. *Insurrection Blues*, Harris' 20th album overall and first for M.C. Records, continues a blues journey that began with his debut album 'Between Midnight and Day' in 1995.

He's collaborated with the likes of B.B. King, Buddy Guy, Tracy Chapman, and Dave Matthews, and won honors including the MacArthur Fellowship's "genius award" and an honorary music doctorate from his alma mater, Bates College in Maine.

LINCOLN CENTER'S SUMMER FOR THE CITY

The Mahindra Blues Special is presented as part of Lincoln Center's Summer for the City (lincolncenter.org/series/summer-for-the-city) which began on June 14 and continues until August 12, the ultimate New York festival. This special summer event spans three summer months and features hundreds of events and thousands of artists, all in celebration of New York City.

The Mahindra Blues special is a free, general admission event. For more information visit lincolncenter.org/series/summer-for-the-city.

LINCOLN CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS

The Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts (LCPA) is a cultural and civic cornerstone of New York City. Learn more at lincolncenter.org.

LCPA presents hundreds of programs each year, offered primarily for free and choose-what-you-pay, including many specially designed for young audiences, families, and those with disabilities.

MAHINDRA GROUP

Learn more at mahindra.com.

ASIAN FILM FEST OF DALLAS

BY MABEL PAIS

Screening
Among Shorts
NEHA GAUTAM's 'Passenger Seat'
And many more

The Asian Film Festival of Dallas (AFFD) for its 22nd edition this year takes place, July 13-16. All screenings take place at the Angelika Film Center, Dallas (5321 E. Mockingbird Lane, #230).

AFFD Executive Director Thomas Schubert, said, "AFFD has always been a signature event for Dallas film lovers, introducing exciting films and cinema to DFW, and this year we will continue to try new ways to add to the fun."

2023 ASIAN FILM FESTIVAL OF DALLAS LINEUP

OPENING NIGHT SELECTION

The Night Owl
Dir: Tae-Jin Ahn | South Korea | 118m

CLOSING NIGHT SELECTION

Drive
Dir: Park Dong-hee | South Korea | 93m

SPECIAL SCREENINGS

The Accidental Getaway Driver

Dir: Sing J Lee | USA, Vietnam | 109m

Waiting for the Light to Change

Dir: Linh Tran | USA | 89m

ADDITIONAL NARRATIVE

FEATURES

Absence

Dir: Lang Wu | China | 100m

Aporia

Dir: Ju-hyoung Lee | South Korea | 120m

Limbo

Dir: Soi Cheang | Hong Kong | 118m

Nakodo: Matchmakers

Dir: Naoki Maeda | Japan | 110m

New Religion

Dir: Keishi Kondo | Japan | 100m

Next Sohee

Dir: July Jung | South Korea | 134m

Night of the Assassin

Dir: Kwak Jeong-deok | South Korea | 101m

Peafowl

Dir: Sung Bin Byun | South Korea | 115m

Siren in the Shadows

Dir: Hidenori Inoue | Japan | 127m

Stone Turtle

Dir: Ming Jin Woo | Malaysia | 91m

The Childe

Dir: Park Hoon-jung | South Korea | 118m

The Cord of Life

Dir: Sixue Qiao | China, Mongolia | 96m

DOCUMENTARY FEATURES

Children of the Mist

Dir: Ha La Diem | Vietnam | 92m

Seven Winters in Tehran

Dir: Steffi Niedertzoll | France, Germany

197m

SHORT FILMS

100 Dragonflies

Dir: Kyle Michael McCloskey | Japan |

20m

A Dawn at Minato City

Dir: Sergey Vlasov | Japan | 7m

Ey You!

Dir: Nicola Fan | Hong Kong | 6m

Passenger Seat

Dir: Neha Gautam | USA | 18m



'Passenger Seat.' Credit / wildworkspr.org

'Passenger Seat' shows the truth of being a cabbie in NYC: taking on predatory loans, struggling with deregulation, and competing with the rise of rideshare apps. But we wanted to

humanize the complexities of financial struggle by centering tenderness in daughter-father Desi immigrant relationships.

Please Hold the Line

Dir: Tan Ce Ding | Malaysia | 18m

TICKETS

To purchase badges, tickets and for updates, visit asianfilmdallas.com.

THE ASIAN FILM FESTIVAL OF DALLAS (AFFD)

The Asian Film Festival of Dallas (AFFD) is dedicated to celebrating and supporting emerging and established Asian and Asian-American filmmakers and sharing the rich diversity of Asian culture through the medium of cinema. Over the last 20+ years, the festival has provided opportunities for over 400 Asian and Asian-American filmmakers to share their vision, often providing the only venue for their films to be shown in Dallas. The films have also allowed festival goers a chance to experience other lives and cultures without leaving their seats.

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

PUNJABI FILM HONORS PRIDE COMMUNITY

BY MABEL PAIS



A scene from 'Your Love.'

Credit / jingomedia.com

'YOUR LOVE,' queer, non-binary, Canadian-Indian actor/writer/director Sundeep Morrison's (they/them) four-minute, cinematic love letter to the Queer South

Asian elders and their forgotten and unfinished love stories, secures a coveted spot at OUTFEST Los Angeles LGBTQ+ Festival, the largest, most prestigious queer film festival in the world, on Friday, July 21, 2023, as part of its popular shorts programming. For more information, visit outfestla.org.

This follows immediately after the film's world premiere at Kashish Mumbai Queer Film Festival, the longest-running LGBTQIA+ festival in South Asia, in June (Pride Month), where Morrison was in attendance and was recognized as an emerging Indian filmmaker.

"This feels like the universe conspiring to recognize and reward true love, the kind we see in films, more specifically, our short film," said Morrison, waving their pride flag high. "I was raised by my maternal grandmother (Biji) and hearing her stories of hope and sacrifice is what

inspired me to become a storyteller. Being out and open about your sexuality is a privilege that is not afforded to all. I wanted to share this inter-generational story celebrating queer love, which reinforces the fact that ALL LOVE is timeless." Watch the trailer vimeo.com/831764119.

Weaving in themes of ageism in the South Asian community, family pressure, and social constructs of what "queer love" should look like, 'YOUR LOVE' is especially relevant now because legislation for LGBTQIA+ rights is in limbo and somewhat non-existent in many parts of the world, including India. "Love may be universal, but it is universally under attack when it breaks the binary expectation of society," said Morrison.

SUNDEEP MORRISON

Learn more about Morrison at sundeepmorrison.com.

HUMAN FIRST: BACK TO BASICS - THEME OF NEWARK PRIDE FEST

BY MABEL PAIS



Newark Pride Festival Theme.

Credit / newarkpride.org

"HUMAN First: Back to Basics" is the theme of the 18th Annual Newark LGBTQ Pride Festival presented by Newark Pride, Inc. This year, coming to a critical

point, the festival is taking place across New Jersey's largest city, July 10 - 16.

Last year's overturning of Roe v. Wade set a disturbing precedent that put many other constitutional rights and freedoms in jeopardy. Recently, The Supreme Court's recent decision to grant businesses open to the public the right to deny service to members of a protected class offers yet another devastating blow to the LGBTQ community.

Newark Pride, Inc. President Sharronda Wheeler issued the following statement:

"All throughout our nation, we are seeing legislation being introduced that will once again alienate, oppress, and essentially dehumanize members of the LGBTQIAA+ community. By strengthening the common threads that bind us all together, we will prevail over the forces that seek to divide."

In line with this year's theme the organization is calling on all residents, local businesses, non-profits, Civil and Human Rights activists, allies, and LGBTQ resource agencies to stand in solidarity as we head into a week full of informative, empowering, and reflective

programs.

Newark Pride, Inc. Founder, June Dowell-Burton, echoed the sentiment stating, "Showing up as our authentic unapologetic selves in spaces, now more than ever, is an act of resistance. We are here and we will not be erased nor censored."

The City of Newark and the Office of Mayor Ras Baraka hosted the annual Progressive Pride Flag Raising Ceremony on Monday, July 10, 2023 at 6:00 PM inside the Newark City Hall Rotunda (920 Broad St).

The week-long festivities will wrap with the annual Pride Parade that will begin at Lincoln Park, down Broad Street, onward to NJPAC on Sunday, July 16th from 11 AM until 1 PM, right before the park festival at NJPAC Chambers Plaza with featured appearances by CeCe Peniston and DJ Qua.

For more information about Newark Pride Week activities and events, visit linktr.ee/NewarkPrideFestival or email info@newarkpride.org. Learn more about Newark Pride, Inc. @ newarkpride.org.

REELABILITIES HONORS DISABILITY PRIDE WITHSTREAM LAUNCH

BY MABEL PAIS



A scene from 'Kills on Wheels.'

Credit / reelabilities.org

The ReelAbilities Film Festival, starting Tuesday, July 11 has launched a pioneering streaming service, showcasing films by and about people with disabilities or "other" abilities.

Honoring Disability Pride Month and the 33rd anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act, ReelAbilities Film Festival is thrilled to announce the highly-anticipated launch of ReelAbilitiesStream.org, a

groundbreaking, accessible streaming platform dedicated to films that celebrate and explore the lives and experiences of people with disabilities. This innovative platform will offer a vast collection of films, drawing from the remarkable repertoire showcased at previous editions of the festival.

With its official launch on July 11th, ReelAbilitiesStream.org will become the largest online hub for disability-themed films and ahead of the 33rd anniversary of the signing of the Americans with Disabilities Act, providing an unparalleled opportunity to appreciate and embrace these powerful stories with full accessibility.

REELABILITIES STREAM

Isaac Zablocki, the Director and Co-Founder of ReelAbilities Film Festival, expressed his enthusiasm for the launch: "Over the past fifteen years, our festival has amassed an incredible collection of films that deserve wider recognition. Unfortunately, many of these exceptional works have not been given the attention they deserve. With ReelAbilitiesStream.org, we are proud to establish the most comprehensive platform, amplifying these voices and providing a well-

deserved spotlight for these highly demanded films."

ReelAbilitiesStream.org will feature an array of over 50 captivating films that encapsulate the diverse experiences within the disability community. Some of the highlighted films available on the platform include Tribeca Film Festival's award winning 'Keep the Change,' a comedy following a program of young adults on the autistic spectrum, and the Hungarian Academy Award nominated 'Kills on Wheels' about wheelchair users who team up with a hitman. Also featured in the catalog are celebrated short films, including 4 Quarters of Silence, about a deaf high school football team; and Jmaxx and the Universal Language about an autistic young man who expresses himself through dance.

PRICING

Streaming is available on a pay-per-view model, nominally priced per film. For additional information about ReelAbilities' new streaming site, visit www.reelabilitiesstream.org. To learn more about ReelAbilities Film Festival, visit www.reelabilities.org.

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

RELIEVE THE SWELTERING SUMMER WITH COMEDY

BY MABEL PAIS

HANNAH BERNER, comedian and actress, makes her way to the New Jersey Performing Arts Center (NJPAC) to bring the audience roaring laughter on Thursday, July 20, at 8 PM.



Hannah Berner

Photo / Courtesy NJPAC

One of Just for Laugh's 2022 New Faces, the fearlessly funny Hannah Berner emerged on the comedy scene via social media-directing, editing and acting in videos on Instagram and writing hilarious viral tweets. Fans are obsessed with her two podcasts, 'Giggly Squad' and 'Berning In Hell,' with over 20 million downloads. She was a cohost on Bravo's 'Chat Room,' as well as a member of Bravo's 'Summer House' for three seasons. She currently performs standup in NYC and at clubs and theaters all around the country.

Hannah Berner was born in Brooklyn, New York and played competitive tennis for the University of Wisconsin. She emerged on the comedy scene by directing, editing, and acting in videos on Instagram and writing viral tweets. She has two podcasts, 'Giggly Squad' and 'Berning In Hell,' with over 20 million downloads.

She was a cohost on Bravo's 'Chat Room,' as well as a member of Bravo's 'Summer House' for three seasons and has over 2.8 million followers across her social media platforms. She currently performs standup in NYC and at clubs and theaters around the country. In 2022, she was named one of 'Just For Laughs' "New Faces Of Comedy" in Montreal. Hannah is an advocate for mental health, animals, and napping. Learn more at hannahberner.com.

TICKETS

Tickets can be purchased by visiting NJPAC.org or the NJPAC Box Office or by calling 888.GO.NJPAC (888.466.5722).

SHANE GILLIS, comedian, performs 'Shane Gillis Live' at the New Jersey Performing Arts Center on Friday, July 28th at 7:00 p.m.

Shane Gillis is a stand-up comic, actor, and writer from Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania. After winning Philly's Funniest at Helium Comedy Club in 2016 Shane was named an "Up-Next" Comic at Comedy



Shane Gillis

Photo / shanemgillis.com

Central's 2019 Clusterfest in San Francisco and a "New Face" at the prestigious 'Just For Laughs' Comedy Festival in Montreal. In 2021, Gillis released his debut comedy special 'Shane Gillis: Live in Austin' on YouTube which has been viewed over 6 million times.

Gillis is one-half of the comedy fan favorite Matt and Shane's Secret Podcast. He's a regular guest on Sirius XM's The Bonfire, Spotify's The Joe Rogan Experience, and Barstool Sports KFC Radio. Shane was a writer on Comedy Central's Delco Proper and co-created, wrote, and starred in the YouTube hit sketch series 'Gilly & Keeves.' In October of 2022, Shane and John McKeever partnered with Booklight Entertainment and Outback Presents to produce and release Gilly & Keeves: The Special on gillyandkeeves.tv

Most recently, Shane can be seen playing 'Gilly' in the upcoming season of Peacock's Bupkis opposite Pete Davidson, Joe Pesci, and Edie Falco. Learn more about Shane Gillis at shanemgillis.com

TICKETS

Tickets can be purchased by visiting NJPAC.org or the NJPAC Box Office or calling 888.GO.NJPAC (888.466.5722).

MARLON WAYANS, sometimes outrageous, always audacious, stand-up comic returns to the New Jersey Performing Arts Center on Friday, August 11, for two performances at 7 PM and 9:30 PM.



Marlon Wayans

Photo / marlonwayansofficial.com

Wayans has had a long career, from the small screen, notably 'In Living Color' and 'The Wayans Bros.,' to the big screen with 'Requiem for a Dream,' 'White Chicks,' and the first installments of the 'Scary Movie' series.

Wayans has established quite a career. He can be seen in the hit series Bel-Air, a dramatic take based on the '90s comedy series The Fresh Prince.

Following his 2018 Netflix special Marlon Wayans: Woke-ish, he's back on the comedy circuit with his "Microphone Fiend" tour.

Together with his brothers, the actor-screenwriter-producer first entered the comedy hall of fame with projects like In Living Color, Scary Movie, and White Chicks-to name a few. He appears in the critically acclaimed film Air as Michael Jordan's Olympics coach, George Raveling, alongside Matt Damon, Ben Affleck, Viola Davis, and Chris Tucker. Learn more at marlonwayansofficial.com

TICKETS

Tickets for Marlon Wayans can be purchased by visiting NJPAC.org or the NJPAC Box Office or calling 888.GO.NJPAC (888.466.5722).

The New Jersey Performing Arts Center (NJPAC)



Exterior of NJPAC

Photo / NJPAC

NJPAC, located in downtown Newark, N.J., is America's most diverse performing arts center, and the artistic, cultural, educational and civic center of New Jersey - where great performances and events enhance and transform lives every day. NJPAC brings diverse communities together, providing access to all and showcasing the state's and the world's best artists while acting as a leading catalyst in the revitalization of its home city. Through its extensive Arts Education programs, which have reached almost 2 million children, NJPAC is shaping the next generation of artists and arts enthusiasts. NJPAC has attracted more than 10 million visitors since opening its doors in 1997, and nurtures meaningful and lasting relationships with each of its constituents.

NJPAC is located at 1 Center Street, Newark, New Jersey; a short walk from the Newark Penn Station stop by Newark-bound PATH Train or Amtrak.

FOLLOW NJPAC ONLINE:

Website: njpac.org
Twitter: @NJPAC
Instagram: @NJPAC
Hashtag: #NJPAC
Facebook: [facebook.com/NJPAC](https://www.facebook.com/NJPAC)
YouTube: NJPACtv

FOLLOW NJPAC'S STANDING IN SOLIDARITY SERIES ONLINE:

Website: njpac.org/takeastand
Hashtag: #NJPACTakeAStand
Youtube: Standing in Solidarity playlist

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



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Akshay's Oh My God 2 sent to censor board review committee to avoid controversy

In order to avoid an Adipurush-like backlash, Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC) is looking at the dialogues and scenes in Oh My God 2 (OMG 2). The upcoming film is a sequel to Akshay Kumar and Paresh Rawal's 2012 film OMG - Oh My God. As per a new report, the board's revising committee seeks to ensure that the dialogues and scenes in OMG 2 'do not create any issues'. There is no clarity yet about which scenes or dialogues in Oh My God 2 have caused concern to the CBFC. Once the film goes to the revision committee, the CBFC will reportedly take a decision on the movie, which is set to be released in theatres on August 11.

As per sources quoted in a recent report by India Today, "CBFC does not want to repeat the backlash that Adipurush faced over its dialogues" and it will take a decision on Akshay Kumar-starrer Oh My God 2 after the board's revising committee "looks over at the dialogues and scenes in the film".

Sources told India Today that CBFC has now taken "preemptive measures" to avoid any backlash over Oh My God 2 dialogues and scenes. CBFC will send any movie dealing with subjects like God or religion for review and revision, added the source.

Aditya Roy Kapur, Ananya Panday fuel dating rumors

Aditya Roy Kapur and Ananya Panday are currently in Spain where they attended a rock concert. Both of them shared individual posts on their respective Instagram handles but it was confirmed the two indeed attended the Arctic Monkeys' concert in Spain. However, none of them shared any glimpse of themselves or each other from the musical night.

Ananya took to her Instagram Stories on Tuesday to share a picture from the concert and wrote, "Nothing quite like the Arctic Monkeys. My favourite song ever." She tagged the location as Madrid, Spain. Aditya Roy Kapur too shared a small video from the concert on his Instagram Stories along with a blue grinning emoji and a monkey emoji.

Later, Ananya shared glimpses of the sealine and the blue sky from Portugal on her Instagram Stories. She simply wrote "magic magic" in the caption.

Aditya and Ananya have been rumoured to be dating ever since they made a joint appearance at Kriti Sanon's Diwali bash last year. They have since been spotted together at other film parties. Reacting to their linkup, Ananya's mom Bhavana Panday told ETimes in April, "The fact is that Ananya is single and link-ups happen in a profession like this. It's okay. It's like that's a part and parcel of an actor's life, and you have to take everything in, good or bad. I feel like they get so much love and adulation, so I'd rather genuinely focus on that than the negativity that comes with it, because the positives definitely outweigh the negative."

Ananya was recently spotted in the trailer of Karan Johar's upcoming film, Rocky Aur Rani Kii Prem Kahaani. She was seen alongside Ranveer in a dance number.

Ananya will be next seen in Vikramaditya Motwane's untitled cybercrime-thriller. She also has Farhan Akhtar's Kho Gaye Hum Kahan



opposite Siddhant Chaturvedi and Adarsh Gourav. She also plays the female lead opposite Ayushmann Khurrana in the comedy film, Dream Girl 2. She will also be making her web series debut with Amazon Prime Video's Call Me Bae.

Aditya was recently seen in a crime thriller film Gumraah. He is also riding high on the success of his debut web show The Night Manager, part 2 of which arrived recently on Disney+ Hotstar. He will next be seen in Anurag Basu's Metro... In Dino. *Source: HT*

Kartik Aaryan kickstarts Kabir Khan's Chandu Champion shoot



Actor Kartik Aaryan has started shooting for Kabir Khan's directorial 'Kabir Khan'.

On Wednesday, July 12, night, Kartik took to Instagram and shared the particular update with fans and followers.

"Shubh Aarambh. And the most challenging and exciting journey of my career begins... with the captain @Kabirkhan#ChanduChampion," he wrote. Kartik also shared a photogram with Kabir Khan from the sets. He looks super cool in the photo rocking a blue and black check cardigan with black joggers and a white beanie as he points at the clapperboard for the first take of Chandu Champion which Kabir can be seen holding while wearing a black t-shirt with navy blue jogger pants and white sneakers.

As per a statement, 'Chandu Champion' is "based on the extraordinary real-life story of a sportsman and his spirit of never giving up." With the film, the audience will see Kartik doing a film based on a real-life story in which he will portray the character of lead Chandu.

Meanwhile, Kartik is currently basking in the success of 'Satya Prem Ki Katha', which received a positive response from the audience. The film stars Kartik alongside Kiara Advani.

Helmed by Sameer Vidhwans, and produced by Sajid Nadiadwala, 'Satya Prem Ki Katha' revolved around Kartik and Kiara's love story. The film marks the actor's second collaboration after the blockbuster 'Bhool Bhulaiyaa 2', which was released in 2022. *Source: ANI*



Fans call Tom Cruise 'biggest star in the world'

Tom Cruise-starrer Mission Impossible Dead Reckoning Part One has released in theatres worldwide. The film is the seventh part of the hit franchise, known for its action scenes and cool stunts, often pulled off by lead star Tom himself.

Mission Impossible Dead Reckoning Part One release live updates: Tom Cruise during the premiere in New York.

Mission Impossible Dead Reckoning Part One release live updates: Tom Cruise during the premiere in New York.(AP)

Dead Reckoning is directed by Christopher McQuarrie and also stars Hayley Atwell, Pom Klementieff, Ving Rhames, Simon Pegg, Rebecca Ferguson, Vanessa Kirby and Henry Czerny.

At Tuesday, July 11, night's screening, Tom talked to the people present in theatres. "We made it for you," he told the people in an Atlanta cinema hall.

Film trade analyst Taran Adarsh tweeted, "TOM CRUISE - 'MI7' WINS RAVE REVIEWS... #MissionImpossible - Dead Reckoning Part One is undoubtedly the biggest release of 2023... The reviews are through the roof and are breaking #TomCruise's own previous records."

Spider-Man star Tom Holland opens up about battling alcoholism

Actor Tom Holland, best known for playing Spider-Man on the big screen since he was a teenager, has opened up about his alcohol addiction, and subsequent sobriety. In a new interview, Holland said that as a challenge last year, he gave up drinking for a month, but realised very soon that it was 'all that he could think about', day and night. After continuing his challenge till June, he was a transformed person; he was sleeping better, and was less on-edge at work.

Holland appeared on the Jay Shetty podcast, where he opened up about his alcoholism, being unable to function socially in the early stages of his sobriety, and eventually finding replacements that help him continue down this path. He said that he probably inherited a taste for alcohol from his mother's side of the family, and revealed that his mother has also given up drinking along with him. "Anyone that has a beer a day probably has a little bit of a problem," he said.

"One of the problems with alcohol is that if you came out with alcohol right now, and alcohol wasn't a thing, and you were like, 'I've invented this drink that'll make you either really happy, or really aggressive, or really stupid, and we're just going to sell it to the masses', people will be like, 'No, mate, keep your funky juice, we don't want that, that sounds terrible'."



About his own journey, the actor said, "I've had periods in my life where I've given up drinking and gone back to drinking, but this time, it was just different. I really worked to change my mindset, and I asked myself, 'Why do you drink?' And a lot of the time, my answer would be, 'To feel more comfortable in a social environment'. And I just put myself in those environments. I'd force myself to hang out, and go to a club, go to a bar, go to a

dinner..." He admitted that he was avoiding those places in the beginning, because he didn't feel that he could go and 'not have a drink', but later, he discovered that if he's only enjoying himself when he's drinking, he has a problem. "With me, most of it is just the ritual of cracking something open and sharing it with friends and drinking it. Whether it's sparkling water or beer, I now can't see a difference." *Source: Indian Express*

Margot Robbie shines as Barbie at London premiere of 'Barbie' movie

Actress Margot Robbie continues to dazzle as she embraces the spirit of Barbie, stepping onto the pink carpet at the London premiere of the "Barbie" movie in yet another stunning ensemble.

This time, Robbie paid tribute to the iconic Barbie Enchanted Evening 1960 Fashion Doll, channeling its glamour and elegance.

Robbie, 33, radiated in a custom Vivienne Westwood gown in a soft pastel pink hue. The exquisite dress featured a rosette at her hip, which gracefully flowed into a trailing train.

A standout feature of the gown was the oversized off-the-shoulder ruffled collar, adding a touch of drama to the ensemble.

Completing the look, the 33-year-old actress accessorized with white opera-length gloves and clear heels, capturing the essence of Barbie's style.

The star-studded London premiere also saw the attendance of co-stars Ryan Gosling, Dua Lipa, America Ferrera, Hari Nef, Sam Smith, and Simu Liu. Each celebrity embraced the movie's theme by donning their own fashionable interpretations inspired by Barbie, with vibrant shades of pink dominating the



red carpet.

Throughout her worldwide press tour,

Robbie, along with her stylist Andrew Mukamal, has been paying homage to

Barbie by recreating some of the doll's most iconic looks.

At the Los Angeles premiere, the 'Wolf of the Wall Street' actress channeled the spirit of the 1960s Solo in the Spotlight Barbie, stunning in a strapless gown by Schiaparelli Haute Couture.

In Seoul, Robbie showcased two separate outfits inspired by the famous Day-to-Night Barbie from 1985.

Not to be outdone, Ryan Gosling, who portrays Ken in the film, embraced the Barbiecore aesthetic with his own ensemble. Gosling sported an initial necklace in the doll's signature font, paying tribute to his partner Eva Mendes.

With just one more week until the mostly-anticipated theatrical premiere on July 21, fans are eagerly awaiting the unveiling of more jaw-dropping looks from Margot Robbie and the rest of the cast.

The "Barbie" movie promises to be a celebration of fashion and style, showcasing the enduring influence of the beloved doll. Stay tuned for more fabulous fashion moments as Robbie continues to bring Barbie to life on the big screen. *Source: HT*

ITALIAN AUTHORITIES SEIZE MIGRANT RESCUE SHIP OCEAN VIKING

ROME (TIP): Italian authorities have ordered the Ocean Viking migrant rescue ship to remain in a port near Rome after it failed an inspection, the charity that owns it said on July 13.

The ship underwent a seven-hour inspection Tuesday by the coast guard in the port of Civitavecchia, north of the Italian capital, after disembarking 57 migrants it had rescued in the Mediterranean.

It was then placed under administrative detention for "an indefinite period" after "a few small technical and administrative problems" were discovered, SOS Mediterranee said in a statement.

The coast guard did not respond to an AFP request for information.

SOS Mediterranee press officer Francesco Creazzo said the problem raised by the Italian coast guard related to the number of lifeboats and specialised operators on board.

The Ocean Viking has undergone seven inspections by the coast guard in the past three years, Creazzo said.

Italy's hard-right government, which came to power in October 2022, has taken numerous measures to restrict the activities of ships operated by non-governmental organisations that rescue migrants in trouble on the crossing from North Africa.

In February, parliament approved a government decree that limited charity ships to one sea rescue at a time, requiring them to dock at a port assigned by authorities following each rescue.

The NGOs say this amounts to forcing the ships to ignore other emergencies on the water following rescue and sending them to distant ports instead of closer ones. (AFP)

UK government offers millions of public sector workers pay raises in push to end strikes

LONDON (TIP): The British government offered millions of public sector workers pay raises on July 13 in a bid to end an array of strikes, including a five-day walkout from doctors in Britain's publicly funded health service.

Prime Minister Rishi Sunak confirmed that the government was accepting the recommendations from pay review bodies, which will see a 7% rise for police, 6.5% for teachers and 6% for the striking junior doctors, who are at the early stages of their careers in the National Health Service.

Sunak said the offers, which are not being funded by extra borrowing, are "final" and that there would be no more pay discussions.

"WE WILL NOT NEGOTIATE AGAIN ON THIS YEAR'S SETTLEMENTS AND NO AMOUNT OF STRIKES WILL CHANGE OUR DECISION," HE SAID.

The prime minister said the leaders of the teaching unions have agreed to recommend that instructors stop their strike. The question is how other unions will respond to what is in effect an ultimatum.

Junior doctors on the frontline of Thursday's walkout will face a decision on their first day of what is being described as the longest-ever strike in the National Health Service. They are asking for a 35% pay bump.

The British Medical Association, the doctors' union, has asked for a big leap in



pay to bring junior doctors' pay back to 2008 levels once inflation is taken into account. The workload of England's 75,000 or so junior doctors also has swelled as patient waiting lists for treatment are at record highs following the coronavirus pandemic.

"Today marks the start of the longest single walkout by doctors in the NHS's history, but this is still not a record that needs to go into the history books," said BMA leaders Dr Robert Laurensen and Dr Vivek Trivedi.

Britain, like other countries, is grappling with high inflation for the first time in years. Price rises were first stoked by supply chain issues resulting from the pandemic and then by Russia's invasion of Ukraine, which sent energy and food prices soaring. Though

inflation has come down slightly from its peak — to 8.7% — it remains far above the 2% level the Bank of England is tasked to target.

The doctors' strike will cause huge disruption for the already embattled NHS, with operations and consultations postponed or even cancelled.

The doctors taking the strike action say they know the impact of their walkout on the health service but insist that they have been left with no alternative.

"This isn't a celebration, this is years of declining pay, declining conditions, frustration, and this is what has culminated as a result," Alex Gibbs, a striking 31-year-old doctor said outside University College Hospital in north London. (AP)

Russian lawmakers move to further restrict transgender rights in a new legislation

TALLINN (TIP): Russian lawmakers on July 13 approved a toughened version of a bill that outlaws gender transitioning procedures, with added clauses that annul marriages in which one person has "changed gender" and bar transgender people from becoming foster or adoptive parents.

The bill received swift, unanimous approval from Russia's lower house of parliament, the State Duma, in its key second reading, and lawmakers scheduled the third and final reading for Friday. There is little doubt that the bill, a crippling blow to Russia's oppressed LGBTQ+ community, will be adopted amid the Kremlin's crusade to protect what it views as the country's "traditional values."

The bill bans any "medical interventions aimed at changing the sex of a person," as well as changing one's gender in official documents and public



records.

New clauses added to the bill also amend Russia's Family Code by listing gender change as a reason to annul a marriage and adding those "who had changed gender" to a list of people who can't become foster or adoptive parents.

Lawmakers portray the measure as protecting Russia from "the Western

anti-family ideology," with some describing gender transitioning as "pure satanism."

It has rattled the country's transgender community and has drawn criticism not only from LGBTQ+ rights advocates but from the medical community as well.

Lyubov Vinogradova, executive director of Russia's Independent

Psychiatric Association, called the bill "misanthropic" in an interview with The Associated Press. Gender transitioning procedures "shouldn't be banned entirely, because there are people for whom it is the only way to ... to exist normally and find peace with themselves," Vinogradova said.

The crackdown on LGBTQ+ people started a decade ago when President Vladimir Putin first proclaimed a focus on "traditional family values," a move ardently supported — and fueled, to a certain extent — by the Russian Orthodox Church.

In 2013, the Kremlin adopted the first legislation restricting LGBTQ+ rights, known as the "gay propaganda" law that banned any public endorsement of "nontraditional sexual relations" among minors. In 2020, Putin pushed through a constitutional reform that outlawed same-sex marriage. (AP)

China's top diplomat says Beijing, Moscow to deepen ties

JAKARTA (TIP): China's top diplomat said on July 13 Beijing would strengthen ties with Russia in areas of strategic communication and coordination, as the allies' contacts grow closer after Moscow's invasion of Ukraine last year.

Beijing says it is a neutral party in the war but its refusal to condemn the invasion has led many of Kyiv's allies to accuse it of favouring Russia after emerging as Moscow's most important ally in its current bout of international isolation.

Wang Yi met Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov on the sidelines of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) meeting in Jakarta, where both will take part in an 18-nation East Asia Summit ministerial meeting Friday.

"The two sides should... strengthen strategic communication and coordination," Wang was quoted as saying by the Chinese foreign ministry in a statement.

"China and Russia firmly support each other in safeguarding legitimate



interests, adhere to the path of harmonious coexistence and win-win development."

Wang was representing Beijing in the Indonesian capital because Foreign Minister Qin Gang was ill, the foreign ministry said on Tuesday.

Lavrov said Moscow and Beijing were maintaining "high-level exchanges" and a March meeting between President

Vladimir Putin and Chinese President Xi Jinping in Russia had "injected strong momentum into bilateral relations", the Chinese ministry's readout said.

"We have more and more areas where interests and plans converge, so I am looking at further development with optimism," Lavrov said, according to a Russian foreign ministry statement.

China and Russia have ramped up

economic cooperation and diplomatic contacts in recent years.

Both sides "exchanged views on strengthening coordination and cooperation under multilateral frameworks such as the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation," Wang said, according to the Chinese foreign ministry statement.

Wang also said both countries would "guard against external interference" and support the ASEAN bloc to grasp "the correct direction of cooperation in East Asia, and maintain... stability in the region".

Xi warned last week against "colour revolutions" and a "new Cold War", according to a state media readout of his virtual speech to a Shanghai Cooperation Organisation summit in India.

Putin, in his first summit since a short-lived mutiny last month by the Wagner mercenary group, said Moscow would "continue to resist external pressure, sanctions and provocations". (AFP)

Ukraine says downed 20 Russian drones, two cruise missiles

KYIV (TIP): Ukraine said on July 13 it had downed 20 Russian attack drones and two cruise missiles in an overnight attack that killed one and wounded at least four in the capital Kyiv.

"We have a successful air defense operation," air force spokesman Yuriy Ignat told national television.

"Twenty Shaheds were destroyed -- all those flying were downed."

The 20 Iran-made Shahed attack drones were destroyed "mainly in the Kyiv region", Ukraine's air force said in a separate statement on Telegram.

THE DRONES HAD "ENTERED THE CAPITAL FROM DIFFERENT DIRECTIONS", KYIV'S MILITARY ADMINISTRATION SAID ON TELEGRAM EARLIER, ADDING AIR DEFENCES HAD DESTROYED "ABOUT A DOZEN" IN THE CITY'S AIRSPACE.

Falling debris was reported in five city districts, it said, adding that a 19-year-old woman and a 23-year-old man had been hospitalised with shrapnel wounds.

Two people were wounded in Darnytsky district "as a result of falling debris", Sergiy Popko, head of Kyiv's



military administration, wrote on Telegram.

It was unclear if they were the same two people.

Emergency services were responding to calls in Solomyansky, Shevchenkivsky, Podilsky and Darnytsky districts following "explosions in the capital", Kyiv mayor Vitali Klitschko said earlier.

In Podilsky district, firefighters discovered the "body of one dead person", Klitschko posted on Telegram.

Klitschko also said two people had been "hospitalised" in Darnytsky district after falling debris damaged a residential building.

It was not clear if they were the same two people mentioned by the military administration.

Two others in Shevchenkivsky district had been treated at the scene, Klitschko said.

Fires broke out in an apartment building in Shevchenkivsky and in a non-residential building in Podilsky district, he said, adding emergency services were on site.

A picture posted on Telegram by Kyiv's military administration showed a room in a high-rise building with part of its wall blown out, in what it said was the result of falling debris in Darnytsky district.

Ukrainian air defences also destroyed two Kalibr cruise missiles during the night, Ukraine's air force said on Telegram.

It said an Iskander-M ballistic missile had also been launched from Crimea, a southern peninsula annexed by Russia in 2014.

Information was "still being clarified" regarding the missile launch, it said. (AP)

SIX KILLED, FOUR WOUNDED IN MASS SHOOTING IN SOUTH AFRICA

JOHANNESBURG (TIP): A mass shooting in South Africa left six people dead and four wounded when three men entered the yard of a home and opened fire, police said on July 12.

The shootings happened on July 11 night in the township of Kwanobuhle near the town of Kariega in the Eastern Cape province. The suspects have not been arrested and a search was underway, police said.

South Africa has one of the highest homicide rates in the world and at least 2,629 people were killed with a firearm in the first three months of this year, according to official crime statistics. That's a rate of 30 people a day. Police said five men and a woman were killed in Tuesday's shooting and a woman was among the wounded.

"It is alleged that ... three unknown males entered the yard and opened fire at people who were in the property or nearby to the house," said police spokesperson Col. Priscilla Naidu. "Two females were shot at the gate. One female succumbed to her injuries while the other sustained gunshot wounds." Police said the motive for the shooting is unclear. There has been a series of mass shootings in South Africa recently, including at least three this year before Tuesday. Eight people were fatally shot at a birthday party in the same Eastern Cape province in January. A child was among 10 members of the same family killed at a house in April. (AP)

THAILAND'S PARLIAMENT IS SET TO CHOOSE A PRIME MINISTER, BUT IT MIGHT NOT BE THE ELECTION WINNER

BANGKOK (TIP): Thai lawmakers are gathering on July 13 to select a new prime minister, a process whose outcome is far from certain even though the country's most progressive party won both the popular vote and the most seats in the House of Representatives in the most recent election.

Thailand's May 14 election was regarded as a major political turning point. The reformist Move Forward Party's victory appeared to spell an end to nine years of unpopular army-supported rule. Two months later, it is unclear if that mandate for change will be honored.

Parliament is due to vote on whether to make Move Forward's leader, 42-year-old businessman Pita Limjaroenrat, the country's prime minister. His party captured 151 of the 500 House seats but has assembled a coalition government in waiting. The eight parties in the coalition won 312 seats combined, a healthy majority.

"This is a party leading a coalition, and they've won the election," Thitinan Pongsudhirak, a political scientist at Bangkok's Chulalongkorn University, said. "In most other countries, they would be in office by now."

One of several potential roadblocks to Pita taking power is that the prime minister is elected through a joint vote of the House and the 250-seat Senate, whose members owe their positions to the military-backed regime established by a 2014 coup. Pita, or any other candidate, therefore needs a minimum of 376 votes to become head of government.

The biggest bone of contention between the liberals backing Move Forward and the deeply conservative Senate is the campaign pledge of Pita's party to amend a law that makes defaming the royal family punishable by three to 15 years in prison.

The monarchy is sacrosanct to members of Thailand's royalist establishment, and even minor reforms that might improve and modernize the monarchy's image are anathema to them. Move Forward's coalition partners also have not endorsed the proposed legal change, and other parties ruled out joining the coalition because of the idea.

Thitinan thinks that given the massive voter support for Move Forward and the Pheu Thai Party, its top partner and political ally, Pita stands a good chance "because of mounting public pressure on the senators. It will depend on the will, the resilience and the intransigence of the royalist conservative establishment."

But if Pita cannot win over enough senators, his options appear nil. The options for the eight-party coalition as a whole appear more viable. (AP)

IMF approves much-awaited USD 3 billion bailout for Pakistan, saving it from defaulting on debt

ISLAMABAD (TIP): The International Monetary Fund on July 12 approved a much-awaited \$3 billion bailout for Pakistan, the global lender said, a move that's likely to save the nation from defaulting on its debt repayments.

The IMF said its executive board approved an agreement to release the funds over nine months to support Pakistan's economic stabilization program.

The announcement comes less than two weeks after Pakistan and the IMF agreed to the plan following meetings with Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, Finance Minister Ishaq Dar and other officials.

"The arrangement comes at a challenging economic juncture for Pakistan. A difficult external environment, devastating floods, and policy missteps have led to large fiscal and external deficits, rising inflation, and eroded reserve buffers" in the fiscal year 2023, the IMF said in a statement.

Sharif quickly welcomed the IMF decision, saying it was a major step forward in the government's efforts to stabilize the economy and achieve macroeconomic stability.

"It bolsters Pakistan's economic position to overcome immediate to medium-term economic challenges, giving the next government the fiscal space to chart the way forward," he said in a tweet. "This milestone, which was achieved against the heaviest of odds & against a seemingly impossible deadline, could not have been possible without an excellent team effort."

The bailout had been on hold since December when the IMF refused to



release a critical \$1.1 billion part of the loan because of the country's lack of compliance with a 2019 agreement signed between the IMF and former Prime Minister Imran Khan.

A breakthrough was announced recently after Sharif met with IMF head Kristalina Georgieva in Paris at the Summit for a New Global Financing Pact to discuss the revival of the \$6 billion bailout package amid shrinking foreign exchange reserves and increasing inflation, which resulted in an increase in food costs.

Sharif has been trying to overcome the economic crisis since he came into power after Khan was ousted in a no-confidence vote in parliament in April 2022. Pakistan's economy witnessed a major shock last summer when devastating floods killed 1,739 people, destroyed 2 million homes and caused \$30 billion in damage.

"Things are now moving in the right direction," said Dar, the finance minister

Wednesday.

According to analysts, Pakistan needs at least \$20 billion in the next two years to pay back foreign loans with interest. However, earlier this year, foreign exchange reserves fell to less than \$4 billion. This money was only enough for the import bill of four weeks, although Pakistan banned some of the imports to save dollars.

The approval for the IMF loan came a day after Saudi Arabia deposited \$2 billion into Pakistan's central bank. On Wednesday, the United Arab Emirates also deposited \$1 billion to the central bank of Pakistan, according to the finance minister, Dar, who said the country's economy was now again on the path of growth.

According to analysts, the approval of the IMF bailout will help Pakistan because it could encourage other international financial institutions to help Islamabad overcome economic challenges. Pakistan, China, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates have provided financial assistance in the past five months to avoid a default on debt payments.

Dar said Pakistan's economy will be in a much better position when the government of the ruling Pakistan Muslim League party completes its tenure next month. The next parliamentary elections are expected to take place in October or November, Sharif said in his televised speech earlier in the day, saying he hopes Pakistan will avoid any further loans from the IMF by generating funds domestically. (AP)

Nepal Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Prachanda's wife Sita Dahal passes away

KATHMANDU (TIP): Sita Dahal, wife of Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda', passed on July 12 after suffering from a rare neurological condition for a long time. She was 69.

Sita, who has been ill for a long time passed away Wednesday at Norvic International Hospital in Kathmandu. She was undergoing treatment at the hospital, where the doctors confirmed her death at 8.33 am, according to his press coordinator Surya Kiran Sharma.

She was suffering from Progressive Supranuclear Palsy (PSP), Parkinson, diabetes and hypertension diseases, according to a bulletin issued by the hospital. She was taken to the hospital on Wednesday after her health condition turned serious.

Progressive supranuclear palsy is a rare neurological condition that can cause problems with balance, movement,



vision, speech and swallowing.

Sita Dahal married Pushpa Kamal Dahal, better known by his nom de guerre Prachanda ("The Fierce One"), more than half a century ago when both were teenagers. Few details about their lives are on the public record, but Sita was by her husband's side when he launched a decade-long insurgency against the government in 1996.

Sita was serving as an adviser to her

husband's Nepal Communist Party (Maoist Center), which entered mainstream parliamentary politics after the insurgency ended in 2006. "Our entire party is shocked by the tragic death of Comrade Sita Dahal," the party said in a statement.

Sita "played a coordinating role as the parent of the entire party during the stormy years of the civil war, to resolve challenges, crises and disputes within the party", the statement added.

Prime Minister Prachanda and wife Sita had three daughters and one son. Their eldest daughter Gyanu Dahal and son Prakash Dahal have already passed away.

She is survived by Prime Minister Prachanda and two daughters, Renu and Ganga. Renu Dahal is currently serving as Mayor of Bharatpur Metropolitan City. (Agencies)

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Manicure mistakes that may be destroying your nails

Manicures may seem pretty straightforward, but there are probably a few things you're doing that could seriously harm your nail health.

Not washing your tools

Sanitizing your tools should be the first step and your number one priority. According to research, the area around and under our fingernails stores the largest amount of harmful bacteria, and if these tools are not being washed with disinfectant you are allowing the spread of germs and risking contamination. In addition, storing tools in a sealed bag, allows bacteria to fester.

So the best way to store your tools is in a breathable container and use disinfectant or alcohol to clean them before and after each use.

Cutting your cuticles

We've all been guilty of doing this because we've seen it occasionally done to us by professionals, but, cutting your cuticles is a major health risk, due to the fact that you leave unprotected cuts on your fingers which could potentially get infected. In addition to that, when the cuticles start growing again, they come back flaky and messy looking which completely ruins your look.

If you love the look of nipped cuticles, then the best thing for you to do is to use a rosewood stick and push them back. This way you will protect your fingernails from getting an infection while still achieving the aesthetic look that you desire.

Not using a base coat

A lot of people believe that a basecoat is unnecessary and a waste of time so they skip this step when they are getting their manicure. However, basecoats were originally



created to bind with your natural nails and make your manicure last up to one week longer. This happens because our nails produce natural oils that prevent the nail polish from binding well with the nail, so a base coat keeps the oils out and keeps the manicure or gel polish from chipping.

Applying thick coats of polish

We all like a very pigmented look on our nails that takes less time to complete and looks solid, and that automatically makes us apply thicker coats of nail polish. Even though this may seem the best way to go, it is actually a major mistake when you are doing your manicure.

Thick coats of nail polish take twice as long to dry and underneath take approximately 5-6 minutes which is a recipe for a smudging disaster. Nail polish, in general, is not designed to dry well when it's thick in order to be protected when

it's housed in the bottle.

So the best thing to do is apply 3-4 thin layers of nail polish instead of 1-2 thick ones.

Using Q-tips

Q-tips are proven life-savers especially when it comes to makeup, so we slowly started incorporating them into our manicure routine as well. When nail polish gets on the skin around the nail, we just get a cotton pad and start wiping, but it takes the slightest motion to bring chaos to the whole look and have to start over from the beginning. The cotton fuzzies, no matter how many millimeters they are away from the wet nail polish have a tendency to stick to the manicure and ruin the whole look, forcing you to start from the beginning.

Instead of using Q-tips, use a very thin makeup brush to clean the area.



How humor can change your relationship

A sense of humor is an attractive trait. There is abundant cross cultural evidence that shows that being funny makes you more desirable as a mate, especially if you are a man. But once the initial flirting is over, and you are in a romantic relationship, how large a role does humour play?

For dating couples, use of positive humour (for example, using humour to cheer up your date) can positively contribute to relationship satisfaction. The use of aggressive humour, on the other hand (teasing and making fun of your partner) has the opposite effect. These feelings can fluctuate on a day-to-day basis depending on each partner's use of humour.

For long-term relationships, such as in marriages, couples generally share a similar sense of humour – although similarities in sense of humour are not associated with greater marital satisfaction, nor with longer marriages. Perhaps not surprisingly, the research that resulted in this finding also found that couples with fewer children laugh more, compared to couples with a larger number of children.

In another study, conducted with 3,000 married couples from five countries, both husbands and wives were found to be happier with a humorous partner, but this trait was reported to be more important for the marital satisfaction of the wives than the husbands. Interestingly, both husbands and wives thought that the husband was humorous more often. Regardless, married couples overwhelmingly say that humour has a positive impact on their marriages.

Conflict resolution

But what happens when things aren't going so well? Humour is a great ice breaker and a social lubricant, but can it also help resolve conflict in marriages? In one study, researchers observed 60 newlywed couples when they discussed a problem in their marriage. They coded how much humour was used in the conversation. The couples also completed a measure of life stress. What researchers found when they followed up 18 months later was quite surprising. In couples that reported high stress, the more the husband used humour, the greater the chance the couple would separate or divorce.

By contrast, in a similar study with 130 married couples, a wife's use of humour predicted greater marital stability over six years, but only if the humour led to a decrease in their husband's heart rate. In other words, if the humour calms the husbands, then it might be beneficial to their marriages.

These two studies show the disparate function of humour for men and women. For men, humour might serve as a way to distract from dealing with problems in the relationship, perhaps in an attempt to reduce their own anxiety. Women, on the other hand, may use humour to create a more relaxed atmosphere that can facilitate reconciliation.

FOOD CORNER

Homemade Malpua

INGREDIENTS

- 1 cup all purpose flour
- 2 tablespoon almonds
- 1 teaspoon saffron
- milk as required
- 1/2 cup wheat flour
- 2 tablespoon pistachios
- boiling water as required

METHOD

- For the malpua batter: take a mixing bowl, add all purpose flour, wheat flour and milk as per the requirement. Begin to stir till its a thick flowing batter without lumps.



Allow the batter to rest for 30 minutes.

- Meanwhile, blanch the almonds and pistachios by soaking them in hot water.
- Next, to prepare the sugar syrup: Put a pan on low flame and add sugar in it along with 1/4th cup water. Stir it well till the sugar melts. (Note: You need to have a 1/2-1 inch string consistency in the sugar syrup or wait until the syrup
- is sticky. Add saffron in the sugar syrup.
- Now, we are ready to prepare the malpuas. Put a pan on medium flame and melt some ghee in it. When the ghee is hot enough, take 2-3 tablespoons of the flour batter and gently pour it into the hot ghee. Spread the batter in round shape lightly with the back of the spoon.
- Fry the malpuas on low to medium flame from both sides until they are golden and crisp. Thereafter, drain them on kitchen towels. Then immediately place them in the warm sugar syrup. Gently coat the malpuas with the sugar syrup with a spoon or small tongs.
- After a minute or two, remove them from the syrup and place them in a serving tray or plate. Garnish with chopped almond and pistachios along with hot rabdi.

Start doing strength training for your overall health

The basic essentials of a healthy lifestyle are a combination of diet and exercise. Both, working simultaneously, are needed in adequate amounts for the body to function optimally.

One of the main aspects of exercise is increasing strength, which has several health benefits.

Strength training, also known as resistance training or weightlifting, is a combination of various exercises, many of which involve using weights or resistance bands. Then there are others that simply use your body weight to push its limit and increase strength, reducing fat and increasing muscle mass.

According to the study published in the journal Applied Physiology, resistance training led to a significant increase in muscle strength and mass across various populations, including older adults and individuals who have chronic conditions. Some forms of resistance training include squats, weight lifting, glute bridge and push-ups. Another study published in Bone and Mineral Research suggested that it significantly increased bone density at various skeletal sites. A randomised controlled trial published in the New England Journal of Medicine showed that a one-year resistance training program increased bone mineral density in older men and women. Strength training like even



doing basic kettle bells, wall push-ups, calf raises and mountain climbing can boost metabolism and increase the number of calories burned at rest.

Research suggests that regular resistance training, combined with a balanced diet, can help with weight management by increasing lean muscle mass and promoting fat loss.

Other benefits

Increased insulin sensitivity

Strength training improves insulin sensitivity, which is crucial for maintaining stable blood sugar levels. This can be beneficial for individuals with diabetes or those at risk of developing diabetes.

Cardiovascular health improvements

While aerobic exercise is often associated with cardiovascular health, research shows that strength training can help lower blood pressure, improve cholesterol levels and reduce the risk of heart disease. Research published in the American Heart Journal showed that resistance training reduced blood pressure in individuals with hypertension.

Enhanced mental well-being

Engaging in regular strength training has been linked to improved mental health and well-being. It can reduce symptoms of depression and anxiety, enhance self-esteem, and improve cognitive function. *Source: India Today*



First 'tooth regrowth' drug to enter human clinical trials in 2024

In a breakthrough, a team of Japanese scientists has developed a drug that can regenerate lost teeth in adults, an advance that is now moving towards human clinical trials.

Scientists at Kyoto University and the University of Fukui focused on a protein called USAG-1, which, synthesised by a gene, was found to limit the growth of teeth. The antibody targeting USAG-1 could stimulate tooth growth in mice suffering from tooth agenesis, a congenital condition.

Describing in a paper, published in the journal Science Advances, they said the 'tooth regrowth' drug, if successful, can aid people to grow a new set of teeth who lack them due to a congenital condition called Anodontia.

It causes the growth of fewer than a full set of teeth, present in around 1 per cent of the population.

According to Japan's national daily news site, the Mainichi, the scientists will begin clinical trials in July 2024 and expect to roll out for general use in 2030.

The study is the first to show the benefits of monoclonal antibodies on tooth regeneration and provides a new therapeutic framework for a clinical problem that can currently only be resolved with implants and other artificial measures.

"We knew that suppressing USAG-1 benefits tooth growth. What we did not know was whether it would be enough," said Katsu Takahashi, one of the lead authors of the study and a senior lecturer at the Kyoto.

Takahashi explained the fundamental molecules responsible for tooth development have already been identified.

"The morphogenesis of individual teeth depends on the interactions of several molecules including BMP, or bone morphogenetic protein, and Wnt signalling," he noted.

Guessing that targeting the factors that antagonise BMP and Wnt specifically in tooth development could be safer, the team considered the gene USAG-1. *Source: IANS*

What is phone call anxiety? Here are the signs

Sometimes when the phone starts to ring, and we start to panic if we should receive the call or let it ring and get disconnected – do you face this too? This may happen because we have phone call anxiety. Anxiety is a condition where we feel excessive worry and fear about some situations. Overthinking is a major sign of anxiety and having panic attacks. In such cases, we always assume the worst of every situation and start to get scared that we do not have it under control. Therapist Alison Seponara shared a few signs of phone call anxiety and explained what it looks like and feels like.

Fear of saying the wrong things

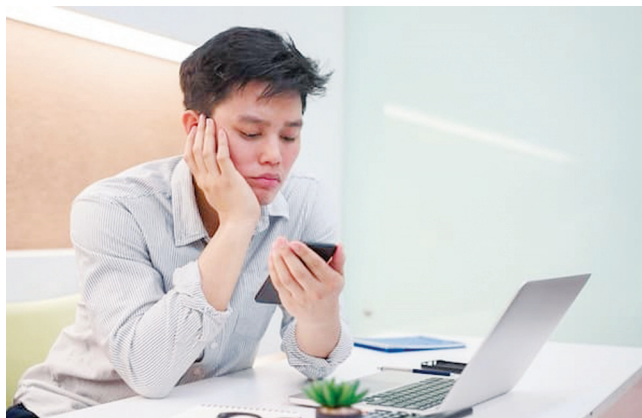
When the phone starts to ring out of the blue, especially when we are not ready to have a conversation, we may feel that we are unprepared for it. We may feel that we may say the wrong things over the phone and make the situation worse.

Awkward silence

Before taking the phone call, we assume that we will have to go through phases of awkward silence in the phone call. We also think that we would need to disconnect the call and end the conversation at some point – this thought makes us more anxious.

Emergency

Since we do not get much phone calls from people, we



assume that they are calling us for an emergency, and we are not ready to face it.

Mask the anxiety

We sometimes may not be in the right mental state to have a conversation with another person. We also feel that if we take the phone call, we will need to put extra efforts in masking the anxiety that we are experiencing.

Rehearse the conversation

We are never ready to take the phone call, and hence, we feel the need to have a rehearsal of the conversation before speaking to the other person. *Source: HT*

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Study says 'underground climate change' threatening highrise buildings

The ground beneath us is heating up, giving rise to the phenomenon of "underground climate change" and our civil infrastructure was not designed for it, scientists say.

The continuous heat diffusion from buildings and underground transportation, seen in many urban areas around the world, causes the ground to warm at an alarming rate, found to be 0.1 to 2.5 degrees Celsius per decade by researchers.

The heating up of ground leads to its deformation that includes both expansion and contraction, causing building foundations and the surrounding ground to move excessively and sometimes develop cracks, thereby impacting structures' long-term performance and durability.

"The ground is deforming as a result of temperature variations, and no existing civil structure or infrastructure is designed to withstand these variations," said Northwestern University's Alessandro Rotta Loria, an assistant professor of civil and environmental engineering, and who led the US-based study published in the journal *Communications Engineering*.

Warmer temperatures caused swelling and expansion of the ground by as much as 12 millimetres and contraction and sinking (beneath the building's weight) by as much as 8 mm, the researchers found using simulations on sensor-obtained temperature data of Chicago.

Google's new note taking AI app is here

Google has unveiled a new personalised AI-based note-taking app called NotebookLM to help people learn faster. The new app was first announced at the Google I/O event in May this year under the name Project Tailwind and is currently an experimental product from Google Labs.

Google says it wants to reimagine what note-taking software could look like if it were designed from the ground up using a powerful language model. The new AI is only available for Google Docs at the moment, but the search giant promises to add new formats soon. NotebookLM is also only available to users in the US by signing up to a Google Labs waiting list.

While introducing the new notes app in a blog post, Google wrote, "NotebookLM is an experimental product designed to use the power and promise of language models paired with your existing content to gain critical insights, faster. Think of it as a virtual research assistant that can summarize facts, explain complex ideas, and brainstorm new connections — all based on the sources you select." With NotebookLM, Google aims to solve, or at least mitigate, the biggest problem associated with artificial intelligence systems such as ChatGPT and Bard: 'hallucination', the phenomenon where a large language model (LLM) generates incorrect information and confidently presents it as the correct answer. Google uses a process called 'source-grounding', which the company claims effectively creates a personalised AI that knows the information relevant to you. Source-grounding allows the language model to analyse your notes and sources for answers. However, Google warns against blindly trusting its application and urges users to check the AI's answers against the original source material.

NASA's perseverance rover diverse set of organic molecules on mars

Nasa's Perseverance rover has discovered diverse organic matter in the planet's Jezero Crater. Organic molecules are the key building blocks of life on Earth that are made primarily of carbon and hydrogen and often other elements like oxygen, nitrogen, phosphorus, and sulphur. The discovery, which was published in the journal *Nature*, has implications in the search for potential signs of life on the Red Planet, researchers said.

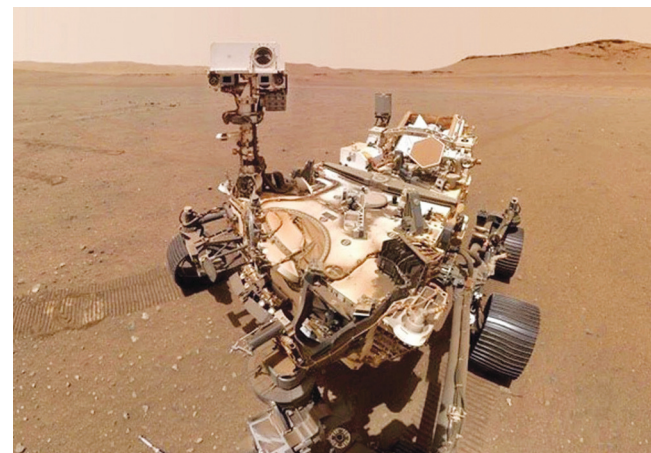
"The presence and distribution of preserved organic matter on the surface of Mars can provide key information about the Martian carbon cycle and the potential of the planet to host life throughout its history," the authors wrote.

Several different types of organic molecule have already been found in Martian meteorites on Earth as well as the Gale crater on the surface of the Red Planet. However, researchers are unable to rule out that the materials have a "biotic" origin or are the result of life on the planet. They also suggested a number of different explanations for the origins of organic matter on the red planet.

The molecules might have been formed by the interactions between water and dust or having been dropped onto the planet by dust or meteors.

"These potential organic molecules are largely found within minerals linked to aqueous processes, indicating that these processes may have had a key role in organic synthesis, transport, or preservation," they wrote.

Dr. Sunanda Sharma from NASA's Jet Propulsion



Laboratory said that there are multiple origin hypotheses for the presence of organic matter on Mars from meteorite and mission studies.

Perseverance detected evidence of diverse types of organic compounds in the huge Jezero crater, which the rover has been exploring since it landed on Mars in February 2021.

Signals of organic molecules were detected on all 10 targets that Sherlock observed in the Jezero crater floor. Notably, The Scanning Habitable Environments with Raman and Luminescence for Organics and Chemicals (Sherlock) instrument on the rover is the first tool to enable fine-scale mapping and analysis of organic molecules and minerals on Mars.

Scientists find evidence of world's oldest glaciers in SA dating from 2.9 billion years ago

Scientists have discovered the traces of the world's oldest known glaciers, dating from 2.9 billion years ago, in rocks sitting under the planet's largest gold deposits in South Africa.

The finding suggests the presence of continental ice caps in the past and that either the area was closer to the poles, or that parts of the Earth may have been frozen in a previously unknown "snowball Earth" period of extreme cold weather.

The study, published in the journal *Geochemical Perspectives Letters*, found evidence from relative oxygen isotope concentrations in ancient rocks, as well as physical proof, showing firm evidence of glaciers, 2.9 billion years ago.

"We found extremely well-preserved glacial deposits close to the gold fields of South Africa. This is one of the few areas which remain fairly intact and unchanged from the early Earth," said Professor Ilya Bindeman from the University of Oregon, US.

"These deposits are fossilised glacial moraines, which are basically the debris left by a glacier as it gradually melts and contracts. These are the oldest moraine deposits ever found," Bindeman said.

The researchers were also able to correlate this with analysis of oxygen isotopes from these rocks, which showed that the climate must have been cold when the rocks were deposited.

They looked at relative amounts of three oxygen isotopes, 16O, 17O, and 18O. These are all types of oxygen but have very slightly different weights.

"We found that these rocks had very low amounts of 18O, and very high amounts of 17O, indicating that they were formed at icy temperatures," Bindeman said.

"This means ice. Couple that geochemical evidence with the moraine evidence, and it means glaciers, the oldest glaciers yet found on Earth," he added.



The researchers put forward a couple of possible explanations: It may be that this area was close to the poles. Another possibility is that the whole Earth was in a "snowball Earth" period, when low atmospheric concentrations of carbon dioxide and methane led to a 'reverse greenhouse effect', causing much of the planet to freeze. "Scientists believe that this may have happened on a couple of occasions in the more recent past. If so, this would be the earliest such global cooling period recorded. Either possibility is scientifically interesting," said Professor Axel Hofmann, from the University of Johannesburg, South Africa.

"The largest sedimentary gold deposits in the world are found in slightly younger rocks sitting above the rocks we studied. It's possible that a change from icehouse to greenhouse conditions may have aided in the formation of those gold deposits, but this needs to be confirmed and requires further work," Hofmann added.

Source: PTI

India-China trade shows first signs of slowdown

The India-China trade, which in recent years rose sharply despite bilateral tensions over the border dispute, showed the first signs of a slowdown in years falling by 0.9 per cent in the first half of this year.

This came as China's overall foreign trade declined by about five per cent as its economy struggled to recover from COVID blues.

China's exports to India in the first half of this year totalled USD 56.53 billion compared to USD 57.51 billion last year registering a decline of 0.9 per cent, according to the data released by Chinese customs on Thursday, July 13.

India's exports to China during the same period totalled USD 9.49 billion compared to USD 9.57 billion last year. The trade deficit in the first half of 2023 too declined significantly to USD 47.04 compared to USD 67.08 billion last year.

Last year was a bumper year for India-China trade as it touched an all-time high of USD 135.98 billion despite the continued chill in the bilateral ties over the military standoff in eastern Ladakh in May 2020. The total India-China trade in 2022 overtook the USD 125 billion mark a year earlier by registering an 8.4 per cent increase.

New Delhi's trade deficit with Beijing crossed for the first time a USD 100 billion mark despite frosty bilateral relations.

The trade deficit for India stood at USD 101.02 billion in 2022 crossing the 2021 figure of USD 69.38 billion.

HCL buys German e-mobility tech proviXder for Rs 2,300 cr

HCL Technologies has signed a pact to acquire 100% stake in ASAP Group, a German automotive engineering services provider, for about Rs 2,300 crore, according to a BSE filing. It aims to expand its capabilities in the automotive engineering services segment, particularly in e-mobility, autonomous driving and connectivity in Europe, Germany and other global markets, it stated.

Adani raises Rs 1,250 cr through bond sale

Gautam Adani's flagship firm, Adani Enterprises, has raised Rs 1,250 crore through a local-currency bond sale. In a filing, Adani Enterprises said it has raised Rs 1,250 crore "by allotment of 1,25,000 secured, unrated, unlisted, redeemable, non-convertible debentures of the face value of Rs 1 lakh each on private placement basis".

Elon Musk launches AI firm xAI as he looks to take on OpenAI

Elon Musk, the billionaire entrepreneur, launched his long-teased artificial intelligence startup xAI on Wednesday, unveiling a team comprised of engineers from the same big U.S. technology firms that he hopes to challenge in his bid to build an alternative to ChatGPT.

The startup will be led by Musk, already the CEO of electric car maker Tesla, CEO of rocket launch company SpaceX and owner of Twitter, who has said on several occasions that the development of AI should be paused and that the sector needed regulation. Musk has repeatedly voiced concerns about AI's potential for "civilizational destruction."

In a Twitter Spaces event Wednesday evening, Musk explained his plan for building a safer AI. Rather than explicitly programming morality into its AI, xAI will seek to create a "maximally curious" AI, he said.

"If it tried to understand the true nature of the universe, that's actually the best thing that I can come up with from an AI safety standpoint," Musk said. "I think it is going to be pro-humanity from the standpoint that humanity is just much more interesting than not-humanity."

Musk also predicted that superintelligence, or AI that is smarter than humans, will arrive in five or six years.

Musk co-founded OpenAI, the company behind ChatGPT, in 2015, but stepped down from the company's board in 2018.

Microsoft is an investor in OpenAI. The website for xAI said it will hold a Twitter Spaces event on July 14.



The team at xAI includes Igor Babuschkin, a former engineer at Google's DeepMind; Tony Wu, who worked at Google; Christian Szegedy, who was also a research scientist at Google; and Greg Yang, who was previously at Microsoft.

Musk in March registered a firm named X.AI Corp, incorporated in Nevada, according to a state filing. The firm lists Musk as the sole director and Jared Birchall, the managing director of Musk's family office, as a secretary.

Musk had said in April that he would launch TruthGPT, or a maximum truth-seeking AI to rival Google's Bard and Microsoft's Bing AI that tries to understand the nature of the universe.

Generative AI caught the limelight with OpenAI's launch of popular chatbot ChatGPT, which came in November last year, ahead of the launch of Bard and Bing AI.

Dan Hendrycks, who will advise the xAI team, is currently director of the Center for AI Safety and his work

revolves around the risks of AI.

Musk's new company is separate from X Corp, but will work closely with Twitter, Tesla and other companies, according to the website. xAI said it is recruiting experienced engineers and researchers in the San Francisco Bay Area.

India not considering tax waivers for Tesla

India's finance ministry is not considering any duty waivers for U.S. automaker Tesla Inc, Revenue Secretary Sanjay Malhotra told Reuters on Thursday, July 13.

Last month, Tesla CEO Elon Musk said Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi was pushing the car maker to make a "significant investment" in the country, adding that such an announcement was expected soon. In the past, talks between the U.S. carmaker and the Indian government have involved seeking customs duty waivers for importing its electric vehicles, which was rejected by India. *Source: Reuters*

Retail inflation in June rises to three-month high of 4.81%

NEW DELHI (TIP)

Retail inflation rose to a three-month high of 4.81 per cent in June, mainly on account of hardening prices of food, according to the government data.

Inflation based on the Consumer Price Index (CPI) stood at 4.31 per cent (revised upward from 4.25 per cent) in May and 7 per cent in June 2022.

The inflation, however, remains within the RBI's comfort level of below 6 per cent.

The previous high CPI was in March at 5.66 per cent.

The government has tasked the central bank to ensure retail inflation remains at 4 per cent with a margin of 2 per cent on either side. The central bank mainly factors in the CPI to arrive at its bi-monthly monetary policy decision. The next policy review is scheduled early next month.



Inflation for the food basket was at 4.49 per cent in June, higher than 2.96 per cent in May. The food basket accounts for nearly half of the CPI.

Last month, the Reserve Bank kept policy rates unchanged at 6.5 per cent and projected retail inflation for the current fiscal to average at 5.1 per cent, with June quarter inflation pegged at 4.6 per cent.

Pakistan Receives \$ 1.2 Bn From IMF

The IMF has transferred USD 1.2 billion to Pakistan, Finance Minister Ishaq Dar said on Thursday, July 13, a day after the global lender approved a USD 3 billion bailout programme for the cash-strapped country.

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) gave a final nod to the USD 3 billion bailout programme on Wednesday to support the government's efforts to stabilise the country's ailing economy.

Addressing the media, Dar said when the Standby Arrangement (SBA) was finalised, it was decided that USD 1.2 billion would be given upfront while the "balance amount" of USD 1.8 billion would be handed over after two reviews in November and February. "I want to share the information that the upfront payment of USD 1.2 billion, the IMF has transferred it to the State Bank of Pakistan's (SBP) account," he was quoted.

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

WEEKLY HOROSCOPE - JULY 17, 2023 TO JULY 23, 2023

ARIES



Ganesha says you will be prepared to put your attention on the issues that have significance this week dear Aries. You will be able to speak with former acquaintances. You will be the one who introduces something fresh together with them. You will be able to wow your bosses at effort with the grade of your effort. Postgraduate learners will have an entirely novel area of work to enter. Reorganization of the organization is likely to happen this week. Your love connection will progress if you get to know your partner's household. Others may not welcome you at first, but they will. You will not have any need to worry about your overall wellness, and you will be in excellent form.

TAURUS



Ganesha says this week, you will gain expertise in a few novel domains. Because of your fervent enthusiasm, you will learn a lot quickly. You will get new knowledge, which will inspire fresh thoughts in your head. Employees in the healthcare profession will have a difficult time balancing their professional and personal obligations. persons will meet new persons in the corporate world with whom they may collaborate. You and your spouse will have a lot of good times together this week in terms of your love relationship, which will lead to a deeper knowledge of one another. In terms of your wellbeing, you will be capable of adhering to your freshly established timetable.

GEMINI



Ganesha says you may set priorities right away that are acceptable. You will make plenty of bigger goals. With the help of your intelligence, you can overcome the challenges in your way. Your ability to progress professionally will be quite high. Entrepreneurs will purchase further, trade additional information, and trade more. Regarding your relationship life, you will be able to persuade your significant other that you should get wedded as soon as feasible. They will think about it for a while. This week, because your headaches will not be a concern, your well-being will be greater than it was previously. Keep your children out of it if you believe they have a bad effect on others.

CANCER



Ganesha says, you will have multiple chances this week to have discussions that are crucial. You will be able to persuade others to share your viewpoint. You will correct the errors you were going to create this week in the proper way. Some purchases will make business leaders anxious. Companies will go out of their way to please individuals who operate for them. They will study many subjects in a friendly and pleasant environment. Individuals may experience the temptation to put their partners out of their minds so they may focus on other matters. Your health will not require any special attention, but you must continue to drink enough water often.

LEO



Ganesha says this week, you will experience animosity because good individuals have left your world. Recognize that every individual serves a purpose and that not every individual is destined to stay in your life. You will be prepared to make personal goals for your career. You will get availability of initiatives that you have only ever dreamed about. Professionals in the culinary industry may anticipate a busy week. Be aware that having mental instability could have an impact on your job. People are going to devote more time with their closest companions while sparing time on their love connections. Making each other seem unique will be difficult for newlyweds.

VIRGO



Ganesha says this week, you will go more deeply into the divine realm. You will advance personally as a result of your actions. In your working life, you are going to have to handle finances more carefully. If you operate alone, you will be able to accomplish those goals you have been wanting to achieve for a very long time. Because of sophistication, people in the corporate world are going to interact with agreements that are less effective. To avoid causing harm to your digestive tract, you must proceed with utmost prudence. After a difficult and stressful week this week, you will be able to make your significant other sense positivity about your relationship. At this point, it is not the time to worry; everything will turn out for the finest. in the end.

LIBRA



Ganesha says you will be able to accomplish all of your ambitions this week. You will want to make a difference, but you could be too harsh on yourself in the process. Regarding romantic relationships, you will be tolerant of your partner's shortcomings and compassionate with them. If you are dating or married, you and your spouse must participate in some sort of spiritual activity this week. Your astute planning will enable you to outwit your coworkers. You will also be able to steer clear of issues this week. This week's businesspeople must become familiar with the development. You will experience minor medical problems as a result of your ongoing discomfort.

SCORPIO



Ganesha says you will have the capacity this week to change your world by rendering it a cheerful equilibrium. Since you will persuade people to address their difficulties similarly to how you do, your week will be happier. This week, you will demonstrate your managerial abilities in the workplace. You will be able to distribute your tasks fairly. You will be looking for new challenges to conquer to learn new skills. Individuals who are employed in an office setting have to stay for profitable chances at all times. This week, you will be able to woo the individual you want to have a passionate relationship with. Your partner's assistance in achieving harmony will cause a change in your way of existence!

SAGITTARIUS



Ganesha says this week will be occupied with the job that requires you to take benefit from others around you. You will have a lot of time for planning as well. Your dominant mindset will entice positive ideas to gravitate toward you. You will have the opportunity to choose fresh goals for your working life. Combining the work with knowledgeable individuals will also allow you to gain knowledge a lot. The economic market's unpredictability will render this week difficult for business owners. On a personal level, your spouse will get acquainted with your group of friends and will learn more about you as a consequence. This week, you will be managing a slight ache in terms of your well-being. It's essential that you take good care of yourself.

CONTD ON PAGE 33

BIRTHDAY HOROSCOPE : JULY 17 TO JULY 23

BY ASTRO FRIEND CHIRAG - SON OF ASTROLOGER BEJAN DARUWALLA

JULY 17

Ganesha says today is a day for self-improvement and personal growth. You may find yourself drawn to new experiences that challenge your current understanding of the world. A new hobby or interest could spark your passion, leading to a profound sense of fulfillment. Your communication skills will be particularly strong today, making it an excellent time to express your thoughts and ideas. Whether it's a personal project or a professional endeavor, your words will have a significant impact. Be open to new experiences, as they may lead to exciting opportunities. This could be anything from meeting new people to exploring new places.

JULY 18

Ganesha says today will be a time of introspection and self-discovery. You may find yourself questioning your current path and considering new directions. This could be in your personal life, your career, or your overall life goals. Don't be

afraid to take risks and step out of your comfort zone. It's through these experiences that we grow the most. Your intuition will be your guide today, so trust your instincts. They will lead you in the right direction. Remember, it's okay to make mistakes. They're just steppingstones on the path to success.

JULY 19

Ganesha says, your creativity will be at an all-time high. Use this energy to explore new artistic pursuits or to inject some creativity into your work. This could be anything from painting to writing to cooking. Whatever it is, let your imagination run wild. Relationships will also be a focus today. You may find yourself forging new connections or deepening existing ones. This could be with friends, family, or romantic partners. Remember, relationships are a two-way street. Be sure to give as much as you take.

JULY 20

Ganesha says you'll be more inclined

towards personal relationships. You may find yourself wanting to spend more time with loved ones and less time on work or other obligations. This is a great day to focus on building strong, healthy relationships. Spend time with those who make you happy and uplift your spirit. Remember, it's the quality of the relationships, not the quantity that truly matters. Take time to appreciate the people in your life and express your gratitude for their presence.

JULY 21

Ganesha says you'll be filled with a desire to learn and grow. You may find yourself wanting to explore new ideas, learn new skills, or even travel to new places. This is a great day to embrace your adventurous side and try something new. Whether it's picking up a new book, enrolling in an online course, or planning a trip to a place you've never been, today is the day to broaden your horizons. Remember, growth comes from stepping outside of your comfort zone.

JULY 22

Ganesha says you'll find yourself more in tune with your emotions. You may find that you're more sensitive to the feelings of others, and you may find yourself wanting to help others in any way you can. This is a great day to focus on empathy and understanding. Whether it's lending a listening ear to a friend in need or volunteering your time to a local charity, your actions will have a positive impact on those around you. Remember, kindness is a gift that keeps on giving.

JULY 23

Ganesha says you'll be more focused on your career and professional goals. You may find yourself working harder than ever but remember to take time for yourself. Balance is key today, so make sure to take care of your physical and mental health. Whether it's taking a short walk during your lunch break or practicing mindfulness at the end of the day, it's important to take care of yourself. Remember, success is a journey, not a destination. Enjoy the process.

WEEKLY HOROSCOPE - JULY 17, 2023 TO JULY 23, 2023

CONTD FROM PAGE 32

CAPRICORN



Ganesha says you are capable of achieving each and every one of the goals you set for yourself this week. Nothing will sway you from your course. Your unwavering tenacity will provide the key to success. You will begin making plans for the future in terms of your professional life and compile a list of contacts who might be of great assistance to you. Your professional behavior will substantially change, but you must remain true to who you are as an individual. On the romantic front lines, even the slightest actions will be sufficient to contribute to making your partner seem unique. You must ensure that you complete your cardiovascular workouts this week. Do not attempt anything on your own if the previous personal harm has not fully healed.

AQUARIUS



Ganesha says you will have a little solitude this week. You will keep an eye on your development. You will adopt a methodical approach and will not act before providing it with great thought. In the midst of the adulation the cosmos will bestow upon you, you will be astounded. You will work hard to improve your employment performance. It is going to require more work to do tasks that previously required less duration, but the superior quality of the result will be made

worth it. Reaching choices promptly will be difficult for business owners. Those who are now dating will find the time to carry out their civic duties. The perfect person will come along for those hoping for a romantic connection, but it will merely serve for enjoyment.

PISCES

Ganesha says the sunlight is



drawing to a close this week, so you might feel a bit puzzled. You will start to feel a bit lost before Wednesday, but gradually everything will be fine. This week, be sure to take care of yourself and surround yourself with individuals who will not stop pushing you in the correct direction. You will

not feel comfortable beginning any big tasks in the business world; you want to take care of little things. Entrepreneurs would be able to make money off the initial proposal they got. On a level of emotion, your partner will be understanding of your confusion and will help you feel at ease with them. Your degree of stamina will become physically unbalanced.

|| SHREE GANESHAY NAMA ||



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Sikh History This Week

JULY 14, 2023, TO JULY 20, 2023

14th July



1920 The British government issued a communique, expressing its intentions to withdraw from the management of the Golden Temple and make alternative arrangements in consultation with Sikh members of the reformed Legislative Council. This was actually done to put off the matter by a year. However, the government's procrastination provoked the reformists to step up their campaign for immediate resignation of Arur Singh, the government's appointed Sarbarh. Demoralised at government's tactics, Arur Singh appeared before the reformers at the Jalianwala Bagh Diwan with folded hands. He asked for forgiveness and announced his resignation. This convinced the authorities who now regarded it as a "decided victory for the party of reformers."



1948 Deputy Prime Minister of India, Vallabhbhai Patel, eliminated the Sikh rulers and established the Patiala and East Punjab States Union, PEPSU. EAST PUNJAB STATES: Patiala, Nabha, Jind, Faridkot, and Malerkotla were the Sikh states in the East Punjab before the integration of Indian States in 1948. The first four were the Sikh states under the sovereignty of Maharaja Ranjit Singh and were brought under British protection by the 1809 treaty of Amritsar. Patiala, Nabha, and Jind, also known as Phulkian states, share a common ancestor Phul, who was descendent of Baryam. The Emperor, in 1526, had granted Baryam, the office of revenue collection for the waste country south-west of Delhi. Emperor Shah Jahan continued Phul in this office. From his eldest son descended the families of Nabha and Jind while from his second son the Patiala family. The Faridkot family, founded in the middle 16th century sprang from the same stock as the Phulkians chiefs. The remaining two states were Kapurthala and Malerkotla. The Kapurthala rulers belonged to the Ahluwalia family. The real founder of this family was Raja Jessa Singh, a contemporary of Nadir Shah. The malerkotla rulers were Sherwani Afghans who traced their descent from Sheikh Sadruddin who had received 68 villages near Ludhiana in marriage gifts when he married the daughter of Sultan Bahlol Lodi.

1973 Bhai Sahib Harbhajan Singh Yogi met with the Archbishop of Canterbury to protest English laws



which discriminate against Sikhs, particularly the law requiring motorcycle helmets.

15th July

1775 Sikhs, under the leadership of Jai Singh, establish complete control over PahadGanj and JaiSinghPura, Delhi.

1923 Bishan Singh Sandhara assaulted by the Babbar Akalis.

1932 Rattan Singh Babbar of Rakkar killed in an encounter with the police.

1934 Gandhi reiterated to the Khalsa darbar deputation that "no constitution would be acceptable to the Congress which did not satisfy the Sikhs." He added, "Similarly, the Congress would not reject what the Mussalmans wanted, nor could it accept what Hindus or Sikhs reject."

1948 The Patiala and East Punjab States Union, PEPSU, was inaugurated.

16th July

1984 1st Shahedi Jatha, under the leadership of Dr. Rajinder Kaur, marched for the liberation of Sri Harimandir Sahib. This jatha was arrested near Sri Harimandir Sahib.



1985 Harchand Singh Longowal wrote a letter to Rajiv Gandhi to find a solution to the Punjab problem.

18th July



1982 Amrik Singh and Baba Thara Singh were

arrested under false implications. On this day, the police snatched a jeep belonging to Gurdwara at Chowk Mehta, arrested three men and snatched their belongings. The next day Amrik Singh went to the courts for their release. The police arrested them too. They were charged under flimsy causes. At this Jarnail Singh Bhindrawalae started an agitation for their release. The Sikhs started courting arrests every day. On July 25, 1982 the Akali party adopted the agitation.

19th July



1708 Guru Gobind Singh Ji arrived at Nandedh (Hazur Sahib) with his Sikh soldiers and set up his camp there near the Mughal camp. Here he met Banda Bairagi who became his devout disciple. The Guru was treacherously attacked by some Pathan agents of the Governor of Sarhind or the Mughal emperor. ABICHAL NAGAR – situated near Nandedh city in South India, on the banks of river Godawari, is the famous place where Guru Gobind Singh left his earthly body on Katak Sudi 5, sunmat 1765.



1982 The police arrested two Sikhs from a bus and later they were killed (on July 19 and July 23 respectively) in fake encounters. These two were Amarjeet Singh of Daheru village and Baljeet Singh of Sultanpur (Kapurthala). The later was shaved after being murdered by the police.

20th July



1935 Muslims took control of Shaheed Ganj, Lahore. 1950 Akali Dal Executives asks its legislatures to form a separate group in the Assembly.

Somvati Amavasya

Somvati Amavasya is a very important day in Hinduism. Amavasya which falls on Monday is called Somvati Amavasya. Somvati Amavasya falls only once or twice in a year. This fast is observed by married women. Somvati Amavasya fast is observed by married women for the long life of their husbands.

Somvati Amavasya Vrat is also known as 'Ashwath Pradakshina Vrat' in the scriptures. 'Ashwath' means Peepal tree. Lord Vishnu resides on the Peepal tree. Therefore Lord Vishnu is also worshiped on the day of Somvati Amavasya. On this day, bathing and charity are considered to be the best of all. According to the words of sage Vyasa, on this day, by meditating, fasting, one gets the virtuous fruit of thousands of cows.

It is believed that in the Mahabharata, Bhishma, explaining the importance of this day to Yudhishtira, said that a person who bathes in the holy rivers on this day will be prosperous, healthy and free from all miseries. It is also believed that taking a bath gives peace to the souls of the ancestors.

Importance

Somvati Amavasya is considered significant due to its occurrence on a Monday, the day of Lord Shiva, and hence people observe fast on this day. People also offer prayers to their ancestors on this particular day. So, Pitra puja is performed on the auspicious day of Somvati Amavasya. Additionally, one can pray for the peace of their ancestors' souls after taking a dip in the holy river Ganga.

The epic Mahabharata mentions Bhishma Pitamah narrating the significance of Somvati Amas to Yudhishtira, the eldest among the Pandava brothers. When the Kurukshetra war ended, Dharmaraaj Yudhishtira was stressed about the future of the Kuru-Pandava dynasty. To seek advice, he met Bhishma Pitamah and asked how to revive the dynasty so that upcoming generations could prosper. It was Bhishma Pitamah's suggestion that Yudhishtira should observe the Somvati Amavasya Vrat. This way, they could get the blessings of noble children.

Benefits

The auspicious dip in the river is said to take away all sorrows and helps bring prosperity in one's life.

Worshipping Lord Shiva every Monday is deemed beneficial to fulfill one's wishes.

If one observes fast on this day, it will bring glory, luck, and a good reputation.

A childless couple can be blessed with a child, and the poor can become wealthy.

It reduces any sort of fear or pain from one's life.

Fasting by married women is deemed beneficial for their husband's long life.

Moon is the deity of this day and is greatly known to represent peace. Hence, one is blessed with peace of mind and relief in the heart.

Puja Vidhi

In Indian customs and rituals, the Peepal tree is revered as a sacred tree. Women should tie a sacred thread around the tree's trunk for 108 times. This way, a parikrama of 108 times is done around the Peepal tree.

Then, they should offer milk, flowers, sandal paste, and vermilion or sindoor to the tree.

Fasting is carried out for the whole day.

It is considered auspicious to donate things of white color or white food such as rice, curd, sugar, milk, etc. to the poor.

Vrat Katha or Story

There was a monk who used to stop by a moneylender's home regularly. All the seven sons of the money-lender were married but not his daughter. The monk used to take alms from them and in return, he would bless all daughters-in-law to have a great marital life. But he never blessed the daughter about tying the marital knot and this saddened the girl and her mother. The anxious mother summoned a Pandit who could see the Kundali of the girl. The Pandit informed about the unfortunate Dosh where the girl could become a widow. To resolve this trouble, the daughter was asked to go to the island named Singhal where a washerwoman lived.

The girl was asked to fetch Sindoor from that woman, which needed to be applied on her forehead. Additionally, observing the Somvati Amavasya fast



Important information

Somvati Amavasya 2023

Monday, 17 July 2023

Amavasya Start : 16 July 2023 at 10:08 pm

Amavasya Ends : 18 July 2023 at 12:01 am

was also required in order to nullify the unfavorable Yoga from her horoscope. The youngest son went with her to the island, and they reached the seashore. But there was a sea to be crossed ahead.

Wondering how to cross the sea, they rested under a tree where a vulture lived with his female vulture and their babies. One fine day, when both male and female vultures had gone out to search food, a snake came near the babies. The girl and her brother saved the babies from that snake, after which the vulture duo offered help. They showed her a way to reach the washer woman's house. The girl served the woman for months. The lady was pleased, and in return, applied vermilion or Sindoor on the girl's forehead. The girl without drinking water left from there, and on her way back also observed the Somvati Amavasya fast. This way, her ill-fated Dosh got neutralized.

Significance

This is the main fast of women. Women observe this fast for the longevity of their husbands. On the day of Somvati Amavasya, charity should be given according to one's ability. Women who cannot observe fast on every new moon should observe fast on Somvati Amavasya and circumambulate the Peepal tree 108 times by wrapping it in a thread. Peepal tree should be worshiped lawfully. By observing this fast one gets eternal good fortune. Monday is the day of the moon. On this day the Sun and the Moon remain in a straight line. Therefore, this festival is considered to be of special merit.



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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

France bestows on PM Modi Grand...

He will join Macron for the French National Day celebrations on Friday, July 14 as the Guest of Honour.

Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) spokesperson Arindam Bagchi tweeted photographs from the award ceremony that took place at the Elysee Palace here, saying, "A warm gesture embodying the spirit of partnership. PM @narendramodi conferred with the Grand Cross of the Legion of Honour, the highest award in France by President @EmmanuelMacron".

"Prime minister thanked President Macron for this singular honour on behalf of the people of India," the MEA said in a statement.

Earlier, the French President and First Lady Brigitte Macron hosted a private dinner for Modi at the Elysee Palace.

On Thursday evening, Modi addressed the Indian diaspora here and announced an agreement for the use of UPI in France, opening a huge new market for the Indian innovation in cashless instant payment.

In his nearly an hour-long speech to the enthusiastic crowd at the La Seine Musicale -- a performing arts Center on an island in the river Seine -- Modi outlined India's fast-paced development and asserted that while the world is moving towards a new order, India's strength and role is also changing very quickly.

Modi announced the opening of a new Indian consulate in Marseille in France and told the cheerful audience that Indian students doing masters in the European country will now get five-year-long post-study work visas.

Noting that France is celebrating its national day, in which he is the guest of honour, Modi said he has been to the country many a time but it was special this time, as he lauded its support to India and the strength of ties between the two countries, which mark 25th anniversary of their strategic partnership.

Describing people-to-people connect as a key foundation of the India-France partnership, he also asked the diaspora members to invest in India, noting that global experts are recognizing the country's attractiveness as an investment destination and the country is taking rapid strides in development.

Meanwhile, in New Delhi, the Defence Acquisition Council (DAC), the apex decision-making body of the Ministry of Defence (MoD), today, July 13, cleared two separate 'Make-in-India' proposals for manufacturing three additional Scorpene submarines and sourcing 26 marine version Rafale fighter jets.

The key proposals are expected to come up when Prime Minister Narendra Modi meets French President Emmanuel Macron in Paris. The DAC, chaired by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, granted the 'acceptance of necessity' (AoN) for procurement of the Rafale Marine aircraft along with associated ancillary equipment, weapons, simulator, spares, documentation, crew training and logistic support for the Indian Navy from the French Government based on the Inter-Governmental Agreement (IGA), the MoD said.

The price and other terms of the purchase will be negotiated with the French Government after taking into account all relevant aspects, including comparative procurement price of similar aircraft by other countries. Further, integration of India-designed equipment and establishment of 'Maintenance, Repair & Operations (MRO)' hub for various systems will be incorporated into the contract documents after due negotiations, the MoD said. The DAC also granted the AoN for procurement of three additional Scorpene submarines, which will be constructed by Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL). The submarines would be made in India under a 'repeat clause' of the existing project to make six of these under a joint venture between the MDL and the Naval Group France. These submarines,

called "Kalvari class", have been manufactured and the last one is in the process of sea trials.

"The procurement of additional submarines with higher indigenous content will not only help in maintaining required force level and operational readiness of the Indian Navy, but also create significant employment opportunities in the domestic sector. It will also help the MDL in further enhancing its capability and expertise in submarine construction," the MoD said.

In addition, the DAC approved the proposal to lay down guidelines for achieving the desired indigenous content in all categories of capital acquisition cases. (With inputs from PTI and TNS)

G20 Summit in India opportunity to...

global financial system, as he voiced concern over the "crushing debt crisis" in the world.

Speaking at the launch of a U.N. report 'A World of Debt' here on Wednesday, July 12, Guterres said, "Some 3.3 billion people - almost half of humanity - live in countries that spend more on debt interest payments than on education or health. Half our world is sinking into a development disaster, fueled by a crushing debt crisis," he said.

Mr. Guterres said that because most of these unsustainable debts are concentrated in poor countries, they are not judged to pose a systemic risk to the global financial system.

"This is a mirage," he warned, adding that 3.3 billion people is more than systemic risk.

"It is a systemic failure. Markets may seem not (to) be suffering - yet. But people are. Some of the poorest countries in the world are being forced into a choice between servicing their debt or serving their people," the secretary-general said.

Noting that deep reforms to the global financial system will not occur overnight, Mr. Guterres said that many steps can be taken now.

"Our proposals include an effective debt workout mechanism that supports payment suspensions, longer lending terms, and lower rates, including for vulnerable middle-income countries," he said.

Mr. Guterres said that governments can agree to scale up development and climate finance by increasing the capital base and changing the business model of Multilateral Development Banks.

"They can enable much stronger coordination between the banks, to transform their approach to risk without losing their triple-A credit rating, so that they can massively leverage private finance at an affordable cost to developing countries," he added. "The Bridgetown Agenda led by Prime Minister Mia Mottley of Barbados and the recent summit hosted by President Macron of France generated other important proposals. The upcoming G20 Summit is an opportunity to take these ideas forward," Mr. Guterres said.

India assumed the year-long presidency of the G20 on December 1, 2022, and is hosting over 200 meetings and related events in cities across the country.

These events will culminate in a Global Leaders' Summit in New Delhi on September 9-10, later this year, to be attended by over 40 Heads of State, Heads of Government and international organizations.

A G20 Leaders' Declaration is expected to be adopted at the conclusion of the New Delhi Summit, stating "Leaders' commitment towards the priorities discussed and agreed upon during the respective ministerial and working group meetings."

Global public debt reached an all-time high of \$92 trillion in 2022, and this five-fold surge in public debt levels since 2000 demands immediate action to tackle the escalating crisis affecting developing countries in particular.

Mr. Guterres underlined that, on average, African countries pay four times more for borrowing than the U.S. and eight times more than the wealthiest European economies. "A total of 52 countries - almost 40 per cent of the developing world - are in

serious debt trouble," he said.

"It is one result of the inequality built into our outdated global financial system, which reflects the colonial power dynamics of the era when it was created," he added.

The U.N. chief said that the system had not fulfilled its mandate as a safety net to help all countries manage the present cascade of unforeseen shocks - the pandemic, the devastating impact of the climate crisis, and the Russian invasion of Ukraine.

While noting that debt is an essential financial tool that can drive development and enable governments to protect and invest in their people, Mr. Guterres said that when countries are forced to borrow for economic survival, debt becomes a trap that generates more debt.

Mr. Guterres said some of the poorest countries in the world are being forced into a choice between servicing their debt or serving their people.

"They have virtually no fiscal space for essential investments in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) or the transition to renewable energy. Levels of public debt are staggering - and surging," he said, adding that as global public debt reached a record \$92 trillion dollars in 2022, developing countries shoulder a disproportionate amount.

In a press release, the U.N. urgently called for a comprehensive reform of the international financial architecture, including the debt architecture, to foster a more inclusive system that empowers developing countries to participate in the global financial system's governance actively.

The U.N. asserted that addressing the high cost of debt and the mounting risk of debt distress is of utmost importance.

It added that establishing a debt workout mechanism is crucial to expedite progress under the G20 Common Framework for Debt Treatment. This has faced challenges due to creditor coordination issues and the absence of automatic debt service suspension clauses. Developing countries, especially those with high debt burdens, require increased liquidity during times of crisis, the U.N. said, adding that a liquidity crisis risks turning into a debt crisis otherwise. "This can be achieved by expanding contingency finance. The global safety net must work. Measures such as enhancing the use of Special Drawing Rights, temporarily suspending IMF surcharges, and broadening access to emergency financing through increased quotas must be pursued," the press release said. (Source: PTI)

District of Columbia includes Sikhism...

The new standards, voted on by the District of Columbia State Board of Education on June 21, will give approximately 49,800 students the opportunity to learn about the Sikh community.

The new standards will be implemented in local schools starting from the 2024-2025 academic year.

The Sikh Coalition, which worked with local education authorities on this issue, said the District of Columbia joins 17 states across the nation to include accurate information about Sikhs in their public school social studies standards.

"We are thrilled that the DC Office of the State Superintendent of Education has chosen to ensure that the Sikh community is represented and included in their standards," said Harman Singh, Sikh Coalition senior education manager.

"Inclusive and accurate standards are an important first step to combat bigotry and to reduce bullying, and they benefit all students by increasing baseline cultural competency and decreasing ignorance," Singh said.

Earlier in April, the US State of Virginia voted in favor of new social studies standards to include Sikhi, or the Sikh faith, in the school curriculum for the first time ever. Sikhism is one of the largest religions in the world and the members of the community have contributed to American society for over 125 years in the fields of civil rights, politics, agriculture, engineering, and medicine. (Source: PTI)

Virtually an island that resembles the shape of a tortoise, Kutch is an erstwhile princely state of India holding onto its grandeur nature from the past. Kutch is probably one of the most beautiful, yet surreal places in India with the vast expanses of the white salt desert. The place comes to life during the winters when the Rann Festival is held during December-February everywhere in which there are huge camp settlements with cultural programs, functions and adventure activities like hot-air ballooning.

Kutch is also among the largest district of India with a terribly low population density. Also, Kutch lies on the India-Pakistan border and you can see parts of Pakistan from Kutch. Kutch is also famous for crafts and embroidery works, Flamingo Sanctuary and Wild Ass Sanctuary. Bhuj is an ideal starting point to visit the Rann of Kutch. Beautiful beaches of Mandvi near Bhuj are also totally worth visiting during your trip to Kutch. Don't miss to see the ancient town of Dholavira.

Places to visit

Places like Bhuj, Mandvi, Dholavira, Gandhidham, and Anjar are amongst the best places to visit in Kutch region that people hardly know. Narayan Sarovar, one of the five holy lakes mentioned in Shrimad Bhagvad and many other Jain and Hindu pilgrimage sights are also located here. Bhuj, the Kutchi capital of yore, get the maximum attention but there are many other places that one should know.

Places like Dholavira (an archaeological site that contains the ruins of the Harappan city), Aina Mahal and Parag Mahal in Bhuj, Than Monastery and Vijay Villas Palace of Mandvi are worth a visit for the history buffs. Other than the major historical travel destination, Mandvi is also a port city with an amazing shipbuilding yard. The coast and marshlands of Kutch attract many migratory and domestic birds including giant flocks of flamingos, pelicans and common cranes are often seen flying in the region.

Kutch is a beautiful amalgamation of the sea and desert that can charm anyone with its beauty. One place that deserves a special mention in the Kutch is the charming white deserts of the Great Rann of Kutch. Spanning over an area of 7505 sq km, Great Rann of Kutch the world's largest salt desert that remains covered with water during the monsoon season, and over the winters, the water evaporates, leaving a vast expanse of the dry hard mud, which dazzles like a diamond under the scorching sun and appears like an eerie under the bluish glow during the night hours. People who want to relish the view of the desert from a different angle should climb the Kalo Dungar (black hill), the highest point in Kutch. Top of the hill offers the splendid view of the Kutch region, Thar Desert and the Great Rann.

During the winter season, this dramatic expanse of salt land is a magical wonder. Amidst the magical landscapes, a carnival of high-spirited gaiety, the Rann Utsav is marked by the excellent quality of folk dance, music, and art. Brimming with hospitality and traditional flavours, Rann Utsav is a grand extravaganza, which is celebrated every year for three months.

Contrasting the beauty of the Great Rann of Kutch is the Little Rann of

Kutch: The white desert of India



Kutch, a land that is just not meant for the faint-hearted people as this is the place where nature shows its harshest form. Barren land of the Little Rann is the abode of wild ass (locally called khur), as well as bluebells, blackbuck and chinkaras. In this part of Kutch, one can see people pumping up ground water and extracting the salt.

Farming, sea and desert well represent the diverse culture of Kutch. The land is the abode of one of the most colourful people who spot gaudy dresses; a visit to Kutch is an inspirational experience. Many pastoral communities in Kutch are semi-nomadic herders of camel and sheep.

All the major nomadic communities, namely rabaris and ahirs, are blessed with a creative intellect and often create finest handicrafts and popular textile techniques including block printing, tie-dye and weaving. Tribes of the sleepy villages like Hodko, Nirona, Mandvi and Bhujodi, makes gorgeous embroidered garments for wedding trousseau. The delectable surf embroidery, the geometric beauty of Khareek patterns, the dramatic spirit of pakoo's tight square chain and double button stitch embroidery of the sodha Rajput, as well as the mirror work embroideries of Rabari and Ahir craftswomen- all find plenty of buyers. The Kutch region has been a melting point for many communities from across the borders- Sindh in Pakistan, Marwar region in Western Rajasthan and beyond- adding to the rich handicrafts offered in the region. One can experience the beauty of Kutch in myriad ways- walking on the beach of Mandvi, witnessing the art of the past at the beautiful palaces of Bhuj, and moreover, satisfying the shopping hunger by paying a visit to the local market.





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ICC announces equal prize money for men and women at its global events

The ICC on July 13 announced equal prize money for men's and women's teams at its global events in a bid to bring in pay parity, ushering in a new era in world cricket.

In the last 50 over men's World Cup, champions England got USD 4 million and runners-up New Zealand received USD 2 million.

"The International Cricket Council (ICC) today announced equal prize money for men's and women's teams at ICC events. The decision was taken at the ICC Annual Conference in Durban, South Africa and ensures the ICC Board fulfilled its commitment to reaching prize money equity by 2030 well ahead of schedule," the ICC said in a statement.

"Teams will now receive equal prize money for the equivalent finishing position at comparable events as well as the same amount for winning a match at those events," it further stated.

ICC Chair Greg Barclay said: "This is a significant moment in the history of our sport, and I am delighted that men's and women's cricketers competing at ICC global events will now be rewarded equally.

"Since 2017 we have increased prize money at women's events every year with a clear focus on reaching equal prize money and from here on in, winning the ICC Women's Cricket World Cup will carry the same prize money as winning the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup and the same for T20 World Cups and U19s too." Barclay added, "Cricket is genuinely a sport for all and this decision from the ICC Board reinforces that and enables us to celebrate and value every single player's contribution to the game equally." BCCI secretary Jay Shah played an active role as the head of Financial & Commercial Affairs Committee (F&CA) in formulating the policy having done the same in his own board last year.

"I thank the fellow Board members for their support in helping achieve this important endeavour. Let's work towards a future where cricket continues to thrive across the globe."

Source: PTI

FIRST TEST AGAINST WEST INDIES

Ashwin takes 33rd five-wicket haul to give India the upper hand

ROSEAU (TIP)

The constant search for excellence has pushed Ravichandran Ashwin to new heights, but by his own admission, it has also been "incredibly draining".

Ashwin, the No. 1 Test bowler at the moment, put the disappointment of being dropped from the World Test Championship final with his 33rd five-wicket haul on the opening day of India's first Test against West Indies on July 13.

The 36-year-old also became the third Indian to reach the 700-wicket milestone in international cricket. With 702 wickets (479 in Tests, 151 in ODIs and 72 T20Is), Ashwin sits behind Anil Kumble (956) and Harbhajan Singh (711).

After the close of play on Day 1, the wily off-spinner was asked about his long journey in international cricket and the ups and downs along the way, including the recent exclusion from the WTC final against Australia.

"There is no cricketer or human being in this world that has gone through the highs without the lows," Ashwin said. "When you have the lows, it gives you two choices, either you sulk or talk about it and then complain about it and go along with it and go down. Or you learn from it. So I'm someone who's constantly learnt from my lows," he added.

"After this good day, I'll have a good meal, talk to my family, go to bed and then forget about it. But even when you've had a good day,



Yashasvi Jaiswal is the third India opener to score a century on Test debut. ANI

there are areas you can work on and get better. This constant search for excellence has held me in good stead, but it's also been incredibly draining. It's not a journey that's been very easy," he added.

Ashwin, who was introduced into the attack as early as the ninth over, made full use of the bounce on offer at Windsor Park. The West Indies batters offered little resistance and Ashwin was too good for them. "There was some bounce from the wicket, especially from the pavilion end. The wicket had some slope also which gave us bounce. But we utilised the first session very well. The wicket had some moisture and it was coming off it very well," he said. "It was turning more (in the second session), but the turn was very slow. But in the first session, there was bounce and pace, there was bite. We utilised it very well," he

added.

Rohit, Jaiswal stand out with tons

Roseau: Debutant Yashasvi Jaiswal showed remarkable temperament while skipper Rohit Sharma eschewed his natural flair as their twin tons in a record opening stand put India in complete control of the first Test against West Indies here today. India galloped to 245/2 at tea on the second day. Jaiswal (116 batting off 244 balls) and Rohit (103 off 221 balls) upped the ante in the post-lunch session. The India skipper was out immediately after scoring his 10th Test hundred. Shubman Gill's first game as No. 3 didn't start off well. The openers put up India's best stand of 229 against West Indies, beating 201 set by Sanjay Bangar and Virender Sehwag back in 2001.

WIMBLEDON

Jabeur survives Sabalenka assault, enters final

LONDON (TIP)

Ons Jabeur showed that it is sometimes better to float like a butterfly than sting like a bee as her wily artistry overcame the brutal hitting of Aryna Sabalenka to reach her second Wimbledon final with a 6-7(5) 6-4 6-3 victory on July 13.

Jabeur, who was beaten in last year's final, looked destined to suffer more heartbreak on Centre Court when she lost the opening set, but her delicate strokeplay and clever angles eventually subdued the relentless power of Belarusian Sabalenka. The victory set up a final between the Tunisian sixth seed and unseeded Czech Marketa Vondrousova, the former French Open finalist who ended the hopes of Ukrainian Elina Svitolina earlier in the day. Jabeur, who also finished runner-up at last year's US Open, lost a tense first set tiebreak and fell 2-4 down in the second, but roared back with two breaks to level the contest. She then got a decisive break to move 4-2 up in the third set and

while the Tunisian passed up four match points, she finally got over the line with an ace.

Vondrousova showed there was no room for any gushing sentiment as she ended the remarkable run of new mum Elina Svitolina with a 6-3 6-3 victory to reach the Wimbledon final for the first time. In the run-up to a first All England Club women's semifinal featuring two unseeded players, Vondrousova said the Ukrainian was "incredible", "amazing", "a fighter" and "a super woman" for reaching the last-four of a Grand Slam nine months after giving birth to daughter Skai. But that did not stop Vondrousova from shattering Svitolina's dreams and she now stands one win from completing her own phenomenal comeback story after two wrist surgeries following her runner-up finish at the French Open in 2019. "I didn't play for six months last year and you never know if you can be at that level again. I'm just so grateful to be here and to be healthy and play again," she said.

Source: Reuters



Ons Jabeur overcame Aryna Sabalenka 6-7(5) 6-4 6-3. Reuters



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History This Week

JULY 14 - JULY 20

JULY 14

July 14, 1791 - In England, the Birmingham riot occurred on the second anniversary of the fall of the Bastille. Mob rule lasted for three days, targeting controversial scientist and theologian Joseph Priestly's home and laboratory as well as the homes of his friends. Priestly, who had expressed support for the American and French revolutions, fled to London with his family and later moved to America.



Birthday - American folk singer and social activist Woody Guthrie (1912-1967) was born in Okemah, Oklahoma. Best known for *This Land Is Your Land*, *Union Maid*, and *Hard Traveling*.

Birthday - Gerald R. Ford, the 38th U.S. President was born in Omaha, Nebraska, July 14, 1913 (as Leslie King). In 1973, he was appointed vice president following the resignation of Spiro T. Agnew. He became president on August 9, 1974, following the resignation of Richard M. Nixon. He was the first non-elected vice president and non-elected president of the U.S.

JULY 15



July 15, 1918 - During the Battle of the Marne in World War I, German General Erich Ludendorff launched Germany's fifth, and last, offensive to break through the Chateau-Thierry salient. However, the Germans were stopped by American, British and Italian divisions. On July 18, General Foch, Commander-in-Chief of the Allied troops, launched a massive counter-offensive. The Germans began a retreat lasting four months until they requested an armistice in November.

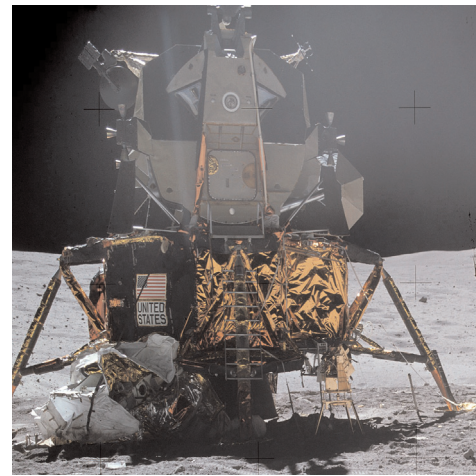
Birthday - Dutch painter Rembrandt van Rijn (1606-1669) was born in Leiden, Holland. Best known for *The Night Watch* and many portraits and self

portraits.

Birthday - The first American saint, Frances Xavier Cabrini (1850-1917) was born in Lombardy, Italy. She was the founder of the Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart of Jesus and established Catholic schools, orphanages, convents and hospitals. She was canonized, July 7, 1946, by Pope Pius XII.

JULY 16

July 16, 1945 - The experimental Atomic bomb "Fat Boy" was set off at 5:30 a.m. in the desert of New Mexico desert, creating a mushroom cloud rising 41,000 ft. The bomb emitted heat three times the temperature of the interior of the sun and wiped out all plant and animal life within a mile.



July 16, 1969 - The Apollo 11 Lunar landing mission began with a liftoff from Kennedy Space Center at 9:37 a.m.

July 16, 1999 - A small plane piloted by John F. Kennedy Jr. took off at 8:38 p.m. from Fairfield, New Jersey, heading toward Martha's Vineyard, Massachusetts. His wife, Carolyn Bessette Kennedy, and her sister Lauren were passengers on the 200 mile trip. The plane was expected to arrive about 10 p.m. but disappeared off radar at 9:40 p.m. Five days later, July 21, following an extensive search, the bodies were recovered from the plane wreckage in 116 feet of water roughly 7 miles off Martha's Vineyard. The next day, following an autopsy, the cremated remains of John F. Kennedy, 38, his wife Carolyn, 33, and her sister Lauren, 34, were scattered at sea from a U.S. Navy ship, with family members present, not far from where the plane had crashed.

Birthday - British portrait painter Joshua Reynolds (1723-1792) was born in Plympton, Devon, England.

Birthday - Christian Science founder Mary Baker Eddy (1821-1910) was born near Concord, New Hampshire.

Birthday - African American journalist and anti-lynching crusader Ida B. Wells (1862-1931) was born to slaves at Holly Springs, Missouri. Following the Civil War, as lynchings became prevalent, Wells traveled extensively, founding anti-lynching societies and black women's clubs.

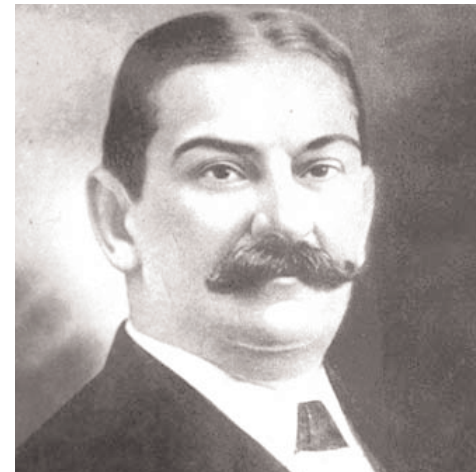
Birthday - Norwegian explorer Roald Amundsen (1872-1928) was born near Oslo. He was the first to sail from the Atlantic to the Pacific Ocean via the Northwest Passage. He discovered the

South Pole in 1911 and flew over the North Pole in a dirigible in 1926. In June 1928, he flew from Norway to rescue survivors of an Italian Arctic expedition, but his plane vanished.

JULY 17

July 17, 1918 - In the Russian town of Ekaterinburg in Siberia, former Czar Nicholas II, his wife Alexandra, and their five children were brutally murdered by Bolsheviks.

July 17, 1996 - TWA Flight 800 departed Kennedy International Airport in New York bound for Paris but exploded in mid-air 12 minutes after takeoff, apparently the result of a mechanical failure. The Boeing 747 jet crashed into the Atlantic Ocean off the coast of Long Island about 8:45 p.m. All 212 passengers and 17 crew members on board were killed.



Birthday - Puerto Rican patriot Luis Munoz-Rivera (1859-1916) was born in Barranquitas, Puerto Rico. He worked tirelessly to attain self-government for his homeland.

JULY 18

July 18, 1947 - President Harry Truman signed an Executive Order determining the line of succession if the president becomes incapacitated or dies in office. Following the vice president, the speaker of the house and president of the Senate are next in succession. This became the 25th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, ratified on February 10, 1967.



Birthday - American politician Samuel Hayakawa (1906-1992) was born in Vancouver, British Columbia. He is remembered as the college president who climbed atop a sound truck at San Francisco State College in 1968 during

student protests, then disconnected the wires thus silencing the demonstrators. This made him popular among conservatives including California Gov. Ronald Reagan. Hayakawa became a Republican and was elected in 1976 to the U.S. Senate, serving just one term. In 1986, he led the successful California initiative to declare English the state's official language.

Birthday - Nelson Mandela was born the son of a Tembu tribal chieftain on July 18, 1918, at Qunu, near Umtata, in South Africa. He became a lawyer, joined the African National Congress (ANC) in 1944, eventually becoming deputy national president in 1952. In 1964, he was convicted for sabotage as a result of his participation in the struggle against apartheid. He spent the next 28 years in jail, but remained a symbol of hope to South Africa's non-white majority. Released in 1990, he was elected as elected President of South Africa in 1994 in the first election in which all races participated.

JULY 19

July 19-20, 1848 - A women's rights convention was held at Seneca Falls, New York. Topics discussed included voting rights, property rights and divorce. The convention marked the beginning of an organized women's rights movement in the U.S.

July 19, 1863 - During the American Civil War, Union troops made a second attempt to capture Fort Wagner near Charleston, South Carolina. The attack was led by the 54th Massachusetts Colored Infantry, commanded by Colonel Robert Gould Shaw, who was killed along with half of the 600 men in the regiment. This battle marked the first use of black Union troops in the war.

Birthday - French impressionist painter Edgar Degas (1834-1917) was born in Paris. Best known for his paintings of dancers in motion.

JULY 20

July 20, 1954 - An agreement was signed in Geneva, Switzerland, ending hostilities between French forces in Vietnam and the People's Army of Vietnam.

July 20, 1969 - A global audience watched on television as Apollo 11 Astronaut Neil Armstrong took his first step onto the moon. As he stepped onto the moon's surface he proclaimed, "That's one small step for man, one giant leap for mankind" - inadvertently omitting an "a" before "man" and slightly changing the meaning.



Birthday - Explorer Edmund Hillary was born in Auckland, New Zealand, July 20, 1919. In 1953, he became first to ascend Mount Everest, the highest mountain in the world at 29,023 ft.



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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



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