



The INDIAN PANORAMA

EVER TRUTHFUL

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 salujaindra@gmail.com

For any questions, please call 646-247-9458, or email to salujaindra@gmail.com

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Rishi Sunak's Conservative Party loses 2 key seats ahead of crucial UK elections



Conservative Party Prime Minister of UK Rishi Sunak
Official Portrait by Simon Walker / No 10 Downing Street

JULY 21, 2023

LONDON (TIP): Prime Minister of U.K. Rishi Sunak's Conservative Party suffered significant losses in two of three parliamentary byelections on Thursday, July 20, in what is being seen by some as a strong indicator of their prospects in next year's general election.

The Tories lost to Labour by a sizeable margin in the northern England constituency of Selby and Ainsy, and to the Liberal Democrats (Lib Dems) in the Conservative stronghold of Somerton and Frome.

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Manipur rocks Parliament for 2nd day; Congress urges President to dismiss state government

OPPOSITION, GOVERNMENT SPAR OVER RULES OF DISCUSSION



The violence in Manipur dominated the proceedings of the Indian Parliament on the second day of the Monsoon Session

JULY 21, 2023

NEW DELHI (TIP): Video evidence of brazen mob violence against two Manipur women stalled Parliament for the second straight day with the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha adjourned amid constant sloganeering without transaction of business.

At the heart of the stalemate were rules under which to debate violence in the northeastern state, which has been on the edge since May 3 following a court ruling recommending the ST status for the majority Meiteis, a move that sparked protests among tribal locals. The Opposition wants discussions under provisions that allow suspension of all business to discuss an

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Joe Biden nominates Admiral Lisa Franchetti to be the first woman to lead U.S. Navy



Adm. Lisa Franchetti
Photo / Courtesy the U.S. Navy

JULY 22, 2023

WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP):

President Joe Biden on July 21 nominated Admiral Lisa Franchetti to lead the Navy, an historic step that would break a gender barrier in the U.S. military by making her the first woman to command the service and to become a member of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

The decision by Mr. Biden is a surprise. Pentagon officials had widely expected the nomination to go to Admiral Samuel Paparo, who leads the Navy in the Pacific and who has experience grappling with the growing challenge from China. Still, Ms. Franchetti, who is currently the Vice-Chief of Operations for the Navy, was among the candidates believed to be in the running for the position, is widely respected and counts broad experience, including as commander of U.S. Naval Forces Korea, officials said.

CONTD ON PAGE 38

New York City Subway Ride to Cost More

JULY 20, 2023

NEW YORK CITY (TIP): The M.T.A. board voted to raise the base fare to \$2.90 from \$2.75, after pausing increases to try to lure back riders lost during the pandemic.

Ever since the coronavirus pandemic decimated subway ridership in New York City, the Metropolitan Transportation Authority has resisted raising the price of a ride out of fear that even more people would abandon mass transit, says a New York Times report.

But after years of financial uncertainty, the authority intends to balance its budget. On Wednesday, July 19, the M.T.A.'s board voted to raise the base fare for subway and bus trips for the first time in eight years, to \$2.90 from \$2.75, by Aug. 20. The decision will almost certainly reverberate across the United States, where transit systems of every size have experienced steep and lingering losses as many white-collar commuters continue to work from home at least part of the time.

CONTD ON PAGE 38



The M.T.A. has struggled financially

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GUEST COMMENT**NDA vs INDIA: Challenge for Opposition to remain united**

The battlelines for the 2024 General Election are now clearly drawn, with 26 Opposition parties forming an anti-BJP front named INDIA, an acronym for the Indian National Developmental Inclusive Alliance. The Opposition now has a name, though it still doesn't have a face. Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, who faces the prospect of being debarred from contesting next year's Lok Sabha poll if the Supreme Court upholds his conviction and sentence in a defamation case, has declared that INDIA will unitedly fight Prime Minister Narendra Modi for the 'idea of India'. PM Modi, in turn, said during a meeting of the National

Democratic Alliance (NDA) that India had a long tradition of coalitions, but those formed on the basis of negativity had never succeeded. Notably, 38 parties attended the meeting of the BJP-led NDA, including the Shiv Sena and NCP factions led by Eknath Shinde and Ajit Pawar; respectively.

The NDA's parallel show of strength made it obvious that the BJP is not taking the Opposition lightly; the latter has already held two major meetings (in Patna and Bengaluru) in less than a month, with a coordination committee set to be formed at the next meeting in Mumbai.

The all-important question is: do these

parties have the firepower and cohesion to stop the BJP's juggernaut in 2024? The 26 parties account for around 150 seats in the Lok Sabha, less than half the NDA's current strength. The Congress, which is in power in Karnataka, Chhattisgarh, Rajasthan and Himachal Pradesh (besides being a junior member of the ruling alliance in Jharkhand), continues to be the premier Opposition party. Much will depend on whether the Congress and its INDIA partners such as AAP and the Trinamool Congress are able to rise above their differences. Going by the split in the Shiv Sena and the NCP, the BJP will stop at nothing to cripple the Opposition camp. (Tribune, India)

READERS WRITE**Your work is a testament to the positive impact journalism can have on our society****DAVE MAKKAR**

Dear Prof. Saluja, I am writing to express my deepest admiration and gratitude for the exceptional work you have done in your recent issue of the Indian Panorama News exposing criminals in Indian politics. Your relentless pursuit of truth and your unwavering commitment to exposing the nexus between criminals and politicians in India have not gone unnoticed.

In an era where journalism faces numerous challenges, your courage and integrity shine like a beacon of hope. By fearlessly bringing to light the actions of those who seek to undermine the very fabric of Indian democracy, you have demonstrated the true essence of responsible journalism.

Your dedication to unbiased reporting and your willingness to tackle such sensitive subjects are truly commendable. You have proven that journalism is not just a profession but a mission to safeguard the principles of transparency and accountability in our society.

Please know that your efforts have not only inspired me but have also motivated countless others who believe in the power of truth. Your work serves as a reminder that the pen is indeed mightier than the sword and that even in the face of adversity, the pursuit of justice must never waver.

With due respect, I strongly feel based on the facts that the nexus between the criminals and politicians is entirely financed by the so-called world-

renowned billionaires of India. The criminalization of politics is directly related to "Gangster Capitalism" that is being practiced in India since its independence in 1947. In India, politicians are selected & financed by the state created billionaires and voters play a part in the charade of voting for them! It was Congress in 1947 that started creating billionaires with public money and wealth to use them as their ATM's during election time. BJP has gone too far with the help of state created billionaires; they are buying elected representatives for couple of hundred crores for each in wholesale to form state governments even with 2 MLA's by toppling non-BJP state governments.

In 1990, BJP was also the part of the anti-India scam along with Congress and others to topple the VP Singh government just to save Dhirubhai Ambani from spending the rest of his life in Jail for crimes against India in 1990. Chandra Shekhar with 61 MP's (out of 525-member lower house) from the breakaway group of Janta Dal was installed PM with the outside support of 195 Congress MPs under Rajiv Gandhi & 25 MPs of splinter groups by toppling the V P Singh government. The entire operation was financed by Dhirubhai Ambani from money stolen from Indian public. It was a turning point for Indian democracy with the demise of morality, ethics, honesty and patriotism in public life. After that Indian democracy turned to an "Elected Autocracy" and now under BJP's Modi mostly financed by top billionaires; it is turning into a Dictatorship with Hinduism being turned into a fanatic religion with no space for minorities.

The Indian billionaires along with the

Politicians with big majority of them hardcore criminals they select; are the termites that have eaten up the public wealth along with the social and moral fiber of India. They are also responsible for acute poverty, illiteracy, unemployment, lack of basic civic & health care services and massive corruption at all levels of governance including judiciary & media in India. These billionaires are also promoting and financing "Hindu Rashtra" a communal agenda, call it a "Majoritarian Rule" where Upper caste Hindus are more equal even than the lower caste Hindus. No one can ignore how the minorities especially Muslims & Christians are being treated under Modi Rule since 2014. Unfortunately, history tells us that such countries rarely progress much. Retd. Admiral Arun Prakash in an interview has observed that under the current rulers, "India is prone to a Civil War in the very near future".

I request you to enlighten the Indian public with your thoughts on the issue of "Gangster Capitalist" financing criminals in Politics of India. I stand with you and your team, offering my support and encouragement in any way possible. If there is anything I can do to contribute to the cause of ethical journalism or assist you further, please do not hesitate to reach out.

Once again, thank you for your unwavering commitment to truth and justice. Your work is a testament to the positive impact journalism can have on our society, and I eagerly await your future endeavors.

With sincere appreciation
and respect,
Dave Makkar
New Jersey

Ambassador Sandhu inaugurates India Pavilion at the Texworld Apparel and Home Textile Sourcing Show in New York

JULY 18, 2023

NEW YORK CITY (TIP):

Ambassador of India to the United States, Shri Taranjit Singh Sandhu, inaugurated the India Pavilion at the Texworld Apparel and Home Textile Sourcing Show in New York today. There are over two dozen Indian companies from the apparel, fabric and home textile sectors participating in the Texworld fair being held over three days from 18-20 July 2023. India's participation in the Texworld fair is being anchored by the Handloom Export Promotion Council and the Cotton Textiles Export Promotion Council (TEXPROCIL).

After the inauguration, Amb. Sandhu interacted with Indian companies and visited their stalls. He encouraged them to push hard to enhance India's textile



Ambassador Taranjit Singh Sandhu 94th from left) inaugurated India Pavilion at the Texworld Apparel and Home Textile Sourcing Show in New York on July 18. To his right is Consul General of India at New York, Randhir Kumar Jaiswal

exports to the US and, in this regard, noted that the Commercial Wing at the Embassy and Consulates stand ready to offer all possible support. He further added that the world-class textile products from India already have a large presence in the US, but there was potential to do more, especially in areas of sustainable textiles and organic products. India's textile exports to the US in 2022-23 stood at US\$ 10.4 billion, roughly accounting for 9-10% of the US textile imports.

Majority of the Indian textile companies participating in the fair are from two main clusters in India - Panipat in Haryana and Karur in Tamil Nadu. There are several new-age products made of Bhagalpuri silk, bamboo, jute and 3D prints on display at the fair.

India supports U.N.'s efforts in continuing Black Sea Grain Initiative



India's Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Ambassador Ruchira Kamboj said New Delhi is concerned about the recent developments in the region, which have not helped in securing the larger cause of peace and stability. File Photo Credit / ANI

JULY 19, 2023

UNITED NATIONS (TIP): India has voiced support for the U.N.'s efforts in continuing the Black Sea Grain initiative and expressed hope for an early resolution to the present impasse, a day after Russia announced it was terminating implementation of the U.N.-brokered deal that allowed export of grain and related foodstuffs and fertilizers from Ukrainian ports.

Moscow on Monday, July 17, said it was terminating the implementation of the Black Sea Initiative - a U.N.-brokered deal that allowed food exports from Ukraine amid the ongoing conflict with Russia - including the withdrawal of Russian security guarantees for navigation in the North-Western part of the Black Sea.

Addressing the U.N. General Assembly's annual debate on the 'Situation in the Temporarily Occupied Territories of Ukraine' on Tuesday, India's Permanent Representative to the U.N. Ambassador, Ruchira Kamboj, said New Delhi is concerned about the recent developments in the region, which have not helped in

securing the larger cause of peace and stability.

"India has supported the efforts of the U.N. Secretary-General in continuing the Black Sea Grain Initiative and hopes for an early resolution to the present impasse," Ms. Kamboj said.

"India continues to remain concerned over the situation in Ukraine. The conflict has resulted in the loss of lives and misery for its people, particularly for the women, children and elderly, with millions becoming homeless and forced to take shelter in neighboring countries," she said.

Ms. Kamboj asserted that India's approach to the Ukrainian conflict will continue to be people-centric.

"We are providing both humanitarian assistance to Ukraine and economic support to some of our neighbors in the Global South under economic distress, even as they stare at the escalating cost of food, of fuel and of fertilizers - which has been a consequential fall out of the ongoing conflict," she said.

U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres voiced deep regret over Moscow's termination of the implementation of the Black Sea Initiative decision, saying the initiative ensured the safe passage of over 32 million metric tons of food commodities from Ukrainian ports.

The World Food Programme (WFP) has shipped more than 725,000 tons to support humanitarian operations - relieving hunger in some of the hardest-hit corners of the world, including Afghanistan, Horn of Africa and Yemen, Mr. Guterres said.

He added that the Black Sea Initiative and the Memorandum of Understanding on facilitating exports of Russian food products and fertilizers have been a "lifeline" for global food security and a beacon of hope in a troubled world.

(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)

NYC Mayor Adams limits shelter stays for single adult asylum-seekers to 60 days

JULY 20, 2023

NEW YORK CITY (TIP): With the city's shelter system buckling under a record number of people experiencing homelessness, New York City Mayor Eric Adams plans to implement a 60-day limit on how long single adult asylum-seekers can stay in city care before they'll need to apply for a new shelter placement. The plan, according to city officials, is the only way to make sure there continues to be space in the city to care for families with children as more migrants arrive.

"Our goal is no child, no family is sleeping on the streets. That's our goal. And we are getting closer and closer to being unable to fulfill even that," Adams said from City Hall Wednesday afternoon, claiming that city shelter capacity has been stretched so far beyond its limit that the time has come for tough choices to be made.

The announcement drew immediate outcry from homeless advocates and some City Council members who argued that the move will leave more people homeless and living on the street. A spokesperson for the City Council said that members weren't given any advance notice or details about the proposal, which they are currently reviewing. Aspects of the plan were first reported by Gothamist Wednesday morning.

City Council Deputy Speaker Diana Ayala said she thinks the policy is inhumane and incorrectly works off of the assumption that most people who are coming to the city have somewhere else to go.

"We run the risk that if they harass folks enough and make them feel unwelcome they are going to end up sleeping in city parks because people need someplace to sleep," she said. "You're talking about migrants that are coming in, that don't have a work visa, that may not have family - to make them have to repeat the same tormented cycle every two weeks to me is wrong."

City officials said the policy will be



New York City Mayor Eric Adams announced Wednesday, July 19, that single adult asylum-seekers would be limited to 60 days in the city's shelters July 18, 2023.

Photo / Benny Polatseck - Mayoral Photography Office

imposed in the coming days starting with asylum-seekers who've been staying in emergency relief centers for the longest period of time. Single adult asylum-seekers will be given a 60 days' notice to find "alternative housing" along with "intensified casework services" to help them chart their next destination. Those who are unable to find another place to stay will be required to report to the asylum-seeker arrival center where they'll need to reapply for shelter placement. While Adams said his goal isn't to increase street homelessness, anyone who is unable to find an alternative placement will need to wait "wherever they can find a place" for room to become available.

Sixty days is a far cry from the length of time most single adults stay in city shelters. According to the most recent Mayor's Management Report, the average length of stay for single adults during fiscal year 2022 was 509 days. Families - who stayed in shelter an average of 534 days in the same period - would be exempt from the proposal.

(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)

5 Indian students make it to Global Student Prize 2023 shortlist

THE TOP 10 FINALISTS OF THIS YEAR'S GLOBAL STUDENT PRIZE ARE EXPECTED TO BE ANNOUNCED BY NEXT MONTH

JULY 19, 2023

LONDON (TIP): Five students studying in India have made it to the top 50 shortlist for the USD 100,000 Chegg.org Global Student Prize 2023, selected from 3,851 applications from across 122 countries.

The annual award goes to one exceptional student who has made a real impact on learning, the lives of their peers and on society beyond.

In the running from India this year will be: Namya Joshi, a 16-year-old student at Sat Paul Mittal School, Ludhiana, Punjab; Vinisha Umashankar, a 16-year-old student at SKP Vanitha International School, Tiruvannamalai, Tamil Nadu; Gladson Vaghela, a 25-year-old medical student at Gujarat Medical Education and Research Society Medical College, Gandhinagar, Gujarat; Padmaksh Khandelwal, a 17-year-old computer science student at Sir Padampat Singhania School, Kota, Rajasthan; and Ravinder Bishnoi, a 20-year-old information technology student at Chandigarh Engineering College, Landran, Mohali, Punjab.

"Chegg not only celebrates your achievements but also the endless possibilities that exist when young minds are driven by a passion for change," said Heather Hatlo Porter, Head of Chegg.org and Chief Communications Officer of Chegg.

"The top 50 Global Student Prize finalists deserve the opportunity to have their stories told and have their voices heard. Their dreams, wisdom, and inventive spirit will illuminate a more hopeful future for everyone," she said.



Ravinder Bishnoi (top left), Gladson Vaghela (top right), Vinisha Umashankar (bottom left) and Namya Joshi (bottom right) are among the five students who have made it to the shortlist. The fifth is Padmaksh Khandelwal whose photograph was not available.

Joshi, acclaimed as the "Top Tech Savvy Student in India" and a global teacher at the age of 16, got hooked on Minecraft, realizing that it can also be used as an education tool. She went on to create a virtual library of lessons in Minecraft, now numbering around 500 which are available on her YouTube channel and website.

Umashankar is an artist, TEDx speaker, innovator, and environmentalist whose favorite subjects in school are math and science.

Her innovation journey of inventing the award-winning "Solar Ironing Cart"

and a power-saving "Smart Ceiling Fan" began when she was 12 years old, and she has since participated in many science and innovation competitions, winning international, national, and state awards.

Vaghela is a medical student advocate for healthcare equity and accessibility for all, participating in healthcare outreach programs in underserved communities. He has helped produce a global mental healthcare service providers' database for more than 150 countries worldwide and has also been serving as a Youth Advisor to YuWaah (Generation Unlimited) at UNICEF India.

Khandelwal works on student suicide prevention and also as an anti-poaching activist who launched the current homeschooling model of the Mogya Education Program for children through the support of NGO Tiger Watch.

Bishnoi used his cyber cafe visits to learn about robotics, electronics, design, and other engineering areas and over the past decade has created many devices, developed robots, exoskeletons, portable water and air filters to help needy people.

The Varkey Foundation partnered with Chegg.org to launch the annual Global Student Prize in 2021 as a sister award to its annual USD 1 million Global Teacher Prize.

The intention was to create a new platform that shines a light on the efforts of extraordinary students everywhere. The prize is open to all students who are at least 16 years old and enrolled in an academic institution or training and skills program. Part-time students as well as students enrolled in online courses are also eligible for the prize.

"As time runs out to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), it is more important than ever to prioritize education so we can face the future with confidence," said Sunny Varkey, the Kerala-born founder of the Varkey Foundation.

The top 10 finalists of this year's Global Student Prize are expected to be announced by next month.

The winner, who will be announced later in the year, will be chosen from the top 10 finalists by the Global Student Prize Academy, made up of prominent individuals.

Bike-borne assailants kill Canadian NRI in Ludhiana



NRI Barinder Singh

JULY 18, 2023

L U D H I A N A , INDIA (TIP): A 42-year-old NRI Barinder Singh was killed by motorcycle-borne assailants at Thakur Colony on Pakhowal Road on Monday, July 17 night.

Barinder was heading back to his home from his farmhouse when he was waylaid. He had arrived from Canada four months ago.

ADCP Suhail Qassim Mir said it's a case of personal enmity as the assailants didn't take away Barinder's cellphone or cash from the spot.

He said they had obtained a CCTV footage of four suspects and would check call details of the deceased.

(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)

Singapore Minister Iswaran, tycoon Ong arrested, released on bail: CPIB



Singapore Minister Iswaran

Photo / Courtesy webtretho

JULY 15, 2023

S I N G A P O R E (TIP): Singapore's Indian-origin Transport Minister S Iswaran was arrested on Tuesday and released on bail while his passport was impounded, the Corrupt Practices Investigation Bureau (CPIB) has said.

A CPIB spokesperson on Friday said Iswaran was arrested on the same day as Ong Beng Seng, founder and managing director of Hotel Properties Limited, reported The Straits Times. Ong was also released on bail.

"As part of bail conditions, subjects' passports are impounded. Subjects on bail can, however, make requests to travel overseas.

(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)

Three Indian-origin men jailed for kidnapping businessman for ransom in UK



Three Indian-origin men jailed for kidnapping businessman for ransom in UK

Photo for representational purposes only

JULY 15, 2023

L O N D O N (TIP): Two Indian-origin brothers and an accomplice have been jailed for a total of over 45 years for kidnapping a businessman in Wolverhampton City Centre in the West Midlands region of England.

Baljit Baghral, 33, and his brother David Baghral, 28, along with 22-year-old Shanu Shanu, were found guilty of having ambushed their victim as he walked to his car after work in November last year. They bundled him into a van and drove him bound and blindfolded to a shop where they threatened him with violence and held a gun against his head. (Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)

UK court finds five guilty of murdering Indian-origin man



UK court finds five guilty of murdering Indian-origin man
Photo for representational purposes only

JULY 17, 2023

L O N D O N (TIP): Three men and two women members of a gang have been found guilty of the honeytrap murder of an Indian-origin man in the east of England.

Vishal Gohel, 44, was discovered unresponsive inside a flat in Hertfordshire in January and pronounced dead at the scene. The court was told that Gohel had been led to believe he would be having a sexual liaison but the gang had intentions to rob him, resulting in the crime.

Indian-American Congressman Dr Bera receives Champion of Healthcare Innovation Award

**BERA SERVED AS CHIEF MEDICAL OFFICER FOR SACRAMENTO COUNTY IN CALIFORNIA
BEFORE BEING SWORN IN AS A CONGRESSMAN IN 2013**



Indian-American Congressman Dr Bera receives Champion of Healthcare Innovation Award.
Photo Source / Twitter/@RepBera

JULY 18, 2023

WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP): Dr Ami Bera, an Indian-American physician-turned politician has received the Champion of Healthcare Innovation Award for his contributions to making high-quality care affordable and accessible in the US.

Bera, 58, the longest-serving Indian-American serving in the US Congress, was among those facilitated during the council's Innovation Expo held here last week.

"Honored to receive the Champion of Healthcare Innovation Award from @HealthInFocus. As a doctor, I'm

committed to working to ensure that every American has access to high-quality, affordable health care," Bera, a Democrat, tweeted on Friday, July 14.

Bera served as Chief Medical Officer for Sacramento County in California before being sworn in as a Congressman in 2013 and has represented Sacramento County in the US House of Representatives since then.

He is currently a member of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, where he serves as Chairman of the Subcommittee on Asia, the Pacific, Central Asia, and Nonproliferation.

He is also a member of the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence and the Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Pandemic.

During his 20-year medical career, Bera worked to improve healthcare availability, quality, and affordability.

A first-generation American born and raised in California, Bera earned both his Bachelor of Science (BS) and Doctor of Medicine (MD) from the University of California, according to his website.

(Source: PTI)

**Indian-origin Anjali Sud
named CEO of Fox-owned
Tubi streaming service**
Sud, the outgoing CEO of video
hosting, sharing, and services
platform provider Vimeo, succeeds
Massoudi, Tubi's Founder and CEO



Indian-origin businesswoman Anjali Sud will be the new CEO of Tubi.

Photo Credit / Twitter/@anjsud

JULY 18, 2023

NEW YORK (TIP): Indian-origin businesswoman Anjali Sud will be the new CEO of Tubi --Fox Corporation's free ad-supported TV streaming service-- succeeding its Founder and CEO, Farhad Massoudi.

Sud's appointment, effective from September 1, was announced on Monday, July 17, by the Fox-owned company, which recently became the most watched free ad-supported TV streaming service in the US.

Sud, the outgoing CEO of video hosting, sharing, and services platform provider Vimeo, succeeds Massoudi, Tubi's Founder and CEO, a press release by the company said.

"Anjali is a highly accomplished executive in the technology and media industry with a passion and track record for strategic disruption and authentic leadership," said Paul Cheesbrough, CEO of Tubi Media Group.

"As Tubi continues to scale and solidify its momentum as the most watched free TV and movie streaming service in the US, she is the perfect candidate to lead Tubi into a new era of creativity, growth and market leadership," he said.

Announcing her appointment on Twitter, Sud said, "Today I am sharing my next adventure, as the incoming CEO of @Tubi!...excited for rabbit holes, changing things up in the media world, and shaping the next gen of entertainment by giving all people access to all the world's stories." "I'm excited to be dedicating my next chapter to empowering audiences. We are witnessing a seismic shift in where and how content will be consumed, and I hope to play a role in shaping the future of entertainment by giving all people access to all the world's stories," she said in a LinkedIn post. "To the Tubi team - I can't wait to go down this rabbit hole with you and shape the next generation of entertainment together!" Sud added. (Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)

Bengaluru boy bags gold at International Mathematical Olympiad

Six-member Indian team has done the country proud by securing two gold, two silver and two bronze medals and finished 9th out of 112 countries. Along with Atul, Arjun Gupta of Delhi secured gold at the event



Atul Shatavart Nadig, IMO gold medal winner, is a student of Shri Ram Global School, Whitefield, Bengaluru. Photo Credit / The Hindu.

JULY 19, 2023

BENGALURU (TIP): Atul Shatavart Nadig, student of Shri Ram Global School, Whitefield, bagged the gold medal at the 64th International Mathematical Olympiad (IMO), held in Chiba, Japan, from July 2 to 13.

Six-member Indian team has done the country proud by securing two gold, two silver and two bronze medals and finished 9th out of 112 countries. Along with Atul, Arjun Gupta of Delhi secured gold at the event.

"In terms of Olympiad Math, I am mostly self-taught. Ever since grade 10, I have been doing Olympiad Math, through the Art of Problem Solving website, classes on the Online Math

Club and handouts by Evan Chen, a past Olympiad medalist. I won a gold medal and placed 12th overall in this year's event," said Atul.

He got a perfect score of 1600 on the SAT last year and he will be continuing my future studies, doing Mathematics and Computer Science at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, USA. "I am also the director of the Sophie Fellowship, an initiative to prepare Indian students for Math Olympiads by showing them its beauty. With this, I also hope to reach out to more students in India, most of who are unaware of the prospects mathematics holds as a career," he added.

This is the fourth time India secured a position in the Top 10. The team was accompanied by Prithwjit De, Homi Bhabha Centre for Science Education, Mumbai, Sahil Mhaskar, Chennai Mathematical Institute, Chennai, Anant Mudgal, University of California, USA and Pranjal Srivastava, MIT, USA. (Source: The Hindu)

Indian-American business leader Shamina Singh appointed to serve on President's Export Council

**Shamina Singh has studied at Harvard, Yale, Stanford,
and the Indian School of Business**

JULY 17, 2023

WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP): US President Joe Biden has announced his intent to appoint Shamina Singh, a prominent Indian-American business leader, to the President's Export Council, which serves as the principal national advisory committee on international trade.

Singh, who is the Founder and President of the Mastercard Center for Inclusive Growth, has said that she is "honored to join the group of esteemed leaders that make up the President's Export Council."

According to a statement from the White House, on July 14, President Biden announced his intent to appoint Singh to serve in the key role.

"I am deeply honored to join the group of esteemed leaders that make up the President's Export Council," Singh said.

The President's Export Council serves as the principal national advisory committee on international trade. The Council advises the president of government policies and programs that affect US trade performance, promotes export expansion and provides a forum for discussing and resolving trade-related problems among the business, industrial, agricultural, labor and government sectors.

"From the earliest days of my career, I've gravitated toward work that helps create long-lasting and inclusive prosperity for people and economies in the US and around the world," she was quoted as saying in the statement on Mastercard's website.

Singh also serves as the Executive Vice President of Sustainability at Mastercard and is a member of the company's Management Committee.

(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)



Biden appoints Indian-American business leader Shamina Singh to serve on President's Export Council. Photo Credit: Twitter/@shaminasingh

Metropolitan Museum of Art hosts exhibition highlighting early Buddhist art in India

A REPATRIATION CEREMONY WAS HELD AT INDIAN CONSULATE IN NEW YORK WHERE TRAFFICKED ANTIQUITIES STOLEN FROM INDIA WERE HANDED OVER BY THE US

JULY 18, 2023

NEW YORK (TIP): More than 140 objects highlighting early Buddhist art in India and dating from 200 BCE to 400 CE will be on display at the prestigious Metropolitan Museum of Art (Met) here, with the exhibition presenting a series of "evocative and interlocking" themes to reveal pre-Buddhist origins of figurative sculpture in India.

The exhibition "Tree & Serpent: Early Buddhist Art in India, 200 BCE-400 CE", made possible by Reliance Industries Limited, The Robert H. N. Ho Family Foundation Global, and the Fred Eychaner Fund, will run from July 21 to November 13, 2023, at the Met.

A special preview and reception to celebrate the opening of the exhibition was held at the prestigious museum Monday, July 17, and was attended by India's Ambassador to the US Taranjit Singh Sandhu, US Ambassador to India Eric Garcetti, founder and chairperson of Reliance Foundation Nita M Ambani, Consul General of India in New York Randhir Jaiswal and other prominent members of the diaspora and American community.

Featuring more than 140 objects dating from 200 BCE to 400 CE, the exhibition "presents a series of evocative and interlocking themes to reveal both the pre-Buddhist origins of figurative sculpture in India and the early narrative traditions that were central to this formative moment in early Indian art."

Garcetti, who flew from New Delhi, especially for the opening of the exhibition, told PTI that occasions such as these highlight the strong India-US ties and said the friendship between the two countries "has never been stronger."



Indian antiquities being repatriated by the US to India during a repatriation ceremony at the Indian consulate, in New York, July 17, 2023. Photo credit / PTI

"Americans in the world are learning more and more about India, about its history, about the religious past, about the ways that we can connect the world better together."

"This bridge that we're building has never been stronger. Cross that bridge and see India here in New York, and vice versa," he said.

The Met said that the exhibition is "the story of the origins of Buddhist art. The religious landscape of ancient India was transformed by the teachings of the Buddha, which in turn inspired art devoted to expressing his message. Sublime imagery adorned the most ancient monumental religious

structures in ancient India, known as stupas.

"The stupa not only housed the relics of the Buddha but also honored him through symbolic representations and visual storytelling. Original relics and reliquaries are at the heart of this exhibition, which culminates with the Buddha image itself," it said in a statement.

With major loans from a dozen lenders across India, as well as from the United Kingdom, Europe, and the United States, the exhibition "transports visitors into the world of early Buddhist imagery that gave expression to this new religion as it grew from a core set of ethical teachings

into one of the world's great religions."

In the exhibition, objects associated with the Indo-Roman exchange reveal India's place in early global trade.

"The exhibition showcases objects in various media, including limestone sculptures, gold, silver, bronze, rock crystal, and ivory," the Met said adding that highlights include "spectacular sculptures" from southern India newly discovered and never before publicly exhibited masterpieces that add to the world canon of early Buddhist art.

Earlier in the day, a repatriation ceremony was held in the Consulate General of India in New York where a total of 105 trafficked antiquities stolen from India were handed over by the US.

Garcetti said this is a "priority" for US President Joe Biden and him and the Met has been "critical" in identifying artifacts stolen from across the world and helping in efforts to repatriate them to their rightful homes.

He said India and the US are "negotiating a permanent agreement" to have a "framework for cultural exchange, repatriation and making sure that these flows go both ways."

"This is like a gift to America and to the world to have these pieces here. I want to thank the states in India that contributed, the government of India that contributed."

On Prime Minister Narendra Modi's State Visit to the US last month, Garcetti said "We are still flying high. This wasn't a one-moment thing. This is a movement, not a moment. This is going to be for the rest of our lifetimes a deepening relationship in culture and security," he said adding that for "peace, prosperity, planet, people, the US and India are better together."

COUNCILMEMBER UNG ANNOUNCES ALLOCATION TO FUND NEW SURVEILLANCE CAMERAS IN THE 109TH PRECINCT



Councilmember Sandra Ung presents a check for \$312,000 to Deputy Inspector Louran Hall of the 109th Precinct on Tuesday afternoon. The money will be used to purchase new Argus surveillance cameras for the precinct

JULY 19, 2023

FLUSHING, NY (TIP): Councilmember Sandra Ung visited the 109th Precinct on Tuesday July 18 afternoon to present a check for \$312,000 to commanding officer Deputy Inspector Louran Hall. The funding secured by the Councilmember in the Fiscal Year 2024 budget will go toward the purchase of new Argus surveillance cameras for the precinct.

"When I took office last year, the 109th Precinct was experiencing an alarming uptick in crime," said Councilmember Sandra Ung. "Working closely with Deputy Inspector Hall, I have made improving public safety a top priority, but there is still more we can do. Our

officers can't be everywhere at once, so these cameras will help serve as their eyes and ears. They will not only be a valuable tool to help solve crimes, but hopefully act as a deterrent for would-be criminals who know they are being watched."

The FY24 allocation will be used to purchase approximately seven to ten NYPD Argus cameras to be deployed in high-crime areas around the precinct. The NYPD will determine the exact locations, but Deputy Inspector Hall has already submitted several locations for consideration to One Police Plaza, including spots in Murray Hall and around Flushing.

There are currently 32 Argus cameras

spread across the 109th Precinct, with a significant concentration in downtown Flushing. The Argus cameras are generally positioned about 20 feet off the ground and attached to a white box clearly marked with the NYPD insignia. Each camera has two views, allowing for 64 unique views of the 109th Precinct.

"This money is going to allow us to improve and increase the amount of Argus cameras," said Deputy Inspector Louran Hall. "As the Councilmember noted, this is not only going to help us deter crime, but when crime happens will give our investigators the best opportunity to catch the individuals who commit them."

(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)

PICNEWS

Gurajpal Singh Padda Marries Gurleen Kaur Hothi



The newlyweds

Gurajpal Singh Padda, son of Sardar Charanjit Singh Padda and Sardarni Rajinder Kaur Padda, and Gurleen Kaur Hothi, daughter of Sardar Gurinder Singh Hothi and Sardarni Gurpreet Kaur Hothi, were married according to the Sikh tradition at Gurdwara Sikh

Cultural Society, Richmond Hill, New York on July 21.

Present on the occasion were a large number of friends and relatives, and community leaders. Hockey Olympian and former Punjab Minister Pargat Singh also graced the occasion.

Kapil Verma Returns to HAB Bank



A beaming Kapil Verma in HAB Bank branch in Hicksville

Kapil Verma, who had chosen to leave his job with HAB Bank, has made a comeback, after almost a year. The branch manager Moazzam Ali said Kapil is much loved by the patrons of the bank and is an asset. The Indian Panorama publisher Prof. Indrajit S Saluja welcomed the return of Kapil Verma to the HAB Branch in Hicksville and hoped his presence will make the branch attractive to customers.

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



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 Hudson Valley. The bank also has over 3,500 more offices in thirty-seven states.

The banking giant must refund \$100 million to customers, pay \$90 million in penalties to the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau and \$60 million to the Office of the Comptroller of the

Currency, according to federal officials.

"Bank of America wrongfully withheld credit card rewards, double-dipped on fees, and opened accounts without consent," said CFPB Director Rohit Chopra in a statement. "These practices are illegal and undermine customer trust."

The banking company has already refunded \$23 million to customers who were denied rewards bonuses according to the CFPB, but owes another \$80.4 million to people the bank charged "unlawful non-sufficient funds fees."

The Consumer Financial Protection Bureau said that customers don't need to take action to receive a payment, as the burden is on the bank to either put funds back in consumer accounts or send a check. Full details, including the amount of refunds for individual customers and how exactly they will be paid, have not yet been released.

The fees often came when customers had routine monthly transactions, like a gym membership. If a customer had too low a balance to cover the transaction, it would be declined and BofA would charge the customer a \$35 fee. The business, who hasn't been paid, often would recharge the customer's account, resulting in another \$35 non-sufficient funds fee.

(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)

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THE AUTHORITY OF ED AND USAGE OF PMLA

OF LATE, MUCH OF THE ED'S POWERS HAVE BEEN DISCHARGED IN EFFECTING PRE-TRIAL ARRESTS



BY MANURAJ
SHUNMUGASUNDARAM



NCP leader and Maharashtra Minister Nawab Malik being taken to court, from the Arthur Road Jail, in Mumbai

Photo Credit / PTI

The Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), 2002 vested a cadre of officers under the Directorate of Enforcement (ED) with powers to prevent money laundering, attach proceeds of crime, and confiscate assets. However, over the last few years, the ED has assumed powers akin to that of a policing agency and has often been accused of turning its gaze against political opponents of the Union government. These concerns were bolstered when the Union government granted ED Director Sanjay Kumar Mishra a third extension, which the Supreme Court struck down.

THE ED IS NOT THE POLICE

It has been repeatedly held that the PMLA is a sui generis legislation, enacted to tackle money laundering through white collar crimes. According to Section 3 of the PMLA, the act of projecting or claiming proceeds of crime to be untainted property constitutes the offence of money laundering. Under the Schedule to the PMLA, a number of offences under the Indian Penal Code and other special statutes have been included, which serve as the basis for the offence of money laundering. In other words, the existence of predicate offence is sine qua non to charge someone of money laundering. It is crucial to note that the investigation and prosecution of the predicate offence is done typically by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) or the State Police.

Section 50 of the PMLA provides

powers of a civil court to the ED authorities for summoning persons suspected of money laundering and recording statements. However, the Supreme Court held that ED authorities are not police officers. It observed in *Vijay Madanlal Choudhary v. Union of India* (2022) that "the process envisaged by Section 50 of the PMLA is in the nature of an inquiry against the proceeds of crime and is not 'investigation' in strict sense of the term for initiating prosecution."

There are other dissimilarities between ED authorities and the police. While the police are required to register a First Information Report (FIR) for a cognizable offence before conducting an investigation, ED authorities begin with search procedures and undertake their investigation for the purpose of gathering materials and tracing the 'proceeds of crime' by issuing summons. Any statement made by an accused to the police is inadmissible as evidence in court, whereas a statement made to an ED authority is admissible. A copy of the FIR is accessible to the accused, whereas the Enforcement Case Information Report is seldom available.

During the discussion on the PMLA Bill in the Rajya Sabha in 2022, the erstwhile Union Minister of Finance, Jaswant Singh, said that he was "not entrusted with the responsibility of acting as a policeman of the country or acting as a policeman on the economic morals of the country." He added, "It is not... the intention of the Government to

have a piece of legislation which can be used as a... disguise for political vendetta or political revenge-taking."

These words were likely in reference to the powers of arrest under Section 19 of the PMLA, which permits superior ED authorities to arrest any person whom they have "reason to believe" is guilty of money laundering based on the material in their possession. Combined with the stringent conditions for grant of bail under Section 45 of the PMLA, the specter of arrest by the ED is always real and present. However, the use of the phrase "reason to believe" indicates that the ED authorities must satisfy themselves of the need for arrest and that such belief must pass the reasonableness test. As such, this should be the test that courts assessing the necessity of remand must apply, but seldom do.

Over the last year or so, the ED has arrested Ministers of the Delhi government, Satyender Jain and Manish Sisodia; former Minister from the Shiv Sena, Nawab Malik; former Principal Secretary to Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan, M. Sivasankar; Deputy Secretary to Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel, Saumya Chaurasia; YSRCP MP Srinivasulu Reddy's son, Magunta Raghava Reddy; and Tamil Nadu Minister, V. Senthil Balaji. In spite of such high-profile arrests, the ED has only filed charge-sheets after concluding investigation in only 1,142 cases out of the 5,906 cases registered since 2005. It is apparent that

UNFORTUNATELY, OF LATE, MUCH OF THE ED'S POWERS HAVE BEEN DISCHARGED IN EFFECTING PRE-TRIAL ARRESTS, WHICH USED TO BE THE PREROGATIVE OF THE POLICE INVESTIGATING THE PREDICATE OFFENCE. IN THE PAST, THE CBI WAS USED TO IMPART FEAR AMONG POLITICAL OPPONENTS. IN THE PROCESS, THE AGENCY RECEIVED THE CONDEMNATION OF VARIOUS COURTS AND EARNED THE NICKNAME "CAGED PARROT". WHETHER THE ED WILL GO DOWN THE SAME PATH OR REORIENT ITS APPROACH WILL ENTIRELY DEPEND ON THE INTERVENTION OF THE COUNTRY'S CONSTITUTIONAL COURTS.

the majority of the focus is unduly spent on effecting pre-trial arrests and not thereafter. It is reported that 85% of cases registered against politicians involve those belonging to the Opposition parties.

ROLE AND PURPOSE

Political malice aside, this raises another fundamental question about the role and purpose of the ED. While the police investigating the predicate offence are empowered to arrest and seek custody of the accused, the ED is meant to focus on recovering the proceeds of crime in order to redistribute the same to victims. It is not clear whether the ED has managed to do this. Per contra, the Proceeds of Crime Act, 2002, the analogous legislation in the U.K., almost entirely concentrates on confiscation of assets through dedicated civil proceedings.

Unfortunately, of late, much of the ED's powers have been discharged in effecting pre-trial arrests, which used to be the prerogative of the police investigating the predicate offence. In the past, the CBI was used to impart fear among political opponents. In the process, the agency received the condemnation of various courts and earned the nickname "caged parrot". Whether the ED will go down the same path or reorient its approach will entirely depend on the intervention of the country's constitutional courts.

In impasse in wrestlers' case, the loser is the rule of law



BY B. B. PANDE

The autonomy and the supremacy of the law cannot be taken for granted, because it is dependent on political commitment and a robust rule of law culture. Contemporary Indian society is passing through a phase of an all-round weakening of the rule of law, mainly on two counts: first, a trust deficit in the colonial model of the rule of law, and second, a faith-oriented majoritarian re-imagining of laws that locate their essence in the divine providence. The malaise of such weakening is best exemplified by the case of the Indian medal-winning wrestlers and their complaints of alleged sexual harassment, where there has been no resolution even after their long sit-in protest in the national capital.

THE AIRING OF COMPLAINTS

For almost a decade now, women trainee wrestlers - this also includes award-winning sportspersons - have faced and put up with alleged sexual advances and grave indignities during their training. In January 2023, some of the wrestlers began their sit-in/dharna at Jantar Mantar, New Delhi. Despite the Sports Ministry referring the batch of complaints to an oversight committee, there was no concrete and satisfactory outcome.

After being subjected to insensitive probings during the depositions, the wrestlers decided to resume the sit-in in late April. This time the protest appeared to be better organized; there was more public support and the survivors also approached the Supreme Court of India, where the Chief Justice of India passed orders relating to the registration of the First Information Report (FIR) under the relevant laws and providing security to the wrestlers.

As a sequel to the orders of the Court, the Delhi Police registered two FIRs: the first, under Sections 354, 354A, 354D and 506 of the Indian Penal Code and the second, under the provisions of the



Indian Wrestlers Protest Alleged Sexual Harassment at Jantar Mantar in New Delhi. File Photo / PTI

Protection Of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act in connection with the minor wrestler's allegations. With the registration of the two FIRs for the first time, the sexual harassment complaints came into the domain of criminal justice, making them the subject of police investigation as well as judicial oversight.

Following this, the alleged perpetrator and his followers began a campaign to vilify the wrestlers following growing public and even some political support. The campaign of vilification even went to the extent of critiquing the very basis of the POCSO Act. Growing support for the wrestler's cause and increasing social visibility of the issue pushed the Union Home Minister to try and resolve it politically by having a closed door meeting with the representatives of the protesting wrestlers in June, followed by a more exhaustive meeting with the Sports Minister; this also included 'advising' the protesting wrestlers who hold regular jobs to resume work. As a sequel to the talks and assured relief, the sit-in ended, with the wrestlers saying their fight would now continue in court.

SLOTHFUL AND SELECTIVE INVESTIGATION

As a key criminal justice agency that occupies the top slot in the investigation of crime, the Delhi Police ought to have responded quickly when internationally acclaimed wrestlers levelled serious charges against the perpetrator/politician who also occupies a top position in the sports world.

After the first sit-in, which also highlighted the murky goings-on in the Wrestling Federation Of India, the police could have acted as in Section 156(i) of the Code of Criminal Procedure (Cr.P.C.), i.e., "Any officer in charge of a police station may, without the order of a Magistrate, investigate any cognizable case which a Court having jurisdiction over the local area within the limits of such station would have power to inquire into or try under the provisions of Chapter XIII", like the Magistrate under Section 190(c) of the Cr.P.C.

The Delhi Police is also under legal obligation, under Section 166A(c) in the

amended Penal Code of 2013, as in the amendment to the Penal Code, which makes the 'non-recording' of information about sexual offences an offence punishable up to two years imprisonment. Therefore, when the Solicitor General advised the Supreme Court on May 28 that the FIRs would be registered 'if your Lordships so directs' and the Court complied with the wish, both displayed unusual deference to the Delhi Police. The Delhi Police would have been better reminded of their obligation to follow the mandatory FIR registration, as laid down in the ruling in Lalita Kumari (2013).

The Delhi Police has taken its own time in investigating the crime, with a focus on the credentials of the complainants and only cursory fact gathering as far as the accused persons are concerned. Despite an FIR that falls under the POCSO Act, the prime accused person has not been interrogated or subjected to any kind of restraint even as he continues with this campaign of vilification on social media in an attempt to mount pressure on and intimidate the witnesses.

Police selectivity in the investigation became legally established when after over 40 days of investigation, the police filed its long report in two parts: a charge sheet relating to different sexual offences against the adult wrestlers, and a closure application (over 500 pages long) in connection with the POCSO Act offence. The closure application relied on an extra-legal withdrawal application by the minor, who is alleged to have made the first complaint, including a statement under Section 164 in a state of anger or dispiritedness.

THE RULE OF LAW COURSE CORRECTION

The credibility and durability of the rule of law is critically linked to universal and equal applicability in all situations, which is ensured by the equality principle propounded by legal philosophers. In the context of the sexual harassment complaints and FIRs, the equality principle demands a free, fair and impartial investigation that ensures a just and expeditious disposition of the complaints. It appears that the legal course at the police level has been

THERE IS AN ALL-ROUND WEAKENING OF THE RULE OF LAW IN INDIA, BEST EXEMPLIFIED BY THE IMPASSE IN THE WRESTLERS' SEXUAL HARASSMENT COMPLAINT AND THE FEEBLE ADMINISTRATIVE, JUDICIAL AND POLITICAL ATTEMPTS TO ENSURE JUSTICE.

designed to be slow and selective and overly deferential to the main accused person.

But that alone is not enough to tilt the scales for or against the accused, who is equally entitled to a 'fair trial'. However, the journey of the rule of law is expected to continue without impediment; that is why the Bench in the Lalita Kumari case relied on the reason of keeping an efficient check on police powers and having the measure of 'judicial oversight' of the magistrate, the idea being to obligate the jurisdiction Magistrate to follow up on each of the FIRs. Such judicial intervention in investigation may arise from an application by the complainant directly under Section 156(3) of the Cr.P.C. or on a writ petition before the High Court. In addition, the appellate courts (High Courts and the Supreme Court of India) enjoy powers to take suo motu cognizance and call for an action taken report or direct the lower court to monitor the investigation.

The Supreme Court, in Sakiri Vasu vs State of U.P. (2008), has already imbued the magistracy with implied/inherent powers to monitor an investigation in the event of any abuse of powers. Sadly, in the case before us, the survivors have, by and large, had a raw deal. Neither the Delhi police nor the judiciary appear to have considered it worthwhile to stem the rot. They have been protesting in the open - at the site and then on the streets of Delhi - for months now. But administrative relief and judicial vindication seem distant. For the political dispensation, the 'delay' may be part of a 'smart' strategy to let the complaints lapse with time, even as it is convenient to blame the 'failing colonial model' of the rule of law.

But for all those who have a greater stake in upholding the basic ideas of the rule of law and ensuring fidelity to constitutional justice, the approach ought to be different. The need is to stand up and resort to course correction to save the soul of the rule of law. We are not alone in such a fight to save the rule of law, as in many other democracies across the world, the rule of law confronts similar threats. This appears to be why the Stockholm Criminology Symposium (June 2023), focused on the theme of 'principled and equitable law enforcement'.

(B.B. Pande is a former professor of law at Delhi University)

(Source: The Hindu)

Police selectivity in the investigation became legally established when after over 40 days of investigation, the police filed its long report in two parts: a charge sheet relating to different sexual offences against the adult wrestlers, and a closure application (over 500 pages long) in connection with the POCSO Act offence. The closure application relied on an extra-legal withdrawal application by the minor, who is alleged to have made the first complaint, including a statement under Section 164 in a state of anger or dispiritedness.

Prelude to 2024 Lok Sabha battle

OPPN HAS ITS TASK CUT OUT IF IT IS TO COHERE INTO A CREDIBLE ALTERNATIVE TO BJP-LED NDA



BY RADHIKA
RAMASESHAN

"AFTER THE PATNA WARM-UP EXERCISE, THE OPPOSITION TOOK A FEW STEPS FORWARD IN BENGALURU. THE MOST SIGNIFICANT OF THESE WERE CHRISTENING THE COALITION 'INDIA' - AN ACRONYM FOR INDIAN NATIONAL DEVELOPMENTAL INCLUSIVE ALLIANCE (NOTE THE ABSENCE OF THE WORDS 'SECULARISM' AND 'SOCIALISM', WHICH USED TO BE PET SHIBBOLETHS), AND DRAFTING A RESOLUTION THAT ADDRESSED THE CONCERNS OF EACH PARTICIPANT. FROM HERE TO 2024, THE OPPOSITION HAS ITS TASK CUT OUT IF IT IS TO COHERE INTO A CREDIBLE, CONVINCING ALTERNATIVE TO THE BJP. AS FOR THE BJP, THE FUNDAMENTAL QUESTION IS: IF ITS ELECTIONEERING IS GOING TO CENTER AROUND MODI, AS IT SURELY WILL, WHAT WAS THE COMPULSION TO REVIVE THE NDA?"

Coalition politics, which dominated the Indian landscape from time to time, gradually receded from popular consciousness when the BJP got a majority on its own in 2014. The party did not need the allies which sailed alongside, hoping to be deal-makers and deal-breakers, as they had done in the past. In his thanksgiving speech in May that year, Prime Minister Narendra Modi had said that despite the BJP being comfortably cushioned against instability, he would take the constituents along and allow them to be part of his government. It was a statement that was condescending and yet a token acknowledgment of the times when BJP dispensations led by PM Atal Bihari Vajpayee depended critically on the support of their associates. It seemed as though Modi did not want the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) put together by Vajpayee to unravel because who knows when he would have to fall back on it again!

It seemed as though the NDA relaunch was a quick response to the forum of 26 Oppn parties.

The NDA, like other amalgams formed by a covenant of practicality and interdependence, mutated periodically. Some parties left when their leaders believed their political interests were threatened, while others departed in search of greener pastures. In 2014, Modi had 11 allies who were part of his dispensation and others who were out of it because they failed to open their accounts in the Lok Sabha polls, such as the Haryana Janhit Congress.

In 2019, the BJP's old friends such as the undivided Shiv Sena, the Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) and the AIADMK remained with Modi. A fair-weather ally, the Janata Dal (United) - which quit the NDA before 2014 amid its leader Nitish Kumar's bitter relationship with Modi - returned, sensing that there was little point in throwing his lot with the 'secular' spectrum and being relegated to the margins. By then, the BJP had found new partners in the North-East, a hitherto untrodden region it had set its eyes on. The elections that year marked a new high for the BJP and Modi as they won with a bigger majority that rendered the NDA virtually redundant. Increasingly, the BJP became the strong fulcrum on which power depended. Mere appendages to a powerful core, the NDA constituents could not exercise the leverage they had in Vajpayee's somewhat wobbly governments.

The difference between that period and the present one is that Modi never cared to set up a steering committee, while the NDA meetings became a thing of the past. Vajpayee made it a



On course: After the Patna warm-up exercise, the Opposition took a few steps forward in Bengaluru.

Photo credit / PTI

point to nominate the leader of a non-BJP party as the steering committee's convener. Modi's NDA was faceless. Its near-anonymity briefly broke over a contretemps between Chirag Paswan, son of Ram Vilas Paswan, and his uncle Pashupati Kumar Paras over who would claim Paswan Senior's legacy after his death. The BJP drove a wedge in the Paswan clan and spirited away the uncle, who walked away with the MPs and MLAs of the Rashtriya Lok Janshakti Party (RLJP), leaving Chirag with nothing except his own Lok Sabha seat. Paras was the first ally who was inducted into Modi's BJP-heavy Cabinet out of sheer expediency.

The NDA's then-and-now saga had an unexpected twist when BJP president JP Nadda proclaimed that 38 allies would participate in a meeting of the coalition in Delhi on July 18. Thirty-eight? Which were these parties? The Sena, one of the BJP's oldest allies, was split into two, with the BJP getting the faction headed by rebel Eknath Shinde on its side. The faction helmed by Uddhav Thackeray, founder Balasaheb Thackeray's heir, who had earlier snapped his ties with the BJP, became a part of the Opposition's Maha Vikas Aghadi; Uddhav was the Maharashtra CM for a couple of years. Uddhav was outfoxed by the BJP's machinations. The SAD broke away from the NDA in 2020, while the Janata Dal (United) returned to the Mahagathbandhan in Bihar last year.

Maharashtra, which experienced a tectonic shift in the form of the Sena split, was subjected to another seismic jolt when the Nationalist Congress Party (NCP), headed by strongman Sharad Pawar, broke. The mutineer was none other than Pawar's nephew Ajit Pawar, who walked into the NDA. During Tuesday's NDA show, the BJP got Chirag Paswan on board. Though

the Telugu Desam Party did not get an invite for the meeting, it is also expected to return to the NDA fold.

Modi was the centerpiece of the event as the leaders of each constituent vied to sing his praises. In his long speech, he trained his guns on another meeting which concluded shortly before the NDA members sat together.

Over 2,000 km away in Bengaluru, the Opposition parties met in a gathering of the Congress' steadfast friends such as the DMK, the Rashtriya Janata Dal and the Jharkhand Mukti Morcha and newer ones like Uddhav Thackeray's Sena faction, Aam Aadmi Party, the JD(U), the Trinamool Congress and the Samajwadi Party-Rashtriya Lok Dal combine. This meeting was planned soon after the Opposition rallied around for its first congregation at Patna on June 23. It seemed as though the NDA relaunch was a quick response to this forum of 26 parties, as though it was a parallel demonstration of strength.

After the Patna warm-up exercise, the Opposition took a few steps forward in Bengaluru. The most significant of these were christening the coalition 'INDIA' - an acronym for Indian National Developmental Inclusive Alliance (note the absence of the words 'secularism' and 'socialism', which used to be pet shibboleths), and drafting a resolution that addressed the concerns of each participant.

From here to 2024, the Opposition has its task cut out if it is to cohere into a credible, convincing alternative to the BJP. As for the BJP, the fundamental question is: if its electioneering is going to center around Modi, as it surely will, what was the compulsion to revive the NDA?

(The author is a senior journalist)



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Judge Cannon sets a trial date for next May in Trump's classified documents case in Florida



Former U.S. President Donald Trump File photo

JULY 21, 2023

WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP): A federal judge in Florida has scheduled a trial date for next May for former President Donald Trump in a case charging him with illegally retaining hundreds of classified documents.

The May 20, 2024, trial date, is a compromise between a request from prosecutors to set the trial for this December and a bid by defense lawyers to put it off indefinitely until sometime after the 2024 presidential election.

If the date holds, it would follow close

on the heels of a separate New York trial for Mr. Trump on dozens of state charges of falsifying business records in connection with an alleged hush money payment to a porn actor.

It also means the trial would not start until deep into the presidential nominating calendar and probably well after the Republican nominee is clear - though before that person is officially nominated at the Republican National Convention.

In pushing back the trial from the December 11 start date that the Justice Department had asked for, Judge Cannon wrote that "the government's proposed schedule is atypically accelerated and inconsistent with ensuring a fair trial".

She agreed with defense lawyers that the amount of evidence that would need to be sifted through before the trial, including classified information, was "voluminous and likely to increase in the normal course as trial approaches".

"The Court finds that the interests of justice served by this continuance outweigh the best interest of the public and Defendants in a speedy trial," Judge Cannon wrote.

In a statement referring to the Department of Justice, the Trump campaign called Judge Cannon's order "a

major setback to the DOJ's crusade to deny President Trump a fair legal process. The extensive schedule allows President Trump and his legal team to continue fighting this empty hoax".

Mr. Trump could yet face additional trials in the coming year. He revealed this week that he had received a letter informing him that he was a target of a separate Justice Department investigation into efforts to undo the results of the 2020 presidential election, an indication that charges could be coming soon.

The target letter referred to multiple distinct statutes Mr. Trump could be charged with violating, including conspiracy to defraud the government, according to a person familiar with the matter who insisted on anonymity to discuss private correspondence.

Mr. Trump's new lawyer in that investigation, John Lauro, told Fox News on July 21 that prosecutors appeared to be accusing Mr. Trump of "some kind of effort to obstruct" the January 6, 2021, counting of state electoral votes and "whether or not President Trump intimidated anyone or ballot stuffed".

He said Mr. Trump would not be appearing before a grand jury because "he did absolutely nothing wrong".

"He's done nothing criminal," Mr. Lauro said. "And he's made his case that he was entitled to take these positions as president of the United States. When he saw all these election discrepancies and irregularities going on, he did what any president was required to do because he took an oath to do exactly that." Multiple judges appointed by Mr. Trump and Mr. Trump's own attorney general said there was no evidence of widespread fraud that could have affected the outcome of the election.

Prosecutors in Georgia, meanwhile, plan to announce charging decisions within weeks in an investigation into attempts by Mr. Trump and his allies to subvert the vote in that state.

The trial before Cannon would take place in a federal courthouse in Fort Pierce.

It arises from a 38-count indictment last month, filed by Justice Department special counsel Jack Smith, which accused Trump of willfully hoarding classified documents, including top secret records, at his Mar-a-Lago estate in Palm Beach and conspiring with his valet, Walt Nauta, to hide them from investigators who demanded them back.

Mr. Trump and Mr. Nauta have both pleaded not guilty.

US Creates 'Keep STEM Talent Act of 2023' after Canada's H1B work permit fills up in 2 Days

BY ANIL GUPTA

JULY 20, 2023

WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP): Senator Durbin re-drafted the 'Keep STEM Talent Act of 2023' bill immediately after Canada's #H1 B-based open work permit saw an unprecedented demand.

It is to be noted that this same bill was introduced in 2022 but did not move forward. As per immigrants' popular opinion, immigration bills are always deadlocked in US Congress between Democrats and Republicans.

They have not seen any meaningful reform for the last 30+ years. That's probably the reason Canada's H1 B-based open work permit was received with so much enthusiasm.

Canada expected to fill up 10k spots in 1 year but filled up the quota in less than 48 hours.

KEEP STEM TALENT BILL OF 2023 : The bill aims to keep STEM graduates from US-based universities away from the dreaded yearly green card quota limits. This means that anyone who qualifies will be able to get a green card without any yearly GC quota limits.

AS PER THIS BILL, ONE CAN GET THE US GREEN CARD IF THEY HAVE:

- " STEM Degree from US-based University
- " Physically present in the US to complete this education.
- " Advance Degree (Masters or Higher level).
- " Job offer from a US employer
- " Job is directly related to STEM degree
- " The pay rate is higher than the median wage level in the local area of work location.

(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)

Indian-Americans reach out to lawmakers over increasing Hinduphobia in US

Elected representatives say there is a need to pay attention to discrimination against the Hindus in the US



Indian-Americans reach out to lawmakers over increasing Hinduphobia in US. Photo / Pexels

WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP): A group of eminent Indian-Americans has urged lawmakers here to take steps against rising Hinduphobia activities in the US and protect the rights of the Hindu community in the country.

As many as 21 Congressmen attended the Second National Hindu Advocacy Day on the US Capitol during which the elected representatives said that there is a need to pay attention to discrimination against the Hindus in the US.

There is need to pay attention to how, "there is discrimination not just by race but also by religion and Hinduphobia and intimidation of the Hindu community is an old problem," Congressman Rich McCormick told attendees of the day-long conference at the US Capitol organized by Coalition of Hindus of North America (CoHNA).

McCormick said that bills like California's SB403 "are racist, discriminatory and divisive, since they seek to classify people in ways that the people themselves reject." This is not American and needs to be opposed, the Republican Congressman from Georgia said.

"I believe strongly in freedom of religion for every individual and stand against any kind of attacks and phobia," said Congressman Sri Thanedar.

(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)

US and like-minded countries including India need to work together to shape the course of AI: Arti Prabhakar

JULY 21, 2023

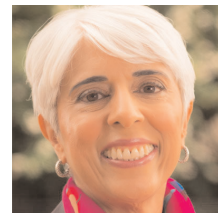
WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP): The United States and like-minded countries including India need to work together to shape the course of artificial intelligence, Arti Prabhakar, the Science Advisor to President Joe Biden, said on Friday, July 21 as the administration roped in several IT giants like Google and Microsoft to ensure that it is not misused and is being used for public good.

"The work that we are doing includes working with companies to hold them accountable and there's some important progress on that today. We're also working on executive actions that we can take within existing law, and the President is considering an executive order that we think can really boost our ability to deal with AI's harms and also start using it for good," Indian-American Prabhakar told PTI in an interview.

"That's what we can do from the executive branch. We'll also continue to work with Congress on bipartisan legislation as they start putting legislation forward. Then critically and underpinning all of this is the work that we're doing globally with our international partners and allies, including with India," Prabhakar said.

"And that is because this is a global technology. It's everywhere. Everyone is participating and it's really affecting, it's going to affect everyone's lives and we want to make sure that like-minded countries work together to shape the course of AI," she said in response to a question.

(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)



Arti Prabhakar, the Science Advisor to President Joe Biden

Indian American Republican presidential aspirants Haley, Ramaswamy on track to qualify for first Republican debate

JULY 17, 2023

WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP) : Nikki Haley and Vivek Ramaswamy, the two Indian American Republican aspirants in 2024 presidential race, are on track to qualify for the first Republican primary debate on Aug 23 in Milwaukee, according to media reports.

Haley and Ramaswamy would be facing off with former President Donald Trump and Florida Governor Ron DeSantis, South Carolina senator Tim Scott and former New Jersey governor Chris Christie during the debate in Milwaukee - the largest city in the key battleground state of Wisconsin.

Several other candidates including former Vice Present Mike Pence, Will Hurd, Doug Burgum, Asa Hutchinson, Ryan Binkley, Francis Suarez and Larry Elder are still working on qualifying, according to the reports.

The Republican National Committee set forth requirements in June that candidates must meet on status, polling, fundraising and pledging to take part in the debate.

Candidates must poll at least 1% in three national polls or 1% in two national polls and 1% from an early state poll from two "carve out" states recognized by the committee.

Candidates must also have a minimum



Nikki Haley and Vivek Ramaswamy are on track to qualify for first Republican debate

of 40,000 unique donors' part of their presidential campaign committee - with at least 200 unique donors per state - and sign a pledge agreeing to support the eventual party nominee.

According to the reports Haley, the first Indian American to serve in a presidential cabinet under Trump as US ambassador to UN is on track to meet the requirements for the debate.

The news reported she's raised over \$7.3 million through her campaign and affiliated committees between April and June.

The survey from Morning Consult



Ramaswamy has also fulfilled the debate criteria, according to his spokesperson Tricia McLaughlin cited by media reports.

McLaughlin told the media that Ramaswamy has 65,000 donors. As part of his fundraising strategy, Ramaswamy has laid out incentives for supporters such as offering to give them a 10% cut of the total money he raises for his presidential bid, according to Axios.

The survey from Morning Consult shows Ramaswamy has received 8% support from GOP voters, surpassing former Vice President Mike Pence and trailing behind DeSantis. He's also starting to receive double-digit figures in some polls.

Trump, the Republican frontrunner, has 56% of support from potential Republican voters, and he's placed first in other national and state polls, according to a survey from Morning Consult.

His campaign said that he has also raised more than \$35 million during the second quarter of the year - about twice the amount raised during the first quarter.

DeSantis, who's trailing behind Trump in the Republican primary polls, has raised more than \$20 million during the first six weeks of his candidacy and has about 50,000 donors as of late June.

shows she has registered 3% of support among Republican voters, which is on par with two of her rivals. She's also maintained scoring above 1% in other polls.

Haley indicated on Twitter she plans on supporting the eventual nominee for the Republican party.

"Absolutely irresponsible that Trump, DeSantis, and others won't commit 100% to supporting the Republican nominee," Haley tweeted. "There's no room for personal vendettas in this battle to save our country."

Biotechnology entrepreneur Vivek

Punjab-origin doctor from Faridkot gets key administrative post in US



Dr Sandhu (second from left) is seen with family and India's Ambassador to US Taranjit Singh Sandhu (third from left)

JULY 19, 2023

RICHMOND, VA (TIP): Virginia Governor Glenn Youngkin has appointed Indian-American gastroenterologist Dr Bimaljit Singh Sandhu to a key administration position in the health sector.

Dr Sandhu on Tuesday, July 18, was sworn in as a Board member of the Virginia Commonwealth University Health System Authority, a position in which the Indian-American will play a key role in the state's health education system.

The role of the board of directors is to oversee the entire operations of the health system, the med school, nursing school and pharmacy school.

"It's a lot of responsibility. We provide direction as far as the fundraising, giving strategic direction to the different medical schools and hospitals so that we are at the cutting edge and provide the best care to the Virginians," Dr Sandhu said after the swearing-in ceremony in Richmond.

Hailing from Faridkot in Punjab, Dr Sandhu migrated to the US in 2004 as a faculty member of Virginia Commonwealth University Medical Centre as a gastroenterologist. (Source: PTI)

Increase in H-1B quota sought to address shortage of highly skilled professionals in US



The H-1B visa is a non-immigrant visa that allows US companies to employ foreign workers in specialty occupations that require theoretical or technical expertise . Photo for representation only

in the country.

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

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

More than 240 members of the association named ITServe converged in the US capitol on Tuesday for the first-ever in-person Congressional advocacy day during which they plan to reach out to Congressmen and Senators to brief them about the massive shortage of highly skilled workforce in the US.

They said the shortage of highly skilled workforce is impacting their businesses and the American advantage in general.

(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)

JULY 19, 2023

WASHINGTON, D.C.

(TIP): An association of more than 2,100 small and mid-size IT companies in the US mostly owned and operated by Indian-Americans has urged lawmakers to double the H-1B quota from the current 65,000 to address the massive shortage of highly skilled workforce

Indian American man gets life for killing 3 teens for doorbell prank

JULY 18, 2023

RIVERSIDE, CA (TIP):

An Indian American man who killed three teens by ramming their car off the road after they played a doorbell prank on him has been sentenced to life in prison without the possibility of parole.

In April, Anurag Chandra, 45, was found guilty by a jury on three counts of murder, three counts of attempted murder and a special circumstance allegation of multiple murders in January 2020, according to a news release from the Riverside County District Attorney's Office.

"The lives of countless families will never be the same because of one man's anger, callousness and outrageous conduct, and I am grateful to Judge Navarro for imposing the maximum sentence in this case," District Attorney Mike Hestrin said during the sentencing on Friday.

On the night of Jan 19, 2020, the teens were having a sleepover and one of them was dared to play a prank commonly known as Ding-Dong Ditch.

One of the victims' mother told the media that they were celebrating a birthday and played the prank on the home of another teenager they thought lived there.

According to an investigation by the California Highway Patrol, the victims drove to a nearby home, where one of them jumped out of the Prius they were riding in, rang Chandra's doorbell, jumped back in the car and drove off with the other teens.

(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)



Anurag Chandra, 45, was found guilty by a jury on three counts of murder

Congress government in Chhattisgarh survives no-trust motion moved by BJP

The Bhupesh Baghel-led Congress government in Chhattisgarh on Saturday, July 22, survived a no-trust motion moved by the BJP on the last day of the Monsoon Session of the state assembly.

The no-confidence motion was defeated by voice vote in the state assembly shortly after 1 am after a 13-hour debate.

While the Congress has 71 members in the 90-member assembly, the BJP has 13 MLAs in the House.

The debate, which began shortly after noon on Friday, July 21, saw the BJP presenting a 109-point "chargesheet" against the Baghel government and accusing it of corruption and failure to keep poll promises.

During the stormy debate, the opposition members targeted the Congress government over alleged scams, non-fulfilment of its poll promises and "deteriorating" law and order situation.

The treasury bench rejected the charges claiming that the opposition failed to come up with any concrete issues and its chargesheet lacks facts.

Replying to the debate, Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel said the opposition chargesheet lacks facts and by bringing it, the BJP gave a chance to the government to highlight its achievements in the assembly.

UP man beheads sister, carries severed head to police station

A young man was arrested here on Friday as he walked into the police station with the severed head of his sister, allegedly killed by him over her relationship, police said.

The incident took place at Mithwara village in Fatehpur area following an argument between Riyaz (22) and his sister Aashifa (18).

Riyaz allegedly severed the head of his sister with a sharp weapon and was on his way to the police station with her head when the police arrested him, Additional Superintendent of Police Ashutosh Mishra said.

Aashifa had recently eloped with her partner Chand Babu, a resident of the same village, Mishra said.

However, the police recovered Aashifa a few days later and sent Babu to jail based on a complaint filed by the woman's family, he added.

A police team reached the crime spot and sent the body for post-mortem after collecting the evidence, the ASP said.

According to locals, Riyaz was opposed to his sister's relationship and the two often quarrelled over the issue, the police said.

A case had been registered and the accused arrested, the ASP said.

No interim suspension of Rahul Gandhi's conviction, Supreme Court lists case for August 4

NEW DELHI (TIP)

The Supreme Court on Friday, July 21, issued notice to complainant Purnesh Modi and the State of Gujarat in a petition filed by Congress leader Rahul Gandhi seeking a stay of his conviction in a criminal defamation case.

A Bench led by Justice BR Gavai listed the case for hearing on August 4.

The case relates to Gandhi's "Modi" surname remark in a political speech during a rally in Karnataka in 2019.

A request by senior advocate A.M. Singhvi and advocate Prasanna S., appearing for Gandhi, for an "interim suspension" of the conviction was refused.

Justice Gavai said that cannot be done without hearing the rival side first.

"At this stage, without hearing the other side, how can we...?" Justice Gavai asked.

Singhvi then pressed for the next "shortest possible date" for the hearing. He highlighted the need for an urgent hearing of the case as 111 days had already passed since Mr. Gandhi's disqualification from the House. He has already missed one session, and is unable to participate in the ongoing monsoon sitting of the Parliament.

When senior advocate Mahesh Jethmalani objected, Singhvi said "your client needs to be bothered only about the conviction part and not the disqualification part".

Singhvi said the by-elections for the Wayanad constituency may be announced any time. There was a constitutional mandate under Section 151A of the Representation of People Act 1951 to not allow the vacancy of a seat for more than



six months.

Jethmalani said he needed time to file written submissions on "propositions of law and questions of fact" in the case.

The Bench initially scheduled the case within the next 10 days on July 31, but finally fixed the case for hearing on August 4.

"We will take it up on August 4. The question we have to decide is whether the conviction deserves to be suspended or not," Justice Gavai observed.

Justice Gavai, as soon as the hearing began, informed the lawyers about his family's history of political association with the Congress party.

Justice Gavai's father, R.S. Gavai, was an activist, parliamentarian, Governor and the founder of the Republican Party of India (Gavai). His brother, Rajendra Gavai, is a politician.

"My father was associated, though not a Congress member... but closely

associated.. Singhvi, you know he was associated with the Congress for more than 40 years and my brother is still in politics and he is in Congress... Please take a call if you want me to hear this," Justice Gavai addressed Jethmalani and Singhvi.

Both sides told Justice Gavai to not recuse.

Singhvi said it was a sign of the times that "these kinds of things should be raked up".

"I am only doing my duty. I have to disclose this so there is no problem later on. I have been on the Bench for 20 years. These things have never affected my judgment," Justice Gavai said.

In fact, on a lighter note, Justice Gavai said his father was fellow parliamentarian and good friends with the fathers of both Singhvi and Jethmalani.

In his petition, Mr. Gandhi contended that the lower courts had branded his political speech critical of economic offenders and also of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, made in the course of democratic political activity, as an act of "moral turpitude".

"A political speech in the course of democratic political activity, critical of economic offenders, and also of Shri Narendra Modi, has been held to be an act of moral turpitude inviting the harshest punishment. Such a finding is gravely detrimental to democratic free speech in the midst of a political campaign. It is respectfully submitted that the same will set a disastrous precedent wiping out any form of political dialogue or debate which is remotely critical in any manner," the petition has argued. *Source: The Hindu*

Search operation at Maharashtra landslide site resumes; 86 people yet to be traced

MUMBAI (TIP)

The search and rescue operation at Irshalwadi hamlet in Maharashtra's Raigad district, where a massive landslide claimed the lives of at least 22 people, resumed for the third day on Saturday as 86 villagers are yet to be traced, officials said.

The landslide at the tribal village, situated on a hill slope under Khalapur tehsil that is located around 80 km from Mumbai, occurred on Wednesday, July 19 night.

The death toll till Thursday evening was 16, which went up to 22 on Friday as six more bodies were recovered. The deceased included nine men, as many women and four children. Nine members of a family perished in the disaster, officials said.

"The search and rescue operation by the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) and other government agencies resumed for the third day on Saturday morning," a police official said.

The search operation was suspended around 6 pm on Friday, July 21, due to heavy rain, an NDRF official said.

"Four NDRF teams and other agencies resumed the operation on Saturday morning," he said.

At least 17 of 48 houses in the village, located on a hill slope, were fully or partially buried under the landslide debris.



NDRF officials undertake the rescue operation in the village. PTI

As per the Raigad district disaster management office, of 229 village residents, 22 were dead, 10 were injured, 111 were safe and 86 people were yet to be traced.

Shortage of 11,266 Major, Captain-rank officers in IAF and Navy

A low intake of officers during Covid pandemic has led to a shortage of 11,266 Majors and Captains and officers of the equivalent and other ranks in the Indian Air Force and Indian Navy.

The Army has a shortage of 2,094 Major-level officers and 4,734 at the Captain level. The IAF is short of 881 Squadron Leaders and 940 Flight Lieutenants, and the Navy 2,617 officers of the rank of Lt Commander and below. The Ministry of Defence in a written reply to the Lok Sabha today said the "low intake during Covid-19 pandemic" was the main reason for the shortage. Minister of State for Defence Ajay Bhatt in a reply to a question posed by three MPs — Manish Tewari, Prof Sougata Ray and Haji Fazlur Rehman — also attributed the shortage to a low induction in supporting cadres like the Short Service Commission (SSC).

The recruitment in the forces is done through several streams. One of them is through the SSC, where cadets pass out after 11 months of training and serve in the forces for a fixed tenure of 10 to 14 years.

Govt raises concern over Yasin Malik's appearance In SC

Expressing displeasure over the personal appearance of Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF) chief Yasin Malik, the Supreme Court on Friday, July 21, questioned why he was brought to court when no such order was passed.

The Central government also expressed concern over the physical appearance of Yasin Malik, in the apex court. Solicitor General of India Tushar Mehta wrote to Union Home Secretary Ajay Kumar Bhalla on Friday flagging a "serious security lapse" after Jammu Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF) chief Yasin Malik, serving life term in Tihar jail, was brought to the Supreme Court for attending a case proceeding.

"It is my firm view that this is serious security lapse. A person with terrorist and secessionist background like Yasin Malik who is not only a convict in terror funding case but has known connections with terror organisations in Pakistan could have escaped, could have been forcibly taken away or could have been killed," Mehta wrote.

He said that even the security of the Supreme Court would have been put to a serious risk if any untoward incident were to happen. Mehta highlighted that there is an order passed by the Ministry of Home Affairs with regard to Malik under section 268 of the Criminal Code of Procedure which prevents the jail authorities to bring the said convict out of the jail premises for security reasons.

Varanasi court allows survey of Gyanvapi mosque

NEW DELHI (TIP)

The Varanasi district court on Friday, July 21, ordered an extensive survey of the Gyanvapi Masjid by the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) to ascertain whether the mosque was built over a pre-existing Hindu temple, holding that the scientific investigation is "necessary" for the "true facts" to come out. Allowing an application by four Hindu women plaintiffs, district judge Ajaya Krishna Vishvesha directed ASI to conduct a comprehensive survey, using dating, excavation and ground penetrating radar (GPR) techniques, of the plot where the mosque stands, next to the Kashi Vishwanath Temple.

The court, however, ordered excluding the section which has remained sealed since the Supreme Court order in May 2022. The area under seal is where Hindus insist a Shivling has been found, while Muslims claim it is part of a fountain.

"The director of ASI is directed to conduct a detailed scientific investigation by using GPR Survey, excavation, dating method and other modern techniques of the present structure (mosque) to find out as to whether same has been constructed over a pre-existing structure of a Hindu temple," stated the court order, seeking a report from ASI up to August 4 when the matter will be taken up next.

Dating is a method of calculating the age of very old objects while a GPR survey is a method of gathering data about what's below the ground using ground-penetrating radar technology that sends electromagnetic energy signals into the subsurface.

The order directed ASI to carry out GPR



survey under the three domes of the mosque (where the plaintiffs claim there are remains of the pinnacle of a temple) and beneath the western wall (where the Hindu shrine of Shringar Gauri exists).

"The director of ASI is also directed to conduct GPR survey beneath the ground of all the cellars and conduct excavation, if required. The director of ASI is also directed to conduct dating exercise of the pillars and plinth of the building to find out the age and the nature of construction," it added.

Permitting ASI to carry out scientific investigation of all the artefacts found in the mosque to find out their age and

nature, the court further directed ASI to study all objects of historical and religious importance existing in different parts of the building and also beneath the structure which may be found during excavation. "The director of ASI is also directed to conduct GPR survey, excavation wherever required, dating exercise and other scientific methods for determining the age and nature of construction existing at the site in question," said the court, adding that ASI must ensure that there should be no damage to the structure standing on the disputed land and that it remains intact and unharmed. *Source: HT*

India making great efforts in green growth and energy transition: PM Modi

PANAJI (TIP)

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday, July 22, said India is making great efforts in green growth and energy transition, and asserted that the country is moving ahead strongly on its climate commitments.

Addressing the G20 Energy Ministers' Meeting via video link, PM Modi underlined that even though every nation has a different reality and pathway for energy transition, he firmly believes that the goals of every country are the same.

Throwing light on India's efforts in green growth and energy transition, he pointed out that India is the most populated nation and the fastest-growing large economy in the world and yet is strongly moving towards its climate commitments.

The PM informed that India has achieved its non-fossil installed electric capacity target nine years in advance and set a higher target for itself. He mentioned that the nation plans to achieve 50 percent non-fossil installed capacity by 2030.

"India is also among the global leaders in solar and wind power", the Prime



Minister said as he expressed delight that the Working Group delegates got a chance to witness the level and scale of India's commitment to clean energy by visiting the Pavagada Solar Park and Modhera Solar Village.

Highlighting the achievements of the country in the last 9 years, the Prime Minister informed that India connected more than 190 million families with LPG while also recording the historic milestone of connecting every village with electricity. He also touched upon working to provide piped cooking gas to

people which has the potential to cover more than 90 percent of the population in a few years. "Our effort is to work for inclusive, resilient, equitable and sustainable energy for all", he added.

The Prime Minister informed that in 2015, India began a small movement by launching a scheme for the use of LED lights which turned out to be the largest LED distribution program in the world saving us more than 45 billion units of energy per year.

He also touched upon starting the largest agricultural pump solarization initiative in the world and India's domestic electric vehicle market projection of 10 million annual sales by 2030. He also highlighted commencing the rollout of 20 percent Ethanol Blended Petrol this year which aims to cover the entire country by 2025.

For decarbonizing India, the Prime Minister said that the country is working on Mission mode on Green Hydrogen as an alternative and aims to transform India into a Global Hub for the production, use and export of Green Hydrogen and its derivatives.

India in history this Week

JULY 21, 2023, TO JULY 27, 2023

21 JULY

1920 Sharada Ma, the wife of Shri Ramakrishna Paramahansa passed away.

1947 The Constituent Assembly of India approved the national flag.

1963 Kashi Vidyapeeth got the status of university.

2007 Pratibha Patil became the first woman President of India.

1883 Hall Star Theater, India's first public theater in Kolkata, started in 1883.

1962 India fought a war on the border between China in 1962.



1930 Famous film lyricist Anand Bakshi was born .

22 JULY

1933 Nationalist leader Mohan Sen Gupta died.

1918 Indralal Rai, India's first skilled pilot, was killed in a battle with Germany in London during the First World War.

1947 The Constituent Assembly adopted the Tricolor as the national flag of the country.

1981 Apple, India's first geostationary satellite, started functioning.



2012 Pranab Mukherjee elected the 13th President of India.

1999 The Work Plan for Equal Remuneration for Equal Work by the International Labor Organization came into force in 1999.



2009 The longest total solar eclipse of the 29th century was the solar eclipse of 22 July 2009.

1968 India's famous female physician, social worker

and recipient of Padma Bhushan, Muttu Lakshmi Reddy died in 1968.

23 JULY



1856 Bal Gangadhar Tilak was born.

1906 The revolutionary Chandrashekhhar Azad was born.

2004 The king of comedy, Mahmood Ali, died.

2016 Famous Chitrakar S. born in India. H. Raza passed away

24 JULY



1937 Famous Indian actor Manoj Kumar was born.

2004 Italy decided to start a seven visa call center for Indian tourists.

1932 Ramakrishna Mission Service Establishment was established.

1994 Bodo militants killed 37 Muslims in Assam's busbari.



2000 S. Vijayalakshmi became the first female grandmaster of chess.

1969 The Apollo-11 spacecraft returned to Earth.

1989 Almost all the members of the opposition in

the Lok Sabha resigned, which was accepted.

25 JULY

1813 The first boat race was held in Calcutta (now Kolkata).



1977 Giani Zail Singh was sworn in as the seventh President of India.

1987 Rangaswamy Venkataraman became the eighth President of India.

1992 SD Sharma became the ninth President of India.

1997 KR Narayanan became the tenth President of India.

1844 Birth of India's leading educationist Gurudas Banerjee.

26 JULY

2008 There were 21 blasts in Ahmedabad city of Gujarat. 56 people were killed and more than 200 injured in this accident.

1876 Establishment of Indian Association in Calcutta.



2005 Unprecedented rain in Mumbai stalled life, killing more than a thousand people.

2002 The first Chhattisgarh State Shooting Championship started.

2009 India becomes the sixth country to launch nuclear submarine.

27 JULY

1897 Bal Gangadhar Tilak was arrested for the first time.

1982 The first American visit of the then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi in nearly 11 years.

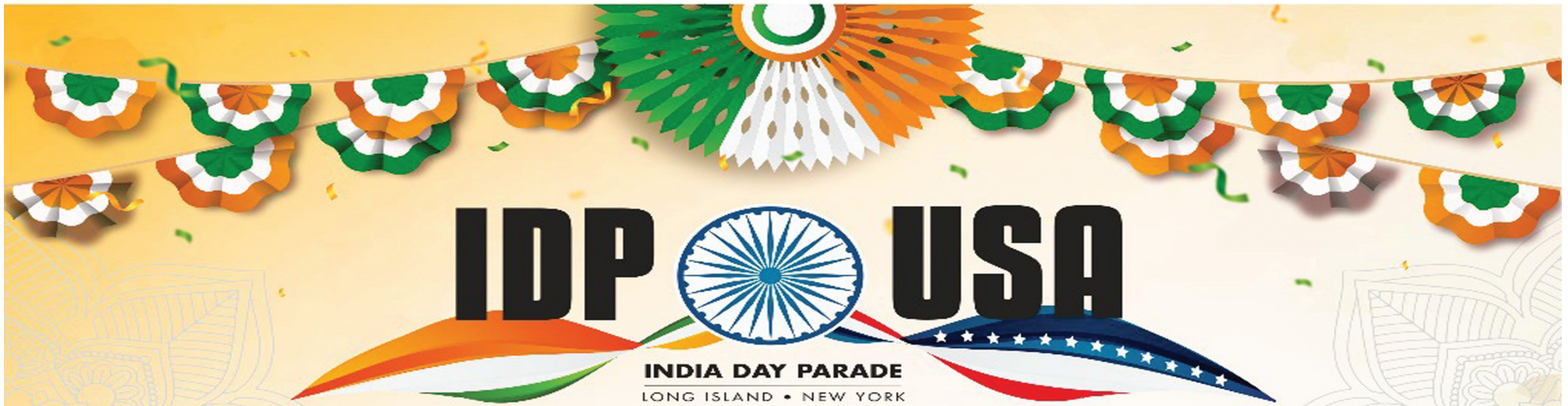
1994 Shooter Jaspal Rana won the gold medal in the World Shooting Championship.

1839 Central Reserve Police Force was established.

2015 The 11th President of India, Dr. Abdul Kalam died in Shillong.

1889 The branch of the Indian National Congress was opened in London in 1889 under the leadership of Dadabhai Naoroji, William Wedderburn, WS Cann and William Digby in London.

1935 Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar's wife Mata Ramabai died in 1935.



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GROUNDBREAKING EVENT HIGHLIGHTING THE ARCHITECT OF THE NEW BJP

Indo - American Arts Council
Presents

IMPACT MODI

SUNDAY, JULY 23, 2023 AT 11 AM - 3 PM (ET)

Upper Montclair Country Club
177 Hepburn Road Clifton, NJ 07012



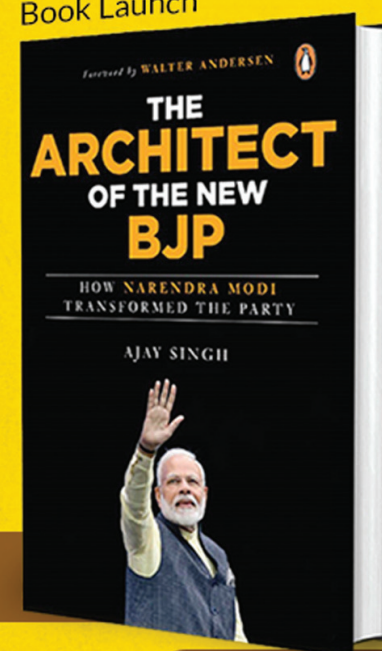
Moderator
Mr. Vikram J. Singh
Former Deputy Assistant Secretary of
Defense for South and Southeast Asia



Author
Mr. Ajay Kumar Singh
Press Secretary to President of India

Intro Remarks on PM Modi's game changing visit:
Mr. Ankur Vaidya
Chairman Federation of Indian Associations

Book Launch



Drinks and Lunch will be served.

Dress Code: Business casual

'Architect of the New BJP,' poster

Credit / iaac.us

BY MABEL PAIS

IMPACT MODI: a groundbreaking event dedicated to igniting change and transformation, takes place on Sunday, July 23, 2023 at the prestigious Upper Montclair Country Club, 177 Hepburn Rd Clifton NJ 07012. With a focus on empowering individuals and driving positive social impact, this event aims to inspire attendees to become agents of change in their communities.

Impact Modi brings together veteran journalist and author Mr. Ajay Singh in conversation with Mr. Vikram J. Singh, former deputy assistant secretary of Defense for South and Southeast Asia, to discuss his book, 'The Architect of the New BJP: How Narendra Modi Transformed The Party.'

Anil Bansal, IAAC Board Member, stated, "Prime Minister Narendra Modi is acknowledged as a global phenomenon who has propelled India on the world stage as a major force for good. The program features two leading commentators who will provide deep insights into the man, his mission, and what his long-term impact on Indian polity will be."

Nirmal Mattoo, IAAC Chairman, commented, "Vikram Singh has occupied the highest offices in the US at a policy level dealing with security, defense, and aerospace. He will share his insights as to what the agreement between the US

and India really means to both countries and people."

FOR ATTENDEES

Attendees at the event will have the unique opportunity to engage in thought-provoking discussions. Whether one is an aspiring social entrepreneur, a corporate professional seeking purpose-driven initiatives, or simply an individual passionate about creating a better world, Impact Modi offers invaluable insights to learn, connect, and collaborate.

THE BOOK

In less than forty years of its existence, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has become the world's largest political party and continues to go from strength to strength in Indian politics. Although its historic rise may seem organic to some, there is much internal deliberation and planning that has aided the growth of this 180-million-member organization.

'The Architect of the New BJP' uses in-depth research and concrete examples to explain how the BJP has transformed over the decades. It reveals lesser-known contributions, like Prime Minister Narendra Modi's experiments with traditional methods of party-building, his keen eye for detail and the different innovative methodologies to

expand the party. Ajay Singh not only examines the past of the party, including the vision of its founders, but also provides a glimpse into the future of the party. Based on extensive interviews with many party workers, leaders and observers, this is the story of how the veterans of this cadre-based party, appreciating its limitations, developed a unique Indian model that eventually transformed the BJP into the election-winning machine it is today.

REGISTRATION & BOOK SIGNING

To register and secure a spot, visit eventbrite.com/e/impact-modi-registration-675033672887

Register early to avoid disappointment. Book sales will not happen, so bring your book if you'd like it signed.

CLUB DRESS CODE POLICY

Appropriate denim attire includes jeans/ pants, jackets, proper length shorts, skirts, skorts, capris, and dresses. Denim must be neat and free of any rips, stains and excess wear. UMCC does not allow cut-offs, overalls, baggy jeans, bleached/acid washed or torn denim.

Gentlemen must wear a collared shirt tucked in anytime on Club property, which must remain tucked in at all

times. Please note the following clothing is prohibited at all times: shirts with slogans/pictures, hats/visors (in any active dining area and in Clubhouse), cargo shorts/pants, jogging/sweat shirts/suits, tee/athletic shirts.

Jackets are required for all "Holiday" Events. Members are responsible to ensure their Guests comply with the UMCC Dress Code at all times. Children 14 years of age and older are subject to the UMCC Dress code. Children under 14 years of age should be appropriately dressed.

THE INDO-AMERICAN ARTS COUNCIL (IAAC):

The IAAC supports all the artistic disciplines in classical, fusion, folk and innovative forms influenced by the arts of India. We work cooperatively with colleagues around the U.S. to broaden our collective audiences and to create a network for shared information, resources and funding. Its focus is to help artists and art organizations in North America as well as to facilitate artists from India to exhibit, perform and produce their work here. For more information, visit iaac.us.

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

CELEBRATE INDIA'S INDEPENDENCE ? WITH THE FESTIVAL OF MUSIC

BY MABEL PAIS

The IAAC Festival of Indian Music takes place for the 2nd year on three incredibly mesmerizing days of soulful melodies and rhythms celebrating India's rich musical heritage. From August 11 to 13, New York City will resonate with the harmonious sounds of renowned artists, and pay homage to the late Pandit Vijay Kichlu, one of the greatest proponents of Indian classical music.

PROGRAM - FESTIVAL OF INDIAN MUSIC

DAY 1

WHO: LATE PADMA SHRI PT. VIJAY KICHLU

WHEN: August 11, 2023 @ 5:30 p.m. Eastern Time

WHERE: The Consulate of India in New York, 3 E 64th St, New York, NY 10065

Tribute to the musical legacy of Late Padma Shri Pt. Vijay Kichlu with snippets from the film Raga Revelry

The festival opens with a tribute to the esteemed Pandit Vijay Kichlu, whose contributions to the world of classical music are immeasurable. This emotional journey will be accompanied by exclusive screenings of snippets from the documentary Raga Revelry, shedding light on the extraordinary life and musical journey of Pandit Vijay Kichlu.

Performer and musicologist Vijay Kichlu's journey to create a permanent sanctuary for this valuable inheritance, transplants the viewer to the center of Indian spirituality and culture. Heartfelt performances and interviews from legendary musicians along with the joyful camaraderie between the artists, unfolds the Rasa, the essence or soul of this music.

Vijay Kichlu was an Indian classical singer. He studied Dhrupad with the Dagar Brothers and Khayal with Latafat Hussain Khan, whose style had a strong connection with Dhrupad. He and his brother, Ravi Kichlu, formed a famous classical vocalist duo. Kichlu was the founder and head of the ITC Music Academy for 25 years. Kichlu founded Sangeet Research Academy for patronizing and nurturing upcoming talents in Indian classical music. In 2018, he was bestowed with the civilian award Padma Shri by the Government of India.

Raga Revelry is a fun introduction to the centuries-old tradition of North Indian classical music, often referred to as Raga music. For thousands of years, musicians have dedicated their lives to preserving this unwritten heritage that evokes a vivid range of emotions and moods and invites the listener to go beyond a limited perspective of self-awareness.

TICKETS

For tickets, visit iaac.us

DAY 2

WHO: MALINI AWASTHI

WHEN: August 12, 2023

WHERE: Merkin Hall, Kaufman Music Center 129 West 67th Street, New York, NY 10023

Padma Shri Malini Awasthi is an Indian folk singer. She sings in Bhojpuri, Awadhi and Hindi. She also presents Thumri and Kajri. The Government of India awarded her the civilian honor of the Padma Shri in 2016.

sensation, Malini Awasthi. With her powerful voice and remarkable talent, Malini Awasthi effortlessly captures the essence of Indian folk music, transporting the audience to the culturally diverse landscapes of India. This unforgettable evening promises to be a celebration of the country's rich folk traditions, showcasing the beauty of its regional music. She will present a collection of foot tapping songs in various languages - Hindi, Awadhi, Bhojpuri, Bundelkhandi & more. She will also present semi-classical compositions from her vast repertoire.



She is known for her contribution in Bhojpuri music.

Malini Awasthi is a regular performer at popular classical music festival, Jahan-e-Khusrau. She has a high pitch voice and is popular for rendition of thumari (style),Thaare Raho Baanke Shyam. She participated in Imagine's junoon. She has been appointed as the brand ambassador by Election Commission for U.P elections 2012 and 2014. She sang the song "Sunder Susheel" in the 2015 film Dum Lage ke Haisha which had music by Anu Malik.

ACCOMPANIED BY:

Anubrata Chatterjee - Tabla
Monty Lalani - Dholak
Brij Joshi - Keyboard
Mayank Patel - Octopad
Rohan Prabhudesai - Harmonium

Prepare to be enthralled as Merkin Hall, Kaufman Music Center, plays host to the soul-stirring melodies of folk music

TICKETS

For tickets, visit kaufmanmusiccenter.org/mch/event/queen-of-folk-malini-awasthi-annual-festival-of-music/

DAY 3

WHO: THREE GENERATION SAROD QUINTET

WHEN: August 13, 2023

WHERE: Symphony Space Level, 2537 Broadway, New York, NY 10025

The grand finale of the Music Festival will feature a breathtaking performance by the legendary Sarod Maestro Amjad Ali Khan, accompanied by his exceptionally talented sons, Amaan Ali Bangash and Ayaan Ali Bangash. Joining them on stage will be Ayaan's twin sons, Abeer Ali Bangash & Zohaar Ali Bangash, marking a truly remarkable display of

three generations of musical brilliance.

Symphony Space will reverberate with the captivating sounds of the sarod, enchanting the hearts of all music enthusiasts. It is an incomparable journey where the Guru leads you from the visible to the invisible, from the material to the divine, from the ephemeral to the eternal. A wonderful and strange mystery of Indian classical music is the fact that one can spend a lifetime trying to obtain knowledge and perfection and still feel that one has only touched a mere drop of an ocean. The learning never stops along the Journey of searching and discovering.

Indian Classical music has indeed had a very spiritual and scientific development and growth. This was a phenomenon that existed from Vedic times.

The Sarod Quintet concert will start with a solo presentation by Maestro Amjad Ali Khan. This will be followed by a Sarod duet by Amaan Ali Bangash and Ayaan Ali Bangash. They present a traditional Raga of Indian Classical music set to various rhythmic time cycles. Keeping India's ethos of traditions and legacies alive, Three Generation Quintet represents the 6th, 7th and 8th generation of musicians coming together on stage and performing together.

This will be the third segment featuring Sarod Grand Master Amjad Ali Khan and his virtuoso sons Amaan Ali Bangash and Ayaan Ali Bangash on Sarods. They will be joined by Ayaan's 10 year old Twins Zohaar Ali Bangash and Abeer Ali Bangash. They present a Tribute to India's ongoing 75th year of Independence celebration. Amit Kavthekar and Anubrata Chatterjee, two brilliant Tabla (Indian two-piece drums) players provide accompaniment for this concert.

The family recently completed a five city tour in India.

TICKETS

For tickets, visit symphonyspace.org/events/vp-iaac-presents-the-sarod-quintet

Sunny Thakkar, Music Festival Director, expressed his excitement for the event, saying, "After the grand success of last year's star studded Festival of Music specially organized for India@75, we are thrilled to curate the festival again this year and continue to bring something special to the audiences in New York City. Our aim is to create an immersive experience that showcases the diversity and magnificence of Indian music. This year's lineup promises to be an extraordinary journey through the realms of classical, folk, and inter generational performances."

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

NYC WELCOMES FEST OF CINEMA

BY MABEL PAIS

KAMAL AHMED'S Narrative Feature 'Crash the System'

Shorts from

SNIGDHA KAPOOR'S 'Look Like You,' and

DARSHAN SINGH BHULLER'S 'Nala'

And many more



Crash the System

Credit / festivalofcinemany.com



Look Like You

Credit / festivalofcinemany.com



Nala

Credit / festivalofcinemany.com

The Festival of Cinema NYC (festivalofcinemany.com) returns to the Regal UA Midway (108-22 Queens Blvd. Forest Hills, NY 11375) and the Queens Library at Forest Hills (108-22 Queens Blvd Forest Hills, NY 11375) for its 7th year, August 3-13.

After a pre-launch party inside Resorts World NYC's famous 360° Bar and Lounge (110-0 Rockaway Blvd, 110-00 Rockaway Blvd, South Ozone Park, NY 11420) on Wednesday, August 3, FOC NYC will screen over 100 independent films from local filmmakers as well as world cinema representing countries that include Turkey, Spain, Denmark, The Philippines, Germany, and more.

New initiatives and presentations include participating in the Theaters Unsilenced Initiative. A nonprofit organization founded by three sisters in Queens whose mission is to spread awareness and provide educational resources and tools to help improve communication with the deaf and hard of hearing community. As part of the initiative, participating filmmakers have added subtitles and captioning to aid in making the festival accessible to individuals with hearing impairment.

The Festival of Cinema NYC Founder and Executive Director Jayson Simba, said, "This year's edition of the film festival embraces the idea of not simply screening our films and celebrating our filmmakers, but underlining the 'festival' in 'film festival', by

emphasizing the connection of filmmaker to audience member via our panels, discussions, and Q&As, focusing on our accessibility, and increasing the interactive nature of FOC NYC. It always begins and ends with great films, but it becomes special by highlighting why we love to come to the movie theater and the artistic accomplishments of our filmmakers."

2023 FESTIVAL OF CINEMA NYC FILM LINEUP

OPENING NIGHT

PARIS IS IN HARLEM

DIRECTOR: CHRISTINA KALLAS L USA L 110M

On the eve of New York City's controversial "No Dancing" Law getting repealed, the lives of several strangers are forever changed by a shooting at a historic jazz bar in Harlem.

PRECEDED BY

HERIZON

DIRECTOR: MIGUEL GALLARDO L USA L 7M

A woman's escape to the beach becomes a desperate quest for self-liberation when she's confronted with an enigmatic force of nature. As the sun sets, the boundaries between reality and metaphor quickly begin to disappear.

CLOSING NIGHT

DISFLUENCY

DIRECTOR: ANNA BAUMGARTEN L USA L 96M

After unexpectedly failing her final college class, Jane, an aspiring speech pathologist, retreats home to her parent's lake house in the hometown she grew up in. Her sister and friends soften the burden of failure, inspiring her to embrace the carefree summer as she tries to sort out what to do next. She also rekindles an old friendship with her neighbor Amber, a single mother with a difficult toddler, utilizing her skills and knowledge to help her connect with her son. Jane, however, fights through PTSD and imposter syndrome as she attempts to piece together what exactly happened in order to unravel the emotional and psychological tangle that has been haunting her as she finds a path forward toward the never-ending process of healing.

PRECEDED BY

FLOPPIES

DIRECTOR: JOHN CAPPELLO L USA L 14M

Floppies is an intimate glimpse into the complicated relationship between an artist-son and his dementia-addled father as they attempt to communicate by collaborating on a one page comic. As they bring this comic to life, they recall flashbacks to key moments in each of their lives.

SPECIAL SCREENINGS AND PRESENTATIONS

A GUIDE TO RECOGNIZING YOUR SAINTS (2006)

Dir: Dito Montiel l USA l 100m

FIRE BONES

Dirs: Greg Brownderville, Bart Weiss l USA l 90m

ADDITIONAL NARRATIVE FEATURES

BOYS AT TWENTY - WORLD PREMIERE

Dir: Isaac Dell l USA l 76m

CRASH THE SYSTEM

Dir: Kamal Ahmed l USA l 75m

An ex-conman unwillingly becomes a pawn to the industrial weapons industry and tries to overthrow them when he meets up with an underground group of saboteurs who are iconoclastic.

D.O.A.

Dir: Kurt St.Thomas l USA l 82m

GHOSTS OF THE VOID

Dir: Jason Miller l USA l 91m

THE GOLDSMITH

Dir: Vincenzo Ricchiuto l Italy l 89m

GOOD SIDE OF BAD

Dir: Alethea Root l USA l 96m

GUY FRIENDS

Dir: Jonathan Smith l USA l 84m

MISS VIBORG

Dir: Marianne Blicher l Denmark l 100m

SIBEL'S SILENCE - NORTH AMERICAN PREMIERE

Dir: Aly Yeganeh l France l 95m

STARS

Dir: Mars Roberge l USA, Canada l 108m

TALES OF BABYLON - NORTH AMERICAN PREMIERE

Dir: Pelayo De Lario l UK l 126m

THERE'S NO PLACE LIKE HOME

Dir: Puk Grasten l Denmark l 106m

WAITING FOR THE LIGHT TO CHANGE

Dir: Linh Tran l USA l 89m

WHERE IS THE LIE?

Dir: Quark Henares l Philippines l 87m

DOCUMENTARIES

AURORA'S SUNRISE

Dir: Inna Sahakyan l Armenia, Germany, Lithuania l 96m

THE BOOK OF HARTH

Dir: Pierre Guillet l USA l 63m

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Dir: David Sabshon l USA l 105m

GOTHAM: THE FALL AND RISE OF NEW YORK

Dir: Matthew Taylor l USA l 124m

The Unseen Crisis: Vaccine Stories - North American Premiere

YOU WERE NEVER TOLD

Dir: Cindy Drukier l Canada l 89m

SHORT FILMS

THERE ARE 85 SHORT FILMS, INCLUDING

LOOK LIKE YOU

Dir: Snigdha Kapoor l USA l 13m

NALA

Dir: Darshan Singh Bhuller l USA l 13m

SCREENPLAY COMPETITION

There are 13 screenplays in the competition.

FESTIVAL OF CINEMA NYC:

Festival of Cinema, Inc. was founded by local independent filmmakers with a passion to get movies made and to expand the reach of artists' work. Recognizing the challenges filmmakers face in the film industry, the festival's aim is to establish a presence, and spread awareness, of cinematic creativity. Learn more at festivalofcinemany.com

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



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*Gadar 2 song
Khairiyat: Sunny
Deol crosses
mountains to bring
son home*

Khairiyat, a new song from Gadar 2, was released on Tuesday. The over three-minute-long track gives us a glimpse of Sunny Deol and Ameesha Patel's lives as they await meeting their son played by Utkarsh Sharma.

In the video, an emotional Sunny Deol (Tara Singh) is seen travelling on top of a bus crossing mountains and rivers, while reading a letter. Back home, Ameesha (Sakeena) gets emotional as she prays for her son. On the other hand, their son Utkarsh (Charanjeet), now all grown up, remembers the happy time he spent with his family.

The video doesn't reveal how Charanjeet got separated from his family. Sunny while travelling prays to every God to keep his son safe. Throughout the song, all three of them cry, remember their good old times together and pray. Khairiyat is composed by Mithoon, written by Sayeed Quadri and sung by Arijit Singh.

Bringing back the magic and nostalgia of Tara and Sakina's love story, the film's team recently rearranged the iconic chartbuster, Udd Jaa Kaale Kaava. In no time the song started trending across various social media platforms and garnered tremendous love and appreciation from the fans.

Alia Bhatt turns rapper at Rocky Aur Rani Kii Prem Kahaani song launch

Apart from being a phenomenal actor, Alia Bhatt is also a great singer and she showed her singing skills at the launch of her upcoming film Rocky Aur Rani Kii Prem Kahaani's third song 'Ve Kamleya' on Tuesday, July 18. She also impressed the audience as she rapped at the event with the help of her co-star Ranveer Singh.

Social media is abuzz with viral videos from the song's launch event. In one clip, Alia took center stage and performed the rap from 'What Jhumka'. When she fumbled, her co-star Ranveer Singh, was quick to jump in as he started rapping with her, adding his energy to the performance.

Alia's vocal strength was further showcased as she crooned the film's romantic track 'Tum Kya Mile'. Her sweet voice left the audience mesmerised. The song is originally sung by Arijit Singh and Shreya Ghoshal.

Alia and Ranveer's camaraderie was evident as the two danced on the stage. In the clip, as Ranveer attempted to sing 'Tum Kya Mile', Alia playfully intervened and reminded him of their flight. "Flight hum miss karne vale hai (We are going to miss our flight)," Alia quipped, playfully pulling Ranveer away from the stage.

Directed by Karan Johar and penned by Ishita Moitra, Shashank Khaitan and Sumit Roy, Rocky Aur Rani Kii Prem Kahaani will hit the theatres on July 28. The film boasts a stellar cast, including veteran actors Dharmendra, Jaya Bachchan, and Shabana Azmi.



Bhumi Pednekar gets a room full of red roses for her birthday



Actor Bhumi Pednekar turned 34 on July 18 and she celebrated the day with lots of flowers and multiple cakes thanks to her loved ones. On Tuesday, July 18, night, the actor took to Instagram to share a series of inside pictures and videos from her lavish birthday celebration. She was joined by sister Samiksha Pednekar and others on a birthday trip to Goa.

The actor wrote on Instagram, "I feel so blessed and loved. Thank you, for all your love and wishes. Couldn't have asked for a better day (red heart emoji)." In the accompanying post she shared pictures and videos of her birthday outfit, the decor at her birthday bash as well as group selfies. Bhumi posed solo in front of a table covered with red rose bouquets and white candles. The room was also decorated with red roses. She wore a pale purple dress. The actor also shared a video of herself cutting her

birthday cakes; she danced in a dark room lit up with candles in another video. Bhumi also shared a picture showing a garden decorated with flower petals that said 'HBD Bhumi'.

The actor wrote on Instagram, "I feel so blessed and loved. Thank you, for all your love and wishes. Couldn't have asked for a better day (red heart emoji)." In the accompanying post she shared pictures and videos of her birthday outfit, the decor at her birthday bash as well as group selfies. Bhumi posed solo in front of a table covered with red rose bouquets and white candles. The room was also decorated with red roses. She wore a pale purple dress. The actor also shared a video of herself cutting her birthday cakes; she danced in a dark room lit up with candles in another video. Bhumi also shared a picture showing a garden decorated with flower petals that said 'HBD Bhumi'.



Tom Cruise joins striking actors to battle use of AI

In a surprising turn of events, Tom Cruise, the renowned A-list actor, has thrown his support behind the Hollywood actors' strike. During a Zoom negotiating session between the Screen Actors Guild-American Federation of Television and Radio Artists (SAG-AFTRA) and the Alliance of Motion Picture and Television Producers (AMPTP), Cruise made a surprise appearance, according to The Hollywood Reporter. The 61-year-old star passionately spoke out against the increasing presence of artificial intelligence (AI) in the TV and film streaming era. Cruise's statement resonated with thousands of actors and entertainers who are currently on strike alongside the Writers Guild of America (WGA). This joint strike is a significant event, marking the first time in over six decades that both actors and screenwriters have united in this way.

Cruise's involvement in the strike has had a tangible impact on the industry. Production of his latest "Mission: Impossible" movie, as well as other high-profile projects like the "Avatar" sequel, "Gladiator 2," and "Deadpool 3," has come to a halt due to the strike action.

Dylan Sprouse, Barbara Palvin marry in Hungary

Congratulations are in order for actor Dylan Sprouse and model Barbara Palvin. The couple tied the knot in Hungary – Barbara's home country – on July 15, according to a new report. Their official wedding photos were shared on Wednesday, July 19, and give a glimpse of their special day.

Dylan's twin brother Cole Sprouse served as his brother's best man, while his girlfriend Ari Fournier was one of Barbara's bridesmaids. The newlyweds are reportedly also planning a bigger wedding ceremony later this year, which will take place in the US.

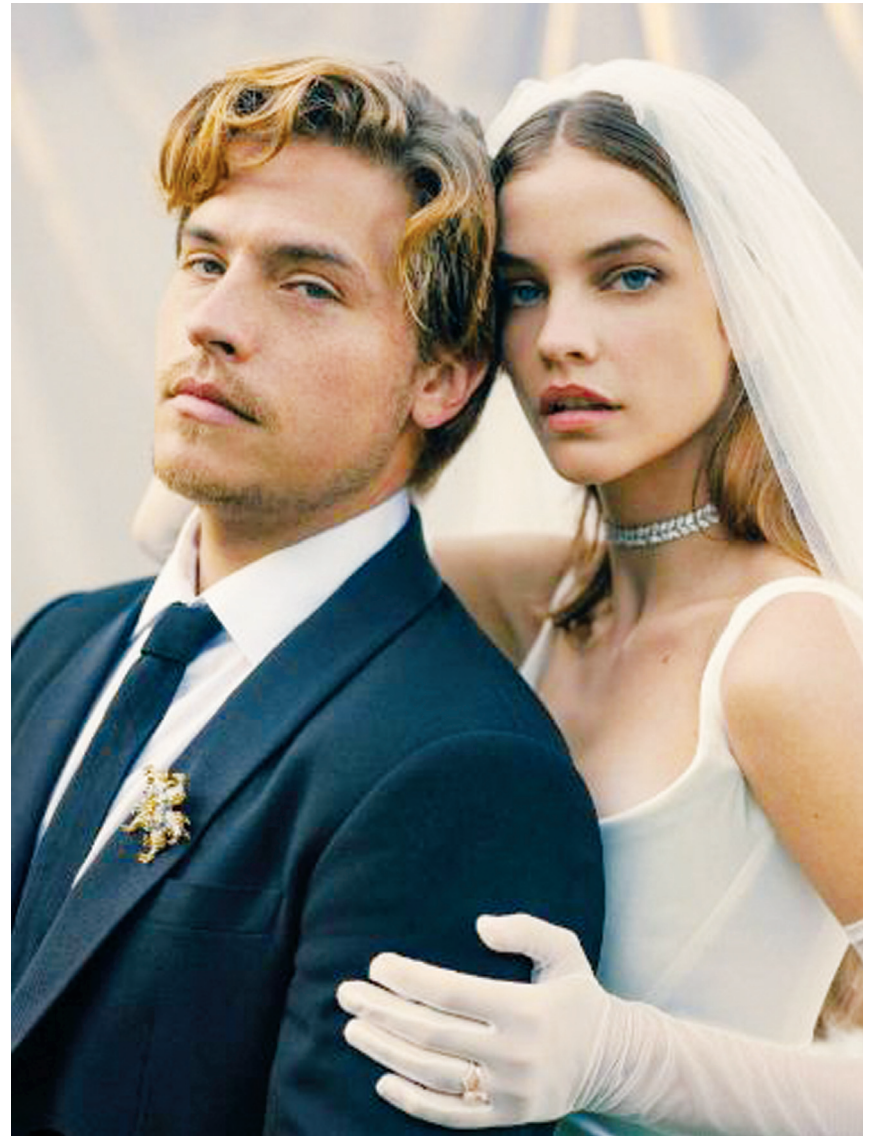
Dylan and Palvin exchanged their vows in the same church that Barbara's parents got married in 34 years ago, Vogue reported in an exclusive story highlighting the couple's big day. They reportedly hosted their wedding ceremony in front of 115 guests at her parents' property in Hungary.

"This past weekend was supposed to be an intimate event, but we ended up having 115 guests in the end because there are a lot of people we care about, and we wanted them all to be there," Barbara told Vogue in the new interview.

Last month, the couple confirmed the engagement in an interview with V magazine. Dylan and Barbara said that they had actually gotten engaged in September 2022. Dylan had said, "We didn't necessarily feel the need to be fully transparent with the public about that aspect of our engagement." To which, Barbara had added, "We just want to do it on our time."

In the same interview, the two had opened up about their then-forthcoming nuptials in Hungary, though they didn't disclose the date of their wedding at the time. Barbara had said, "I'm excited to show that side of me and introduce my culture, the places I grew up, and the places I went to. I know there was no way we would have not had a wedding in Hungary because my parents would have killed me."

Source: HT



Sofia Vergara, Joe Manganiello announce divorce after seven years of marriage

Sofia Vergara and Joe Manganiello have announced their divorce seven years after they tied the knot. As per a new report, the duo issued a statement and called it a 'difficult decision'. The actors also urged people to give them privacy as they 'navigate this new phase' of their lives.

As per Page Six, the couple said in a statement, "We have made the difficult decision to divorce. As two people that love and care for one another very much, we politely ask for respect of our privacy at this time as we navigate this new phase of our lives."

Quoting a source, Page Six reported, "Sofia and Joe have been growing apart for a while now and are taking some distance from each other to contemplate their future." As per the report, the couple was last seen together in June in Hoboken, when Sofia visited Joe on the set of his new project Nonnas with Vince Vaughn.

Sofia Vergara, who last week clocked her 51st birthday, is currently in Italy travelling

and enjoying with her friends. She shared a string of posts on Instagram but none of them featured Joe. On July 11, a day after Sofia's birthday Joe wished her on Instagram. Sharing their photo, he simply wrote, "Happy Birthday Sofia!!!"

Sofia and Joe tied the knot in Palm Beach, Florida in November 2015. Last year, when they celebrated their seventh wedding anniversary, she shared a series of throwback photos on her social media platforms. She had captioned the post, "Love You (red heart emojis)".

Joe, in August 2020, told PEOPLE that he felt that he made the right call by marrying Sofia. "I knew pretty quickly that I could trust her, and she knew pretty quickly that she could trust me. And we're both the kind of people who are capable of putting the other person ahead of ourselves. I was capable of putting her wishes ahead of mine, whatever they were, and she was capable of doing the same. Once you have that, you don't let go of it. My instincts about her were right."



15 INDIAN-ORIGIN MEN HELD IN CANADA FOR RUNNING CARGO THEFT RING; USD 9 MN WORTH PROPERTY RECOVERED

TORONTO (TIP): Canadian police have arrested 15 Indian-origin men for allegedly running a major organised cargo theft ring, and property worth more than 9 million dollars was recovered along with stolen goods.

A joint task force was formed in March to investigate a series of tractor-trailer and cargo thefts in Peel regional municipality and across the Greater Toronto Area (GTA), a press release by the Peels Regional Police said on July 19.

The investigation, dubbed Project Big Rig, disrupted the criminal ring, leading to the arrests of fifteen Indian-origin individuals from different cities in the GTA.

Those arrested ranged in age from 22 to 45, and 73 charges were laid on them.

Investigators said the stolen cargo included various commercial goods, ATVs, and vehicles, which the suspects then allegedly sold at various flea markets and stores, the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation (CBC) reported.

A total value of 9.2 million Canadian dollars in property was recovered, comprising 6.9 million dollars of stolen cargo and 2.2 million dollars in value of stolen tractor-trailers, the press release said.

Officers discovered the same group of suspects had targeted cargos of various sizes and 28 tractor-trailers in six GTA locations by breaking through fences and driving away with the trucks or stealing trucks pulled over on the side of the road, Peel Regional Police Detective Mark Haywood said during a press conference.

"They were entering a lot of the facilities. [They would] cut the fence, go in, steal the product, steal a truck usually and drive over the fence," Haywood was quoted as saying by the CBC. (PTI)

Muslim-majority nations express outrage and plan street protests over Quran desecration in Sweden

BAGHDAD (TIP): Muslim-majority nations expressed outrage July 21 at the desecration of a copy of the Quran in Sweden. Some prepared for street demonstrations following midday prayers to show their anger.

In Iran, Iraq and Lebanon, protesters planned demonstrations after Swedish police permitted a protest Thursday in which an Iraqi Christian living in Stockholm kicked and stood on a Quran, Islam's holy book, outside of the Iraqi Embassy. Hours before that, demonstrators in Baghdad broke into the Swedish Embassy and lit a fire to show their anger at his threats to burn the book.

Iraqi Prime Minister Shia al-Sudani has ordered the expulsion of the Swedish ambassador from Iraq and the withdrawal of the Iraqi charge d'affaires from Sweden. But that may not be enough to calm those angered, and another protest in Baghdad is planned for Friday afternoon.

In neighboring Iran, demonstrators also planned to take to the streets. Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amirabdollahian has written a letter to the United Nations secretary-general over the Quran desecration and has summoned the Swedish ambassador.

"We consider the Swedish government responsible for the outcome of provocation reactions from the world's Muslims," Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Nasser Kanaani said.

The man in Stockholm also wiped his feet with a picture of Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei during his demonstration and did similar to a photo of Iraqi Shiite cleric Muqtada al-Sadr, a powerful leader there.

Lebanon's Shiite militant group



Hezbollah also called for a demonstration Friday afternoon. Khamenei and Iran's theocracy serve as Hezbollah's main sponsors.

Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah in a video address Thursday night called on Muslims to demand their governments expel Sweden's ambassadors.

"I invite brothers and sisters in all neighbourhoods and villages to attend all mosques, carrying their Qurans and sit in them, calling on the state to take a stance toward Sweden," Nasrallah said in the address, according to Lebanon's state-run National News Agency.

On Friday "the whole world must see how we embrace our Quran, and the whole world must see how we protect our Quran with our blood."

Saudi Arabia and Qatar, two Sunni-ruled Gulf Arab nations, summoned Swedish diplomats to condemn the desecration. Turkey's Foreign Ministry also criticized it.

In Pakistan, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif strongly condemned the events in

Sweden. He called on the 57-nation Organization of Islamic Cooperation to play a "historic role in expressing the sentiments of Muslims and stopping this demonization." Meanwhile, Islamists in his country have been pushing Sharif, who faces an upcoming election, to cut diplomatic ties with Sweden.

On Thursday morning, protesters in Baghdad occupied the Swedish Embassy for several hours and set a small fire. The embassy staff had been evacuated a day earlier. After protesters left the embassy, diplomats closed it to visitors without specifying when it would reopen.

Prime Minister Sudani said in a statement that Iraqi authorities would prosecute those responsible for starting the fire and referred to an investigation of "negligent security officials." Some demonstrators stayed at the site, ignored by police, after the attack. An Associated Press photographer and two Reuters staff members were arrested while covering the protest and released several hours later without charges. (AP)

One dead, three injured in Seoul stabbing rampage



SEOUL (TIP): One person was killed and three more wounded when a man went on a "stabbing rampage" near a subway station in the South Korean capital Seoul on July 21, police told AFP.

The attack took place near the Sillim subway station in southwest Seoul, police said, adding that the suspect had been detained by officers at the scene.

"The suspect is a man in his 30s and he did not look intoxicated. We are questioning him as to the motive of his crime," they said.

The Yonhap news agency reported that the attack happened near Exit 4 of the station at 2:07 pm (0507 GMT).

Video posted on local television station YTN's YouTube channel showed orange-vested emergency responders running towards the incident carrying stretchers.

Police had cordoned off the area with yellow tape, the footage showed.

"The man shouted he didn't want to live any more as he was being apprehended by the police," YTN reported.

Grainy footage on YTN appeared to show police apprehending the suspect, who had sat down on steps and seemed to sit passively as armed police approached him and placed him under arrest.

"People ran into my store, telling me a man with a big knife was stabbing people. We locked the door," a store owner in the area told YTN.

Eyewitnesses said the suspect stabbed

a man who was talking on the phone in the back multiple times before running off and attacking more people, the Chosun Ilbo newspaper reported.

"All four victims are reportedly men," it added.

'Low crime rate'

South Korea is typically an extremely safe country, with a murder rate of just 1.3 per 100,000 people in 2021, according to official statistics.

By comparison, America has 7.8 homicide deaths per 100,000 people, according to the country's Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Most South Koreans are trained shooters, as all men must perform about two years of mandatory military service.

But the country has strict gun control laws and it is extremely difficult for civilians to obtain firearms, with gun-related crime almost unheard of.

There have been a handful of high-

profile stabbing crimes over the last few years.

Earlier this year in the southern city of Busan, a 23-year-old crime drama fanatic stabbed to death a woman she had met online, local media reported.

In March, a 37-year-old woman was accused of injuring three people with a knife on a subway, allegedly after someone called her "ajumma" -- a way to refer to a middle-aged woman.

Last year, a man stabbed a former co-worker to death in a subway station after stalking her for years. He was later sentenced to decades in prison.

The rare incident in Seoul quickly began circulating on Korean-language social media. "Don't come to Sillim now. There is a crazy man on a stabbing rampage. I called the police after seeing a person injured on the ground," one user with the handle sanong_cos wrote on Twitter.(AFP)

Russia targets Ukraine's farm storage sites after days of hitting Black Sea port facilities

KYIV (TIP): Russia followed its withdrawal from a grain export deal by expanding its attacks from port infrastructure to farm storage buildings in Ukraine's Odesa region on July 21, while also practising a Black Sea blockade.

Other Russian missiles damaged what officials described only as an 'important infrastructure facility' southwest of the port city of Odesa, in what appeared to be an effort to cripple Ukraine's food exports.

Attacks in recent days have put Odesa in Russia's crosshairs after Moscow abandoned a wartime deal that allowed Ukraine to send grain through the key Black Sea port.

In the attack on the storage site, two low-flying cruise missiles started a blaze, then another struck during firefighting efforts, regional Gov. Oleh Kiper said.

The barrage injured two people, damaged equipment and destroyed 100 metric tons (110 tons) of peas and 20 metric tons (22 tons) of barley, Kiper said.

Russia targeted Ukrainian critical grain export infrastructure after vowing to retaliate for what it said was a Ukrainian attack that damaged a crucial bridge between Russia and the Moscow-annexed Crimean Peninsula.

"The enemy is continuing terror, and it's undoubtedly related to the grain deal," said Natalia Humeniuk, a spokesperson for the Ukrainian military's Operational Command South.

Both Russia and Ukraine have



announced they will treat ships travelling to each other's Black Sea ports as potential military targets.

Russia's Deputy Foreign Minister Sergei Vershinin clarified the Defense Ministry's announcement earlier this week that Moscow has declared wide areas in the Black Sea dangerous for shipping.

The ministry said it would consider incoming vessels as laden with weapons and treat the country of its flag as a participant in the conflict on the Ukrainian side.

Vershinin said the Russian navy will inspect the vessels to make sure they aren't carrying military cargo before taking any other action.

"There is no longer a sea humanitarian corridor, there is a zone of increased

military danger," he told a news briefing.

Vershinin added that Russia will fulfil the needs of African countries despite the deal's termination.

President Vladimir Putin has promised to provide poor countries in Africa with free grain.

The Institute for the Study of War, a Washington-based think tank, said the recent strikes against port and grain infrastructure and threats of escalation at sea "are likely part of a Kremlin effort to leverage Russia's exit from the Black Sea Grain Initiative and exact extensive concessions from the West."

In Turkey, President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said Western countries should address Russia's demands to restore the Black Sea grain corridor.

"Russia has some expectations. If these

are overcome, Russia is in favour of the active work of this grain corridor," said Erdogan, who helped negotiate the deal.

"We know that (Putin) has some expectations from Western countries. Western countries need to take action on this issue."

He reiterated he would talk to Putin by phone and hoped to meet him in Turkey next month.

In comments reported by state-run news agency Anadolu and other media, Erdogan warned that the end of the grain initiative would raise global food prices, increase famine and unleash new waves of migration.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said he spoke with Erdogan by phone Friday, and they "coordinated efforts to restore the operation of the Black Sea Grain Initiative."

"Unlocking the grain corridor is an absolute priority," Zelenskyy said on the Telegram messaging app.

The Russian Defense Ministry said the navy conducted drills that simulated action to seal off a section of the Black Sea.

In the manoeuvres, a missile boat fired anti-ship cruise missiles at a mock target.

The ministry also said it fired long-range sea-launched weapons on facilities "used for the preparation of terror attacks against the Russian Federation involving drones," adding that "all the designated targets have been hit."

It didn't elaborate. (AP)

Swiss order hang gliders to stay away, closing air space as firefighters battle forest inferno

GENEVA (TIP): Swiss authorities have temporarily shut the airspace over a small part of southwestern Switzerland because recreational gliders have endangered the work of emergency teams battling a persistent forest fire in the area.

The Federal Office of Civil Aviation said on July 21 that the restriction in an airspace of up to 8,000 feet (about 2,400 meters), over a wooded mountainside near the town of Bitsch, will last a week.

The measure affects civil aircraft and drones and is aimed "to protect the ongoing activities of response teams on the ground and in the air," the office said on its website.

Office spokesman Christian Schubert, in an email to The Associated Press, said the closure affects about 40-50 square kilometres (about 15-20 square miles) in an area that is popular with recreational gliders.

The heads of local helicopter crews



and firefighting squads requested the closure because of the dangers presented by the gliders to what was already risky work, Schubert said. No incidents or injuries have been reported, and the measure was "exclusively of a preventative nature."

Scores of firefighters, police, troops and other emergency teams, backed by helicopters, have deployed to battle the

wildfire that was first reported on Monday. The move prompted authorities to temporarily evacuate residents of four villages and hamlets in the area.

Franz Mayr, a community leader in Bitsch, said the fire remained "small" — some 107 hectares (about 265 acres) have been affected — and the situation was stable, though strong winds continued. (AP)

'GENEVA PATIENT' DECLARED THE SIXTH PERSON IN HIV REMISSION, WILL NEED TO BE WATCHED CLOSELY

PARIS (TIP): A man dubbed the "Geneva patient" is the latest person with HIV to be declared in long-term remission -- however he did not receive a transplant with a virus-blocking gene mutation like previous cases, researchers said on July 20.

But they stopped short of saying the man was "cured" of HIV, warning there was still a chance the virus could still return.

All had bone marrow transplants to treat serious cases of cancer, receiving stem cells from a donor with a mutation of the CCR5 gene. This mutation is known to block HIV from entering the body's cells. In 2018, the Geneva patient similarly received a stem cell transplant to treat a particularly aggressive form of leukaemia. But this time the transplant came from a donor who did not carry the CCR5 mutation, French and Swiss researchers told a press conference in the Australian city of Brisbane as part of an AIDS conference that begins at the weekend. (AFP)

INDO-SRI LANKAN TALKS: TREATMENT OF TAMILS, LAND CONNECTIVITY, OIL PIPELINE AMONG KEY TAKEAWAYS

COLOMBO (TIP): Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Sri Lankan President Ranil Wickremesinghe had wide-ranging bilateral discussions which include an oil pipeline, ferry connectivity, UPI, trade-in rupee, a possible land route and increased air connectivity, amongst other things.

Sri Lankan President Ranil Wickremesinghe arrived in New Delhi a day earlier for the official visit, his first since taking up the top job last year after an economic meltdown forced his predecessor to flee.

"Today we have adopted a vision document for our Economic Partnership. This vision is to strengthen the Maritime, Air, Energy and people-to-people connectivity between the people of both countries. The vision is to accelerate mutual cooperation in tourism, power, trade, higher education and skill development. This is the vision - of India's long-term commitment towards Sri Lanka," said PM Modi.

"My visit to India has provided an opportunity to review our bilateral relationship, leverage the strength of geographical and civilizational links, reinforced trust and confidence for our future prosperity in the modern world," Wickremesinghe said.

PM Modi conveyed to President Wickremesinghe India's expectations from Colombo to fulfil the aspirations of the Tamil community in the island nation and ensure a life of respect and dignity for it. He also sought a humane approach from Sri Lanka over conflicts involving the island nation's navy and fishermen from Tamil Nadu.

"We hope that Sri Lankan government will fulfil aspirations of the Tamils as this would drive the process of equality, justice and peace and fulfil the commitment to the 13th Amendment and conduct the Provincial Council Elections," PM Modi added.

The Tamil community in Sri Lanka has been demanding the implementation of the 13th Amendment that provides for devolution of power to it. The 13th Amendment had been brought in after the Indo-Sri Lankan agreement of 1987.

This year, India is celebrating its 75th anniversary of diplomatic ties with Sri Lanka. Tamil nationals have been a native of the island nation for over 200 years now and to mark this, India has earmarked Rs 75 crore for projects that cater to the development programmes of the Tamil community.

Meanwhile, talks on the Economic and Technological Cooperation Agreement (ETCA) will begin soon. (PTI)

Imran Khan guilty of masterminding May 9 attacks: Pakistan government tells court

LAHORE (TIP): Pakistan's former prime minister Imran Khan has been found "guilty of inciting attacks" on military installations, including the Lahore Corps Commander House, an anti-terrorism court was told by the government prosecutor on July 21.

However, the ATC Lahore extended Khan's pre-arrest bail in five terrorism cases till August 8.

"A special prosecutor on Friday told the ATC that a Joint Investigation Team (JIT) of Punjab police completed its probe into the May 9 attacks on military and state buildings and found Imran Khan guilty of abetment and other terrorism charges," a court official told PTI.

Khan appeared before the court amid high security.

Prosecutor Farhad Ali Shah said that Khan is guilty of masterminding the May 9 attacks and his arrest is needed for collection of evidence.

He said that the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf chief had led a campaign and incited the party workers against the Army before the May 9 attacks.

That incitement led to the attack on



the military installations, he said.

ATC Judge Abher Gul Khan extended the pre-arrest bail of Khan till August 8 and directed the prosecutor to come up with more arguments at the next hearing.

Following the arrest of Imran Khan by paramilitary Rangers unrest broke out in Pakistan on May 9 that saw the torching and vandalizing of dozens of military and state buildings, including the Army headquarters in Rawalpindi and the ISI building in Faisalabad.

Police arrested over 10,000 workers of PTI and over 100 are being tried under the Army Act.

Khan denied masterminding or inciting the attacks stating that it was a well-planned conspiracy to oust its party from upcoming elections.

The military establishment managed to carve out two political parties -- Istekham-i-Pakistan Party and PTI Parliamentarians -- of the PTI as dozens of its leaders joined the new parties. (PTI)

Indian-origin Singapore police officer goes on trial for role in death of maid from Myanmar

SINGAPORE (TIP): An Indian-origin police officer went on trial in Singapore on July 20 for his role in the death of a maid from Myanmar for which his former wife and mother-in-law are already serving long-term jail sentences.

Kevin Chelvam, 44, the registered employer of Myanmar national Piang Ngaih Don, 24, who died following prolonged and heinous abuse while under his employment, claimed trial to four charges, The Straits Times newspaper reported.

Piang Don started working for Chelvam's family in May 2015 and died on July 26, 2016. She just weighed 24 kg at the time of her death.

On the night of July 25, 2016, the maid was assaulted by Gaiyathiri and Prema for being too slow in doing laundry.

The next morning, Gaiyathiri and Chelvam checked on her and found her motionless on the floor.

He then left the flat for work.

Chelvam rushed home when his wife called and told him Piang Don was dead.

His charges include voluntarily causing hurt and abetment of voluntarily causing grievous hurt to Piang Don by starvation.



He is also contesting one charge of giving false information to a police officer and another of removing the closed-circuit television (CCTV) cameras from his home which recorded the abuse.

Chelvam was suspended from the police force in August 2016, days after Piang Ngaih Don's death.

Irritated that his emaciated maid was falling asleep while eating, the husband of a convicted maid abuser allegedly grabbed her by her hair and lifted her off the ground, the charge read, as reported by the Singapore Daily.

As Piang Ngaih Don's employer, Chelvam was fully aware of the atrocities that occurred under his roof, Deputy Public Prosecutor Stephanie Koh

said.

"He was complicit in Gaiyathiri's and Prema's offences by his conscious indifference to the deceased's plight, which he allowed to continue unabated until her death," Koh said.

Chelvam's ex-wife, Gaiyathiri Murugayan, 43, was sentenced in June 2021 to 30 years in prison - the longest jail term meted out in a maid abuse case in Singapore.

His mother-in-law Prema S Naraynasamy, 64, who joined her daughter Gaiyathiri in torturing

the maid, was sentenced to 14 years in January.

Prema was given three years more of jail term in June after she admitted to one charge of instigating Chelvam to cause evidence of the offences to disappear, bringing her total jail term to 17 years.

Chelvam has two children aged one and four.

He and his wife got divorced in 2020.

Gaiyathiri and Prema are expected to take the stand as prosecution witnesses during the trial.

The prosecution's list of witnesses also includes investigation officers involved in the case and a forensic pathologist, the report added. (PTI)

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Tricks to get shiny legs

Ever thought about having legs like a celebrity? If you dreamed of having those perfectly toned legs like celebrities, this article is just for you. We tell you how you could make your legs look shiny, continue reading. All those who want to gain attention by their legs, taking care of this part is equally important as you take care of your face. Bumpy stubbles, ingrown hair, oily bumps, scars, marks and other such things can make your legs look awful and unpleasant.

If you are craving to gain attention with your legs, here we mention to you some of the easy tips you should follow. Check out these easy tips to make your legs shine like a celebrity!

Go For Waxing

In order to get flawless and shining legs, you should opt for a closer shave. You should avoid using razors, tweezers, and other electronic devices while shaving, as it will prevent giving you a closer shave. Instead, you should go for waxing, as it will help to remove hair follicles deeply without leaving any marks behind.

Keep Your Legs Moisturised

You should always keep your legs moisturised by using an ounce full of moisturiser. Applying a good-quality moisturiser can help to keep your legs hydrated and moisturised for a longer period of time, thus preventing dark spots or bumps. You should make sure you moisturise your skin well and reapply the lotion after 5-6 hours. When you step out, remember to apply a sunscreen, so that your legs are protected.

Look For A Firming Cream

Using firming cream can help to tighten your skin and also improve the elasticity of same. You should look for a lotion which contains



extracts of caffeine in it, as it helps to rejuvenate your skin quickly and prevents dullness or sagging. Leg creams with extracts of caffeine are especially designed to keep your legs to look younger and beautiful.

Exfoliate Your Skin

Exfoliating your skin is another vital step that will help to get rid of the dead skin cells easily. Not exfoliating your skin daily may lead to an appearance of large-sized pores, dead skin cells, breakouts and other such problems to be found on the legs. In order to prevent all of these, it is advisable to use a body scrub to remove the dead skin cells. Use a sugar-based scrub and exfoliate your skin every alternate day to remove the dead skin cells and debris from the skin.

Tone Them

In order to make your legs look

beautiful, you should tone them. Exercise is one of the common and an effective way to tone your legs properly. Performing exercise for the lower body can help to tone your legs easily and also give a wonderful shape. If you are craving to get beautiful and toned legs in one month, opt for a tedious workout that promises to cut down the lower body fat.

Massage Your Legs Regularly

Massaging your legs with baby oil can help to treat razor marks and bumps if any. Using baby oil can help to soothe your skin and also add a nice shine to your beautiful legs. If not anything, you can heat some coconut oil and massage your legs with this lukewarm oil. Massaging your legs with organic oil every alternate day can help to give you beautiful and smooth legs.



Bad diet can lead to weight gain

A bad diet has consequences on the immune system which can lead to weight gain and other signs of obesity, a recent study has revealed.

According to the study, published in the Journal of Immunology, the researchers studied the impact of a western-style high fat diet on the immune system and came out with two surprising results.

"Our research looked at whether bad diets have consequences before we notice an increase in body weight. We found that over-consumption of saturated fats is a form of malnutrition: one that needs to be taken seriously," Abigail Pollock, a researcher at the University of New South Wales, said.

The researchers examined the impact of dietary lipids on a class of immune cells -- T lymphocytes or T cells in which a diet rich saturated fats can impact immune function.

"We fed mice a western-style high fat diet for nine weeks to observe if this diet would impact the T cell response before the animal gains weight. Despite our hypothesis that the T cell response would be weakened we actually saw the opposite: the percentage of T cells multiplying increased," added Pollock.

One clinical ramification of overactive T cells may be autoimmune disease where the immune system begins attacking healthy parts of the body, suggested the study.

According to the study, the other unexpected finding was that T cell responses were altered even in the absence of obesity and obesity induced inflammation.

Dietary lipids do in fact directly influence T cell activation and responsiveness by altering the composition and the structure of the T cell membrane, suggested the study.

"T cells are actually affected prior to the mice becoming overweight. Lipids in the diet change the abundance of lipids in the cell membrane, which in turn changes the structure of the cell altering the responsiveness of the T cells and changing the immune response," added Pollock.

Weight loss pill found safe

Losing your weight can now be as easy as swallowing a pill as, according to a new study, gastric balloon that is swallowed like a pill, rather than surgically implanted, is safe to use and helps in significant weight loss.

Gastric balloon -- also known as the bariatric technology -- involves inserting a small silicon balloon filled with saline solution into a patient's stomach through an endoscopic procedure to create a feeling of fullness so that the patient loses the urge to overeat.

The traditional procedures required endoscopy for placement and removal.

However, the new Elipse is the first procedure-less gastric balloon.

It is swallowed like a pill and gets inflated by an attached catheter with 550ml of fluid over 10 minutes, after which the catheter detaches.

After four months, a valve opens to deflate the balloon for excretion from the body.

FOOD CORNER

Grilled chicken

Ingredients

8 skinless, boneless chicken breast halves, pinch salt and ground black pepper to taste, 2 cups peach preserves, 3 tablespoons extra-virgin olive oil, 2 tablespoons soy sauce, 1 tablespoon finely chopped garlic, 1 tablespoon mustard, 4 ripe peaches, halved and pitted

Method

- Preheat grill for medium heat and lightly oil the grate. Season chicken breast halves with salt and black pepper.
- Stir peach preserves, olive oil, soy sauce, garlic, and mustard in a bowl; season with salt and black pepper. Reserve about 1/2 cup peach sauce.
- Place chicken on preheated grill; cook until golden brown, 6 to 7 minutes, then flip chicken. Continue cooking for 5 to 6 minutes. Brush both sides of the chicken with peach sauce. Cook until no longer pink in the center and the juices run clear, 4 to 5



more minutes. An instant-read thermometer inserted into the center should read at least 165 degrees F (74 degrees C).

- Arrange peach halves cut side down on the grill. Grill for 2 minutes, flip, and brush with reserved 1/2 cup peach sauce. Continue to grill until peaches are tender, 3 to 4 minutes more.

Rules to lose belly fat: 10 lifestyle changes to reduce visceral fat

Belly fat, the most stubborn of all fat deposits, poses serious health risk to people. While many people try to find quick fixes on web by searching 'how to reduce belly fat quickly', there are no shortcuts to getting rid of the visceral fat which often surrounds internal organs and eventually make metabolism difficult inviting a plethora of lifestyle diseases. The problem of belly fat isn't limited to obese people. Even people who have a perfect BMI can also be struggling with belly fat and can face similar long-term health risks. Adopting healthy lifestyle measures that slowly and surely kill belly fat is the only way to fight this health issue.

From modifying your bedtime and becoming an early sleeper to having a nourishing breakfast, even simple measures can go a long way in getting rid of this pesky fat accumulation. If you have so far been casual about your food choices and skipped essential nutrients like Omega-3 fatty acids, protein, nuts, fish etc, you can fix these dietary habits immediately to reap long term benefits. Sugary snacks and refined grains must be eliminated from your diet if you need a leaner stomach.

If you are largely sedentary, and rarely move your body, your belly fat is unlikely to bid adieu anytime soon. Take those stairs, do a 30-minute exercise, Yoga and a range of indoor aerobic exercises if your schedule doesn't permit additional



time in the morning.

Dr. Charu Dua, Chief Clinical Nutritionist, Amrita Hospital, Faridabad in an interview with HT Digital shares with us what exactly is belly fat, its health risks and lifestyle changes to reduce it.

What's belly fat?

Belly fat or visceral body fat (fat stored inside the belly/abdomen, around the organs, including the liver and intestines) or commonly known as abdominal fat is probably more dangerous of all. Abdominal fat/obesity is seen in people having apple-shaped body and is associated with more health issues as compared to other body types.

What happens if I am slim but

have more fat around belly

If a person has more fat around the abdomen (or your waist circumference is high) but is not overweight, risk of developing cardiovascular disease, type 2 diabetes, metabolic syndrome, liver disease, cancer is higher as compared to people with smaller waist or less visceral fat.

How belly fat can cause diabetes

Visceral fat as stated, is stored and grows in abdominal cavity and fills the spaces between the organs. It slows down our metabolism, may cause insulin resistance and thus result increase of blood sugar and your risk of type 2 diabetes.

Source: HT



Anti-ageing function of human cell protein discovered

Researchers have found an anti-ageing function in a protein deep within human cells. The protein, ATSF-1, controlled the fine balance between creation of new and repair of damaged mitochondria, the part of cell responsible for producing energy, the researchers at the Queensland Brain Institute (QBI), The University of Queensland, Australia, discovered.

"Mitochondrial dysfunction lies at the core of many human diseases, including common age-related diseases such as dementias and Parkinson's," said associate professor at QBI, Steven Zuryn.

While the energy produced by the mitochondria powers biological functions, the toxic by-products of this process contribute to the ageing process of the cell.

"Our finding could have exciting implications for healthy ageing and for people with inherited mitochondrial diseases.

"In conditions of stress, when mitochondrial DNA has been damaged, the ATSF-1 protein prioritises repair which promotes cellular health and longevity," said Zuryn.

As an analogy, Zuryn likened the relationship to a race car needing a pitstop.

"ATSF-1 makes the call that a pitstop is needed for the cell when mitochondria need repairs.

"We studied ATFS-1 in *C. elegans*, or round worms, and saw that enhancing its function promoted cellular health, meaning the worms became more agile for longer.

"They didn't live longer, but they were healthier as they aged," said Zuryn.

Understanding how cells promote repair is an important step towards identifying possible interventions to prevent mitochondrial damage, the authors said in the study published in the journal *Nature Cell Biology* said.

"Our goal is to prolong the tissue and organ functions that typically decline during ageing by understanding how deteriorating mitochondria contribute to this process," said Michael Dai, QBI.

Source: PTI

Possibly carcinogenic: WHO on artificial sweetener aspartame

The World Health Organisation's cancer research arm on Friday classified artificial sweetener aspartame, widely used in foods and beverages like diet cokes, as possibly carcinogenic, citing "limited evidence" for its carcinogenicity (potential to cause cancer) in humans.

The WHO's International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) and the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO)'s Joint Expert Committee on Food Additives (JECFA) kept current daily recommended dosages of aspartame in foods and drinks unchanged at 40 mg per kg of body weight saying proof of the product causing cancer in humans was limited and moderate intake was safe. The IARC has four levels of classification to rate cancer causing products—Group-1: definitely carcinogenic with sufficient evidence of cancer in humans; Group-2A: probably carcinogenic with limited evidence of cancer in humans, but sufficient evidence in experimental animals; Group-2B: possibly carcinogenic with limited evidence of cancer in humans and less than sufficient evidence in animals; and Group-3: not classifiable for cancer.

Aspartame has been placed in Group-2B category alongside gasoline engine exhaust, occupational exposure as hairdressers or barbers and lead. Group-1



includes tobacco smoking, solar radiation, alcoholic beverages and ionising radiation. Group-2A features emissions from high temperature frying, DDT, consumption of red meat and night shift work. Simply put, consumers with moderate intake of diet cokes and other aspartame-containing products needn't worry. "Data evaluated indicates no sufficient reason to change the previously established acceptable daily intake (ADI) of 0-40 mg/kg body weight for aspartame and it is safe to consume within this limit per day," the IARC said.

Source: TNS

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Facebook parent Meta makes public its ChatGPT rival LLaMA

Facebook parent company Meta Platforms has built an artificial intelligence system that rivals the likes of ChatGPT and Google's Bard but it's taking a different approach: releasing it for free.

Meta CEO Mark Zuckerberg said Tuesday, July 18, that the company is partnering with Microsoft to introduce the next generation of its AI large language model and making the technology, known as LLaMA 2, free for research and commercial use.

Much like tech peers Google and Microsoft, the social media company has long had a big research team of computer scientists devoted to advancing AI technology. But it's been overshadowed as the release of ChatGPT sparked a rush to profit off of "generative AI" tools that can create new prose, images and other media.

Meta has also tried to distinguish itself by being more open than some of its Big Tech rivals about offering a peek at the data and code it uses to build AI systems. It has argued that such openness makes it easier for outside researchers to help identify and mitigate the bias and toxicity that AI systems pick up by ingesting how real people write and communicate.

"Open source drives innovation because it enables many more developers to build with new technology," Zuckerberg said in a Facebook post Tuesday. "It also improves safety and security because when software is open, more people can scrutinize it to identify and fix potential issues. I believe it would unlock more progress if the ecosystem were more open, which is why we're open sourcing Llama 2." *Source: AP*

Mystery object that washed up on Australian beach could be part of Indian rocket

A dome-shaped mysterious object has washed up on a remote Australian beach, amid speculation that it could be from a 20-year-old Indian rocket that was used for launching a satellite. The canister was discovered near the beach in Green Head in Western Australia (WA) about 250 kilometres north of the city of Perth on Saturday.

When contacted by PTI, the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) sources confirmed receipt of a formal communication from the Australian Space Agency. However, they did not provide the details. The bizarre-looking object has been declared a piece of space junk, while national agencies, including the Australian Space Agency (ASA), continue working to identify its origin.

The copper-coloured bulky cylinder, which stands taller than a human, appears to be damaged at one end and is covered with barnacles, indicating that it has spent a significant amount of time at sea before washing up.

"We are currently making enquiries related to this object located on a beach near Jurien Bay in Western Australia. The object could be from a foreign space launch vehicle and we are liaising with global counterparts who may be able to provide more information," the ASA said in a series of tweets on Monday, July 17.

As the origin of the object is unknown, the community should avoid handling or attempting to move the object, it said, adding that if the community spot any further suspected debris they should report it to local authorities and notify the agency. *Source: PTI*

Spotify & Calm join forces to offer soothing mental health content for listeners

Spotify has partnered with Calm, the popular meditation and sleep app, to bring wellness-focused content to its platform. The collaboration aims to provide a range of soothing content from Calm to support individuals on their mental health journey. The content is now accessible on Spotify's podcast catalogue. Calm has launched 11 shows on Spotify, covering topics such as sleep, stress, anxiety, meditation, and mindfulness. Some of the shows feature celebrity narrators, such as Harry Styles, Cynthia Erivo, Cillian Murphy, Jennifer Garner, Wanda Sykes, and Camila Cabello. Each show has a certain amount of free content while the remaining content requires a subscription or free trial.

Some of the shows include:

Calm for Beginners: A series of short meditations for those who are new to mindfulness or want to refresh their practice.

Calm for Stress & Anxiety: A collection of guided meditations and soundscapes to help listeners cope with challenging emotions and situations.

Calm for Meditation: A variety of meditations for different levels and goals, from beginner to advanced, from focus to gratitude.

Calm for Sleep: A selection of soothing stories and sounds to help listeners fall asleep faster and sleep better.

Calm for Kids: A series of fun and engaging stories and meditations for children of different ages.

You can access these directly on Spotify by searching



them on the app.

The partnership comes through Spotify Open Access (SOA), an initiative introduced in 2021 that allows companies to offer their paid content on Spotify at different subscriber tiers. This means that Spotify users can enjoy a certain amount of free Calm content without having to download a separate app or pay for a full subscription. However, to access all the Calm content on Spotify, a Premium subscription to Calm is required.

For the uninitiated, Calm is one of the most popular wellness apps on mobile, with over 100 million downloads. It offers hundreds of hours of original audio content, including meditations, sleep stories, music, nature sounds, and masterclasses from experts.

Source: Indian Express

Microsoft puts a price on AI-powered Copilot and Bing Chat Enterprise, announces visual search option in chat

In March this year, Microsoft introduced the Microsoft 365 Copilot to help its commercial customers with a variety of tasks. In a blog post, Microsoft had then explained how Copilot will be users' 'copilot for work' and will help users carry out their day-to-day tasks at work with ease.

"Copilot is integrated into Microsoft 365 in two ways. It works alongside you, embedded in the Microsoft 365 apps you use every day — Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Outlook, Teams and more — to unleash creativity, unlock productivity and uplevel skills," the company had said back then.

Copilot was made available to a few companies via an Early Access Program and companies like Chevron, Goodyear, General Motors and Dow got a first-hand experience of the company's AI-powered subscription service. And now, Microsoft has announced the pricing for Microsoft 365 Copilot.

In a new blog post, Microsoft announced the pricing of copilot for its commercial customers. Companies will have to pay USD 30 per user per month to get access to the AI-powered features.

"Bing Chat Enterprise unlocks generative AI for work. And Microsoft 365 Copilot brings a whole new way of working — reasoning over all your business data in the context of your enterprise, including the ability to ask questions and get answers from the web. Microsoft 365 Copilot will be available for commercial customers for USD30 per user per month for Microsoft 365 E3, E5, Business Standard and Business Premium customers when broadly available," the company wrote in a blog post.

Microsoft 365 Copilot can help corporate workers with their day-to-day work. The blog post explains that from keeping a track of meetings and emails to creating a SWOT analysis from internal files and data from the web, Copilot will be at the users' command.



Microsoft also announced Bing Chat Enterprise access for users. It basically is Bing Chat AI with an added layer of security so that the company's data remains safe.

Talking about the security with Bing Chat Enterprise, Microsoft wrote in the blog, "With Bing Chat Enterprise, user and business data are protected and will not leak outside the organization. What goes in — and comes out — remains protected. Chat data is not saved, and Microsoft has no eyes-on access — which means no one can view your data. And, your data is not used to train the models."

The company added that access to Bing Chat Enterprise has been rolled out already with no additional cost in Microsoft 365 E3, E5, Business Standard and Business Premium. However, in future, Bing Chat Enterprise will also be available as a separate tool at a price of USD 5 per month.

Source: India Today

Elon Musk says Twitter has lost half its ad revenue

Twitter has lost roughly half of its advertising revenue, according to owner Elon Musk, since he bought the social media platform for \$44 billion last October.

Musk, who has been outspoken about the difficulties facing the company, broke the figures in a tweet response to a user who was giving suggestions on financing for the platform.

"We're still negative cash flow, due to ~50% drop in advertising revenue plus heavy debt load," the billionaire tweeted Saturday.

"Need to reach positive cash flow before we have the luxury of anything else," he added, without further elaboration.

Insider Intelligence has reported that Twitter was set to earn less than \$3 billion in revenue in 2023, down one-third from 2022.

Changes instituted by Musk since his takeover of Twitter have turned off users and advertisers alike.

Earlier this month, Musk announced that Twitter was limiting verified accounts to reading 10,000 tweets a day, in a bid "to address extreme levels of data scraping" and "system manipulation" by third-party platforms.

Non-verified users -- the free accounts that make up the majority of users -- are limited to reading 1,000 tweets per day, while new unverified accounts are limited to 500 tweets.

Twitter has also said TweetDeck, a popular program that allows users to monitor several accounts at once, will only be available to verified users from next month.

Tatas to invest £4 bn to build EV battery plant in UK

Tata Group on Wednesday, July 19, announced an investment of £4 billion (about Rs 42,500 crore) in setting up a flagship factory to make batteries for Jaguar Land Rover as well as other manufacturers.

Tata Sons, owner of JLR, chose Bridgwater in Somerset in southwest England for the gigafactory over a rival location in Spain.

The gigafactory, at 40GWh, will be one of the largest in Europe and Tata's first outside of India, the conglomerate said.

The plant, being described as the most important investment in UK automotive since Nissan arrived in the 1980s, may have got subsidies worth hundreds of millions of pounds. Neither the company nor the UK government gave details of the subsidy provided.

RIL Q1 profit drops 11% to Rs 16,011 crore

NEW DELHI (TIP)

Reliance Industries (RIL) on Friday, July 21, reported an 11% drop in its June quarter net profit largely due to weak oil-to-chemical (O2C) vertical and higher interest and depreciation cost. Net profit was Rs 16,011 crore in April-June period of the current fiscal — compared with Rs 17,955 crore a year ago, according to a company's stock exchange filing.

Revenue fell to Rs 2.1 lakh crore from Rs 2.22 lakh crore in the year-ago period.

Reliance Jio on Friday reported over 12% rise in net profit to Rs 4,863 crore in the June 2023 quarter, the company said in a filing.

The total income during the reported quarter rose to Rs 24,127 crore from Rs 21,995 crore a year ago.

Jio Financial valued at over \$20 bn

JFSL, the demerged financial services unit of Reliance Industries, was valued at over \$20 billion, ahead of Adani Group firms, Coal India and IndianOil.

Jio Financial Services Ltd (JFSL) stock was priced at Rs 261.85 based on the difference between Reliance's stock price at Wednesday's close of Rs 2,841.85 and Rs 2,580, its price at the end of an hour-long special pre-market session.

Infosys Q1 net profit up 11% at Rs 5,945 cr

IT major Infosys reported a 10.9% rise in its net profit in the quarter ending June 30 to Rs 5,945 crore as compared to Rs 5,360 crore in the same quarter last year. In constant-currency (CC) terms, the company's revenue grew 4.2% year-on-year (YoY) to Rs 37,933 crore. The operating margin for the quarter was stable at 20.8%. Its attrition declined to 17.3% during the quarter.



Chinese mobile firms evade Rs 9,000-crore tax in 5 years

Chinese smartphone makers, including Oppo Mobile, Vivo India and Xiaomi Technology, have been found evading taxes worth Rs 9,000 crore in India, Parliament was informed on Friday, June 21.

Data shared by the Minister of State for Electronics and IT Rajeev Chandrasekhar in the Rajya Sabha showed tax evasion of around Rs 9,000 crore, comprising customs duty and GST, has been detected between 2018-19 and 2022-23. Chinese smartphone makers, including Oppo Mobile, Vivo India and Xiaomi Technology, have been found evading taxes worth Rs 9,000 crore in India. Data shared by the Minister of State for Electronics and IT Rajeev Chandrasekhar in the Rajya Sabha

showed tax evasion of around Rs 9,000 crore, comprising customs duty and GST, has been detected between 2018-19 and 2022-23.

Vivo has evaded taxes worth Rs 2,923.25 crore comprising Rs 2,875 crore in customs duty and Rs 48.25 crore in GST, according to the written reply by Chandrasekhar.

Tax evasion of Rs 851.14 crore has been detected in the case of Xiaomi Technology India Pvt Ltd comprising Rs 682.51 crore in customs duty and Rs 168.63 crore in GST.

The minister was replying to a question on the number of Chinese handset companies which have evaded taxes and made illegal remittances in India.

ADB retains India's growth forecast at 6.4% for current fiscal

NEW DELHI (TIP)

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) on Wednesday, July 19, retained India's economic growth forecast at 6.4 per cent for the current financial year and 6.7 per cent for the next, saying robust domestic demand will continue to support the region's recovery.

In an update to its Asian Development Outlook, the ADB said inflation is expected to continue to fall, approaching pre-pandemic levels as fuel and food prices decline. It forecast 3.6 per cent inflation this year for developing economies in Asia, and 3.4 per cent in 2024.

The Indian economy grew 7.2 per cent in the 2022-23 fiscal ended March 2023.

"Asia and the Pacific continues to recover from the pandemic at a steady pace," ADB Chief Economist Albert Park said.



"Domestic demand and services activity are driving growth, while many economies are also benefiting from a strong recovery in tourism. However, industrial activity and exports remain weak, and the outlook for global growth and demand next year has worsened, Park added.

In April, the ADB had projected that India's economic growth is expected to moderate to 6.4 per cent in the current financial year due to tight monetary conditions and elevated oil prices.

India, US mutually resolve all six trade disputes at WTO

India and the US have mutually resolved all six trade disputes pending at the World Trade Organisation (WTO), in line with the commitment made by the two countries during the US visit of Prime Minister Narendra Modi last month, an official said.

The official said that both countries have informed the WTO's dispute settlement body (DSB) about the resolution of all the pending disputes.

The WTO has already issued a communication with regard to one of the disputes related to the imposition of additional customs duties by India on 28 US products.

The official added that the remaining five communications would also be issued by the WTO.

Source: PTI

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

WEEKLY HOROSCOPE - JULY 24, 2023 TO JULY 30, 2023

ARIES



Ganesha says, this week's catchphrase will be your enlightenment. This week will be successful for you in every way. The trip you have been longing to embark on for a while will be planned. Your remarks could offend somebody. Be nice and empathetic at all times. Avoid becoming involved in arguments and conflicts. Your lover is planning a special treat for you. The type of performance your sweetie does for you will astound you. You become closer to the person you are with. You and your coworkers will engage in some entertaining office conversation. Your relationship with them will get greater as a result. The week is probably going to be excellent at work. The best course of action at present is to plan long-term. This week will be hard.

TAURUS



Ganesha says, there has been no path out of the mess you have been thrown into, but this week, all will be made clear. Your concerns will be handled. You will benefit from spending time with Capricorn. last week. There will be a new person in your life this week. They will bring you into a situation. They could try to turn the tables on you. It is possible that there may be economic repercussions. There must be safeguards taken. This week, your friend will give you something unexpected. Your calm demeanor will be beneficial to both you and your companion. Relationships blossom when both parties put forth effort; this week, you may have to think beyond the confines of the room. This week, revenue will be forfeited but by keeping an eye on the actions, it may be prevented. Develop healthy habits this week.

GEMINI



Ganesha says, your work and vocal input would be much valued. You will be recognized for the important role you play in your industry. We will solve your family's issues. last week. Your activities with your friend might be perceived incorrectly. You could get into an argument verbally over it. You and your partner could be fighting about something that has recently taken place. Friction will result, but you will manage to resolve it. Your line of work will provide you with the chance to travel. You will enjoy yourself at work and feel appreciated. If you participate today in the stock market, you will see a nice return on your money.

CANCER



Ganesha says, your week will be amazing. More positive things will be produced than ever imagined. Your setting will exude a certain level of joy. You will start focusing on new endeavors. Your opinion is needed about recent economic in business. You will act in ways you have never done before. To get there, you will have to go past what is familiar to you. Your wellness might be harmed by a little headache when the moon's brilliance dwindles. Your romantic relationships will not make your partner sense safe. This week, you are going to take part in a great deal of talks. In theory, the week will proceed normally.

LEO



Ganesha says, your week will be a little strange yet fulfilling. To complete tasks, you will go from posts to uprights around the work environment. Your serving will be full of obligations, and an earlier blunder will come back to haunt you. This week, you will be bothered by a lack of conviction at business. You will behave ethically straight, but you will not have entire confidence in yourself. To have a successful love life, your spouse will urge you to priorities your work. They will offer you an overwhelming feeling of comfort and self-confidence. You will struggle to control your stress, and your concern will make headaches frequent for you. By the end of the week, even, you'll be fine.

VIRGO



Ganesha says, to make revenues this week, you must now assist others in achieving their objectives. This week, you will have a sympathetic attitude. This week, partners and spouses may have unforeseen disagreements over their kids or finances, which will impact their romantic connection. People who are just starting a relationship may expect their spouse to pay greater attention this week. You will find it challenging to adapt effectively to the changes in your career. If you're hoping to conduct business nowadays, you need to interact more. This week, you will feel well both bodily and emotionally, which is a good indication. Due to certain tension, you may become uncomfortable on Thursday but you will be fine once the day passes.



LIBRA

Ganesha says, Dear Libra, as you could be feeling good about oneself right now, this is the time to uplift

yourself personally and professionally holding your head high. Your well-being will improve. last week. If you are experiencing respiratory issues, proceed with precaution. Ensure that you immediately reimburse any obligations you have as an authority. For those with regular work, this week will be pleasant. Your work will frustrate you in every way. Regarding the relationship, you may have some reservations. Some challenges will arise from a lack of commitment. Talk things out carefully with one another. In overall, things will shortly grow improved.

SCORPIO



Ganesha says, you will comprehend everything around this week. This week, release oneself from any commitments that do not seem good to you. No matter what their current circumstances are, people who are single are beginning to value themselves more these days. Those that have committed themselves will speak openly with their spouse. The unemployed will be able to compensate or make compensation for their material deficiencies. You will need to cut back on expenses and practice greater thrift. For the sake of your welfare, you should talk to a counsellor about the challenges associated with your mental disease. Pay attention to what your well-being needs.

SAGITTARIUS



Ganesha says, you will get a little bit powerful thanks to Venus in your third element. However, this week you will also be aware of your error and desire to set it right. You will atone for your mistakes. last week. Saying apologies will maintain numerous connections unharmed this week. Your professional and economic prospects would be negatively affected. Do not be concerned; you will be paid far in advance of the end of the week. Commercial sector workers have to constantly track the holdings. they make. You will be emotionally persuaded that you are unworthy. Let it go; someone who values it will come along soon, and you need much more. Put the health of your skin first. This week, follow the appropriate regimen.

CAPRICORN



Ganesha says, you will also have an opportunity this week to substantially change the way things turn out. In the latter half of the week, you will feel a little blue and undoubtedly have a mental collapse.

CONTD ON PAGE 33

BIRTHDAY HOROSCOPE : JULY 24 TO JULY 30 BY ASTRO FRIEND CHIRAG - SON OF ASTROLOGER BEJAN DARUWALLA

JULY 24

Ganesha says the energy around you is strong and active today. This is an excellent day for tackling difficult projects and making substantial progress. The world around you appears to be moving quickly, and you are more than capable of keeping up. Your perseverance and passion will propel you to success. Your efforts will bear fruit, whether it is a personal or professional pursuit. Remember that your ability to adapt and persevere is the key to accomplishing your goals. Accept the trials that come your way as steppingstones to your success.

JULY 25

Ganesha says today, a surge of inventiveness will encourage you to see things in new ways. Today is the day to be creative and think beyond the box. Your original ideas will garner praise and admiration. Your imaginative mind will lead the way whether you're working on a creative

project or pondering answers to an issue. Don't be scared to question the status quo and experiment with fresh ideas. Your creativity is your power, and it is shining brighter than ever today.

JULY 26

Ganesha says today, empathy and understanding will be prioritized. This is a day for profound connection with those around you and for lending a listening ear. Your compassion will enhance your bonds and foster trust. Whether it's a buddy in need or a loved one who is down, your empathy and support will go a long way. Remember that empathy's power lies in its ability to heal and connect. So, reach out, listen, and show your empathy.

JULY 27

Ganesha says, your actions will be guided by a spirit of adventure. This is a day to go somewhere new, learn something new, and get out of your comfort zone. Your bravery will lead to

interesting chances. Whether it's a new activity or a destination you've always wanted to visit today is the day to take the plunge. Always remember that life begins at the edge of your comfort zone. So, embrace the unknown and follow your adventurous spirit.

JULY 28

Ganesha says a sense of serenity will sweep over you today. This is a day to unwind, recharge, and reflect. Positive energy and harmony will be drawn to you as a result of your inner tranquility. Find your Zen and let it guide you, whether it's meditating in a quiet spot or spending time in nature. Remember that serenity is the ability to remain calm in the face of chaos, not the absence of it. So, accept the serenity and allow it to heal and inspire you.

JULY 29

Ganesha says your problem-solving abilities will be improved today. This is the day to address any outstanding

issues and devise effective solutions. Your pragmatic attitude will result in success. Whether it's a personal issue that's been bugging you or a professional difficulty that needs to be addressed, your capacity to solve problems will come in handy. Remember that every problem has a solution, and seeing that solution is your superpower.

JULY 30

Ganesha says communication abilities will be highlighted today. Today is the day to express you clearly and confidently. Your eloquence will impress others around you and open up opportunities for significant interactions. Whether it's a business presentation or a heartfelt talk with a loved one, your words will be heard. Remember that effective communication is the link between misunderstanding and comprehension. So, speak up and allow your comments to have an impact.

WEEKLY HOROSCOPE - JULY 24, 2023 TO JULY 30, 2023

CONTD FROM PAGE 32

Do not be alarmed; these are only transitory affects spurred on by the stellar appearance. This week, your companion will assist you in creating something greater. Simply being in their presence will make you feel safe and at ease. Do not let the fact that you might not particularly appreciate some of the individuals you will need to contact will deter you from moving forward. Now is the time to pay attention, or you run the danger of overlooking anything really crucial. Your health will be OK if you solely make certain you are getting enough fluids to hydrate yourself.

AQUARIUS



Aquarius

Ganesha says, Throughout the week, you will have various opportunities to take advantage of impartial assessments. On all battlegrounds, you are now permitted to make up for your mistakes from the preceding phase. Utilize the time you now have to use it to your advantage. This week will force you to face issues you usually avoid, which could make you appear self-critical, but taking opportunities can completely heal your issue. Even though excitement does not seem to be in the immediate vicinity, you nonetheless have to make an effort to resolve issues with the individual to whom you are linked to. You will have a number of options this week. Make wise choices to guarantee you leave a lasting impression. Where Venus is located This week is a bit unique-in an appealing manner, of course.

PISCES



a long time for this moment.

Ganesha says, you will be able to benefit from the benefits of the nice activities you already performed. You have undoubtedly been waiting

Make the most of each and every minute this week. If you cannot keep your feet straight this week, you might trip a little. This week, tell the truth. Your love life is becoming increasingly complex each week, and you are striving to regain control over it.

The talks you conduct with your

significant other this week will bring things back to order. Although it appears that the funds are not in good standing for business right now, your ability to generate revenues to make amends for earlier shortfalls stands through.

|| SHREE GANESHAY NAMAH ||



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Sikh History This Week

JULY 21, 2023, TO JULY 27, 2023

21st July

Sardar Chanan Singh and Gadhari Sikhs were hanged until death in Lahore.

1925 The police and army of Nabha State lifted the seize of Gurudwara Gangsar and Tibhi Sahib Jaito in 1925. Additionally, all Akalis imprisoned in connection with this movement were also released. This concluded the successful completion of Jaito Morcha. Hence a special Jatha of a few hundred valiant Akali Satyagrahies replaced the police and army forces and initiated Akhand Path of Sri Guru Granth Sahib.

22nd July



1685 Foundation stone of Paonta Fort laid by Guru Gobind Singh Ji.

1923 Subedar Amar Singh of Dhaliwal, a military pensioner and a member of the SGPC was arrested.

1984 Santa Singh, Jathaedar Budha Dal, expelled from Khalsa Panth.

1984 Regional Conference in Toronto. The attack on the Golden Temple by the Indian army struck the Sikh world like a thunderbolt. All shades of Canadian Sikhs came together at the desecration of the supreme emblem of their faith. Because of the shortage of time, the Sikh institution's executives decided to take the Canadian Sikhs into immediate confidence on the kind of action required. This was done by holding regional conferences at Kamloops and Toronto. The Kamloops conference was attended by representatives of all Sikh Societies from Western. While the Toronto Conference was attended by the societies of the eastern region. The Calgary Sikh Society, which was not on good terms with the federation, provided unqualified support for any action the Federation recommended.

23rd July



1627 Baba Atal Rai, son of Sri Guru Hargobind Ji, left for heavenly abode. Highest tower was erected in his

memory near the Harminder complex at Amritsar.

1707 Guru Gobind Singh and Bahadur Shah meet in Red Fort, Delhi.



1914 Kamagata Maru was compelled to leave Canadian waters without being granted entry. Punjabis traveling to foreign land in search of better jobs were being discriminated against at the beginning of 20th century. The Canadian government had issued prohibition against their entry and the British ships had refused to accept any Punjabi travelers. The Canadian law stated, for the purpose of preventing immigration from India and other countries, that only those passengers could land in Canada who travelled on a through ticket without any break in journey from their land of birth. However, no company provided such a service between the Indian and Canadian ports. As a result, many Punjabis were stranded for months in Hong Kong, unable to get tickets for their final destination, Canada. Baba Gurdit Singh of Sarhali village, a well established business in Calcutta, Malaya, etc., heard of the stranded Punjabis in Hong Kong and decided to challenge this prevalent situation. He rented "Koma Gata Maru", a Japanese ship and named it "Guru Nanak Jahaj". Sri Guru Granth Sahib accompanied the passengers along with Kesri Nishan Sahib. On April 4, 1914, this ship sailed out of Hongkong and reached the Vancouver port on May 23, 1919, with 167 passengers. However, these passengers were not allowed to land at Vancouver and were forcibly returned to Calcutta in the same ship, after a long and painful struggle. Upon return, the ship was fired upon by the British at Bajaj Ghat in Calcutta. The returning passengers were either arrested or killed. Only a few managed to escape. Baba Gurdit Singh jee escaped the death and lived in disguise for almost 8-9 years. What started as a simple individual business venture turned into a major political event. The returning passengers were no longer considered as better job opportunity seekers but were prosecuted as freedom fighters.

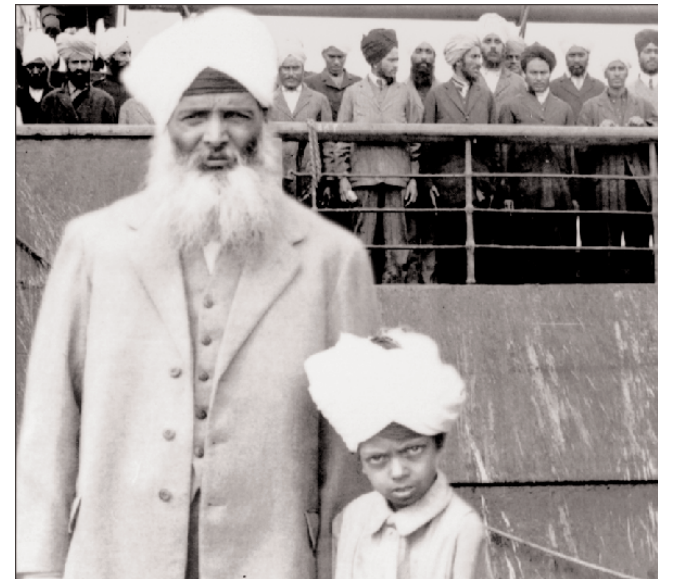


1982 The police arrested two Sikhs from a bus and later they were killed (on July 19 and July 23 respectively) in fake encounters. These two were Amarjeet Singh of Daheru village and Baljeet Singh of Sultanpur (Kapurthala). The later was shaved after being murdered by the police.

1985 A meeting was held between Rajiv and Longfowl.

Although it was Longowal who represented the Akalis, it was Barnala and Balwant who were the real negotiators. The meeting was simply a formality — everything had been agreed upon beforehand between Rajiv and Barnala-Balwant. An agreement was reached by the parties. This so-called "agreement" included the transfer of Chandigarh to the Punjab and a referral of the Anandpur Sahib Resolution to a Commission.

24th July



1954 Baba Gurdit Singh, leader of Koma-Gata Maru passed away.

1985 A written agreement took place between the President of the Shiromani Akali Dal, Harchand Singh Longowal and the Prime Minister of India, Rajiv Gandhi. This agreement is known as the Rajiv-Longowal Accord.

25th July

1710 Bahadur Shah ordered Pheroj Khan, Mularif Khan, and Shikar Khan to arrest Baba Banda Singh Bahadur.

1982 Akali Dal adopted Bhindrawala's agitation.

26th July

1940 4 Sikhs of No.4 Regiment were hanged to death.

1981 World Sikh Convention held at Manji Sahib, Amritsar resolved to initiate Dharam Yudh morcha to seek Sikh's righteous demands. A list of 45 demands was submitted to the government. Aug. 31 was set as the deadline for government's acceptance of Sikh demands. Harchand Singh Longowal was elected as the Morcha Director.

27th July

1649 Janam Utsav, Shaheed Baba Jorawar Singh Ji. Shaheed Baba Jorawar Singh Ji, son of Sri Guru Gobind Singh Ji and Mata Jioto, was born at Anadpur Sahib. On 27th Dec. 1704, he was martyred by being bricked alive at the orders of Vajir Khan, Suba Sirhind. The place of this incident is known as Gurudwara Fatehghadh Sahib and the place of his body's cremation is known as Gurudwara Joti Saroop Sahib.

1925 Akali prisoners released upon victory of Jaito Morcha.

1984 An International Sikh Convention was held at New York city, in the wake of June 5 and 6, 1984, when the Indian army stormed the Golden Temple complex in Amritsar. A group of Sikhs in New York formed an ad-hoc International Sikh Organization to represent Sikh interests. They called themselves the World Sikh Organization.



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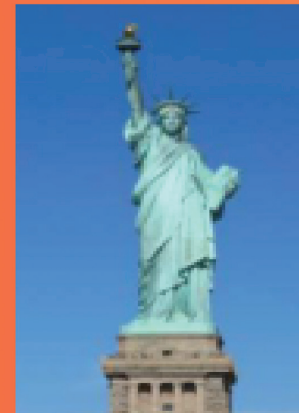
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contd from page 1

Manipur rocks Parliament for 2nd...

urgent issue at the day's start, followed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi's reply. The government is agreeable to debating under rules where the presiding officer slots a discussion at any time. Also, the government says Union Home Minister Amit Shah will reply to the discussion. Disagreement over rules had the Opposition and the government blaming one another for stalling a crucial debate, even as protests continued in Manipur following the shocking visuals of two women being groped by a mob. Both Houses witnessed frenzied sloganeering by opposition MPs with "INDIA" placards appearing in the wells. In Lok Sabha, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, deputy leader of the House, said the government wanted a debate on Manipur to be held in all seriousness but the opposition was disinterested.

"We want a discussion on Manipur... I want to say the Opposition is not serious, as it should be, for a discussion on Manipur," he said moments before LS Speaker Om Birla adjourned the House after MPs protesting in the well declined his pleas to return to seats.

Rajya Sabha saw similar scenes, with Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar adjourning the House for the day.

The ruckus is expected to continue on Monday with the Opposition scheduling a protest at Mahatma Gandhi statue in Parliament house complex. The Congress upped the ante today, urging President Droupadi Murmu to dismiss the state government.

Party's deputy leader in RS Pramod Tiwari said the Opposition wanted a debate "without time restrictions but the government is offering a short duration discussion". Outside Parliament, the BJP condemned Manipur incident but cited violent crimes against women in TMC-ruled West Bengal and Congress-ruled Rajasthan to ask if crime videos needed to go viral for the people to be outraged.

BJP's Hooghly MP Locket Chatterjee broke down recalling a woman being paraded naked in South Panchla for contesting the recent panchayat elections in the state.

Union Jal Shakti Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat and BJP general secretary (Rajasthan) Arun Singh listed crimes against women in the state. "Rajasthan is a failed state. There has been a tsunami of crimes against women in four years. There is no safe space left. There have been a million criminal cases in four years of Congress rule," Jodhpur MP Shekhawat said, mentioning a recent brutal gang-rape and murder of a Scheduled Caste girl in Karauli.

As BJP flagged "Manipur-like situation in opposition-ruled states," BSP chief Mayawati said a "discussion should be held in Parliament on the sensitive Manipur matter and political blame game should stop".

Earlier, many opposition leaders expressed shock and concern over the inhuman incident of two women paraded naked and subjected to indignities.

Terming sexual violence against women "heart wrenching", Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra said women and children had to bear the brunt of the violence in any society.

"We must all condemn the violence in one voice while furthering the efforts for peace in Manipur. Why have the Central Government and Prime Minister shut their eyes to the violent incidents in Manipur? Do such pictures and violent incidents not disturb them?" asked Ms. Vadra on Twitter.

Former Congress chief Rahul Gandhi, who had visited Manipur in the last week of June, also questioned the Prime Minister's silence.

"PM's silence and inaction led Manipur into anarchy. INDIA will not stay silent while the idea of India is being attacked in Manipur. We stand with the people of Manipur. Peace is the only way forward," Mr. Gandhi tweeted, referring to the common stand taken by the opposition bloc of INDIA or the Indian National Developmental, Inclusive Alliance.

CPI(M) general secretary Sitaram Yechury tweeted,

"PM Modi continues to remain silent even after this horrendous double engine horror. Silence reflects inhuman callousness. Such barbarism is criminal & abhorrent".

"This kind of heinous act cannot be tolerated in the Indian society. The situation in Manipur is becoming very worrying. I appeal to the Prime Minister to pay attention to the situation in Manipur. Please take strict action against the culprits seen in the video of this incident. There should be no place for people of such criminal nature in India," Aam Aadmi Party convener and Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal said on Twitter.

Trinamool Congress' Rajya Sabha member Jawahar Sircar tweeted, "Shocking! Two helpless Kuki women gang-raped and paraded with video by majority community in Manipur. What were the police and armed forces doing? Neither BJP Meitei-led Govt of Manipur nor Modi-Amit Shah Central govt appear bothered at such beastly conduct!"

Rishi Sunak's Conservative Party...

They managed to retain former Prime Minister Boris Johnson's seat in the west London area of Uxbridge and South Ruislip, but with a reduced majority.

Labour secured a record win in Selby, with twenty-five-year-old Keir Mather ousting them after winning by a margin of over 4,100 votes or 46% of the vote share (versus the Conservatives' 34.3%). The newly minted youngest MP, who is a former parliamentary researcher and public relations adviser, ran a campaign focused on the cost of living crisis facing the country.

In the Somerton area in England's South West, the Lib Dems' Sarah Dyke won a majority of over 11,000, taking a Conservative seat - a 29% swing away from the Tories.

Local councillor Seve Tuckwell won a recount in Uxbridge by a 495-vote majority. Former Prime Minister Johnson had held the Uxbridge and South Ruislip seat for eight years before resigning last month, after a parliamentary committee found that he lied to Parliament and was about to suspend him. Following his resignation, his colleague Nigel Adams, representing Selby, also resigned.

British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak defended his party's performance and pushed back against the idea that his party was heading for a defeat next year. His party is trailing labour in opinion polls, with the country reeling from high levels of inflation, dissatisfaction over public sector pay, rising interest and mortgage rates, problems with public services, specifically in the National Health Service (NHS).

"Westminster's been acting like the next election is a done deal. The Labour Party has been acting like it's a done deal. The people of Uxbridge just told all of them that it's not," he said on Friday, as he visited the constituency. Mr. Tuckwell attributed his victory in part to London Mayor Sadiq Khan's decision to increase the size of London's Ultra Low Emission Zone (an area covering parts of London that require automobiles to pay a congestion charge). The area is set to expand to cover all of London from August 29. Members of Mr. Khan's own Labour party have suggested he rethink his decision but the mayor has stuck to his plans.

"Even if we include the Uxbridge result, together with Selby and Somerton, on average, the Conservative vote was down by 21 points in those three constituencies," political scientist John Curtice told BBC Radio 4.

"The message on Thursday, July 20, is that basically the Conservatives are indeed as deep [down] an electoral hole as the opinion polls have been suggesting."

Joe Biden nominates Admiral Lisa...

In a statement, Mr. Biden noted Ms. Franchetti's 38 years of experience.

"Throughout her career, Admiral Franchetti has demonstrated extensive expertise in both the operational and policy arenas," Mr. Biden said in a statement, noting that she was the second woman ever to achieve the rank of four-star admiral in the U.S.

Navy.

Last year, Mr. Biden picked Admiral Linda Fagan to lead the U.S. Coast Guard, making her its first female commanding officer. But the coast guard is not formally part of the Department of Defense, and instead falls under the Department of Homeland Security.

Ms. Franchetti would become the first woman to lead a military service within the Defense Department and to join the Joint Chiefs of Staff, a group of eight top uniformed service members who advise the President on military issues.

Mr. Biden also elevated Mr. Paparo, nominating him to become the commander of all U.S. military forces in the Pacific. He picked Vice-Admiral Stephen "Web" Koehler to succeed Mr. Paparo as commander of U.S. Pacific Fleet.

Mr. Biden's announcement comes during a block on all U.S. military nominations in Congress by Senator Tommy Tuberville, who is protesting a Defense Department policy that reimburses costs for service members who travel to get an abortion. Senior military nominations must be approved by the Senate. Although the review is usually routine, a single senator can pause the process by putting a hold on nominations that force them to be considered one at a time, taking many hours each.

Mr. Tuberville's block could have a far-reaching impact across the armed forces, affecting troops and their families, and ultimately costing the U.S. military talent, a point underscored this month by Mr. Biden's pick to become the top U.S. general, Air Force General Charles "C.Q." Brown.

The military is already having to shuffle staff to fill a top leadership post after the commandant of the Marine Corps, one of the members of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, stepped down on July 10 when his four-year term ended.

His Number 2 has taken over but the hold on promotions has left the Marine Corps without a confirmed leader in the job for the first time in more than a century, the Pentagon said.

Mr. Biden said the delay undermined national security.

"What Senator Tuberville is doing is not only wrong - it is dangerous," Mr. Biden said in the statement.

"He is risking our ability to ensure that the United States Armed Forces remain the greatest fighting force in the history of the world. And his Republican colleagues in the Senate know it."

New York City Subway Ride to Cost...

A May survey by the American Public Transportation Association found that larger cities have been hit especially hard - 71 percent of transit agencies with operating budgets greater than \$200 million were predicting shortfalls in their operating budgets. Transit agencies in Washington, D.C., and the San Francisco Bay Area have also moved to raise fares this year.

In New York, weekday ridership has rebounded significantly but still hovers at about 70 percent of pre-pandemic levels.

Lower-income workers who rely on the system to reach their jobs would bear the greatest burden of a fare increase, advocates said, especially as the cost of essentials such as housing, food and health care continues to rise.

TRANSPORTATION IN NEW YORK CITY

Hudson Tunnel Project: The federal government is on track to give \$6.88 billion, the most ever awarded to a mass-transit project, for the construction of a second rail tunnel under the Hudson River to New York City.

Penn Station: A private development firm presented an alternative plan for the remaking of the station, saying it would be significantly cheaper than a rival proposal backed by the M.T.A.

Congestion Pricing: A program that would charge people a toll to enter the busy commercial districts of Manhattan south of 60th Street cleared its final federal hurdle. (*Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news*)



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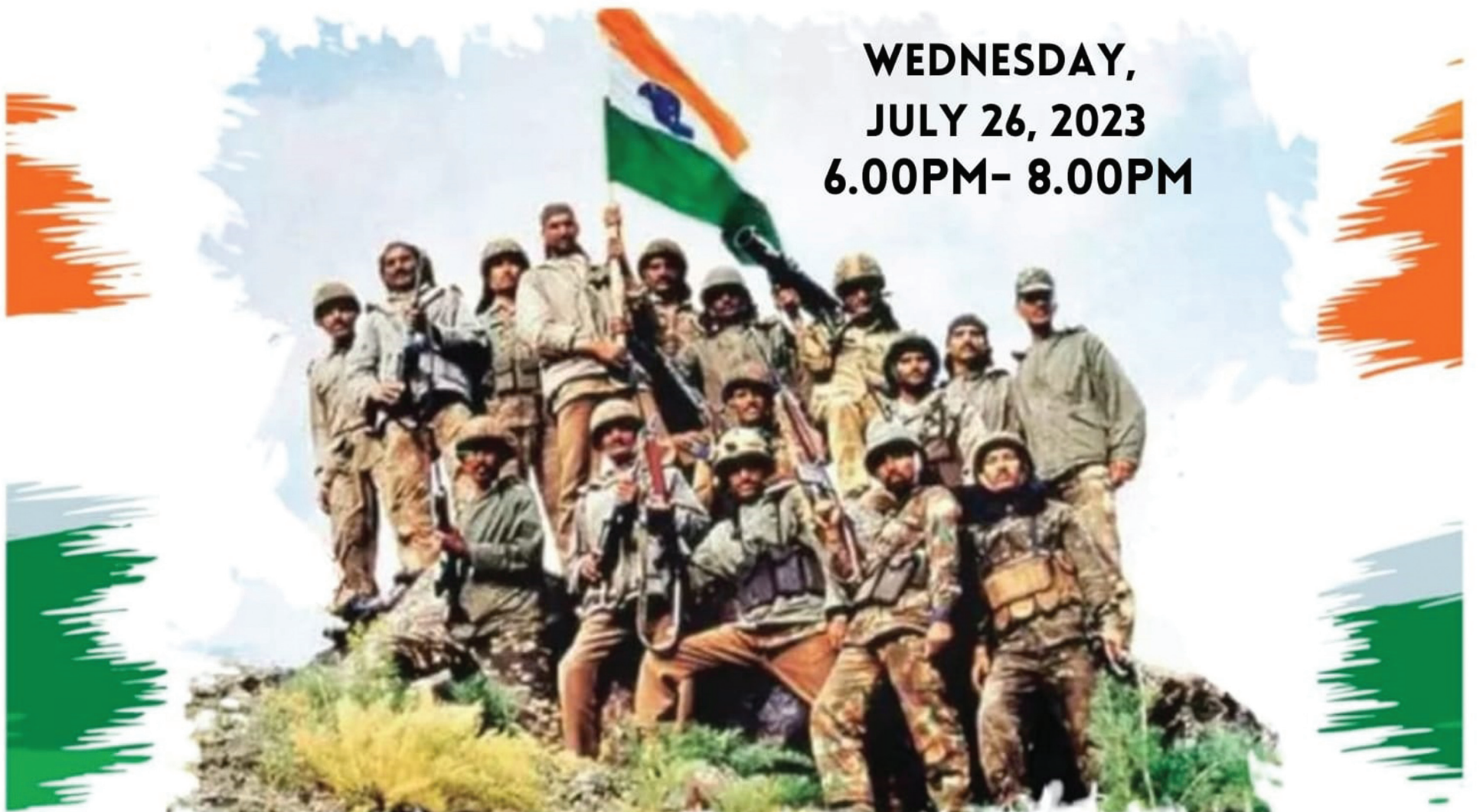
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History This Week

JULY 21 - JULY 27

JULY 21

July 21, 1898 - Guam was ceded to the United States by Spain.



Birthday - Ernest Hemingway (1899-1961) was born in Oak Park, Illinois. His works included; *The Sun Also Rises* (1926), *A Farewell to Arms* (1929), *For Whom the Bell Tolls* (1940) and *The Old Man and the Sea* (1952). Awarded the Nobel Prize in 1954, he wrote little afterward, became ill and shot himself to death on July 2, 1961.



Birthday - University professor and author Marshall McLuhan (1911-1980) was born in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada. Best known for stating, "The medium is the message," regarding modern mass communication.

JULY 22



July 22, 1934 - Bank robber John Dillinger (1902-1934) was shot and killed by FBI agents as he left Chicago's Biograph Movie Theater after watching the film *Manhattan Melodrama* starring Clark Gable and Myrna Loy. Dillinger was the first criminal labeled by the FBI as "Public Enemy No. 1." After spending nine years (1924-1933) in prison, Dillinger

went on a deadly crime spree, traveling through the states of Indiana, Illinois, Ohio, Wisconsin, Minnesota and Iowa. He was reportedly betrayed by the "Lady in Red."

JULY 23

July 23, 1952 - Egyptian army officers launched a revolution changing Egypt from a monarchy to a republic.

JULY 24

July 24, 1943 - During World War II in Europe, the Royal Air Force conducted Operation Gomorrah, raiding Hamburg, while tossing bales of aluminum foil strips overboard to cause German radar screens to see a blizzard of false echoes. As a result, only twelve of 791 Allied bombers involved were shot down.

July 24, 1945 - At the conclusion of the Potsdam Conference in Germany, Winston Churchill, Harry Truman and China's representatives issued a demand for unconditional Japanese surrender. The Japanese, unaware the demand was backed up by an Atomic bomb, rejected the Potsdam Declaration on July 26.



Birthday - "The Liberator" Simon Bolivar (1783-1830) was born in Caracas, Venezuela. He is known as the George Washington of South America for his efforts to liberate six nations: Venezuela, Colombia, Panama, Ecuador, Peru, and Bolivia from the rule of Spain.



Birthday - French playwright and novelist Alexandre Dumas (1802-1870) was born in Villers-Cotterets, France. His works included *The Count of Monte Cristo* and *The Three Musketeers*.

Birthday - American pilot Amelia Earhart (1898-1937) was born in Atchison, Kansas. She became the first woman to fly solo across the Atlantic and to fly solo from Hawaii to California. She

perished during a flight from New Guinea to Howland Island over the Pacific Ocean on July 3, 1937.

JULY 25

July 25, 1898 - During the Spanish-American War, the U.S. invaded Puerto Rico, which was then a Spanish colony. In 1917, Puerto Ricans became American citizens and Puerto Rico became an unincorporated territory of the U.S. Partial self-government was granted in 1947 allowing citizens to elect their own governor. In 1951, Puerto Ricans wrote their own constitution and elected a non-voting commissioner to represent them in Washington.

July 25, 1909 - The world's first international overseas airplane flight was achieved by Louis Bleriot in a small monoplane. After asking, "Where is England?" he took off from France and landed in England near Dover, where he was greeted by British police.

July 25, 1943 - Mussolini was deposed just two weeks after the Allied attack on Sicily. The Fascist Grand Council met for the first time since December of 1939 then took a confidence vote resulting in Mussolini being ousted from office and placed under arrest. King Victor Emmanuel of Italy then ordered Marshal Pietro Badoglio to form a new government.



July 25, 1956 - The Italian luxury liner Andrea Doria sank after colliding with the Swedish liner Stockholm on its way to New York. Nearby ships came to the rescue, saving 1,634 people, including the captain and the crew, before the ship went down.

JULY 26



July 26, 1944 - The U.S. Army began desegregating its training camp

facilities. Black platoons were then assigned to white companies in a first step toward battlefield integration. However, the official order integrating the armed forces didn't come until July 26, 1948, signed by President Harry Truman.



July 26, 1945 - The U.S. Cruiser Indianapolis arrived at Tinian Island in the Marianas with an unassembled Atomic bomb, met by scientists ready to complete the assembly.



July 26, 1953 - The beginning of Fidel Castro's revolutionary "26th of July Movement." In 1959, Castro led the rebellion that drove out dictator Fulgencio Batista. Although he once declared that Cuba would never again be ruled by a dictator, Castro's government became a Communist dictatorship.

Birthday - Irish playwright George Bernard Shaw (1856-1950) was born in Dublin, Ireland.

JULY 27



July 27, 1953 - The Korean War ended with the signing of an armistice by U.S. and North Korean delegates at Panmunjom, Korea. The war had lasted just over three years.

The Hindi month of Shravan is the most auspicious month of the Hindu calendar. The whole month is dedicated to Shiva and Shakti. Devotees observe Shravan Somwar fast every Monday while Mangala Gauri fast is observed every Tuesday. It is said that Mother Parvati had observed innumerable fasts to attain Shiva, and one of those is Mangala Gauri Vrat.

The fast is observed by married women to seek blessings for their husband's long life while the unmarried girls keep this fast to get a good husband.

Puja vidhi

Women who observe Mangala Gauri fast perform the puja vidhi after taking a bath. First, the idol or image of Mangala Gauri is placed on red cloth on a wooden plate. After that, nine planets made from rice and sixteen goddesses made from wheat are drawn on the plate, where a kalash is also placed. Devotees then perform puja by offering water, milk, curd, roli, sandalwood, vermilion, henna and kajal, bangles, nuts, betel nuts, and cloves. After that, Mangala Gauri Vrat Katha is told and heard by the devotees. The puja is concluded by taking prasad. Those who observe fast take meals only once during the entire day.

Vrat Katha

In ancient times a merchant named Dharmapala lived in a town with his wife. There was no dearth of wealth in his house, and his wife was also very intelligent and virtuous. He had all kinds of happiness in his life, except for one thing. Dharmapala did not have any child, and to beget a child, he used to do a lot of fasting, rituals and charity along with his wife. Seeing his good deeds, God was pleased with him, and in some time, the merchant was blessed with a child. But his happiness waned when after the birth of the son, astrologers predicted that the child was short-lived and would die of a snakebite in the sixteenth year of his life.

Dharmapala got very distressed, but he left all his worries to God. He got his son married to a beautiful girl. Incidentally, the girl's mother used to observe the Mangla Gauri fast, due to which the girl was blessed with unbroken good fortune. As a result of this fast, Dharmapala's son got a long life and lived a happy life.

Pooja Samagri

Fruits, flowers, laddoos, betel nuts, cardamom, cloves, cumin, coriander (all items should be 16 in number), 16 items adornments including saree, 16 bangles, five types of dry Nuts (16 each) Seven types of cereals (16 each) as per Mangla Gauri Puja Vidhi.

Women who fast should start these fasts with a resolution on the first Tuesday of the month of Shravan. On the morning of the first Tuesday of the month of Shravan, after taking a bath etc., the idol or image of Mangala Gauri is placed on a wooden plate along with a red cloth. Nine planets are made from rice and placed on the red cloth on the plate; sixteen goddesses are made from wheat. Placing rice and flowers on one side of the plate, the Kalash is established. Keep some water in the vase, as per the rules of Mangla Gauri Puja.

After this, a lamp is made from wheat flour; in this lamp, four sticks of 16 strings each are made and lit. First of all, Lord Ganesha is worshipped. In this worship, water, roli, mouli, sandalwood, vermilion, betel nut, betel leaf, rice, flowers, cardamom, belpatra, fruits, dry fruits and Dakshina are offered to Lord Ganesha. After this, the worship of the Kalash is done in the same manner as the worship of Lord Ganesh. Then the nine planets and sixteen goddesses are on August 31, 2023, Thursday. shipped. All the material offered should be given to some poor person.

After anointing the idol of Mangala Gauri with water, milk, curd, etc., put roli, sandalwood, vermilion, henna and kajal on her idol. The Goddess (Mother) is decorated with sixteen items of makeup. Besides, sixteen types of flowers, leaves, garlands etc., are offered; thereafter nuts, betel nuts, cloves, henna, bangles are offered. In the end, the story of Mangala Gauri Vrat is told. After listening to the story, married women donate sixteen laddus to their mother-in-law, and sister-in-law and meals are to be

Mangala Gauri Vrat



taken only once during the day. After this, prasad is offered to the Brahmins. The idol of Goddess Mangala Gauri is immersed in a river or pond on Wednesday, the second day of the last fast. This fast is observed for five consecutive years. Thereafter, Udyapan is carried out.

Udyapan Method

It should be done after Tuesday fastings in Shravan month are completed. Eating is prohibited during Udyapan. Worship should be done by applying mehndi. The worship should be performed by four scholars. A veil should be tied to the pavilion by placing four banana poles at the four corners. Place a bowl on the Kalash and establish Mangala Gauri in it. All the items like the sari, nath (nose ring) and other marriage-related things of the worshipping woman should be kept on it. After the havan, you should listen to the Katha (story) and then aarti should be performed. Sixteen flour laddus, some money and a sari should be placed in a silver vessel and given to mother-in-law and should touch her feet. The scholars who have performed the puja should also be given food and gifts. If women undertake Mangala Gauri Vrat 2023 with full rituals and sincerity, they will get all the happiness and necessities of married life.

BENEFITS ACCORDING TO LEGENDS

- Married women who perform the fast are granted a happy and wealthy marriage by Mata Mangla Gauri.
- It also guards against blood-related illnesses.
- The negative effects of the Mars planet are lessened by doing this ritual, and individuals who have the Mangla Dosha in their horoscope must perform the Mangla Gauri Vrat.
- It brings prosperity, defeats adversaries, ends loans, and wins cases.
- This Vrat also lessens the Manglik dosha, which is a horoscope.



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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."

Kumarakom: The Little Venice

With emerald green waters flanked by lush vegetation, Kumarakom is an enchanting backwater destination situated 16km away from Kottayam in Kerala. Lying on the banks of Vembanad Lake, Kerala's largest lake, Kumarakom is a cluster of small human-made islands reclaimed from the lake.

Known for paddy fields, fishing, beach, a network of backwaters, delicious local cuisine, traditional Kettuvalloms (rice barges) houseboats and luxury and budget resorts. The Kumarakom bird sanctuary here, which is spread across 14 acres, is a favourite haunt of migratory birds and an ornithologist's paradise. Take a two-hour canoeing trip during the sunrise or sunset to experience the beauty of this place. Kumarakom is the first destination to implement responsible tourism.

Kumarakom Bird Sanctuary

The Kumarakom Bird Sanctuary, also popularly known as the Vembanad Bird Sanctuary, is a breathtaking and beautiful bird sanctuary that is located at Kumarakom in the Kottayam district in the Indian state of Kerala.

Situated on the banks of the Vembanad Lake in the Kerala Backwaters, this bird sanctuary is a favourite destination for many native as well as migratory birds, which makes the place a dreamland full of ecstasy and delight for bird watchers and nature lovers.

The houseboats and motorboats that are available on rent to watch birds further enhance this enriching experience. A trip to the Kumarakom Bird Sanctuary is thus a must while in Kerala, to explore and unravel the hidden treasures and gifts of the Earth.

Kumarakom Backwaters

The Backwaters of Kumarakom, formed by the beautiful Vembanad Lake, is located about 17 kilometres from Kottayam in God's Own Country, the South Indian state of Kerala. Vembanad Lake is the largest freshwater lake in the state and is known worldwide for its famous backwater tourism. The Backwaters of Kumarakom offer a picturesque location that proves to be a perfect backwater destination for travellers who are persistently searching for one.

The Vembanad Lake of Kumarakom is the starting point for backwater cruises in Kerala, along with Allepey. Formerly known as the Baker Estate and now developed as a Rubber Estate, Kumarakom is home to a diversity of flora and fauna. The lush green surroundings with tall grass, shrubs and countless coconut trees that line the horizon of the pristine lake are a treat to the eyes.

Kumarakom Beach

Kumarakom Beach is famous for recreational activities and water sports. The pristine clear waters are apt for swimming. The glimmering sands, the gentle waves, several restaurants and resorts make it a perfect tourist attraction in the city. This is one of the beaches where one



can find delicious seafood.

Pathiramanal

Pathiramanal is a beautiful island in Alappuzha which was once the property of the Thaimattatil family until 1979. The island is covered with dense natural vegetation and offers a perfect climatic condition for regional flora and fauna to thrive. The attraction is also famous as a bird watcher's paradise and a favourite amongst nature lovers.

'Pathiramanal' meaning 'sands of the night' boasts of verdant wilderness, serene lakeside and a picturesque landscape. Sprawling over 10 acres of land, the islet is the ideal spot for bird watching expeditions as it is home to a large number of rare and endangered species. This haven of natural beauty is also believed to nurture plants which have medicinal qualities.

Kumarakom Craft Museum

Kumarakom Craft Museum has a stunning collection of antiques ranging from woodwork, decor items, paintings, portraits, etc. This is where one can find most of the well preserved antiques or traditional artefacts belonging to the region. Local artwork and craftwork can also be purchased from the museum shop.

Aruvikkuzhi Waterfall

Aruvikkuzhi Waterfall is an impressive 30 feet high waterfall which is a perfect attraction to visit during the monsoons when it gushes with gallons of water. The surroundings are covered with dense forestation and have several exciting trekking trails. It is, therefore, an apt attraction for nature walks, trekking or hiking.





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Anubrata Chatterjee - Tabla, Amit Kavthekar - Tabla

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Meet the Visionary Social Activist and Real Estate Entrepreneur Nidarshana Gowani



Nidarshana Gowani is the Managing Director of Kamala Group of Industries and Trustee of the Kamala Ankibai Ghamandiram Gowani Trust

The Kamala Ankibai Ghamandiram Gowani Trust, founded in 1969, is a beacon of hope for social causes under the visionary leadership of Nidarshana Gowani, the Managing Director of Kamala Group of Industries

and Trustee of the organization. The Trust is devoted to a myriad of noble causes, including promoting diversity, inclusion, education, and healthcare. Over the years, the Trust has become a symbol of excellence in taking up unique initiatives that have transformed lives.

One of the most remarkable initiatives of the Trust is the establishment of Green Plant Energy Pvt Ltd. in Punjab, which aims to make the region a hub for biomass and agro waste by focusing on decentralized energy production. The result is the creation of modular biomass power plants that generate zero waste, with all the heat generated from biogas engines used to power a VAM cold storage, aiding in the processing and preservation of food. Such initiatives are critical in today's world as we strive towards achieving a net-zero and combatting climate change.

Nidarshana Gowani is a true champion of diversity and inclusion, with initiatives focused on promoting

gender equality and creating awareness through humanity walks. Her efforts to welcome transgender individuals have made them feel included and appreciated. The Trust's events for the fire and acid attack survivors have brought tears of joy to many, and her efforts have been widely recognized by various print and digital publications.

During the pandemic, the Trust worked tirelessly for the welfare of migrant workers, frontline warriors, and others struggling for food and shelter. The Trust distributed groceries, masks, and sanitizers when there was a shortage. In addition, the Trust organized helmet distribution drives for police officers and food distribution drives to thank public servants for their service.

The Trust's significant contributions to education and healthcare are also worth mentioning. Nidarshana Gowani's belief in education for all has led to the establishment of schools, colleges,

temples, and dharamshalas, ensuring that everyone has access to education and religious ease. Health camps organized by the Trust have saved countless lives and ensured that people do not lose precious years due to negligence or the unavailability of adequate facilities.

The Trust also recognizes and supports women achievers and young talents through Kamala Power Women Awards and Kamala Rising Star Awards, respectively. These initiatives offer much-needed aid and recognition to individuals from small towns and villages, shattering societal barriers and making a positive impact on the world. Other felicitation initiatives are also ideated and executed on a regular basis.

Kamala Ankibai Ghamandiram Gowani Trust has evolved as a powerful force for transforming lives and communities through its unique and impactful initiatives.

Oommen Chandy: A colossus of Kerala politics



The former Chief Minister of Kerala, breathed his last in the early hours of Tuesday, July 18, in a Bengaluru clinic

Oommen Chandy, former Chief Minister of Kerala, who breathed his last in the early hours of Tuesday (July 18) in a Bengaluru clinic, was born on October 31, 1943, in Puthuppally, Kerala.

Oommen Chandy's son Chandy Oommen announced the news of his father's death in a Facebook post. Chandy began his political journey at a young age with the Kerala Students Union (KSU). He quickly rose in the political arena and held many positions, from being the MLA of Puthuppally for five decades - he was elected in 1970, 1977, 1980, 1982, 1987, 1991, 1996,

2001, 2006, 2011, 2016 and 2021 - to handling the home and finance portfolios of the state Cabinet before assuming charge as Chief Minister of Kerala for the first time in 2004. This was when AK Antony stepped down following a poll debacle for the Congress in the 2004 Lok Sabha elections. Inside the party, Chandy belonged to the group headed by Antony. It was when Karunakaran, the leader of the 'I Group' (named after Indira Gandhi), refused MA Kuttappan a seat in the Rajya Sabha in 1994, Chandy resigned as the Finance Minister and went on the offensive. Karunakaran had to resign as Chief Minister soon after.

Chandy faced the toughest time of his life when he was linked with the notorious solar scam that rocked the state in 2013. However, a CBI probe exonerated him from some of the heinous charges levelled against him. In a letter addressed to Chandy's widow Mariamma Oommen, former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh described Chandy as a "leader of high esteem who was respected by everybody irrespective of party lines".

Paying tribute to Chandy, Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge said Chandy's unwavering commitment and visionary leadership left an indelible mark on Kerala's progress and the nation's political landscape. "Oommen Chandy was an exemplary grassroots Congress leader. We will miss him dearly", Congress leader Rahul Gandhi said in a message.

Supply Chain Resilience: Lessons Learned from the Post-Pandemic Era



BY MANDEEP SINGH

The COVID-19 pandemic brought unprecedented challenges to global supply chains and logistics operations. However, amidst the chaos, there were valuable lessons learned that have reshaped the industry's approach to resilience and adaptability. This article presents a case study on Mandeep, a supply chain and logistics Director, examines how Mandeep effectively managed the post-pandemic landscape by incorporating key lessons learned.

Lesson 1: Agility and Flexibility : Mandeep recognized the importance of agility and flexibility in navigating disruptions caused by the pandemic. By diversifying sourcing options to India and USA and establishing relationships with multiple suppliers, Mandeep ensured a steady flow of critical goods. This allowed for quick adjustments in production and minimized the impact of supply chain disruptions. He also proactively modified transportation routes and utilized alternative modes of transport to avoid bottlenecks and ensure timely deliveries.

Lesson 2: Enhanced Visibility and Collaboration : Understanding the significance of supply chain visibility, Mandeep leveraged advanced technologies to enhance transparency. By implementing real-time tracking systems and data analytics tools, Mandeep gained comprehensive visibility into inventory levels, shipping statuses, and potential bottlenecks. This enabled informed decision-making and proactive response to disruptions. Additionally, Mandeep fostered collaborative relationships with suppliers, customers, and logistics partners, sharing critical information and jointly planning strategies to mitigate risks.

Lesson 3: Resilient Inventory Management : Mandeep recognized the vulnerability of just-in-time inventory management systems exposed during the pandemic. To address this, Mandeep implemented resilient inventory management practices. By maintaining buffer stocks and safety reserves, Mandeep ensured a sufficient supply of essential items even during unexpected disruptions.

Mandeep also employed data-driven demand forecasting techniques to optimize inventory levels, preventing stockouts and minimizing excess inventory.

Lesson 4: Embracing Technology and Automation : To cope with the challenges posed by the pandemic, Mandeep embraced technology and automation. Mandeep leveraged advanced systems predictive analytics, advanced reorder points system and demand planning strategies. By automating manual tasks and optimizing operations, Mandeep reduced reliance on human labor and enhanced efficiency. Furthermore, digital platforms and cloud-based solutions were implemented to streamline communication, facilitate remote collaboration, and ensure seamless information flow across the supply chain.

Lesson 5: Risk Management and Business Continuity: The pandemic underscored the importance of robust risk management strategies and business continuity plans. Companies are now investing in comprehensive risk assessments and scenario planning to identify potential vulnerabilities and develop proactive mitigation strategies. The same way Mandeep implemented these strategies and worked on alternative sourcing options, redundant transportation routes, and disaster recovery protocols. By proactively addressing risks and establishing resilient supply chain networks, businesses can better withstand future disruptions.

To sum up, the post-pandemic era has necessitated a reevaluation of supply chain and logistics strategies. By embracing agility, enhancing visibility, fostering collaboration, implementing resilient inventory management, leveraging technology, and prioritizing risk management, the writer successfully navigated the challenging post-pandemic landscape. These lessons can serve as a blueprint for supply chain and logistics professionals seeking to build resilient, adaptable, and efficient operations in the face of future disruptions.

Fulbright-Hays award for Yuva Hindi Sansthan

JULY 17, 2023

EDISON, NJ (TIP): For the second time in a row Yuva Hindi Sansthan, a NJ based non-profit educational institution, partnered with the Hindi Program at New York University, received the prestigious Fulbright-Hays Group Project Abroad award for the fiscal year 2023. The project, conducted by the US Department of Education, requires the grantees to conduct a month-long study tour to India for US based language teachers, students and school, college or university faculty members.

According to a press release issued by the award recipients, "The project is based upon an in-depth study by Prof Gabriela Nik Ilieva, NYU, who developed this program that offers a unique opportunity to study, improve, and develop Hindi language skills and engage in collecting, organizing topic-based audio, visual and textual materials as re-sources for developing thematic curriculum documents for Hindi learners. The theme of the project, LIVING WITH CONTENTMENT IN A MATERIAL WORLD: MINDFUL LIVING AND WELLNESS TRADITIONS IN INDIA, is drawn from the age-old Indian tradition that advocates contentment."

"We are glad to have received this award", said Ashok Ojha, Program Director, " We won the Fulbright-Hays award in the year 2022 for the first time that enabled us to lead a group of educators to India for one month when the participants explored the value of 'sustainability' in the Indian context. On their return to the USA they worked



Fiona Raleigh, one of the participants of 2022 YHS Fulbright-Hays program experiencing the sustainable lifestyle of Warli tribal community during the study tour that took place in November 2022.

Photo credit / 2022 YHS Fulbright-Hays GPA Program

under Prof. Ilieva and developed teaching material based on the material collected in India."

"This year our team will explore how members of various Indian communities think or talk about mindful living, on one hand, and on the other exercise mindful living, ideas and behaviors rooted in ancient traditions and textual sources", Ojha continued.

A non-political project funded by the US Department of Education, YHS-NYU

Fulbright-Hays GPA Curriculum Development Program 2023 provides equal access and treatment for eligible project participants without regard to race, color, national origin, gender, age or disability condition. It is open to all U. S. based K-12, community schools and college instructors. Project Director Ashok Ojha and Project Academic Director Prof. Gabriela Nik Ilieva will lead the team of participants on a study tour to India in the Spring 2024.

During the study tour the program participants will collect information, record individual and community insights about practices and perspectives related to contentment, mindful lifestyles and wellness in order to develop instructional materials and thus expand existing curricula. The study tour includes mindful and wellness lectures and activities at the 'Arsh Vidya Gurukulam' in Rishikesh; measuring contentment and happiness, Lucknow University; legends and iconic places, Kolkata; balance in life through Madhubani art in Bihar, and the traditional practices and perspectives in Upanishadic and Buddhist texts at Benares University and Central Institute of Higher Tibetan Studies.

The goal is to create an instructional platform that will support the teaching of traditional mindful practices and perspectives more consistently and more cohesively in the Hindi and South Asian Studies classrooms in the U.S., based on focused information and well-designed instructional materials. They will learn from lectures and selected readings of primary and secondary resources; they will make observations and discuss with local native speakers common practices and perspectives related to the different dimensions of mindfulness and wellness. Our initial research demonstrates that

The program consists of pre-departure and post-tour online work (held on 5 Saturdays 10am- 2pm December, 2023-January, 2024 and 5 Saturdays April-May 2024).

Legislator DeRiggi-Whitton Applauds Committee Approvals to Increase Funding for Sands Point Bridge Repairs

FINAL APPROVAL FOR THE FUNDING COULD COME AS EARLY AS AUG. 7

JULY 21, 2023

SANDS POINT, N.Y. ((TIP)- Nassau County Legislator Delia DeRiggi-Whitton (D - Glen Cove) applauded the committee passage of capital plan amendments that will deliver crucial resources for repairs to the Sands Point Bridge

Members of the Public Works, Finance, and Rules committees voted unanimously on Monday, July 17 to approve \$200,000 in additional bonding and increase the overall capital authorization for the project to \$2.4 million. Final approval could come as soon as the Aug. 7 meeting of the full Legislature.

The scope of the project includes rehabilitation along the length of the bridge and its approaches; cleaning of the historic stone fascia arches and retaining walls;



Nassau County Legislator Delia DeRiggi-Whitton (D - Glen Cove) applauded the committee passage of capital plan amendments that will deliver crucial resources for repairs to the Sands Point Bridge

repointing the stone masonry; repairing the damaged stone parapets; and repairing the architectural trim; and roadway rehabilitation including the excavation of the roadway, replacement of the sub-grades and asphalt riding surface; and upgrading the drainage system.

"These long-awaited repairs to the Sands Point Bridge are crucial for giving our entire community the comfort of knowing that this historic structure will be safe and secure for motorists to drive on for many years to come," Legislator DeRiggi-Whitton said. "I thank my colleagues for supporting this important investment in our community and look forward to its approval by the full Legislature in the coming weeks."



Indian American youth Shaylan "Shay" Shah from New Jersey missing

JULY 18, 2023

EDISON, NJ (TIP): In what can be the worst nightmare for parents, a 19-year-old Indian American youth from New Jersey has gone missing. Shaylan "Shay" Shah was last seen on Saturday near Westgate Square in Edison, New Jersey.

The parents of the young man, Rich Shah and Kalpana Shah who are residents of New Jersey are desperately trying to look for their missing son and seeking the help of both authorities and the community.

According to the latest update from Shay's dad, Rich Shah, the family have been unable to contact their missing kid. Rich also updated on his social media page that they are working closely with New Jersey police.

"We have made contact with NJ Transit police who will be providing support to attempt tracking Shaylan's whereabouts," he wrote. "We are grateful for their service and giving us continued hope to validate that he is safe."

Shay has been missing since early Saturday morning. According to the family, Shay went missing at approximately 5:50 am on July 15. The family says that they have confirmation that Shay was last seen at Newark Penn Station on the same day, Saturday



Shaylan "Shay" Shah, aged 19 years, has gone missing

morning around 11 am.

Shay's father Rich Shah said, "Unfortunately, we do not know where Shay is heading at this time. We are still concerned about Shay's well-being and appreciate any ongoing support in

finding him. Our family is blessed with the overwhelming support, and we know Shay will be found safely."

The Indian American community got involved on social media as the news of missing teenager came. Flyers carrying

Shay's pictures and details about him being missing were shared from Michigan to California.

Some community members have been circulating Shay's pictures and details on WhatsApp groups and local expat groups. By Monday late in the night, community social media groups were busy with people circulating information about the missing teenager.

Friends and acquaintances of the family from Pennsylvania to missing also shared father's plea for reporting any information related to his son.

Shaylan's dad Rich Shah is the founder of a non-profit VRX Foundation. The family relocated to New Jersey from Bethlehem, Pennsylvania.

Shay's dad Rich Shah can be reached at 732-447-4634.

Edison police also issued a notice seeking public help in finding Shay:

"Edison PD seeks your help in locating a missing person: SHAYLAN SHAH, 19-year-old Indian Male 508 140 lbs. Black Hair Brown Eyes Unknown on Clothing Unknown Possible Destination, Last Seen in the area of Linda Lane & Westgate Drive in Edison. Left the area on foot. If you have information that can assist in helping safely locate SHAYLAN SHAH, please contact your local police department or call Edison PD 732-248-7400, press 1"

Legislator Lafazan Applauds Rules Committee Approval of Nearly \$2.6 Million Bailey Arboretum Restoration Contract



Nassau County Legislator Joshua Lafazan

JULY 19, 2023

LATTINGTOWN, N.Y. (TIP): Nassau County Legislator Joshua Lafazan (D - Woodbury) applauded the approval of a nearly \$2.6 million contract for the restoration of the pond at Bailey Arboretum in Lattingtown.

The Legislature's Rules committee signed off on the \$2,576,225 contract with Galvin Bros., Inc./Madhue Contracting on Monday, July 17 to restore Bailey Arboretum's pond to its original condition. Contracts are enacted upon approval by the Rules committee, and no further legislative action is required.

Sited on the former estate of Frank and Marie Louise Bailey, the 42-acre property was donated to Nassau County in 1968 after Marie Louise Bailey passed away and has been under the care of the Friends of Bailey Arboretum since 2006. In addition, Friends of the Bailey Arboretum notes that Frank Bailey himself was a self-taught horticulturalist who created one of America's first private garden museums.

In recent years, however, the pond system has deteriorated due to an increase in aquatic invasive species, the failure of weirs and related overflow

structures, shoreline erosion, and sedimentation. This project will address these issues by dredging the pond, repairing the weirs, planting native species, and stabilizing the shoreline.

"It is wonderful that Bailey Arboretum will soon be receiving the resources that are befitting of its rich history," Legislator Lafazan said. "I thank my colleagues in the Rules committee for approving a contract that clears the way a project that will allow future generations to enjoy one of Nassau County's great natural treasures."

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WFI election to be held on August 12

The delayed elections of the Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) will now be held on August 12. The returning officer, Justice (retd) MM Kumar, released a revised schedule of the elections.

The elections were to be held on July 11. However, the Gauhati High Court stayed the polls after a plea from the defunct Assam Wrestling Association, who wanted to take part in the process. Incidentally, the HC order had come on May 25, which was the last date to submit names for the Electoral College. However, the Supreme Court on July 18 stayed the High Court order, clearing the way for the elections.

As per the new notification, the submission of nominations will be done from May 28 to 31, while the list of final candidates will be announced on August 7.

Meanwhile, Justice Kumar has quickly dealt with the disputes amongst some of the state bodies after hearing the arguments of all the factions today. While the dispute in the Himachal Pradesh association was resolved by mutual consent, the Rajasthan body recognised by the WFI was given the right to take.

Satwik-Chirag pair enters semifinals of Korea Open

Star Indian men's doubles pair of Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty entered the semifinals of the Korea Open Super 500 tournament with a straight game win over Japan's Takuro Hoki and Yugo Kobayashi Yeosu (Korea) on Friday, July 21.

The world No.3 Indian pair, seeded third here, took just 40 minutes to get the better of the fifth-seeded Japanese pair 21-14 21-17.

Satwik and Chirag will take on second seeds Wei Keng Liang and Chang Wang of China, who are the 2021 world champions in men's doubles.

Satwik and Chirag are now India's flag bearers in the tournament after the premature exits of PV Sindhu, HS Prannoy, Kidambi Srikanth among others.

Kohli smashes 29th Test century as India score 438 against WI in first innings

PORT OF SPAIN (TIP)

Virat Kohli headlined his 500th international appearance with a 76th hundred as India coasted to a healthy first innings score of 438 at tea on the second day of the second Test against West Indies here on July 21.

Kohli, who missed out on a hundred in the previous Test, made 121 in 206 balls. With his 29th century in the longest format, Kohli went level with none other than the legendary Sir Donald Bradman.

In the process, he also added 159 runs for the fifth wicket with Ravindra Jadeja (61 off 152 balls), who also scored his 19th half-century in Tests.

Both were dismissed in quick succession as Kohli fell short of his crease trying to steal a quick single and Jadeja falling to pacer Kemar Roach.

Ravichandran Ashwin (56 off 78 balls), with four hundreds against the same opposition, did look comfortable against both spin and pace as he played some adventurous ramp shots off Roach to help himself to his 14th half-century.

Ishan Kishan (25) would be cursing himself for not making full use of decent batting conditions and a platform set by the top-order batters.

The first session on the second day belonged to Kohli, who was hardly troubled by any of the West Indies pacers. Starting the day at 87, Kohli reached his century in the first half-hour while dispatching a



Roach delivery wide of point. As Kohli took a bow, the wide grin on his face said it all. The satisfaction of scoring his first overseas Test hundred since 2018 (in Perth) was palpable.

The Queens Park Oval track is certainly way better for strokeplay compared to first Test venue of Windsor Park in Dominica. One could hit through the line even though there were deliveries that were gripping off

the surface.

Kohli's greatness lay in his game awareness as the cornerstone of his innings was 45 singles and 13 doubles in energy sapping conditions. He would be pleased because as many as nine of his 11 boundaries were hit on the off side with the signature cover drive coming out of his closet time and again. Kohli got an able ally in Jadeja, who got his 19th half-century. *Source: PTI*

ASHES FOURTH TEST



Jonny Bairstow plundered four sixers in his unbeaten 99.

Jonny bravo: Bairstow pounds Aussies, Woods turns screws

MANCHESTER (TIP)

A hostile spell of bowling from Mark Wood helped restrict Australia to 113/4 in their second innings on Day 3 of a thrilling fourth Ashes Test, still trailing England by 162 runs as the hosts close in on a win that would level the series.

England had looked dead and buried in the series after the Lord's Test, trailing 2-0, with no team since 1936-37 coming back to win the Ashes having lost the first two matches.

But after their exhilarating success at Headingley, England have taken the attack to Australia in Manchester, with the tourists having no answer to this new-found, aggressive approach from the hosts. Looking to extend their first innings lead today, Jonny Bairstow produced a blistering display with the

- 592: England posted their highest Ashes innings total on home soil since 1985
- 5.49: England's run-rate in their total of 592, the third highest for any team in a 500-plus total in Test cricket

bat to finish unbeaten on 99 as he helped England post a colossal 592 all out — their highest Ashes innings total on home soil since 1985. With rain forecast for the weekend and England holding a 275-run lead, it was clear Australia were playing for a draw that would help them to retain the Ashes.

Brief scores: Australia: 317 and 113/4 in 41 overs (Labuschagne 44*; Wood 3/17); England: 592 in 107.4 overs (Crawley 189, Bairstow 99*; Hazelwood 5/126).

Source: Reuters



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-Rig Veda



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- * 350 thousand + surgeries
- * 30 thousand + on children

**Message from
Peter J. McDonnell,
M.D. Director Wilmer Eye
Institute, Johns Hopkins
University, USA on the
occasion of laying the
foundation stone on
December 10, 2020**



"On behalf of all my colleagues of the Wilmer Eye Institute in Baltimore, MO, I send my best wishes and congratulations to our friends in Goutami on this extremely important occasion. This beautiful facility will match the wonderful world class work of your doctors, nurses and staff in preserving and restoring the vision of so many patients. We in the United States are inspired by your dedication and admire your tireless efforts to serve so many who need your skills and compassion. Best wishes, Peter"

"There can be no keener
revelation of a society's soul
than the way in which it treats
its children". - Nelson Mandela



**POST
SURGERY**



**PRE
SURGERY**

Triplets Prasanth, Susanth and Nisanth, who were treated by Goutami Eye Institute three years ago and gifted vision for life, as ROP babies under GEMROP (Goutami Eye tele Medicine Retinopathy Of Prematurity).

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ॐ सर्वे भवन्तु सुखिनः Sarve Bhavantu Sukhinah,
सर्वे सन्तु नरिमयाः । Sarve Santu Niramayah
May all be prosperous and happy!
May all be healthy!

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