



The

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EVER TRUTHFUL

# 1 Indian American Weekly : Since 2006

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The INDIAN PANORAMA

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

INSIDE

UKRAINE SHADOW SET TO LOOM LARGE OVER G20 MEET PAGE 08

WHY IS THE UN FAILING IN ITS DUTIES? PAGE 09

QUESTIONS FOR MANIPUR CM, DGP PAGE 10

Documentary on Ramon Magsaysay Award winner Indian journalist Ravish Kumar premiers in New York



Ravish Kumar as seen in "While We Watched," a documentary directed by Vinay Shukla. Credit / BRITDOC Films

JULY 23, 2023

NEW YORK (TIP) : The ongoing film screening festival, DOC NYC Selects is featuring six brilliant and critically acclaimed films including one about noted Indian journalist Ravish Kumar and his unabated journey towards bringing out news that matters. The festival which is an extension of DOC NYC's Annual Fall Festival is currently being held at IFC

CONTD ON PAGE 36

U.S. announces \$345 million military aid package for Taiwan

THE WHITE HOUSE'S ANNOUNCEMENT SAID THE PACKAGE WOULD INCLUDE DEFENSE, EDUCATION AND TRAINING FOR THE TAIWANESE



The U.S. announced \$345 million in military aid for Taiwan, in what is the Biden administration's first major package drawing on America's own stockpiles to help Taiwan counter China

JULY 28, 2023

WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP): The U.S. on Friday, July 28, announced \$345 million in military aid for Taiwan, in what is the Biden administration's first major package drawing on America's own stockpiles to help Taiwan counter China, says an AP report.

The White House's announcement said the package would include defense, education and training for the Taiwanese. Washington will send man-portable air defense systems, or MANPADS, intelligence and surveillance capabilities, firearms and missiles, according to two U.S. officials who spoke on the condition of anonymity to discuss sensitive matters ahead of the announcement.

U.S. lawmakers have been pressuring the Pentagon and White House to speed weapons to Taiwan.

CONTD ON PAGE 36

Supreme Court allows Sanjay Kumar Mishra to continue as ED Director till September 15



The Supreme Court on July 27, in a special hearing, extended Enforcement Directorate (ED) Director Sanjay Kumar Mishra's tenure till September 15, 2023 to serve "public and national interest".

JULY 27, 2023

NEW DELHI (TIP): The Supreme Court on July 27, in a special hearing, extended Enforcement Directorate (ED) Director Sanjay Kumar Mishra's tenure till September 15, 2023 to serve "public and national interest".

The court had declared Mishra's continuation as ED Director "invalid and illegal" in a judgment on July 11. It had directed him to quit the office by July 31.

However, just four days before the deadline, the Centre moved an urgent application in the Supreme Court, saying Mishra's presence in the saddle was crucial for the country to effectively sail through the ongoing evaluation by the Financial Action Task Force (FATF). The government asked the court to allow Mishra, who is currently on his third extension and fifth year as ED chief, to continue till October 15.

CONTD ON PAGE 36

CBI to take over Manipur sexual assault case, say officials



Two houses set on fire in the ongoing ethnic violence in Manipur. Photo / PTI

JULY 28, 2023

NEW DELHI (TIP): The CBI will probe the case of sexual assault on two women who were stripped and paraded by a mob in Manipur and the government will seek its trial outside the state, officials said on July 27

The trial would be sought to be held in a court in neighboring Assam, they said. The officials also said the Union Home Ministry is in touch with both Meitei and Kuki groups and talks are in an advanced stage to restore normalcy in Manipur.

CONTD ON PAGE 36

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**GUEST COMMENT****Needless accommodation: On the judiciary and the term of the Enforcement Directorate head****BY ALLOWING ED CHIEF'S CONTINUANCE, SUPREME COURT HAS UNDERMINED ITS OWN AUTHORITY**

It comes no more as a shock or surprise if the Supreme Court is seen as deferring excessively to the government's wishes. The order allowing Sanjay Kumar Mishra, head of the Enforcement Directorate (ED), to continue till September 15 at the Centre's request is needlessly accommodative. It was only on July 11 that the Court declared illegal the extensions given to Mr. Mishra in 2021 and 2022. At the same time, he was permitted to continue till July 31 to ensure a smooth transition. Yet, without any submission that the process to select his successor has been set in motion, the Court has invoked an undefined "larger national interest" to allow him to go on up to September 15. It was a self-serving application in the first place. The ostensible reason that the government finds his services indispensable is that he is helming the country's efforts to demonstrate its framework to counter money laundering

and the financing of terrorism during a country review before the Financial Action Task Force (FATF). The multi-lateral body adopts a mutual evaluation system and India's ongoing review will go on until June 2024, when the final evaluation report may be considered at a likely plenary discussion on its compliance status. The government sought an extension of his services until October 15, presumably because the country's agencies and institutions may be ready by then for an on-site visit by an FATF delegation.

As the agency that administers the law against money laundering, the ED may have a key role in preparing the country's presentation, but it is difficult to believe that the process depends on one individual. Even if it were so, nothing prevented the government from utilizing Mr. Mishra's services for FATF purposes alone, while leaving the directorate's routine activities under his

successor. In any case, various agencies and authorities are involved in framing the country's policies on money laundering and terrorism financing. It is unfortunate that the Court did not countenance arguments that highlighted these points. It did raise questions as to how one person could be indispensable, but ultimately chose to allow him to continue for some more time. One can understand the argument that the country's image depends on a positive FATF evaluation, but the claim that not giving Mr. Mishra an extension might result in a "negative image" is quite incomprehensible. India's credentials will be evaluated on its laws, systems and compliance with global standards and not on who prepared the report. The Court's permissiveness detracts from its resolve to hold the government to account for actions that it had itself declared illegal.

(The Hindu)

**Manipur & beyond****CRISIS IMPERILS PEACE IN ENTIRE NORTH-EAST**

The Manipur crisis, which has reached a crescendo due to the nationwide outrage over a video clip showing two women being paraded naked, is spilling over to other states in the North-East. Dozens of Meitei people, who were residing in Mizoram, have fled to Assam following an 'advisory' issued by the Peace Accord MNF Returnees' Association (PAMRA), an ex-militants' group. The Meiteis - the majority community in Manipur - find themselves under threat because a

Meitei mob was allegedly responsible for the horrifying assault on Kuki-Zomi women in early May. Meiteis are leaving Mizoram despite the state government's assurances about their safety and security, even as PAMRA 'clarified' that it had only asked them to exercise caution in the light of 'public sentiments' regarding the ethnic conflict in Manipur. Some Mizoram-based Meiteis have even taken refuge in Manipur.

What has caused anxiety and

insecurity among Meiteis is a call given by Mizoram's civil society groups to hold statewide demonstrations today (July 25) in protest against the violence unleashed on members of the Kuki, Hmar, Mizo and Zomi communities in Manipur. Notably, the immediate trigger for ethnic clashes in Manipur was a 'Tribal Solidarity March' taken out on May 3 in protest against the Meitei community's demand for Scheduled Tribe status.

(Tribune, India)

**READERS WRITE****Manipur incidents make Indians hang their heads in shame**

The horrifying & gruesome incident of Manipur has put the whole nation to shame. The irresponsible religious propaganda spread by media everyday will doom the whole nation one day. Society now has been brutally divided in the name of religion to fulfill the vested interest of the ruling party. The insanity has reached its peak because of the hate messages being officially circulated on social media, which are turning us into

intolerant human beings. If this continues, after some time the whole country will be sitting on the Time Bomb and anarchy will rule the Day. If we don't stop here the results will be devastating. Tomorrow it can be one of us. It is high time we recognize this game of dirty politics and refrain ourselves from spreading hatred in the country. No one can manipulate us against our wish. So, only the citizens of this country can stop the occurring of

these incidents in future. Let us stop ourselves from being fooled by dangerous politicians who are not even affected by the incident. Let the people suffer; they are interested in their vote banks only. What goes out comes back, this is the law of nature. So, please spread love, affection and care and make India a place worth living in.

Tript Kaur  
Ludhiana



# NY State Senator Kevin Thomas to run for US Congress from NY-04

JULY 27, 2023

**NEW YORK (TIP):** Indian American New York State Senator Kevin Thomas has launched his campaign for New York's 4th Congressional District. He announced the bid in Elmont, NY, surrounded by family, friends, and supporters, to take on first-term Republican Rep. Anthony D'Esposito in the next year's congressional election.

Thomas, who has been representing New York's 6th Senate district since 2018, said, "I've accomplished real results for Nassau County families - fighting to stop property tax hikes, clean up our drinking water, guarantee the right to an abortion under New York law, keep guns out of the wrong hands, and ensure our neighborhoods stay affordable and safe."

Thomas was quick to tie the incumbent to former President Donald J. Trump's "Make America Great Again" movement.

"I've proven I can get things done to make life better for folks on Long Island, while MAGA Republicans like Anthony D'Esposito offer up extremism and political games that only make things worse," he said. "Now, more than ever, we need action. I'm ready to take this fight to Washington to be an effective voice for Long Islanders at a time when we need it the most!"

The 4th district, covering central and southern Nassau County, is one of the wealthiest congressional districts in the country and the second wealthiest in New York.

The Democratic-leaning district was narrowly won by D'Esposito.

It has voted for every Democratic presidential nominee since 1992. In 2020, President Joe Biden won the district by 14 points, making it one of the 18 districts nationally that voted for Biden for president and a GOP candidate for Congress. Reportedly, it is the most Democratic district held by a



In 24 hours after announcing his entrance into the race for US Congress, NY State Senator Kevin Thomas has raised \$109,000

Republican. In 2018, he became the first Indian American elected to the New York State Senate, when he defeated the incumbent Sen. Kemp Hannon, who had been a New York state lawmaker since January 1977.

Currently, Thomas holds the position of Assistant Majority Leader in the state senate and serves as the chairman of its Consumer Protection Committee. Additionally, he is a member of several committees, including Rules, Finance, Health, Judiciary, Local Government, and Agriculture.

24 hours after announcing his entrance into the race, state Senator Kevin Thomas has raised \$109,000 against Republican Anthony D'Esposito in New York's 4th Congressional District. Thomas announced his bid to defeat D'Esposito yesterday at his parents' house in Elmont.

"I'm incredibly grateful for the early and astounding support for our campaign. In Congress, I'll never stop fighting to help Long Island families, tackle the gun violence

epidemic, protect our environment, and defend a woman's right to choose."

## ABOUT KEVIN

Kevin Thomas' story is a Long Island story. It's a story of perseverance, defending the vulnerable, and giving back to his community.

Kevin immigrated to the United States at 10 years old. His parents never forgot nor took for granted the freedom and opportunities the United States gave them and their children. Their experience motivated Kevin to be an active participant in our democracy, and to give back through public service.

Knowing education was the key to success, Kevin worked hard, took out student loans he's still paying off today, graduated college and then law school. Instead of joining a big, high-powered law firm, Kevin took a different path, becoming an attorney with the New York Legal Assistance Group, defending those too often pushed aside. He also served as an appointee of the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights to the New York State Advisory Committee, Kevin worked tirelessly to advance civil rights and expand opportunities for all New Yorkers. When the powerful tried to take advantage of regular New Yorkers, Kevin took up their fight - and won.

In 2018, Kevin Thomas became the first Indian-American in New York history to serve in the State Senate. He is currently the Assistant Majority Leader and also serves as Chairman of the Consumer Protection Committee and sits on the Rules, Finance, Health, Judiciary, Local Government, and Agriculture committees. He has passed countless bills into law to make the lives of New Yorkers better. Kevin lives with his wife, Rincy, his daughter Layla, and their beloved family dog, Sirius.

# Bihar Industries Minister Mahaseth invites investment for the State

JULY 24, 2023

**NEW YORK (TIP):** Industries Dept, Govt of Bihar hosted the "Invest in Bihar" summit in New Jersey on 18th July 2023. The summit was hosted in alliance with Bihar Foundation USA, a diaspora cell of Govt of Bihar and Bihar Jharkhand Association of North America. A Delegation of Industries Ministry led by Minister Shri Samir Kumar Mahaseth and additional chief secretary Shri Sandeep Poundrik are in New Jersey USA intending to attract investors to Bihar. The summit was attended by 130 reputed entrepreneurs and professionals from the US who expressed their desire to invest in the state of Bihar. This includes companies related to food processing, manufacturing, IT, and Consulting Services.

The event started with Welcome remarks by Bihar Foundation USA Chairman Shri Alok Kumar and BJANA President Shri Anurag Kumar. Both leaders thanked the visiting delegation for their great initiatives and assured their support in bringing investment to their home state Bihar. Smt. Nidhi Jha welcomed Minister Shri Samir Kumar Mahaseth with a Maithili folk song. The entire cultural presentation was curated by Santosh Jha.

Speaking on the occasion, the Bihar Industries Minister Shri Samir Kumar Mahaseth said that through this summit, the government is encouraging investment in Bihar. He urged entrepreneurs from the United State, who have been "running businesses across India and the world over" to rise to the occasion and invest in Bihar".

Shri Sandeep Poundrik, Additional chief secretary, Industries Dept made a detailed presentation for the potential investors citing investment opportunities in Bihar. During the presentation, Poundrik said whether it



Additional chief secretary Shri Sandeep Poundrik speaking at the "Invest in Bihar" meeting

is textile, manufacturing or IT, a large chunk of manpower is from Bihar, who are willing to return to the state. "Bihar government is acting proactively and taking all possible steps to make a conducive climate here. The government is developing plug-and-play stations where investors will be able to come and start work directly. They will not be required to go through situations like land acquisition and power shortages. This will speed up investment.

Ajay Kumar Singh Founder & CEO of Slayback Pharma wanted to bring more business and opportunities in Bihar specially in Lakhisarai, Bihar whereas Dr. Pankaj Mohan, CEO & Chairman Sonnet Bio Therapeutics, Inc asked for more focus on Buxar, Bihar.

Prashant Kumar, CEO - Mareana Inc, Princeton NJ asked about getting trained skillsets from Various IITs and Engg colleges and Govt plan for retaining them after hire as well as provisioning some innovative recreational facilities so that hired resources stay back in the state. They could look at joint programs with dept of industries



A view of the gathering



Organizers with Minister Shri Samir Kumar Mahaseth (9th from the left) and additional chief secretary Shri Sandeep Poundrik (8th from the left)

pitching in for continuous dishing out right skills.

The other person was Amit Anand, Partner Deloitte Consulting looking for opportunities in putting up large centers in Bihar ...they would like to explore outside of Patna too but within Bihar ...was talking about possibility of large-scale offices with thousands of head counts.

While answering a question from the audience Shri Poundrik pointed out that Bihar has suffered a lot due to the wrong perception created over the years that it does not have much to offer and is not a safe investment destination. Mr Poundrik assured that the state will provide the same ease of doing business that is associated with the developed states.



## INDIAN-ORIGIN STUDENT DIES AFTER BEING ASSAULTED DURING CARJACKING IN CANADA



Gurvinder Nath was killed after he was violently assaulted during a deadly carjacking

**JULY 24, 2023**

**MISSISSAUGA, TORONTO (TIP):** A 24-year-old Indian student, who worked as a food delivery partner in Canada, has been killed after he was violently assaulted during a deadly carjacking, according to media reports.

Gurvinder Nath was delivering pizza at around 2.10 am on July 9 in Mississauga's Britannia and Creditview roads, when unidentified suspects confronted him and tried to steal his vehicle, the news reported.

"Investigators do believe that there are multiple suspects involved and that the food order was placed as a means of luring the driver to this specific area," Inspector Phil King of Peel Regional Police's Homicide Bureau said, adding that investigators had obtained an audio recording of the Pizza order placed before the attack.

After Nath arrived, he was "violently assaulted" and left critically injured by a suspect who robbed him of his vehicle and fled the scene, police said.

Multiple witnesses came to his aid and called for help before Nath was rushed to a trauma center where he was pronounced dead on July 14.

Siddhartha Nath, Consul General of India in Toronto, said Nath's death is a "heartrending loss" and he extended his condolences to family members, friends and the wider community, the media reported.

He said the consulate general has contacted the family after his death.

"It was heartening for me to see how the community responded, came together both online and physically to support the family in this time of grief," the Consul General said.

"Of course, nothing can make good the loss, but it will be some solace to the grieving family and it's also a signal of the spirit of the community because it is in times like this when the spirit and the solidarity and the sense of empathy is tested."

The Consul General said he hopes the people responsible are brought to justice.

Inspector King said despite the infancy of the investigation, police believe Nath was an innocent victim.

Nath's vehicle was found abandoned in the hours following the attack in the area of Old Creditview and Old Derry roads -- less than five kilometers from the crime scene, King said.

(Read full story at  
[www.theindianpanorama.news](http://www.theindianpanorama.news))

# UK opens second ballot for Young Professionals Scheme visas for Indians

**BALLOT, WHICH CLOSES ON JULY 27, OFFERS ELIGIBLE YOUNG INDIANS THE OPPORTUNITY TO LIVE, WORK OR STUDY IN UK FOR UP TO TWO YEARS**

**JULY 25, 2023**

**LONDON (TIP):** The British government on Tuesday opened its second ballot under the UK-India Young Professionals Scheme for Indians aged between 18 and 30 years with graduate-level qualifications for visas to the UK.

The ballot, which closes on July 27, offers eligible young Indians the opportunity to live, work or study in the UK for up to two years.

"The second ballot of the Young Professionals Scheme is now OPEN," the British High Commission in New Delhi tweeted.

"If you are an Indian national between 18-30 years of age with a graduate or postgraduate qualification, consider applying for the India Young Professionals Scheme visa. Ballot closes at 1.30 pm on July 27," it said.

There are a total of 3,000 places available under the scheme for the year 2023 and UK Visas and Immigration (UKVI) said that most places were given in the first ballot which took place in February. The remaining places will be chosen at random from this month's ballot.



There are a total of 3,000 places available under the scheme for the year 2023  
Image for representation only/ iStock

While it's free to enter the ballot, applicants are told they must only enter if they plan to apply for the visa, which costs 259 pound, and are able to meet the financial, educational and other requirements.

Additional costs involved include a 940 pound healthcare surcharge and proof that the applicant has 2,530 pounds in personal savings.

**More than 66% of 10.34 million NRIs live in Gulf countries: RTI reply**  
**1.28 million NRIs live in the US, .25 million in Australia and .17 million in Canada**

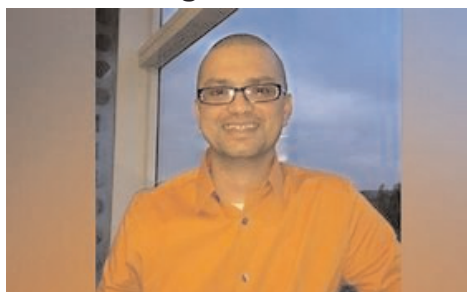


More than 66% of 10.34million NRIs live in Gulf countries: RTI reply  
Image for representational purpose only / iStock

**JULY 27, 2023**

**NAGPUR, INDIA (TIP):** Of the estimated 10.34 million Non-Resident Indians, more than 66 per cent are in the Gulf countries of UAE, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Qatar, Oman and Bahrain, the External Affairs Ministry has said in an RTI reply. The data is as of March 2022, said the ministry. An NRI is an Indian citizen who is ordinarily residing outside India and holds an Indian passport. Nagpur-based banker Abhay Kolarkar said he had sought the data pertaining to NRIs and Persons of Indian Origin (PIOs) under Right to Information (RTI) a few months ago and the ministry's reply reached him in the last week of June. (Read full story at [www.theindianpanorama.news](http://www.theindianpanorama.news))

**Prominent Indian American Dalit activist, Milind Makwana dies of heart attack during a city council hearing in California**



Milind Makwana died of a heart attack during a city council hearing in Cupertino.

**JULY 24, 2023**

**PARAMJIT AUJLA**

**SACRAMENTO (TIP):** A prominent Indian American Dalit activist fighting against the recent caste discrimination bill in California Assembly died of a heart attack as he passionately spoke against it at a city council meeting in Cupertino, sending shock waves amongst the Hindu-American community in the country.

Milind Makwana, according to his close friends and family, spoke at the City Council meeting on July 18 against SB403, the anti-caste discrimination bill in California State Assembly.

(Read full story at  
[www.theindianpanorama.news](http://www.theindianpanorama.news))

**Two Indian-origin men plead guilty to drug trafficking in US**



Two Indian-origin men plead guilty to drug trafficking in US

Image for representational purpose only/ iStock

**JULY 25, 2023**

**NEW YORK (TIP):** Two Indian-origin men have pleaded guilty to drug and firearms charges arising from a drug trafficking venture run out of a motel in the US. Kamal Bhula, 44, of Albuquerque, and Pragneshkumar "Pete" Patel, 36, of Montgomery, Alabama are among the three charged for maintaining a drug-involved premise at a motel in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

Both Bhula and Patel have pleaded guilty to one count each of maintaining a drug-involved premise, the Attorney's Office of New Mexico said in a statement on Monday, July 24. The third accused, Jonathan Craft, 36, of Albuquerque, pleaded guilty to conspiracy and being a prohibited person in possession of a firearm or ammunition.

(Read full story at  
[www.theindianpanorama.news](http://www.theindianpanorama.news))



# Five Indian Americans appointed to key jobs by Virginia Governor

JULY 20, 2023

WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP): Five Indian Americans have been given key administration and board appointments by Virginia Governor Glenn Youngkin "as we continue to make Virginia the best place to live, work and raise a family."

"Their critical work will provide essential help as we move into my administration's day two agenda," he stated announcing a long slate of appointments last week.



Dr. Bimaljit Singh Sandhu, a gastroenterologist at Richmond Gastroenterology Associates, took oath as a board member of the Virginia Commonwealth University Health System Authority on Tuesday.

As board member, Sandhu will play a pivotal role in the state's health education system.

The board's responsibilities include overseeing the operations of the health system, as well as providing strategic



Virginia Governor Glenn Youngkin has appointed five Indian Americans to key positions in his administration

direction to various medical schools and hospitals.

"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," Sandhu said after the swearing-in ceremony in Richmond.



Hailing from Faridkot in Punjab, Sandhu migrated to the US in 2004 as a faculty member of Virginia Commonwealth University Medical Center.

Harshad Barot, owner of Galaxy Corporation and Kamlesh Dave, President, Heart Care Associates, were named to the Virginia Asian Advisory Board, which serves as a formal liaison between the administration and the diverse and rapidly growing Asian American Pacific Islander (AAPI) communities in the Commonwealth.

In their new role, Barot and Dave will advise the Governor on ways to improve economic and cultural links between the Commonwealth and Asian nations.



Padmanabhan Seshaiyer, Professor and Director of George Mason University, and Kunal Kumar, President of Pooja Group, were

named to the Virginia Board of Workforce Development.

The board acts as the principal advisor to the Governor and provides strategic leadership to the state regarding the workforce development system and its efforts to create a strong workforce aligned with employer needs.

## Indian American Democrat Raja Krishnamoorthi recognized by Nonpartisan Common Ground Committee



Rep. Raja Krishnamoorthi, an Illinois Democrat, has been recognized by the Common Ground Committee as a "Common Ground Champion" File photo

JULY 26, 2023

WASHINGTON D.C. (TIP): Rep. Raja Krishnamoorthi, an Illinois Democrat, has been recognized by the Common Ground Committee as a "Common Ground Champion" who "seeks points of agreement and solutions on social and political issues through listening and productive conversation."

The nonpartisan committee is a nonprofit that works to "help citizens hold leaders accountable for progress and civil discourse," according to its website. Its primary mission is to address the national challenges of polarization and incivility, by inspiring and motivating the public to seek common ground and promote healing.

Krishnamoorthi's recognition was based on an analysis of the Indian American congressman's record in the U.S. House of Representatives.

"I am honored to be recognized by the Common Ground Committee for my approach to working with colleagues, regardless of party, to address the challenges facing our country," the Democrat serving his fourth term in the US House of Representatives said in a press release. "While I believe it is essential that we approach the business of the American people with a clear recognition that we can disagree without being disagreeable, we also need to deliver results. Even beyond the value of constructive engagement for its own sake, a bipartisan, collaborative approach is also the most effective one for serving my constituents."

Scoring in the top 4% on the Common Ground Score Card's evaluation of his official performance, personal actions, communications, and commitments, Krishnamoorthi has shown unwavering dedication in combating the detrimental effects of polarized thinking and governance among elected officials and their constituents, the release said. His efforts include working tirelessly to overcome gridlock and fostering "a private discourse that builds understanding and public discourse that uncovers common ground through passionate but civil debate where facts are valued and participants listen to each other," it added.

## Indian American executive Amrapali "Ami" Gan quits as OnlyFans CEO



Amrapali "Ami" Gan is leaving as CEO of OnlyFans, an internet content subscription service based in London to lead Hoxton Projects, a marketing company she has founded.

JULY 21, 2023

WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP): Indian American executive Amrapali "Ami" Gan is leaving as CEO of OnlyFans, an internet content subscription service based in London to lead Hoxton Projects, a marketing company she has founded.

She spent nearly three years as CEO of the creator platform that supports adult content. She will be replaced by chief strategy and operations officer Keily Blair.

"Spending nearly 3 years at OnlyFans while it echoed throughout the cultural zeitgeist, has been beyond rewarding," Gan wrote in a Twitter thread.

The Mumbai-born Gan has spent most of her life in California, where she currently lives. She reportedly operated from the company's offices in Los Angeles.

(Read full story at [www.theindianpanorama.news](http://www.theindianpanorama.news))

## Indian American Aneira Banwar has been crowned the "Royal International Miss International Princess of the Year 2023"



Seven-year-old Aneira Banwar from Virginia, USA has been crowned the "Royal International Miss International Princess of the Year 2023"

SUSHMA MALHOTRA

ORLANDO, FL (TIP): Seven-year-old Aneira Banwar from Virginia, USA has been crowned the "Royal International Miss International Princess of the Year 2023". Aneira made all Indians proud by winning the title of Royal International Miss International Princess. This competition was organized in the city of Orlando in Florida. In this competition one hundred eighty girls from all over the world participated. During this international competition the judges asked the participants a variety of questions. The judgment was made on the basis of their versatility in responding to those questions.

## Indian woman in US for higher studies found starving on Chicago street, belongings stolen



Stills from the video posted on Twitter by Amjed Ullah Khan

JULY 26, 2023

HYDERABAD / NEW YORK (TIP): Syeda Lulu Minhaj Zaidi from Hyderabad had gone to the US to pursue a master's degree.

A video of Zaidi has recently surfaced online in which she is reportedly found starving on a street in Chicago. Her belongings were allegedly stolen.

Her mother has written to External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar asking for help. She had gone to the US to pursue her MS from TRINE University in Detroit. The video was shared by the spokesperson of the Majlis Bachao Tehreek (MBT) Amjadullah Khan on Twitter.

She was found in a bad condition, sitting in a corner looking pale and fragile.

In the video, she is heard saying her name is Syeda Lulu Minhaj Zaidi and she belongs to Hyderabad in India. She says that she was taken to a hospital for treatment, but she fell weak after blood samples were taken for testing.

(Read full story at [www.theindianpanorama.news](http://www.theindianpanorama.news))



## Legislator Lafazan Honors Locust Valley's Jack Baker for Patriotic Acts of Community Service



Lafazan honors Baker  
Photo credit / Office of Legislator Joshua Lafazan

JULY 27, 2023

**LOCUST VALLEY, N.Y. (TIP):** Nassau County Legislator Joshua Lafazan (D - Woodbury) recently honored Locust Valley's Jack Baker for channeling his patriotism into inspiring actions that brought comfort to the community.

Baker's notable endeavors include the creation of a memorial display of more than 2,000 American flags at Bayville Village Hall to honor the memories of the friends and loved ones that have been lost to COVID-19, including his beloved grandfather. He also volunteered for Wreaths Across America and participated in the Tunnels to Towers Foundation's annual run to honor all who lost their lives during the September 11, 2001 terror attacks. These accomplishments have led to Baker's acceptance by the Henrik Lundqvist Foundation as a junior ambassador and his recent selection as a participant in the American Legion's historic Boys State citizenship and leadership training program. On Thursday, June 22, Legislator Lafazan presented Jack with a Nassau County Legislature Citation.

"From a young age, Jack has demonstrated his love of the United States in ways that have touched countless lives in our community," Legislator Lafazan said. "His recent acceptance to both the Henrik Lundqvist Foundation and Boys State are well deserved and bound to propel him to even greater heights. I'm excited to see what Jack will accomplish in the next chapter of his leadership journey!"

## New England Indian American Community Extends a Warm Welcome to US Congressman Ro Khanna at Fundraising Event

JULY 23, 2023

**LEXINGTON, MA (TIP):** On a picturesque Sunday afternoon, the New England Indian American community gathered once again to extend a warm welcome to Congressman Ro Khanna, renowned as a member of the esteemed "samosa caucus," representing Silicon Valley and California's 17th district. The lunch meet and greet fundraiser, hosted by the US India Security Council's President, Mr. Ramesh Vishwanath Kapur, along with esteemed co-hosts Thomas Arul, Mr. Ashok Bhatt, Dr. Suvas Desai, Sanjay Gokhale, Priya Samant, Amar Sawhney, Deepika Sawhney, Pramit Maakoday, Manoj Schinde and Abhishek Singh proved to be a remarkable occasion for celebration and camaraderie.

The event took place at the Clay Oven restaurant, nestled in the historic town of Lexington, MA, and was graced by the presence of many distinguished business and community leaders, including Mr. and Mrs. Puran Dang, Mrs. Ranjani Saigal, Ms. Amrita Saigal, Mr. Gope Gidwani, Mr. Dhruva Sen, Mr. Archan Basu, Dr. Smita Joshi, Puneet Kohli, Paru Sanghvi, Vijay and Madhu



Congressman Ro Khanna

Narang, Dr. Dinesh Patel, Mr and Mrs. Yash Shah Mr. Guruprasad Sowle, Krishna Srinivasa and many others.

Mr. Ramesh Kapur, in his opening address, welcomed Congressman Ro Khanna to New England, emphasizing the Congressman's unwavering perseverance and determination that led him to triumph in his third election, eventually defeating the incumbent. Notably, Congressman Khanna played a significant role in inviting Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi last month to

address the joint session of the US Congress.

During his remarks, Congressman Khanna emphasized the importance of recognizing India's elected leaders and acknowledged that the relationship between India and the United States is pivotal. He stressed that India's emergence as a powerful nation, two generations removed from colonialism, requires realistic expectations in terms of alignment with US policies.

In his closing statements, Mr. Kapur shed light on the upcoming visit of Congressman Khanna and other esteemed members of Congress to India in August, signifying the continued commitment to strengthening India-US ties.

This momentous event marked not only a celebration of Congressman Ro Khanna's achievements but also a testament to the cohesive spirit and vibrant engagement of the New England Indian community in furthering bilateral relations between India and the United States.

The Indian American Community of Massachusetts successfully raised over \$25,000 at this event.

## Legislator Drucker Applauds Completion of Plainview-Old Bethpage Library's Electric Car Charging Station

JULY 27, 2023

**PLAINVIEW, N.Y. (TIP):** Nassau County Legislator Arnold W. Drucker (D - Plainview) joined with the leaders of the Plainview-Old Bethpage Public Library on Wednesday, July 26 to celebrate the grand opening of the facility's newly installed electric vehicle chargers. The completion of this new public amenity comes at a time when Nassau County residents and drivers across America are embracing electric vehicles at a greater rate than ever before.

"Electric cars are an essential component of ongoing efforts to reduce our reliance on fossil fuels and combat climate change, and charging stations like the one at the Plainview-Old Bethpage Library are key to supporting the increased daily reliance upon these zero-emissions vehicles," Legislator Drucker said. "I applaud Library Board Chairperson Marilyn Leibowitz and Library Director Maryann Ferro for bringing this environmentally friendly project to fruition."



: Nassau County Legislator Arnold W. Drucker (D - Plainview) joined with the leaders of the Plainview-Old Bethpage Public Library on Wednesday, July 26 to celebrate the grand opening of the facility's newly installed electric vehicle chargers. Photo credit : Office of Legislator Arnold W. Drucker

## Legislator Solages Welcomes Summer Interns to District Office

JULY 27, 2023



Solages welcomes interns to District Office. Photo credit / Office of Legislator Carrié Solages

**MINEOLA, N.Y. (TIP):** This summer, Nassau County Legislator Carrié Solages (D - Lawrence) has welcomed three young interns to his office and provided them with a first-hand look at the operations of local government and the law. Two of his interns, Michelle Prudencio and Danna Bermejo, are currently studying at Nassau Community College; and the third, Jamel Campbell, is a recent graduate from Elmont Memorial High School.

(Read full story at [www.theindianpanorama.news](http://www.theindianpanorama.news))

## Legislator Mulé Recognizes Merrick Mayhem Little League For Successful ALS Foundation Fundraiser

JULY 27, 2023

**WANTAGH, N.Y. (TIP):** Nassau County Legislator Debra Mulé (D - Freeport) honored the coaches and members of the Merrick Mayhem 8 and Under Little League team for raising more than \$4,000 for the ALS Association - a feat they accomplished by literally turning lemons into lemonade. (Read full story at [www.theindianpanorama.news](http://www.theindianpanorama.news))



Legislator Mulé recognizes Merrick Mayhem Little League for successful ALS Foundation Fundraiser  
Photo credit / Office of Legislator Debra Mulé



# NY INDIAN CONSULATE GEARS UP TO ORGANIZE FIFTH INTERNATIONAL HINDI CONFERENCE IN OCTOBER



Ashok Ojha, Coordinator, Fifth International Hindi Conference provided an overview of the conference at the pre-launch event. Photo / courtesy Consulate General of India, New York

JULY 20, 2023

**NEW YORK (TIP):** The Consulate General of India in New York, the host of the Fifth International Hindi Conference scheduled to be held on October 20 and 21st, is fully geared up to successfully conduct the event.

Reinforcing the commitment of the Consulate for promoting India's languages and culture Dr. Varun Jeff, Deputy Consul General, commented, "It is not about promoting Hindi, it is about promoting India's culture around the world", he said while addressing a gathering of Hindi enthusiasts at the pre-launch event organized by the Consulate on July 20.

Dr Jeff further said, "We consider all Indian languages very important for the progress of our nations. However,



Dr. Varun Jeff, Deputy Consul General, Consulate General of India, addressing Hindi enthusiasts at the pre-launch event organized on July 20, 2023 for Hindi Conference.

Hindi commands a special place in the Indian Diaspora and it must be supported by all people of Indian origin. Honorable Randhir Jaiswal, the Consul General, is the advisor of this conference. We are committed to make this conference a grand success."

He congratulated Hindi Sangam Foundation, the organizing body of the conference, for collaborating with leading US universities, such as, New York University, Michigan State University and a number of educational and cultural organizations including The World Hindi Secretariat, Mauritius, Shikshayatan, New York and more.

(Read full story at [www.theindianpanorama.news](http://www.theindianpanorama.news))

**IOCUSA leaders interact with Shri. K. Raju, National coordinator- SC, ST, OBC and minority Department of AICC**



IOCUSA Vice Chair George Abraham (5th from the left), President Mohinder Singh Gilzian (4th from the left), and Punjab Chapter President Phuman Singh (6th from the left), among others, welcome K. Raju with a bouquet

JULY 20, 2023

**NEW YORK (TIP):** IOCUSA leaders met with Shri. K. Raju, who is the National Coordinator of the Indian National Congress for SC/ST/OBC and Minority Affairs and exchanged views on how to improve the messaging to the Diaspora while increasing the reach of the organization. Mr. Raju, formerly an IAS officer, resigned from service in 2013 to join the Congress party. Prior to his resignation from service, he served as Additional Secretary, Govt of India at the National Advisory Council (NAC) headed by Smt. Sonia Gandhi.

IOCUSA team headed by President Mr. Mohinder Singh Gilzian and Vice-Chair George Abraham briefed him on the activities of the IOCUSA and assured him of our support and commitment as the Congress party is at the forefront of fighting for the cause of the common man.

(Read full story at [www.theindianpanorama.news](http://www.theindianpanorama.news))

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# Ukraine shadow set to loom large over G20 meet



BY VIVEK KATJU

**NEGOTIATORS ARE FALLING BACK ON 'PLAN B', WHICH BANKS ON EMPHASIZING INDIA'S ACHIEVEMENTS DURING ITS PRESIDENCY**

**"WHILE NO G20 MEMBER IS LIKELY TO CHALLENGE INDIA'S VERSION OF A SUCCESSFUL SUMMIT, THE WESTERN PRESS WOULD TAKE A RATHER DIFFERENT VIEW. ITS MAIN INTEREST WILL BE THE UKRAINE WAR AND THE STATEMENTS OF WESTERN LEADERS ON THAT WAR. THEY WILL ALSO OBSERVE THE APPROACH TAKEN BY CHINA - IF PRESIDENT XI JINPING PARTICIPATES IN THE SUMMIT, WHAT HE WOULD SAY ON UKRAINE, AND ON HIS POSSIBLE INTERACTION WITH US PRESIDENT JOE BIDEN AND OTHER WESTERN LEADERS. IT WILL ALSO FOCUS ON THE SUMMIT'S APPROACHES TO THE CONCERNS OF DEVELOPED ECONOMIES. NATURALLY, IF RUSSIAN PRESIDENT VLADIMIR PUTIN ATTENDS THE SUMMIT, ALL ATTENTION WILL BE ON HIS PRESENCE AND THE REACTION IT EVOKES AMONG HIS WESTERN PEERS. THUS, THE YARDSTICK BY WHICH THE WEST WILL JUDGE THE SUMMIT WILL BE RADICALLY DIFFERENT FROM THE WAY INDIA MAY LIKE."**



India has the capability to ensure flawless and successful logistics for the summit Photo credit / PTI

The G20 summit is scheduled to be held in Delhi in a little more than six weeks. There is no doubt that India has the capability to ensure flawless and successful logistics for the summit. The government has also held numerous meetings in different parts of the country on various subjects and themes covered by the G20. It adopted this novel and unprecedented approach to ensure that most parts of the country get a sense of participation in India's presidency of the group, even though it is only rotational in nature.

The G20 summit is one of the most important multilateral events ever hosted by India. This is because this group of 20-19 countries and the European Union - "represents around 85 per cent of the global GDP, over 75 per cent of the global trade and about two-thirds of the world population", as India's website on the summit notes. Modi would naturally be keen to do everything possible to have a memorable summit. The question, though, is what will actually constitute a successful summit.

While such a question is germane to every multilateral summit, it becomes essential to ask it regarding the G20 summit because of the deep global divisions generated by the Russia-Ukraine conflict. There will inevitably be special attention on India, as the host country, for generally it is the host's responsibility to find a way through the contentions to forge a consensus outcome document. If India is unable to do so, will this detract from the success of the summit?

This question is also relevant because all previous G20 summits resulted in consensus documents. A Bali Declaration emerged from the last summit held in Indonesia in November 2022, following which India took over the group's

leadership. The declaration contained a paragraph dealing with the Russia-Ukraine conflict. It was carefully crafted. It referred to the statements already made by G20 members at the United Nations Security Council and General Assembly. It noted that the UNGA deplored Russia's aggression against Ukraine. It also mentioned that most G20 members 'condemned' the Russian aggression against Ukraine. Thus, the paragraph was, all in all, critical of Russia.

In all meetings at ministerial and other levels held under India's presidency on different subjects, Russia and China have refused to endorse the Bali Declaration paragraph on Ukraine. To deal with their objections, India adopted a policy to issue 'Outcome Document and Chair's Summary' for each of these meetings. While the 'Outcome Document' portion of the meetings' reports relate to the agreements reached on the subjects under consideration in these meetings, the 'Chair's Summary' is on the Ukraine conflict.

The 'Chair's Summary' repeats the Bali Declaration paragraph on Ukraine with a footnote that Russia and China did not agree with it. This stratagem has worked because India has the cover provided by the Bali Declaration but that will not be available for the Delhi summit declaration. A subsequent summit is naturally not bound by the formulations of previous summits. Till now, the negotiations led by Indian officials have not closed the gap on this difficult issue. If India adopts the 'Chair's Summary' route at the Delhi summit, it has to ensure that its formulation is largely acceptable to all members. It cannot fly solo; it entails the risk of crashing and can lead to charges that the summit has failed.

Indian negotiators are aware of the problems that the Ukraine issue will create, though they will try their best to find a language that is acceptable to all members. This process, howsoever difficult, cannot be ignored and will have to be undertaken at the next Sherpas' meeting. Meanwhile, Indian negotiators are falling back on what can only be considered as 'Plan B'. This banks on emphasizing India's achievements during its presidency, especially giving primacy and voice to issues concerning the welfare of the Global South. It also involves making developed countries pay attention to the pressing problems relating to the debt burden of the Global South. In addition, India is keen to show how digital power can be harnessed for speedy development. The crowning part of 'Plan B' is India's advocacy for the African Union becoming a member of the G20. There is a good chance that it will succeed in this endeavor.

Thus, even if no consensus is reached on the Ukraine crisis, India will emphasize that its G20 presidency and the summit have been successful because it has emerged as the leading advocate of the Global South. This will be attributed to Modi's international stature and the great position India has come to acquire globally under his nine-year stewardship of the country.

While no G20 member is likely to challenge India's version of a successful summit, the western press would take a rather different view. Its main interest will be the Ukraine war and the statements of western leaders on that war. They will also observe the approach taken by China - if President Xi Jinping participates in the summit, what he would say on Ukraine, and on his possible interaction with US President Joe Biden and other western leaders. It will also focus on the summit's approaches to the concerns of developed economies. Naturally, if Russian President Vladimir Putin attends the summit, all attention will be on his presence and the reaction it evokes among his western peers. Thus, the yardstick by which the West will judge the summit will be radically different from the way India may like.

Back in 1983, the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) summit in India was overshadowed by the Iran-Iraq war. No consensus was reached on the paragraph on the war and a Chair statement was attached to the political declaration. But that Chair statement was acceptable to all and under Indira Gandhi's stewardship, the summit was an acknowledged success. But those were different times for Indian diplomacy.

(The author is a Former Secretary, Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India)



# WHY IS THE UN FAILING IN ITS DUTIES?



BY SARBENDRA  
KHANAL

The United Nations, founded in 1945, was established with a vision to maintain international peace and security. It has played a critical role in addressing and resolving conflicts worldwide. However, despite its global influence and reach, the UN's effectiveness in addressing conflicts has been widely debated. One such instance where the UN has failed to prevent a conflict is the ongoing Russia-Ukraine war. Additionally, the UN's efforts in Nepal have also not been as robust as expected. With a staggering united front and with the participation of almost all the major nations of the world, why is the UN failing in its duties?

The United Nations was instrumental in Nepal's peace process, which ended the decade-long Maoist insurgency in 2006. The UN played a crucial role in monitoring the ceasefire agreement and overseeing the disarmament of the Maoist army. However, since then, the UN's engagement in Nepal has been limited. The UN's political mission in Nepal, established in 2007, was concluded in 2019, leaving behind a fragile political situation. The absence of the UN in Nepal's political landscape has led to the government's inability to address critical issues such as transitional justice, inclusion of marginalized communities, and governance. Despite the UN's efforts, Nepal has been unable to establish a stable and democratic government.

Similarly, the UN's efforts to stop the Russia-Ukraine war have also been ineffective. The ongoing conflict between Russia and Ukraine had seeds sown back in 2014 when Russia annexed Crimea. It also provided support to separatist rebels in eastern Ukraine. Since then, the conflict has claimed over 13,000 lives and displaced millions. The UN has been unable to stop the war and has been a mute spectator despite multiple resolutions and peacekeeping efforts. The UN's inability to prevent the Russia-Ukraine war can be attributed to the veto power of the UN Security Council's permanent members, including Russia. The UN's limited influence and lack of consensus among member states have hindered its ability to resolve the conflict effectively. The UN relies on member states' contributions to fund its operations, which can be unpredictable and insufficient. This limits the UN's ability to provide essential services and support to countries facing conflict and instability. The UN's peacekeeping missions have also been criticized for their lack of preparedness and inadequate training, leading to instances of sexual abuse and misconduct by peacekeepers.

In many instances UN has not enforced its mandate whether it is article VI or article VII. UN has failed miserably to maintain peace and rule of law in countries like Rwanda, North and South Sudan although it has the executive



The United Nations Headquarters in New York

mandate as a supreme international organization. Talking about my own experiences, the UN should avoid lengthy bureaucratic processes and be more assertive to keep the spirit of its objectives in the field. A lot needs to be done to cut red-tapism and make actionable changes on the ground.

The UN's failures in Nepal and the ongoing Russia-Ukraine war are indicative of its limited influence and resources. The UN's efforts to prevent and resolve conflicts are often hindered by member states' political agendas and lack of consensus. The UN must focus on addressing its shortcomings and strengthening its capabilities to maintain its relevance in today's world. This includes addressing issues of inclusivity and representation, enhancing training and preparedness of peacekeeping missions, and finding innovative solutions to fund its operations. Once these parameters are fulfilled it is then a shared vision of international peace and security will materialize.

The United Nations has been involved in Nepal's humanitarian work since the Maoist insurgency, which ended in 2006. The UN has provided essential support to Nepal's development and peace-building efforts. Its activities include humanitarian assistance, capacity building, human rights monitoring, and the promotion of inclusive and democratic governance. One of the UN's significant engagements in Nepal is the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC). The TRC was established in 2013 to investigate human rights violations committed during the Maoist insurgency and the conflict with the state. The UN has provided technical and financial support to the TRC. The UN's involvement in the TRC aimed to ensure that the process was impartial, transparent, and credible.

However, the TRC's work has been slow, with limited progress made in the investigation and prosecution of those responsible for human rights violations. The TRC has been criticized for its lack of independence and transparency, which has led to mistrust and skepticism among victims and civil society groups. The TRC's failure to deliver justice has also been attributed to the lack of political will and support from the government.

The UN has been actively engaged in

**The UN's failures in Nepal and the ongoing Russia-Ukraine war are indicative of its limited influence and resources. The UN's efforts to prevent and resolve conflicts are often hindered by member states' political agendas and lack of consensus. The UN must focus on addressing its shortcomings and strengthening its capabilities to maintain its relevance in today's world. This includes addressing issues of inclusivity and representation, enhancing training and preparedness of peacekeeping missions, and finding innovative solutions to fund its operations. Once these parameters are fulfilled it is then a shared vision of international peace and security will materialize.**

addressing these challenges and supporting the TRC's work. The UN has advocated for the TRC's independence and transparency, provided technical assistance and training, and facilitated dialogue among stakeholders. However, despite the UN's efforts, the TRC's progress remains slow, and justice for victims of human rights violations remains elusive.

One of the reasons for the TRC's slow work is the lack of political will and support from the government. The government has been criticized for its reluctance to address human rights violations and its failure to provide sufficient resources and support to the TRC. The TRC's work has also been hindered by the lack of cooperation and information sharing from security forces, political parties, and other stakeholders.

Another reason for the TRC's slow progress is the complex nature of the conflict and the challenges of investigating human rights violations committed during the Maoist insurgency. Many victims and witnesses fear retaliation and intimidation, making it challenging to collect evidence and testimonies. The TRC also faces challenges in investigating crimes committed by the state, including the security forces, which enjoy immunity under the law.

To be more robust and dynamic in Nepal, the United Nations (UN) must focus on addressing the country's critical challenges and building on its strengths. The following are some ways the UN can be more effective in Nepal. Strengthening democratic institutions: The UN can support Nepal in strengthening its democratic institutions by promoting inclusive and participatory governance. This can include technical support for constitution-building, election monitoring, and capacity-building for political parties and civil society groups. Addressing social and economic inequalities: The UN can address social and economic inequalities in Nepal by supporting programs that promote access to education, healthcare, and economic opportunities for marginalized communities.

The UN can also promote sustainable development initiatives that address poverty, inequality, and environmental degradation. Strengthening peace-

keeping efforts: The UN can continue to support Nepal's peace-building efforts by promoting conflict prevention, resolution, and reconciliation. This can include supporting community-based initiatives for conflict resolution, facilitating dialogue among stakeholders, and promoting transitional justice and reconciliation processes. Promoting human rights: The UN can promote human rights in Nepal by providing technical support for human rights institutions, monitoring and reporting on human rights abuses, and promoting accountability for perpetrators of human rights violations.

Mobilizing resources, the UN can mobilize resources to support Nepal's development and peace-building efforts by partnering with the government, private sector, and civil society groups. The UN can also encourage donor countries to increase their support for Nepal. Enhancing coordination: The UN can enhance coordination among its various agencies and programs in Nepal to ensure coherence and effectiveness in its work. This can include streamlining administrative procedures, sharing information, and promoting joint programming and resource mobilization.

The UN's engagement in Nepal's humanitarian work and the TRC's establishment demonstrate its commitment to supporting Nepal's peace-building efforts. Stringent efforts for actionable changes are the need of the hour and Nepal is in dire need. The TRC's slow progress highlights the challenges of addressing human rights violations in post-conflict societies, including political will, independence, and transparency. The UN must continue to support the TRC's work, advocate for justice for victims, and promote inclusive and democratic governance in Nepal.

(The author served as the 26th Chief of Nepal Police, holding a prominent position within the organization. In his professional journey, he contributed significantly to international peacekeeping efforts. At the United Nations headquarters in New York, he served as an Assessment Officer and Mission Manager in the Department of Peacekeeping Operations. Additionally, he demonstrated his leadership skills as a Formed Police Commander in Haiti. Moreover, he dedicated his expertise as a mentor and trainer to International Police Officers at the United Nations Mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Furthermore, he actively participated in the UNPROFOR mission in former Yugoslavia, fulfilling roles as a Police Monitor and Humanitarian Aid Officer)



# Questions for Manipur CM, DGP



BY JULIO RIBEIRO

**They must explain why it took the police so long to take action against perpetrators of May 4 crime**

Two Kuki women were sexually assaulted on May 4. The disturbances in Manipur had started a day earlier, after the High Court's direction to the government regarding the Meiteis' demand for Scheduled Tribe (ST) status.

A communal angle is sought to be introduced into the tragedy that has befallen Manipur.

The court order that led to the violence was only an excuse to kill and maim. The enmity between the Kukis and the Meiteis is as old as the hills where the Kukis reside. The Kukis (and other tribes) occupy 90 per cent of the landmass in the state. The Meiteis, who reside in the plains, occupy the remaining 10 per cent. But the Meiteis are more numerous and economically better off since political power has been in their hands since the state came into existence.

Yet, like Oliver Twist in the Charles Dickens novel, they want more - hence, the demand to be classified as an ST so that the Meiteis become eligible for tribal land, which at present cannot be owned by anyone other than a tribal. The court ruled in favor of the Meiteis. But is it for courts to say who is a tribal? That should be left to the elected government. If while deciding on the issue the government ignores the rules on the subject, only then should the judiciary intervene. I do not know if that state had been reached.

The Meiteis appear to be of Indo-Burman stock, like the Nagas, Mizos, Khasis and the Garos of Meghalaya and the Bodos of Assam. But they have been Hindu Vaishnavites for centuries. I learn that the Kukis originally wanted to be included in the Hindu fold, but were not welcomed because they were not born Hindus. In Hinduism, a caste can be assigned only by the accident of birth. If that test was applied, the Meiteis could not claim tribal status.

Tribal communities were basically animists. Most Kukis converted to Christianity two centuries ago in colonial times. Some Meiteis are Christians, converted from Hinduism much later. I learnt of their existence only when worshippers in my church began praying for them and for peace to prevail. It was said that some 300-odd churches in the valley were burnt or destroyed. I thought it was truly amazing that so many churches were built when believers counted for just over a lakh! I presume that Kukis staying in the plains added substantially to that number.

A communal angle is sought to be introduced into the tragedy that has befallen Manipur. I would have rejected that charge off-hand, knowing well that the Meitei-Kuki animosity preceded the conversions to Christianity. But the hate campaigns propagated by rabid extremist elements in the last decade sowed in me a seed of doubt.

Rajat Kumar Sethi had been appointed to guide the inexperienced N Biren



Dissensions and distrust between the Meiteis and the Kukis have become aggravated.

Photo credit / ANI

**IT IS NOT POSSIBLE THAT THE CHIEF MINISTER AND THE DGP DID NOT KNOW ABOUT THE COMMISSION OF THIS DASTARDLY CRIME TILL A VIDEO CLIP OF THE INCIDENT WENT VIRAL JUST BEFORE THE START OF THE MONSOON SESSION OF PARLIAMENT LAST WEEK. IT SHOWS THAT PATRIARCHY IS DEEPLY IMBEDDED IN THE PSYCHE OF MOST BJP LEADERS. THAT IS WHY CHAMPION WOMEN WRESTLERS WERE FORCED TO COME OUT ON THE ROADS TO PROTEST AND WHY MURDERERS AND RAPISTS IN THE 2002 GUJARAT RIOT CASES WERE RELEASED AFTER ONLY A FEW YEARS IN JAIL, THOUGH THEY WERE SENTENCED TO LIFE IMPRISONMENT.**

Singh when he was installed as the Chief Minister of Manipur. What has happened to him? We have not heard of him nor read about him in the media for some time now. The complaint against Biren Singh is that, firstly, he is incompetent (that is proved) and secondly, he has aggravated the dissensions and distrust between the Meiteis and the Kukis by utilizing religion as a tool (that sounds plausible).

Our Prime Minister said he was surprised when during his travels abroad he was asked about the ill-treatment of Muslims in India. He blamed critics of his government for his embarrassment. I refuse to believe that he is not aware of the fear generated in Indian Muslim minds due to the divisive hate politics that has taken root in our land in the last decade. His interest in consolidating Hindu votes for electoral gains and the parallel RSS agenda of doing the same to create a Hindu Rashtra

necessitated the denigration of the minorities, forgetting that a country centered purely on religion could soon deteriorate into a failed state like our neighbor to our west.

The disrobing of the two Kuki women involved a mob of Meitei men, egged on by their womenfolk! The husband of one of the two women had served in the Army for 28 years. He was sorely disappointed that his own people had dishonored his wife and he was not there to protect her. He had seen action in Sri Lanka and Siachen and this was what he got in return.

**There are questions that Biren Singh and the DGP of Manipur must answer:**

1. The incident occurred on May 4 in the presence of the police. When did the police party make its report? What did the party say?

2. If it did not report the ghastly incident of stripping of the two women and the subsequent rape of the younger woman, what action was taken against the policeman, especially as it is now alleged that it was the police who handed over the women to the mob?
3. A zero FIR of the incident was registered on May 18 at a nearby police station. Were the facts brought to the notice of the higher police authorities at least then? If not, who failed to inform them?
4. The zero FIR was finally transferred a month later to the police station under whose jurisdiction the crime was committed. Why did that take so long?
5. Why did the police not arrest the culprits earlier? They only acted when the Prime Minister and the Chief Minister were compelled to issue statements to condemn the perpetrators. Does it require the permission of the Chief Minister to prosecute or arrest such law-breakers?

It is not possible that the Chief Minister and the DGP did not know about the commission of this dastardly crime till a video clip of the incident went viral just before the start of the Monsoon Session of Parliament last week. It shows that patriarchy is deeply imbedded in the psyche of most BJP leaders. That is why champion women wrestlers were forced to come out on the roads to protest and why murderers and rapists in the 2002 Gujarat riot cases were released after only a few years in jail, though they were sentenced to life imprisonment.

(The author is a former governor, and a highly decorated retired Indian Police Service (IPS) officer)





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## Indian American Congressman Raja Krishnamoorthi introduces bill to double H-1B intake



Congressman Raja Krishnamoorthi has introduced a bill proposing to double the annual intake of highly skilled foreign workers on H-1B work visas coveted by Indian professionals.

JULY 19, 2023

**WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP):** Indian American Congressman Raja Krishnamoorthi has introduced a bill proposing to double the annual intake of highly skilled foreign workers on H-1B work visas coveted by Indian professionals.

Introduced on July 17 by the Democrat from Illinois, HR 4647, the High-Skilled Immigration Reform for Employment (HIRE) Act, also seeks to increase funding for American STEM education.

The HIRE Act, according to a media release, would strengthen US competitiveness by helping to close the skills gap - the space between the skills required for jobs that employers need to fill, and the skills possessed by current prospective employees.

It would help to close the skills gap by providing additional funding to strengthen US elementary and secondary school science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) education programs.

The bill also seeks to double the number of H-1B visas available annually from 65,000 to 130,000 to allow American employers, including in critical technology sectors, to draw the best talent from around the world. Currently nearly three fourths of H-1B visas go to Indian professionals.

The bill is supported by ITServe Alliance, the largest association of IT Services organizations functioning across the United States.

"Creating jobs and building the economy of the future requires us to lead the way in technology by developing our domestic workforce while drawing the best talent from around the world," said Krishnamoorthi.

"That is why I am proud to introduce the HIRE Act to increase investments in elementary and secondary school STEM education while doubling the number of available H-1B visas from 65,000 to 130,000.

(Read full story at [www.theindianpanorama.news](http://www.theindianpanorama.news))

# Call center duping US citizens busted in Ludhiana, India, 29 nabbed

**LUDHIANA / NEW YORK (TIP):** The Ludhiana police have busted a fake call center and arrested 29 members belonging to Punjab, Himachal Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Gujarat, Nagaland and Meghalaya, according to a news report carried by Tribune.

Those arrested are aged between 19 and 25 years. These persons would make American residents believe that their computer/laptop had been hacked and then swindle money from them on the pretext of fixing the issue.

Eleven of them belong to Meghalaya. They were getting a monthly salary ranging between Rs 25,000 and Rs 45,000. On an average, around 20 US residents were duped of \$500 each, thereby making around \$10,000 daily.

The call center was being run from a rental accommodation at Daad village. The police seized 14 tablets, 34 mobile phones, two laptops, Rs 1.17 lakh in cash and one scooter from the accused.

Police Commissioner Mandeep Singh Sidhu said center manager Krishna of Gujarat and IT expert Sachin of UP were arrested acting on a tip-off yesterday. Following disclosures by them, a raid was conducted on a house at Daad village last night from where 27 more persons were held.

Sidhu said their counterparts in the US would bombard pop-up messages on



Senior police officials at a press conference in Ludhiana on Friday, July 21 Credit / Mahajan - Tribune

the computers of the US residents, showing warning that their device had been hacked or compromised. Once the user clicked on the link, a technical support number claiming to be from Microsoft and Apple headquarters would show up.

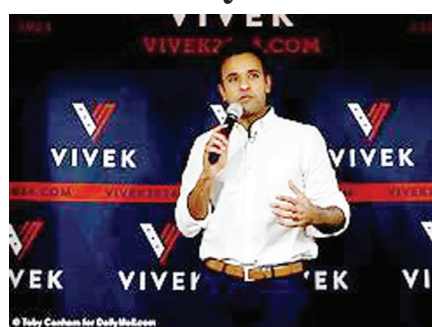
Once the telephone call was initiated by the computer owner, the scammer would instruct the victim to download a remote desktop software and to allow the conspirator to connect to the victim's computer to address the issue.

Later, the accused would convince the victim that there were subscriptions that the victim would have to apply and

only the Federal Trade Commission, US, could deal with that issue. After that, the call would be transferred to another team member who pretended to be a representative of the Federal Trade Commission.

That person would then convince the victim that he would help secure his computer, but for that, a withdrawal of \$500 would have to be made from his bank account. He would tell the victim that the amount would be converted into some traceable electronic mode (gift card) and then credited to his account and his computer would also be secured.

## Indian American Republican Presidential candidate Vivek Ramaswamy criticizes affirmative action



Vivek Ramaswamy, 37, has emerged as a prominent voice against affirmative action

JULY 25, 2023

**WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP):** Republican presidential candidate Vivek Ramaswamy, 37, has emerged as a prominent voice against affirmative action and what he terms "preferences" in college admissions and hiring. His campaign has revolved around the idea

of promoting "pure merit" and ending race-conscious policies. However, it has come to light that Ramaswamy's past reveals a significant contradiction in his stance, says Kali Holloway.

Ramaswamy's opposition to affirmative action has been one of the main pillars of his presidential campaign, alongside his fight against "wokeness." He has criticized race-based admissions as a "cancer on our national soul" and pledged to end them if elected president. Curiously, Ramaswamy received substantial support from the Soros Fellowship for New Americans in 2011 during his time as a graduate student at Yale Law School, according to The Daily Beast. The fellowship, backed by the family of George Soros, is intended to provide opportunities and equity to immigrants and children of immigrants, aiming to level the playing field for historically marginalized groups.

Despite receiving support from the fellowship, Ramaswamy seems to have attempted to distance himself from it. The media reported, citing a Mediate story by Isaac Schorr, that he paid to have information about the fellowship removed from his Wikipedia page.

(Read full story at [www.theindianpanorama.news](http://www.theindianpanorama.news))

## IRS invites public input on ways to improve dispute resolution programs; suggestions wanted

JULY 27, 2023

**WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP):** The Internal Revenue Service, on July 27, invited public input on improvements to certain post-filing alternative dispute resolution (ADR) programs currently offered to taxpayers.

"The IRS is greatly interested in examining ways to help to reduce the time, costs and administrative burden for taxpayers and the government in resolving tax disputes," said Andy Keyso, Chief of the Independent Office of Appeals. "We're open to all suggestions about how to better use ADR techniques to help expedite their fair resolution."

The IRS is committed to resolving disputes with taxpayers without a costly legal process whenever possible. The Inflation Reduction Act Strategic Operating Plan (initiative 2.4) emphasizes improvements to tax certainty programs that help taxpayers resolve compliance issues quickly and with finality.

### AVAILABLE ADR PROGRAMS

ADR programs can be important tools for resolving tax disputes efficiently without litigation in a way that is fair and impartial to taxpayers and the government.

Over the past two decades, the IRS has offered four principal post-filing ADR programs:

Fast Track Settlement (FTS) - available to taxpayers under audit and in the jurisdiction of Large Business & International (LB&I), Small Business and Self Employed (SB/SE), or Tax Exempt and Government Entities Division (TEGE).

(Read full story at [www.theindianpanorama.news](http://www.theindianpanorama.news))



Department of the Treasury  
Internal Revenue Service



# 'Shocked and horrified' by the video of extreme attack on two women in Manipur: US

JULY 26, 2023

WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP): The US is "shocked and horrified" by the video of an extreme attack on two women in Manipur and supports the Indian Government's efforts to seek justice for them, a senior Biden administration official has said.

The video showing two women being paraded naked and molested by a group of men on May 4 in Kangpokpi district surfaced on July 19, attracting condemnation countrywide.

"We were shocked and horrified by the video of this extreme attack on two women in Manipur.

We convey our profound sympathies to the survivors of this act of gender-based violence and support the Indian Government's efforts to seek justice for them," Vedant Patel, Deputy Spokesperson of the State Department, told reporters at his daily news conference on Tuesday, July 25.

Patel was responding to a question asked by a Pakistani reporter on the violence in Manipur.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi himself noted that such violence against women is shameful in any civilized society, Patel said.

"And as we have previously stated, we encourage a peaceful and inclusive resolution to the violence in Manipur and encourage authorities to respond to the humanitarian needs and protect the lives and property of all groups," Patel added.

In his first public comments on the situation in Manipur, Prime Minister



"We were shocked and horrified by the video of this extreme attack on two women in Manipur", Vedant Patel, Deputy Spokesperson of the State Department, told reporters at his daily news conference on Tuesday, July 25.

Vedant Patel (@StateDeputySpox) / Twitter

Modi last week expressed pain and anger over the incident, saying it has shamed 140 crore Indians and asserted that the guilty will not be spared even as the Congress Party termed his remarks "too little, too late".

More than 160 people have lost their lives, and several have been injured since ethnic violence broke out in the state on May 3, when a 'Tribal Solidarity March' was organized in the hill districts to protest against the Meitei community's demand for Scheduled Tribe (ST) status.

Meiteis account for about 53 per cent of Manipur's population and live mostly in the Imphal Valley, while tribals, which include Nagas and Kukis, constitute 40 per cent and reside mostly in the hill

districts.

Meanwhile, the small Manipuri diaspora in the United States has sought an immediate end to violence in the state and the imposition of the president's rule, which it said is important to restore law and order in Manipur.

"I am so tired of talking about this issue. I am so exhausted talking about this issue. ... What can we do? Why are we as a world, as people allowing this to happen? There is a very simple solution in India itself, which is the president's rule.

The government for reasons of their own have decided not to do or say anything about this," Florence Lowe, president of the North Manipur Tribal Association told PTI in an interview.

Adjunct Professor of Digital Production Management at the University of Texas at Dallas, Florence is the daughter of a former Indian Police Service Official of Uttar Pradesh cadre.

Born in Manipur, Lowe spent most of her childhood in Uttar Pradesh. In May she formed the North American Manipur Tribal Association to bring the hill-tribe people from her state together under the banner of one platform to protest against the violence in the state of their origin.

"They're letting the fires burn. At least in the US what we are trying to do is to raise awareness with our Congress people and our Senators and with world organizations like the World Bank, the UN, the UNHCR (United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees) and so on," Lowe said. (Source: PTI)

**Second lottery round for H-1B applicants to be conducted this year: US immigration service**  
**The decision could benefit more Indian professionals**



**Second lottery round for H-1B applicants to be conducted this year: US immigration service**

Image used for representational purpose only / iStock

JULY 28, 2023

WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP): A second round of random lottery selection for the much sought-after H-1B visas for fiscal 2024 will soon begin after it was determined that "additional registrations" need to be selected to reach the numerical allocations, the US federal immigration agency has announced, a decision that could benefit more Indian professionals.

The US Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) said on Thursday that it will select the additional registrations from the previously submitted electronic registrations using a random selection process.

In March, the USCIS conducted an initial random selection of properly submitted electronic registrations for the fiscal year (FY) 2024 H-1B cap, including for beneficiaries eligible for the advanced degree exemption.

Only those petitioners with selected registrations for FY 2024 are eligible to file H-1B cap-subject petitions. The initial filing period for those with selected registrations for FY 2024 was from April 1, 2023, through June 30, 2023.

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.

"We recently determined that we would need to select additional registrations to reach the FY 2024 numerical allocations. Soon, we will select additional registrations from previously submitted electronic registrations using a random selection process," the USCIS said in a statement.

"We will announce once we have completed this second selection process and have notified all prospective petitioners with selected registrations from this round of selection that they are eligible to file an H-1B cap-subject petition for the beneficiary named in the applicable selected registration," the statement said.

(Read full story at [www.theindianpanorama.news](http://www.theindianpanorama.news))

## "THE JOURNEY WITHIN: MEDITATION, WISDOM, AND THE ART OF LIVING JOYFULLY"

**Special Event with Globally Revered Spiritual and Humanitarian Leader, Gurudev Sri Sri Ravi Shankar on July 29, 2023**



Gurudev Sri Sri Ravi Shankar will hold a meditation session at Plano on July 29, 2023

PLANO, TX (TIP): The DFW Chapter of the Art of Living Foundation is excited to host "THE JOURNEY WITHIN: MEDITATION, WISDOM, AND THE ART OF LIVING JOYFULLY" featuring world-renowned spiritual leader Gurudev Sri Sri Ravi Shankar.

Gurudev Sri Sri Ravi Shankar returns to the Big-D again after the successful "I Stand for Peace" event in May 2022, with almost 2.5K attendees. "The Journey Within" with Gurudev Sri Sri Ravi Shankar, will be a transformative event on the heels of his groundbreaking book

which has recently been headlining on bestseller lists: Notes from the Journey Within.

"THE JOURNEY WITHIN: MEDITATION, WISDOM, AND THE ART OF LIVING JOYFULLY" will be an empowering evening of meditation and wisdom starting at 6.30 pm on July 29, 2023 at Plano Event Center, located at 2000 E Spring Creek Pkwy, Plano, TX 75074. Approximately 1500+ people are expected to attend this almost sold-out event. Dallas is one stop on Gurudev's exhaustive multi-city U.S. speaking tour ahead of the Olympic scale, World Culture Festival happening on the historic National Mall in Washington, D.C. from September 29-October 1.

(Read full story at [www.theindianpanorama.news](http://www.theindianpanorama.news))

## Sikhs to serve langar to thousands at Parliament of World's Religions

The Sikh community in Illinois is gearing up to feed thousands of delegates to the Parliament of the World's religions who will be congregating in Chicago next month.

JULY 25, 2023

CHICAGO (TIP): Displaying an important tenet of the Sikh faith, the Sikh community in Illinois is gearing up to feed thousands of delegates who will be congregating in Chicago next month.

The event, which is a much needed and inclusive display of acknowledging and understanding different religions, faiths, and cultural practices, will be held in Chicago from August 14 to August 18.

Entitled the Parliament of the World's Religions, the 2023 edition will see thousands of attendees.

The event kicks off with a Parade of Faiths that will be held on August 13. The parade in Chicago is accepting participation submissions. The inter-faith parade is a spectacular confluence of many different cultures and is open to the public. Showcasing Chicago's rich diversity, there will be festivities, music, and dance. The parade will be held at the Museum Campus, The Welcome Garden, 1521 S. Linn White Drive, Chicago. Those who are interested can submit to participate in the parade by August 1.

(Read full story at [www.theindianpanorama.news](http://www.theindianpanorama.news))





## Mumbai court acquits Chhota Rajan in trade union leader murder case

A special Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) court on Friday, July 28, acquitted gangster Chhota Rajan in a case related to the 1997 murder of trade union leader Datta Samant for want of evidence.

There was nothing on record to prove that Rajan -- whose real name is Rajendra Sadashiv Nikalje -- hatched the conspiracy, the court said.

The gangster, however, is not likely to be released from jail anytime soon as he is facing trial in dozens of cases in various cities.

Samant, who organised the 1981 textile mill workers' strike in Mumbai, was shot dead on January 16, 1997, while travelling in his Jeep to his office in Pant Nagar in suburban Ghatkopar.

The assailants, who came on a motorbike, fired 17 rounds. The prosecution claimed that Rajan hatched the murder conspiracy. But special judge B D Shelke said in the verdict on Friday that nothing was produced to prove that Rajan hatched the conspiracy.

"The material witnesses have turned hostile. They do not support the case of the prosecution. The testimony of other witnesses is not sufficient to prove the charges against the accused," the court said.

In the first phase of the trial, the judgment was pronounced in July 2000.

In the case against Rajan, gangster Guru Satam and Rajan's trusted lieutenant Rohit Verma were shown as absconding accused and their trial was separated. Rajan was arrested in October 2015 from Bali in Indonesia. Later, the CBI took over all the cases registered against him. *Source: PTI*

## Indian companies can go for overseas listing: Sitharaman

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Friday, June 28, said domestic companies could now go in for direct listing on foreign exchanges and the International Financial Services Centre (IFSC) in Ahmedabad. Direct listing will allow Indian companies to access foreign funds on various exchanges overseas.

"Direct listing of securities by domestic companies will now be permissible in foreign jurisdictions. I'm also pleased to announce that the government has taken a decision to enable the direct listing of listed and unlisted companies on IFSC exchanges. So, this is a major step forward. This will facilitate access to global capital and better valuation," said Sitharaman while speaking at an event to launch a corporate debt market development fund (CDMDF), which is a bailout facility for debt funds. The provisions for direct overseas listing were approved by the government as part of the Covid relief package announced in May 2020 but the rules in this regard are yet to be notified. *Source: TNS*

# Bhima-Koregaon: SC grants bail to two activists after 5 years in jail under UAPA

NEW DELHI (TIP)

Nearly five years after their arrest under the UAPA for alleged Maoist links in the 2018 Bhima Koregaon violence case, activists Vernon Gonsalves and Arun Ferreira have been granted bail by the Supreme Court.

The "materials available against them at this stage cannot justify continued detention", the court observed.

The two were booked under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act and jailed in August 2018.

The top court bench of Justices Aniruddha Bose and Sudhanshu Dhulia on Friday said that the five-year-long incarceration of the activists makes them eligible for bail despite the charges being "grave".

The court noted that Gonsalves was earlier convicted of offences, including under the UAPA, and had cases pending against him, and imposed a series of conditions for the bail. It stated that the two activists must not leave Maharashtra without the trial court's permission and should surrender their passports with the NIA, among other conditions.

Over the years, the police and the central agencies arrested a hoard of activists and academicians in the Bhima Koregaon case, including Stan Swamy, Anand Teltumbde, Gautam Vavalkha, Varavara Rao and Sudha Bharadwaj. Newsland reported extensively on how in most of these arrests, rights and rules were violated.

This report delved into the weak case against writer Anand Teltumbde, while this detailed the apathy of the authorities



File photo of activist Vernon Gonsalves (L) and Arun Ferreira | PTI

towards activist Stan Swamy, who died in prison after being denied medical care. In this interview, human rights lawyer Sudha Bharadwaj had spoken about her journey and what shaped her ideology.

The top court asked Gonsalves and Ferreira to not leave Maharashtra, surrender their passports, use only one mobile phone and keep it charged through the day, share location and pair their devices with the investigating officer, give their addresses to NIA, and be present in the local police station once a week. Violation of any of these conditions, or those imposed by a special NIA court, would entitle the federal agency to seek cancellation of bail, the court said.

"There is nothing against the appellants to prima facie establish that they had indulged in the activities which would constitute overawing any public

functionary by means of criminal force or the show of criminal force or attempts by the appellants to do so. Neither were they found to have caused death of any public functionary," the order added.

Gonsalves and Ferreira were among 16 activists, lawyers and researchers who were arrested in 2018 in connection with the violence that broke out during the bicentennial commemoration of a British-era war in Maharashtra's Bhima Koregaon village. One person died during the violence that also sparked sweeping protests by Dalit groups who gather in the hundreds of thousands at the war memorial every year. The Pune police, and then NIA, have argued that an event in Pune on December 31, 2017 -- called the Elgar Parishad, where allegedly inflammatory speeches were made -- stoked the violence.

# 50% financial aid to firms for semiconductor units, says PM Modi

GANDHINAGAR (TIP)

Tech firms will be given 50 percent financial assistance for setting up semiconductor manufacturing facilities in the country, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Friday, July 28, as he announced that his Government has rolled out red carpet for semiconductor industries.

Speaking after inaugurating the Semicon India 2023 conference in Gandhinagar, Modi said every industrial revolution that the world has witnessed was driven by the aspirations of people at different times. The PM said he believes that the fourth industrial revolution being witnessed now is driven by India's aspirations. Modi said India is establishing an entire ecosystem for the semiconductor industry to grow in the country. "We were offering incentives as part of the Semicon India programme. It has been increased, and now technology firms will get 50 per cent financial assistance to set up semiconductor manufacturing facilities (in India)," Modi said.

The semiconductor industry will witness exponential growth in India, Modi said. "A year ago, people used to ask why they should invest in the Indian semiconductor sector. Now they ask why not invest in India," he added. India is becoming a grand conductor for investments in the semiconductor sector, Modi said. The world needs a trusted and reliable chip



PM Narendra Modi is greeted by Vedanta chairman Anil Agarwal at Semicon India-2023 in Gandhinagar. Foxconn chief Young Liu is also seen. PTI

supply chain, he said. Modi said 300 colleges in India have been identified for starting courses on semiconductor design. "Today the world is becoming witness to Industry 4.0. Whenever the world has passed through any such industrial revolution, its base has been the aspirations of the people of a particular region. The same relation was seen between the first industrial revolution and the American dream," he said.





## 71K cases pending in High Courts for 30 years: MoS

Over 71,000 cases were pending in various High Courts across the country for more than 30 years, the government informed the Lok Sabha on Friday, July 28

In a written reply to a question, Minister of State for Law and Justice Arjun Ram Meghwal stated that over 1.01 lakh cases — more than 30-year-old — were pending in lower courts as well. As on July 24 this year, 71,204 cases were pending in High Courts for more than 30 years while 1,01,837 cases were pending for over 30 years in district and subordinate courts, he said. On July 20, Meghwal had informed the Rajya Sabha that pendency of cases in various courts across India had crossed the five-crore mark.

Over 5.02 crore cases were pending in the Supreme Court, the 25 High Courts and subordinate courts, the minister had said in a written reply.

“As per data retrieved from the Integrated Case Management System (ICMIS) by the Supreme Court of India, as on July 1, there are 69,766 cases pending in the Supreme Court. Total number of cases pending in High Courts and the district and subordinate courts as on July 14 are 60,62,953 and 4,41,35,357 respectively, as per information made available on National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG),” Meghwal had stated. The pendency of cases in courts could be attributed to several factors, including non-availability of adequate number of judges and judicial officers.

## Paris-bound flight returns to Delhi after ‘tyre-burst’

A Paris-bound Air India flight returned to the national capital shortly after the take-off on Friday afternoon, following a sighting of suspected tyre-burst on the runway after departure.

In a statement, the airline said the flight landed safely at the Delhi airport at 1418 hours.

Sources said the aircraft had apparently suffered a tyre-burst and there were more than 200 passengers on board.

According to the Flight Radar app, the airplane, a Boeing 787-8 Dreamliner, circled over Charkhi Dadri in Haryana, about 100 km from Delhi, for about 40 minutes before landing safely at the Delhi airport.

# ‘India, Japan are natural partners’: Jaishankar at event with Hayashi

NEW DELHI (TIP)

Japan’s foreign minister Yoshimasa Hayashi on Friday, July 28, held up India as an “indispensable” partner for achieving a free and open Indo-Pacific, while his Indian counterpart S Jaishankar said the two sides are “natural partners” for taking on challenges in areas ranging from the economy to emerging technologies.

The two ministers were speaking at the second India-Japan Forum organised by the external affairs ministry. India was the first stop on Hayashi’s three-nation tour, which will also take him to Sri Lanka and the Maldives. During talks on Thursday, Jaishankar and Hayashi discussed ways to step up Japanese investments in India and deepen defence cooperation.

Building on the “Free and Open Indo-Pacific (FOIP)” vision unveiled by Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida during a visit to New Delhi in March this year, Hayashi said Japan intends to deepen cooperation with India in all areas. Japan and India are also working closely together under their presidencies of the G7 and the G20 respectively, he said.

Pointing to Kishida announcing the new FOIP plan in New Delhi, he said: “This fact itself is a reflection of the critical importance Japan places on India, as your nation is an indispensable partner in achieving FOIP”

Hayashi added: “At a time when there are many pressing challenges, including Russia’s aggression against Ukraine, Japan and India fully share the necessity to lead the world to cooperation, rather than to division and confrontation.”

Lauding the Indian G20 presidency’s focus on the Global South, Hayashi said the call to uphold a rules-based international order may sound like a slogan if there isn’t an adequate commitment to address challenges facing developing countries. At the same time, he noted that food security has deteriorated because of Russia’s aggression against Ukraine.

Hayashi said India and Japan have made progress in new initiatives in areas such as cyber and space, while discussions are underway for “substantial cooperation” in defence equipment and technology.

In his speech, Jaishankar highlighted key challenges confronting the world, including artificial intelligence, building reliable supply chains, ensuring trust and transparency in the digital domain, and upholding democratic values.

Jaishankar said India and Japan are natural partners for jointly



EAM Dr S Jaishankar with his Japanese counterpart Hayashi Yoshimasa in New Delhi.

addressing these challenges. “I would say today whether it is the future of the international order; strategy, economics, technology, culture or indeed whether it’s history or geography, I think India and Japan have a lot going for each other,” he said.

Hayashi also spoke about Japan’s plans to revise its “Development Cooperation Charter”, the basic document for development cooperation. “Under this revised charter, we will continue to undertake efforts to build quality infrastructure in India, including high-speed rail and urban transportation,” he said.

When a Japanese reporter pointed out that a bilateral partnership is tested by a war or a crisis and asked how the two sides would collaborate in case of a war in the Taiwan Strait or a conflict on the India-China border, Jaishankar replied: “I fundamentally disagree with your question because I think it is actually peacetime cooperation which is when you are tested, because if you don’t work every day to build a relationship and to put in place capabilities, comfort and structures, then when something more severe comes – if I can’t handle a good day, how will I handle a difficult day?”

Source: HT

## China wants ‘consensus’ on its terms with India

NEW DELHI (TIP)

For all the Chinese talk about Prime Minister Narendra Modi reaching a “consensus” with President Xi Jinping at the G20 Bali summit dinner on stabilizing relations, the issuance of stapled visas to Indian Wushu athletes from Arunachal Pradesh for the Chengdu games shows that Beijing wants to keep bilateral ties permanently on the edge. Basically, consensus on Chinese terms.

While India has rightly decided to pull out the entire Wushu team from University games as a mark of protest on stapled visas, the Chinese decision is part of its wolf warrior diplomacy that began in August 2010 when they refused to issue a visa to the then Northern Army Commander Lt Gen B S Jaswal for military dialogue stating that Jammu and Kashmir was disputed territory.

Even though much has been made out of the Chinese readout of meeting between National Security Advisor Ajit Doval and his Chinese counterpart Wang Yi on the sidelines of the BRICS NSA meeting in Johannesburg, fact is that since there was



no agreed text, Beijing and New Delhi can interpret the meetings on their own terms and issue a statement. The same happened during External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar’s meeting with Wang Yi in his Foreign Minister avatar on the sidelines of the G-20 Ministerial in Bali. EAM Jaishankar described the meeting in a simple tweet, while Beijing issued a multi-page statement. Simply put, “consensus” is the Chinese description, perhaps mischievous, of PM Modi’s informal exchange with President Xi Jinping over the dinner table and may have to do with the Chinese leader’s visit to India for the G-20 summit in September. New Delhi, on its part, is not even wasting a breath on this

description of bilateral ties as there was no agreed text, just a positive mandarin spin on an informal meeting.

However, India has taken the stapled visa issue very seriously as clearly with China the more things change, the more they remain the same with Beijing not moving a millimeter from its stated past positions on the LAC, Arunachal Pradesh or CPEC in Occupied Kashmir via Shaksgam Valley, illegally ceded by tributary state Pakistan to the Middle Kingdom. But the matters have got more complicated since the 2017 Doklam stand-off on India-Bhutan-China trijunction and after the May 2020 PLA belligerence on Pangong Tso in East Ladakh as Beijing threw out the 1993 and 1996 bilateral agreements out of the window.

In this context, the Modi government is under no illusions about expansionist China as there is PLA posturing all along the 3488 km LAC as well as the Indian Ocean, where Chinese surveillance and ballistic missile tracking ships are busy mapping route and ocean floor for Chinese nuclear submarines in the near future.

Source: HT



# India in history this Week

JULY 28, 2023, TO AUGUST 3, 2023

## 28 JULY

1914 Kamagata Maru was evacuated from Venkuvar and sent to India.

1979 Charan Singh became the fifth Prime Minister of the country.

## 29 JULY

1876 Science organization was established in India.

1891 Famous social reformer, educationist and freedom fighter Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar died.

1996 Aruna Asaf Ali, one of the prominent women who contributed to the Indian freedom struggle, died in Kolkata.

1748 The first army of the British Army arrived in India in 1748 to assist the East India Company.

1911 Mohun Bagan won the IF Shield for the first time in 1911.

2000 Seema Bhadauria pulled a 3390 kg aircraft with her teeth on 29 July 2000.

1904 Jehangir Ratanji Dadabhoy Tata, one of the industrial personalities who laid the foundation of modern India, was born.



## 30 JULY

1886 India's first female legislator, S. Muthulakshmi, was born.

2012 In India, 300 million people had to live without electricity due to major power grid failure.

2012 In 2012, 32 people died and 27 were injured when a train caught fire in Andhra Pradesh.

## 31 JULY



1880 Famous Hindi storyteller and novelist Premchand was born.

1940 Freedom fighter Amar Shaheed Udham Singh died on the day.

1924 The Madras Presidency Club pioneered the conduct of radio broadcasts.

1933 Father of the Nation Mahatma Gandhi left the Sabarmati Ashram.

1948 Establishment of the first state transport service in Calcutta in India.

1980 The great playback singer of Hindi films, Mohammed Rafi passed away.

1993 Inauguration of India's first floating maritime museum in Calcutta (now Kolkata).

2007 Indian-American doctor Sudhir Parikh was awarded the Pal Harris Award.

1861 Cherrapunji in Assam received 9,300 milliliters of rain, which became a world record.

1950 India and Nepal signed the Treaty of Peace and Friendship in 1950.

2000 The Lok Sabha passed the Chhattisgarh State Construction Bill in 2000 by voice.

2012 Ashok Sen was declared one of the nine winners of the first Yuri Milner Fundamental Physics Prize (Fundamental Physics Award).

## 01 AUGUST

1920 Mahatma Gandhi started the Non-Cooperation Movement.

1957 National Book Trust was established.

1999 Bengali and English writer Nird.C. Chaudhary died in Britain.

1920 Mahatma Gandhi returned the Kesare-Hind Award given by the British Government in 1920.

1947 The partition of powers between India and Pakistan in 1947.

1985 In 1952, the first Prime Minister Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru inaugurated Nationalized Airways at Safdarjung.

1953 All airlines in the country were nationalized on 1953.

1992 The then Prime Minister Narasimha Rao dedicated the Vizag Steel Plant to the nation in 1992.

2008 In 2008, the Board of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) approved India's Special Monitoring Agreement.

1899 Kamala Nehru, the wife of the first Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru, was born.

1932 Famous Hindi film actress Meena Kumari was born.



1916 Annie Besant, former president of the Indian National Congress, launched the Home Rule League.

2004 Sri Lanka won the Asia Cup of Cricket by defeating India.

## 02 AUGUST

1763 After the capture of Murshidabad, the British army defeated Mir Qasim in the Battle of Goriya.

1876 Pingali Venkaiah, who designed the Indian flag, was born.

1858 The Government of India Act was passed by the British Government.

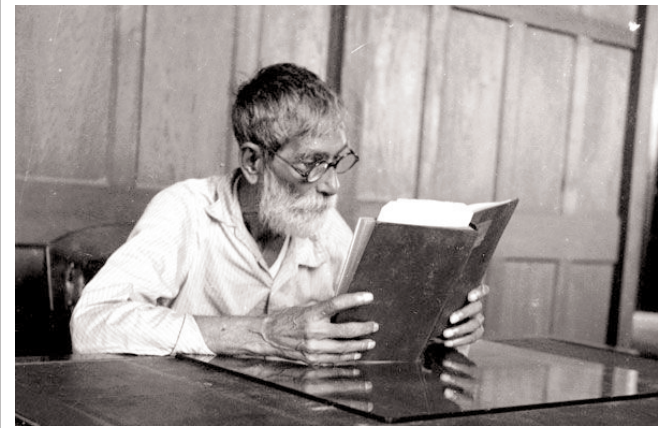
1858 The Government of India transferred the East

India Company to the British Crown.

1987 Vishwanath Anand won the World Junior Chess Championship.

1999 The Brahmaputra Mail collided face-to-face with the Awadh-Assam Express at Ghasal. Both trains were running on the same track from the opposite direction.

2001 Pakistan approved Chinese imports from India.



1861 Famous scientist Prafulla Chandra Rai, who was considered the 'father of chemistry', was born.

## 03 AUGUST

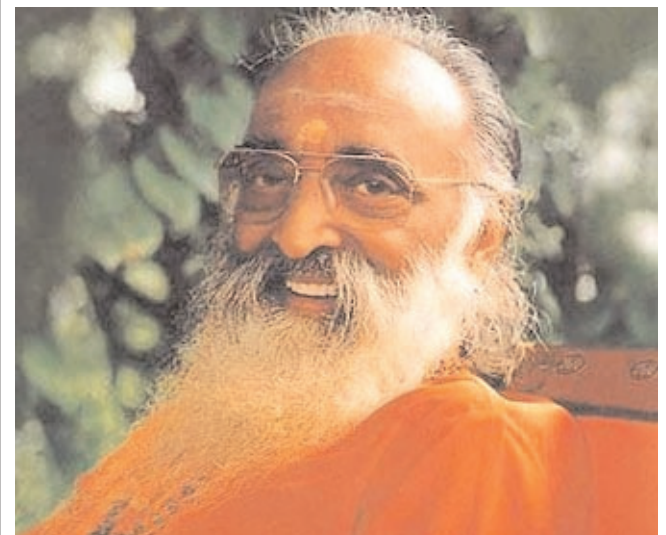


1886 Famous Hindi poet Maithilisharan Gupta was born in Jhansi, Uttar Pradesh.

1985 Baba Amte was awarded the Ramon Magsaysay Award for public service.

2012 The Workplace Safety Bill, 2010 passed against sexual harassment of women in 2012.

1993 Swami Chinmayananda, the famous spiritual thinker of India and world-renowned scholar of Vedanta philosophy, died in 1993.









# NYC'S BROOKLYN WELCOMES GREENPOINT FILM FEST

BY MABEL PAIS

Brooklyn's Greenpoint Film Festival (GFF) has its 12th edition with screenings indoors this year, August 2-6. GFF ([greenpointfilmfestival.org](http://greenpointfilmfestival.org)). As before, the film festival will be screening and celebrating truly independent films and filmmakers, a world away from the studios and (especially notable at this time) the AMPTP. The film festival will include 48 films (10 features, 38 shorts), with screenings at The Boiler / ELM Foundation (191 N. 14th Street).

Film industry catering favorites Wilson Rivas Crafts will have a food truck on the premises providing food and concessions for film goers and attendees. The Boiler's backyard will serve as the film festival's film-centric community mixer epicenter - open to the public and serving food and beverages before everyone heads inside for that day or evening's air-conditioned screenings.

The Filmmakers and celebrity guests will participate in GFF's green "red" carpet, and the Filmmaker Awards will be presented prior to the Closing Night screening. Short film award winners will receive a "Short to Feature Accelerator" prize by R2W2.

Greenpoint Film Festival Creative Director Ricardo Vilar, said, "We are thrilled to be returning indoors for this year's edition of the film festival. We're having fun when we say we are "steaming" our films this year since we'll be in The Boiler but our lineup definitely has a lot of heat with award winners, thought provoking subjects, exciting new talent, and more. For more than a decade, we have celebrated cinema here in North Brooklyn, and this year's edition looks to be one of our strongest yet."

## 2023 Greenpoint Film Festival Lineup

### PRIVATE POLISH CONSULATE PREVIEW

Filip

Director: Micha? Kwiecinski; Poland; 125m

In 1943, a Polish Jew, who managed to escape from the Warsaw ghetto, is waiting at restaurant tables in Frankfurt while pretending to be French and taking revenge on the Nazis in his own unique way.

### OPENING NIGHT - ECHOES OF UKRAINE

The Hamlet Syndrome

Directors: Elwira Niewiera, Piotr Roslowski; Poland; 85m



The Hamlet Syndrome, Opening Night

Credit / [greenpointfilmfestival.org](http://greenpointfilmfestival.org)

'The Hamlet Syndrome' is a powerful portrait of a vibrant young Ukrainian generation, the first one born after the collapse of the Soviet Union, shaped by the Maidan Revolution of 2013, empowered by political change and scarred by war.

Preceded by

Lesyk a.k.a. Words of Wisdom

Director: Orr Bortman; USA; 32m

A moving portrait of Alexander Lesyk Balaban, an eccentric Ukraine stamp collector living in Astoria, NY

for over fifty years. Told across four seasons and spanning over 1,000 years of history, come spend some time with Lesyk, who's extensive stamp collection is part of the fight for the survival of Ukraine's identity and history.

### CLOSING NIGHT

Joyland

Director: Saim Sadiq; Pakistan; 127m



Joyland, Closing Night

Credit / [greenpointfilmfestival.org](http://greenpointfilmfestival.org)

The youngest son in a traditional Pakistani family takes a job as a backup dancer in a Bollywood-style burlesque and quickly becomes infatuated with the strong-willed trans woman who runs the show.

The presentation will feature a special pre-recorded interview with Sadiq and cast members with Siddhant Adlakha following the screening.

### ADDITIONAL NARRATIVE FEATURES

FILM FOR ALIENS

Director: Piotr Stasik; Poland; 73m

HELA

Director: Anna Maria Kasperska; Poland; 84m

MECHANICAL BULLS

Directors: Jake Schick, Joshua Laufer; USA; 62m

### DOCUMENTARY FEATURES

THE ARTIST AND THE ASTRONAUT

Director: Bill Muench; USA; 100m

INTO THE SPOTLIGHT

Director: Thaddeus D. Matula; USA; 99m

SEARCHING: OUR QUEST FOR MEANING IN THE AGE OF SCIENCE

Director: Geoff Haines-Stiles; USA; 100m

Stopping The Next Pandemics

Director: Xavier Deleu; France; 96m

### NARRATIVE SHORTS

A History of Sitting in Waiting Rooms

Director: Lorena Russi; USA; 9m

And Along Came Lily

Director: Danielle Hope Diamond; USA; 11m

Astonishing Little Feet

Director: Maegan Houang; USA; 9m

Bad Blood

Director: Caitlyn Johnson; USA; 11m

Bowling 4 Eva

Director: Aelfie Oudghiri; USA; 14m

The Confirmation (La Confirmation)

Director: Juan Pablo Daranas Molina; USA; 11m

The Cookbook

Director: Pedro Chaves; USA; 22m

Daddy's Night

Director: William Pinke; USA; 18m

The Ever Hours

Director: Ella Vance; USA; 8m

Forgive

Director: Brittany Reeon Lee; USA; 36m

Fundamental Shapes

Director: Colin Alistair Campbell; USA; 15m

Hangman

Director: Megan Brotherton; USA; 15m

Hot Tears

Director: Abigail Weinick; USA; 14m

Hush

Director: Xueni Yang; Czech Republic; 15m

Interview with Traveler #582

Directors: Lisa Steindler, Jon Bernson; USA; 10m

Leaving Yellowstone

Director: Kayla Arend; USA; 23m

Let My Grandpa into Heaven

Director: Lana Bolycheva; USA; 8m

Lunchbox

Director: Anne Hu; USA; 16m

Made in Germany (OT: Zeitpunkt X)

Director: Simon Schneider; Germany; 25m

Made in Heaven

Director: Yiqing Zhao; USA; 14m

New Lives

Director: Joey Schweitzer; USA; 20m

No Other Gods But Me

Director: Alex Spott; USA; 7m

Nora

Director: Caitlin Ferrell; USA; 10m

Powerful Stuff

Director: Justin Andrew Davis; USA; 17m

Repentance

Director: Sam Motamedi; USA; 9m

Rest

Director: Micah Stathis; USA; 11m

Smothered

Director: Heather Luscombe; USA; 10m

Starved

Director: Sydney Giacomazzi; USA; 9m

Stay Don't Go

Director: Brian Velsor; USA; 20m

Sulam (Ladder)

Director: Noam Argov; USA; 11m

Till Eye Die

Director: Pimprenelle Rouyer; USA; 15m

Wild Geese Returning

Director: Ming Zhang; USA; 15m

### DOCUMENTARY SHORTS

Achromatism

Director: Manal Fadlalla; USA; 5m

Breadwinners: Raina Kennedy

Directors: Emily Delaney, Courtney Schaefer; USA; 11m

Faith in Blackness: An Exploration of AfroLatine Spirituality

Director: Charles Reynoso; USA; 27m

Feeling the Apocalypse

Director: Chen Sing Yap; Canada; 7m

Limbo

Director: Alex Ramsey; USA; 7m

### About Greenpoint Film Festival

The GREENPOINT FILM FESTIVAL had its inception in 2011 founded by Woven Spaces, Inc. and produced by Greenpoint Film Festival, Inc. built around a non-profit structure abiding by a simple purpose: To create a focal point in critically-acclaimed, thought-provoking, and upcoming filmmakers while simultaneously pushing the envelope in the local community and beyond.

The festival is inspired by the stories yet untold and focuses on giving voices to the voiceless in the filmmaking industry while simultaneously bringing together the dazzling neighborhood of Greenpoint located in North Brooklyn. Learn more at [greenpointfilmfestival.org](http://greenpointfilmfestival.org).

### About ELM Foundation/The Boiler

ELM Foundation is a community-based nonprofit that promotes the healing and transformative power of the arts by advocating the benefits of art therapy and providing multidisciplinary arts education for kids. The Boiler is a gallery within ELM Foundation that plays host to a variety of events, contributing equitable access to exhibition space, creative resources, and mentorship. Learn more at [elmfoundation.art](http://elmfoundation.art).

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



# ENJOY SUMMER AT MIDTOWN'S CHAIN FILM FEST

BY MABEL PAIS

**Personal Stories. Original Ideas. New Work.**  
**Voted one of the top 100 film festivals on FilmFreeway!**

The Chain NYC Film Festival (ChainFilmFestival.com) has a diverse lineup of films included in this year's edition, for the 11th year. The Festival takes place, in person, August 4 - 13, in the heart of midtown at 312 W. 36th Street, 3rd and 4th Floor, New York, NY 10018.

The Chain NYC Film Festival believes that independent artists are the heart of all the work the festival experiences locally and globally, thereby supporting true independent film, with specially curated film blocks from animated shorts by Oscar-nominated Disney animators to Asian Voices, LGBTQIA Stories, Comedies, BIPOC filmmakers and gripping documentaries from around the world.

The selection of over 180 features, shorts, and web series, both narrative and documentaries, showcase the work of a variety of artists including Golden Globe-winner Jacqueline Bisset, Academy Award-nominee Andrew Chesworth, Hugh Dancy, Morgan Fairchild, Corey Feldman, Robin Givens, Tony Award-winner James Naughton, Academy Award-winner Mercedes Ruehl, Jefferson White.

"We believe that this moment in history is why independent filmmaking is crucial to the future of our industry. The Chain NYC Film Festival is a fully independent film festival that has no connections or sponsorships with any AMPTP companies. As such, members of SAG-AFTRA & the WGA can participate in the Chain NYC Film Festival. We stand in solidarity with the SAG-AFTRA & WGA."

- Festival Director, Kirk Gostkowski

For SAG-AFTRA's official statement and further information, visit <http://www.sagaftrastrike.org/member-faqs>

## FESTIVAL HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDE:

### THE NANA PROJECT

**DIRECTOR: ROBIN GIVENS (BOOMERANG, RIVERDALE, BATWOMAN).**



The Nana Project - left to right: Mercedes Ruehl with Morgan Fairchild.  
Credit / ChainFilmFestival.com

Set in the competitive world of chess, we follow Nana's journey in a heartwarming feel-good comedy about reuniting her grandsons and supporting her retirement community. Starring Academy Award-winner Mercedes Ruehl (The Fisher King, Lost in Yonkers, Hustlers, The Last Action Hero), Nolan Gould (Modern Family), Morgan Fairchild (Falcon Crest, Flamingo Road) and Charlene Tilton (Dallas).

### THE MISPRINT

**DIRECTOR: ADAM VOLERICH.**

Starring Jefferson White (Yellowstone)--When a reformed criminal receives a cry for help from his former partner in crime, he finds himself back in the game with no way out but through.

### THE BRAVE LOCOMOTIVE

**DIRECTOR/WRITER: ANDREW CHESWORTH (OSCAR-NOMINATED).**

Old West musical tale with 1940s Andrews Sisters flair about a mighty little train facing harrowing disaster. Chesworth co-wrote and co-directed the animated short film One Small Step at Taiko Studios. Prior to that, he was an animator at Disney on such films as Frozen, Big Hero 6, Zootopia, and more. He is also an experienced character designer and director of animated commercials.

### MONSTR

**DIRECTOR: TANK STANDING BUFFALO**

This animated short starring Corey Feldman (Stand By Me, The Lost Boys, The Goonies). How do you go on living when everything is taken from you in the blink of an eye? A young artist confronts his inner demons while apprenticing with a northwest totem carver after the death of his beloved.

### MY DEAR MR. WHITMAN

**DIRECTOR: JEREMIAH DICKEY (BLACK HAWK DOWN, HANNIBAL)**

This animated excerpt from the documentary series Queer for Fear illustrates an 1872 letter of adoration sent to American poet Walt Whitman by a young British writer named Bram Stoker, years before he would find fame as the author of Dracula. Starring Hugh Dancy.

### NOT THE SAME CLARENCE

**DIRECTORS/WRITERS: BRIAN RUSSELL (YO ANDREA), HIS SON SAM RUSSELL (BAD TIDINGS)**

This touching short film about parental aging and Alzheimer's disease is a tribute to fathers and sons, featuring family bonds in front of and behind the camera. Starring Tony Award-winner James Naughton (And Just Like That, Planet of the Apes, Broadway's Chicago, and City of Angels) and his son Greg Naughton (The Independents, Artistic Director of the Blue Light Theater Company).

### I'M OKAY, WE'RE OKAY

Director/Co-Writer: Adrienne Acevedo Lovette (Better Call Saul, Fosse/Verdon, The Dark Room), Co-Writer/Actor: John Rice (Hidden Daylight, The Dark Room)



I'm Okay, You're Okay.  
Credit / ChainFilmFestival.com

On a road trip with her unfaithful boyfriend, Ellie discovers she has DID (once called multiple personality disorder) and that her fractured identities are offering

them clues about her mysterious past.

### LOREN & ROSE

**DIRECTOR: RUSSELL BROWN**

Rose is a legendary actress trying to revive her career. Loren is a promising filmmaker. Over the course of their many encounters, a deep friendship evolves as their love of art, understanding of grief, and faith in life's potential guide them through personal and creative transformations. Golden Globe-winner Jacqueline Bisset (Dancing on the Edge, Murder on the Orient Express, Bullitt) and Kelly Blatz (Aaron Stone, Senior Love Triangle) star with a chemistry that is at once authentic and intoxicating.

### MY SISTER'S WEDDING

**DIRECTOR: KENNETH R. FRANK**



My Sister's Wedding.

Credit / ChainFilmFestival.com

Allison Valentine awakes on the day of her younger sister's wedding with two simple goals: ensure the smooth execution of the ceremony and break the news of her resignation from the family business. Unfortunately, all members of the family have come with their own agenda and have asked Allison for help in getting what they want. Will Allison continue to ignore what she needs to keep the peace? Or will she finally take a stand and risk hurting those she loves and ruining this important day?

For more information and the complete film guide, visit [chainfilmfest2023.eventive.org/films](http://chainfilmfest2023.eventive.org/films)

## TICKETS

Tickets purchased in advance have a lower price than those purchased at the door. To purchase tickets, visit [chainfilmfest2023.eventive.org](http://chainfilmfest2023.eventive.org).

## HEALTH SAFETY PROTOCOL

Masks are encouraged, but not required.

## The Chain NYC Film Festival

The Chain NYC Film Festival has screened over 1,000 films in the past eight years. Past festival participants such as 'Lady in Apartment No. 6' have gone on to win Academy Awards.

The Chain NYC Film Festival is a multi-disciplinary event that serves the NYC community by bringing access to quality independent film from around the world. Content accepted is work that comes from a personal experience, a new outlook or idea in the world of film, and has been produced within the past two years.

Past guests include Richard LaGravenese (The Fisher King, Behind the Candelabra) and Richard Price (The Color of Money, The Wire).

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





# TRI-STATE

## Gala

**Saturday, October 7, 5:30PM**

### Special Guest



**Desh Deshpande**

Philanthropist, Entrepreneur,  
APUSA Board Member

### Gala Chair



**Kushal Sacheti**

Akshaya Patra NY  
Advisory Board member

### Emcee



**Devika Bhise**

American Actress

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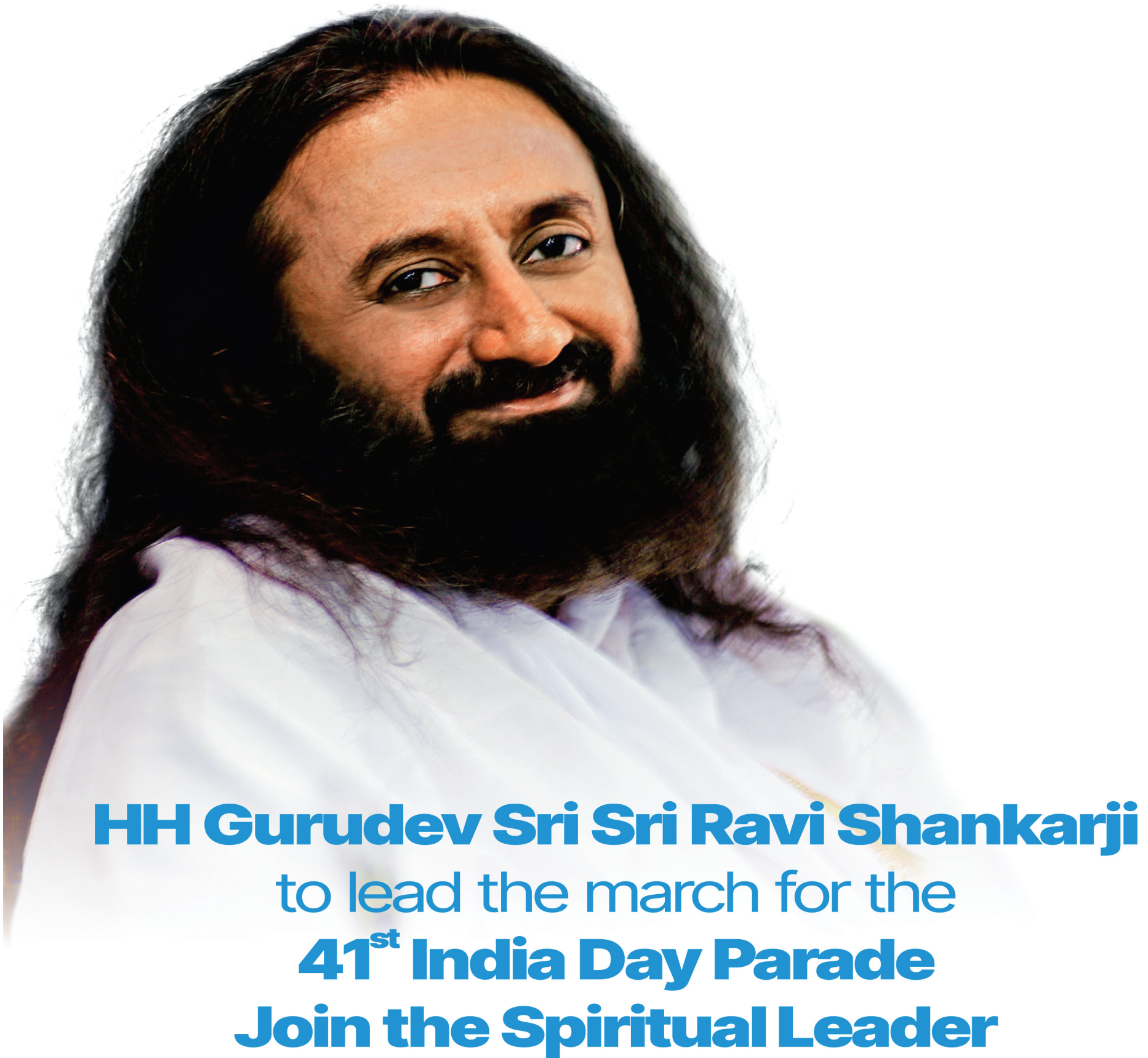
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Lifestyle For Environment  
Together towards a green ecosystem

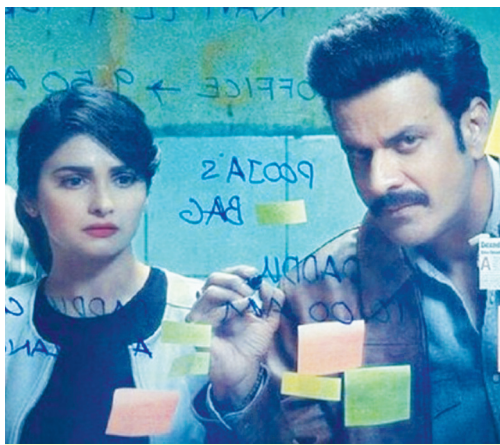
41<sup>ST</sup> THE WORLD'S LARGEST  
INDIA DAY PARADE  
MADISON AVE. NYC  
SUNDAY AUGUST 20<sup>TH</sup>  
2023



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### Manoj Bajpayee, Prachi Desai start shooting for Silence 2

The makers of Silence 2 on Thursday, July 27, unveiled an interesting update of the second season of the show.

Taking to Instagram, official page of Zee5 shared the post that the show is coming soon and captioned it, "Silence! Silence! Silence! Something is coming up. #Silence2onZEE5." The film, which is being directed by Aban Bharucha Deohans and stars Manoj Bajpayee, a national award-winning actor, will be a suspenseful whodunit that will have you on the edge of your seat. The incomparable Manoj Bajpayee returns to the role of ACP Avinash. Apart from him, Prachi Desai, Sahil Vaid, and Vaquar Shaikh will be seen in pivotal roles in the show. Peeling back the layers of a complex web of deceit, lies, and hidden truths, ACP Avinash embarks on an investigation into the mysterious death of a prominent woman in the first book. The audience is led on an intense journey that culminates in a startling revelation as the suspense grows.

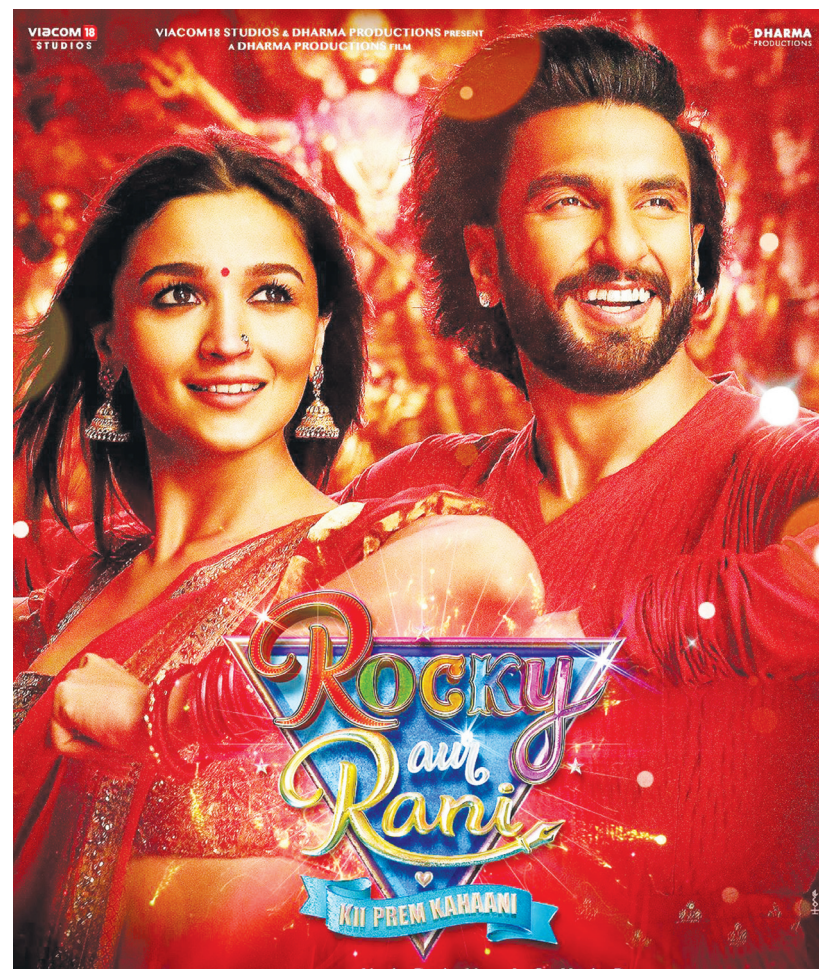
The filmmakers promise yet another captivating story in Silence 2, complete with darker secrets and shocking turns. Each scene in Silence will contain a clue, making it difficult for viewers to put the puzzle together as the story develops.

## Rocky Aur Rani Kii Prem Kahaani: Ranveer, Alia shine bright like diamonds

Rocky Aur Rani Kii Prem Kahaani is the perfect antidote to the troll culture that has seeped into the crevices of the film industry. Karan Johar returns to the big screen as a director with his favourite muse - Alia Bhatt, who often becomes instant fodder for naysayers to pinpoint and make toxic comments about. Social media might have labelled her as the poster girl for nepotism and him, the Kingpin of the movie mafia, who can make or break careers. But, what has stood the test of time and is unbreakable is their love and passion for the craft of movie-making. So, when Karan Johar returns to direction after a hiatus of seven years, there is a lot that has changed. His lead pair, Alia Bhatt and Ranveer Singh, were last seen in a gritty rustic setting in the underbelly of Mumbai in 'Gully Boy'. No designer labels and chiffon sarees were adding to the glamour of their already radiant stardom.

Rocky Randhawa (Ranveer Singh) is the flamboyant OTT (over-the-top) boisterous boy from Delhi who stands for everything that the actor playing this character has made an image of. Ranveer's public image and persona, much like Rocky, is a reflection of the loud, camp, boom-box-clutching boy whose cleavage gives the fairer sex a run for their money. When Rocky meets an unlikely match in Rani (Alia Bhatt), who is the polar opposite of him, sparks fly. It doesn't take too long for these sparks to ignite embers from the past.

Rocky's amnesia-ridden grandpa Kanwal (Dharmendra) and Rani's grandmom Jamini (Shabana Azmi) have a history. In this amalgamation of two states where North (Delhi) meets East (Kolkata), a lot of cultural differences and hilarious awkward exchanges fill in much for a fast-paced and sharp first half. Jaya Bachchan plays the vamp (Rocky's granny), who becomes a hurdle for Rocky and Rani to manifest their true love. She stands for everything that is traditionally righteous for women in the family to do. Her values are regressive and she has a temper that could roast any YouTuber who thinks he's the Ricky Gervais of his universe.



Karan Johar's films have become part of a legacy and spawned a genre that has often been imitated but rarely duplicated. So, when the OG comes to play, you can tell that he's come loaded with some serious ammo. His sense of humour, sarcasm, wit, dark humour and rebuttals are all in place. The playoff between the cultured Chatterjee family and the loud Randhawas sets the tone for some of the most hilarious scenes.

Source: India Today

## Akshay performs Shiv Tandav in 'Har Har Mahadev' song



The makers of the upcoming film 'OMG 2' unveiled the powerful track 'Har Har Mahadev' featuring Akshay Kumar, on Thursday, July 27, on social media.

Taking to Instagram, Akshay treated fans with full song video 'Har Har Mahadev' and captioned it, "#HarHarMahadev song out now. #OMG2 in theatres on August 11."

The video showcased number of worshippers celebrating god as they danced to the high beats.

Not only that, Akshay's powerful tandav leaves the fans impressed.

Composed and sung by Vikram Montrose, 'Har Har Mahadev' has been penned by Shekhar Astitwa.

The impactful moves of Akshay choreographed by Ganesh Acharya.

Pankaj Tripathi, who is playing the Shiv devotee in the film is seen enjoying the song. As soon as the song was released the actor's fans chimed in the comment section to heap praises on Akshay's performance.

One of the users wrote, "What an amazing song. your energy is unmatched, loved the #HarHarMahadev beats throughout can't wait for OMG2."

"Wowwwwwwwww Got goosebumps HAR HAR MAHADEV," another commented.

Recently the makers unveiled the film's official teaser and the first track 'Oonchi Oonchi Waadi' which received good response from the audience.

Talking about 'Oonchi Oonchi Waadi' the song has been sung by Hansraj Raghuwanshi with music by Djstrings. It has been beautifully penned by Kabeer Shukla, Hansraj Raghuwanshi, Djstrings and also composed by them along with Raahi.

Helmed by Amit Rai, the film stars Akshay Kumar, Pankaj Tripathi and Yami Gautam in the lead roles and is all set to hit the theatres on August 11.

The film will face a big Bollywood clash with Sunny Deol's upcoming action film 'Gadar 2'.

Source: ANI





## Kevin Spacey cleared of sexual assault charges

Oscar-winning actor Kevin Spacey has been cleared of all charges after a four-week trial in London on claims of sexual assault.

The Hollywood star, 64, had tears in his eyes as the jury at Southwark Crown Court found him not guilty of seven counts of sexual assault and two counts of other serious sexual offenses.

The allegations covered a period between 2004 and 2013, when Spacey served as artistic director at the Old Vic theater in the British capital. He pleaded not guilty to all of the charges.

Spacey thanked the jury after it cleared him following 12 hours and 26 minutes of deliberation across three days. Today also marks his 64th birthday. In a brief statement to reporters outside the court shortly after the verdict, Spacey said he was "humbled." "I imagine that many of you can understand that there's a lot for me to process after what has just happened today. But I would like to say that I'm enormously grateful to the jury for having taken the time to examine all of the evidence and all of the facts carefully, before they reached their decision. And I am humbled by the outcome today," he said.

# Tom Brady and Irina Shayk spark dating rumors

Tom Brady seems to have found his partner after his split from Gisele Bündchen in October 2022. On Saturday, Brady and Irina Shayk had an apparent sleepover at his house. The rumoured couple were photographed showing PDA, by Page Six.

An eyewitness informed Page Six that Brady picked Shayk on Friday afternoon from the Hotel Bel-Air and then the couple drove to his Los Angeles home. The next day, Brady dropped Shayk back to the hotel.

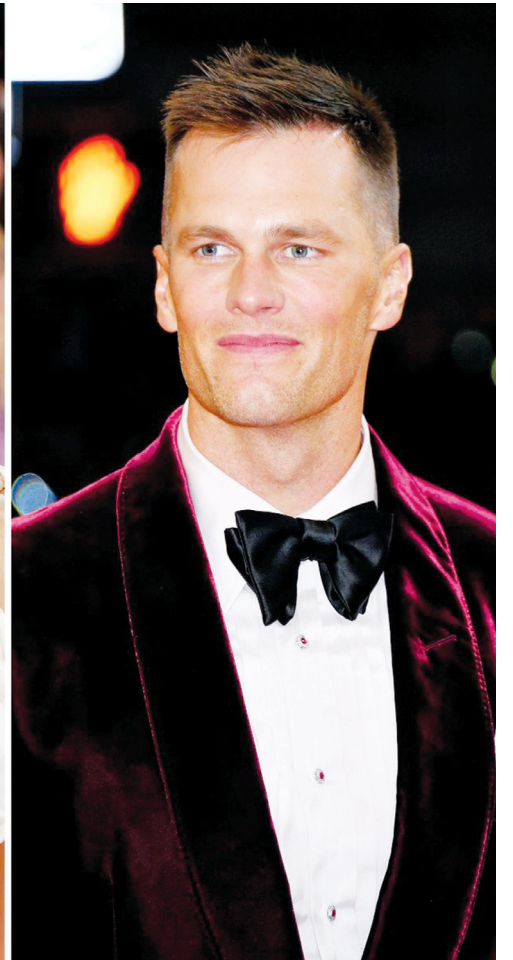
Last week, Brady again picked Shayk and at one point during their car ride, Brady was photographed caressing the Russian model's face.

Since his divorce from Bündchen, Brady has been seen with several women. He has been linked with Kim Kardashian and Reese Witherspoon.

Notably, Shayk is the former wife of Bradley Cooper with whom she shares 6-year-old daughter, Lea. She dated football superstar Cristiano Ronaldo from 2009 to 2015.

Brady has a son and a daughter with former wife Bündchen. The exes split after more than a decade of marriage.

"We arrived at this decision amicably and with gratitude for the time we spent together. We are blessed with beautiful and wonderful children who will continue to be the center of our world in every way. We will



continue to work together as parents to always ensure they receive the love and attention they deserve," Brady had written on Instagram at the time.

"The decision to end a marriage is

never easy but we have grown apart and while it is, of course, difficult to go through something like this, I feel blessed for the time we had together and only wish the best for Tom always," wrote Bündchen.



## Jennifer Aniston throws baking bash for Sandra Bullock's 59th birthday

Jennifer Aniston celebrated her friend Sandra Bullock's 59th birthday on Wednesday by inviting her over to her Bel Air home for some baking fun.

Aniston shared a video on her Instagram Story of Bullock and another close pal, Will & Grace star Sean Hayes, making chocolate pumpkin brownies from Lil Luna in her spacious mid-century modern-style kitchen.

Bullock, who starred with Aniston in *The Net* and *The Proposal*, was in charge of mixing the ingredients in a bowl, while Hayes acted as her assistant. Aniston filmed the whole process and gave them instructions from behind the camera.

"What step are we at now, missy?" Bullock asked Aniston, who replied, "I'm folding it in!" Bullock then echoed a joke that Aniston made, saying, "That's what he said," which made Hayes repeat it loudly and Bullock burst into laughter.

"The *Lost City*' star also jokingly chastised one of their friends who was off-camera, telling him, "Don't pick your nose and then tell us how to cook!"

The brownie recipe they were following involved canned pumpkin, chocolate, nuts, cinnamon, nutmeg, and cloves, which seemed

more appropriate for a fall-themed treat than a summer dessert.

The 'Murder Mystery' star also posted several photos of Bullock on her Instagram Story to mark her birthday. She revealed that she calls Bullock "Sand-a-La" in the first photo, writing, "Happy Birthday Sand-a-La!!" She also shared a photo of them hugging at an event, a photo of Bullock posing with a dog, and a photo of them wearing matching masks.

Bullock received a lot of love from her celebrity friends on her 59th birthday, including Octavia Spencer. The two acted together in *A Time to Kill* (1996) and *Miss Congeniality 2: Armed and Fabulous* (2005).

Spencer, 53, posted a photo of her and Bullock grinning for the camera on Instagram, as well as a cute snap of them hugging at the 2012 Academy Awards ceremony.

Ryan Reynolds also celebrated Bullock's birthday with a reference to their 2009 movie *The Proposal*. Reynolds, 46, shared a clip on Instagram from the rom-com featuring their famous naked scene, making a joke about her birthday present this year.



## A POLLUTION TAX ON OLDER CARS CAN BE EXTENDED TO LONDON'S SUBURBS AFTER A BRITISH COURT RULING

**LONDON (TIP):** A British court ruled July 28 against London suburbs that tried to block a pollution tax on older cars as green policies become a hot political issue in the U.K. amid increasingly dramatic impacts of global climate change.

The High Court ruled that Mayor Sadiq Khan had the authority to expand the Ultra Low Emission Zone, or ULEZ, which charges drivers of older gas and diesel vehicles 12.50 pounds (\$16) a day they operate, to the city's outskirts next month.

Five conservative councils challenged Khan's right to impose the measure. They criticized the expansion to an area where there are fewer public transport options and people are more reliant on cars, and because of a disproportionate impact on lower-income drivers who can't afford newer, cleaner cars.

Khan said the ruling would allow the expanded zone to take effect on Aug. 29 and help reduce air pollution. He said he would also expand a program that provides financial assistance to some families and small businesses to scrap older cars.

"The ULEZ has already reduced toxic nitrogen dioxide air pollution by nearly half in central London and a fifth in inner London," said Khan, a member of the Labour Party. "The coming expansion will see 5 million more Londoners being able to breathe cleaner air."

The five councils that challenged the zone issued a joint statement saying they were "hugely disappointed". While they accepted that Khan may have the legal right to implement the measure, they questioned whether it was morally right.

"It is evident that the mayor of London and (Transport for London) do not realize the damage the extension will have to the lives of residents and businesses in outer London as well as those outside of its borders," the group said.

The city's transportation agency said most gas vehicles under 16 years old and diesel vehicles less than 6 years old comply with the standard.

In April, a study from London City Hall found levels of nitrogen dioxide exceeded the legal limit in 14 of the city's 32 boroughs. Khan argued he had a statutory responsibility to take measures to improve air quality.

Nine out of 10 cars on the road in outer London on an average day comply with standards, Transport for London said. The Royal Automobile Club said nearly 700,000 licensed cars in London are unlikely to comply.

Fury over the ULEZ expansion was credited last week with helping Tories hold one of three seats in Parliament in a special election.

(AP)

# Two arrested over suspected rape of tourist in Paris park: prosecutors

**PARIS (TIP):** French authorities have detained two men on suspicion of taking part in an alleged gang rape of a Mexican tourist in the Champ de Mars park, which lies at the foot of the Eiffel Tower in central Paris, prosecutors said on July 28.

The men were detained on Thursday in an ongoing investigation into the suspected rape of the woman, Paris prosecutors said.

The Le Parisien daily, which first reported the incident, said that the 27-year-old woman was attacked by five men, meaning that three suspects were still at large. This has not been confirmed by prosecutors.

The Champ de Mars is a large park extending from the Eiffel Tower which is hugely popular with tourists and locals.

It will be a key site during the 2024 Summer Olympics in Paris when beach volleyball is to be held at the foot of the Eiffel Tower and judo and wrestling at the temporary Arena Champ de Mars at



the other end of the park.

Unlike most Paris parks which close during the night, the Champ de Mars can be accessed round-the-clock.

The reported rape revived pressure on Paris's Socialist Mayor Anne Hidalgo to close the park at night for safety reasons.

"How many sexual assaults and rapes

does Anne Hidalgo expect there to be before she agrees to close the Champ de Mars at night so that Parisians and tourists are safe?" said Rachida Dati right-wing mayor of Paris 7th district where the park is located arrondissement, on Twitter which is being rebranded as X. (AFP)

## Philippine ferry was overloaded when it flipped over, leaving 27 dead, official says

**MANILA, PHILIPPINES (TIP):** The skipper of a Philippine ferry that flipped over in a lake in an accident that killed 27 passengers decided to sail despite knowing that his boat was filled beyond capacity, the coast guard chief said on July 28.

Forty-three passengers were rescued after the M/B Aya Express capsized in Laguna de Bay on Thursday shortly after leaving Binangonan town southeast of Manila in what should have been a 30-minute cruise to nearby Talim Island, officials said.

Coast guard, police and other government personnel continued to search the lake Friday but said they had no idea whether anyone was still missing because of uncertainties over the number of passengers on the ferry. No more survivors or bodies were found.

Two coast guard inspectors allowed the ferry to sail after being shown a manifest that listed only 22 passengers in addition to the boat's three-member crew, coast guard chief Admiral Artemio Abu said at a news conference.

The two inspectors were removed from their post and will be investigated, coast guard officials said. They said the skipper and the two other crew members and the boat owner may face criminal complaints.

Sea accidents are common in the Philippines because of frequent storms, poorly maintained boats, overcrowding and weak enforcement of safety regulations. In December 1987, the ferry Dona Paz sank after colliding with a fuel tanker, killing more than 4,300 people in the world's worst peacetime maritime



disaster.

The Aya Express had a capacity of 42 passengers, the coast guard said.

Under questioning by authorities, the skipper acknowledged that the ferry had exceeded its passenger capacity when it left port, Abu said.

The skipper said only 22 passengers were aboard the ferry at first but the number swelled when more people desperate for a ride arrived. The passengers had been stranded for days after stormy weather forced the suspension of ferry services earlier this week, Abu said.

"On his way back to the boat, he said that he saw far too many people have gone onboard and he could no longer convince them to disembark," Abu said. "Those who were stranded had insisted on staying onboard."

Shortly after leaving port, the Aya Express was pummeled by strong winds which caused the passengers to panic

and rush to one side of the boat. The vessel tilted and its outrigger broke, causing it to capsize just 46 meters (150 feet) from shore, police and coast guard officials said.

"This is really a tragic event that has to be investigated," coast guard Rear Adm. Hostillo Arturo Cornelio said Thursday night at a news conference.

Investigators will look into reports that many of the passengers were not wearing life vests as required by safety regulations, Cornelio said.

The boat accident brought the death toll from a week of stormy weather across the main island of Luzon to 40.

In addition to the 27 ferry deaths, Typhoon Doksuri left at least 13 people dead, mostly due to landslides, flooding and toppled trees. Twenty people remained missing, including four coast guard personnel whose boat overturned Wednesday while on a rescue mission in hard-hit Cagayan province. (AP)



# Poland's lawmakers approve a divisive law on Russian influence

**WARSAW (TIP):** Poland's lawmakers voted on July 28 to approve an amended but divisive law on Russian influences believed to be targeting the opposition and criticized by the U.S. and the European Union.

The law was proposed in May by Poland's ruling right-wing Law and Justice party and critics see it as primarily targeting opposition leader and former Prime Minister Donald Tusk, before a parliamentary election scheduled for this fall. Following criticism, President Andrzej Duda proposed urgent amendments to tone it down.

The lower house, or Sejm, voted 235-214 with four abstentions to reject the Senate's veto to the draft law amended by Duda. It only now requires Duda's signature to take effect.

The amended bill calls for a commission to check whether between 2007 and 2022 politicians have taken decisions under Russia's influence that could threaten Poland's security. Duda has said it is needed for transparency's sake and to prevent Russia from influencing Poland's stability in the



future.

Poland is supporting neighbouring Ukraine to fight against Russia's full-scale invasion and is supplying weapons, humanitarian aid and political backing for Kyiv. That has drawn harsh comments from Moscow.

The previous, more restrictive law is currently in effect, but the commission members haven't been chosen yet.

When it takes effect, the law will create a powerful committee of experts but not

lawmakers to investigate Russian influence in Poland and name politicians who allegedly allowed them, thus barring them in practice from holding public positions. However, critics say it is primarily targeting Tusk, who also served as a top EU official.

Law and Justice accuse Tusk of having been too friendly toward Russia and President Vladimir Putin as prime minister between 2007 and 2014, and making gas deals favourable to Moscow

before he went to Brussels to be the president of the European Council between 2014 and 2019.

Law and Justice party leader Jaroslaw Kaczynski and Tusk are longtime political rivals.

Critics say the law violates the Polish Constitution and could keep government opponents from holding public office by having a negative effect on their eligibility, especially in a parliamentary election later this year. Amendments by Duda, who holds a law doctorate, allowed for the commission verdict to be appealed to court.

The U.S. State Department and EU authorities have strongly criticized the law in its first version and expressed concerns about Poland's democracy. The 27-member EU, which Poland joined in 2004, also threatened to take measures, if it became fully clear that such a law would undermine democratic standards.

When Duda proposed the amendments in June, he also bowed partially to critics and sent the bill to the Constitutional Tribunal for a review for conformity with the supreme law. That verdict is still pending. (AP)

## *Hong Kong court rejects government ban on democracy protest song*

**HONGKONG (TIP):** A Hong Kong judge denied on July 28 a government request for an injunction banning "Glory to Hong Kong", a defiant anthem that emerged from the city's huge pro-democracy protests in 2019.

The Hong Kong government had in June requested an injunction order so that the song -- penned anonymously -- would be banned from being disseminated or performed "with the intention of inciting others to commit secession or with a seditious intent".

But Judge Anthony Chan wrote in his ruling on Friday that freedom of expression was a "highly important right" and that an injunction could cause "chilling effects" to innocent third parties even if that was not the government's intent.

"I cannot be satisfied that it is just and convenient to grant the injunction," said Chan, who is among a pool of jurists handpicked by the government to handle security cases.

"I believe that the intrusion to freedom of expression here, especially to innocent third parties, is what is referred to in public law as 'chilling effects'," he wrote.

"Whilst I entirely accept that no chilling effect is intended behind the Injunction, it is the duty of the Court to keep in mind that there is a whole spectrum of Hong Kong people" with varying degrees of knowledge about the injunction, Chan explained.



"Glory to Hong Kong" first emerged in August 2019 when the city was undergoing massive and at times violent pro-democracy demonstrations, with millions taking to the streets to demand political freedoms.

Its Cantonese lyrics integrated a key protest slogan -- "break now the dawn, liberate our Hong Kong; in common breath, the revolution of our times" -- and was widely adopted by protesters.

The song has raised the Hong Kong government's ire in recent months, as it has been repeatedly mistaken as the city's anthem, playing at international sports competitions.

Officially, Hong Kong does not have an anthem and it follows China's national anthem, "March of the Volunteers".

Following the 2019 protests, Beijing imposed a sweeping national security

law, quelling political dissent, and courts have penalised multiple people for performing it in public or circulating it online.

Technology minister Sun Dong this month said that tech giant Google had refused to delist "Glory to Hong Kong" from online search results unless the government had proof of the song's illegality.

The government application to ban the song, first announced last month, prompted a surge of interest and "Glory to Hong Kong" dominated the iTunes download chart in the city for days.

Police have arrested 260 people under the national security law, with 79 of them convicted or awaiting sentencing in Hong Kong.

AFP has contacted the Hong Kong government for comment. (AP)

## **NIGER GENERAL WHO LED COUP ASKS FOR SUPPORT FROM THE PEOPLE AND INTERNATIONAL PARTNERS**

**NIAMEY (TIP):** The general who led a coup in Niger took to state television on July 28 to ask for support for the takeover, two days after members of the military detained the democratically elected president and set off political chaos that could set back the nation's fight against jihadists and increase Russia's influence in West Africa.

As Gen. Abdourahmane Tchiani spoke, Niger state television identified him as the leader of the National Council for the Safeguarding of the Country, the group of soldiers who said they staged the coup.

Tchiani, who goes by Omar, said the country needed to change course to avoid "the gradual and inevitable demise" and thus he and others had decided to intervene.

"I ask the technical and financial partners who are friends of Niger to understand the specific situation of our country in order to provide it with all the support necessary to enable it to meet the challenges," he said.

Earlier, various factions of Niger's military wrangled for power, according to an analyst and a Western military official. Tchiani's appearance seemed to be an effort to show he was in charge, though the situation was still in flux. (AP)



## SINGAPORE HANGS FIRST WOMAN IN 19 YEARS AFTER SHE WAS CONVICTED OF TRAFFICKING 31 GRAMS OF HEROIN

**KUALA LUMPUR (TIP):** Singapore conducted its first execution of a woman in 19 years on July 29 and its second hanging this week for drug trafficking despite calls for the city-state to cease capital punishment for drug-related crimes.

Activists said another execution is set for next week.

Saridewi Djamani, 45, had been sentenced to death in 2018 for trafficking nearly 31 grams (1.09 ounces) of diamorphine, or pure heroin, the Central Narcotics Bureau said. Its statement said the amount was "sufficient to feed the addiction of about 370 abusers for a week."

Singapore's laws mandate the death penalty for anyone convicted of trafficking more than 500 grams (17.64 ounces) of cannabis and 15 grams (0.53 ounces) of heroin. Djamani's execution came two days after that of a Singaporean man, Mohammed Aziz Hussain, 56, for trafficking around 50 grams (1.75 ounces) of heroin.

The narcotics bureau said both prisoners were accorded due process, including appeals of their conviction and sentence and petition for presidential clemency.

Human rights groups, international activists and the United Nations have urged Singapore to halt executions for drug offenses and say there is increasing evidence it is ineffective as a deterrent.

Singapore authorities insist capital punishment is important to halting drug demand and supply. Human rights groups say it has executed 15 people for drug offenses since it resumed hangings in March 2022, an average of one a month.

Anti-death penalty activists said the last woman known to have been hanged in Singapore was 36-year-old hairdresser Yen May Woen, also for drug trafficking, in 2004.

Transformative Justice Collective, a Singapore group that advocates for the abolishment of capital punishment, said a new execution notice has been issued to another prisoner for Aug. 3 -- the fifth this year alone.

It said the prisoner is an ethnic Malay citizen who worked as a delivery driver before his arrest in 2016. He was convicted in 2019 for trafficking around 50 grams (1.75 ounces) of heroin, it said.

The group said the man had maintained in his trial that he believed he was delivering contraband cigarettes for a friend he owed money and he didn't verify the contents of the bag as he trusted his friend.

Although the court found he was merely a courier, the man still had to be given the mandatory death penalty, it said. (AP)

## Saudi Arabia invests USD 10 billion to build Pakistan's largest oil refinery in Gwadar

**ISLAMABAD (TIP):** Four Pakistani state-owned petroleum companies have signed a memorandum of understanding with Saudi Arabia to build Pakistan's largest oil refinery with an investment of USD 10 billion in the strategic Gwadar Port, according to a media report on July 29.

The MoU to set up the facility with a production capacity of 300,000 barrels per day was signed on Thursday with the state-owned Oil and Gas Development Company Ltd (OGDCL), Pakistan State Oil (PSO), Pakistan Petroleum Ltd (PPL), and Government Holdings Private Ltd (GHPL) signed the MoU to join hands and provide comfort to the Saudi firm to enter Pakistan with a major investment, the Dawn newspaper reported.

The four SOEs would join the project through equity participation.

The government headed by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif is reportedly in the advanced stages of negotiations with Saudi giant Aramco to execute the greenfield refinery project at the strategic Gwadar Port and wants to complete the initial paperwork before its tenure ends in two weeks.

The tenure of Pakistan's current government will end on August 14.

To facilitate the Saudi investment in refining, the government has recently passed a new policy under which a new deep conversion oil refinery of a minimum of 300,000 bpd achieving financial close of the project within five years shall be eligible for a customs duty of 7.5 per cent for 25 years on petrol and diesel of all grades produced effective from the date of commissioning of the refinery.

The project envisions setting up an integrated refinery petrochemical complex with a crude oil processing capacity of a minimum of 300,000 bpd



along with a petrochemical facility.

The integrated complex shall comprise various components such as marine infrastructure, petrochemical complex, storage for crude oil and refines utilities, pipeline connectivity etc.

According to the Petroleum Division, despite being integral to the growth of the economy, no new refinery project has materialised in Pakistan for more than a decade and only two refineries have been added in the last 40 years.

Compared to the 20 million tonnes of refining capacity, the actual capacity utilisation is at around 11 million tonnes.

This is mainly due to the decreasing furnace oil demand in the country as a result of a change in the energy mix in the power sector and the fixed production slate of refineries that cannot produce just petrol and high-speed diesel and all products are produced simultaneously.

Thus, as furnace oil demand declines, refineries have to lower their overall production and struggle to maintain their throughput at optimal levels.

This is despite the fact that independent consultants forecast Pakistan's demand for petrol and diesel

to grow beyond 33 million tonnes per annum by 2023.

The said refinery shall also enjoy a 20-year tax holiday and would also be entitled to exemption from levy of customs duties, surcharges, withholding tax, general sales tax, any other ad valorem tax or any other levies and duties on import of any equipment to be installed, or material to be used in the refinery projects without any precondition for obtaining certification by the Engineering Development Board.

These fiscal incentives and other facilitation would be recorded and protected under the project agreements between the project company, the key sponsors, investors and the concerned government and would be protected through a grant to Special Economic Zones Act.

Minister for State Musadiq Malik, who witnessed the MOU signing ceremony, said the Saudi oil firm showed a willingness to inject the entire equity into the multibillion-dollar refinery project, leading the Pakistani government to decide on a joint venture with key SOEs, the report added. (PTI)

## Myanmar's Aung San Suu Kyi moved from prison: Party official

**YANGON (TIP):** Myanmar civilian leader Aung San Suu Kyi, who was ousted in a 2021 military coup, has been moved from prison to a government building, an official from her party said on July 28. Suu Kyi has only been seen once since she was held after the February 1, 2021 putsch -- in grainy state media photos from a bare courtroom in the military-built capital Naypyidaw.

The coup plunged the Southeast Asian nation into a conflict that has displaced more than one million people, according to the United Nations.

"Daw Aung San Suu Kyi has been moved to a high-level venue compound on Monday night," an official from the National League for Democracy told AFP Friday on condition of anonymity.

The party official also confirmed Suu Kyi had met the country's lower house speaker Ti Khun Myat and was likely to

meet Deng Xijuan, China's special envoy for Asian Affairs, who is visiting the country.

A source from another political party said Suu Kyi had been moved to a VIP compound in Naypyidaw.

In July, Thailand's foreign minister said he had met with Suu Kyi, the first-known meeting with a foreign envoy since she was detained.

A junta spokesman told AFP the meeting had lasted more than one hour but did not give details on what was discussed.

There have been concerns about the 78-year-old Nobel laureate's health since her detention, including during her trial in a junta court that required her to attend almost daily hearings.

Suu Kyi has been sentenced to 33 years in jail for a clutch of charges, including corruption, possession of illegal walkie-

talkies and flouting coronavirus restrictions. Rights groups slammed her trial as a sham designed to remove the popular leader from politics. In June 2022, after more than a year under house arrest in Naypyidaw, Suu Kyi was moved to a prison compound in another part of the capital. There she was no longer permitted to her domestic staff of around ten people and assigned military-chosen helpers, sources told AFP at the time.

Confinement in the isolated capital is a far cry from the years Suu Kyi spent under house arrest during a previous junta, where she became a world-famous democracy figurehead. During that period, she lived at her family's colonial-era lakeside mansion in commercial hub Yangon and regularly gave speeches to crowds on the other side of her garden wall. (AFP)



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# Surprising benefits of letting your hair go gray

Transitioning into gray hair is a big step that many women dread. This is largely due to societal stigma about what's deemed as beautiful and youthful. However, it's part of the natural aging process. And there is no reason to feel ashamed of your silver hues. Whether you're experiencing the arrival of your first grays, or you color your hair to hide them, there are plenty of benefits to rocking your natural color.

## Your hair will be healthier

Applying dye lifts the hair's protective proteins, so the chemicals can enter the strand and change its color. This process weakens the hair, which can cause brittleness, dryness, and thinning. Therefore, skipping the dye will result in much healthier hair.

## Your scalp health will improve

An itchy scalp is often caused by a chemical in dye called paraphenylenediamine, a known irritant and allergen. But if you stop the dying process, you won't have this problem.

## You'll save money

By letting your natural grays shine through, you can save a lot of money on dyeing your hair and getting touch-ups. Even if you don't go to the salon every month, frequently buying a box dye can still get expensive. You'll also be able to ditch all the pricey hair care products dyed hair requires.

## And you'll save time

On top of saving a lot of money, you'll also save tons of time. Dying your hair can take hours, or even a whole day, depending on your hair type.

## You'll see added dimension



Gray hair isn't only practical, it also creates a stunning aesthetic. Some will have stripes of white that look like natural highlights. Others will get a total white hue that looks like platinum blonde.

## Gray hair is surprising

Going gray is always interesting because you'll discover your true hues. Some might have grays that look more metallic, while others might have a shiny salt and pepper mix.

## Gray is flexible

There are lots of approaches to converting to gray hair. For example, you can wait for it to grow out, or cut it real short. You can also wear a wig in your dyed color until

your gray has grown out. Or you can have a professional colorist camouflage the transitioning hair with lowlights as the gray grows in.

## It's a sisterhood

There's a special bond and support between women who decide to go gray. They acknowledge the strength, autonomy, and beauty they see in each other.

## You'll feel free

At the end of the day, dying your hair can cause a lot of stress. You may worry the color will come out wrong, or that you're spending too much money. But by letting your hair go gray, all that disappears.

Source: *Starinsider*



## Manicure mistakes you're making

Nothing ruins a day more than a chipped manicure or a broken nail. Women are out to conquer the world, then why let this minor bump in the road stop you for looking bomb all day long. To save you time we have rounded up six manicure sins you're making. So stop cursing the nail paint! Instead, ask yourself if you committed any of these sins. If you nod your head at any point on this list, then you have your answer.

### Don't apply too many coats

Applying thick coats of nail paint gets you one step closer to ruining your perfect manicure. Slapping on layers of polish will increase your chances of getting smudges and nicks as the paint will take much longer to dry completely. To avoid such accidents, apply thin coats of the paint to ensure faster drying.

Always wait for a few minutes before adding more layers of polish. Also, paint it in just one direction to achieve a smooth finish.

### Avoid hot water

If you're looking for a manicure that lasts, then avoid contact with hot water for at least six hours after getting a manicure. Hot water can ruin your hard work, so wear gloves while doing water related chores and save your polish from chipping.

On the other hand, cold water will be your savior. Dip your nails into a bowl of ice water for 1-2 minutes. This will set and dry your polish in a matter of minutes.

### Don't shake the bottle

Do not shake your bottle before applying the nail paint. Shaking creates air bubbles which should always be avoided if you're looking for an immaculate manicure. When air gets trapped inside the bottle, it creates froth making your nails chip faster.

Instead of shaking, roll your bottle in your hands and see the difference.

### Don't skip the base coat

Just like a good primer can keep your make-up looking flawless every day, using a base coat will provide the same service to your nails. A layer of base coat can easily extend the wear of your manicure by at least a couple of days.

Soaking a cotton swab in rubbing alcohol or white vinegar and applying to your nails before the base coat will help in sealing the natural oils and giving an even finish to your manicure.

### Don't cut your cuticles

Cutting your cuticles is a major health risk. Even beauty experts agree that cuts can easily get infected and it's not an ideal to commit this sin. Rather, push them back using cuticle pusher tool. This will prevent the paint from sticking to the cuticles which can heft the polish from the nail bed and cause chipping.

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### Kashmiri Lamb

#### Ingredients

4 dried red chile peppers (such as cayenne), 3 long, green fresh chile peppers (such as Indian Jwala), 1 teaspoon cumin seeds, 1 teaspoon Kashmiri garam masala, 1 (1 inch) piece fresh ginger root, peeled and grated, 5 cloves garlic, crushed ¼ cup dried unsweetened coconut, 3 tomatoes, chopped, 6 tablespoons vegetable oil, 2 large onions, thinly sliced, 2 pounds lamb meat, cut into 1 1/2-inch cubes, salt to taste, ½ teaspoon ground turmeric, 1 cup plain yogurt, ½ teaspoon saffron threads, 20 whole blanched almonds, ¼ cup chopped fresh cilantro,

#### Directions

Place red chiles, green chiles, cumin seeds, garam masala, ginger, garlic, grated coconut, and tomatoes into a blender; pulse

several times to chop, then blend into a smooth paste.

- Heat vegetable oil in a large skillet or Dutch oven over medium heat. Stir in onion; cook and stir until the onion has softened and turned translucent, about 5 minutes. Reduce heat to medium-low, and continue cooking and stirring until the onion is very tender and golden brown, 10 to 15 minutes more.
- Stir the spice paste into the onion and cook and stir until the oil separates from the mixture, about 3 minutes.
- Stir in lamb pieces and salt. Cook, stirring frequently over medium-high heat, until the lamb pieces are browned on all sides, about 8 minutes.
- Mix in yogurt, saffron, and



blanched almonds until well combined.

- Reduce the heat to low and simmer, covered, until the meat is tender and the gravy is thick, about 1 hour.
- Garnish the curry with chopped cilantro before serving.



# Habits that can help you improve gut health

The gut, also known as the digestive tract, is not just a mechanism for processing food, but is a vital part of the body's immune system and significantly influences your physical and mental health.

Primarily, the gut is comprised of trillions of bacteria called the gut microbiota. These bacteria, the majority of which are beneficial, are vital to the body's functions.

They aid in breaking down food into nutrients, help the immune system fight harmful bacteria, and influence the body's insulin resistance. They even affect your mood and mental health outcomes.

Microbiota are part of most of our gastrointestinal system. Foods can harm the microbiota or support them.

## Avoid processed and sugary foods

Processed foods have trans fats that prolong shelf life and this harms the gut lining. The flexible cell wall hosting myriad of cell receptors and channels becomes rigid. Cells thereby fail to function optimally and this function depends on the type of cell.

High sugar foods will lead to small intestinal bacterial overgrowth (SIBO). This in turn leads to bacteria fermenting food and production of excessive gas. This also affects the absorption capacity and will lead to nutritional deficiency.

## Prefer home-cooked meals

When we cook at home, the oil to be used and all the ingredients are under our control. When a cooking oil is overheated and reused (as in



restaurants), food cooked will be unhealthy for our gut microbiota. We can avoid artificial sweeteners, food preservatives and colorants,

## Avoid eating in a hurry or in a standing position

It is advised to sit and chew your food slowly. "When we are calm, we activate the parasympathetic system and vagus nerve which controls the gastro-intestinal tract movement and function is a parasympathetic nerve.

If we are in a hurry, then the overdriven sympathetic nervous system leads to inadequate absorption of vital nutrients in food.

## Move after you eat

Sleeping immediately after we eat is not good for digestive function. Walking for just 10 to 15 minutes has been shown to aid digestion and optimal absorption. Sitting for long hours during work is not good for one's digestive health.

## Prefer whole foods

Whole foods like whole grains, vegetables, fruits, nuts and seeds are to be consumed every day instead of processed and artificial foods. The more variety of vegetables and fruits that we eat, the more enriched our gut microbiota will be.

Source: India Today



## Omega-3 fatty acids help in maintaining lung health: Study

Omega-3 fatty acids, abundant in fish and fish oil supplements, are promising for maintaining lung health, according to new research from a sizable, thorough study in healthy individuals funded by the National Institutes of Health.

The study highlights the importance of consuming omega-3 fatty acids, especially in light of the fact that many Americans do not consume enough of them, and provides the most compelling evidence of this connection to date.

"We know a lot about the role of diet in cancer and cardiovascular diseases, but the role of diet in chronic lung disease is somewhat understudied," said corresponding author Patricia A. Cassano, PhD, director of the Division of Nutritional Sciences at Cornell University in Ithaca, New York. "This study adds to growing evidence that omega-3 fatty acids, which are part of a healthy diet, may also be important for lung health."

Whether nutritional therapies could aid in the fight against lung illness has recently gained more attention. Because of their well-documented anti-inflammatory effects, omega-3 fatty acids have been linked to promising results in earlier studies. However, until recently, there haven't been any reliable investigations of this link. To learn more, researchers developed a two-part study investigating the link between omega-3 fatty acid levels in the blood and lung function over time. In the first part, the researchers conducted a longitudinal, observational study involving 15,063 Americans from the NHLBI Pooled Cohorts Study, a large collection of NIH-funded studies that helps researchers to study determinants of personalized risk for chronic lung disease.

The participants studied were generally healthy when the study began, and the majority had no evidence of chronic lung disease. They comprised a racially diverse group of adults, with an average age of 56 years, and 55 per cent were female. The researchers followed participants for an average of seven years and up to 20 years. The longitudinal study showed that higher levels of omega-3 fatty acids in a person's blood were associated with a reduced rate of lung function decline.

Source: ANI

# Early food allergies linked to childhood asthma and reduced lung function

According to a world-first study, having a food allergy as a baby is connected to asthma and impaired lung function later in childhood.

The research, led by Murdoch Children's Research Institute and published in the Lancet Child & Adolescent Health, found that early life food allergy was associated with an increased risk of both asthma and reduced lung growth at six years of age. Murdoch Children's Associate Professor Rachel Peters said this was the first study to examine the relationship between challenge-confirmed food allergy in infancy and asthma and poorer lung health later in childhood.

The Melbourne research involved 5276 infants from the HealthNuts study, who underwent skin prick testing to common food allergens, including peanut and egg and oral food challenges to test for food allergy. At six years, children were followed up with further food allergy and lung function tests.

The study found by six years of age, 13.7 per cent reported a diagnosis of asthma. Babies with a food allergy were almost four times more likely to develop asthma at six years of age, compared to children without a food allergy. The impact was greatest in children whose food allergy persisted to age six as



opposed to those who had outgrown their allergy. Children with a food allergy were also more likely to have reduced lung function.

Associate Professor Peters said food allergy in infancy, whether it resolved or not, was linked to poorer respiratory outcomes in children. "This association is concerning given reduced lung growth in childhood is associated with health problems in adulthood including respiratory and heart conditions," she said.

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## Apple accidentally confirmed a key feature of iPhone 15 Pro models ahead of launch

Apple is gearing up to make a significant change to its iPhone lineup with the upcoming iPhone 15 Pro series. According to reports, the physical mute switch that has been a familiar feature on iPhones for years is set to be replaced by a new and programmable "Action Button." While rumors about this button have been circulating for some time, its exact functions have remained a mystery. However, code snippets from the fourth iOS 17 beta update, released to developers by Apple, shed light on the capabilities of the iPhone 15 Pro Action Button.

The code snippets discovered by MacRumors claim that the Action Button could offer a diverse range of nine different functions. Among these possibilities is the ability for users to quickly access accessibility features like Assistive Touch. Another potential function is the integration of the Shortcuts app. If realized, users may be able to run any shortcuts they have created directly from the Action Button.

Apple seems to be keeping some familiar features intact as well. The Action Button is expected to handle silent mode functionality, akin to the current mute switch. This ensures that users can easily switch their phones to silent mode when necessary. The Action Button on the upcoming iPhone 15 Pro models could also act as a shortcut to rapidly launch the camera app.

Similarly, the Action Button may double as a quick switch to turn on the phone's flashlight, a feature that has proven useful in various situations. A particularly interesting function that may be assigned to the Action Button is the ability to toggle the Focus mode on or off. As mental well-being and digital detox become increasingly important, this function could offer users a convenient way to manage their device's notifications and minimize distractions.

## Stability AI releases its latest image-generating model, Stable Diffusion XL 1.0

AI startup Stability AI continues to refine its generative AI models in the face of increasing competition — and ethical challenges.

Today, Stability AI announced the launch of Stable Diffusion XL 1.0, a text-to-image model that the company describes as its "most advanced" release to date. Available in open source on GitHub in addition to Stability's API and consumer apps, ClipDrop and DreamStudio, Stable Diffusion XL 1.0 delivers "more vibrant" and "accurate" colors and better contrast, shadows and lighting compared to its predecessor, Stability claims.

In an interview with TechCrunch, Joe Penna, Stability AI's head of applied machine learning, noted that Stable Diffusion XL 1.0, which contains 3.5 billion parameters, can yield full 1-megapixel resolution images "in seconds" in multiple aspect ratios. "Parameters" are the parts of a model learned from training data and essentially define the skill of the model on a problem, in this case generating images.

The previous-gen Stable Diffusion model, Stable Diffusion XL 0.9, could produce higher-resolution images as well, but required more computational might.

"Stable Diffusion XL 1.0 is customizable, ready for fine-tuning for concepts and styles," Penna said. "It's also easier to use, capable of complex designs with basic natural language processing prompting."

Stable Diffusion XL 1.0 is improved in the area of text generation, in addition.

# Musk wants to turn tweets into 'X's', but changing language is not so simple

Elon Musk may want to send "tweet" back to the birds, but the ubiquitous term for posting on the site he now calls X is here to stay — at least for now.

For one, the word is still plastered all over the site formerly known as Twitter. Write a post, you still need to press a blue button that says "tweet" to publish it. To repost it, you still tap "retweet." But it's more than that.

With "tweets," Twitter accomplished in just a few years something few companies have done in a lifetime: It became a verb and implanted itself into the lexicon of America and the world.

Upending that takes more than a top-down declaration, even if it is from the owner of Twitter-turned-X, who also happens to be one of the world's richest men.

"Language has always come from the people that use it on a day-to-day basis. And it can't be controlled, it can't be created, it can't be morphed. You don't get to decide it," said Nick Bilton, the author of "Hatching Twitter: A True Story of Money, Power, Friendship, and Betrayal" about Twitter's origins.

Twitter didn't start out as Twitter. It was "twtr" — without vowels, which was the trend in 2006 when the platform launched and SMS texting was wildly popular. The iPhone only came out in 2007.

Twitter co-founder Evan Williams "went one day and purchased the vowels, two vowels for essentially USD 7,500 each," when he bought the URL for twitter.com from a bird enthusiast, Bilton said.

At the beginning, people didn't "tweet" — it was "I'm going to twitter this," Bilton recalled.

But "twittered" doesn't roll off the tongue and "tweet" soon took over, first in the Twitter office, then San Francisco, then everywhere.

We've been tweeting for well over a decade. World leaders, celebrities and athletes, dissidents in repressive regimes, propaganda trolls, sex workers and religious icons, meme queens and actual queens.

Former president Donald Trump's incendiary use of the bird app quickly punted "tweet" into near-constant headlines during his presidency. People who never



signed up for Twitter knew what the word meant.

For now, we still tweet, retweet and quote tweet, and sometimes — perhaps not often enough — delete tweets.

News sites embed tweets in their stories and TV programs scroll them. No other social network has a word for posting that's entered the vernacular like "tweet" — though Google did the same for "googling."

The Oxford English Dictionary added "tweet" in 2011. Merriam-Webster followed in 2013. The Associated Press Stylebook entered it in 2010.

"Getting into the dictionary is an indication that people are already using it," said Jack Lynch, a Rutgers University English professor who studies the history of language.

"Dictionaries are usually pretty tentative or cautious about letting new words in, especially for new phenomena, because they don't want things to be just a flash in the pan."

As Twitter grew into a global communications platform and struggled with misinformation, trolls and hate speech, its friendly brand image remained.

The blue bird icon evokes a smile, like the Amazon up-turned-arrow smile — in contrast to the X that Musk has imposed.

Source: ANI

## Climate change has likely changed color of Earth's oceans: Study

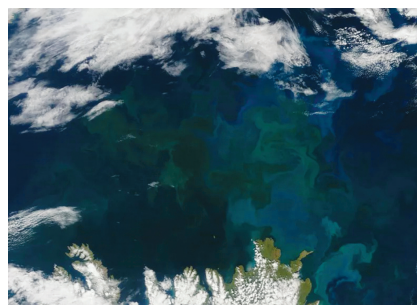
Climate change has likely changed the colour of the Earth's oceans significantly over the past two decades, according to a study.

The research, published recently in the journal Nature, detected changes in ocean color over the past 20 years that cannot be explained by natural, year-to-year variability alone.

These colour shifts, though subtle to the human eye, have occurred over 56 per cent of the world's oceans — an expanse that is larger than the total land area on Earth, the researchers said.

The team of researchers from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), US, the National Oceanography Center in the UK and others found that tropical ocean regions near the equator have, in particular, become steadily greener over time.

According to the researchers, the



shift in ocean color indicates that ecosystems within the surface ocean must also be changing, as the colour of the ocean is a literal reflection of the organisms and materials in its waters.

It is not certain how exactly marine ecosystems are changing to reflect the shifting color, the researchers said, adding, however, human-induced climate change is likely the driver.

"I have been running simulations that have been telling me for years that these changes in ocean colour

are going to happen," said study co-author Stephanie Dutkiewicz, senior research scientist in MIT.

"To actually see it happening for real is not surprising, but frightening. And these changes are consistent with man-induced changes to our climate," Dutkiewicz said.

The ocean's colour is a visual product of whatever lies within its upper layers. Generally, waters that are deep blue reflect very little life, whereas greener waters indicate the presence of ecosystems, and mainly phytoplankton — plant-like microbes that are abundant in upper ocean and that contain the green pigment chlorophyll.

The team analysed measurements of ocean color taken by the Moderate Resolution Imaging Spectroradiometer (MODIS) aboard the Aqua satellite, which has been monitoring ocean colour for 21 years.

Source: PTI



## India to be 3rd largest economy by 2027: SBI

Economists at the country's largest lender SBI on Thursday, July 27, advanced their estimate on the Indian economy becoming the third largest in the world by two years to 2027.

In a note that comes a day after Prime Minister Narendra Modi exuded confidence of winning a third term and India galloping to being the third largest till 2029, SBI economists said India's real GDP will grow at over 6.5% in FY24.

"The path taken by India since 2014 reveals that India is likely to get the tag of the third largest economy in 2027 (or FY28) based on actual GDP data as on March 2023, a movement of 7 places upwards since 2014, when India was ranked 10th and two years earlier than our previous forecast of 2029," the economists said in the note.

The RBI estimates the real GDP to grow at 6.5%, which is one of the highest estimates by any watchers. At present, India is the fifth largest economy in the world.

The SBI report said the GDP will grow at 8.1% in the first quarter of FY24, which ensures that the overall expansion surpasses 6.5%. It also added that growing at 6.5-7% is the new normal for the country.

Stating that the economy is in a "sustained goldilocks" period, the economists said becoming the third largest economy will be a "remarkable achievement by any standards" for India. *Source: PTI*

## Currency note with \* symbol in number panel valid note, says RBI

A currency note with a star (\*) symbol is identical to any other legal banknote, the Reserve Bank said on Thursday, July 27, allaying concerns on the validity of such notes.

The symbol is inserted in the number panel of a banknote that is used as replacement for defectively printed notes in a packet of 100 pieces of serially numbered banknotes, the RBI said.

In a statement, the central bank said it has come to the notice of the RBI that the validity of banknotes with this symbol present on the number panel has recently been the subject of discussions on some social media platforms.

"A banknote with a star (\*) symbol is identical to any other legal banknote, except that in the number panel a star (\*) symbol is added between the prefix and the serial number," it said.

The RBI clarified that the symbol is an identifier that it is a replaced/reprinted banknote.

*Source: PTI*

# US Fed lifts rates, Jerome Powell leaves door open to another hike in September

WASHINGTON (TIP)

The Federal Reserve raised interest rates by a quarter of a percentage point on Wednesday, July 26, and Fed Chair Jerome Powell said the economy still needed to slow and the labor market to weaken for inflation to "credibly" return to the U.S. central bank's 2% target.

The hike, the Fed's 11th in its last 12 meetings, set the benchmark overnight interest rate in the 5.25%-5.50% range, a level last seen just prior to the 2007 housing market crash and which has not been consistently exceeded for about 22 years.

"The (Federal Open Market) Committee will continue to assess additional information and its implications for monetary policy," the Fed said in language that was little changed from its June 14 statement and which left the central bank's policy options open as it searches for a stopping point to the current tightening cycle.

Powell made no promises either way, with a September meeting eight weeks from now considered "live" for another rate increase, though a continued slowing of inflation and weaker economic data may also prompt policymakers to pause.

In a press conference following the Fed's latest policy move, the Fed chief said the central bank was very much looking at "the totality" of incoming data, and particularly studying it for signs that the economy is heading for a period of "below-trend" growth that Powell thinks is necessary for inflation to fall.

Key price measures are still increasing at more than double the Fed's target. While inflation has been easing, that has so far happened with little apparent cost to the labor market, where the unemployment rate remains at a low 3.6%. Economic growth has remained above the Fed's estimated 1.8% trend rate; economists polled by Reuters expect data on Thursday will show second-quarter gross domestic product expanded at just that level.

Powell acknowledged as a positive development that inflation has fallen from the highs of last year without serious damage to the economy.

But as the Fed enters a tricky period in its inflation fight, balancing the need for further rate increases against the risks of going too far, he said finishing the task on inflation will likely require some economic losses.



U.S. Federal Reserve Board Chairman Jerome Powell acknowledged as a positive development that inflation has fallen from the highs of last year without serious damage to the economy. (Reuters photo)

"My base case is that we will be able to achieve inflation moving back down to our target without a really significant downturn that results in high levels of job losses," Powell said. "But it's a long way to be sure and we have a lot left ... Reducing inflation is likely to require a period of below-trend growth and some softening of labor market conditions."

As stated after its meeting last month, the Fed said it would watch incoming data and study the impact of its rate hikes on the economy "in determining the extent of additional policy firming that may be appropriate" to reach its inflation target.

Though inflation data since the Fed's June 13-14 meeting has been weaker than expected, policymakers have been reluctant to alter their hawkish approach until there is more progress in reducing price pressures. In their most recent projections, issued at the end of the June meeting, 12 of 18 policymakers said they anticipated at least one more rate increase would be needed by the end of this year for financial conditions to be restrictive enough to ensure inflation continued to decline.

*Source: Reuters*

## Air India plans to start flights to Los Angeles, Boston

NEW DELHI (TIP)

Tata Group-owned Air India is planning to operate flights to more US cities, including Los Angeles, and is assessing various metrics, according to sources.

Currently, the airline operates non-stop flights to five American cities -- Washington, DC, New York, New Jersey, Chicago and San Francisco.

Los Angeles and Boston are among the cities being assessed as potential new destinations for long-haul flights from India, the sources said.

At present, Air India has a code share partnership with United Airlines.

"We are planning to expand (our base) in the US and various cities are being assessed for potential new destinations. So, Boston is one of them, and Los Angeles too is among the cities that are being assessed," one of the sources said.



"We are weighing other metrics as well," the source added.

Starting a new destination entails examining a lot of factors, including fleet size, pilot strength and traffic volume on the route, according to aviation industry experts.

The source said current pilot strength, training of cabin crew and ground staff to be deployed at an airport at the new destination are among the factors that need to be considered.

*Source: PTI*

## Adani Group shares jump, m-cap rises by Rs 50,501 cr

Billionaire Gautam Adani's ports to power conglomerate added over Rs 50,501 crore in market capitalisation (m-cap) in a single day on Tuesday as shares of all the 10 listed group companies surged on renewed interest from domestic investors.

The overall market capitalisation of the 10 Adani Group companies stood at over Rs 10.6 lakh crore at the end of trading on Tuesday on the BSE, up Rs 10,501.26 crore over an m-cap of around Rs 10.1 lakh crore on the previous year, stock exchange data showed.

Market experts attribute the reasons for the rise in stock prices to an increase in interest from domestic investors. Notable performers were Adani Green, Adani Total Gas and NDTV.



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

## WEEKLY HOROSCOPE - JULY 31, 2023 TO AUGUST 6, 2023

### ARIES



Ganesha says, make sure you select your pals this week carefully. You will make some stupid judgements because of your attitude; if you need assistance, ask for it. Your conceit should never come before your development. A long-lost yearning between a married couple will be rekindled. You will continue to be busy at work. Try to enlist the aid of well-known individuals to solve your problems. However, if anyone offers your assistance this week, please accept it. A lucky guest will stop by your home. Consider your overall health while focusing on any mental conditions you may be experiencing. You will not have much time this week to devote to exercising out.

### TAURUS



Ganesha says, you will spend the entire week out of the box, where you may appreciate everything. You are likely to travel this week for business, and you will have memories to cherish for the rest of your life from the adventure. You risk losing out on all of your options if you wait for the proper moment to express yourself. This week, stand out with vigor. Your relationship complements each other nicely, and the big day is going smoothly. Now is the moment to go forward and include your family. If you intervene in legal problems or try to settle the disputes among your staff members, you run the danger of suffering negative consequences. Every time you leave the house or the office, check your body posture.

### GEMINI



Ganesha says, this week, you will be able to make arrangements. This week, if someone suggests trying anything new, do not be shocked. This week, take advantage of as many chances and approaches as you can. You will be able to work more quickly than normal thanks to serendipity. You and your lover will be able to satiate one another's emotional needs. This week, you will be able to hold each other responsible. The moment is not right to discuss getting married. You will have a lot of planning and leadership to do for your company this week. You will pass both, you can be sure of it. Today, studying the financial market is a terrific idea. In terms of your health, you will need to be quite watchful about what you consume this week.

### CANCER



Ganesha says, this week, you will experience contentment and relaxation. This week, you are taking an active role in an educational presentation. There will certainly be some issues on a household level, so be cautious about what you say. Your partner counts on you to be flawless. Take the kids outside and explain that showing someone you care means embracing them for who they are, warts and all. You might invest in the stock exchange right now. Given that your week is certainly occupied, be cautious when assigning your tasks to others. Being rude could irritate your staff; opt for kindness instead. Even if your well-being will not be a concern this week, relax and go for a short night stroll.

### LEO



Ganesha says, you will be able to build a solid foundation for what you are doing at the moment. The first thing you will do is establish the groundwork for later initiatives. This week, Venus will be in an excellent position. Incredible business outcomes will come through collaboration. You will need to be a little bit more selective about the tools and individuals you decide to let join you. Healthcare professionals must preserve a negative reputation this week. With regard to amorous concerns, your spouse will anticipate greater than normal consideration. They will ask for more guarantees. Assure them that they can contact you whenever they need assistance. This week, you might be able to unwind without thinking about your health. Anything along those lines should alarm you.

### VIRGO



Ganesha says, this week, you will be making some significant announcements. Definitely establish challenging yet achievable objectives. You will make great financial progress. These days, you must exercise caution while engaging with the markets for securities. This week, you will seek guidance about competitiveness. Specialists will have difficulty developing a routine. Simply by being there, you might make your beloved happy on the front of romance. Partners and couples will struggle to find time for one another. Your welfare will demand your complete focus. This week, attention to your health is a requirement.

### LIBRA



Ganesha says, this week, you will need to be very picky and careful about the commitments you make in your business life. You must also pay attention to even the tiniest information you encounter this week. In order to increase your likelihood of discovering real love, you can introduce your significant other to your family immediately soon. Your companion will become everyone's choice because of the new vitality Jupiter will bring to the area. You must now exercise extra caution in order to protect your welfare due to your back issues. Positive energy will surround you at all times. Your children are going to ask you to come this week if you have any.

### SCORPIO



Ganesha says, if there is fresh vitality in the community, its joys will be more accessible to you. This week, try to avoid getting caught up in anything. This week, excessive spending puts you in danger. Do not be scared to treat yourself, but bear in mind that if you do not try to control it, it can go out of control. This week is going to introduce you to people you already know who can help you find lucrative career possibilities related to your field of expertise. You will be glad to know that your friendship with your friend is progressing swiftly. There will be a higher level of cooperation between men and spouses. You will receive positive news regarding one of your previous concerns with regard to your health.

### SAGITTARIUS



Ganesha says, this week, priorities your career since it will pay off in the long term. If you have been working hard on your studies and have a lot of worry on your back, this is a fantastic week to take benefit of the positive beneficial vibes in your environment. Your soul will be revitalized, and you will feel great about your profession. You will be permitted to begin doing tasks on the list you have created for business objectives, but you must do it slowly. Anything that made you miserable will be gone for all time. Your companion will compel you to unveil your secret self when it comes to a love that transcends borders. Owing to them, you will feel like you're returning to vitality. Couples who are married will allow outside influences to affect their marriage.

CONTD ON PAGE 33



## BIRTHDAY HOROSCOPE : JULY 31 TO AUGUST 6 BY ASTRO FRIEND CHIRAG - SON OF ASTROLOGER BEJAN DARUWALLA

### JULY 31

Ganesha says you were born with a natural tendency to take the lead. People are drawn to you because of the charm in your personality. You are a brave and driven individual who is not hesitant to put yourself in harm's way in order to accomplish what you set out to do. However, in order to avoid coming off as arrogant, you need to remember to keep a healthy balance between your assertiveness and humility. A time of maturation and introspection is in store for you today according to the horoscopes. Embrace change and let your intuition lead you.

### AUGUST 1

Ganesha says you have a pure and noble heart, which will be appreciated today. You have a kind and generous personality, and yet you are passionately protective of the people you care about. Your inventiveness and enthusiasm set you apart from the rest of the pack. The cosmos invites

you to put more of your attention into your personal relationships today. Today is the perfect day to cultivate relationships and, if necessary, make amends. Keep in mind that communication is the most important.

### AUGUST 2

Ganesha says you are a shining example of hope today as things start turning in your favor. Your upbeat attitude is contagious, and you have a natural talent for elevating the spirits of those who are in your immediate vicinity. You have a daring spirit and enjoy nothing more than exposing you to novel situations and concepts. Today, the universe seems to be indicating that you could stumble onto unforeseen chances while you are out exploring. Maintain an open mind and be prepared to make the most of the opportunity.

### AUGUST 3

Ganesha says people think that you have a sharp mind and a quick

wit. Due to the fact that you possess both a bright mind and a quick tongue, you are an engaging and fascinating communicator. You place the utmost importance on telling the truth and being honest. The constellations point to a period of increased scholastic achievement today. Take advantage of this opportunity to learn something new or to expand your expertise in a subject that interests you.

### AUGUST 4

Ganesha says you are a hardy individual, which is fitting given that you will be able to have a day as you wish. You charge headfirst into difficulty, and as a result, you emerge from the experience more resilient. You are the rock of support that your loved ones may lean on in times of need. This is a day that lends itself well to reflection, according to the cosmos. Take some time to think about how far you've come on your trip and map out the

next steps.

### AUGUST 5

Ganesha says, you have a rebellious nature. You place a high emphasis on being independent and you enjoy living life to the rhythm of your own drum. You have a vivid imagination and a singular outlook on the way the world works. Today, the universe urges you to express your creative side in ways that are fresh and interesting, so take advantage of this opportunity.

### AUGUST 6

Ganesha says you care deeply about other people and are always willing to offer assistance to those who need it. You have the ability to bring peace to tense circumstances and restore order everywhere you go. The stars indicate that this will be a day filled with opportunities for self-actualization. Follow your bliss and do the things that bring you inner calm.

## WEEKLY HOROSCOPE - JULY 31, 2023 TO AUGUST 6, 2023

CONTD FROM PAGE 32

### CAPRICORN

Ganesha says, you will recover your strength and viewpoint this week. This week's elements are attempting to make you happy and enjoyable by being all around you. Plan for the coming week. This week, you will need to take extra precautions to ensure your health. You will have a difficult week because of the pain you have been through for a very long time. On the company top, you will be busy all week, but you will understand things better this week. Before taking any action, you will consider all options. Your prospects of finding genuine affection are slim since you will meet the right person at the incorrect moment. Keep an eye out for a message from Venus. The week is expected to be enjoyable on the whole.

### AQUARIUS

Ganesha says you will be much better this week at seeing the positive side of everything. Long-hidden worries are now obtrusively moving in your direction. You will have more energy to deal with problems as they arise. Going outdoors for a while is scheduled for this week. This week, you will be able to keep the spotlight on your work life, but make sure it is not because of any errors you committed. This week, you will also form a special sort of relationship with your bosses. It will be challenging to communicate on psychological boundaries with the individuals who singles actually respect.

This week, you will motivate your partner to put more effort into the task at hand.



### PISCES

Ganesha says, this week will not bring any big issues for you. This week's days will be laid-

back and enjoyable, making social gatherings with friends ideal. Think about forming an association with your pals. The third personal admission that your lover will make to you will be made in the correct state of mind. When you learn who your sweetheart has been hiding, you will be astonished. This week will allow

you to protect your financial future in terms of your work life, but it is conceivable that your possessions could be harmed. Keep your personal and professional life distinct. Normal employees will struggle to balance their demanding duties. You will need to keep a watchful eye on your overall health.

|| SHREE GANESHAY NAMA ||



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# Sikh History This Week

JULY 28, 2023, TO AUGUST 3, 2023

## 28th July

1925 Punjab Governor gave his assent to the Sikh Gurudwara Act.

1991 Sikhs continue to be harrassed under Section 216 of the Indian Penal Code.

## 29th July



1873 Initial establishment of Singh Sabha in Amritsar. Singh Sabha, a reform group of Amritdhari Gur Sikhs who objectively sought the eradication of the wrong practices in re-establishing the true traditions of GurSikhism. Their initial efforts for religious propagation and education resulted in the establishment of Sri Guru Singh Sabha, Amritsar, in 1872. Sardar Thakur Singh Sandawalaia was the first chief, while the temporary offices and gathering facilities were organized at Guru Ka Bagh. The objectives of Singh Sabha, Amritsar, were to inculcate the principles of Sikh religion as preached by the Sikh Gurus among the Sikhs with a view to restoring Sikhism to its pristine purity, preach the principles of Sikh religion by word of mouth, by publication of historical and religious books, and through magazines and newspapers, encourage propagation of Punjabi, reclaim apostates and attract the sympathies of those highly placed in public administration to the educational progress of the Sikhs. The Singh Sabha was to shun politics.

1984 Sardar Sadhu Singh Hamdard, Editor of Punjab's voice, Ajit, daily newspaper, died of a heart attack. He was deeply disturbed by the Indian Army's attack on Sri Darbar Sahib, Amritsar. In protest, he had returned his Padam Sri honor to the Indian government.

## 30th July



1822 Sangat Singh, son of Fateh Singh became Raja of Jind.

1950 Akali Dal's working committee orders all members who defected to Congress to return.

1995 Amar Singh Ambalvi, first Vice-President of AISFF, passed away.

## 31st July

1788 Agreement reached between the Dal Khalsa and Maharaja Vijay Singh of Jodhpur.



1940 Sardar Udhham Singh was hanged to death in London for killing Michale O'Dwyer, Governor of Punjab during the Jallianwalla Bagh massacre. A meeting was called in 1919 to protest – the arrest of Dr. Saifuddin Kitchlew and Dr. Satyapal, two prominent leaders in Punjab at the time and – against the repressive Rowlette Act of the British Government. Several hundred people had assembled at Jallianwala Bagh, Amritsar to participate in this protest. Brigadier General Dwyer was sent to disperse the assembly. He initially proceeded with an armoured car. However, the streets leading up to the Jallianwalla bagh were too narrow for the armoured vehicle and consequently the soldiers had to abandon the vehicle and travel by foot. Upon reaching the Jallianwala bagh, Brigadier General Dwyer opened fire on the innocent and unarmed people, killing almost all. When the firing stopped, a total of 1302 people been killed, including 799 GurSikhs. Udhham Singh from Sunam (Punjab), was a child at that time, whose father was among the killed. He vowed to kill the cruel General. A subsequent enquiry was held into the shooting. As a result, Brigadier General Dyer retired, went back to England, and subsequently died six years after the Jallianwala massacre. However, The Sikh community felt further insulted, when Rur Singh, the custodian of the Golden Temple, offered a Saropa to Sir Michael O'Dwyer, Lieutenant Governor of Punjab. General Dwyer was also offered a Kirpan (Sword of honor) and it was quoted in the British Parliament by Lord Finlay that he had been made a Sikh.

Udhham Singh came to England and spent many years of hard work planning ways to fulfill his childhood vows. It is said that Udhham Singh took up work in Sir Michale O'Dwyer's residence in England, who was the Governor of Punjab during the Jallianwala massacre. Udhham Singh worked there for sometime and therefore got to know Sir O'Dwyer very well. Seizing an opportune moment Udhham Singh gunned down Sir O'Dwyer at a public meeting in England as he stood to address the gathering.

## 1st August

1863 Maharani Jind Kaur, mother of Maharaja Dalip Singh, passed away in Kaesington, England and was cremated in Nasik Nagar on the outskirts of Bombay, India. She was arrested by the British government in 1847 and imprisoned at the Shaekhpura fort. After numerous efforts, she managed to join Maharaja Dalip Singh in England. She was by Lord Dalhousie as "the only woman in the Punjab with manly



understandings." Jind Kaur was daughter of Sardar Manna Singh Auhlakh, a resident of village Chandh, district Sialkot, Tehsil Jafarwall. She was wife of Maharaja Ranjit Singh and mother of Maharaja Dalip Singh. Once the British government gained control of the Khalsa Raj's affairs, she was initially kept under house arrest at Saekhpura and subsequently jailed at Chunar fort (U.P. district Mizapur). However, she escaped in a beggar's attire and reached Nepal, where she lived with dignity. In 1861, Maharani Jind Kaur reached England to visit her son Maharaja Dalip Singh, where she died on Aug. 1, 1863 at the age of 46. Her body was brought back and cremated in Nasik Nagar, on the outskirts of Bombay.

On March 27, 1924, Maharaja Dalip Singh's daughter, Bamba Dalip Singh, brought the ashes of Maharani Jind Kaur from Nasik Nagar and buried it next to Maharaja Ranjit Singh's samadh. Sardar Harbans Singh Rais of Atari performed the last rights (antim Ardas) on this occasion.

1944 The Working Committee of the All Parties Sikh Conference met at Amritsar. It held that the C. Rajagopalachari's formula "was manifestly unfair and detrimental to the best interests of the country and the Sikh Community." It regarded Gandhi's approval of the same as "breach of faith" on the part of the Congress leaders and violative of assurances to the Sikhs "at its Lahore session in 1929".

1980 Khalistan Flag Hoisted for the first time. The Sikh Youth Organisation, Dal Khalsa, hoisted the flag of Khalistan at the very spot where 13 GurSikhs fell martyr while defending the Guru Khalsa Panth against the Nirankaris, on April 13, 1978.

## 2nd August



1764 Baba Budha Singh Ji relinquished control and bestowed the control of Sirhind to Baba Ala Singh Patiala.

## 3rd August

1977 Kartar Singh Khalsa Bhindrawalia was seriously injured in a car accident.



One of the five famous abodes of Lord Shiva, the 6,050 m Kinner Kailash, is an extraordinary mountain symbolising the confluence of two major religious faiths of the tribal regions of Himachal Pradesh.

Kinner Kailash is an important religious place for Hindus and Buddhism. Kinner Kailash is a symbol of faith for Hindus. Kinner Kailash is located near the Tibet border in Kinnaur district of Himachal Pradesh. Kinner Kailash is situated on the top of the mountain, whose height is approximately 40 feet and the width is about 16 feet. In Hindu religion, this khand is worshiped as Lord Shiva's natural Shiva Ling. There is also Parikrama of Kinner Kailash, which is one of the pilgrimage pilgrimages to the Himalayas for Hindus.

The Himalaya Mountains are not only related to Hindu mythology, but it also has a deep attachment to the belief of Hindu society. This is the same Himalaya from where the origin of the river Ganges is originated from Ghumukh. Kullu, the valley of the Gods, also comes in the same Himalayan range. There are more than 350 temples in this valley.

Travel to Kinner Kailash is considered as difficult as traveling to Mansarovar and Amarnath. This journey begins every year in the month of Savan. It takes about 2 to 3 days to complete the journey. This visit has been opened for tourists since 1993. During the journey, flowers of Brahma Lotus can be seen in thousands of thousands. This flower is very much like Lord Shiva.

According to Hindu mythology this place is associated with Lord Shiva and Parvati. It is believed that the meeting of Lord Shiva and Parvati has happened in this place.

It has been said in mythology that Lord Shiva organized the Deities and Gods assembly on Kinner Kailash Peak in every winter.

Every year, hundreds of Shiv devotees travel in the month of July and August through the inaccessible route to Kinner Kailash. In order to start the journey of Kinner Kailash, devotees have to cross the Sutlej river and reach Tangling village from Powari, located on National Highway-5, about seven km from the district headquarter. Parvati Kund is about five hundred meters away from Ganesh Park. There is a belief about this Kund that if the coin is cast from reverence, it will be fulfilled. Following the holy bath in this kund, after passing a rough 24-hour hard journey, the Kinner can see the Shiva at Kailash.

One feature of this Shiv Ling of Kinner Kailash is that it changes color several times a day. White before sunrise, yellow after sunrise, red before sunset and it becomes black after sunset.

There is a lack of oxygen during travel. Keep warm clothes, torches, stick, socks, bottles of water, glucose, and the necessary medicines with you. Do not drunk during the trip. Do not harm the herbs and especially the cosmic flowers during the trip.

Rising precipitously from the banks of the Sutlej, the commanding mountain encompasses narrow valleys, deep gorges and captivating alpine pastures. The Shivlingam atop the mountain, formed by a rocky cliff, is a manifestation of the supreme power and a hallowed place of worship for the believers. It is believed to be the place where Lord Shiva stays for his annual winter sojourn. At times even experienced climbers struggle to reach the top but the devout somehow keep moving, as if under a charm, oblivious of the hazardous terrain and the difficulty of the task at hand. The spiritual aura of the abode of Lord Shiva and the unflinching belief of the devotees elevates their spirits impelling them to undertake the daunting pilgrimage year after year.

The trek to the holy mountain takes off from the left bank of the Sutlej. The river can be crossed either by using an improvised ropeway or by taking a longer route, using a bridge located a few kilometres downstream. Once on the left bank, one has to gear up for a long and strenuous climb all the way up to the sacred monolith. The climb begins from Tangling village and is a draining affair right from the start, with about seven or eight hours of continuous ascent up to the base camp.

There are no easy stretches on the way and the gradient is relentlessly steep. Although the uphill journey is not an easy one, the ever-changing but spectacular views that keep unfolding more than make up for the physical toil. As the altitude increases, the flora and fauna changes, dense forests gradually make way for relatively sparse bushy vegetation, marking the

# Kinner Kailash Yatra



## Important information

**Location:** Dhar Gara, Himachal Pradesh

**Yatra Start and End Dates:** Kinner Kailash Yatra will start **Thursday, 1 August, 2023, and end will Tuesday, 15 August 2023.**

**Elevation:** 6,500 m

**Mountain range:** Himalayas

**Nearest Railway Station :** Kalka Railway Station at a **distance of nearly 309 kilometres from Kalpa.**

**Nearest Airport :** Shimla Airport at a **distance of nearly 243 kilometres from Kinner Kailash.**

**By Road :** Delhi to Shimla distance approx 342 km, Shimla to Kalpa distance approx. 223 km and Kalpa to Powari distance approx. 9.7 km. **Powari village is starting point of beginning of this yatra.**

end of the tree line. Thereafter, the high-altitude flowering plants and lush green meadows with protruding rocks greet the trekkers. Brahma Kamal, the most revered plant of high altitude of the Himalayas is found at places en route beyond 13,000 ft. The plant with the botanical name Saussurea Obvallata grows naturally in the area. It is known for its medicinal properties, besides its religious significance.

As the climb becomes steeper, the terrain is dominated more and more by rocks and only some grassland are visible in patches. The fascinating landscape has a deep impact on the mind, virtually pushing the climber into a state of trance. The eerie sound of the gushing winds kissing the rocks literally provides for a "top of the world" feeling.

The experience becomes all the more real when climbers reach Ganesh Park, the site of the base camp, where a natural cave welcomes the tired and exhausted pilgrims. Visible at a short distance is an extremely precipitous patch of the trail to be followed, providing a glimpse of the daunting climb ahead. Many a time the faint-hearted armatures, unable to conquer their fear of heights, turn back, just shy of the base camp. Perhaps

the most comforting part of the ascent up to Ganesh Park is a well-marked trail which eventually disappears into a maze of rocks and boulders.

The base camp presents an aerial view of the district headquarters "Reckong Peo" and the picturesque "Kalpa" village on the face on the mountain across the valley. The scale of the climb can be gauged from the fact that Reckong Peo, as seen from Ganesh Park, appears to be at a significantly lower altitude. The terrain from the base camp transforms into a confusing yet a beautiful high-altitude valley, skirted by steep rocky peaks on both sides. First-time visitors usually have a difficult time digesting the view accompanied by the violent and explosive sound of avalanches and falling rocks that can be heard at a distance every once in a while.

The Parvati Kund, a sacred water body en route to the lingam, is an assurance to the pilgrims that they are on the right path. However, the trail takes on a whole different level from thereon, as trekkers have to cover an almost vertical climb to reach the destination.

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**"If Hindus don't maintain Hinduism, who shall save it?"**

**"If India's own children don't cling to their faith, who shall guard it?"**

**"Indians alone can save India, and India and Hinduism are one."**



contd from page 1

## U.S. announces \$345 million military aid package for Taiwan

The goals are to help it counter China and to deter China from considering attacking, by providing Taipei enough weaponry that it would make the price of invasion too high.

While Chinese diplomats protested the move, Taiwan's trade office in Washington said the U.S. decision to pull arms and other materiel from its stores provided "an important tool to support Taiwan's self-defense." In a statement, it pledged to work with the United States to maintain "peace, stability and the status quo across the Taiwan Strait."

Taiwan's Ministry of National Defense also expressed its appreciation in a statement Saturday morning that thanked "the U.S. for its firm commitment to Taiwan's security."

The package is in addition to nearly \$19 billion in military sales of F-16s and other major weapons systems that the U.S. has approved for Taiwan. Delivery of those weapons has been hampered by supply chain issues that started during the COVID-19 pandemic and have been exacerbated by the global defense industrial base pressures created by Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

The difference is that this aid is part of a presidential authority approved by Congress last year to draw weapons from current U.S. military stockpiles - so Taiwan will not have to wait for military production and sales. This gets weapons delivered faster than providing funding for new weapons.

The Pentagon has used a similar authority to get billions of dollars worth of munitions to Ukraine.

Taiwan split from China in 1949 amid civil war. Chinese President Xi Jinping maintains China's right to take over the now self-ruled island, by force if necessary. China has accused the U.S. of turning Taiwan into a "powder keg" through the billions of dollars in weapons sales it has pledged.

The U.S. maintains a "One China" policy under which it does not recognize Taiwan's as an independent country and has no formal diplomatic relations with the island in deference to Beijing. However, U.S. law requires a credible defense for Taiwan and for the U.S. to treat all threats to the island as matters of "grave concern."

Getting stockpiles of weapons to Taiwan now, before an attack begins, is one of the lessons the U.S. has learned from Russia's invasion of Ukraine, Pentagon deputy defense secretary Kathleen Hicks told The Associated Press earlier this year.

Ukraine "was more of a cold-start approach than the planned approach we have been working on for Taiwan, and we will apply those lessons," Ms. Hicks said. Efforts to resupply Taiwan after a conflict erupted would be complicated because it is an island, she said.

China regularly sends warships and planes across the center line in the Taiwan Strait that provides a buffer between the sides, as well as into Taiwan's air defense identification zone, in an effort to intimidate the island's 23 million people and wear down its military capabilities.

Liu Pengyu, a spokesman for China's embassy in Washington, said in a statement Friday that Beijing was "firmly opposed" to U.S. military ties with Taiwan. The U.S. should "stop selling arms to Taiwan" and "stop creating new factors that could lead to tensions in the Taiwan Strait," Mr. Liu said.

## Documentary on Ramon Magsaysay Award winner Indian journalist Ravish Kumar premiers in New York

Center in New York over a period of five consecutive weeks from July 11 -August 8.

A documentary titled, "While we Watched," by filmmaker and writer Vinay Shukla has been chosen as one of the selections to be showcased at the festival.

The documentary features noted Indian journalist

Ravish Kumar and his unabated journey towards bringing out news that matters without getting influenced or intimidated by the changing tides of time and power.

The film is a cathartic portrayal of the state of newsrooms in India currently. The approximately 90-minute drama unfolds rare truths and bears a torchlight into how Indian journalism could thrive or survive.

The showcase of working days of broadcast journalist Ravish Kumar is actually a portrayal for everyone who is or aspires to be in news media. It is also a significant watch for the public as it opens an arena of news coverage and the challenges that are seldom brought on the frontlines.

The DOC NYC Selects offers discerning audiences advance premieres of most-talked about documentary features and series. The highlight of the screenings also includes a post-show talk with the filmmaker and the subject of the documentaries.

"While we Watched," opened on July 20 at the IFC Centre followed by a conversation with director Vinay Shukla and Ravish Kumar with Amy Goodman at the 7.00 pm show.

Additionally, the film will be showcased with post show conversations with the creator, subject and a famous media personality throughout the week.

Award-winning journalist Ravish Kumar has hosted one of the most popular prime time news shows in India. He has been variously recognized for his objectivity in the news and bravado.

All the screenings between July 21-24 were held at IFC Center with in-person Q&A after select shows. The IFC Center in New York showcases the best in independent cinema.

For ticket and show details:

<https://www.ifccenter.com/>

## Supreme Court allows Sanjay Kumar Mishra to continue as ED Director till September 15

The country's international image was at stake, the Centre pleaded.

Stressing that the court would not have entertained the government's request in "ordinary circumstances", especially after declaring Mishra's continuation as ED Director "illegal", the Special Bench headed by Justice B.R. Gavai allowed him to carry on at the ED's helm till mid-September.

The Bench, also comprising Justices Vikram Nath and Sanjay Karol, made it clear that it would allow no further requests from the government for his extension. It said Mishra would cease to be ED Director from September 15-16 midnight.

The hearing began at 3.30 p.m. with a sharp question from Justice Gavai to the government, represented by Solicitor General Tushar Mehta.

"Are you not giving a picture here that your entire department is full of incompetent people except for this one person... Is it not demoralizing for the entire force that except for this one person, the entire department will collapse," Justice Gavai asked.

Justice Gavai said the court could have stopped this person from continuing as ED Director from the very day of the judgment on July 11. "We gave you time till July 31 for the sake of smooth transition," the judge observed.

Mehta agreed that no one was indispensable. He said a good FATF peer review was a five-year exercise. "Continuity in office would help the country and decide the country's ability, help in international credit ratings, financial arrangements with the World Bank... It is a coincidence that the July 11 verdict came at the time of the FATF review," he submitted.

Additional Solicitor General S.V. Raju said there were hostile countries which wanted India to be in the "gray list". "We are now in the FATF list of compliant countries. A new ED Director would take at least six months to look through and understand the files," he said.



Senior advocate A.M. Singhvi, for a petitioner, said the government's application was a "review in disguise" of the July 11 verdict. "It is very sad to see the Centre saying the future of the country is on one man's shoulders. It is the Ministry officials, the Secretary of Revenue, and not ED Director, who engages with the FATF," Singhvi submitted.

Senior advocate Anoop Chaudhary, also on the petitioner side, highlighted the incongruity of a man whose continuity was declared illegal by the top court engaging with the FATF. "Will this not affect the country's image? The ED Director is only a small cog in the constitutional machinery. Let us not make him into a constitutional figurehead on whom the future of this country depends," he said.

Advocate Prashant Bhushan questioned the timing of the Centre's application. He said any extension of Mishra's tenure would be a "gross abuse". "If the Supreme Court accepts this application, it will make mincemeat of the settled law," he cautioned.

Mehta countered that the petitioners represent various political parties. He said some of the submissions were intent to give the country a bad name. He clarified that what the government wanted to convey was that Mishra's continuation in office would help the country make an effective presentation in the FATF review.

Besides, he said the ED Director directly engages the FATF assessment team on the implementation of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act. "The nation is strong. We need that continuity to present that strong picture before the international community," Mehta submitted.

## CBI to take over Manipur sexual assault case, say officials

The nearly three-month-long ethnic violence in Manipur has claimed over 160 lives. A video of the May 4 incident involving the two women went viral over social media earlier this month, sparking nationwide outrage. The Opposition seized the opportunity to corner the Modi government over the issue which has rocked the Monsoon session of Parliament since it began on July 20.



# Jaisalmer: The Golden City

Jaisalmer is a prominent tourist spot located in the northwestern state of Rajasthan in India. It is known as the 'golden city' due to its golden dunes and castles clad in golden honey sandstone. Jaisalmer is adorned with lakes, ornate Jain temples and havelis. Climb onto the camel saddle and make your way through this desert to camp under the starry night sky for an unforgettable experience.

The Jaisalmer Fort stands as a citadel with narrow alleys inhabited by people for generations and shops selling colourful handicrafts.

Jaisalmer is a town, and to reach the Sand Dunes, travellers have to take a jeep safari followed by a camel ride. Thus, Jaisalmer is an amalgamation of exotic Indian desert culture, heritage and adventure.

## Jaisalmer Fort

Jaisalmer Fort, nestled on the golden sands of Thar Desert, is not just a fort but a mini-town with houses, temples, shops, and restaurants. A UNESCO World Heritage Site, it falls under the category of 'Hill Forts of India'. Built in 1156, Jaisalmer Fort gets its name from the former Bhati Rajput ruler Rao Jaisal. More than three thousand people live within the fort walls with multiple entrance gates on the path up top, the last of which directs you to the popular public square named Dasher Chowk. The fort stands at an impressive height of 250 ft. and is surrounded by 30 ft. tall walls. Owing to its altitude, it offers a stunning and panoramic view of Jaisalmer city draped in golden yellow!

One of the largest forts in the world, Jaisalmer Fort is located on the southern edge of the city and is popularly known as 'Sonar Qila' or 'Golden Fort'. It is a massive structure exhibiting its aesthetic beauty. The walk through the labyrinthine lanes is an experience worth having. Jaisalmer Fort was initially named 'Trikut Garh' since it was triangular in shape and was also built over the Trikuta Hills. 'Sonar Qila' (Golden Fort) as it is locally referred to, houses almost quarter of Jaisalmer's population inside the complex.

## Desert Safari

Jaisalmer is frequented by tourists for its large stretches of desert sand. Popular Desert Safaris in Jaisalmer takes place in Sam Sand Dunes. A Jeep takes you to a point near Sam Sand Dunes (around 45km from the city) from where the camel ride starts and lasts for around 90 minutes. You will also stop by at a few attractions on your way.

The safaris can be done in the morning or in the evening followed a delicious meal alongside a musical dance program that showcases the local culture of Rajasthan. If you don't wish to indulge in this experience and want to go for a off-beat experience, there are a few operators like Trotters that will take you to Khuri Sand Dunes. The meal will be modest and the tent will be pitched for you making it perfect for stargazing.

## Gadisar Lake

On the outskirts of Jaisalmer in the arid state of Rajasthan lies the beautiful Gadisar Lake, which sits like an oasis in the heart of a desert. Back in the middle



ages, there were no canals or irrigation system or other scientific methods to bring water to the arid regions of Rajasthan. This reservoir was built by Raja Rawal Jaisal keeping in mind the need of his people. Located close to the fort of Jaisalmer, the lake is an easy respite from the hot and dry desert climate. Gadisar Lake offers scenic and picturesque views of the lake and the adjacent fort, especially when the eastern sky is blood red and the sun rises, striking its rays on the top floors of Jaisalmer Fort.

Whether you like to spend some quiet time by yourself or have fun with your family, Gadisar Lake has a handful of experiences to offer. You can go boating in the lake or simply enjoy a walk around the embankment. If winter is your time of visit, you might just be lucky enough to see beautiful exotic migratory birds flocking in and around the lake from the nearby bird sanctuary of Bharatpur.

## Patwon ki Haveli

Also known as the Mansion of Brocade Merchants, Patwon Ki Haveli is a famous

tourist attraction in Jaisalmer, Rajasthan. At first glance from the narrow street it faces, one would see several windows and balconies with intricate carvings, and once inside, they would get to witness the grandeur of the Haveli. It is a cluster of five small havelis built by a rich trader in the 19th Century. Locals also refer the haveli as Kothari's Patwa Haveli. The five havelis were built for the family and together, the entire complex forms the largest mansion in the city. It still possesses an ample number of artefacts and stonework that give a glimpse into the regal lifestyle of the Patwa family. It is one of three havelis that are deemed impressive in the city. The building comes under the Archaeological Survey of India, and it is recognized as a renowned architectural as well as a historical site.

## Sam Sand Dunes

Sam Sand Dunes in Jaisalmer is an offbeat natural tourist destination in Rajasthan right in the middle of the Thar Desert. Right in the middle of the historical forts and colourful markets, Sam Sand Dunes are among the best and most authentic in the country, some rising as tall as 30-60 metres tall. Lying around 40-42 kilometres from the golden city of Jaisalmer, the dunes are located over calm and undulating stretches of golden yellow sand stretching for around 2 kilometres along the borders of the Jaisalmer Desert National Park. Travellers often come here to witness the dramatic and sunrise and sunsets. You can also gain a close insight into the culture and tradition of Rajasthan with dances and musicals that are staged around the campfires at night.

## Jain Temples

Situated in the Jaisalmer Fort, Jain Temples in Jaisalmer are a must-visit while you are in the city. The temples, though ancient, have a high religious significance and ancient knowledge attached to them. Built in the Dilwara style that is famous all over the world for its architecture, these temples are dedicated to Rikhabdevji and Shambhavdev Ji, the famous Jain hermits known as 'Tirthankaras'. Being a significant pilgrimage spot, the Jain Temples are truly a treasure of the Jaisalmer city and a fun place to be at for all those tourists who are interested in history and religion. All the seven temples are connected to each other and are built using the same golden-yellow Jaisalmeri stone.





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Spanish Hockey Federation International  
TournamentIndia out of title  
contention after draw

The Indian men's hockey team came up with a spirited performance to hold England 1-1 in its third match at the ongoing 100th Anniversary Spanish Hockey Federation International Tournament here on July 28. While Sam Ward scored for England in the fifth minute, India bounced back to level the scores in the 29th minute through Harmanpreet Singh. The draw meant India are out of contention for Sunday's final. After their 1-2 loss against the hosts and 1-1 draw with Netherlands, India were looking for a win and a spot in the final. However, it was England who secured the final berth with their second draw. India will now play for the third place, either against Spain or Netherlands.

Pak hockey team gets NOC for  
Asian Champions Trophy

The Pakistan hockey team has got the green signal to travel to India for the upcoming Asian Champions Trophy slated to be held in Chennai from August 3. Pakistan Hockey Federation secretary Haider Hussain confirmed on Friday that the Sports Board has got the NOC from the ministry of interior.

"The contingent will leave on Tuesday, Aug 1, via the Wagah border and travel to Amritsar from where they have been booked on a domestic flight for Chennai," he said. Haider said they were still awaiting visas for three officials including the newly appointed consultant of the national team, Shahnaz Sheikh.

## BRIDGETOWN (TIP)

The Indian team will be expected to return to its original batting order as it aims to put up a much-improved show with the bat and take an unassailable lead in the three-match ODI series against West Indies in the second ODI.

Skipper Rohit Sharma and coach Rahul Dravid did face a minor hiccup while trying out the middle-order batters up front on a track that became a raging turner during the second session but a meagre target of 115 meant that things were smooth for the better part.

"I never thought the pitch would play like that, it was the team's need to bowl first. The pitch had everything for seamers and spinners, our guys did well to restrict them to that score," Rohit Sharma had said after the match.

The spinners from either side picked up 10 out of the 15 wickets that fell on a rank turner with a lot of bounce and carry.

The track used for the second ODI might not be the same one but nature could be identical and hence the Indian team shouldn't mind the challenge of batting first.

Facing Gudakesh Motie's orthodox left-arm spin and Yannick Carias's leg breaks won't be the most difficult proposition but not the easiest one either.

The Indian batters haven't exactly set the stage on fire when facing spinners on turners and this won't

2nd ODI: India aim  
to clinch series with  
better batting effort

be a bad test for the team if another turner is rolled out.

It's normal for me: Kuldeep on  
being a stopgap for India

Getting dropped due to conditions that require a specific playing combination has been a "normal" thing for Kuldeep Yadav and the left-arm wrist spinner believes that it is better to make every opportunity count than fret about chances that he lost over the years. Yadav took 4 for 6 in just three overs to lead India

to a comprehensive win and bag the Player of the Match award. "Most of the times, when I don't get to play it is because of the situation and combination. It is a normal thing now. I have been playing cricket for so many years, it has been more than six years now. These things are normal," he said. "Competition will always be there in the Indian cricket team but it motivates you to do well as you can't take anything lightly. For me, process is more important than performance." Source: PTI

## ASHES FIFTH TEST



Steve Smith's 71 was the backbone of Australia's 295. Reuters

Smith keeps cool in face of English  
onslaught, Oz lead by 12 runs

## LONDON (TIP)

Australia led England by 12 runs at the end of a tense and fluctuating second day to leave the final Ashes Test at The Oval on a knife-edge.

Steve Smith's patient 71 was the backbone of Australia's 295 in reply to England's 283 and a ninth-wicket partnership of 49 between Pat Cummins and Todd Murphy edged the touring side ahead.

Australia, 2-1 up in the series and bidding to win the Ashes in England for the first time since 2001, were bowled out just before the close.

Resuming in the morning on 61/1, Usman Khawaja and Marnus Labuschagne had adopted a no-risk approach, adding only 21 runs in the first 12 overs before the latter was brilliantly

caught by Joe Root at first slip off Mark Wood for nine.

Labuschagne edged Wood between wicketkeeper Jonny Bairstow and Root who dived to his left and plucked the ball out of the air one-handed.

England captain Ben Stokes did not have the option of using his main spinner Moeen Ali, who sustained a groin injury while batting, but his quick bowlers produced disciplined spells to keep the hosts in the game as Australia reached 115/2 at lunch.

Stuart Broad struck twice after the interval and England dominated the afternoon session.

Broad trapped Khawaja lbw for 47 and Travis Head, on four, edged the fast bowler to Bairstow as England sensed an opportunity to seize the initiative.

Source: Reuters



बैंक ऑफ़ इंडिया  
Bank of India **BOI**



**FOREIGN BUSINESS DEPARTMENT, HEAD OFFICE**

Ref. No.: HO:FBD:DSMD:KCJ:2023-24:

Date: 12.07.2023

Dear Our Valued NRI Customer,

**Subject: Opening of "NRI Help Center" for Enhanced Customer Service**

Bank of India values your patronage and is committed to delivering exceptional customer service to all our NRI customers. At Bank of India, we continuously strive to enhance our customers' experience and cater to their diverse needs. With great pleasure, we announce the inauguration of our new "NRI Help Center" housed at FEBO Gandhinagar Gujrat, a dedicated facility designed exclusively for our Non-Resident Indian (NRI) customers, by our Managing Director & CEO Shri Rajneesh Karnatak on 12th July, 2023.

2. Understanding the unique challenges and requirements faced by NRIs, we have established this specialized Help Center to provide you with superior customer service and address your banking queries and concerns promptly. The NRI Help Center will serve as a one-stop destination for all your banking needs, ensuring a hassle-free experience and comprehensive support.

3. The staff posted at the NRI Help Center are well-versed in the intricacies of NRI banking and possess extensive knowledge of our wide range of services and products. Whether you require assistance with account management, remittances, investment guidance, or any other financial matter, our dedicated team is equipped to cater to your requirements effectively.

4. The key objectives of our NRI Help Center are as follows:

- i. **Prompt Query Resolution.**
- ii. **Account Opening:**
- iii. **Our products advisory:**
- iv. **Remittance Services:**

5. To avail the services of our NRI Help Center, you may reach out to our dedicated helpline number, **+91 79 6924 1100**, or send an email to **FEBO.NRI@bankofindia.co.in**. Our team will be delighted to assist you with any banking requirements or concerns you may have.

6. The establishment of the NRI Help Center reflects our dedication to ensuring your banking experience is seamless, convenient, and rewarding.

7. We look forward to serving you at our new **NRI Help Center** and strengthening our relationship further/ enhanced engagement. Your trust in Bank of India is greatly appreciated, and we remain at your service.

With Warm Regards,



(Anil Kumar Verma)  
General Manager

Classification: **Internal**

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# History This Week

## JULY 28 - AUG 03

### JULY 28

July 28, 1932 - The Bonus March eviction in Washington, D.C., occurred as U.S. Army troops under the command of General Douglas MacArthur, Major Dwight D. Eisenhower and Major George S. Patton, attacked and burned the encampments of unemployed World War I veterans. About 15,000 veterans had marched on Washington, demanding payment of a war bonus they had been promised. After two months' encampment in Washington's Anacostia Flats, forced eviction of the bonus marchers by the U.S. Army was ordered by President Herbert Hoover.

July 28, 1943 - During World War II, a firestorm killed 42,000 civilians in Hamburg, Germany. The firestorm occurred after 2,326 tons of bombs and incendiaries were dropped by the Allies.



Birthday - Jackie Kennedy (1929-1994) was born in Southampton, New York (as Jacqueline Lee Bouvier). She was married to John Fitzgerald Kennedy and after his death later married Greek shipping magnate Aristotle Onassis.

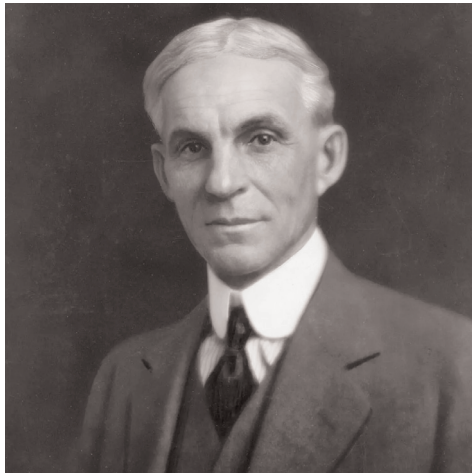
### JULY 29



Birthday - Benito Mussolini (1883-1945) was born in Dovia, Italy. He ruled Italy from 1922-1943, first as prime minister and then as "Il Duce," the absolute dictator.

### JULY 30

July 30, 1975 - Former Teamsters Union leader James Hoffa was last seen outside a restaurant near Detroit, Michigan. His 13-year federal prison sentence had been commuted by President Richard M. Nixon in 1971. On December 8, 1982, seven years after his disappearance, an Oakland County judge declared Hoffa officially dead.



Birthday - Automotive pioneer Henry Ford (1863-1947) was born in Dearborn Township, Michigan. He developed an assembly-line production system and introduced a \$5-a-day wage for automotive workers. "History is bunk," he once said.

### JULY 31

July 31, 1776 - During the American Revolution, Francis Salvador became the first Jew to die in the conflict. He had also been the first Jew elected to office in Colonial America, voted a member of the South Carolina Provincial Congress in January 1775.

July 31, 1790 - The U.S. Patent Office first opened its doors. The first U.S. patent was issued to Samuel Hopkins of Vermont for a new method of making pearlsh and potash. The patent was signed by George Washington and Thomas Jefferson.

### AUGUST 1

August 1, 1838 - Slavery was abolished in Jamaica. It had been introduced by Spanish settlers 300 years earlier in 1509.



August 1, 1944 - Anne Frank penned her last entry into her diary. "[I] keep on trying to find a way of becoming what I would like to be, and what I could be, if...there weren't any other people living in the world." Three days later, Anne and her family were arrested and sent to Nazi concentration camps. Anne died at Bergen-Belsen concentration camp on March 15, 1945, at age 15.

August 1, 1944 - The Warsaw Uprising began as the Polish Home Army, numbering about 40,000 Polish patriots, began shooting at German troops in the streets. The Nazis then sent eight divisions to battle the Poles, who had hoped for, but did not receive, assistance

from the Allies. Two months later, the rebellion was quashed.

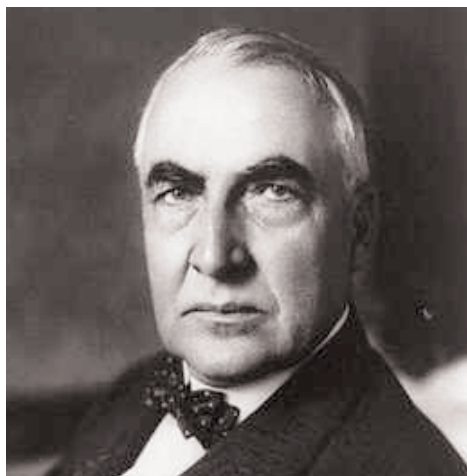


Birthday - Star-Spangled Banner author Francis Scott Key (1779-1843) was born in Frederick County, Maryland. After witnessing the British bombardment of Fort McHenry on the night of September 13-14, 1814, he was enthralled to see the American flag still flying over the fort at daybreak. He then wrote the poem originally entitled Defense of Fort McHenry which became the U.S. National Anthem in 1931.

Birthday - Moby Dick author Herman Melville (1819-1891) was born in New York.

### AUGUST 2

August 2, 1776 - In Philadelphia, most of the 55 members of the Continental Congress signed the parchment copy of the Declaration of Independence.



August 2, 1923 - President Warren G. Harding died suddenly in a hotel in San Francisco while on a Western speaking tour. His administration had been tainted by the Teapot Dome political scandal and his sudden death prompted many unfounded rumors. He was succeeded the next day by Calvin Coolidge.

August 2, 1939 - Albert Einstein wrote a letter to President Franklin D. Roosevelt concerning the possibility of atomic weapons. "A single bomb of this type carried by boat and exploded in a port, might very well destroy the whole port together with some of the surrounding territory." Six years later, on August 6, 1945, the first Atomic Bomb, developed by the U.S., was dropped on the Japanese port of Hiroshima.

August 2, 1990 - The Iraqi army invaded Kuwait amid claims that Kuwait threatened Iraq's economic existence by

overproducing oil and driving prices down on the world market. An Iraqi military government was then installed in Kuwait which was annexed by Iraq on the claim that Kuwait was historically part of Iraq. This resulted in Desert Shield, the massive Allied military buildup, and later the 100-hour war against Iraq, Desert Storm.

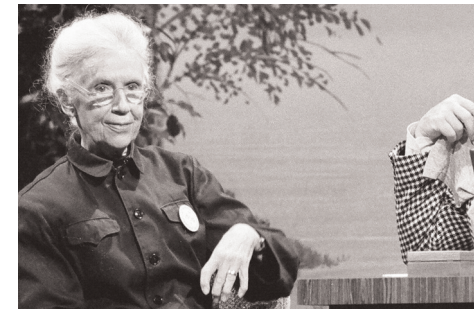
### AUGUST 3



August 3, 1492 - Christopher Columbus set sail from Palos, Spain, with three ships, Nina, Pinta and Santa Maria. Seeking a westerly route to the Far East, he instead landed on October 12th in the Bahamas, thinking it was an outlying Japanese island.



Birthday - War correspondent Ernie Pyle (1900-1945) was born in Dana, Indiana. His syndicated column offered sympathetic insights into the experiences of common soldiers during World War II. He received a Pulitzer Prize for his reports of the bombing of London in 1940 and later war reports from Africa, Sicily, Italy and France. He was killed by machine-gun fire near Okinawa in the South Pacific on April 18, 1945.



Birthday - Gray Panthers founder Maggie Kuhn (1905-1995) was born in Buffalo, New York. After she was forced into mandatory retirement at age 65, she founded the Gray Panthers organization to fight age discrimination and succeeded in the banning of mandatory retirement in most professions.





## A World without Childhood Blindness

Only by doing good can one benefit  
-Rig Veda



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avoidable childhood blindness

Vision of Dr. V.K. Raju,  
the Eye Foundation of America  
and Goutami Eye Institute

- \* 3.5 million + served
- \* 350 thousand + surgeries
- \* 30 thousand + on children

**Message from  
Peter J. McDonnell,  
M.D. Director Wilmer Eye  
Institute, Johns Hopkins  
University, USA on the  
occasion of laying the  
foundation stone on  
December 10, 2020**



"On behalf of all my colleagues of the Wilmer Eye Institute in Baltimore, MO, I send my best wishes and congratulations to our friends in Goutami on this extremely important occasion. This beautiful facility will match the wonderful world class work of your doctors, nurses and staff in preserving and restoring the vision of so many patients. We in the United States are inspired by your dedication and admire your tireless efforts to serve so many who need your skills and compassion. Best wishes, Peter"

"There can be no keener revelation of a society's soul than the way in which it treats its children". - Nelson Mandela



**POST SURGERY**



**PRE SURGERY**

Triplets Prasanth, Susanth and Nisanth, who were treated by Goutami Eye Institute three years ago and gifted vision for life, as ROP babies under GEMROP (Goutami Eye tele Medicine Retinopathy Of Prematurity).

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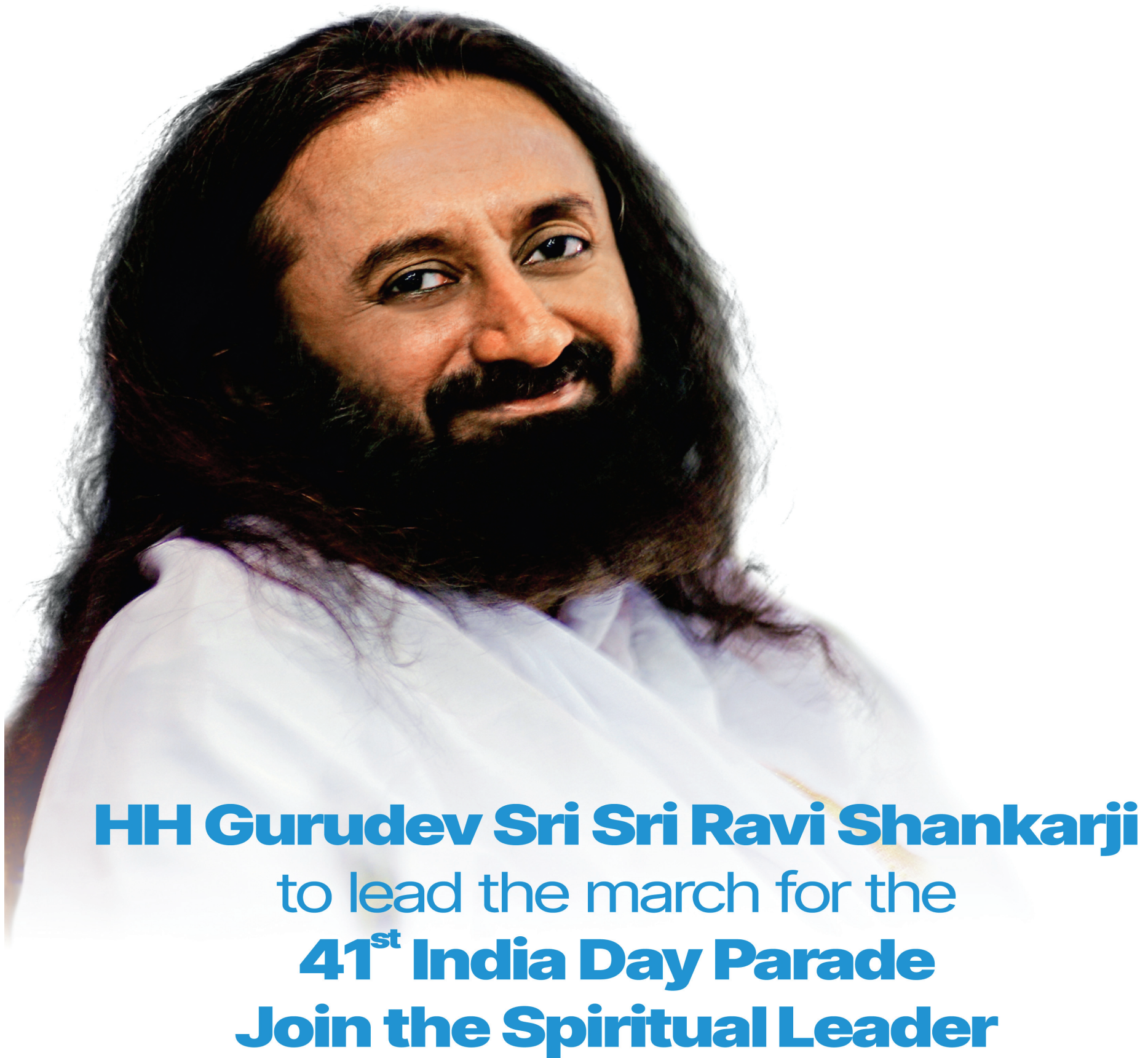
The work by the Eye Foundation of America team started in 1977 and has spread from India to 21 different countries. Additionally, EFA focuses on teaching and training of health professionals who receive the Foundation's support at every level.  
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To know more about the work of Eye Foundation of America or to donate, visit [www.eyefoundationofamerica.org](http://www.eyefoundationofamerica.org)

ॐ सर्वे भवन्तु सुखिनः Sarve Bhavantu Sukhinah,  
सर्वे सन्तु नरिमायाः । Sarve Santu Niramayah  
May all be prosperous and happy!  
May all be healthy!

The Eye Foundation of America  
695, West View Avenue, Morgantown, WV 26505  
Phone: 304-599-0705  
[www.eyefoundationofamerica.org](http://www.eyefoundationofamerica.org)





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