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RUSSIAN PRESIDENT PUTIN AND PM MODI AGREE TO FURTHER BOOST BILATERAL STRATEGIC TIES, DISCUSS UKRAINE WAR
The Shanghai Cooperation Organization and the G20 discussed



Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Russian President Vladimir Putin. File photo

JUNE 30, 2023

NEW DELHI (TIP): A week after returning from a Summit meeting with US President Joe Biden, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday, June 30, phoned Russian President Vladimir Putin and informed him on his "international contacts", including ones during his recent visit
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Supreme Court rejects Biden student loan forgiveness plan

SAYS PRESIDENT BIDEN DOES NOT HAVE AUTHORITY FOR HIS ROUGHLY \$400 BILLION PROGRAM TO FORGIVE STUDENT LOAN DEBT



Advocates of student debt cancellation rally outside the U.S. Supreme Court in Washington, D.C. on Feb. 28, 2023. File photo

JUNE 30, 2023

WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP): The Washington Post, the first to report on the subject, reports that the Supreme Court on Friday, June 30, said President Biden does not have authority for his roughly \$400 billion program to forgive student loan debt, the latest blow from a Supreme Court that has been dismissive of this administration's bold claims of power.

The vote was 6 to 3 along ideological lines, with Chief Justice John G. Roberts Jr. writing for the court's dominant conservatives.

Biden contended his administration had the authority to forgive student loan debt under the Higher Education Relief Opportunities for Students Act of 2003. The law allows the education secretary to waive or modify loan provisions in response to a national emergency, such as the coronavirus pandemic.

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Dr. V.K. Raju honored in London

JUNE 24, 2023



First lady Cherie Blair honored Dr. V.K. Raju at a glittering function on Friday, June 23 evening at the House of Lords commemorating the UN International Widows Day organized by the Loomba Foundation

LONDON (TIP): Dr. VK Raju, President, Eye Foundation of America was honored by First lady Cherie Blair at a glittering function on Friday, June 23 evening at the House Of Lords commemorating the UN International Widows Day organized by the Loomba Foundation led by Lord Raj Loomba as a Loomba fellow for the mission work around the world on empowering widows.

Dr. Raju was visiting London to attend the launch of the London edition of the Blitz. The publication in India is owned by Deepak Dwivedi. Dr. Raju met with fellow Rotarians in London to seek their support in his effort to have a world without childhood blindness.

U.K. calls for U.N. reform with permanent Security Council seat for India

JUNE 30, 2023

LONDON (TIP): The U.K. government has reiterated its call for reform of the United Nations as one of its top transnational priorities and supported India's bid for permanent membership of the powerful Security Council.

India has been at the forefront of the years-long efforts to reform the UN Security Council (UNSC), saying it rightly deserved a place as a permanent member of the United Nations.

Currently, the UNSC has five permanent members - China, France, Russia, the U.K. and the U.S. Only a permanent member has the power to veto any substantive resolution.



British Foreign Minister James Cleverly has said: "I have five transnational priorities. First, reform of the United Nations Security Council. We want to see permanent African representation and membership extended to India, Brazil, Germany and Japan." File photo

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COMMENT**God Bless America !**

4th of July stirs mixed feelings, the dominant being a confidence that we can and shall overcome. 3 years ago, Covid struck down all traditional ceremonies, leaving Americans to celebrate the event in a shorter edition, with limited ceremonial celebration. The pomp, pageantry, parades, shows, games, sports, guns, bells, bonfires, and illuminations, from one end of America to another did not appear to be a possibility then. But Covid is gone, and we are back in 2023 to grand celebrations of a historic moment. This 4th of July is witnessing a new energy which is bound to add a new chapter to American history. Let us celebrate the new energy.

American history is full of struggles and challenges. We have always, as a

nation, stood up to them. Remember what John F. Kennedy said: "The cost of freedom is always high, but Americans have always paid it. And one path we shall never choose, and that is the path of surrender, or submission."

American history is replete with internal dissensions and conflicts. We overcame them and continued to grow stronger. We have been involved in conflicts abroad because we wanted to protect the weaker nations against the stronger and wily nations. We wanted to protect democracies. We fought wars for the idea of democracy and freedom. We lent strength to the democratic world. We paid a price, and a heavy one in losing our valiant men and women in the wars. Yet, we remained steadfast and strong,

BY
INDRAJIT SALUJA

and continued to grow stronger.

This 4th of July reminds us of the commitment of America to protect others as well as we protect ourselves. That is why we have laws that allow people from all over the world to come to this country to escape tyranny in their lands or to live the American dream. We have welcomed them earlier, and we need to continue to welcome them. They come and depend on us, and then become great assets for America. They contribute to the growth and strength of America. Let us celebrate our diversity. Let us celebrate our unity. Let us celebrate our humanity. Let us celebrate our strength.

God bless America!

GUEST COMMENT**PM's push for UCC: Code should be reformatory, not a Hindutva plank**

With less than a year to go for the Lok Sabha elections, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has made a strong pitch for the implementation of the Uniform Civil Code (UCC), even as he has accused Opposition parties of inciting minority communities against it. Hitting back at the PM, the Congress has said that a 'divisive' code cannot be forced on people by an 'agenda-driven majoritarian government'. The UCC continues to be a key poll plank of the ruling BJP, which kept its core-agenda promises of abrogating Article 370 months after it won the 2019 General Election and is on course to get the Ram Mandir ready by early next year.

The UCC envisages a common set of

personal laws dealing with matters such as marriage, divorce, inheritance and adoption, applicable to all citizens of India irrespective of their religion. The Law Commission had on June 14 initiated the process of inviting views from stakeholders, including the public and recognized religious organizations, on the contentious issue. The BJP-ruled Uttarakhand is spearheading the UCC campaign, even as the Supreme Court had observed in January this year that state governments had the power to examine the feasibility of implementing the common code. The Constitution's Article 44, which is one of the directive principles of state policy, says that 'the State shall endeavor to secure for the citizens a uniform civil code throughout

the territory of India'.

The Union government faces the onerous task of building consensus on the UCC, even as AAP has extended 'in principle' support to the code. The perception that it would be Hindu-centric has triggered doubts and apprehensions among the minorities. The UCC can gain credibility and acceptability only if it encapsulates the spirit of Article 25, which guarantees freedom of religion, and is aimed at doing away with regressive practices in various religions. An ideal code ought to be reformatory. It's hoped that the Centre will take into consideration the views of all stakeholders while drafting the UCC.

(The Hindu)

MESSAGE

Dr V.K. Raju
President, Eye
Foundation of
America

varying citizenship, heading in the same direction successfully. Today conflicts are on the rise everywhere and nuclear arsenals are swelling

Millions are displaced, international law is disregarded with impunity, as criminal and terrorist networks profit from the division and violence. This is the situation the world finds itself in today.

The reason for these conflicts is territorial disputes. Regional tensions, high level corruption and dwindling resources due to climate change have also contributed to conflicts.

Dr Arnold Toynbee's quote is very appropriate today.

"It is already becoming clear that a chapter which had a western beginning will have to have an Indian ending if it is not to end in the self-destruction of the human race... At this supremely

dangerous moment in human history, the only way of salvation for mankind is the Indian way. Emperor Ashoka and Mahatma Gandhi's principle of nonviolence and Shri Ramakrishna's testimony to the harmony of religions; here we have an attitude and spirit that can make it possible for the human race to grow together into a single family -and in atomic Age, this is the only alternative to destroying ourselves.

What we need is true friendship (MAITRI) between the most powerful democracy and the most populous democracy.

Both countries are continuously working towards keeping their widely varying citizenship, heading in the same direction successfully.

Thank you.



GIVE US

**HEALTH &
EDUCATION**

THE NATION WILL BUILD ITSELF

-VK RAJU

**Indian-origin satellite expert
Holla-Maini appointed as
Director of United Nations
Office for Outer Space Affairs
by the UN chief**



Holla-Maini of the United Kingdom will succeed Simonetta Di Pippo of Italy as Director of United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs

JUNE 27, 2023

UNITED NATIONS (TIP): UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres has appointed Indian-origin satellite industry expert Aarti Holla-Maini as Director of the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA) in Vienna.

Holla-Maini of the United Kingdom will succeed Simonetta Di Pippo of Italy. UNOOSA works to promote international cooperation in the peaceful use and exploration of space and in the utilization of space science and technology for sustainable economic and social development.

Holla-Maini brings to this position over 25 years of professional experience in the space sector including in managerial and advocacy functions.

Most recently, she has held the role of Executive Vice-President Sustainability, Policy & Impact at NorthStar Earth & Space. Prior to that, she spent over 18 years as the Secretary-General of the Global Satellite Operators Association, a statement issued here said on Monday.

101-year-old Sikh World War II veteran honored by UK PM Rishi Sunak with Points of Light award

JUNE 29, 2023

LONDON (TIP): British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak has honored Rajindar Singh Dhatt, one of the last surviving Sikh soldiers who fought in the Second World War with a Points of Light honor at a UK-India Week reception at 10 Downing Street.

Dhatt, 101, was recognized on Wednesday for his service and his work running the "Undivided Indian Ex-Servicemen's Association" to help bring together British Indian war veterans.

Dhatt, based in Hounslow in southwest London since 1963, was born in pre-Partition India in 1921 and fought with the Allied forces during the British colonial period.

"It is an immense honor to receive this recognition from the Prime Minister, to whom I would like to extend my deepest appreciation for acknowledging the importance and impact of the 'Undivided Indian Ex-Servicemen's Association,'" said Dhatt.

"The journey of establishing this organization was driven by a deep sense of duty as an ex-serviceman and the vision of fostering unity, support, and camaraderie. This award serves as a testament to the tireless efforts of countless individuals who have contributed to the success and growth of the association over the years," he said.

"Their unwavering commitment and selfless service has played a pivotal role in bringing about positive change in the lives of our ex-servicemen and their families,"



United Kingdom's Prime Minister Rishi Sunak presents the Points of Light award to veteran soldier Rajindar Singh Dhatt during a reception organized to celebrate India Global Forum's UK-India Week 2023, at 10 Downing Street in London, on Wednesday.

Photo credit /PTI

he added.

Dhatt joined the British Indian Army during the Second World War and excelled up the ranks, being promoted to Havildar Major (Sergeant Major) in 1943.

He was later drafted to the Far East campaign to fight in Kohima in northeast India to support the Allied Forces and help break through the Japanese defenses, Downing Street said. After the war, Dhatt returned to India before settling in London with his family.

His association recently created an online community for veterans, sharing articles about personal stories and opportunities to connect. Dhatt also continues to speak at memorial events and work with war veteran charities, including the Royal British Legion and the Taxi Charity for Military Veterans, telling stories through teaching packs and

online resources.

Dhatt said the award is a "momentous occasion" that inspires him to continue making meaningful contributions to society, even as he nears his 102nd birthday.

According to Downing Street, the Points of Light recognize outstanding people whose service is making a difference in their communities and whose stories can inspire others towards innovative solutions to social challenges in their own communities and beyond.

Dhatt's honor coincided with a Downing Street reception celebrating India Global Forum's UK-India Week celebration of the bilateral relationship, where Prime Minister Sunak spoke of Dhatt as an "incredible man" and thanked him for his service as a member of the Indian diaspora "living bridge". (Source: PTI)

Two Indian American candidates win Democratic primaries in Virginia



Suhas Subramanyam and Kannan Srinivasan have won the Democratic primaries for the Virginia Senate and House of Delegates, respectively.

JUNE 28, 2023

LOUDON, VA (TIP): Two Indian American candidates Suhas Subramanyam and Kannan Srinivasan have won the Democratic primaries for the Virginia Senate and House of Delegates, respectively.

Subramanyam, of Ashburn, a two-term delegate who currently represents the 87th House district, defeated former state delegate and dentist Ibraheem Samirah by a narrow margin in the June

20 primaries, according to preliminary results from the Virginia Department of Elections.

"Thank you to every single volunteer, team member, and voter for the victory. We truly could not have done this work, or delivered this win, without each and every one of you," Subramanyam tweeted.

If elected, he will succeed state Senator John Bell, who has announced his retirement from the Senate.

A resident of Loudoun County, Subramanyam became the first Indian American and South Asian to be ever elected to the Virginia General Assembly in 2019.

A technology and regulatory attorney, Subramanyam served as a White House advisor to former President Barack Obama in 2015, where he led a task force on technology policy that addressed job creation, IT modernization, and regulating emerging technology.

(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)

An intersection of roads in New York City co-named after Dr BR Ambedkar



The co-naming ceremony of the intersection on June 26 was hosted by Councilwoman Julie Won, and the Shri Guru Ravidas Temple of New York, which is located at the intersection of 61st Street and Broadway.

JUNE 28, 2023

NEW YORK (TIP): An intersection of roads in New York City has been co-named after Dr BR Ambedkar in honor of the legendary Indian social activist and the architect of Indian Constitution. The intersection of 61st Street and Broadway in New York has been co-named as "Dr BR Ambedkar Way," according to local media reports.

The co-naming ceremony of the intersection on June 26 was hosted by Councilwoman Julie Won, and the Shri Guru Ravidas Temple of New York,

which is located at the intersection of 61st Street and Broadway.

Congresswoman Grace Meng, state Senator Michael Gianaris and Assemblyman Steven Raga were also present at the naming ceremony.

During the event, Won said Ambedkar was an international symbol against caste discrimination.

(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)

Indian festival Diwali to be school holiday in New York City

JUNE 27, 2023

NEW YORK (TIP): Diwali, the festival of lights, will now be enshrined as a school holiday in New York City, authorities announced here and described it as a "victory" for the city's residents, including the Indian community.

New York City Mayor Eric Adams said he was proud that the State Assembly and the State Senate have passed the bill making Diwali a New York City Public School holiday.

"And we feel confident that the governor is going to sign this bill into law," he said at a special announcement from City Hall on Monday.

"This is a victory, not only from the men and women of the Indian community and all communities that celebrate Diwali, but it's a victory for New York," Adams said.

Diwali will be a public-school holiday in New York City beginning this year.

New York Assembly Member Jenifer Rajkumar, the first Indian American woman ever elected to a New York State office, said for over two decades, the South Asian and Indo-Caribbean community has fought for this moment.



New York City Mayor Eric Adams said he was proud that the State Assembly and the State Senate have passed the bill making Diwali a New York City Public School holiday.

"Today, the mayor and I are proud to stand before the whole world and say that from now on and forever, Diwali will be a school holiday in New York City." Rajkumar said the Diwali holiday is to be enshrined in law.

INDIAN AMERICAN ATTORNEY NEEL KATYAL SCORES A KEY VICTORY FOR VOTING RIGHTS



Neel Katyal scored a key victory for voting rights advocates with the Supreme Court rejecting the so-called Independent State Legislature theory

JUNE 29, 2023

WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP): Neel Katyal, a leading Indian American attorney, is being celebrated for scoring a key victory for voting rights advocates with the Supreme Court rejecting the so-called Independent State Legislature theory.

By a 6-3 judgment, the apex court on Monday rejected the controversial legal theory that state legislatures have almost unlimited power to decide the rules for federal elections and draw partisan congressional maps without interference from state courts.

US-born son of immigrant parents from India, Katyal, 53, a former acting US solicitor general won the day for the watchdog group Common Cause, by pressing the justices to reject the election theory before the 2024 election.

Chief Justice John Roberts wrote the opinion for the 6-3 majority in this case known as Moore v. Harper, which stems from a dispute in North Carolina.

The North Carolina legislators were appealing a ruling by their state supreme court finding that the new congressional map they adopted after the 2020 census was a blatant partisan gerrymander that violated the state constitution.

Even President Barack Obama, a legal scholar himself, hailed the Supreme Court decision. "Today, the Supreme Court rejected the fringe independent state legislature theory that threatened to upend our democracy and dismantle our system of checks and balances," he tweeted.

"This ruling rejects the far-right theory that threatened to undermine our democracy and makes clear that courts can continue defending voters' rights in North Carolina and in every state," Obama wrote.

As accolades rolled in, Katyal himself tweeted, "The truth is this was the victory of an incredible group of lawyers who worked at my side day and night for months. Everything you heard was them."

He also commended an article in law.com "about what really happened yesterday in Moore v Harper. All our supposed allies, including the Biden Administration's Justice Dept, tried to get rid of the case, telling the Court, they couldn't decide it. We stood alone."

(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)

Indian-origin, World Bank president, Ajay Banga named in 'Great Immigrants' 2023 list

JUNE 29, 2023

NEW YORK (TIP): Ajay Banga, the President of the World Bank, has been named by a prestigious philanthropic organization to its annual "Great Immigrants" list of honorees who have enriched and strengthened America and its democracy through their contributions and actions.

Banga, who became World Bank chief in June 2023, is the first-ever Indian American to lead the institution. He is the only honoree from India in this year's list of 'Great Immigrants' by the Carnegie Corporation of New York.

With over 30 years of experience in key positions, 63-year-old Banga is expected to usher in transformative policies at the World Bank to combat poverty and address climate change, opening opportunities for people around the globe, a statement issued by Carnegie on Wednesday said.

During a fireside chat, Carnegie said Banga offered some reflections on how diversity helped him succeed as a leader: "At the end of the day, if you surround yourself with people who look like you, who walk like you and talk like you, and grew up in the same places you did and worked with you in your prior jobs, then you will have a sense of comfort of hiring people around you who have that familiarity. But you will also have the same blind spots. You will miss the same trends. You will miss the same



Carnegie Corporation of New York has selected Ajay Banga for "Great Immigrants" 2023 list

opportunities."

Banga started his career in India, spending 13 years at Nestle India and two at PepsiCo. In 1996, he joined Citigroup, eventually leading the Asia-Pacific region as CEO.

Later moving to the US, Banga served as president and CEO of Mastercard for 12 years before being named executive chairman. Under his leadership, Mastercard launched the Center for Inclusive Growth, which advances equitable and sustainable economic growth and financial inclusion around the world, the statement said.

Prior to his appointment to the World Bank, Banga was the vice-chairman at General Atlantic. He is also a co-founder of the Cyber Readiness Institute and served as vice-chair of the Economic Club of New York.

Among numerous honors, he was awarded the Foreign Policy Association Medal, the Padma Shri Award by the

President of India, and the Ellis Island Medal of Honor.

Every Fourth of July, which is celebrated as America's Independence Day, the Carnegie Corporation of New York honors a group of "remarkable" Americans - all naturalized citizens - "who have enriched and strengthened our nation and our democracy through their contributions and actions".

This year, the corporation honors 35 individuals from 33 countries and a wide range of backgrounds. Among the honorees are individuals who have fostered opportunities for others through their work as educators, mentors, philanthropists, job creators, public servants, storytellers, and advocates.

"The Great Immigrants initiative is a tribute to the legacy of Andrew Carnegie, a Scottish immigrant who, like these honorees, found success in America, contributed enormously to his adopted country, and inspired others to do the same," said Dame Louise Richardson, president of Carnegie Corporation of New York.

Carnegie Corporation of New York is a leading philanthropic foundation established by Scottish immigrant Andrew Carnegie and is now led by Irish immigrant Dame Louise Richardson. It celebrates the crucial role of naturalized citizens in making America a land of opportunity for all.

GOPIO Manhattan, Indian Consulate & Happy Life Yoga Collaborate to Celebrate Yoga Day



Hosts Thomas Abraham (bottom), Tirlok Malik (Top right) and the chief guest Vipul Dev, Consul (Press and Culture) Consulate General of India at New York

JUNE 26, 2023

NEW YORK (TIP): On the occasion of 9th International Yoga Day 2023, GOPIO-Manhattan in cooperation with the Consulate General of India in New York and Emmy-nominated filmmaker & Happy Life Yoga speaker Tirlok Malik hosted a highly interactive and informative Yoga Zoom event on June 25th featuring experts and speakers from various walks of life. Shri Randhir Jaiswal, Consul General of India in New York sent his best wishes to GOPIO and Malik for celebrating the 9th International Yoga Day 2023. The chief guest Consul Vipul Dev, who looks after Press, Information and Culture at the Indian Consulate, New York (USA) was present on the occasion. GOPIO-Manhattan Secretary Bhavya Gupta was the MC for the event which was hosted in the presence of Dr. Thomas Abraham, Chairman of GOPIO International and GOPIO President Lal Motwani as well as distinguished members of GOPIO International and its chapter officials from the Northeast of USA and

many viewers from all over the world. The event was also supported by The Indian Panorama and Indian American Forum.

Ms. Bhavya Gupta started the event welcoming all and shared the updates from the 9th International Yoga Day held at the United Nations on June 21st under the presence of Prime Minister of India Shri Narendra Modi. GOPIO team members along with citizens across 135 nationalities participated in the Yoga event, which earned the Yoga Day Event an entry into the Guinness Book of World Records for the Most Nationalities in a Yoga Session.

The event was energetic, knowledgeable, inspiring, and celebratory in nature. While emphasizing upon the growing importance of Yoga in today's times, Malik explained his vision behind Happy Life Yoga and its underlying philosophy, "A way of living inspired by the wisdom of Ayurveda, Yoga and Indian Philosophy, Happy Life Yoga is beneficial for one and all. The pandemic has made the world realize that it is of paramount importance to have a good health, physically and emotionally, and the Happy Life Yoga platform can show how to achieve it."

GOPIO Chairman Dr. Abraham in his welcome remarks said, "Yoga has now become an international brand after the UN declaration in 2014 and Yoga Day is now celebrated all over the world." Dr. Abraham also complimented the Indian Consulate for continuing to support Yoga celebrations by the community groups in the Northeast of the US. Dr. Abraham also complimented Consul General Jaiswal for hoisting the largest number of programs at the New York Consulate every month compared to other MEA missions around the world.

Indian Consul Vipul Dev said, "Yoga has become very popular in our life and personally I feel great that something like Yoga from my country has been adopted and owned by the rest of world." He also added that Yoga brought positivity in his life. He also mentioned that the Indian Consulate in New York has been celebrating Yoga Day with community groups starting in the first week of June, including one at the Niagara Falls.

While emphasizing upon the growing importance of Yoga in today's times, Malik explained his vision behind Happy Life Yoga and its underlying philosophy, "A way of living inspired by the wisdom of Ayurveda, Yoga and Indian Philosophy, Happy Life Yoga is beneficial for one and all. The pandemic has made the world realize that it is of paramount importance to have good health, physically and emotionally, and the Happy Life Yoga platform can show how to achieve it." One of the major highlights of the Happy Life Yoga event was the knowledge session moderated by Malik who is known for his ability to engage with his audience using the right mix of banter and substance. The event was energetic, informative, inspiring, and celebratory in nature. In his brief remarks, Tirlok Malik for propagating the power of Yoga globally through the Happy Life Yoga event.



Speakers . From L to R: (Row 1) Prof. Indrajit Saluja, Indu Jaiswal, Anil Narang, Dr. Renee Mehrra, Neeta Bhasin

(Row 2) Deborah Fishman, Neha Lohia, Victoria Moran, Radhika Bhagat and Dr. Tara Shajan

The speakers at the event included Professor Indrajit Saluja (Chief Editor/Publisher, The Indian Panorama), Indu Jaiswal (Chairperson, Indian American Forum), Anil Narang (Vegan Ambassador), Lal Motwani (GOPIO International President), Neeta Bhasin (President, ASB Communications), Dr. Renee Mehra (Reenbow Media), Deborah Fishman (Founder of FED Talk), Neha Lohia (Filmmaker), Radhika Bhagat (CEO, Sacred Earth Trust), Dr. Tara Shajan (President, Indian Nurses Association), and Victoria Moran (Founder, Main Street Vegan Academy). The event was co-sponsored by The Indian Panorama and Indian American Forum.

The event ended with a laughter session and message of "I Love Myself" even as Malik promised to bring more Happy Life Yoga events in the near future. Happy Life Yoga is the creation of Tirlok Malik. It is essentially an educational platform that offers a unique holistic approach to health and happiness using tools from Ayurveda, Indian Philosophy, and Yoga to help better manage modern-day challenges such as work, finances, relationships, family and other social pressures.

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Permanent Mission of India to the United Nations, New York,

invites quotations/ tenders for
the purchase of a

*"Customized Motorized Pediatric
Wheel Chair"*

Technical details pertaining to the
appliance are available at :
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Interested vendors/ medical suppliers
are invited to submit their quotations
by or before 1800hrs on 07/17/2023

Founder of Sulabh International Dr Bindeshwar Pathak felicitated on Long Island



Dr. Bindeshwar Pathak addressing the gathering. From L to R: Pam Kwatra, Amola Pathak, Dr Bindeshwar Pathak, Eric Kumar (behind Dr. Pathak), Kamlesh Mehta, and Arvind Vora



Dr. Bindeshwar Pathak and wife Amola Pathak were given a warm reception on arrival at the Mint Restaurant in Garden City. From L to R: Prof Indrajit Singh Saluja, Arvind Vora, Kamlesh Mehta, Amola Pathak, Pam Kwatra, Dr. Bindeshwar Pathak, Jagdish Sewhani, and Raj Wadhwa

JUNE 22, 2023

GARDEN CITY, NY (TIP): Prominent Indian American community leaders welcomed living legend Dr Bindeshwar Pathak at a meet-and-greet on June 19 in Long Island.

A Padma Bhushan awardee, Dr Pathak is famous as the founder of Sulabh International, the largest NGO in India, which has built over 9,000 public toilets across the country.

Co-hosts of the dinner event at Mint restaurant near Roosevelt Field Mall included community leaders Pam Kwatra, Kamlesh Mehta, Eric Kumar, and Raj Wadhwa. Eminent speakers included Ragini Srivastava, Town Clerk, Town of North Hempstead, entrepreneur and

philanthropist Mohan Wanchoo, The Indian Panorama Chief Editor Prof Indrajit Singh Saluja, President of AAPI-QLI Dr Vinni Jayam, Shanti Fund founder Arvind Vora, Dr Jagdish Gupta, Jagdish Sewhani and senior community leader Dr Narinder Kukar.

Eric Kumar as emcee drew the line from the pathfinding work of Dr Pathak to eradicate scavenging to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Swachh Bharat campaign. Ellis Island Medal honoree Pam Kwatra mentioned that the seed capital for Dr Pathak's social enterprise came in the form of jewelry from his wife, Amola, who was present at the event. Amola Pathak was felicitated by Nimmi Mehta and Totee Wadhwa.

Prominent guests who gave Dr Pathak a standing ovation included Harish Thakkar, Jaspreet Mayall, Ashish Srivastava, Parveen Chopra, Shomik Chaudhuri, Jay Raj, Dr. Manju Kukar, Ila Vora, Taranbir Kaur and Prasad ji.

In his speech, Dr Pathak, a sociologist with a PhD from the University of Patna, acknowledged that his inspiration came from Mahatma Gandhi. A recipient of the Gandhi Peace Prize in 2016, Dr Pathak was on the 5-member jury this time which last week selected Gita Press, Gorakhpur (the world's largest publisher of Hindu religious books since 1923) for the same prestigious award by the Government of India.

Dr Pathak's accomplishments span the

fields of sanitation technology, social enterprise, and healthcare education for millions of people in India, serving as a model for NGO agencies and public health initiatives around the world.

Born a Brahmin, he has worked tirelessly for the human rights of the manual scavengers who clean dry latrines, come from the lowest stratum of India's caste-based system, and are mostly women. His actions aimed at rehabilitating them and providing alternative employment through skill development.

The most visible sign of his work is the Sulabh toilets in all major public places in India including at 36 railway stations which are used by approximately 20 million people every day.

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Beleaguered community - being a Muslim in new India



BY
ZIYA US SALAM

TO BE A MUSLIM IS TO BE VOICELESS IN THE NEW INDIA. ALMOST ALL MAINSTREAM POLITICAL PARTIES REFRAIN FROM USING THE WORD, MUSLIM, OFTEN PREFERRED THE EUPHEMISM OF ALP-SANKHYAK OR THE MINORITIES. THE RULING BHARATIYA JANATA PARTY (BJP) FARES WORSE. THE PARTY WHICH ABOLISHED THE MAULANA AZAD FELLOWSHIP FOR THE MINORITIES STANDS IN DENIAL OF DISCRIMINATION. UNSURPRISINGLY, PRIME MINISTER NARENDRA MODI CLAIMED ALL WAS FAIR AND FINE IN HIS MEDIA INTERACTION AT THE WHITE HOUSE ON JUNE 23. RESPONDING TO A QUESTION ON THE STEPS HIS GOVERNMENT WAS TAKING "TO IMPROVE THE RIGHTS OF MUSLIMS AND OTHER MINORITIES" IN THE COUNTRY, HE SAID, "WE HAVE ALWAYS PROVED THAT DEMOCRACY CAN DELIVER. AND WHEN I SAY DELIVER, THIS IS REGARDLESS OF CASTE, CREED, RELIGION, GENDER. THERE IS ABSOLUTELY NO SPACE FOR DISCRIMINATION." THIS DENIAL CAME ON THE HEELS OF FORMER UNITED STATES PRESIDENT BARACK OBAMA EXPRESSING CONCERN ABOUT THE "PROTECTION OF THE MUSLIM MINORITY IN A HINDU MAJORITY INDIA" IN A TELEVISED INTERVIEW.

MUSLIMS HAVE TO WAKE UP TO A DAILY AVALANCHE OF HATE ON SOCIAL MEDIA, POLITICAL CIRCLES, AND IN REAL LIFE

Mr. Modi side-stepped the systematic diminution in Muslim representation in all spheres of life. In the Karnataka Assembly elections in May, the BJP did not put up a single Muslim candidate in a House of 224 Members of the Legislative Assembly. It was the same in Gujarat; and before that, in Uttar Pradesh, Delhi and Bihar. At the Centre, for the first time since Independence, there is not a single Muslim Minister. The BJP is the first ruling party without a single Muslim parliamentarian. Of course, as Mr. Modi claims, it is not due to any discrimination.

PLURALISM IS JUST TALK

The denial of representation to Muslims is not limited to the BJP. There is not a single Muslim Chief Minister in India today despite there being non-BJP governments in Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, Delhi, Rajasthan, Bihar, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, West Bengal, Odisha, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, and now Karnataka. The parties talk of pluralism, but practice majoritarianism. A little before the 2019 Lok Sabha election when the seasoned (then) Congress leader, Ghulam Nabi Azad, complained of not being wanted as a campaigner by most candidates, it seemed to be the lament of a man yearning for his glory days. Subsequent events have proved him right, with the self-professed secular parties keen not to be seen aligning with either Muslim voters or leaders. They want their vote, but hush-hush, and furtively - like the Samajwadi Party leader, Akhilesh Yadav, did during the elections in Uttar Pradesh in 2022 where he minimized the appearance of Muslim leaders on stage.

This deliberate anticivilization of Muslims is multi-pronged. Political parties that were vociferous in their condemnation of the lynching of Mohammed Akhlaq in Dadri, Uttar Pradesh, in September 2015, have now lapsed into silent mode when there are reports of the lynching of Muslim men, from Bihar, Jharkhand, Rajasthan and Maharashtra. What is being ignored is the fact that over 97% of the cases of lynching since Independence have been reported after 2014, with an overwhelming majority of victims being Muslims.

Yet, no leader of any political hue has deemed it wise to visit the families of the dead. The absence of political noise over constant killings compelled the Jamiat Ulama-i-Hind to lead a delegation of Muslim leaders to meet the Union Home Minister in April. The Minister assured them of action within 72 hours if any specific instance was brought to his notice. The words rang hollow. Within hours of his assurance,



This deliberate invisibilization of Muslims is multi-pronged'

cases of lynching were reported from Jharkhand and Haryana. The news was either ignored by the media or confined to a few sentences on the inside pages. The lynching of Muslims was reduced to a weather bulletin in the new India - pale and predictable.

Harangued not long ago for refusing to say 'Vande Mataram' or 'Bharat Mata ki Jai', Muslims are now forced to shout 'Jai Shri Ram', the new slogan of the purveyors of hatred. Not long ago, some right-wing goons issued a warning at Jantar Mantar, barely a kilometer from Parliament: 'Jab mulle kate jayenge, Jai Sri Ram chillayenge (When Muslims would be slaughtered, they would cry, Jai Sri Ram)'. When one of the participants surrendered to the police later, he did so sporting garlands while perched atop the shoulders of his supporters even as the policemen watched. He could have been an Olympic medal winner.

RISE IN HATE SPEECH

Despite the Supreme Court of India's order to the State governments to take suo motu action, there has been an exponential rise in hate speech targeted at the community. While the likes of Yati Narsinghanand and Kalicharan Maharaj have slandered not only Muslims but also the Prophet with impunity, we have had a Member of Parliament, Pragya Singh Thakur, urging Hindus to keep their knives sharpened at home. She has been at it for a long time.

Recently, she attended the screening of The Kerala Story to tell the audiences that "they" are 32%, and if "they" become 40%, your daughters will not be safe. Similar bile was on display when The Kashmir Files released. There was a time when one looked forward to new cinematic offerings every Friday; now, many a venture comes wrapped with shades of Islamophobia. Gone are the days of a kind Khan Chacha or a pluralist Amar

Akbar Anthony. The Kerala Story is the sign of the times.

To be a Muslim today is to wake up to a daily avalanche of hate on social media, political circles, and in real life. The assaults at the very being of Muslims continue unabated. When film-makers are not producing their next pile of prejudice, politicians rename old towns to erase any association with Muslim rulers or Islam. Beyond the high-profile places such as Mughal Sarai and Aurangabad, we have had Islam Nagar and Ahmednagar being renamed in Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra, respectively. There is a demand to rename Mohammadpur in Delhi too. Islam, Muhammad, Ahmed, all seem an anomaly in India today.

MORE WOUNDS

It is the same with attacks on food, clothing and even sources of earning. During Navratri, a shopkeeper cannot sell meat nor can a consumer procure it in Delhi, Haryana or Uttar Pradesh, never mind if Navratri coincides with Ramzan. One faith is deemed superior to another. If in Karnataka, girls were barred from wearing the hijab to school, in Delhi, we had a Member of Parliament calling for the economic boycott of Muslims. He was playing catch up. A couple of years earlier, a party colleague had hit the political jackpot by insinuating that an entire community was full of traitors who deserved to be shot. Remember the hateful 'Desh ke gaddaron ko...'? The young Member of Parliament understood what his boss wanted, and dished it out with relish.

Add to this the annual attacks on mosques during Ram Navami and Hanuman Jayanti, and we have a picture of a beleaguered Muslim community, wounded, browbeaten and forsaken. The marginalized in the new India.

(Author is an editor with The Hindu. He can be reached at ziya.salam@thehindu.co.in)

AMERICANISM, NOW

“AMERICA IS UNDERGOING SERIOUS SOUL WRENCHING CHANGES AT THE SAME TIME SOUL SEARCHING. RECENTLY, THERE HAVE BEEN SHOCKING SETBACKS TO LONG ESTABLISHED ORDER: HUGE MONETARY CONTRIBUTIONS TO ELECTIONS THAT TILTS THE SCALES OF JUSTICE; DENYING WOMEN THE RIGHT TO CHOOSE; REVERSING AFFIRMATIVE ACTION IN COLLEGE ADMISSIONS, THEREBY DENYING THE OPPORTUNITY TO RIGHT THE WRINGS OF THE PAST. IT CAN BE TURBULENT, SEEMINGLY DISORDERLY AND CHAOTIC AT TIMES, VIEWED BY AMERICANS AND THE WORLD ALIKE, BUT AMERICANS ARE RESILIENT, PERSEVERE AND STRIVE FOR A BETTER TOMORROW. EVENTUALLY, THE INDIVIDUAL AND NATIONAL SPIRIT PREVAIL AND SOCIETY TRIES TO RIGHT THE WRONGS.”

Americanism is a unique historical, political and social phenomenon embedded in the founding principles of the Republic as duly recorded in its Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776 and subsequently, in the US Constitution signed on September 17, 1787, with the underlying covenant: The land of liberty, equality, freedom from injustices, freedom of the press, separation of religion and government, good governance with transparency and accountability, and the pursuit of happiness with equal justice under the law.

Independence Day in America is a time of national celebration for becoming an independent nation, discarding the yoke of colonialism and foreign rule, forging a new nation of peoples from many



4th of July fireworks in New York City

File photo

countries, religious beliefs, cultures, languages and walks of life, all living together in peaceful coexistence, striving for success and happiness today and a better tomorrow, individually and collectively as a country. Americans share in this jubilation annually in a show of national pride, a deep sense of belonging.

The celebration of USA independence is also of historic significance to the rapidly growing Indian American community who have benefited enormously from the Luce-Celler Immigration Act of 1946 signed into law on 3rd July 1946 by President Harry Truman granting naturalization rights to Filipinos and Asian Indians. The Immigration Act of 1946 also "allowed Filipino Americans and Indian Americans to naturalize and become United States citizens". Upon becoming US citizens, the new Americans could own homes and farmland, and petition for family unification. This reversed the Naturalization Act of 1870 which had denied Asians the right to gain US citizenship.

Unmatched economic and military strength, technological prowess and national resiliency define the pre-eminent position of United States in the world, while the US engages in wars and conflicts at enormous human and financial costs, defending democracy, fledgling nations and its own economic interests, as well as exporting US technology, manufacturing expertise and US brand of music, foods and entertainment for economic gain. At times, economic interests dictate geopolitical alliances, ignoring human rights and freedom of the press abuses. Despite its flaws, Americanism continues to be the envy of the world as it remains an unrivaled beacon of freedom, championing the cause of freedom, justice and liberty throughout the world, as well as the foundation of hope, aspirations, rewards and progress. National pride and optimism have always been, and continue to be, hallmarks of Americanism. The "can do" attitude is a reminder of the many accomplishments that dominate world economics, military position and high

technology.

Americanism also pays homage and honors those Americans who have made the ultimate sacrifice in defending the United States during its many wars and conflicts. From Arlington National Cemetery (Virginia, USA) to Normandy American Cemetery and Memorial (France), US Memorial Day is a national holiday, observed annually in somber remembrance with wreath laying ceremonies, nationwide parades, concerts and fireworks. The many cemeteries and unmarked tombs the world over are a reminder of the lengths to which the USA has gone to wage war and defend its interests.

America is a nation that is always adapting in innovating ways to sustain its democracy amidst ever changing demographics with new immigrants and their children taking their places in this amazing experiment of nation building and personal upliftment. There is outspoken and visible opposition to increased migration from many segments of American society, while not acknowledging that migration adds to the vitality and sustained advancement of the country. Example: There are over 30 major US companies whose CEOs are of Indian origin. Immigrants from other countries flourish and achieve significantly more than would have been possible in their countries of origin. Americanism provides a welcome environment for competitiveness, equal opportunity, meritorious rewards, and freedom to explore possibilities despite risks. Americanism also gradually acknowledges the positive influence of major cultural phenomena such as Lunar New Year, Eid-ul-Fitr, Yoga and Diwali, the latter celebrated in the White House and becoming a New York City school holiday.

Notwithstanding, Americanism is replete with its own history of subjugating and depriving Native Americans (from inception at Plymouth and continuing) and Afro-Americans (as slaves from 1619 to 1865) in brutal and inhuman ways. It must be noted that indentured Chinese labor was used in inhuman ways to build the trans-continental railroads, while Japanese Americans were illegally placed in



BY ASHOOK
RAMSARAN

internment camps

DESPITE ITS FLAWS, AMERICANISM CONTINUES TO BE THE ENVY OF THE WORLD AS IT REMAINS AN UNRIVALED BEACON OF FREEDOM, CHAMPIONING THE CAUSE OF FREEDOM, JUSTICE AND LIBERTY THROUGHOUT THE WORLD, AS WELL AS THE FOUNDATION OF HOPE, ASPIRATIONS, REWARDS AND PROGRESS

during World War II. Despite the Civil War and the 1865 end of slavery declaration and the Civil Rights Act of 1965, the struggle continues to bring about equality and social justice by stalwarts such as: The late Dr Martin Luther King Jr, the late John Lewis, President Barak Obama, Vice President Kamala Harris, Medgar Evers, Rosa Parks, W.E.B. Du Bois, George Mason, Julian Bond, Maya Angelou, Arthur Ashe, Thurgood Marshall, Supreme Court Justices Thurgood Marshall and Ketanji Brown Jackson, and many, many others.

This sad history has long lasting consequences because the wrongs inflicted on Native Americans and Afro-Americans continue to suppress and diminish the potentials, aspirations and progress among a significant population of Americans. While Americanism is strong and resilient, its democracy can also be put at risk (as exemplified on January 6, 2021) if resoluteness and constant vigilance are not in place.

America is undergoing serious soul wrenching changes at the same time soul searching. Recently, there have been shocking setbacks to long established order: Huge monetary contributions to elections that tilts the scales of justice; denying women the right to choose; reversing affirmative action in college admissions, thereby denying the opportunity to right the wrings of the past. It can be turbulent, seemingly disorderly and chaotic at times, viewed by Americans and the world alike, but Americans are resilient, persevere and strive for a better tomorrow. Eventually, the individual and national spirit prevail and society tries to right the wrongs.

Americanism, now, continues its journey of a nation trying to find itself in a new world order, adapting and innovating, at times soul searching, yet strong and vigilant, amidst rapidly changing internal demographics, and a very different world than when America became a country.

(Author is President, Indian Diaspora Council Int'l and Exec Vice President of Queens Civic Congress)

Manipur needs a political solution

PM MODI MUST FOCUS HIS ATTENTION ON THE TROUBLED NORTHEASTERN STATE



BY
JULIO RIBEIRO

"Modi's majoritarian Hindutva politics and his gift of the gab have captivated a substantially large slice of the electorate, the core of which resides in Gujarat and Uttar Pradesh. But it is not only his dedicated supporters but also persons like me, who are critical of his doublespeak and autocratic tendencies, who appreciate his dignity, his carriage and his ability to hold his own when interacting with more powerful, and hence more arrogant, world leaders. Their intelligence agencies, like our own, must have given them a candid picture of the man with whom they were going to interact. But finally, it would be their national interests that would dominate their thoughts and words, just like those interests would be paramount in our PM's calculations."

Last week belonged to PM Narendra Modi. For the people of India, his visit to the US was a resounding success. It was cleverly structured by the External Affairs Ministry to give our Prime Minister maximum exposure as well as the maximum scope to exploit his communication skills.

Twenty years ago, Modi had been blacklisted by the US and other western democracies for failing to do what his own party chief at that time, Atal Bihari Vajpayee, termed his 'Raj Dharma'. The tide turned when Modi rode into Delhi with a massive mandate from the people. The US and the rest of the world were forced to acknowledge his undisputed leadership of the Indian nation.

Modi's majoritarian Hindutva politics and his gift of the gab have captivated a substantially large slice of the electorate, the core of which resides in Gujarat and Uttar Pradesh. But it is not only his dedicated supporters but also persons

The tinderbox will keep smoldering until a political solution is found. The Army, which has been in the state for long periods to fight insurgent groups that have been involved in an armed revolt for decades, has told the government that this time a military response alone is not going to help. The politicians will have to put on their thinking caps to come up with a political solution.



On the boil: An added complication in Manipur is the factor of religion.

Photo credit / ANI

like me, who are critical of his doublespeak and autocratic tendencies, who appreciate his dignity, his carriage and his ability to hold his own when interacting with more powerful, and hence more arrogant, world leaders. Their intelligence agencies, like our own, must have given them a candid picture of the man with whom they were going to interact. But finally, it would be their national interests that would dominate their thoughts and words, just like those interests would be paramount in our PM's calculations.

The expanding markets in a rapidly developing country like ours and our geographic proximity to a resurgent and rapacious China, with its potential to unbalance the prevailing world order, will determine the thoughts and actions of the US, presently the leading world power. This world power unrolled the red carpet for Modi and we felt elated and honored.

Not everyone in India nor in the US is blind to Modi's doublespeak, as some critics term it. The US Congress published an open letter to President Biden, signed by 26 legislators - 13 each from the Senate and the Congress - asking him to remind Modi of the slippage in human, political and other rights during his nine years in office.

Modi's outreach to the Indian diaspora has been truly mind-boggling. It is something that no PM before Modi thought of doing. Indians of all creeds, castes and economic status flocked to the appointed meeting places at the appointed times. Even in Egypt, where the diaspora is small, Indians came to greet him. It warmed the cockles of Indian hearts at home and abroad.

Former US President Obama felt that Modi had to improve on his country's treatment of the minorities, especially Muslims. That remark upset Sitharaman and other BJP bigwigs, introducing the

first real sour note into the outcome of the visit. The fact is that Muslims feel alienated under this regime and that is the truth.

Modi's trips to the US and Egypt will boost his support in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections. Unless, of course, the Opposition parties truly bury the hatchet and rise up as one to prevent further humiliation. With Rahul Gandhi and Arvind Kejriwal both adamant on leading the Opposition, the picture of unity is not only hazy but also warped. Arvind is a cleverer and more wily politician. Rahul is a better human being. Rahul's party commands greater support in different corners of the country than AAP. The latter dominates only in Delhi and Punjab. In both places, it has displaced the Congress as the party of preference and that rankles with the Congress think tank. Sulking should not be an option. Smart thinking is what is needed.

In Delhi, AAP has delivered on education and healthcare, the two core functions of any government worth its name. In Punjab, AAP has shown that grassroots corruption that hurts the common man can be tackled with political will and determination. Modi boasts of stopping corruption, but he only refers to big-ticket corruption by ministers and principal bureaucrats. Business houses are finding the atmosphere in the Central corridors of power easier to navigate, but the poorer citizens are still not rid of this perennial curse.

The Modi government's dislike for the Right to Information Act is being felt by RTI activists. Attempts to tinker with the Act by watering down its provisions or by delaying the appointment of Information Commissioners or, even worse, making wrong choices in their appointment should attract an immediate course correction. If Modi truly wants to include

each and every Indian in the development paradigm, irrespective of caste or creed, as he himself often proclaims, he should ensure that the RTI Act is strengthened and enforced vigorously.

After his triumphant return to his homeland from his US trip, Modi needs to apply his mind to Manipur. It's known as that tiny piece of the North-East which produces some of India's best sportspersons, prominent among them being boxer Mary Kom. She has been made an MP through nomination to the Rajya Sabha, though I doubt if she can pull her weight in that august House like she did in the boxing ring. If Mary could deliver a punch through her tongue, she would talk of the threat to life and property in her native state, posed by an incompetent government blessed by the BJP.

The dispute between the plains people, belonging mainly to the Meitei tribe, and the hill people, hailing from Kuki and Naga tribes, is as old as the hills where they reside. The fire was lit a couple of months ago when the Manipur High Court told the state government to consider petitions on the Meiteis' demand for the Scheduled Tribe (ST) status. Since this would eventually deprive the Kukis and Nagas of some of the seats reserved under the ST quota, the tinderbox was lit.

The tinderbox will keep smoldering until a political solution is found. The Army, which has been in the state for long periods to fight insurgent groups that have been involved in an armed revolt for decades, has told the government that this time a military response alone is not going to help. The politicians will have to put on their thinking caps to come up with a political solution.

An added complication is the factor of religion. The people in the plains are Hindus and have been Hindus for ages. The Kukis and the Nagas are Christians and have been Christians for two centuries since American Baptist missionaries converted them in colonial times. Many churches in the valley have been torched and the priests and their helpers killed or beaten. The communal twist could have been ascribed to Hindutva zealots, but the BJP, as a party, had won over the tribals in Nagaland and Meghalaya during this year's Assembly elections. It should use that leverage with its own extremist elements to avoid further bloodshed.

Above all, Modi needs to spend his personal capital and mediate.

(Author is a former governor and a highly decorated retired Indian Police Service officer)



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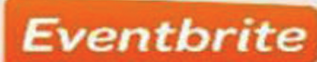
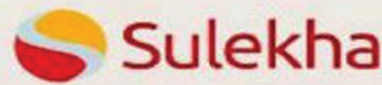
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Judge rejects Donald Trump's request to toss out defamation claims by columnist



Donald Trump

File photo

JUNE 30, 2023

WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP): Former President Donald Trump's claims that absolute presidential immunity and free speech rights shield him from the defamation claims of a New York columnist were rejected on Thursday, June 29, by a federal judge.

The writer, E Jean Carroll, can continue to press claims that Trump owes her at least \$10 million in damages for comments he made before and after she won a \$5 million sexual abuse and defamation verdict against him last month, Judge Lewis A Kaplan

said in a written opinion.

Trump tried to dismiss the lawsuit on grounds that he is entitled to absolute presidential immunity, his statements were not defamatory and that his statements were opinion protected by free speech rights.

Kaplan said Trump surrendered absolute presidential immunity as a defense by failing to assert it years ago when the lawsuit was filed. The lawsuit was delayed until recently as appeals courts considered legal issues surrounding it.

Trump countersued Carroll this week, claiming that she has libeled

him by continuing to insist that he raped her even after a jury found otherwise.

After a jury returned its verdict last month in Manhattan federal court, Trump made comments on a CNN town hall that prompted Carroll to assert new defamation claims in a 2020 defamation lawsuit.

The jury award resulted from a sexual abuse and defamation lawsuit filed last November after New York state temporarily enacted a law allowing sexual assault victims to sue for damages resulting from attacks that occurred even decades earlier.

5G wireless signals likely to disrupt flights starting this weekend

THE AIRLINE PLANS TO ROUTE THE 190 PLANES CAREFULLY TO LIMIT THE RISK OF CANCELLING FLIGHTS OR FORCING PLANES TO DIVERT AWAY FROM AIRPORTS WHERE VISIBILITY IS LOW



5G wireless signals likely to disrupt flights starting this weekend. Photo for representation

JUNE 30, 2023

WASHINGTON, D.C.(TIP): Airline passengers who have endured tens of thousands of weather-related flight delays this week could face a new source of disruptions starting Saturday, July 1, when wireless providers are expected to power up new 5G systems near major airports, an AP report says.

Aviation groups have warned for years that 5G signals could interfere with aircraft equipment, especially devices using radio waves to measure distance above the ground and which are critical when planes land in low visibility.

Predictions that interference would cause massive flight groundings failed to come true last year, when telecom companies began rolling out the new service.

They then agreed to limit the power of the signals around busy airports, giving airlines an extra year to upgrade their planes.

The leader of the nation's largest pilots' union said crews will be able to handle the impact of 5G, but he criticized the way the wireless licenses were granted, saying it had added unnecessary risk to aviation.

Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg recently told airlines that flights

could be disrupted because a small portion of the nation's fleet has not been upgraded to protect against radio interference.

Most of the major US airlines say they are ready. American, Southwest, Alaska, Frontier and United say all of their planes have height-measuring devices, called radio altimeters, that are protected against 5G interference.

The big exception is Delta Air Lines. Delta says it has 190 planes, which include most of its smaller ones, that still lack upgraded altimeters because its supplier has been unable to provide them fast enough.

The airline does not expect to cancel any flights because of the issue, Delta said Friday.

The airline plans to route the 190 planes carefully to limit the risk of cancelling flights or forcing planes to divert away from airports where visibility is low because of fog or low clouds

The Delta planes that have not been retrofitted include several models of Airbus jets: all of its A220s, most of its A319s and A320s and some of its A321s.

The airline's Boeing jets have upgraded altimeters, as do all Delta Connection planes, which are operated by Endeavor Air, Republic Airways and SkyWest Airlines, the airline said.

JetBlue did not respond to requests for comment but told The Wall Street Journal it expected to retrofit 17 smaller Airbus jets by October, with possible "limited impact" some days in Boston.

Wireless carriers including Verizon and AT and T use a part of the radio spectrum called C-Band, which is close to frequencies used by radio altimeters, for their new 5G service. **(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)**

U.S. approves sale of ammunition worth \$440 million to Taiwan



Ammunition

Photo for representation only.

JUNE 30, 2023

WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP): The United States said on Thursday, June 29, it planned to sell \$440 million in ammunition and parts to Taiwan, its latest effort to boost the self-ruling island's defense.

The sale is comparatively small in scale and does not expand the range of U.S. weaponry to Taiwan, but comes as the United States and China move delicately to stabilize their turbulent relationship.

In a notification to Congress, the State Department said it would sell \$332.2 million in 30mm ammunition and related equipment to Taiwan and \$108 million in spare and repair parts for wheeled vehicles and weapons.

The sales will help Taiwan "maintain a credible defensive capability" but "will not alter the basic military balance in the region," it said.

It "will help improve the security of the recipient and assist in maintaining political stability, military balance and economic progress in the region," it said.

Taiwan's Defense Ministry on Friday, June 30, welcomed the planned sale for "providing the need for enhancing our defense capacity as well as maintaining regional stability," it said in a tweet.

The U.S. Congress has the right to reject the sale but such a move is highly unlikely, with lawmakers pushing for the United States to go further and directly

provide weapons to Taiwan rather than approving its purchase requests.

In a decades-long policy, the U.S. sells weapons to Taiwan to ensure its self-defense but only recognizes Beijing.

China, which claims the self-governing democracy as its own territory and has not ruled out seizing it through force, detests any hint of diplomatic relations between Taiwan and other governments.

Chinese Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Mao Ning reiterated China's "firm opposition" to Washington supplying weapons to the island.

"The United States should... stop creating new causes of military tension in the Taiwan Strait, and stop endangering peace and stability in the Taiwan Strait," she told reporters Friday.

Earlier in June, U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken paid a rare visit to Beijing in which his hosts vowed no compromise on Taiwan.

But the two sides voiced hope at keeping up communication to keep tensions from boiling over.

Twice in the past year, China has carried out huge military exercises in waters around Taiwan in response to gestures of support by top U.S. lawmakers.

On Friday, June 30, Taipei said it detected five Chinese warships and 24 Chinese warplanes around the island, of which 11 crossed the median line of the Taiwan Strait.

Guru Nanak Dev Global University of Dallas Appoints Members of Advisory Board

JUNE 30TH, 2023

DALLAS (TIP): Guru Nanak Dev Global University (GNDGU) has announced the appointment of four distinguished individuals to its esteemed Advisory Board. Dr. Daljit Singh, Dr. Jagbir Singh, Paramjit Singh, and Prabhjot Singh will bring their wealth of expertise and experience to enhance GNDGU's commitment to academic excellence, sports, and journalism collaboration.



Dr. Daljit Singh is an eminent academician, administrator, and renowned law specialist. With a distinguished career spanning several decades, he has made significant contributions to the field of legal education and administration. Dr. Singh's experience includes serving as the founder Director of the Army Institute of Law, Patiala, and as a Professor and founder Head of the School of Legal Studies, Former Vice Chancellor of Rayat Bahra University. His visionary leadership and commitment to education will be invaluable to GNDGU.



Dr. Jagbir Singh is a distinguished

scholar and educator with a remarkable career in Punjabi literature and religious studies. Currently serving as the Chancellor of Central University of Punjab, Bathinda, he has made significant contributions to academia throughout his illustrious journey. Dr. Jagbir Singh's deep knowledge and scholarly background will enrich the academic initiatives at GNDGU.



Paramjit Singh, a trailblazing coach from Faridkot, Punjab, has transformed the Gwalior Women Hockey Academy into a powerhouse of talent and significantly contributed to the growth of women's hockey in India. With over 25 years of experience, his coaching expertise has nurtured numerous players who have represented India in international competitions. Paramjit's valuable insights and passion for sports will greatly enhance GNDGU's sports programs.



Prabhjot Singh, a highly accomplished journalist, brings his extensive experience spanning four decades to the Advisory Board. His

outstanding work in investigative journalism, environment and business reporting, sports coverage, and feature writing has earned him accolades. Prabhjot Singh's journalistic expertise and global perspective will contribute to the university's focus on journalism and media studies.

"We are thrilled to welcome Dr. Daljit Singh, Dr. Jagbir Singh, Paramjit Singh, and Prabhjot Singh to our Advisory Board," said Dr. Shivinder Singh Gill, Founding Member of Guru Nanak Dev Global University of Dallas. "Their diverse backgrounds, exceptional achievements, and commitment to excellence will significantly strengthen our university's position as a global leader in education, sports, and journalism. We look forward to their invaluable contributions and guidance in shaping the future of Guru Nanak Dev Global University."

With the addition of these accomplished individuals to the Advisory Board, Guru Nanak Dev Global University reinforces its commitment to fostering collaboration between academia, sports, and journalism, providing students with a holistic educational experience that prepares them for success in their chosen fields.

ABOUT GURU NANAK DEV GLOBAL UNIVERSITY:

Guru Nanak Dev Global University (GNDGU) of Dallas is a prestigious educational institution founded with the vision to provide holistic education, promote research and innovation, and nurture the values of compassion, equality, and social responsibility based on Guru Nanak Dev's teachings. The university strives to become a global leader in education, research, and positive social impact. By aligning its mission goals with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, GNDGU actively contributes to the achievement of these global objectives. By 2035, we strive to establish five world-class centers of excellence that prepare students to become enlightened global citizens, actively contributing to society. For more information, please visit www.gndgu.com

TEXAS HOUSE DEMOCRATIC CAUCUS ON SECOND SPECIAL LEGISLATIVE SESSION: TAX CUTS SHOULD NOT BE HARD

JUNE 28, 2023
AUSTIN, TX (TIP):
The Texas House convened for the second special session of the 88th Legislative Session on June 28, 2023.



Rep. Trey Martinez Fischer (D-San Antonio) issued the following statement:

Rep. Trey Martinez Fischer
Photo / Facebook

"With one party in complete control of the legislative process and an unprecedented amount of money in our state treasury generated by working Texans, it's unimaginable that Republican leadership can't come together to cut property taxes for Texas families.

"Tax cuts are not hard, and the solutions are well within our reach. What is lacking is the determination to enact meaningful tax policies that would provide much-needed relief to working families. From day one, Texas House Democrats have consistently championed proposals that increase the homestead exemption and have recently advocated for tying these exemptions to a cap on escalating property values. The time has come to stop squandering the people's tax dollars on special sessions and immediately pass a tax cut policy that delivers the maximum savings to taxpayers.

"Nevertheless, if the Governor is intent on forcing us into yet another special session, let us put aside politics and focus our attention on what Texans rightfully expect: a high-quality public education system that invests in our children. Looking at the State Budget, you wouldn't realize that we have a record amount of money-nearly \$33 billion in our checking and \$25 billion in our savings. And in this time of prosperity, the State Budget does not dedicate a penny to raising salaries for teachers or funding our schools to catch up with crippling inflation. This budget has billions of dollars for boardrooms but little for classrooms.

"So, what happened? At every step, the Governor and the Lt. Governor have been stopped in their efforts to ram through their extremist agenda to pass private school vouchers. In turn, they have taken funding for our teachers and our children hostage. The objective is clear: defund and destroy our public schools.

"Our message to the Governor is clear: unless the Legislature acts and acts now before students return in the Fall: more teachers will leave the classroom, more children will be left without qualified educators, and more schools will be left neglected to the dismay of the thousands of families looking to start a new life in our state."



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Xi Jinping , Shehbaz Sharif to join India-hosted SCO meet

China, Russia and Pakistan have confirmed participation in the next week's Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) summit, which for the first time will be hosted by India, though in a virtual mode. India holds the rotating presidency of the organisation this year.

At the invitation of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Chinese President Xi Jinping will attend the 23rd meeting of the Council of Heads of the SCO on July 4 and deliver "important remarks", Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Hua Chunying said in a brief press release. This is the first official announcement about Xi's participation in the SCO summit being hosted by India. Similarly, the Pakistan Foreign Office announced the participation of PM Shehbaz Sharif in the summit. It mentioned that the PM had received an invitation from his Indian counterpart. Till last week, Pakistan was noncommittal about its participation. Russian President Vladimir Putin has already confirmed his attendance, so has neighbour Belarus which is hoping to become a full member by next year. This year, Iran is expected to be accorded the status as the ninth SCO member. India has fixed the theme of the summit around the acronym "SECURE", which stands for "security, economy and trade, connectivity, unity, respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity, and environment". *Source: TNS*

Twitter loses case against Centre, fined Rs 50 lakh

Social media giant Twitter suffered a major setback on Friday, June 30, with the Karnataka High Court dismissing its plea challenging many of the Centre's directives on blocking unlawful content in a move that bolstered India's position that big tech was obligated to comply with national laws. The HC also slapped a fine of Rs 50 lakh on the micro-blogging site, close on the heels of Twitter founder and former boss Jack Dorsey accusing India of pressuring the group into taking down unfavourable handles and content.

"I am convinced with the contention of the Centre that they have powers to block tweets and block accounts. Your client was given notices and your client did not comply. Punishment for non-compliance is seven years imprisonment and unlimited fine. That also did not deter your client. You have not given any reason why you delayed compliance for more than a year. Then all of a sudden you comply and approach the court. You are not a farmer but a billion dollar company," a single-judge Bench of Justice Krishna S Dixit ruled in a 109-page judgment.

Storm over 'resignation', Manipur CM Biren N Singh says won't quit

NEW DELHI (TIP)

N Biren Singh, chief minister of Manipur, a state that has been roiled by ethnic violence for close to two straight months with little end in sight, seemed to begin the process of resigning on Friday, June 30, afternoon, before protesters that collected outside his Imphal home prevented him from proceeding to the Governor's residence 200 metres away, following which he "clarified" he would not demit office. The dramatic scenes outside Singh's chief ministerial bungalow saw thousands of Meitei women gathering outside his home from the morning as rumours swirled; they raised slogans hailing him; and they tore a sheet of paper that contained his resignation, which was brought out and read by Singh's cabinet colleague.

Images of that torn letter, on Singh's letter-head, were circulated widely, as if to show the world at large that Singh was not being allowed to resign. And soon after, the chief minister put out a clarification on Twitter, saying he would not quit at this "critical juncture".

There was no immediate comment by the Union home ministry, which is believed to have prevailed on Singh to resign after a series of phone calls on Thursday.

By 10.30 on Friday morning, spurred by local news reports that Singh intended to meet Governor Anusuiya Uikey and tender his resignation, supporters, most of them women, gathered in front of the Nupi-Lal memorial complex in Imphal in front of Singh's residence. They said that they had heard that he intended to resign



and that the current situation could not be fixed by such a move. Ima Leirikleima, one of the elderly Meitei women at the protest said: "This is the time for Chief Minister N Biren Singh to stand firm."

Another protester said, "We are protesting to stop CM N Biren Singh from resigning. He is highlighting our issues, which we appreciate. He is working not only for Manipur but for the whole nation."

Singh is a Meitei himself, and his response to the ethnic strife in the state — many analysts believe he has been openly partisan — has only increased his standing in the community.

At around 2.20 in the afternoon, Singh emerged from his residence and attempted to drive off to the Raj Bhavan, all of 200 metres away, but was stopped by doing so by the crowds. Before this, Singh was joined at his residence by several cabinet colleagues that still back him, who emerged with him.

Greeted with slogans in his support,

Singh then returned inside. Minutes later, a group of ministers led by consumer affairs minister L Susindro emerged with a piece of paper. Using a mike, and speaking to an increasingly agitated crowd, Susindro read out Singh's resignation letter that read, "Honourable Governor Madam, I hereby submit my resignation as Chief Minister of Manipur. I thank you for your cooperation and guidance during the past few months." An elderly woman then took that piece of paper and tore it.

Soon after, Singh took to Twitter to say: "At this crucial juncture, I wish to clarify that I will not be resigning from the post of Chief Minister."

From May 3, Manipur has been in the throes of ethnic clashes, triggered by an order by the Manipur high court that recommended to the government that the Meiteis, the dominant community in Manipur with 53% of the population, be included in the scheduled tribe list. This caused protests among the tribal population, particularly the Kukis, and tensions lead to clashes that were first concentrated in Meitei dominated Imphal Valley and districts in the hills like Churachandpur that have a heavy tribal population, but soon spread across the state. In three violent days between May 3 and 6, there was a wave of attacks and arson with people fleeing from their homes, and the army called in to control the situation. Since then however, in a sign of the simmering tension within, sporadic violence has continued, with at least 117 dead, over 300 injured, and nearly 50,000 displaced from their homes.

Source: HT

25 bus passengers charred to death as vehicle catches fire on expressway in Maharashtra

MUMBAI (TIP)

At least 25 people died after a bus carrying 33 passengers burst into flames on the Samruddhi Mahamarg expressway in Maharashtra's Buldhana, police said. Deputy SP Baburao Mahamuni said that the injured were to Buldhana Civil Hospital, reported ANI.

The incident happened around 2 am on Saturday, July 1, when a private travels bus was on its way from Nagpur to Pune and rammed into a divider near Sindkhedraja in Buldhana district, police said.

Buldhana SP Sunil Kadasne told PTI that as per preliminary information, a bus tyre burst and the vehicle hit a pole, collided with a divider and caught fire. Of the 33 passengers in the bus, 25 were charred to death.

The driver of the bus, who survived the incident, said that the bus overturned after a tyre burst leading to flames in the bus, according to Kadasane.

Maharashtra chief minister Eknath Shinde has announced an ex-gratia of Rs 5 lakh for the next of kin of the deceased in the bus accident, according to his office.

Calling the incident 'very shocking and heart-wrenching', Maharashtra deputy CM Devendra Fadnavis said his government is in touch with the district as well as the police administration and all kinds of help are being provided immediately.

"The state government will bear the cost of treatment of the injured," he said.

Union home minister Amit Shah expressed grief over the incident and said that treatment is being provided to the injured



by the administration.

"The road accident in Maharashtra's Buldhana district is heartbreaking. In this hour of grief, my thoughts are with the families of those who lost their lives in this horrific accident. Quick treatment is being provided to the injured by the administration. I pray to God for his speedy recovery," Shah said in a tweet in Hindi.

Uttar Pradesh chief minister Yogi Adityanath tweeted, "The loss of lives in the unfortunate incident of fire in a bus on the Mumbai-Nagpur Expressway is extremely sad and heart-wrenching. My condolences are with the bereaved families."

"I pray to God that the departed souls get a place in his holy feet and the injured get speedy recovery."

Reduce age of consent from 18 to 16, high court urges Centre

The Gwalior Bench of Madhya Pradesh High Court has requested the central government to reduce the age of consensual physical relations between a man and a woman from 18 years to 16 years.

The single-judge bench of Justice Deepak Kumar Agarwal made the remark on Tuesday while hearing a petition filed in connection with a rape case reported on July 17, 2020.

Justice Agarwal was hearing a petition filed by Rahul Chandel Jatav for quashing an FIR registered under relevant sections of the IPC, Protection of Children Against Sexual Offences (POCSO), and the IT Act. A sessions trial was also pending in the case.

"This Court would like to share its experience as a Judge that before amendments in IPC under Section 375 of IPC regarding age of prosecutrix for the purpose of consent that was 16 years and subsequently enhanced by amendment up to 18 years due to this amendment, fabric of society has been disturbed. Nowadays, every male or female near the age of 14 years due to social media awareness and easily accessible internet connectivity is getting puberty at an early age," read the judgment. "Owing to this, female and male children are getting attraction and these attractions are resulting in physical relationship with consent. In these cases, male persons are not at all criminal. It is only a matter of age when they come into contact with a female and develop physical relationships. Only due to this reason, lawmakers in IPC, when it came into force, put the age of female as 16 years since they were well aware of the aforesaid facts," it added.

Can a governor dismiss a minister? TN row revives debate on discretionary powers

NEW DELHI (TIP)

On Thursday, June 29, evening, Tamil Nadu Governor R.N. Ravi announced Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) leader V. Senthil Balaji's dismissal from the state council of ministers. The move not only put him on the warpath with the state's DMK government, but also led to constitutional questions, the chief among them being whether the governor had overstepped his authority.

The governor eventually put his decision in abeyance, telling Chief Minister M.K. Stalin in a letter that he had been advised by Union Home Minister Amit Shah to seek the attorney general's opinion on the matter.

Around 7:30 pm Thursday, the Tamil Nadu Raj Bhavan had issued a statement saying Balaji's arrest by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) in an alleged cash-for-jobs scam was the reason for his dismissal. The statement said the minister was "facing serious criminal proceedings in a number of cases of corruption, including taking cash for jobs and money laundering".

Balaji was arrested by the federal investigation agency in the early hours of 14 June, after 18 hours of questioning. The ED accuses Senthil of misusing his office and engineering a job racket scam in the state transport undertakings in 2014-15, when he was transport minister in the then All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (AIADMK) government in the state.

Before his arrest this month, Balaji was minister of electricity, prohibition and excise in the DMK government.



Chief Minister M.K. Stalin with Governor R.N. Ravi. File photo

Following his arrest, his responsibilities were reassigned, and he remains a 'minister without portfolio'.

Reacting to the minister's dismissal order Thursday, Chief Minister M.K. Stalin had said Ravi had "no power" to dismiss his minister. "We will face this legally," Stalin had said in an official reaction.

Ravi's decision to suspend Balaji raised several questions on the limits on the powers of the governor — an issue that remains controversial in India and has often ended up in the Supreme Court.

What the Constitution says

Article 164 of the Constitution says that the governor will appoint the chief minister, and that the other ministers will

be appointed by him on the advice of the latter. The ministers, it says, will hold office during the "pleasure of the Governor".

Additionally, Article 163 of the Constitution requires the governor to act on the "aid and advise" of the council of ministers, headed by the chief minister of the state.

But the provision also adds the governor would not need this advice if the Constitution requires him to carry out any function at his discretion.

The Supreme Court usually reads these provisions together to outline the powers of governors — primarily to explain when they need to act on the advice of the council of ministers and when they can use their discretion. *Source: The Print*

Uniform Civil Code a contentious point among Opposition parties

NEW DELHI (TIP)

The Modi government's push for a Uniform Civil Code, seen by many analysts as a sharply polarising issue, seems to have already polarised the opposition parties, with some openly supporting the move, albeit with caveats, and others strongly opposed to it.

One constituent of the Opposition group, the Aam Aadmi Party has supported the government's push for Uniform Civil Code (UCC), another, the Shiv Sena (UBT) wants to see the fine print, but most have opposed it. Still, some opposition leaders are confident that the positions of individual parties on UCC will not adversely affect the unity achieved in their Patna meeting on June 23.

Senior leaders of the Congress and Trinamool argued that they are not expecting all 15 constituents to flake similar positions on various political issues. But as in the Patna meeting, the upcoming Opposition meeting in Bengaluru in mid-July will focus on common issues such as federalism, jobs, economic woes and the Centre's alleged interference in Opposition-ruled states.

"All 15 parties are not photocopies of each other," said Trinamool's Rajya Sabha leader Derek O'Brien.

"After the Patna summit, the second summit will consolidate on those issues that we have a 100% agreement on. We are aware that on some issues, all parties will not be on the same page. This is not unusual. There is total agreement at the macro level on



the way ahead" he added.

A senior Congress strategist pointed out that in the Patna meeting, 14 of 15 Opposition parties agreed that there would be unity on a common agenda and that the Opposition parties will fight unitedly against the BJP.

"In the Patna meeting itself, we showed how we can overcome issues of individual parties. (AAP's) Arvind Kejriwal was focused on the Delhi ordinance and wanted Congress' assurance but both West Bengal chief

minister Mamata Banerjee and former J&K CM Omar Abdullah intervened. Abdullah had told Kejriwal that there are "bigger issues" to be discussed", this person added.

O'Brien claimed that UCC is BJP's attempt to divert the attention. "When you cannot deliver on jobs. When you cannot control price rise. When you rip the social fabric. When you fail to keep every promise made. All you can do, in your desperation, is to fan the flame with your deeply divisive politics before 2024," he said.

UCC refers to a common set of laws that will subsume customary laws across faiths and tribes and govern issues such as marriage, divorce, inheritance and maintenance. In the Constitution, it is a part of the non-justiciable directive principles of state policy. In a 2018 consultation paper, the law commission said UCC was "neither necessary nor desirable at this stage". Earlier this month, the law commission again sought views and suggestions on UCC from the public and recognised religious organisations. Moreover, some states such as Uttarakhand have set up panels to explore implementation of UCC.

The issue got a fresh fillip on June 27, when Prime Minister Narendra Modi spoke to BJP booth workers and made a strong case for UCC.

Another senior Opposition leader said that in the Bengaluru summit, the issue of UCC might be raised by individual leaders but that the summit will remain focused on the strategy for 2024 election. *Source: HT*

India in history this Week

JUNE 30, 2023, TO JULY 6, 2023

30 JUNE

1914 Mahatma Gandhi, the father of the nation, was arrested for the first time in 1914 while agitating for the rights of Indians in South Africa.

1947 The members of the Boundary Commission for the partition of Bengal and Punjab were announced in 1947 after the partition of India.

2008 Ravikant, Uma Shankar Chaudhary and Vimal Chandra Pandey were jointly conferred with the Navlakhan Award of Jnanpith in 2008.

2008 Indian journalist Anisuddin Aziz was awarded the New Business of the Year Award of International Association of Book Keepers (IAB) in 2008.

1903 Indian politician and member of Lok Sabha Mukut Bihari Lal Bhargava was born.

1911 Indian litterateur Nagarjuna was born.

1934 India's famous scientist C.N. R. Rao was born.

1917 India's famous veteran politician, industrialist, educationist and thinker Dada Bhai Naoroji died.



1953 Jana Sangh founder Shyamaprasad Mukherjee died while imprisoned in Kashmir.

01 JULY

1852 A stamp named 'Sindh Dak' was issued by the Chief Commissioner of Sindh, Sir Bertlefore, for use only in the state of Sindh and on the Mumbai Karachi route.

1862 Inauguration of Calcutta High Court.

1879 Postcard debut in India.

1955 The Imperial Bank of India was nationalized and named the State Bank of India.

1964 Establishment of Industrial Development Bank of India

1975 The then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi announced a 20-point program.

1991 The Warsaw Pact was dissolved.

2006 Chess player Parimarjan Negi became the youngest second grandmaster.

2017 Goods and Services Tax (GST) was introduced as a significant reform of the economy in India.



1938 The famous flute player Pandit Hariprasad Chaurasia was born on this day.

1882 The second Chief Minister of West Bengal, Dr. Bidhan Chandra Rai was born on this day. His birthday is celebrated as Doctor's Day in the country.

02 JULY

1934 Asit Bhattacharya, one of the great revolutionaries of India, died.

1940 The British government arrested Subhash Chandra Bose on 2 July 1940 AD for inciting rebellion.

1948 Famous Janakavi Alok Dhanwa was born.

2004 The Foreign Ministers of India and Pakistan held mutual talks in Jakarta.



2004 Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminus station was declared a World Heritage Site by UNESCO World Heritage Committee.

1916 Geological Survey of India was established.

03 JULY

1972 Prime Minister of India Indira Gandhi and Pakistan's JU Bhutto had a disarmament agreement on Kashmir.

2018 A part of the Gokhale Road overbridge fell near Andheri station in Mumbai.

1661 Portugal gifted Bombay to the British King Charles II.



1996 Rajkumar, actor of Hindi films passed away.

1760 The Maratha army occupied Delhi.

1979 Construction of the famous Vidyasagar bridge in Kolkata, called the second Howrah Bridge, began.

2005 Mahesh Bhupathi and Mary Pierce won the Wimbledon mixed pair title.

04 JULY

1789 The East India Company entered into a treaty with the Peshwa and the Nizam against Tipu Sultan.

1881 Start of toy train between Siliguri and Darjeeling.

1902 Swami Vivekananda passed away.



1963 Death of freedom fighter Pingali Venkayya who designed the Tricolor.

05 JULY

1954 Andhra Pradesh High Court was established.

1968 India's first submarine arrived from Soviet Russia.

1981 Rajan Mahadevan made a world record by calculating 31 thousand 811 digits of 'pie' of mathematics.

06 JULY



1787 Establishment of Indian Botanic Garden at Shivpur, West Bengal.

1901 The birth of Shyama Prasad Mukherjee, an acute nationalist politician, educationist and founder of the Bharatiya Jana Sangh.

1944 Mahatma Gandhi was first addressed by Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose as 'Father of the Nation'.

1959 Vellore Hospital successfully underwent open heart surgery for the first time.

2006 The Nathula Pass, which had been closed since the war between India and China, was opened for business after 44 years.

1901 Birthday of Jana Sangh founder Shyama Mukherjee.



2002 Dhirubhai Ambani died.

1787 The Indian Botanical Garden was established in 1787 at Shibpur in West Bengal.

Eye Foundation of America



A World Without Childhood Blindness

NEWSLETTER

EFA MAY 2023 TRIP

A successful and surprising trip to India



Dr. V.K. Raju, Founder & President, Eye Foundation of America

During our recent trip to India, we made significant progress in finalizing plans for the Green Goutami Building in Rajahmundry. We submitted the final paperwork, ensuring that all minor changes requested (multiple times) by the corporation were addressed. The corporation had software problems which caused a slowdown of progress, but it is all being worked out. We also had underground water issues which has also been resolved.

Education and expansion

In the second week of our trip, Dr. VK Raju had the honor of being invited to Cochin (Kochi), state of Kerala, India, where he was a keynote speaker for the Young Ophthalmologist Society of India (YOSI) at the All Indian Ophthalmology Society. It was wonderful to meet a smart, eager, and enthusiastic group who want to participate in a world without childhood blindness.

Additionally, we are currently in the process of finalizing paperwork for the two ophthalmologist exchange programs in which we participate annually, with Rotary International and the American Academy of Ophthalmology.



YOSI group photo with Dr. VK Raju as keynote speaker.

Collaborating with other Eye Institutes

VK travelled to Chitrakoot (part in Madhya Pradesh and part in Uttar Pradesh) as he was invited by Sadguru Netralaya, one of the biggest eye care systems. It is an extraordinary eye-care system, and they are looking for EFA's leadership for research, training, and teaching. (Board members Sam Maddali and Sekhar Vemparala have agreed to travel with VK to Chitrakoot in the near future.)



Ophthalmology Institute of Sadguru Netra Chikitsalaya

A surprising event

VK was approached by Machilipatnam (A.P) group with an opportunity for a new project. We already have a peripheral center for screening only. About 130 miles away from the current Eye Hospital, EFA/Goutami will build a new hospital building, entirely supported by local philanthropy.



New preliminary Goutami Eye Hospital in Machilipatnam

A small successful eye camp and ANOTHER surprise

On the way back we stopped in Delhi and did a small screening eye camp and attended the event where VKR was given the Mahatma Award. A journalist in Delhi asked Dr. Raju what does all this mean to you?

He stated, "Would like to do more for a world without childhood blindness".

VK was invited in Delhi to visit an outstanding social service organization (since 1968) the Sulabh International Social Service Organization.

Dr. Bindeshwar Pathak (Padma Bhushan), Founder of Sulabh International Social Service Organization, invented two-pit pour-flush ecological compost toilet technology. Sulabh flush is based on a simple design

that is eco-friendly and uses just around 1.5 litres of water to flush.

In the context of developing countries where sewer systems are almost nonexistent, Sulabh toilets offer an innovative solution to the global sanitation crisis. A trip to the toilet museum (maybe the only one in the world) really changes your perspective.

The organization also runs an excellent school and would like to support our vision of the world without childhood blindness.



Sulabh International Museum of Toilets entrance



First underground sewage system in Indus Valley Civilization 5000 years ago.

A personal note from Dr. Raju- another wonderful surprise after my return in the USA.

NATS (North American Telegu Society) has graciously gifted \$100,000 to EFA. (the hard work of our two board members Sam Maddali and Sekhar Vemparala)

We're about \$2000 short for Post Operative Eye Drops for Ghana

At the end of this month, we'll be heading to Ghana Africa for the 5th year to provide vision saving surgeries. Please consider donating \$50 towards a life changing surgery.

VISIT www.eyefoundationofamerica.org

Making of America

The Fourth of July—also known as Independence Day or July 4th—has been a federal holiday in the United States since 1941, but the tradition of Independence Day celebrations goes back to the 18th century and the American Revolution. On July 2nd, 1776, the Continental Congress voted in favor of independence, and two days later delegates from the 13 colonies adopted the Declaration of Independence, a historic document drafted by Thomas Jefferson. From 1776 to the present day, July 4th has been celebrated as the birth of American independence, with festivities ranging from fireworks, parades and concerts to more casual family gatherings and barbecues. The Fourth of July 2023 is on Tuesday, July 4.

When the initial battles in the Revolutionary War broke out in April 1775, few colonists desired complete independence from Great Britain, and those who did were considered radical.

By the middle of the following year, however, many more colonists had come to favor independence, thanks to growing hostility against Britain and the spread of revolutionary sentiments such as those expressed in the bestselling pamphlet “Common Sense,” published by Thomas Paine in early 1776.

On June 7, when the Continental Congress met at the Pennsylvania State House (later Independence Hall) in Philadelphia, the Virginia delegate Richard Henry Lee introduced a motion calling for the colonies’ independence.

Amid heated debate, Congress postponed the vote on Lee’s resolution, but appointed a five-man committee—including Thomas Jefferson of Virginia, John Adams of Massachusetts, Roger Sherman of Connecticut, Benjamin Franklin of Pennsylvania and Robert R. Livingston of New York—to draft a formal statement justifying the break with Great Britain.

On July 2nd, the Continental Congress voted in favor of Lee’s resolution for independence in a near-unanimous vote (the New York delegation abstained, but later voted affirmatively). On that day, John Adams wrote to his wife Abigail that July 2 “will be celebrated, by succeeding Generations, as the great anniversary Festival” and that the celebration should include “Pomp and Parade...Games, Sports, Guns, Bells, Bonfires and Illuminations from one



End of this Continent to the other.”

On July 4th, the Continental Congress formally adopted the Declaration of Independence, which had been written largely by Jefferson. Though the vote for actual independence took place on July 2nd, from then on the 4th became the day that was celebrated as the birth of American independence.

In the pre-revolutionary years, colonists had held annual celebrations of the king’s birthday, which traditionally included the ringing of bells, bonfires, processions and speechmaking.

By contrast, during the summer of 1776 some colonists celebrated the birth of independence by holding mock funerals for King George III as a way of symbolizing the end of the monarchy’s hold on America and the triumph of liberty.

Festivities including concerts, bonfires, parades and the firing of

cannons and muskets usually accompanied the first public readings of the Declaration of Independence, beginning immediately after its adoption. Philadelphia held the first annual commemoration of independence on July 4, 1777, while Congress was still occupied with the ongoing war.

George Washington issued double rations of rum to all his soldiers to mark the anniversary of independence in 1778, and in 1781, several months before the key American victory at the Battle of Yorktown, Massachusetts became the first state to make July 4th an official state holiday.

After the Revolutionary War, Americans continued to commemorate Independence Day every year, in celebrations that allowed the new nation’s emerging political leaders to address citizens and create a feeling of unity. By the

last decade of the 18th century, the two major political parties—the Federalist Party and Democratic-Republicans—that had arisen began holding separate Fourth of July celebrations in many large cities.

The first fireworks were used as early as 200 BC. The tradition of setting off fireworks on the 4 of July began in Philadelphia on July 4, 1777, during the first organized celebration of Independence Day. Ship’s cannon fired a 13-gun salute in honor of the 13 colonies. The Pennsylvania Evening Post reported: “at night there was a grand exhibition of fireworks (which began and concluded with thirteen rockets) on the Commons, and the city was beautifully illuminated.” That same night, the Sons of Liberty set off fireworks over Boston Common.

The tradition of patriotic celebration became even more widespread after the War of 1812, in which the United States again faced Great Britain. In 1870, the U.S. Congress made July 4th a federal holiday; in 1941, the provision was expanded to grant a paid holiday to all federal employees.

Over the years, the political importance of the holiday would decline, but Independence Day remained an important national holiday and a symbol of patriotism.

Falling in mid-summer, the Fourth of July has since the late 19th century become a major focus of leisure activities and a common occasion for family get-togethers, often involving fireworks and outdoor barbecues. The most common symbol of the holiday is the American flag, and a common musical accompaniment is “The Star-Spangled Banner,” the national anthem of the United States.



Declaration of Independence, oil on canvas by John Trumbull, 1818, for the Rotunda of the United States Capitol in Washington, D.C. The members of the Continental Congress signed the declaration in Philadelphia on July 4, 1776, a day subsequently celebrated as Independence Day in the United States. Photo source: Architect of the Capitol



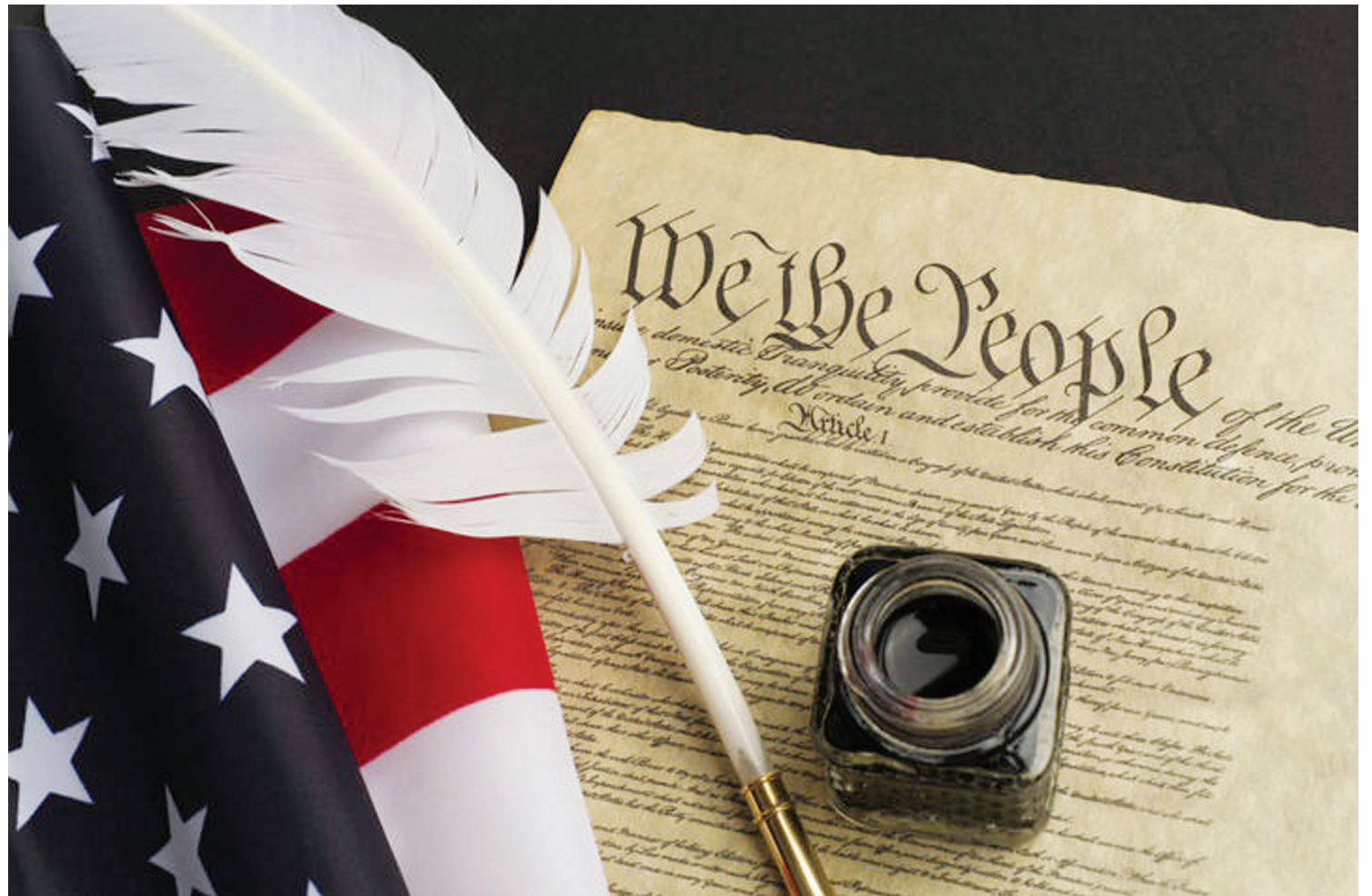
The Surrender of Lord Cornwallis at Yorktown, Virginia, on October 19, 1781.

Constitution of the United States of America, the fundamental law of the U.S. federal system of government and a landmark document of the Western world. The oldest written national constitution in use, the Constitution defines the principal organs of government and their jurisdictions and the basic rights of citizens.

The Constitution was written during the summer of 1787 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, by 55 delegates to a Constitutional Convention that was called ostensibly to amend the Articles of Confederation (1781–89), the country's first written constitution. The Constitution was the product of political compromise after long and often rancorous debates over issues such as states' rights, representation, and slavery. Delegates from small and large states disagreed over whether the number of representatives in the new federal legislature should be the same for each state—as was the case under the Articles of Confederation—or different depending on a state's population (see New Jersey Plan and Virginia Plan). In addition, some delegates from Northern states sought to abolish slavery or, failing that, to make representation dependent on the size of a state's free population. At the same time, some Southern delegates threatened to abandon the convention if their demands to keep slavery and the slave trade legal and to count slaves for representation purposes were not met. Eventually the framers resolved their disputes by adopting a proposal put forward by the Connecticut delegation. The Great Compromise, as it came to be known, created a bicameral legislature with a Senate, in which all states would be equally represented, and a House of Representatives, in which representation would be apportioned on the basis of a state's free population plus three-fifths of its enslaved population. (The inclusion of the enslaved population was known separately as the three-fifths compromise.) A further compromise on slavery prohibited Congress from banning the importation of enslaved people until 1808 (Article I, Section 9). After all the disagreements were bridged, the new Constitution was signed by 39 delegates on September 17, 1787, and it was submitted for ratification to the 13 states on September 28.

In 1787–88, in an effort to persuade New York to ratify the Constitution, Alexander Hamilton, John Jay, and James Madison published a series of essays on the Constitution and republican government in New York newspapers. Their work, written under the pseudonym "Publius" and collected and published in book form as *The Federalist* (1788), became a classic exposition and defense of the Constitution. In June 1788, after the Constitution had been ratified by nine states (as required by Article VII), Congress set March 4, 1789, as the date for the new government to commence proceedings (the first elections under the Constitution were held late in 1788). Because ratification in many states was contingent on the promised addition of a Bill of Rights, Congress proposed 12 amendments in September 1789; 10 were ratified by the states, and their adoption was certified on December 15, 1791. (One of the original 12 proposed amendments, which prohibited midterm changes in compensation for members of Congress,

Constitution of the USA



was ratified in 1992 as the Twenty-seventh Amendment. The last one, concerning the ratio of citizens per member of the House of Representatives, has never been adopted.)

The authors of the Constitution were heavily influenced by the country's experience under the Articles of Confederation, which had attempted to retain as much independence and sovereignty for the states as possible and to assign to the central government only those nationally important functions that the states could not handle individually. But the events of the years 1781 to 1787, including the national government's inability to act during Shays's Rebellion (1786–87) in Massachusetts, showed that the Articles were unworkable because they deprived the national government of many essential powers, including direct taxation and the ability to regulate interstate commerce. It was hoped that the new Constitution would remedy this problem.

The framers of the Constitution were especially concerned with limiting the power of government and securing the liberty of citizens. The doctrine of legislative, executive, and judicial separation of powers, the checks and balances of each branch against the others, and the explicit guarantees of individual liberty were all designed to strike a balance between authority and liberty—the central purpose of American constitutional law.

Provisions

The Constitution concisely organizes the country's basic political institutions. The main text comprises seven articles.

- Article I vests all legislative powers in the Congress—the House of

Representatives and the Senate. The Great Compromise stipulated that representation in the House would be based on population, and each state is entitled to two senators. Members of the House serve terms of two years, senators terms of six. Among the powers delegated to Congress are the right to levy taxes, borrow money, regulate interstate commerce, provide for military forces, declare war, and determine member seating and rules of procedure. The House initiates impeachment proceedings, and the Senate adjudicates them.

- Article II vests executive power in the office of the presidency of the United States. The president, selected by an electoral college to serve a four-year term, is given responsibilities common to chief executives, including serving as commander in chief of the armed forces, negotiating treaties (two-thirds of the Senate must concur), and granting pardons. The president's vast appointment powers, which include members of the federal judiciary and the cabinet, are subject to the "advice and consent" (majority approval) of the Senate (Article II, Section 2). Originally presidents were eligible for continual reelection, but the Twenty-second Amendment (1951) later prohibited any person from being elected president more than twice. Although the formal powers of the president are constitutionally quite limited and vague in comparison with those of the Congress, a variety of historical and technological factors—such as the centralization of power in the executive branch during war and

the advent of television—have increased the informal responsibilities of the office extensively to embrace other aspects of political leadership, including proposing legislation to Congress.

- Article III places judicial power in the hands of the courts. The Constitution is interpreted by the courts, and the Supreme Court of the United States is the final court of appeal from the state and lower federal courts. The power of American courts to rule on the constitutionality of laws, known as judicial review, is held by few other courts in the world and is not explicitly granted in the Constitution. The principle of judicial review was first asserted by Supreme Court Chief Justice John Marshall in *Marbury v. Madison* (1803), when the court ruled that it had the authority to void national or state laws.

Beyond the body of judicial rulings interpreting it, the Constitution acquires meaning in a broader sense at the hands of all who use it. Congress on innumerable occasions has given new scope to the document through statutes, such as those creating executive departments, the federal courts, territories, and states; controlling succession to the presidency; and setting up the executive budget system. The chief executive also has contributed to constitutional interpretation, as in the development of the executive agreement as an instrument of foreign policy. Practices outside the letter of the Constitution based on custom and usage are often recognized as constitutional elements; they include the system of

political parties, presidential nomination procedures, and the conduct of election campaigns. The presidential cabinet is largely a constitutional “convention” based on custom, and the actual operation of the electoral college system is also a convention.

- Article IV deals, in part, with relations between the states and privileges of the citizens of the states. These provisions include the full faith and credit clause, which requires states to recognize the official acts and judicial proceedings of other states; the requirement that each state provide citizens from other states with all the privileges and immunities afforded the citizens of that state; and the guarantee of a republican form of government for each state.
- Article V stipulates the procedures for amending the Constitution. Amendments may be proposed by a two-thirds vote of both houses of Congress or by a convention called by Congress on the application of the legislatures of two-thirds of the states. Proposed amendments must be ratified by three-fourths of the state legislatures or by conventions in as many states, depending on the decision of Congress. All subsequent amendments have been proposed by Congress, and all but one—the Twenty-first Amendment (1933), which repealed prohibition (the Eighteenth Amendment [1919])—have been ratified by state legislatures.
- Article VI, which prohibits religious tests for officeholders, also deals with public debts and the supremacy of the Constitution, citing the document as “the supreme Law of the Land;...any Thing in the Constitution or Laws of any State to the Contrary notwithstanding.” Article VII stipulated that the Constitution would become operational after being ratified by nine states.

The national government has only those constitutional powers that are delegated to it either expressly or by implication; the states, unless otherwise restricted, possess all the remaining powers (Tenth Amendment). Thus, national powers are enumerated (Article I, Section 8, paragraphs 1–17), and state powers are not. The state powers are often called residual, or reserved, powers. The elastic, or necessary and proper, clause (Article I, Section 8, paragraph 18) states that Congress shall have the authority “To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution” the various powers vested in the national government. Thus, it follows that, in addition to the delegated powers, Congress possesses implied powers, a proposition established by Chief Justice Marshall in *McCulloch v. Maryland* (1819). The issue of national versus state power was not fully resolved by this decision, however, and many political battles in American history—including debates on nullification, slavery, racial segregation, and abortion—often have been disputes over constitutional interpretations of implied and residual powers.

Competing concepts of federal supremacy and states’ rights were brought into sharp relief in questions about commercial regulation. The commerce clause simply authorized



Signing of the United States Constitution.



Congress “To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes.” Particularly since a series of decisions in 1937, the court has interpreted Congress’s regulatory power broadly under the commerce clause as new methods of interstate transportation and communication have come into use. States may not regulate any aspect of interstate commerce that Congress has preempted.

Civil liberties and the Bill of Rights

The federal government is obliged by many constitutional provisions to respect the individual citizen’s basic rights. Some civil liberties were specified in the original document, notably in the provisions guaranteeing the writ of habeas corpus and trial by jury in criminal cases (Article III, Section 2) and forbidding bills of attainder and ex post facto laws (Article I, Section 9). But the most significant limitations to government’s power over the individual were added in 1791 in the Bill of Rights. The Constitution’s First Amendment guarantees the rights of conscience, such as freedom of religion, speech, and the press, and the right of peaceful assembly and petition. Other guarantees in the Bill of Rights require fair

procedures for persons accused of a crime—such as protection against unreasonable search and seizure, compulsory self-incrimination, double jeopardy, and excessive bail—and guarantees of a speedy and public trial by a local, impartial jury before an impartial judge and representation by counsel. Rights of private property are also guaranteed. Although the Bill of Rights is a broad expression of individual civil liberties, the ambiguous wording of many of its provisions—such as the Second Amendment’s right “to keep and bear arms” and the Eighth Amendment’s prohibition of “cruel and unusual punishments”—has been a source of constitutional controversy and intense political debate. Further, the rights guaranteed are not absolute, and there has been considerable disagreement about the extent to which they limit governmental authority. The Bill of Rights originally protected citizens only from the national government. For example, although the Constitution prohibited the establishment of an official religion at the national level, the official state-supported religion of Massachusetts was Congregationalism until 1833. Thus, individual citizens had to look to state constitutions for protection of their

rights against state governments.

The Fourteenth Amendment

After the American Civil War, three new constitutional amendments were adopted: the Thirteenth (1865), which abolished slavery; the Fourteenth (1868), which granted citizenship to those who had been enslaved; and the Fifteenth (1870), which guaranteed formerly enslaved men the right to vote. The Fourteenth Amendment placed an important federal limitation on the states by forbidding them to deny to any person “life, liberty, or property, without due process of law” and guaranteeing every person within a state’s jurisdiction “the equal protection of its laws.” Later interpretations by the Supreme Court in the 20th century gave these two clauses added significance. In *Gitlow v. New York* (1925), the due process clause was interpreted by the Supreme Court to broaden the applicability of the Bill of Rights’ protection of speech to the states, holding both levels of government to the same constitutional standard. During subsequent decades, the Supreme Court selectively applied the due process clause to protect from state infringement other rights and liberties guaranteed in the Bill of Rights, a process known as “selective incorporation.” Those rights and liberties included freedom of religion and of the press and the right to a fair trial, including the right to an impartial judge and to the assistance of counsel. Most controversial were the Supreme Court’s use of the due process clause to ground an implicit right of privacy in *Roe v. Wade* (1973), which led to the nationwide legalization of abortion, and its selective incorporation of the Second Amendment’s right to “keep and bear Arms” in *McDonald v. Chicago* (2010).

The Supreme Court applied the equal protection clause of the Fourteenth Amendment in its landmark decision in *Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka* (1954), in which it ruled that racial segregation in public schools was unconstitutional. In the 1960s and ’70s the equal protection clause was used by the Supreme Court to extend protections to other areas, including zoning laws, voting rights, and gender discrimination. The broad interpretation of this clause has also caused considerable controversy.

The Constitution as a living document

Twenty-seven amendments have been added to the Constitution since 1789. In addition to those mentioned above, other far-reaching amendments include the Sixteenth (1913), which allowed Congress to impose an income tax; the Seventeenth (1913), which provided for direct election of senators; the Nineteenth (1920), which mandated women’s suffrage; and the Twenty-sixth (1971), which granted suffrage to citizens 18 years of age and older. In more than two centuries of operation, the United States Constitution has proved itself a dynamic document. It has served as a model for other countries, its provisions being widely imitated in national constitutions throughout the world. Although the Constitution’s brevity and ambiguity have sometimes led to serious disputes about its meaning, they also have made it adaptable to changing historical circumstances and ensured its relevance in ages far removed from the one in which it was written.

America today: Economic and military superpower

Today, the United States of America is a world power: a country that holds significant influence over a large part of the planet. This influence comes in many forms; the United States holds economic, political, military, and cultural influence across the planet. Because of this influence, many have called the United States a superpower, a country with a dominant position over most other countries.

The United States is a world power and a superpower for many reasons. For one, the United States has the best-equipped and best-funded military on Earth. Unlike other countries, the U.S. can project its military power across the world through its large air force and navy. The U.S. spends more money on this than a few countries with the next best militaries combined, and the U.S. operates nearly half of the world's aircraft carriers. Economically, the United States has the greatest GDP (gross domestic product), and the U.S. dollar is the world's reserve currency. American culture is consumed worldwide, and English today is the world's lingua franca, largely due to American influence.

America's gross domestic product accounts for close to a quarter of the world total, and its military budget is reckoned to be almost as much as the rest of the world's defence spending put together.

The country is also a major source of entertainment: American TV, Hollywood films, jazz, blues, rock and rap music are primary ingredients in global popular culture. The United States originated in a revolution that separated it from the British Crown. The constitution, drafted in 1787, established a federal system with a division of powers that has remained little changed since its inception.

Military Strength

The U.S. Armed Forces are considered the world's most powerful military. The military expenditure of the United States was US\$877 billion in 2022, the highest in the world, accounting for 39 percent of the world's defense expenditures. The U.S. Armed Forces has significant capabilities in both defense and power projection due to its large budget, resulting in advanced and powerful technologies which enables a widespread deployment of the force around the world, including around 800 military bases outside the United States. The U.S. Air Force is the world's largest air force, while the U.S. Army Aviation Branch is the second largest. The U.S. Naval Air Forces is the fourth largest air arm in the world and is the largest naval aviation service, while U.S. Marine Corps Aviation is the world's seventh largest air arm. The U.S. Navy is the world's largest navy by tonnage. The U.S. Coast Guard is the world's 12th largest maritime force. The U.S. Space Force is the world's only active independent space force.

The United States Armed Forces are the military forces of the United States. The armed forces consists of six service branches: the Army, Marine Corps, Navy, Air Force, Space Force, and Coast Guard.



All six armed services are among the eight uniformed services of the United States.

Each of the different military services is assigned a role and domain. The U.S. Army conducts land operations, while the U.S. Navy and U.S. Marine Corps conduct maritime operations, with the Marine Corps specializing in amphibious and maritime littoral operations in support of the Navy. The U.S. Air Force conducts air operations, while the U.S. Space Force conducts space operations. The U.S. Coast Guard is unique in that it is a military branch specializing in maritime operations and also a law enforcement agency.

From their inception during the American Revolutionary War, the U.S. Armed Forces have played a decisive role in the history of the United States. They helped forge a sense of national unity and identity through victories in the First Barbary War and the Second Barbary War. They played a critical role in the territorial evolution of the United States, including the American Civil War. The National Security Act of 1947, adopted following World War II, created the modern U.S. military framework. The Act established the National Military Establishment, headed by the secretary of defense; and created the United States Air Force and the National Security Council. It was amended in 1949, renaming the National Military Establishment the

Department of Defense, and merged the cabinet-level Department of the Army, Department of the Navy, and Department of the Air Force, into the Department of Defense.

The president of the United States is the commander-in-chief of the armed forces and forms military policy with the Department of Defense (DoD) and Department of Homeland Security (DHS), both federal executive departments, acting as the principal organs by which military policy is carried out.

The U.S. Armed Forces are one of the largest military forces in terms of personnel. They draw their personnel from a large pool of professional volunteers. Although military conscription has been used in the past, it has not been used in the U.S. since 1973. The Selective Service System retains the power to conscript males, and requires that all male citizens and residents residing in the U.S. between the ages of 18 and 25 register with the service.

Economy of the United States

The United States is a highly developed mixed economy. It is the world's largest economy by nominal GDP, and the second-largest by purchasing power parity (PPP) behind China. It has the world's seventh-highest per capita GDP (nominal) and the eighth-highest per capita GDP (PPP) as of 2022.

The U.S. accounted for 25.4% of the

global economy in 2022 in nominal terms, and around 15.6% in PPP terms. The U.S. dollar is the currency of record most used in international transactions and is the world's reserve currency, backed by a large U.S. treasuries market, its role as the reference standard for the petrodollar system, and its linked eurodollar. Several countries use it as their official currency and in others it is the de facto currency.

The American economy is fueled by high productivity, transportation infrastructure, and extensive natural resources. Americans have the highest average household and employee income among OECD member states. In 2021, they had the highest median household income. The U.S. has one of the world's highest income inequalities among the developed countries. The largest U.S. trading partners are Canada, Mexico, China, Japan, Germany, South Korea, the United Kingdom, Taiwan, India, and Vietnam. The U.S. is the world's largest importer and second-largest exporter. It has free trade agreements with several countries, including Canada and Mexico (through the USMCA), Australia, South Korea, Israel, and several others that are in effect or under negotiation.

By 1890, the United States had overtaken the British Empire as the world's most productive economy. It is the world's largest producer of petroleum and natural gas. In 2016, it was the world's largest trading country as well as its third-largest manufacturer, representing a fifth of the global manufacturing output. The U.S. not only has the largest internal market for goods, but also dominates the services trade. U.S. total trade amounted to \$4.2 trillion in 2018. Of the world's 500 largest companies, 121 are headquartered in the U.S.

The U.S. has the world's highest number of billionaires, with a total wealth of \$3.0 trillion. US commercial banks had \$22.9 trillion in assets as of December 2022. U.S. global assets under management had more than \$30 trillion in assets. During the Great Recession of 2008, the U.S. economy suffered a significant decline. The American Reinvestment and Recovery Act was passed by the US administration, and in the years that followed, the U.S. experienced the longest economic expansion on record by July 2019.

The New York Stock Exchange and Nasdaq are the world's largest stock exchanges by market capitalization and trade volume. In 2014, the U.S. economy is ranked first in international ranking on venture capital and global research and development funding. Consumer spending comprised 68% of the U.S. economy in 2022, while its labor share of income was 44% in 2021. The U.S. has the world's largest consumer market. The nation's labor market has attracted immigrants from all over the world and its net migration rate is among the highest in the world. The U.S. is one of the top-performing economies in studies such as the Ease of Doing Business Index, the Global Competitiveness Report, and others.

ENJOY SUMMER WITH NJS PARK CONCERTS

BY MABEL PAIS



Summer Concert with fireworks, Branch Brook Park, NJ.
Photo credit / njsymphony.org

The New Jersey Symphony (njsymphony.org) invites you to its free outdoor concerts in Newark, Jersey City, Toms River, South Amboy and Red Bank and a performance at the Giralda Music and Arts Festival in Madison.

The family-friendly program features John Williams' Theme from 'Jurassic Park,' selections from Leonard Bernstein's 'West Side Story,' William Grant Still's 'Festive Overture' and more.

For the first time this season, the New Jersey Symphony will perform in Liberty State Park in Jersey City and Raritan Bay Waterfront Park in South Amboy.



Summer Concert, Chamber Music, Nimbus Dance.
Photo credit / njsymphony.org

The Symphony will also return to Marine Park in Red Bank, as well as Ocean County College in Toms River and Essex County Branch Brook concert in Newark. The Essex County Branch Brook Park concert includes fireworks.

The Chamber Players of the New Jersey Symphony are scheduled to perform a series of chamber music concerts at Hamilton Park in Jersey City. These concerts are free of charge and will feature a variety of repertoire, including a celebration of the best of Bollywood's Hindi-language film genre and an exhilarating program curated by the orchestra's Resident Artistic Catalyst, Daniel Bernard Roumain.

FREE CONCERTS TAKE PLACE:

Sunday, June 25, 6 pm at the Giralda Farms, Giralda Music and Arts Festival, Madison

Tuesday, June 27, 8 pm at Ocean County College in Toms River

Wednesday, June 28, 7:30 pm at Raritan Bay Waterfront Park in South Amboy

Friday, June 30, 7:30 pm at Essex County Branch Brook Park in Newark (includes fireworks!)

Saturday, July 1, 8 pm at Marine Park in Red Bank
Sunday, July 2, 7:30 pm at Liberty State Park in Jersey City

Free Chamber Series at Hamilton Park in Jersey City
Thursday, July 13, 7 pm: Sounds of the Summer with Nimbus Dance

Thursday, July 27, 7 pm: The Music of Bollywood with Kulture Kool

Thursday, August 10, 7 pm: A Summer Evening with DBR

Clarinetist Timothy Lien, winner of the New Jersey Symphony Youth Orchestra's 2023 Henry Lewis Concerto Competition, joins the Symphony for the first movement of Ludwig Spohr's Clarinet Concerto In C Minor, Op.26. for the Giralda Farms, Branch Brook Park, Marine Park and Liberty State Park concerts. José Luis Domínguez, the New Jersey Symphony Youth Orchestra Artistic Director, conducts.

UPDATES

For more information, updates, and changes owing to weather conditions, visit njsymphony.org/summer.

WINNING COMPOSERS GET FEEDBACK FROM CONE INSTITUTE, NJ SYMPHONY AND OTHERS

BY MABEL PAIS

The New Jersey Symphony (njsymphony.org) announces the composers for the ninth Edward T. Cone Composition Institute. The 2023 Institute will take place from Sunday, July 9 to Saturday, July 15 in Newark, culminating in a performance of the composers' works on Saturday, July 15, 2023.

This year's winning composers include Tom Morrison with his work 'Messages in the Ground,' Kory Reeder with his work 'Walls of Brocade Fields,' Sam Wu with his work 'Hydrosphere' and Yangfan Xu with her work 'Bya.'

The four composers will hear their music rehearsed and performed by the Symphony and participate in in-depth feedback sessions with Institute Director Steven Mackey, guest conductor Case Scaglione, New Jersey Symphony musicians and industry leaders.

The Symphony and Maestro Case Scaglione will present the participants' works along with the final movement, 'Sphere,' from Steven Mackey's 'Concerto for Curved Space' in concert at NJPAC's Victoria Theater in Newark on Saturday, July 15 at 8 pm.

THE EDWARD T. CONE INSTITUTE EXPERIENCE

By the conclusion of the Institute's comprehensive experience, participants will have gained invaluable

NEW JERSEY SYMPHONY
XIAN ZHANG MUSIC DIRECTOR

**New Scores:
The Cone
Institute Concert**

**July 15 at 8 pm
NJPAC in Newark**

Steven Mackey
Institute Director and Host

Case Scaglione
Conductor

Cone Institute 'New Scores' Concert (Poster): NJS Orchestra, Host Steve Mackey, & Conductor Case Scaglione. Photo credit / njsymphony.org

musical and practical feedback about composing for orchestra. They will also have participated in critical discussions about best practices for getting contemporary classical music funded, published and performed.

The New Jersey Symphony Edward T. Cone Composition Institute grew out of musical score-reading sessions the Symphony has held with Princeton University graduate students biennially for more than a decade. The Institute celebrates its namesake Edward T. Cone's legacy as both a composer and a Princeton University professor. This is a

collaboration between the New Jersey Symphony and Princeton University Department of Music. Learn more at njsymphony.org/institute.

WINNING COMPOSERS

TOM MORRISON

Tom Morrison is a composer of acoustic and electroacoustic music. Morrison is a graduate of The Juilliard School (MM); also a graduate of the University of Montana (BM) in Missoula where he cultivated his love for nature and the environment. He holds an MFA and Ph.D. from Princeton University, where he will be a Post Graduate Researcher in the fall 2023 semester. He won the 2016 Thailand International Composition Festival

Competition and first place in the 2021 Symphonia Caritas Competition for first-generation college students. His work can be found at tom-morrison.com.

COMPOSER'S PROGRAM NOTE: 'MESSAGES IN THE GROUND'

'Messages in the Ground' is inspired by Richard Power's novel 'The Overstory' and the complex nature of trees and humanity's complex relationship with them. The work is a meditation on the nature of trees and how they communicate with each other. The governing structural idea is simple: the piece begins at the higher

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CONTD FROM PAGE 22

end of the orchestra's register and ends at the lower end-it goes from the leaves to the roots.

KORY REEDER

Kory Reeder is an American composer and performer whose music draws inspiration from the visual arts and political theory.

Reeder is from Nebraska and currently resides in Texas where he is an active performer. He received his Ph.D. from the University of North Texas and holds a Bachelor of Music degree from the University of Nebraska at Kearney and a Master of Music from Bowling Green State University. Learn more at koryreeder.com.

COMPOSER'S PROGRAM NOTE: 'WALLS OF BROCADE FIELDS'

In Lincoln, Nebraska, there is the International Quilt Museum and while walking through, I couldn't help but feel a sense of duality: the richly decorated and ornate patterns combine with the somewhat nostalgic quality that can come with the medium. I'm particularly drawn to flowers and brocade fabrics; the fields of intricately designed flowers lining the walls and filling your vision. This piece is full of overlapping, repeated patterns laid across each other, at times interacting and sometimes more exposed. There are moments in the piece where sounds are encompassing and warm, wrapping the listener in a blanket of sound, others are sparse, open and nearly still. The overlapping tones and phrases create subtle, perhaps fleeting cadences and nearly tonal reminiscences, but underneath all this harmonic wrapping is a unifying pulse that connects the material and keeps the threads together.

SAM WU

Sam Wu's music deals with the beauty in blurred boundaries. Many of his works center around architecture, urban planning, climate science and the search for exoplanets that harbor life.

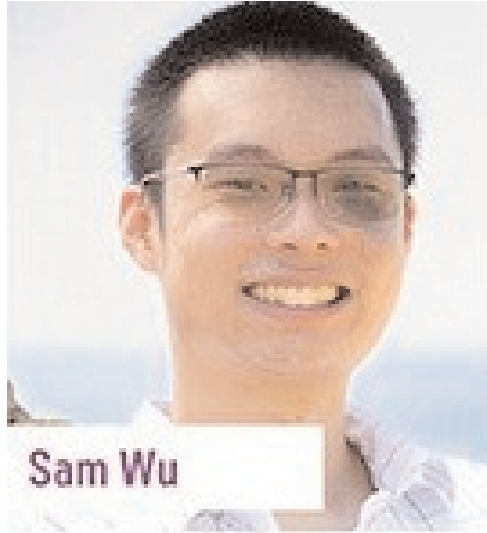
Besides receiving numerous awards and recognitions, Wu has also won an ASCAP Morton Gould Young Composer Award, First Prize at the Washington International Competition, Harvard's Robert Levin Prize and Juilliard's Palmer Dixon Prize.

From Melbourne, Australia, Sam holds degrees from Harvard University and The Juilliard School, and is currently a DMA candidate in composition at Rice University's Shepherd School of Music. His teachers include Tan Dun, Anthony Brandt, Pierre Jalbert, Chaya Czernowin and Richard Beaudoin. Learn more at samwumusic.com.

COMPOSER'S PROGRAM NOTE: HYDROSPHERE

'Hydrosphere' is inspired by the water cycle-a macroscopic, planetary process that shapes oceans and continents.

Water is the source of life as we know it; its eternal cycle nourishes generations across the aeons. Despite its ubiquity, water is precious-we must protect Gaia's lifeblood.



Sam Wu



Kory Reeder



Yangfan Xu



Tom Morrison

'New Scores' Winners.

Photo credit / njsymphony.org

YANGFAN XU

Yangfan Xu is a Chinese-born US-based composer who comes from a musical family in Lanzhou, Gansu province. Xu was the winner of the Society for New Music's 2021 Israel/Pellman Award. She won the 2021 New Juilliard Ensemble (NJE) Composition Competition, and her commissioned work *Fantastic Creatures of the Mountains and Seas* premiered at the Lincoln Center in a concert by NJE in 2022.

Xu received a bachelor's degree in composition at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music studying with Mason Bates. Before her undergraduate studies, she studied musicology at the high school affiliated with the Central Conservatory of Music in China. Xu earned her master's degree in composition at The Juilliard School, studying under Robert Beaser. She is a current DMA candidate at the New England Conservatory of Music studying under studio teacher Kati Agócs. Learn more at yangfanxu.com.

COMPOSER'S PROGRAM NOTE: BYA

"Bya"(??) is from the Tibetan language. It means "birds." The piece is inspired by my trip to Tibet in 2016. When the pandemic first broke out, the city was put on lockdown, and I started to have recurring dreams about my trip to Tibet. It is the most wonderful land I have ever seen; Tibet is said to be the closest place to heaven on earth. When I saw it with my own eyes, I couldn't agree more. The landscape is so stunning that it feels like a place that is unreal. Yamdrok Lake was the name of the lake I visited. There's a bird island in the middle of the lake where you can see hundreds of different

kinds of birds-it was magnificent and mind-blowing.

Bya's opening section is about the general shock I felt when I first arrived in Tibet. The middle slow section, where you can hear the trumpet's extended technique imitating a bird's call, depicts the bird's island and the Yamdrok Lake. The final section of the piece is about a Tibetan tradition known as the sky funeral. When people die, their bodies are placed on top of a temple and the birds eat them. I find the ritual very special to me because it represents an eternal bond between humans and nature.

STEVEN MACKEY

Bright in coloring, ecstatic in inventiveness, lively and profound, Steven Mackey's music spins the tendrils of his improvisatory riffs into large-scale works of grooving, dramatic coherence.

As a teenager growing up in Northern California obsessed with blues-rock guitar, Mackey was in search of the "right wrong notes," those heart-wrenching moments that imbue the music with new, unexpected momentum. Today, his pieces play with that tension of being inside or outside of the harmony and flow forward shimmering with prismatic detail.

Today, Steven Mackey writes for chamber ensemble, orchestra, dance and opera-commissioned by the greatest orchestras around the world. He has served as professor of music at Princeton University for the past 35 years, and in fall 2022, he joined the composition faculty at the Curtis Institute of Music. He has won several awards from the American Academy of

Arts and Letters, a Guggenheim Fellowship and a Kennedy Center Friedheim Award. He continues to explore an ever-widening world of timbres befitting a complex, 21st-century culture, while always striving to make music that unites the head and heart, that is visceral, that gets us moving. Learn more at stevenmackey.com.

CASE SCAGLIONE

Case Scaglione is currently in his fifth season as a Chief Conductor of the Württembergisches Kammerorchester Heilbronn in Germany and in his fourth season as a Music Director of Orchestre national d'Île de France. He has previously served as Associate Conductor with the New York Philharmonic and as Music Director of the Young Musicians Foundation Debut Orchestra of Los Angeles. Case was the driving force behind the artistic growth and diversification of the organization, founding their educational outreach initiative '360° Music.'

Previously in North America, Case successfully collaborated with the New York Philharmonic and the Houston, Dallas, Detroit, San Diego and Baltimore symphony orchestras. In Asia, he has led concerts with the China Philharmonic Orchestra as well as the Shanghai and Guangzhou symphony orchestras, in addition to regular returns to the Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra.

Case enjoys close relationships with many of the world's leading soloists, including Joshua Bell, Yulianna Avdeeva, Jean-Efflam Bavouzet, Behzod Abduraimov and Khatia Buniatishvili. Case has been mentored by some of the most prominent conductors on the world stage today, including Alan Gilbert, Jaap van Zweden and David Zinman. Learn more at casescaglione.com.

SAFETY MEASURES

All New Jersey Symphony performances follow safety measures in partnership with the venues and based on the guidance provided by the CDC and the State of New Jersey.

TICKETS & INFORMATION

For more information about the New Jersey Symphony, visit njsymphony.org or email information@njsymphony.org.

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

ENJOY MUSIC INDOORS & OUTDOORS AT MORRISTOWN SUMMER CONCERTS

By Mabel Pais

The Morristown Performing Arts Center (MPAC) presents an incredible lineup of events this July at the theatre as well as throughout Morristown. MPAC's summer concert series takes place, July 11 - 26.

MPAC INDOOR EVENTS:

THE DOOBIE BROTHERS

Tuesday-Wednesday, July 11-12 at 7:30 pm

For over five decades, The Doobie Brothers have been known for delivering mind-blowing, roots based, harmony-laden, guitar-driven rock and roll - all of which recently culminated in an induction into the 2020 Rock & Roll Hall of Fame. Their No. 1 singles "Black Water" and "What a Fool Believes" lead a catalog of indelible songs that include: "Listen to the Music," "China Grove," "Jesus Is Just All Right," "Rockin' Down the Highway," "Long Train Runnin'," "Take Me In Your Arms," "Takin' it to the Streets," "Minute by Minute," "You Belong to Me," "The Doctor" and more. In all, the Doobies have tallied up five top 10 singles and 16 top 40 hits.

ANDY GRAMMER: THE NEW MONEY TOUR

Tuesday, July 18 at 8 pm

Multiplatinum troubadour Andy Grammer continues to engage, energize and empower audiences with stomping stadium-size pop anthems like the quadruple-platinum "Honey, I'm Good," platinum singles including "Keep Your Head Up," "Fine By Me," "Don't Give Up On Me," "Fresh Eyes," and "Good To Be Alive (Hallelujah)," as well as new songs like "I Need a New Money."

DONNY OSMOND

Thursday, July 20 at 8 pm

Legendary entertainer and music icon Donny Osmond presents a dynamic musical journey of his unparalleled career that has made him one of the most popular and

PAT BENATAR & NEIL GIRALDO: FUNTASTIC 2023

Tuesday, July 25 at 7:30 pm

Pat Benatar and Neil Giraldo perform hits such as "We Belong," "Love is a Battlefield", "Heartbreaker" and more with their full band.

HERMAN'S HERMITS STARRING PETER NOONE AND THE GRASS ROOTS

Thursday, July 27 at 7:30 pm

A double bill of classic 60s pop! Herman's Hermits starring Peter Noone scored over twenty Top 40 hits, such as "There's a Kind of Hush," "I'm Into Something Good," and "Mrs. Brown You've Got a Lovely Daughter." The Grass Roots are known for such pop classics as "Midnight Confessions," "Temptation Eyes" and "Sooner or Later."

HERB ALPERT & LANI HALL



Herb Alpert with wife Lani Hall

Photo credit / Mayo Arts

Friday, July 28 at 8 pm

Music icon Herb Alpert and Grammy award-winning vocalist Lani Hall perform an eclectic mix of Brazilian jazz, classic Tijuana Brass & Brasil '66 songs.

MPAC OUTDOOR EVENTS: ARTS IN THE COMMUNITY - FREE CONCERTS:

Wednesday, July 12 at 6 pm

JOSHUA VAN NESS

Location: Vail Mansion Plaza

Singer songwriter Joshua Van Ness is both the

working man's musician and a true indie spirit whose music echoes the classics from decades ago, yet is driven by a desire to stay ahead of the trends.

Wednesday, July 26 at 6 pm

SALSA UNDER THE STARS featuring DAVID CEDENO and HIS ORCHESTRA

Location: Pioneer Park



Salsa group: (performance 'Under the Stars').

Photo credit / Mayo Arts

MPAC's popular salsa dancing event returns! Dance the night away with the spirited sounds of salsa, merengue and more from David Cedeno and His Orchestra.

THE MAYO PERFORMING ARTS CENTER (MPAC)

MPAC presents a wide range of programs that entertain, enrich, and educate the diverse population of the region and enhance the economic vitality of Northern New Jersey. The Mayo Performing Arts Center was named 2016 Outstanding Historic Theatre by the League of Historic American Theatres, and is ranked in the top 50 mid-sized performing arts centers by Pollstar Magazine.

CONNECT WITH MPAC:

The Mayo Performing Arts Center

100 South St., Morristown, NJ 07960

box office (973) 539-8008

Website: mayoarts.org

Facebook:

facebook.com/MayoPerformingArtsCenter

WHARTON ARTS' PROGRAMS EMBARK ON INTERNATIONAL TOURS

BY MABEL PAIS



(left to right): Helen Cha-Pyo conducts the Youth Choir; NJYC; NJYS.

Photo credit / Wharton Arts

Wharton Arts, New Jersey's largest independent non-profit performing arts education center, presents 117 youth musicians from the New Jersey Youth Symphony (NJYS) and New Jersey Youth Chorus (NJYC) travel to Italy and France to perform at world class venues, in formal concerts and community concerts, as well as participating in an exchange with European youth conservatory programs.

"In our unwavering commitment to providing exceptional performance opportunities for our students, Wharton Arts recognizes the profound impact of international tours," said Helen H. Cha-Pyo, Artistic Director. "These tours offer our students a transformative experience where they can fully

immerse themselves in the richness of foreign cultures, perform at prestigious concert venues, and embark on a journey of personal growth, all while creating unforgettable memories with friends. We are thrilled to embark on an extraordinary tour through the captivating country of Italy, renowned for its historical and vibrant cultural heritage. Additionally, our tribute tour to France in homage to the legendary Michel Legrand presents a one-of-a-kind exclusive opportunity for our young jazz musicians."

The NJYS and NJYC tour to Italy, June 27-July 6, features performances in Rome, Florence, Cremona, and Milan. The NJYS led by Conductor Helen H. Cha-Pyo will perform at Rome's Chiesa Arcangelo San Michele and Chiesa di Sant'Ignazio di Loyola, Florence's Conservatorio di Musica Luigi Cherubini and Teatro La Pergola, Cremona Solidale, and Milan's Teatro Dal Verme. The NJYC Coriste and Camerata led by Conductor Patricia Joyce with accompanist Phillip Steffani will perform at Rome's Basilica di San Pietro and Basilica di Sant'Andrea Della Valle, Florence's Basilica di Santo Spirito and the Florence American Cemetery, Cremona's Saint Ilario Church, and Milan's San Antonio Abate Church and the Duomo di Milano.

The NJYS Jazz Orchestra tour to France, July 10-17, features performances in Paris at La Bellevilloise Jazz Club and Montmartre's Pan Piper Jazz Club, and in Nice at Festival Jazz Verdon and La Croix Valmer's Soirées d'Été of the Festival des Arches D'Azur. The NJYS Jazz Orchestra is led by Director Dion Tucker with guest soloist David Linx.

TOUR DETAILS

Follow all of Wharton Arts' students on tour on Instagram at @newjerseyyouthsymphony, @njyouthchorus, and @njysjazz.

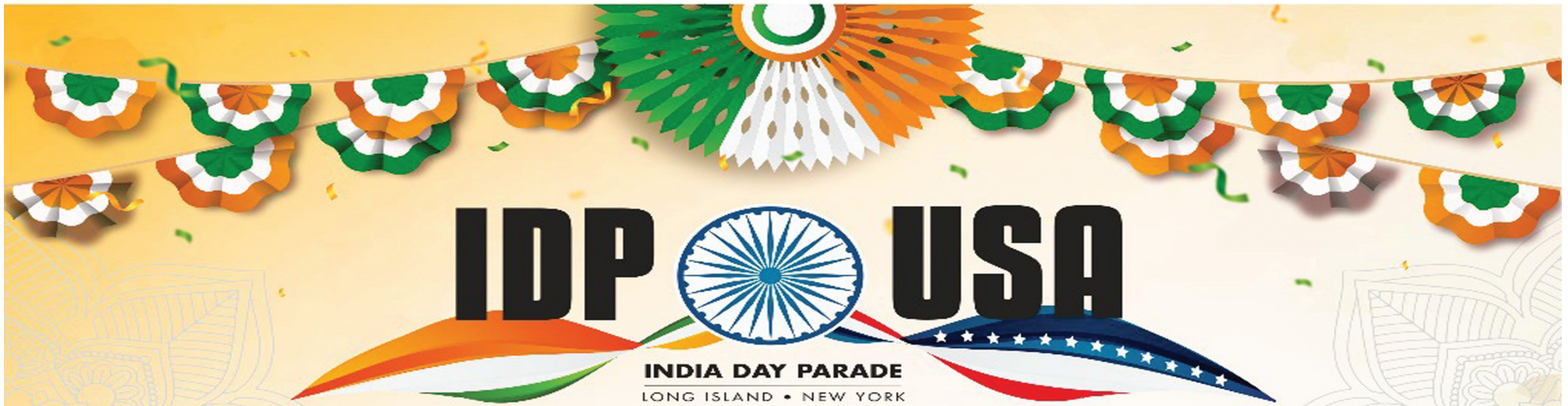
WHARTON ARTS

Wharton Arts' mission is to offer accessible, high quality performing arts education that sparks personal growth and builds inclusive communities.

Wharton Arts' vision is for a transformative performing arts education in an inclusive community to be accessible for everyone.

Wharton Arts is located in Berkeley Heights, New Providence, and Paterson, NJ and reaches students from 12 counties. All of Wharton Arts' extraordinary teaching artists, faculty members, and conductors hold degrees in their teaching specialty and have been vetted and trained to enable our students to achieve their personal best.

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



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Bhumi Pednekar spotted with rumoured boyfriend at airport

Bhumi Pednekar was spotted with her rumoured boyfriend at the Mumbai airport on Wednesday. The mystery man is Yash Kataria, a builder who is friends with other Bollywood celebrities like Rakul Preet Singh, Jackky Bhagnani and others as well. The two were linked together after they were spotted at Sidharth Malhotra and Kiara Advani's wedding reception in Mumbai.

A paparazzo shared a video of Bhumi and Yash from the airport. It shows Bhumi making her way to the parking lot while keeping a low profile. Yash is also seen walking separately on his way to the car. The two are then sitting in the same car in the parking lot. While Bhumi is seen in a black sweatshirt and white track pants, Yash is seen in a graphic white T-shirt and blue denims.

Many tried to pass negative comments about Bhumi. However, one of her fans said in her defense: "People need to get it straight that not everyone falls for looks and money ..there is a thing called understanding, vibes matching ... real gold diggers and opportunity seekers assembled here." A fan also wrote, "I think they look good as a couple."

Satyaprem Ki Katha: Kartik & Kiara enact their iconic dialogue from the film

Kartik Aaryan and Kiara Advani enacted their iconic 'sau takka' dialogue from their upcoming film 'Satyaprem Ki Katha' during a musical concert in Navi Mumbai.

Ahead of its release on June 29, Kartik and Kiara joined Meet Bros to enthral the audience with their performances at the concert, and on the insistence of fans, they enacted the dialogue on stage.

Kartik Aaryan and Kiara Advani also greeted their fans who gave them an overwhelming response at the event and posed for pictures.

The musical romantic family drama features an ensemble cast consisting of Kartik Aaryan, Kiara Advani, Supriya Pathak, Gajraj Rao, Shikha Talsania, Siddharth Randeria and Anuradha Patel.

Helmed by Sameer Vidwans, 'Satyaprem Ki Katha' has been jointly produced by Nadiadwala Grandson Entertainment and Namah Pictures.

Kartik Aaryan will later be seen in Hansal Mehta's next, 'Captain India', and in Kabir Khan's forthcoming untitled project. Kiara Advani, meanwhile, will be seen in Shankar's next, 'Game Changer', opposite Ram Charan.

Meanwhile, during a promotional event, the Shehzada actor was captured helping Kiara fix her dress by standing between her and the paparazzi. In the video, the actor can be seen shielding Kiara from the cameras and helping her fix the dress while standing on stage. After helping Kiara, Kartik can be seen getting off the stage to let his co-actor pose for the shutterbugs. Kartik, however, later joins Kiara to pose cutely for some more pictures. For the event, Kiara Advani can be seen wearing a beautiful red dress while Kartik complements her in a white casual wear.



Ranveer-Alia's love ballad is perfect tribute to Yash Chopra

The makers of the upcoming film, 'Rocky Aur Rani Kii Prem Kahaani' released the first romantic track, 'Tum Kya Mile' on June 28. The song crooned by Arijit Singh, features the sizzling chemistry between the leads, Alia Bhatt and Ranveer Singh. The forthcoming movie, helmed by Karan Johar, will mark his return to direction after a long hiatus of seven years. The film is slated to release in theatres on July 28, 2023.

Ranveer Singh and Alia Bhatt's starrer 'Rocky Aur Rani Kii Prem Kahaani' is one of the most awaited films of 2023. The film features an ensemble star cast including Dharmendra, Shabana Amzi and Jaya Bachchan in key roles. Recently, the teaser was released and it left netizens mighty impressed. On June 28, the makers dropped the first song from the movie, and it is pure love.

The song, which looks like an ode to



Yash Chopra, features Alia spreading her magic in chiffon sarees as she romances

Ranveer. Starting from the picturesque mountains and the snow-clad areas to

the hot chemistry between the lead pair, the song is sure to bring back the memories of the 90s Yash Chopra films. Despite being his first lip sync mountain love song, Ranveer proved to be a real trooper. The viewers will definitely feel the love as much as the stars felt cold while shooting the romantic track.

'Rocky Aur Rani Kii Prem Kahaani' is a romantic comedy film directed by Karan Johar and written by Ishita Moitra, Shashank Khaitan and Sumit Roy. The film is produced by Dharma Productions and Viacom18 Studios. The film also stars Dharmendra, Jaya Bachchan and Shabana Azmi. Saif Ali Khan's son, Ibrahim Ali Khan, is working as an assistant director on the film. The film was shot in Mumbai, New Delhi, Russia and Jammu & Kashmir. The music of the film is composed by Pritam and cinematography is handled by Manush Nandan.



Harrison Ford hangs up his Indiana Jones hat in Dial of Destiny

Harrison Ford is bidding farewell to one of his most famous roles with his new film *Indiana Jones and the Dial of Destiny*. The 80-year-old Ford, who plays the adventurous Nazi-punching archaeologist, confirmed to Reuters that he will not be returning for more relic-related escapades.

"I'm saying goodbye to a brilliant opportunity to bring joy to people," Ford said in an interview, "but I wanted that last iteration of the series to be about character as much as anything."

The film starts with a digitally de-aged Ford, created with help from artificial intelligence, fighting Nazis to secure one half of classical inventor Archimedes' dial of destiny.

While Harrison Ford has praised his youthful appearance in the film, he told Reuters he does not think a full-length movie with his younger image would be produced.

"I can't imagine that will happen," he said.

Jennifer Lawrence says she is scared to work with method actors

Hollywood star Jennifer Lawrence says she is "scared" of working with somebody who is a method actor.

During an appearance on the talk show "Hot Ones", the actor said: "I would be scared to work with somebody who's method because I would have no idea how to talk to them. Like, do I have to be in character?"

"That would just make me nervous. But I haven't seen another process that I've been curious about, because you don't really know about them all the time," she added.

Jennifer Lawrence has teamed with Christian Bale, known for his method approach, on David O. Russell's *American Hustle*. The actor said while working on the film she tried to understand how Bale prepared before the shot.

"I had always been very on/off, on/off until I did *American Hustle* when I worked with Christian Bale and I noticed when the camera started rolling and the crew kind of started preparing like it was going to be 10 seconds or whatever until action, he would start getting ready. And then I saw that and I was like, 'That seems like a really good idea.' And then I started to do that," she recalled.

Jennifer Lawrence has teamed with Christian Bale, known for his method approach, on David O. Russell's *American Hustle*. The actor said while working on the film she tried to understand how Bale prepared before the shot.



Tom Holland, Zendaya spotted on a date at Beyonce's concert in Poland

Tom Holland and Zendaya, who started dating on the sets of *Spider-Man: Homecoming*, were seen enjoying Beyonce's concert in Warsaw, Poland recently. In a video posted by a fan, actors Tom Holland and Zendaya are seen enjoying a concert in Warsaw, Poland, part of popstar Beyonce's Renaissance tour. The two are seen in a relaxed mode, sporting casual outfits.

"I need you to fall in love with me, really, for it to work. So, long game. Probably making a movie with each other — it definitely helps when the characters are falling in love with one another, you can sort of blur the lines a little bit. That's kind of where my rizz is at. And, you know, I'm locked up. I'm happy and in love so I've got no need for rizz," Tom said in an interview to Buzzfeed.

The couple was recently in India for the launch of Nita Mukesh Ambani Cultural Centre. They arrived together in Mumbai and also enjoyed a day out with some desi hosts on a yacht. Later, they made separate appearances on the NMACC red carpet but came together once inside the venue.

Tom and Zendaya's last film together, *Spiderman: No Way Home* was a big success. Zendaya will be promoting her film *Dune 2* with friend Timothee Chalamet soon.

The two will be seen reuniting on screen for the fourth instalment of the *Spider-Man* franchise. In an interview with *The Hollywood Reporter*, Tom confirmed that there's indeed a fourth part of his *Spider-Man* franchise.



Is Khloe Kardashian dating Michele Morrone?

Khloe confessed that she is attracted to the Italian model. Describing him as "super hot", she went on to reveal that she is fond of his masculine appeal. The latest episode of *Keeping Up With The Kardashians*, along with Khloe Kardashian, and Michele Morrone's viral pictures led to speculation about the two being romantically involved.

Khloe Kardashian and Michele Morrone met during the Dolce & Gabbana show recently and started talking backstage. These two even introduced each other to their respective friends. Michele Morrone later took to his Instagram handle and posted his pictures with the reality television star.

Talking about the incident, Khloe Kardashian said that she found the situation humorous, "I don't care because it's so funny. He's, like, kissing my forehead." The photo of the two going viral amused Khloe Kardashian, who admitted, "I like the narrative. It's better than the narrative I've been having."



FINNISH MINISTER RESIGNS OVER PRO-NAZI REMARKS

HELSINKI (TIP): Finland's new economic affairs minister Vilhelm Junnila, a member of the far-right Finns Party, announced his resignation on June 30 after only 10 days in office following an uproar over past alleged pro-Nazi remarks.

The resignation came just two days after Junnila, 41, survived a no-confidence vote in parliament on the issue, garnering 95 votes in favour and 86 against.

"Despite the confidence of the party and my parliamentary group... I see that it is impossible for me to continue as a minister in a satisfactory way," Junnila said in a statement.

The vote was called by three opposition parties -- the Left Alliance, the Greens and the Social Democrats -- because of Junnila's previous controversial statements and links to far-right movements.

Junnila has spoken at least at one event organised in 2019 by Kansallismielisten liittouma (Coalition of Nationalists), a far-right group with links to the anti-immigration group Soldiers of Odin.

He also joked during this year's parliamentary elections about the election candidate number 88 being a reference to "Heil Hitler".

On June 22, Junnila tweeted an apology for his earlier statements: "I hope it is clear to everyone that I strongly and absolutely condemn the Holocaust, anti-Semitism and all anti-Semitic acts."

More details emerged last Thursday, when Christian Democrat lawmaker Paivi Rasanen recalled a parliamentary question by Junnila in 2019, when he suggested that Finland should promote abortion in Africa as a measure to tackle climate change.

(AFP)

French president urges parents to keep teens at home as government orders buses to stop at 9 p.m.

PARIS (TIP): French President Emmanuel Macron urged parents on June 30 to keep teenagers at home and blamed social media for fueling rioting that has spread dramatically across France following the fatal police shooting of a 17-year-old driver.

In the face of a growing crisis that hundreds of arrests and massive police deployments have failed to quell, Macron held off on declaring a state of emergency, an option that was used in similar circumstances in 2005. Instead, his government ratcheted up a law enforcement response that has resulted in 875 arrests.

The interior minister ordered a nationwide nighttime shutdown of all public buses and trams, which were among the targets of three consecutive nights of urban unrest. Macron also zeroed in on social media platforms that have relayed dramatic images of cars and buildings being torched and other acts of violence.

Social networks are playing a "considerable role" in the violence, the French leader said. Singling out Snapchat and TikTok by name, he said the platforms were being used to organize unrest and serving as conduits for copycat violence.

Macron said his government would work with technology companies to establish procedures for "the removal of the most sensitive content." He did not specify the content he had in mind but said, "I expect a spirit of responsibility from these platforms."

French authorities also plan to request, when "useful," the identities "of



those who use these social networks to call for disorder or exacerbate the violence," the president said.

The police shooting of the 17-year-old, who only has been identified by his first name, Nahel, was captured on video. The boy's death has shocked France and stirred up long-simmering tensions between police and young people in housing projects and disadvantaged neighbourhoods.

Macron said a third of the individuals arrested Thursday night were "young people, sometimes very young," and that "it's the parents' responsibility" to keep their children at home.

"We sometimes have the feeling that some of them are living out, in the streets, the video games that have intoxicated them," he said of rioters.

Since a police officer shot and killed a teenager on Tuesday in the northwestern Paris suburb of Nanterre, rioters have erected barricades, lit fires and shot fireworks at police, who

responded with tear gas, water cannons and stun grenades. Police said at least 200 officers have been injured.

Macron's government has deployed 40,000 officers to restore order and make arrests over behaviour he described as "unacceptable and unjustifiable." He stopped short of announcing a state of emergency, a tactic used in 2005 to quell rioting after the accidental deaths of two boys while they fled police.

This week's unrest comes just over a year before Paris and other French cities rattled by violence are due to host 10,500 Olympians and millions of visitors for the Summer Olympic Games. The Paris 2024 organizing committee said it was closely monitoring the situation and that preparations for the Olympics continued.

Nanterre prosecutor Pascal Prache said officers tried to pull Nahel over because he looked so young and was driving a Mercedes with Polish license plates in a bus lane. (AP)

Thousands protest in Iraq for second day over burning of Quran in Sweden

The protests came a day after hundreds of protesters briefly stormed the Swedish Embassy in Baghdad.

BASRA (TIP): Thousands of followers of a firebrand Iraqi Shiite cleric rallied in major cities in Iraq on June 30, condemning the burning of a Quran during a protest in Sweden earlier this week. Some of the demonstrators called for the expulsion of the Swedish ambassador from Iraq.

At the rallies in the capital of Baghdad and the southern city of Basra, followers of Muqtada al-Sadr, a cleric with a large grassroots following and political leader, burned Swedish flags and rainbow LGBTQ+ pride flags and chanted "Yes, yes to Islam" and "No, no to the devil."

Addressing the crowds in a speech in the Baghdad suburb of Sadr City, Friday



Supporters of the Shiite cleric Muqtada al-Sadr raise the Quran, the Muslim holy book, in response to the burning of a copy of the Quran in Sweden. (Photo | AP)

prayers preacher Sayyid Sattar Batat, called on Iraqi authorities to "if necessary, expel the Swedish ambassador and cut all diplomatic relations with them."

The protests came a day after

hundreds of protesters briefly stormed the Swedish Embassy in Baghdad.

On Wednesday, a man who identified himself in Swedish media as a refugee from Iraq burned a Quran outside a mosque in central Stockholm.

An Iraqi security official said the man was an Iraqi Christian who had previously fought in a Christian unit of the Popular Mobilization Forces, a collection of mostly Shiite militias that were incorporated into the country's armed forces in 2016. The official spoke on condition of anonymity under regulations.

Swedish police had authorized the protest, citing freedom of speech, after a previous decision to ban a similar protest was overturned by a Swedish court.

The act, coming during the major Muslim holiday of Eid al-Adha, drew widespread condemnation in the Muslim world. Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan on Thursday suggested that the incident would pose another obstacle to Sweden's bid for NATO membership. Iraqi officials have called on Sweden to extradite the man who had burned the Quran for prosecution in Iraq. (AP)

Google to remove Canadian news links from searches in response to new media law

ONTARIO (TIP) : Google on June 29 joined Meta in announcing that it will restrict news from Canada. The decision comes as a response to the new law (Online News Act) passed by the Canadian Parliament last week. As per the new law, tech firms have to pay news publishers for their content.

The legislation was formed after complaints from various media associations and news outlets in Canada. Canadian media asked for strict regulation of tech companies to avoid the years-long tussle between them and tech giants over the sharing of advertising revenue from engagement with news articles.

The Online News Act requires both Google and Meta to enter into agreements with news publishers to pay them for news content that appears on their sites if it helps them generate money.

It aims to support a struggling Canadian news sector that has seen hundreds of publications close in the last decade. Since 2008, nearly 500 newsrooms have closed across Canada, Canadian Minister Pablo Rodriguez said.

In a blog post on Friday, Google said, "We have now informed the government that when the law takes effect, we unfortunately will have to remove links to Canadian news from our search, news and discover products in Canada." It added that it will be "harder for Canadians to find news online" and "for journalists to reach their audiences."

Google also said that the new law is "unworkable" and that the government has not given it reason to believe "structural issues with the legislation" would be resolved during its implementation.

"We don't take this decision or its impacts lightly and



believe it's important to be transparent with Canadian publishers and our users as early as possible," the statement added.

Google concluded its blog post by saying "We plan to participate in the regulatory process and will continue to be transparent with Canadians and publishers as we move forward. We hope that the Government will be able to outline a viable path forward."

People in the country will, however, still be able to access news from Canadian sites by typing their respective web address directly into a browser or through apps.

Google Canada's policy team, as quoted by the BBC, said the government had "not given us reason to believe that the regulatory process will be able to resolve structural issues with the legislation".

While talking to CTV News, Pablo Rodriguez, the minister who was responsible for the file, said that he was surprised by Google's move as they had had conversations with them recently.

The Heritage Minister accused Google of trying to bully Canadians, but added that "big tech isn't bigger

than Canada". "Big tech would rather spend money changing their platforms to block news from Canadians instead of paying a small share of the billions they make in advertising dollars."

However, legacy media and broadcasters have praised the bill, which promises to "enhance fairness" in the digital news marketplace and help bring in more money for shrinking newsrooms.

The recent move by Google poses a serious threat to the business of the media in Canada as Google controls a significant amount of web traffic.

Earlier this month, Justin Trudeau, the Canadian Prime Minister, said that tech companies are using various tactics to avoid paying for news. "The fact that these internet giants would rather cut off Canadians' access to local news than pay their fair share is a real problem," he added.

Google did not say exactly when it would begin to remove news but indicated it would happen before the law takes effect by the end of the year.

Tech giant Meta announced last Thursday that it too would block Canadian news on Facebook and Instagram. Meta is already running a test to block news for up to 5% of its Canadian users. Google ran a similar test earlier this year.

Meta and Google, who dominate online advertising, have been accused of draining cash away from traditional news organizations while using their content for free.

Canada's measure builds on Australia's New Media Bargaining Code, a world first, that made Google and Meta pay for news content on their platforms.

(With inputs from AP and AFP)

France must address 'deep' police racism: UN

The death of 17-year-old Nahel during a traffic stop has revived long-standing grievances about policing and racial profiling in France's low-income and multi-ethnic suburbs.

GENEVA (TIP): France must address deep issues of racial discrimination in its police, the United Nations said on June 30, after a third night of unrest sparked by the fatal police shooting of a teenager.

The death of 17-year-old Nahel during a traffic stop has revived long-standing grievances about policing and racial profiling in France's low-income and multi-ethnic suburbs.

"We are concerned by the killing of a 17-year-old of North African descent by police in France on Tuesday," UN human rights office spokeswoman Ravina Shamdasani told a media briefing in Geneva.

"We note that an investigation has been launched into alleged voluntary homicide. This is a moment for the country to seriously address the deep issues of racism and discrimination in law enforcement."



French President Emmanuel Macron was to lead a crisis meeting of ministers on Friday after a third night of protests saw cars torched, shops ransacked and hundreds arrested.

"We also emphasize the importance of peaceful assembly," Shamdasani said.

"We call on the authorities to ensure the use of force by police to address violent elements in demonstrations always respects the principles of legality, necessity, proportionality, non-discrimination, precaution, and accountability."

"Any allegations of disproportionate use of force must be swiftly investigated."

Shamdasani said the UN rights office was concerned about the unrest that

followed the shooting, and the large number of police officers injured.

"There has been quite a lot of looting and violence as well by certain elements who are using the protests for these purposes," she said.

The UN Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD) is a body of independent experts that monitors how states are implementing the convention on eliminating all forms of such discrimination.

In December, CERD voiced its own deep concerns about the frequent use in France of identity checks, discriminatory stops, and criminal fixed fines that the committee said disproportionately targeted members of certain minority groups. (AFP)

STOP THE PRESS: VIENNA NEWSPAPER WIENER ZEITUNG ENDS DAILY PRINT EDITION AFTER 320 YEARS

BERLIN (TIP): One of the world's oldest newspapers, the Vienna-based Wiener Zeitung, ended its daily print run on June 30 after more than three centuries.

First published under the name Wienerisches Diarium, the paper set out to provide a sober account of the news "without any oratory or poetic gloss" when it was launched on Aug. 8, 1703.

"320 years, 12 presidents, 10 emperors, 2 republics, 1 newspaper," the print edition's final front page read.

The Wiener Zeitung, which is owned by the Austrian government but editorially independent, suffered a sharp decrease in revenue after a recent law dropped a requirement for companies to pay to publish changes to the commercial registry in the print edition.

The newspaper, which is considered a quality publication with a wide range of articles covering domestic and foreign news, culture and business, was forced to cut 63 jobs and reduce its editorial staff by almost two-thirds to 20.

It will continue to operate online and plans a monthly print edition. (AP)

MYANMAR JUNTA-ALIGNED MILITIA DEFECT TO REBELS DURING HEAVY CLASHES

BANGKOK (TIP): Myanmar anti-coup fighters briefly seized several border outposts after junta-aligned militia defected and joined the rebels, sparking days of heavy clashes, state media reported on June 29.

Fighting has ravaged swathes of the country since the military's 2021 putsch, with some established ethnic rebel groups training and fighting alongside newer People's Defence Forces against the junta. Rugged Kayah state on the border with Thailand has become a resistance hotspot, hosting thousands of democracy protesters turned PDF fighters.

Five border posts in the state manned by Border Guard Force (BGF) troops had come under "massive attacks" from anti-coup fighters between 13-19 June, state media said. Border Guard Forces are made up of former ethnic rebels now working with the military in exchange for local autonomy and lucrative business rights. They are often deployed side by side with regular troops.

Communications with a BGF post in Pantain, southeast Kayah, were cut for several days, according to the state-backed Global New Light of Myanmar. Fighters at the BGF post "had betrayed the State and the Tatmadaw [military] by launching a rebellion" and joining anti-coup fighters, the report said, without specifying how many had defected. The defectors had taken weapons and ammunition with them, the report said.

Backed by air and artillery strikes, the military had since retaken the post at Pantain on June 17, it added. Another BGF post in Sukpaing was recaptured on June 27. The military had suffered casualties in officers and other ranks, it said, without giving details.

Dozens of junta troops had defected, according to the opposition National Unity Government that is made up mostly of ousted lawmakers and which is working to overturn the coup. PDF groups have surprised the military with their effectiveness, analysts say, and have dragged the military into a bloody quagmire.

In February, the junta admitted it did not "fully control" more than a third of the country's townships. On Thursday 66 feet (20 metres) of a bridge on a highway linking commercial hub Yangon with the Thai border was mined and destroyed, the junta's information team said. A drone attack on soldiers and officials inspecting the damage killed two and wounded ten civilians as well as some members of the security forces, it added.

An officer from the ethnic rebel Karen National Liberation Army told AFP that their troops and PDF fighters had mined the bridge.

(AFP)

Financially battered Pakistan reaches \$3 billion stand-by deal with IMF

ISLAMABAD (TIP): Pakistan could get temporary relief for its ballooning foreign debt with a new stand-by arrangement worth \$3 billion announced by the IMF in Washington late June 29.

The economy has been stricken by a balance-of-payments crisis as it attempts to service crippling external debt, while months of political chaos have scared off potential foreign investment.

Inflation has rocketed, the rupee has reached a record low against the dollar, and the country can no longer afford imports, causing a severe decline in industrial output.

"I am pleased to announce that the IMF team has reached a staff-level agreement with the Pakistani authorities on a nine-month standby arrangement in the amount of SDR 2,250 million (about \$3 billion)," said IMF official Nathan Porter in a statement.

The deal will need to be approved by the IMF's executive board and will be considered by mid-July, Porter said.

The figure represents 111 percent of Pakistan's IMF quota.

Pakistan's negotiations with the IMF for the last tranche of a \$6.5 billion bailout package agreed in 2019 stalled in November, with the government making last-minute changes to the national budget to meet the deal's requirements.

That package expires on Friday, and the new agreement builds on the IMF's efforts under the previous deal, Porter said.

ECONOMY IN CRISIS

Pakistan's Finance Minister Ishaq Dar celebrated the new potential deal by tweeting "AlhamdoLillah!", meaning "praise be to God!".

But Michael Kugelman, director of the South Asia Institute at the Wilson Center, criticised Pakistan's slow



progress on meeting IMF requirements for a deal.

"Islamabad waited until the very final hour to take the (politically risky) fiscal policy steps that the IMF had been hoping to see for months," he tweeted.

Years of financial mismanagement have pushed Pakistan's economy to the limit, exacerbated by the Covid pandemic, a global energy crisis since Russia's invasion of Ukraine, and record monsoon floods that submerged a third of the country in 2022.

The grim data gave the government little room to introduce vote-attracting budget measures ahead of an election due in October.

The IMF had told Pakistan it needed to secure additional external financing, scrap a swathe of populist subsidies, and allow the rupee to float freely against the dollar, before unlocking more funds.

Mohammed Sohail, chief of Topline Securities, told AFP the IMF's additional loan would restore some investor confidence.

"This new programme is far better than our expectations. There were a lot of uncertainties on what will happen after June 2023 as there will be new

government coming to power," he said.

Pakistan needs billions of dollars in financing to service staggering levels of external debt, and foreign exchange reserves have dwindled to just \$3.5 billion, roughly enough for three weeks of imports.

HISTORY OF BAILOUTS

The crisis prompted the government to temporarily impose a months-long broad import ban, stalling multiple industries.

Pakistan failed to meet any economic growth targets for the fiscal year 2022-23, with GDP growth at 0.3 percent, while the country's standing on the global economic rank fell from 24th in 2017 to 47th.

Inflation reached a record 38 percent in May, after more than a decade of declining real wages for working-class Pakistanis.

The IMF acknowledged the external shocks to the economic system, "as well as some policy missteps", in its deal.

The stand-by deal would support government's economic stability efforts and "provide a framework for financing from multilateral and bilateral partners", the IMF said. (AFP)

World Bank approves USD 700 million for crisis-hit Sri Lanka

COLOMBO (TIP): The World Bank has approved USD 700 million in financing to help Sri Lanka to recover from the current economic crisis and provide relief to the poor and vulnerable people, the biggest funding tranche since the IMF deal in March.

Cash-strapped Sri Lanka is currently struggling with the worst economic crisis in history.

In 2022, the economy had contracted by over seven percent as the economic difficulties forced people to take to the streets with protests across the island nations that also led to the ouster of Sri Lanka's powerful Rajapaksa family from politics.

The World Bank Board of Directors approved USD 700 million in financing to help Sri Lanka to recover from the current economic crisis and provide

relief to the poor and vulnerable people, the Washington-based bank said in a press release.

Of this amount, USD 500 million have been assigned for budgetary support and USD 200 million for social security.

This is the biggest financial relief to Sri Lanka since the International Monetary Fund (IMF) reached an agreement with Sri Lanka last March to provide an Extended Fund Facility of USD 2.9 billion.

In March, the IMF approved a USD 3 billion bailout program to help Sri Lanka overcome its economic crisis and catalyze financial support from other development partners, a move welcomed by Colombo as a "historic milestone" in the critical period.

Sri Lanka has been hit hard by a catastrophic economic and

humanitarian crisis, sparked by years of mismanagement and the raging pandemic.

The World Bank said its Board of Directors approved USD 700 million in financing for two operations to help Sri Lanka implement foundational reforms that restore macroeconomic stability and sustainability, mitigate the impact of current and future shocks on the poor and vulnerable, and support an inclusive and private-sector-led recovery and growth path.

The Sri Lanka Resilience, Stability, and Economic Turnaround (RESET) Development Policy Operation (USD 500 million) will support reforms that help improve economic governance, enhance growth and competitiveness, and protect the poor and vulnerable. (PTI)



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Skin ageing: How to avoid wrinkles?

We are aware that wrinkles are ridges, folds, or creases in the epidermis of the skin. As we become older, they naturally develop. It is however perfectly normal to have wrinkles on your skin. As we age, our skin normally becomes drier, thinner, and less elastic. However, it may be concerning if you start to wrinkle before your time.

Sunlight exposure

Wrinkles are primarily brought on by the sun. UV radiation from sunlight can penetrate the deepest layers of skin and break down collagen, which makes the skin less flexible. Wear sunscreen that is suited for your skin type whether you are inside or outside, whether you are driving or just relaxing by the window. Given the previous weather, SPF 30 or higher is recommended. The sun's indirect rays might also lead to wrinkles. People who work in the sun are more likely to get early wrinkles. Wrinkles may be avoided by donning clothes that covers the skin, such as long sleeves or a hat.

Smoking and alcohol consumption

Smoking often reduces the blood flow to the skin, accelerating skin ageing. Skin is dried out by alcohol. As a result, the skin loses strength and flexibility. Wrinkles start to develop as the skin begins to sag. So for the sake of your skin, give up drinking and smoking.

Squinting

Squinting and particularly active facial movements like frowning your brows and frowning can also contribute to wrinkles. When you squint, your face muscles stiffen up. As a result, your skin cells become squeezed and lose their suppleness. Many individuals have a tendency to squint. But you may change this negative behaviour and stop wrinkles from forming by making conscious efforts.

Stress is a key culprit

As we age, the body produces less collagen, and stress also decreases collagen production and can cause inflammation. Collagen loses flexibility and rigidity as it ages, making it less effective at promoting skin



regeneration and wound healing. Both a loss of flexibility and persistent brow furrowing brought on by stress can cause wrinkles. Stress can also cause wrinkles to emerge because high amounts of the stress hormone cortisol can break down the collagen and elastin in skin.

Lack of sleep

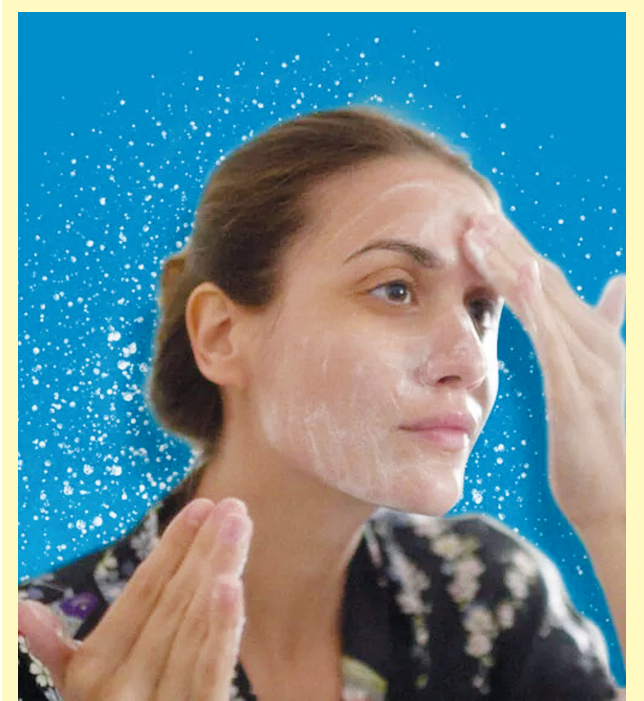
Lack of sleep makes skin healing more difficult. The skin's ability to retain moisture is compromised, as well as the pH level. All of this causes insufficient collagen formation, which speeds up the development of wrinkles.

Excessive cosmetic use

Your skin can benefit from cosmetics, but overusing them could have the opposite effect. They could cause rashes, edoema, clogged pores, and other unfavourable outcomes. All of them can delay the onset of wrinkles by reducing the production of collagen and sebum.

Food Deficiencies

On the other hand, dietary deficiencies wreak havoc on your skin, causing breakouts, rashes, dry skin, wrinkles before their time, etc. If you don't get enough vitamins, your skin may start to show it by becoming dry, pigmented, dull, or overly oily. Your face and body show the effects of the food you eat. Include vitamin C, D, B, E, and K in your diet; these nutrients are crucial for maintaining healthy skin.



Stop washing your face with soap

Soap is a popular cleaner, but it may strip away natural oils and alter the delicate balance of your skin's microbiota, resulting in dryness, irritation, and breakouts. Also, soap may not remove all debris, makeup, and other pollutants from your skin.

Face washing is an important element of your everyday skincare regimen. It aids in the removal of dirt, oil, and pollutants from the skin, keeping it clean and healthy. But, several alternatives exist when selecting the best product for cleaning your face, including soap.

While soap may appear to be a simple and inexpensive way to cleanse your face, there may be better solutions for your skin. Here are 5 side effects of cleaning your face with soap:

Acne and outbreaks can be caused by soap

Washing your face with soap can clog your pores and cause acne and outbreaks. This is because soap may leave a film of residue on your skin that traps oil, debris, and germs, resulting in blackheads, whiteheads, and pimples.

Most soaps include harsh chemicals that can deplete your skin's natural oils, causing dryness, flakiness, and irritation. This can be especially troublesome for persons with sensitive skin or pre-existing skin disorders like eczema or psoriasis.

Soap can upset the pH balance of your skin

Your skin's pH level is critical for maintaining health and protecting it from external irritants. The skin's pH is somewhat acidic, ranging between 4.5 and 5.5. Soap, on the other hand, has an alkaline pH of roughly 9-10. Washing your face with soap regularly can upset your skin's pH balance, resulting in dryness, irritation, and acne.

Soap can hasten skin ageing

Harsh chemicals in the soap can harm the skin's natural barrier, causing accelerated ageing. This can cause your skin to look dull, dry, and wrinkled, making you appear older than your actual age.

Soap can irritate and irritate the skin

Certain soaps contain scents, preservatives, and other ingredients that might irritate and irritate the skin. This can cause redness, irritation, and inflammation in your skin, making it appear and feel uncomfortable.

A soothing, pH-balanced face cleanser mainly developed for your skin type is an alternative to soap. Look for natural products that help soothe and nourish your skin, such as aloe vera, chamomile, and green tea.

FOOD

Chicken Curry With Chickpeas

INGREDIENTS

1 pounds chicken thighs, salt as required, 1/2 teaspoon, coriander powder, 1/2 teaspoon turmeric, 1/2 teaspoon dried fenugreek leaves, 2 cloves garlic, 1 1/2 cup tomato, 1 cup chick peas, 1 tablespoon parsley, 1 tablespoon mint, 1 tablespoon butter, 4 tablespoon refined oil, 1/2 teaspoon cumin, 1/2 teaspoon garam masala powder, 1/2 teaspoon cayenne pepper, 1 onion, 1/2 inch ginger, 1 tablespoon almonds, 1 cup water, 1 tablespoon coriander leaves, 1 tablespoon dill leaves

Method

- Use soaked chickpeas overnight or for about 6 hours. Preheat oven to 420 degrees Fahrenheit. Line a baking tray with parchment. Cut chicken into small bite-sized pieces and place in large mixing bowl.
- Add 2 tbsp oil, salt to taste and 1/4 tsp of all the spices. Mix well and then spread chicken in single layer on the parchment-lined tray. Bake for 20 minutes. Take it out from the oven and reserve chicken with all of its juices.
- Warm the remaining 2 tbsp oil in a deep non-stick



skillet over medium-high heat. Add onions, ginger and garlic. Saute for about 5 minutes until it softens. Reduce the heat to medium and add tomatoes, salt to taste, remaining 1/4 tsp of all the spices and ground almonds.

- Cook for 5 minutes until the mixture thickens slightly. Add chickpeas, water and reserved chicken with juices. Mix well, cover skillet and cook for 20 minutes on medium-low heat. Fold in chopped herbs and butter. Serve hot.

Omega-3 fatty acids, antioxidants and fibre to boost heart health

Omega-3 fats, fibre and antioxidants all help in promoting heart health and general well-being.

Omega-3 fatty acids

Omega-3 fats, found in fatty fish like salmon, avocado, chia seeds, walnuts and soybeans, offer a multitude of heart-protective benefits. They help to thin the blood, reducing the risk of blood clots and lowering blood pressure. Additionally, they promote heart health by reducing inflammation, thereby decreasing the chances of developing heart disease. Including these omega-3-rich foods in your diet can significantly contribute to a healthier heart.

Fibre

Fibre plays a critical role in maintaining heart health. It is abundantly found in fruits, vegetables, whole grains, legumes and nuts. This nutrient is essential for reducing cholesterol levels as it prevents the absorption of cholesterol from the intestines. By incorporating fibre into your diet, you can not only lower cholesterol but also control blood sugar levels, aiding in diabetes management, and ultimately reducing the risk of heart disease. Moreover, fibre helps



control body weight by promoting satiety and supporting healthy digestion. Prioritising fibre-rich foods is key to protecting your heart.

Antioxidants

Antioxidants are vital for maintaining a healthy heart. These powerful compounds combat the formation of free radicals, which are harmful

molecules that damage cells, promote inflammation and increase the risk of heart disease. By consuming foods rich in antioxidants like berries, citrus fruits, leafy greens and nuts, you can counteract free radical activity and protect your cells from further damage. Integrating these antioxidant-packed foods into your diet contributes to a stronger, healthier heart.



Depressed patients less likely to take their heart medications

Patients, who feel low when having a cardiac device implanted, are more likely to stop taking their heart medications than those without depression, according to research presented at the ACNAP 2023, a scientific congress of the European Society of Cardiology (ESC).

An implantable cardioverter defibrillator (ICD) implantation is recommended for people at high risk of a life-threatening arrhythmia and for those who have had a sudden cardiac arrest.

Most patients with an ICD are prescribed medication to manage their heart disease. Failure to take cardiac medications increases the risk of complications and death, making it crucial to identify patients who are more likely to stop taking their medication so that support measures can be initiated.

The study included 322 patients to examine whether anxiety and depression at the time of ICD implantation are associated with medication adherence one year after receiving the device.

The findings showed that patients with higher levels of depressive symptoms at the time of ICD implantation were less likely to be taking their heart medications one year later.

The effect of depression was statistically significant but small, which is not surprising given the complexity and multitude of factors involved in medication adherence, Skov said.

"These results highlight the importance of considering the psychological status of people receiving an ICD. Those with symptoms of depression at the time of implantation could be at risk of discontinuing their heart medications, even if they are taking them initially, and may need extra support," he added.

Source: IANS

Add onions to your diet for managing diabetes, arthritis

Apart from its culinary use, onions are widely used in traditional medicine for digestive issues like loss of appetite, upset stomach, or gallbladder disorders. Onions are also used in treatment of heart and blood vessel issues like chest pain and high blood pressure. Onion hair masks are also widely used as it has many benefits for hair health from promoting hair growth, preventing itchy scalp, hair loss to treating dandruff.

Here's how onions can help control blood sugar levels:

Specific compounds found in onions, such as quercetin and sulfur compounds, also possess antidiabetic effects. High amounts of fibre, iron, potassium, vitamin C, and various essential micronutrients that promote health in a number of ways. Quercetin has been shown to interact with cells in the small intestine, pancreas, skeletal muscle, fat tissue, and liver to control whole-body blood sugar regulation. They lower the blood sugar due to the fact they are prebiotics, undigested fibres that pass through the upper digestive tract to the large intestine where they stimulate growth of beneficial bacteria. And surprisingly, gut bacteria are involved in glucose regulation. It should be noted that the raw onion is the most beneficial to our health. The low glycaemic index shows that it can help control blood sugar levels in diabetics. Ripe onion juice has been shown to provide anti-diabetic properties and prevent hyperglycaemia.

How to consume onions for diabetes management

Onions can be used in fresh raita, dosa, stuffed



chapati or salads apart from your regular cooking.

Moderation is the key as onion contains sulfur and may aggravate gastritis or reflux when taken on empty stomach.

Benefits of onions in arthritis

Onions can help reduce the inflammation in joints as it contains quercetin, flavonoids which is present abundantly in onions known to modulate immune responses. A study conducted on women with rheumatoid arthritis, were administered a constant dose of quercetin(500mg/day) for a duration of 8 weeks or so. Quercetin supplementation reduced early morning stiffness associated with rheumatoid arthritis. Factors responsible for inflammation were also suppressed.

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Google Meet getting new companion mode check-in feature

Tech giant Google has announced that it is rolling out a new companion mode check-in feature in the video communication service 'Meet'.

"One of the challenges of joining a virtual meeting from a conference room, is that the people in the room are identified by the name of the conference room rather than as individuals," the tech giant said in a Workspace Updates blogpost.

However, with the new feature, if someone joins a meeting from a conference room, they can use companion mode on their personal device to check in to that specific room. Rather than being represented in a meeting just by the conference room users are in, room check-in helps to make sure that everyone in the meeting can see their name and be aware of their presence. Room check-in will be available by default, but admins can turn this feature off for specific Meet hardware devices or specific users.

Meanwhile, earlier this month, the tech giant was rolling out a new viewer mode in the video communication service, which allows users to select "Everyone is a viewer" when creating their Calendar invite.

Source: IANS

Turn your smartphone into TV remote

- Open the Google Play Store and install the Google TV app.
- Make sure your TV and phone are on the same Wi-Fi network. If your TV doesn't have Wi-Fi, you can also use Bluetooth to connect your phone and TV.
- Open the Google TV app. Once the app is open, tap the Remote button in the bottom right corner.
- The app will start scanning for devices. Once your TV is found, select it from the list.
- A code will appear on your TV screen. Enter the code into the app and tap Pair.
- Once your phone is paired with your TV, you can use it to control the TV just like you would with a regular remote.
- How to turn your iPhone into a TV remote
- Make sure that your iPhone and TV are connected to the same Wi-Fi network.
- Download and install the Google TV app from the App Store.
- Open the Google TV app on your iPhone.
- Tap on the TV Remote icon at the bottom right corner of the screen.
- The app will automatically start looking for your TV. If it doesn't find your TV, tap on the Scan for devices button.
- Once your TV is found, select it and enter the 6-digit code that appears on your TV screen.
- Tap on Pair to connect your iPhone to your TV.

Once your iPhone is connected to your TV, you can use it to control your TV just like you would with a regular remote control. You can use the app to change the channel, adjust the volume, control playback, and more.

James Webb detects carbon molecule in space

NASA's James Webb Space Telescope has discovered a key life-building block carbon molecule in space for the first time. The team of researchers found this compound in the Orion Nebula about 1,350 light-years away.

According to a news release from NASA, these carbon compounds are known as methyl cation (pronounced cat-eye-on) (CH₃⁺), the molecule is important because it aids the formation of more complex carbon-based molecules.

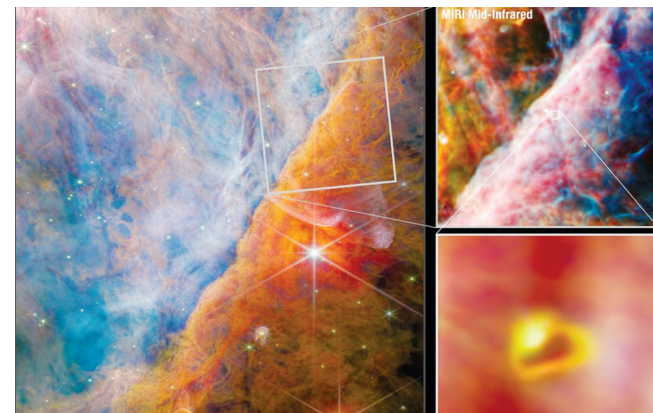
Methyl cation was detected in a young star system, with a protoplanetary disk, known as d203-506- located about 1,350 light-years away in the Orion Nebula.

Now astronomers are on a quest to find signals of carbon compounds in the greater universe.

Carbon compounds form the foundations of all known life, and as such are particularly interesting to scientists working to understand both how life developed on Earth, and how it could potentially develop elsewhere in our universe. The study of interstellar organic (carbon-containing) chemistry, which Webb is opening in new ways, is an area of keen fascination to many astronomers.

The team of researchers says that Webb's unique capabilities made it an ideal observatory to search for this crucial molecule. Webb's exquisite spatial and spectral resolution, as well as its sensitivity, all contributed to the team's success. In particular, Webb's detection of a series of key emission lines from CH₃⁺ cemented the discovery.

"This detection not only validates the incredible sensitivity of Webb but also confirms the postulated central importance of CH₃⁺ in interstellar chemistry," said Marie-Aline Martin-Drumel of the University of



Paris-Saclay in France, a member of the science team. While the star in d203-506 is a small red dwarf, the system is bombarded by strong ultraviolet (UV) light from nearby hot, young, massive stars. Scientists believe that most planet-forming disks go through a period of such intense UV radiation since stars tend to form in groups that often include massive, UV-producing stars.

Typically, UV radiation is expected to destroy complex organic molecules, in which case the discovery of CH₃⁺ might seem to be a surprise. However, the team predicts that UV radiation might actually provide the necessary source of energy for CH₃⁺ to form in the first place. Once formed, it then promotes additional chemical reactions to build more complex carbon molecules. Broadly, the team notes that the molecules they see in d203-506 are quite different from typical protoplanetary disks. In particular, they could not detect any signs of water.

Antarctic 'landfast' ice likely to reduce by end of century: Scientists

Antarctica's 'landfast' ice, the stationary sea ice forming around and remaining attached to the coastline or among grounded icebergs, is likely to reduce by the end of this century, in its season length, thickness and extent, according to a new review.

A critical breeding habitat for emperor penguins and essential for their survival, landfast ice provides a key substrate for early-season primary production fuelling coastal marine food cycles.

Along with documenting a recent dramatic crash in its extent, the first-ever broad review of Antarctic landfast ice highlighted its far-reaching importance in the Earth system and identified priorities for future research, scientists involved in the review said.

"Landfast ice needs to be distinguished from other types of sea ice for the different roles it plays in the global climate system," said Alex Fraser, an Australian Antarctic Program Partnership scientist who co-led the team of 23 international authors. He along with the other co-lead Pat Wongpan have published their review in the journal *Reviews of Geophysics*.

"Our comprehensive review synthesises the current state of knowledge of Antarctic landfast ice, from its physical and mechanical properties through to its major roles in key glaciological, oceanographic, atmospheric, biogeochemical and biological processes," said Fraser.

However, because landfast ice is not currently represented in global climate models, projections were highly uncertain, they said.

The review noted that the "incorporation of prognostic fast ice into regional and circum-Antarctic coupled sea ice-ocean models is a high priority."

"The formation of Antarctic fast ice results from complicated interactions between sea ice, ocean, atmosphere, coastal configuration, bathymetry and



grounded icebergs (of which no large-scale dataset currently exists), and its accurate model representation is perhaps a more challenging problem than its Arctic counterpart," the authors wrote.

The researchers said that their analysis demonstrated the speed with which landfast ice can respond to environmental change.

"From satellite records, we created a new yearly time-series of landfast ice from 2000-2022 which shows that the annual minimum circum-Antarctic fast-ice extent reached a dramatic record low in March 2022," said Fraser.

Landfast ice extent dropped to just 1,23,200 sqkm (square kilometres) in March 2022 (its normal March range is between 1,68,600 and 2,95,200 sqkm).

"Regions where landfast ice was lost previously had fast-ice cover in early-mid March every year from 2000 to 2021," he said.

Source: PTI



Apple's market value breaches \$3 trillion mark again

Apple Inc's market capitalisation on Friday, June 30, breached the \$3 trillion mark for the first time since January last year, as investors bet on the iPhone maker's ability to grow revenue even as it explores new markets such as virtual reality.

Shares of Apple, which is also the world's most valuable-listed company, were up 1.3% at \$191.99 in morning trading. They have jumped nearly 46% this year and, at the current price, the company's market value stands at \$3.02 trillion.

Apple's market value briefly peaked above \$3 trillion in intra-day trading on Jan. 3, 2022, before closing the session just below that mark.

The gains in Apple shares come as technology stocks rebound on bets that the Federal Reserve may be slowing its pace of interest rate hikes as well as on the buzz around artificial intelligence.

Apple's less-than-expected fall in sales in its most recent quarterly report has highlighted the tech giant's resiliency in an uncertain economy and reinforced its reputation among investors.

Currently, four other US companies have a valuation of more than \$1 trillion — Alphabet Inc, Microsoft Corp, Amazon.com Inc and Nvidia Corp. *Source: Reuters*

India's forex reserves drop by USD 2.9 billion to USD 593.1 billion

India's forex reserves dropped by \$2.901 billion to \$593.198 billion in the week ended June 23, reported the Reserve Bank of India on Friday. This reversed an increase in reserves by \$2.35 billion last week.

Foreign currency assets during the week decreased by \$2.212 billion to \$525.44 billion as the RBI sought to defend the value of the rupee by selling dollars in the open market. Gold reserves dropped \$745 million to \$44.304 billion and Special Drawing Rights (SDRs) increased by \$85 million to \$18.334 billion. India's reserve position with the IMF was down by \$29 million to \$5.12 billion in the reporting week. *Source: TNS*

Oil prices jump 3% on bigger-than-expected decline in US crude storage

NEW YORK (TIP)

Oil prices climbed about 3% as the second straight weekly draw from U.S. crude stockpiles was bigger than expected, offsetting worries that further interest rate hikes could slow economic growth and reduce global oil demand.

Brent futures rose \$1.77, or 2.5%, to settle at \$74.03 a barrel. U.S. West Texas Intermediate (WTI) crude rose \$1.86, or 2.8%, to settle at \$69.56, narrowing Brent's premium over WTI to its lowest since June 9.

The U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA) said crude inventories dropped by 9.6 million barrels in the week ended June 23, far exceeding the 1.8-million barrel draw analysts forecast in a Reuters poll and also much bigger than the 2.8 million barrel draw a year earlier. It also exceeded the average draw in the five years from 2018-2022.

"Overall, very solid numbers that kind of fly in the face of people who have been saying that the market is oversupplied. This report could be a bottom (for oil prices)," said Phil Flynn, an analyst at Price Futures Group.

Investors remained cautious that interest rate hikes could slow economic growth and reduce oil demand.

"If anybody is going to rain on the bull market it will be (U.S. Federal Reserve Chair) Jerome Powell," Flynn said.

Leaders of the world's top central banks reaffirmed that they see further policy tightening needed to tame inflation. Powell did not rule out further hikes at consecutive Fed meetings while European Central Bank President Christine Lagarde confirmed expectations the bank will raise rates in July, calling such a move "likely".



The 12-month backwardation for Brent and WTI — a pricing dynamic indicating higher demand for immediate delivery — both at their lowest levels since December 2022. Analysts at energy consulting firm Gelber and Associates said that suggested "diminishing worries over potential supply shortages."

Some analysts expect the market to tighten in the second half, citing ongoing supply cuts by OPEC+, the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) and allies like Russia, and Saudi Arabia's voluntary reduction for July.

In China, the world's second-biggest oil consumer, annual profits at industrial firms extended a double-digit decline in the first five months as softening demand squeezed margins, reinforcing hopes of more policy support for a stuttering post-COVID economic recovery.

Fed chair Powell hints at 2 more rate hikes to cool US inflation

Federal Reserve Chairman Jerome Powell talked tough on inflation saying at a forum that he expects multiple interest rate increases ahead and possibly at an aggressive pace.

"We believe there's more restriction coming," Powell said during a monetary policy session in Sintra, Portugal.

"What's really driving it ... is a very strong labor market."

The comments reiterate a position taken by Powell's fellow policymakers at their June meeting, during which they indicated the likelihood of another half percentage point of increases through the end of 2023.

Assuming a quarter point per meeting, that would mean two more hikes.

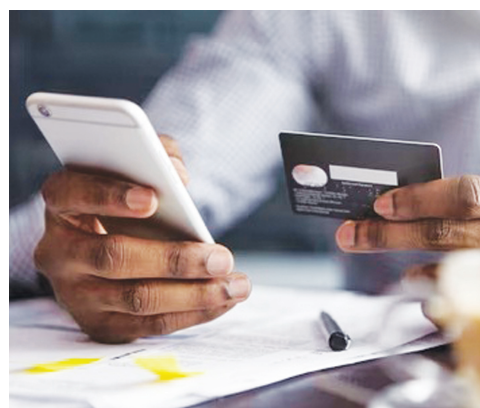
India excludes overseas credit card spends from LRS

NEW DELHI (TIP)

The finance ministry on midnight Friday, June 30, amended foreign exchange management rules to exclude international credit card spends from the purview of liberalised remittance scheme (LRS) hours after issuing a CBDT circular that "no TCS shall be applicable on expenditure through international credit card while being overseas "till further order".

"Use of International Credit Card while outside India.— Nothing contained in rule 5 shall apply to the use of International Credit Card for making payment by a person towards meeting expenses while such person is on a visit outside India," the notification issued by the Department of Economic Affairs (DEA) said.

The notification is implemented with retrospective effect from May 16, DEA, an arm of the finance the ministry said in the order.



LRS tweak is ill-conceived

The Union finance ministry's decision to include international spending on credit cards within the \$250,000 which an individual is allowed to remit abroad annually under the liberalised remittance scheme (LRS) is a bureaucratic, self-defeating and regressive move that threatens to undo the gains made in formalising transactions and easing compliance.

It means individuals will have to bear the burden of 20% tax collected at source (TCS; duly refundable when returns are filed) for transactions in a foreign currency, irrespective of whether this is being done abroad, or from India. There have been clarifications since, both on record and off, but some of these merely add to the complexity. And the emphasis that only HNIs (high networth individuals) will be affected seems to suggest it is fine to do this to the rich (even the well-off, given that an increasing number of Indians are now travelling overseas), a sentiment out of place in 21st-century India. Because this money will eventually be returned on filing tax returns — credit card issuers and banks must be quailing at the paperwork involved — there will be no significant boost to the government's revenues. It will add avoidable friction to compliance and make an otherwise straightforward process nightmarish.

Source: HT

Shree Ganeshaya Namah

Monthly Horoscope: July 2023

By Chirag Daruwalla - Son of Astrologer Bejan Daruwalla



ARIES



Ganesha says this month, Aries, you'll be filled with a surge of energy and enthusiasm. Your confidence and assertiveness will be at an all-time high, propelling you forward in all areas of life. In your career, take advantage of your ambitious nature to pursue new opportunities and showcase your leadership skills. Finances look promising, but avoid impulsive spending. In relationships, your passion and charisma will draw others towards you. Single Aries might find love in unexpected places. Remember to balance your drive with self-care to avoid burnout.

TAURUS



Ganesha says this month brings a focus on stability and security. In your career, you may need to reassess your long-term goals and make necessary adjustments. Financially, it's a good time to save and invest wisely rather than taking risks. In your personal life, relationships may require extra attention and communication. Nurture your emotional well-being by engaging in self-care activities. Stay grounded and patient as you navigate through any challenges that arise.

GEMINI



Ganesha says this month will be filled with intellectual stimulation and social opportunities. Your communication skills will be heightened, allowing you to express yourself with ease. In your career, you may find yourself juggling multiple projects or ideas. Embrace your versatility and adaptability to make the most of these situations. Financially, it's a good time to seek advice and explore new investment opportunities. In relationships, open and honest communication will strengthen your connections.

CANCER



Ganesha says your focus will be on emotional well-being and personal growth. Take time for self-reflection and explore your inner world. In your career, you may feel the need for a change or a new direction. Trust your instincts and don't be afraid to make bold decisions. Financially, it's important to budget and avoid unnecessary expenses. In relationships, deeper emotional connections can be formed. Nurture your loved ones and express your feelings openly.

LEO



Ganesha says this month brings a surge of creativity and self-expression. Embrace your natural charisma and let your talents shine.

In your career, new opportunities may come your way, allowing you to showcase your skills. Financially, it's important to stay organized and avoid impulsive purchases. In relationships, your warmth and generosity will be appreciated. Single Leos may find romantic prospects entering their lives. Remember to balance your personal ambitions with the needs of others.

VIRGO



Ganesha says this month focuses on stability and practicality. In your career, attention to detail and a methodical approach will yield positive results. Financially, it's a good time to create a budget and set realistic goals. Emotionally, take time for self-care and relaxation. In relationships, open and honest communication will deepen your connections. Single Virgos may find potential partners through shared interests or activities. Stay organized and focused on your long-term aspirations.

LIBRA



Ganesha says your focus will be on balance and harmony in all aspects of life. In your career, collaboration and compromise will lead to success. Financially, seek stability and avoid unnecessary risks. Emotionally, strive for inner peace and maintain a positive mindset. In relationships, diplomacy and understanding will strengthen your connections. Single Libras may find love through social gatherings or group activities. Take time for self-care and pursue activities that bring you joy.

SCORPIO



Ganesha says this month brings intensity and transformation. In your career, you may need to let go of old patterns and embrace new opportunities. Financially, it's important to be cautious and make informed decisions. Emotionally, confront any deep-seated issues and engage in self-healing. In relationships, loyalty and trust will be paramount. Single Scorpions may experience intense connections with potential partners. Embrace change and embrace your inner strength.

SAGITTARIUS



Ganesha says this month brings a sense of adventure and expansion. In your career, embrace new challenges and take calculated risks. Financially, it's a good time to broaden your knowledge and seek new opportunities for growth. Emotionally, maintain a positive outlook and surround yourself with uplifting energy. In relationships, open communication and shared experiences will deepen your bonds. Single Sagittarians may meet someone intriguing while pursuing their passions.

CAPRICORN



Ganesha says this month emphasizes discipline and responsibility. In your career, focus on long-term goals and stay committed to your path. Financially,

it's a good time to reevaluate your budget and make necessary adjustments. Emotionally, find balance between work and personal life. In relationships, trust and loyalty will be essential. Single Capricorns may need to be patient and allow love to unfold naturally. Stay determined and keep moving forward towards your aspirations.

AQUARIUS



Ganesha says this month brings a sense of innovation and individuality. In your career, embrace your unique ideas and explore unconventional approaches. Financially, be mindful of impulsive spending and prioritize saving. Emotionally, express your authentic self and connect with like-minded individuals. In relationships, intellectual stimulation and freedom will be important. Single Aquarians may find themselves drawn to someone who shares their ideals. Embrace your true nature and follow your passions.

PISCES



Ganesha says this month brings a focus on intuition and spiritual growth. In your career, trust your instincts and pursue opportunities that align with your values. Financially, it's important to stay organized and seek advice when needed. Emotionally, create boundaries and practice self-care to maintain balance. In relationships, empathy and compassion will deepen your connections. Single Pisceans may meet someone who understands and appreciates their depth. Embrace your intuition and let it guide you on your path.

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

WEEKLY HOROSCOPE - JULY 3 TO JULY 9 , 2023

ARIES



Ganesha says, this week, a lively mood will be welcomed. This week, you will give your professional life greater consideration. The enthusiasm this week can give you the courage and creativity to investigate all of the best options that are open to you. You will doubt your level of satisfaction this week no matter where you are. This week will reveal a lot about who you are. You will only get a little bit of money this week. This week, you will feel a little unsure about your profession, but exploring your possibilities might be beneficial. This week, you will be appreciative of your loved one's companionship and enjoy thoughtful discussions. Now is the time to start working out aggressively.

TAURUS



Ganesha says, Things will return to their usual state this week. This week, your inherent talents will improve. You will have a new perspective on the world as a result of this. Although you will be able to alter the circumstance, keep in mind that a novel strategy is required. Wise phrases will be indications for this week. On an individual level, you ought to use caution when speaking in the presence of your family. You will experiment with creative concepts in regards of affection, such as taking vacations to unwind from your stressful job. You worked very hard on your study, and this week you will get paid. Much of your dedication will be needed for your well-being. This week, try to limit your bad habits.

GEMINI



Ganesha says, this week, you will discover that you are not supposed to be in charge of other people's feelings. This week, you will also need to stick up and refuse requests for benefits, even if some individuals could abuse your generosity. You can begin again without your family's problems. You are going to experience a few small intestinal problems in terms of your health. There will be discomfort for you. Unquestionably, you will need to make some adjustments to your working situation. People around you will be amazed by your unorthodox concepts if you apply them to your field of work. You will have to deny offering your time and resources to someone you know via your professional connections. Making time will need work on your part.

CANCER



Ganesha says, this week, you are going to start accomplishing fantastic achievements. You will ask questions regarding each and every incident, both good and bad. If you let other people's opinions to influence your everyday choices, your progress will be negatively impacted. Your week will also have other lovely aspects. You will get access to a personal area where you may enhance your professional abilities. Your superiors will not be as intrusive, allowing you to get the greatest results. Now is not the time for businesses to invest in commercial property. This week, on the romantic face, your significant other will seek your counsel on their job and enterprise. Put your reputation at danger to protect what's important to them. You should not start making wedding arrangements at this point. Your health will be all well.

LEO



Ganesha says you will be able to concentrate this week with a positive outlook. You will be informed of the outcomes of your prior efforts. You will be suggested as somebody to work with, which will result in the distribution of more possibilities than you are entitled to. This week you will close some nice sales, and the financial situation will be perfect. You will have a terrific week in terms of business this week. The benefits of investing in the bond portfolio are substantial. You could feel a little emotionally estranged from your significant other, but this is only a result of the strain their job is causing them. You will probably start to feel at ease right away. Overall happiness and success will surround you.

VIRGO



Ganesha says, you will be given the credit you earn. Even if you will not get any aid, taking care of matters on your own will make you more disciplined. Your family will make you learn things the hard way this week. On the business boundaries, you will have plenty to cope with. Your managers are going to make heed of your abilities and efforts and could recommend you for advancement. In terms of your romantic life, a married couple will plan a leisurely outing this week but will not be able to go on it. Even though your health will significantly improve this week, you will still feel very tired. Your week will end on a positive note.

LIBRA



Ganesha says, this week will be the time when your determination will be put to the assessment, but you will be really brave this week, and it will work out just the way you anticipate it to. If you have faith in God Shiva, you can conquer all you encounter this week. This week, your partner will be a particularly important love ally. You will consider yourself fortunate to have them since they will be on your side at all times. In the business world, you will be given a terrific assessment, but you will not be overjoyed. The stock exchange is a terrific place for companies to put their money this week. This week, you will need to take more precautions for your health since you will be exhausted. The result might be that you will get inspired.

SCORPIO



Ganesha says, you will be admired by everybody in the business community for your abilities. You will talk openly about your money, and favorable circumstances will materialize for you. Those who handle collaborations between companies will prosper in their jobs more than those who handle solitary ventures. Those working in research and advancement will have to deal with severe strain and unpredictable workloads. This week, you will have the good luck to come across the person you have been looking for. Love will have a positive impact on your personal development this week. Your kids may have problems as a result of the adverse medical news.

SAGITTARIUS



Ganesha says, it is possible that you may run into some old pals by chance and that this will open up doors for you. The best part of your week will be talking to them, and you will miss them later. Your spouse could be anxious about the state of your relationship at the moment. It will not be an issue as long as you handle it with kindness and retain your calm. You could have a temporary setback in the relationship, but you will easily overcome it and continue on your initial path. It can be a hectic week in the Technology industry. People who work in the medical industry could experience small issues. Purchases made using indexes are likely to perform well. Your anxiousness might perhaps increase. a brief pause for rest will help you stay fit.

CONTD ON PAGE 38

BIRTHDAY HOROSCOPE : JULY 3 TO JULY 9 , 2023 BY ASTRO FRIEND CHIRAG - SON OF ASTROLOGER BEJAN DARUWALLA

July 3

Ganesha says that today is an excellent day for wisdom and introspection. You may find yourself making connections, understanding complex situations, and uncovering truths like never before. Use this day to learn new things and communicate effectively. Listening to others might hold the key to a question you've been pondering for a long time.

July 4

Ganesha says the day is urging you to embrace your dreams and ambitions. There is an energetic wave of motivation within you that could be used to progress on projects or ideas that you're passionate about. You might face some challenges, but

remember, they are there to make you stronger. Embrace them and turn them into steppingstones towards your goals.

July 5

Ganesha says today is a day of balance and harmony. You'll find a way to harmonize different aspects of your life, be it work-life balance or aligning your actions with your values. You'll feel a sense of equilibrium, and the harmony you achieve today will set the

July 6

Ganesha says today calls for introspection and self-awareness. Delve into your mind and understand your true desires and motivations.

Engage in activities that help you connect with your inner self. Whether it's meditation, journaling, or simply spending time in solitude, wisdom and peace await you.

July 7

Ganesha says today is a day for expansion and growth. You're on the cusp of a significant personal development phase. This could be learning a new skill, broadening your perspective, or stepping outside your comfort zone. Embrace the opportunities that come your way, as they're steppingstones to your growth.

July 8

Ganesha says it's a day of creativity and intuition. Your artistic abilities

are amplified and your intuition is heightened. Express your creative side and trust your gut feelings. You might surprise yourself with the insights you gain and the artistic feats you achieve.

July 9

Ganesha says today is about discipline and determination. Focus on your goals and lay out a structured plan to achieve them. Whether it's a professional objective or a personal dream, putting in effort and staying committed will bring you closer to your aspirations. Let your determination guide you and discipline anchor you.

WEEKLY HOROSCOPE - JULY 3 TO JULY 9 , 2023

CONTD FROM PAGE 37

CAPRICORN



Capricorn

Ganesha says, this week, you will experience a spiritual awakening. You will feel more positive as a result of it. Your genuineness

might not be well received wherever you go. Think before you speak so that your words do not cause harm to anyone. You will get a thoughtful gift from your partner. You will find it simpler to approach if you do so. There may be some arguments between spouses and partners, but they will be resolved before evening. There will be a small cost, but it will be spent prudently. Maintain your thoughts to yourself at all times. Be ready for a sympathetic answer from your friend when you inquire about the previous conversations. You can experience mental health problems as a result of your love relationship, but your significant other will be there for you.

AQUARIUS



Aquarius

Ganesha says there may be an exciting chance this week at work. It will aid in your professional development.

Additionally, the business initial line will get better. Your coworkers will not appreciate it if your behavior in the workplace changes, which is likely to happen. Make sure you are aware of it and that it will not have an impact on your relationships. This week, enjoying the days with your significant other is a terrific option. It will facilitate calm for you. Furthermore, this is an excellent opportunity to talk about knots. The coming week's job may be chaotic and stressful. Your interpersonal interactions will be

hampered if you do not deal with it. Lack of sleep and nervousness might make you act in a risky manner.



Pisces

PISCES

Ganesha says the fact that you are a good person will be recognized by everyone.

You have already made a commitment to something very remarkable, and you will now be awarded for it. Make this event a reminder that no one is flawless. Your business faces currently appear to be secure and stable. Even though you may have to pull a few threads to make things go your way, the money you will make will nearly totally

cover your expenses. Committed folks will have to deal with their partner's propensity to become sidetracked from their love pursuits. For some folks, finding an acceptable network will be challenging. You should only accept the love you are now seeking.

|| SHREE GANESHAY NAMAH ||



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Sikh History This Week

JUNE 30, 2023, TO JULY 6, 2023

30th June



1813 Raja Karam Singh became Maharaja of Patiala. Raja Karam succeeded Maharaja Sahib Singh at the age of 15. He helped the British in the conflict with the Gorkhas and was rewarded with 16 parganas (district sub-divisions) in Simla Hills as gifts.

1984 Indian government presents its inquiry finding into the operation Bluestar in form of a White paper. Then Governor of Punjab, B.D. Panday resigns.

1989 Babbar Khalsa International Conference, Montreal. Babbar Khalsa organization in Canada held its first conference in Montreal to commemorate the Sikh martyrs who laid their lives for the cause of the Sikh nation. The devout Babbars urged Sikhs to observe memories of their courage annually. About 500 Sikhs attended the conference.

1st July



1745 Martyrdom day of Bhai Taru Singh Ji, in Lahore. Bhai Taru Singh left his mortal remains. On Harbhagat Naranjania's complaint, Bhai Taru Singh of his village was arrested and accused of providing rations to the Sikhs. Bhai Taru Singh admitted the facts. Nawab Zakaria Khan ordered the removal of his scalp. Bhai Taru Singh said that the Governor would suffer as much torture. And Bhai Taru would take Zakaria Khan along with him to the other world. The Nawab's orders were carried out on June 27, 1745. The same day Zakaria Khan's urinary system stopped functioning, putting him in great pain. The Qazi addressed Bhai Taru Singh Oh Kafir, what have you done? The Nawab can't urinate. He is in great pain. Bhai Taru Singh told him to take his shoe and beat it on Zakaria's head to make him urinate. On the fifth day of shoe beating, Zakaria Khan died on July 1, 1745. On hearing of that the same day Bhai Taru Singh left his mortal remains.

1918 Maharaja Ranjit Singh conquered Kashmir and combined it with Sikh State.

1983 By now Indian Government had given gallantry awards to over 50 policemen for killing Sikhs. This was done to boost the morale of the policemen as well as create terror among Sikhs.

1984 Regional Conference at Kamloops.

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

2nd July



1978 Reorganisation Of The Sikh Students Federation. Amrik Singh elected the President of All India Sikh Federation.

The Sikh Students Federation was reorganized in response to the Amritsar massacre in which Nirankaris kill 13 Gursikhs who protested their provocations against the Sikh faith. Since the elected official, while ruling Punjab, continually bowed before the Central (Hindu) Government and refused to ban the activities of this gang of bohemians. While simultaneously they addressed various Sikh congregations and spoke against the Nirankaris so that the Sikh masses should not become furious against them for their indifferent (or pro-Nirankari) attitude. Thus this became the starting point of the new phase of the struggle of the Sikh nation. The lead was given by the Sikh Youth under the guidance of the Sikh intelligentsia. They had to fight various platforms: the Hindus, the Communists and some of the pseudo-Akalis, who loved their office more than their nation.

4th July

1955 Indian police entered Darbar Sahib complex and arrested several Akali leaders.

1965 Nalwa conference Ludhiana asserted Sikh's right to self-determination.

5th July

1856 Nihal Singh, alias Bhai Maharaj Singh, died a hero's death in the Singapore prison. His death was to the cancer that had developed as a result of his fast while in prison. Bhai MAHARAJ SINGH: Born in



village Rabbon, near Malud, Ludhiana Dist. Parents named him Nihal Singh. As a young lad, he went to stay at Bhai Bir Singh's Dera at Naurangabad. Did sewa for many years, took Amrit at the hands of Bhai Bir Singh, was given the name Bhagwan Singh, and eventually became his chela. The Dera was practically a military camp with 1200 musketmen and 3000 horsemen. It had always been a sanctuary for political refugees. It became the centre of the Sikh revolt against Dogra dominance over the Punjab.

Hira Singh Dogra, the chief minister of the Punjab, attacked the Dera in 1844 with 20000 troops and 50 cannon. Several hundred Sikhs, including General Attar Singh Sandhanwalla, Prince Kashmir Singh and Bhai Bir Singh were killed. Bhagwan Singh became the head of the Dera.

The British, who had been waiting for the right moment to intervene and establish their authority, made their move in 1847. They deported Rani Jinda. The Sikh chiefs revolted, including Bhagwan Singh. He was welcomed by Sikhs saying "Ah Wo Maharaj", because of his sanctity, thus, soon he came to be referred to as Bhai Maharaj Singh.

1973 Akali Dal initiates the Karnal Morcha.



1984 Nine Sikhs hijacked an Indian Airliner to Lahore (1984).

To protest against the invasion of the Indian army on the Darbar Sahib, nine Sikhs belonging to the Sikh Students Federation hijacked an Indian Airliner from Jammu to Lahore. On January 20, 1986, three of them were sentenced to death, two were sentenced to life-imprisonment and four were acquitted. Later in 1989 the death sentence was commuted to life-imprisonment under the orders of a general amnesty. Two of the four acquitted were killed by the Indian army while they were returning to India.

6th July

1946 Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru assured fruits of freedom for Sikhs. Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, first prime minister of India, assured the Sikhs in Calcutta session that all steps will be taken to create a region in which Sikhs could enjoy the fruits of freedom. Such promises remain unfulfilled todate.

Guru Purnima

Guru Purnima, also known as Vyasa Purnima, is observed and celebrated every year throughout India. This year, Guru Purnima will be observed on July 3.

There is a law of worship of Guru on this day. The religious gurus of Hinduism are worshiped by their followers. Guru Purnima comes at the beginning of the rainy season. On this day all saints take bath in the Ganges river together.

It is celebrated by Hindus, Jains and Buddhists as a festival in India, Nepal, and Bhutan. This festival is traditionally celebrated by Hindus, Buddhists and Jains to honor and express their gratitude to their chosen spiritual teachers Dharma Guru.

This day is also the birthday of Krishna Dwaipayana Vyas, the author of Mahabharata. He was a Sanskrit scholar and also composed the four Vedas. For this reason, he is also named Ved Vyas. He is called Adiguru and Guru Purnima is also known as Vyasa Purnima in his honor. It is the day when Ved Vyas was born in the Mahabharata period by Sage Parashar, the daughter of a fisherman, Satyavati. Bhaktikal's saint Gheesadas was also born on this day, he was a disciple of Kabirdas.

The Sanskrit word Guru has been derived from two different words Gu and Ru. Gu means ignorance or darkness and Ru means elimination or removal. Thus, the term Guru means someone who removes all the darkness by enlightening and providing knowledge to the students. Read on to know more about Guru Purnima 2021 which is dedicated to our beloved and respected gurus or teachers.

Observances

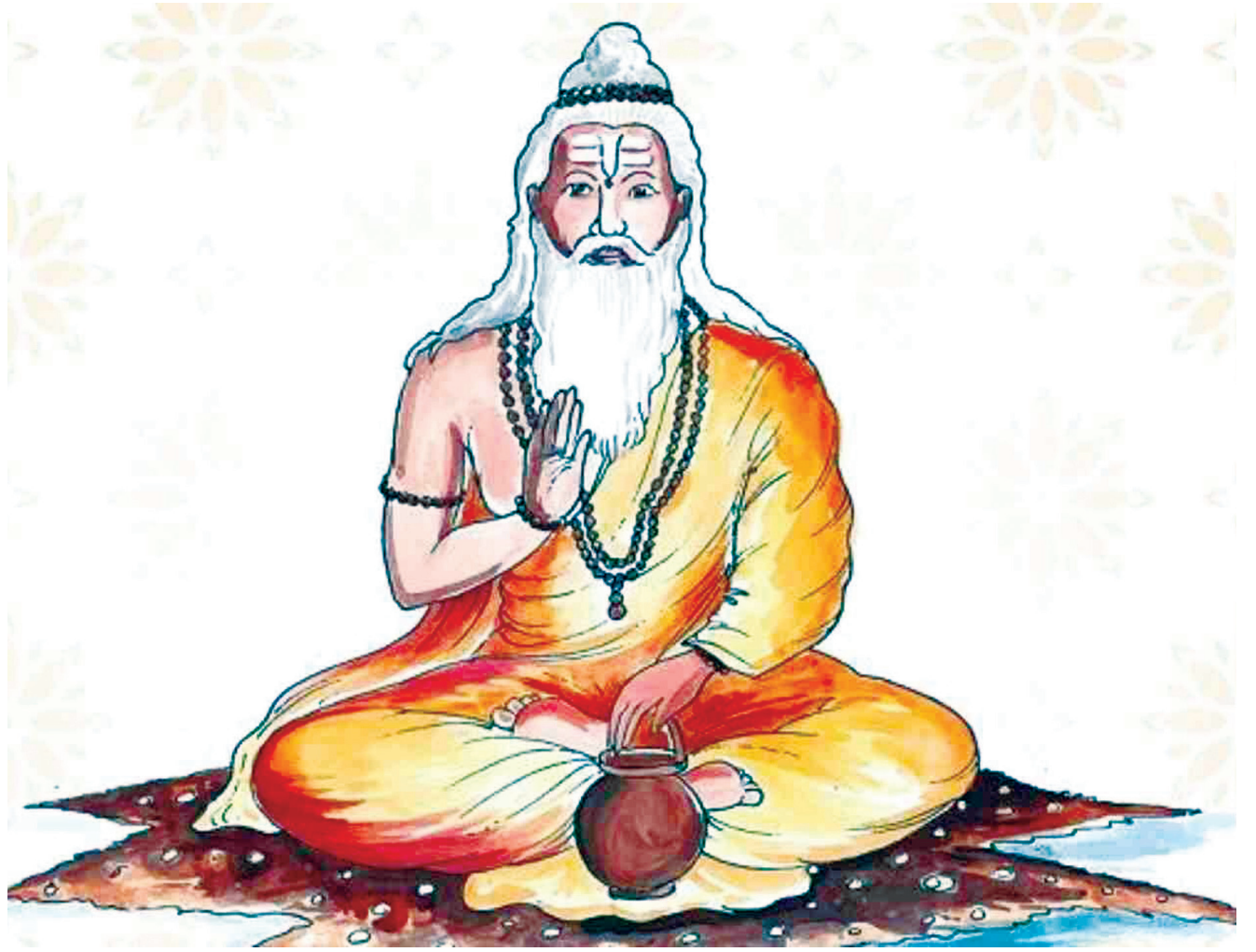
The celebration is marked by ritualistic respect to the guru, Guru Puja. The Guru Principle is said to be a thousand times more active on the day of Gurupurnima than on any other day. The word guru is derived from two words, gu and ru. The Sanskrit root gu means darkness or ignorance, and ru denotes the remover of that darkness. Therefore, a guru is one who removes the darkness of our ignorance. Gurus are believed by many to be the most necessary part of life. On this day, disciples offer puja (worship) or pay respect to their guru (spiritual guide). In addition to having religious importance, this festival has great importance for Indian academics and scholars. Indian academics celebrate this day by thanking their teachers as well as remembering past teachers and scholars.

Traditionally the festival is celebrated by Buddhists in honor of the lord Buddha who gave His first sermon on this day at Sarnath, Uttar Pradesh, India. In the yogic tradition, the day is celebrated as the occasion when Shiva became the first guru, as he began the transmission of yoga to the Saptarishis. Many Hindus celebrate the day in honor of the great sage Vyasa, who is seen as one of the greatest gurus in ancient Hindu traditions and a symbol of the Guru-shishya tradition. Vyasa was not only believed to have been born on this day, but also to have started writing the Brahma Sutras on ashadha sudha padyami, which ends on this day. Their recitations are a dedication to him, and are organised on this day, which is also known as Vyasa Purnima. The festival is common to all spiritual traditions in Hinduism, where it is an expression of gratitude toward the teacher by his/her disciple. Hindu ascetics and wandering monks (sanyasis), observe this day by offering puja to their guru, during the Chaturmas, a four-month period during the rainy season, when they choose seclusion and stay at one chosen place; some also give discourses to the local public. Students of Indian classical music, which also follows the Guru shishya parampara, celebrate this holy festival around the world.

Hindu legend

This was the day, when Krishna-Dwaipayana Vyasa – author of the Mahabharata – was born to sage Parashara and a fisherman's daughter Satyavati, thus this day is also celebrated as Vyasa Purnima. Veda Vyasa, did yeoman service to the cause of Vedic studies by gathering all the Vedic hymns extant during his times, dividing them into four parts based on their use in the sacrificial rites, and teaching them to his four chief disciples – Paila, Vaisampayana, Jaimini and Sumantu. It was this dividing and editing that earned him the honorific "Vyasa".

"He divided the Veda into four, namely Rig, Yajur, Sama and Atharva. The histories and the Puranas are said to be the fifth Veda."



Important information

Guru Purnima 2023

Monday, 03 July 2023

Purnima Tithi Begins - 02 July 2023 at 08:21 pm

Purnima Tithi Ends - 03 July 2023 at 05:08 pm

Yogic lore

In yogic lore, it is said that Guru Purnima was the day that saw the birth of the Adi Guru, or the first Guru. The story goes that over 15,000 years ago, a yogi appeared in the upper regions of the Himalayas. Nobody knew what his origins were. But his presence was extraordinary, and people gathered. However, he exhibited no signs of life, but for the occasional tears of ecstasy that rolled down his face. People began to drift away, but seven men stayed on. When he opened his eyes, they pleaded with him, wanting to experience whatever was happening to him. He dismissed them, but they persevered. Finally, he gave them a simple preparatory step and closed his eyes again. The seven men began to prepare. Days rolled into weeks, weeks into months, months into years, but the yogi's attention did not fall upon them again. After 84 years of sadhana, on the summer solstice that marks the advent of Dakshinayana, the earth's southern run, the yogi looked at them again. They had become shining receptacles, wonderfully receptive. He could not ignore them anymore. On the very next full moon day, the yogi turned south and sat as a guru to these seven men. The Adiyogi (the first yogi) thus became the Adi Guru. Adiyogi expounded these mechanics of life for many years. The seven disciples became celebrated as the Saptarishis and took this knowledge across the world. Guru Purnima is held sacred in the yogic tradition because the Adiyogi opened up the possibility for a human being to evolve consciously. The seven different aspects of yoga that were put in these seven individuals became the foundation for the seven basic forms of yoga, something that has still endured.

Observances by Buddhists and Hindus observe on this day uposatha i.e. to observe eight

precepts. Vipassana meditators practice meditation on this day under the guidance of their teachers. Rainy season i.e. varsha vassa also starts with this day. During the rainy season lasting for three lunar months from July to October. During this time Buddhist monks remain in a single place, generally in their temples. In some monasteries, monks dedicate the Vassa to intensive meditation. During Vassa, many Buddhist lay people reinvigorate their spiritual training and adopt more ascetic practices, such as giving up meat, alcohol, or smoking.

The Hindu spiritual Gurus are revered on this day by a remembering their life and teachings. Vyasa Puja is held at various temples, where floral offerings and symbolic gifts are given away in his honour and that of the cosmic satguru. The festivities are usually followed by feast for the disciples, shishya, where the prasad and charnamrita literally nectar of the feet, the symbolic wash of Guru's feet, which represents his grace, kripa is distributed.

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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

Supreme Court rejects Biden student...

The conservative majority disagreed. "The Secretary asserts that the HEROES Act grants him the authority to cancel \$430 billion of student loan principal. It does not," Roberts wrote. "We hold today that the Act allows the Secretary to 'waive or modify' existing statutory or regulatory provisions applicable to financial assistance programs under the Education Act, not to rewrite that statute from the ground up."

Roberts was joined by Justices Clarence Thomas, Samuel A. Alito Jr., Neil M. Gorsuch, Brett M. Kavanaugh and Amy Coney Barrett.

The challenge brought together controversial issues: an ambitious program aimed at fulfilling a campaign promise for Biden's political base; heightened suspicion by the Supreme Court's conservative supermajority about the ability of federal agencies to act without specific congressional authorization; and the power of Republican-led states to use the judiciary to stop a president's priorities before they take effect.

Biden and Education Secretary Miguel Cardona proposed a plan that would eliminate up to \$10,000 of student debt for borrowers earning up to \$125,000 annually, or up to \$250,000 for married couples. Those who received Pell Grants, a form of financial aid for low- and middle-income students, would be eligible for an additional \$10,000 in forgiveness. About 20 million borrowers could see their balances wiped clean.

U.S. Solicitor General Elizabeth B. Prelogar, who defended the program at oral arguments, said Cardona's actions are not only justified by the law, but they are also exactly what Congress had in mind when it passed the Heroes Act in the wake of the 9/11 terrorist attacks.

In a dissent from the majority opinion, Justice Elena Kagan said the court was making national policy in place of Congress and the executive branch.

"Congress authorized the forgiveness plan (among many other actions); the Secretary put it in place; and the President would have been accountable for its success or failure," Kagan wrote, joined by Justices Sonia Sotomayor and Ketanji Brown Jackson. "But this Court today decides that some 40 million Americans will not receive the benefits the plan provides, because (so says the Court) that assistance is too 'significant.'"

Biden was expected to address the ruling later Friday.

The justices have rejected the administration's expansive arguments in the past. The court lifted a pandemic-era moratorium on rental evictions put in place by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. It threw out a coronavirus vaccination-or-testing mandate imposed on large businesses by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration. And in a ruling unrelated to the pandemic, it cited the "major questions" doctrine to limit the Environmental Protection Agency's options for combating climate change.

The challenge to the student loan program was brought by Republican-led states in one case, and two individuals from Texas in another. In both cases, the Justice Department questioned whether the plaintiffs had legal standing to file their suits. The court dismissed the challenge from Texas, but said Missouri had standing to bring the case because of a state-created organization that deals with student loans.

Kagan said that her conservative colleagues strained to find a way to vote against Biden's plan.

"In adjudicating Missouri's claim, the majority reaches out to decide a matter it has no business deciding," she wrote. "It blows through a constitutional guardrail intended to keep courts acting like courts."

Roberts seemed sensitive to the criticism.

"It has become a disturbing feature of some recent opinions to criticize the decisions with which they disagree as going beyond the proper role of the judiciary," he wrote. "We do not mistake this plainly heartfelt disagreement for disparagement. It is important that the public not be misled either. Any such misperception would be harmful to this institution and our country."

Roberts said the court was simply calling out the administration for taking advantage of vague language in

the Heroes Act to move forward with a plan Congress likely would not authorize.

"From a few narrowly delineated situations specified by Congress, the Secretary has expanded forgiveness to nearly every borrower in the country," Roberts wrote. "The Secretary's plan has 'modified' the cited provisions only in the same sense that 'the French Revolution 'modified' the status of the French nobility'-it has abolished them and supplanted them with a new regime entirely."

The quote related to the French Revolution comes from a previous Supreme Court opinion.

Indeed, Biden and other Democratic officials themselves once questioned whether the law provided such leeway.

And Biden's debt relief program has been a divisive issue on Capitol Hill. On June 7, Biden vetoed a Republican-led resolution to strike down the program and restart loan payments for tens of millions of borrowers. The measure passed the Senate with the backing of Sens. Joe Manchin III (D-W.Va.), Jon Tester (D-Mont.) and Kyrsten Sinema (I-Ariz.), illustrating the likely difficulty of getting any future debt relief plan through Congress.

The administration's best hope at the Supreme Court was to convince the justices that none of the challengers had really been injured by the program, and thus they did not have legal standing to sue. Challengers had to show they have suffered a specific, rather than generalized, injury that could be remedied by relief from a federal court. It was not enough just to object to the size of the program or even to allege that the president has exceeded his authority.

A panel of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 8th Circuit had found that the Missouri Higher Education Loan Authority, a quasi-independent entity, could suffer losses from Biden's program that would hurt Missouri, one of the challenger states. A different court said the two borrowers, Myra Brown and Alexander Taylor, had standing to proceed because Taylor doesn't qualify for \$20,000 of forgiveness, while Brown is ineligible altogether.

The court unanimously dismissed the suit from the individuals, saying they did not have standing.

But Roberts said Missouri's challenge could proceed. "The Secretary's plan harms MOHELA in the performance of its public function and so directly harms the State that created and controls MOHELA," he wrote. "Missouri thus has suffered an injury in fact sufficient to give it standing to challenge the Secretary's plan."

From the time Biden was elected, activists and some congressional Democrats have waged a relentless campaign to get him to fulfill his promise to cancel at least part of the \$1.6 trillion in federal student debt.

Biden initially directed the Education and Justice Departments to produce memos on his administrative power to forgive loans but expressed skepticism. Senate Majority Leader Charles E. Schumer (D-N.Y.), Sen. Elizabeth Warren (D-Mass.) and Rep. Ayanna Pressley (D-Mass.) were adamant that Biden could use the same authority to cancel debt that President Donald Trump's administration used to temporarily waive student loan payments during the pandemic, a pause that has been extended multiple times and remains in effect.

The legal battles have left millions of student loan borrowers in limbo. More than half of eligible people had applied for the forgiveness program before it was halted by the courts, with the Education Department approving some 16 million applications.

The cases are Biden v. Nebraska and U.S. Department of Education v. Brown.

Russian President Putin and PM Modi...

to Washington, said a Kremlin readout.

In connection with the events of June 24 (revolt by the Wagner chief) in Russia, PM Modi expressed understanding and support for the decisive actions of the Russian leadership to protect law and order, ensure stability in the country and the security of its citizens.

The conversation came a day after National Security Advisor Ajit Doval spoke to his Russian counterpart Nikolai Patrushev.

The situation around Ukraine was touched upon as well. The Russian President gave his assessment of the current state of affairs in the special military operation zone, having stressed Kiev's utter refusal to undertake political and diplomatic steps to resolve the conflict, said the Kremlin readout.

"While discussing the situation in Ukraine, PM Modi reiterated his call for dialogue and diplomacy," said the Indian readout.

When discussing topical issues of bilateral cooperation, they underscored the importance of further consistent implementation of the major joint projects in various areas and noted with satisfaction substantial growth in trade throughout 2022 and in the first quarter of this year, said Russia.

They reviewed progress in bilateral cooperation and exchanged views on regional and global issues of mutual interest, said the PM's Office here.

Particular attention was paid to interaction within the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation and the G20, in which India currently holds the presidency, as well as in the BRICS format, said Kremlin.

"The conversation was substantive and constructive. The leaders reaffirmed their mutual intention to strengthen the special and privileged strategic partnership between Russia and India and agreed to maintain contact," said the Kremlin readout.

A day earlier, Putin had praised PM Modi as a "great friend of Russia" and lauded his "Make in India" initiative during an event in Moscow on Thursday, June 29.

The Russian President drew on India's example to encourage domestic products and brands in his own country during his speech. He also highlighted how the initiative had a positive impact on the Indian economy.

"Our friends in India and PM Modi, a great friend of Russia, a few years ago presented a concept-'Make in India'. And it had a very visible effect on the Indian economy," said Putin. (Source; TNS)

U.K. calls for U.N. reform with...

In a speech at a conference at the Chatham House think tank in London on Thursday, June 29, U.K. Foreign Secretary James Cleverly called for a reinvigorated multilateral system that is more reflective of the times.

He pointed out that the world's economic center of gravity is shifting away from the Euro-Atlantic and towards the Indo-Pacific but the multilateral institutions are yet to catch up.

"I have five transnational priorities. First, reform of the United Nations Security Council. We want to see permanent African representation and membership extended to India, Brazil, Germany and Japan," said Mr. Cleverly.

"I know this is a bold reform. But it will usher the Security Council into the 2020s. And the UNSC has grown before - albeit not since 1965. My second priority is reform of the international financial institutions. This matters for climate finance and, of course, for poverty reduction," he said.

The Minister also hailed India's leadership role with its presidency of the G20 in pitching for representation of poorer nations on the world stage.

"It seems obvious to me that the voice of the poorest and most vulnerable countries must be heard at the heart of the multilateral system. That's why we support permanent membership of the G20 for the African Union and welcome India's leadership on taking this forward," he said. Among the other priorities for the U.K., Mr. Cleverly highlighted making finance easier and quicker to access and maximize the impact of that investment.

He also stressed that the World Trade Organisation (WTO) desperately needs new rules that reflect today's digital economy to make trade policy "free, fair, open and not manipulated or distorted".

He spelt out another top priority as artificial intelligence (AI) and quantum computing have the potential to transform humankind's problem-solving capabilities. "I will chair the UN Security Council's first-ever meeting on this issue, in New York next month. And the Prime Minister [Rishi Sunak] will host an AI summit this autumn," said Mr. Cleverly. (Source: PTI)

Misty landscape in Coorg

Located amidst imposing mountains in Karnataka with a perpetually misty landscape, Coorg is a popular coffee producing hill station. It is popular for its beautiful green hills and the streams cutting right through them. It also stands as a popular destination because of its culture and people. The Kodavas, a local clan specializing in martial arts, are especially notable for their keen hospitality.

Coorg, officially known as Kodagu, is the most affluent hill station in Karnataka. It is well known for its breathtakingly exotic scenery and lush greenery. Forest covered hills, spice and coffee plantations only add to the landscape. Madikeri is the region's centre point with all transportation for getting around starting from here. On a visit to Coorg, cover the beautiful towns like Virajpet, Kushalnagar, Gonikoppal, Pollibetta, and Somwarpet, and experience the beautiful concept of "homestays" to make your experience more memorable.

RAJA'S SEAT

Raja's Seat is a prominent tourist spot in the centre of Madikeri town. It is a garden where the kings of Kodagu are believed to have spent their sunsets enjoying the scenic change of the sky colours. It was also their recreational space, where they spent time with their queens. It now stands as a big, open-air garden, overlooking the green hills and valleys of Coorg. Whether you want to walk around the space or sit and watch the spectacular changing colours of the low-hanging clouds, this is the perfect spot to enjoy a beautiful evening.

HIKE AROUND MOJO PLANTATION

Mojo Plantation is blessed with some of the best routes for hiking and treks. This part of the Madikeri witnesses more rainfall than the other parts and grows cardamom extensively. After two decades of organic farming, they have a thriving diverse rainforest which grows coffee, vanilla, pepper, pineapple, oranges, passion fruit, mango and kokam. The hike up to the beautiful Shola forests is just a few minutes away. In the correct season (and if nature approves), you can see the rare Nilgirikurinji blossom here. Other hikes include climbing to the Kaloor Ridge and crossing the Kaloor village and river (through scenic rice and spice fields). For more serious trekkers, the climb to Galibeedu forest towards the Sacred Grove may be worth a try. Covering a distance of approximately eight km, this stretch has a varied terrain, with a high probability of interacting with local communities.

SHOP AT COORG GREENS

Coorg is synonymous with coffee and chocolates. Due to its popularity as a tourist destination, shopping in Madikeri is a little more expensive than the other regions of the district, but you are sure enough to find everything you want. Coorg Greens has a number of branches across the district, and stocks miscellaneous products in their shop opposite the KSRTC Bus Stand. Here, you can buy Coorgi coffee, either filter or instant. They also have spices, dry fruits,



oils and handmade soaps. If you want to take small souvenirs, their assorted box of spices is a good choice. The chocolates on the first floor come in many varieties. The flavours include coffee, vanilla, pan masala and nuts. They are homemade and come in a variety of packages and sizes.

WALK AROUND THE COFFEE PLANTATIONS

Coffee plantations are the most visited places in Coorg. Most homestays and resorts organise a walk around their own plantations where you can see the most popular type of coffee grown here—coffee robusta. The harvest season is in the first week of November, and in case, you would like to see and experience the processing of coffee, this is a good time to visit. Unlike tea plantations, coffee does not grow as disciplined and well-trimmed. Good shoes and good rain cover are definitely recommended. Many of these plantations also grow spices such as pepper and cardamom. Apart from the smaller homestays and lodges, Orange County, Tata Coffee and Bombay Burmah organise tours around their plantations.

ABBEY FALLS

Abbey Falls, also known as Abbi Falls, is located around 10 kilometres away from the town of Madikeri and is one of the most popular tourist attractions in and around Coorg. The water cascade coming down from the cliff from a height of 70 feet provides a spectacular scene to behold. The walk to the falls from the main entrance has around 200 steps downwards throughout and takes you through exotic coffee, cardamom, pepper and other spice plantations. Even though bathing is prohibited in the falls now, there is an over-bridge opposite the falls to witness the beauty.

IRUPPU FALLS

Iruppu falls is a picturesque waterfall cascading along the Brahmagiri Mountain Range in the Coorg district of South Karnataka. Also known as the Lakshmana Tirtha Falls, which is a name derived from the tributary of Cauvery River of the same name of which these falls are a part of. People come here to enjoy the blissful vicinity of



nature, the grandeur of the falls and for also for its religious significance.

En route to the magnificent falls stands the famous Shiva temple Rameshwara along the banks of the river. Both the river stream and the temple have folklore behind their existences which have roots in the story of the epic Ramayana. The pristine cold water of the Iruppu falls is considered to be holy and possessing powers to clean

the past sins of the visiting devotees. A major tourist attraction, the falls attracts a large number of tourists every year, especially during the festival of Navaratri. Located on a lush, green mountain slope, a forest trail leads from these falls to the Brahmagiri Peak. The best time to visit the falls is during the monsoons when they are at their full capacity and hence become a breathtaking sight to behold.



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Dipika-Harinder crowned Asian mixed doubles champs

The Indian duo of Dipika Pallikal Karthik and Harinderpal Singh Sandhu won the gold medal at the Asian Squash Mixed Doubles Championships at Huangzhou (China) on June 30.

Overall, India ended its campaign with two medals as the duo of Anahat Singh and Abhay Singh secured a bronze after losing a close semifinal battle to Ivan Yuen and Rachel Arnold of Malaysia.

Ivan and Rachel, however, were handed a defeat by Dipika and Sandhu, who won a hard-fought contest 11-10 11-8 to clinch the title.

India beat Iran to defend men's Asian Kabaddi Championships title

The Indian men's kabaddi team beat Iran 42-32 in a high-voltage final to defend its Asian Championships title on June 30.

It was India's eighth title in the continental championships.

Iran started aggressively, but the Indians were up to their tasks. Captain Pawan Sehrawat helped India inflict the first All-Out with two touch points and gave his side a 10-4 lead.

India kept building pressure on the Iranians and produced another All-Out. India were leading 23-11 at half time.

Iranian all-rounder Mohammadreza Chiyaneh tried to lead his side make a comeback but they ended up conceding another All-Out to trail 14-33. India maintained their stranglehold and sealed the issue.

Pak to send delegation to India for inspecting World Cup venues

Pakistan is set to send a security delegation to India for inspecting the venues before giving clearance for the national team's travel to the neighbouring country for this year's ICC ODI World Cup.

An official source in the Inter-Provincial Coordination (Sports) Ministry said that the government, including the foreign and interior ministry, would decide when to send the security delegation to India once the new chairman of the Pakistan Cricket Board was elected after the Eid holidays.

"The security delegation will go with representation from the PCB to inspect the venues where Pakistan will play and also the security and other arrangements made for them in the World Cup," he said.

He said the delegation would visit Chennai, Bengaluru, Hyderabad, Kolkata and Ahmedabad, the venue for the marquee India-Pakistan match on October 15.

Ashes: Australia in cruise control after skittling out England tail at Lord's

LONDON (TIP)

Australia dug out a hefty lead of 221 runs against England before drizzle prematurely ended day three of the second Ashes test at Lord's on Friday. Usman Khawaja fronted Australia's dogged fight in bowler-friendly conditions with an unbeaten 58 from 123 balls.

His 60-odd partnerships with fellow opener David Warner then Marnus Labuschagne kept Australia on top. Khawaja had Steve Smith beside him on 6 when stumps was called at 130-2 in their second innings, and 25 overs left unused in the day.

The Australians, 1-0 up in the series, would be aiming for a lead of around 450 and a chance to bowl at England before tea on Saturday. They will want to set a big target. Last summer, England chased down 378 against India at Edgbaston and 299 against New Zealand at Nottingham. "If we bowl them out, over two days, we think we can chase them," England spin bowling coach Jeetan Patel said. "We have the courage to see how far we can take it."

Australia will also have to bowl without Nathan Lyon, its frontline spinner who was out injured after hurting his right calf running to the ball after tea on Thursday. He came to Lord's on crutches and had a "significant" strain, Cricket Australia said. England squandered the gains it made on Thursday. The tone was set on the second ball of the day when captain Ben Stokes was dismissed by Mitchell Starc.

The batters slumped to 325 all



out, conceding a first-innings lead to Australia of 91 runs, then the bowlers couldn't make the inroads that the Australians could earlier in the same conditions. Cool overcast conditions that turned gloomier after midday supplied swing and bounce to any bowlers who could find the right lengths. The Australians did so consistently and the English didn't. The Australians picked up where they left off on Thursday, bowling short and hostile to defensive fields. They dismissed England before the new ball became available. England resumed on 278-4 in reply to Australia's 416, and Stokes' dismissal started a rout of six wickets for 47 runs in less than 90 minutes.

Running up the slope, Starc got a leading edge off Stokes that was caught well by Cameron Green at third slip. Stokes didn't add to his 17 overnight. Harry Brook resumed on 45. He took a hit on the helmet from Pat Cummins and proved he

wasn't concussed on the next ball when a single raised his eighth fifty in his ninth test. But 50 from 68 balls was all Brook managed. He baseball-batted a short ball straight to Cummins at cover and gave Starc his 313th wicket, tied with Mitchell Johnson for fifth on Australia's all-time list. After a bad start by Starc, his three wickets led Australia. The last wickets fell in a heap after drinks. Jonny Bairstow chipped Josh Hazlewood to Cummins at mid on for 16, and Travis Head, the spin alternative to Lyon, got his eighth and ninth career test wickets.

Khawaja and Warner showed how badly England batted in the morning by enduring 24 overs while crawling to 63 runs together. Lord's grew quiet as the pair adapted superbly. "There was some good bowling, pressure built, but our guys got through that," Starc said. "They put that pressure on us but our top order have been fantastic."

Neeraj wins second straight Diamond League title in Lausanne

LAUSANNE (TIP)

Olympic champion Neeraj Chopra continued his tremendous form as he came back from a one-month injury lay-off to clinch the top spot in the Lausanne leg of the Diamond League, his second straight win of the season in the prestigious one-day meeting series, here on Friday, June 30.

The 25-year-old Chopra had skipped three top events due to a muscle strain he sustained while training last month but came back with a bang as he won the Diamond League title here with his fifth-round throw of 87.66m. He began with a foul and then had 83.52m and 85.04m throws. He had another foul in the fourth round before coming up with his winning throw of 87.66m next. His sixth and last throw was 84.15m.

Germany's Julian Weber was second with a best throw of 87.03m, while Jakub Vadlejch of the Czech Republic was third with an 86.13m effort.

Chopra had won the Lausanne leg in August last year also for his maiden Diamond League title. He then went on to win the Diamond League trophy in the grand finale a month later.



The Indian superstar had won the season-opening Diamond League meeting in Doha on May 5 with a throw of 88.67m. He has a personal best of 89.94m.

In the men's long jump, India's Murali Sreeshankar finished fifth with a below-par jump of 7.88m which he achieved in the third round.

Source: PTI

AIA Lauds Biden Modi 21st Century Partnership

June 25, 2023

NEW YORK (TIP): Several current and former community leaders from the Association of Indians in America (AIA) participated in events welcoming the Honorable Narendra Modi, Prime Minister of India, during his visit to United States. "A rare honor afforded to a visiting head of state of any country, Prime Minister Modi received a red carpet welcome from President Joe Biden, members of the United States Congress and countless Americans of Indian origin," said Mr. Gobind Munjal, National President of AIA. "We are delighted AIA was front and center in welcoming Mr. Modi."

In keeping with AIA's motto of pride in "Indian Heritage and American Commitment," several members of AIA - National, New York Chapter, and New Jersey chapters participated in the Yoga retreat at United Nations which was led by the prime minister.

Additionally, Mr. Gopal Khanna, former Vice President of AIA - National, along with his wife Anjali, a lifelong community worker, were at hand to welcome Prime Minister Modi in Washington, DC. "We were honored to be invited to attend the Joint Session of the Congress," said Khanna who has served in the administration of two governors and two presidents, most recently as the Director of the Agency of Healthcare and Research for President Donald



AIA Past National Presidents Dr. Buddhadev Manvar and Dr. Urmillesh Arya, National Secretary Gunjan Rastogi and longtime member Indu Jaiswal at the Yoga at United Nations on May 21st, 2023 led by PM Modi.

Trump. "A rare display of bipartisan support and heartfelt welcome afforded to PM Modi was evident on the floor of U.S. Congress. The prime minister's message of AI - America and India partnership defining the new world order in the 21st century was appreciated with a standing ovation."

"AIA organized the first ever trade delegation to India in 1979 to further U.S.-India ties. The relationship of our two countries has come a long way," said Munjal. Khanna added, "I can see huge

possibilities ahead, particularly in scaling business, technology and defense alliance. Of course, a lot will depend upon defining and crystallizing compelling strategic interests amongst the two nations. President Biden and Prime Minister Modi have set the course for building trust, investments and people to people exchange."

Also, AIA Illinois Chapter President Hina Trivedi had the honor of meeting with prime minister Modi in Washington DC.



AIA Illinois Chapter President Hina Trivedi with PM Modi in Washington, D.C. on June 23, 2023

Earlier last month, AIA celebrated 75th anniversary of India's independence and building of the nation's democratic institutions. Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer and New York City Mayor Eric Adams joined prominent members of the Indian-American community at the Honor Banquet hosted by AIA on May 6th at the Terrace on the Park in Flushing Meadow Park, Queens, NY.

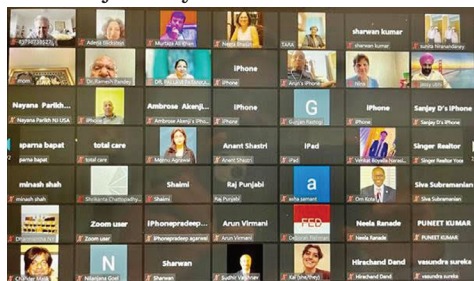
For more information, please reach out to NATIONAL PRESIDENT GOBIND MUNJAL at 646-209-8244 or gpmunjal@gmail.com; Or visit AIA National Website: www.aianational.org

ABOUT AIA: Established in 1967, the Association of Indians in America is the oldest national organization representing peoples of Indian origin in America.

CONTD FROM PAGE 6

GOPIO Manhattan, Indian Consulate & Happy Life Yoga Collaborate to Celebrate Yoga Day

It was launched in June 2019 in New York. Malik's portfolio of work has won many awards and has been acclaimed in the media and people worldwide. Through his work he intends to inspire others to live happier and healthier lives and the journey continues.



Part of the audience at the zoom session of Happy Life Yoga

During the program, GOPIO International President Lal Motwani, who also serves as honorary chair of GOPIO-New York chapter, spoke on Yoga and cited that one has to make others happy to be happy yourself. GOPIO-Manhattan Chapter President Shivender Sofat invited the community to participate in other chapter activities including welcoming new students from India for a Welcome Dinner event in late September. He further added on the

various services from the chapter including community feeding on the last Monday of every month and invited members of the community to sponsor this effort. GOPIO-Manhattan Chapter Board Member Siddharth Jain, who managed the Zoom session gave the vote of thanks.

Also present at the event were community leaders including India Association of Long Island President Bina Sabapathy, GOPIO International Coordinator Dr. Asha Samant, Rakesh Agarwal of UP Association of North America, AIA Secretary Gunjan Rastogi, who is also Regional VP of NFIA and Sudhir Vaishnav of Bhartiya Vidhya Bhavan.

GOPIO-Manhattan, in accordance with its mission to serve the larger society and those in need, has taken several initiatives in the recent past. A Community Feeding is organized by the Chapter providing vegan or vegetarian lunch for the homeless and needy at Tomkins Square Park in Manhattan on the last Monday of every month. The chapter appeals to the community to support the initiative by being a volunteer and/or a sponsor?

For additional information on GOPIO Manhattan, contact President Shivender Sofat at 731-988-6969, e-mail: info@gopiomanhattan.org or visit here: <https://gopiomanhattan.org/> Facebook Link: GOPIO Manhattan NYC

July Fourth Travel Advisory

AAA predicts Friday travel times will be up nearly 30 percent over normal
JUNE 28, 2023

NEW YORK (TIP): AAA predicts a record-breaking Independence Day holiday weekend.

The travel experts at the auto club estimate 43.2 million people will drive to their destinations, an increase of 2.4 percent over 2022, with another 7.5 million people traveling by air.

They also predict that Friday will be the busiest day on the roads during the Independence Day holiday weekend - pushing average travel times up nearly 30 percent over normal.

No wonder - a Tuesday Fourth of July makes it enticing to put together an extra-long weekend.

Also, gas prices are well below what they were one year ago. The national average for regular gasoline ranges from \$3.50 - \$3.60 a gallon, far lower than the fearsome price of \$4.80 on July 4, 2022, AAA reported..

"We've never projected travel numbers this high for Independence Day weekend," Paula Twidale, Senior Vice President of AAA Travel, said in a news release. "What this tells us is that despite inventory being limited and some prices 50% higher, consumers are not cutting back on travel this summer."

INRIX, which provides AAA with transportation data and insights, estimated best and worst times for the



Gridlock in New York City
File photo for representational purpose only

five days leading up to the Fourth.

Thursday: Before noon will be the best travel time, with the worst between 4-6 p.m.

Friday: Best travel time before 10 a.m. or after 6 p.m.; worst from 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Saturday: Best travel time before noon. Worst: 1 p.m.

Sunday and Monday: minimal impact on traffic expected

As a bonus, they predicted that on the holiday Tuesday the best travel times will be before 11 a.m. or after 6 p.m. and the worst will be noon - 3 p.m. Travel on July 5 will be best before 2 p.m. and worst from 3-6 p.m.

The absolute worst traffic congestion in the metro area will be on the Garden State Parkway heading to Jersey Shore at 5 p.m. Friday, they said: 64 percent longer than usual.

(Read full story at
www.theindianpanorama.news)

Indian American community in New York demands to stop violence in Manipur; asks Center for stern action

JUNE 25, 2023

NEW YORK (TIP): A group of concerned people from the Indian American Community met regarding the violence happening in Manipur, India on Saturday, June 24, 2023. Dr. Anna George, Associate Professor at Molloy University, led the meeting. The program was attended by about 23 eminent community leaders of various organizations and Humanitarians who expressed genuine concerns regarding Manipur violence and the fate of Christians in Manipur.

After the self-introduction, Dr. George addressed the gathering and voiced her serious concerns regarding the violence happening in Manipur. She stated that regardless of whether the victims of these horrific riots are Christians or not, we should help them because of humanitarian concerns. "What is taking place in Manipur is horrible violations of human rights and religious freedom," Dr. George added. She pointed out that over 200 churches were burnt down, about 100 or more people were killed, and about 80,000 people were displaced. "They are finding shelter in the forest; they have no homes to return to, so we must decide to do something to help the victims in Manipur ." Dr. George implored the gathering.

Mr. George Abraham spoke in detail



Indian American community demands end to violence in Manipur

about the suffering of the Christians in the Kuki tribal community who have been primarily targeted. He also stated that the churches in the Meitei villages were burnt down, which shows that they specifically target Christians. He went on to say that the government appears to be neither helping to quell the riots nor providing adequate shelter, food, and medicines to those who have become refugees in their own homeland.

Dr. Anna George requested all the participants to think and come up with ideas on how we can help the victims in Manipur and stop the violence by putting pressure on the government. Many who attended the meeting came up with suggestions to help victims of this horrific disaster. Ms. Annie Sabu stated that we should seek the help of

legislature and political officials here to make Americans aware of the human rights violations happening in Manipur. Ms. Bessy Thangavelu stated that we should reach out to Indian Christian leaders and church officials in the US who will be able to mobilize supporters to raise awareness regarding this issue and together formulate a plan of action.

The meeting passed a resolution condemning all the violence and noted that the rioters' objective appeared to be the ethnic cleansing of Christians from their tribal land. Participants expressed their shock and surprise at the slow walk by the central government to arrest and punish these radical elements, which are on the loose. Most of the participants are convinced that the burning of the Churches in Meitei's heartland proves

that the destruction of properties belonging to Christians and ethnic cleansing appears to be part of the larger agenda of those who are perpetrating these heinous crimes in Manipur.

The meeting also decided to create further awareness and influence decision-makers on the nature of these riots and expose the vicious agenda practiced by those in power today, violating the oath they have taken to uphold constitutional values. There will also be a fundraising effort to help the people in Manipur who have lost their homes and everything their own and will also cooperate with other organizations in joint efforts. Mr. Koshy George, the President of the Federation of Indian Christian Organizations in North America (FIACONA), lauded the initiative and appreciated those who have come forward and pledged his support to help the cause.

Mr. V.M. Chacko, Raju Abraham, John Joseph, Biju Chacko, John Joseph, Joshua Jayasingh, Gajendran Ganesan, Mary Philip, Mathew P Thomas, and Dr. Leno Thomas also spoke. And voiced their concerns regarding the atrocities happening in Manipur and gave many practical suggestions to help the victims and combat the issues. For further information, contact Dr. Anna George @646-732-6143.

Walgreens Plans to Close 450 Locations: 150 in the US, 300 in UK

JUNE 30, 2023

NEW YORK (TIP): Walgreens expects to close 150 locations in the United States and 300 locations in the United Kingdom, Walgreens Boots Alliance CFO James Kehoe said in the company's earnings call this week.

The pharmacy chain reported lower earnings on Tuesday, June 27, compared to the same quarter last year - \$118 million, or 14 cents a



A Walgreens Pharmacy in Long Island, New York

share, compared to \$289 million, or 33 cents a share, a year ago. The company is facing muted consumer spending and a pullback in demand for Covid vaccines.

CEO Rosalind Brewer said the company was increasing its cost-savings efforts to \$4.1 billion and "taking immediate actions to optimize profitability for our US healthcare segment."

Kehoe told analysts the company will have saved \$3.3 billion by the end of this year, and is projecting to save "at least" \$800 million in 2024. These store closures are part of its cost-cutting effort.

The chain operates almost 9,000 stores in the United States and expects to close the 150 US locations by the end of its next fiscal year, Aug 31, 2024, a spokesperson said.

Kehoe said the company also eliminated more than 500 roles, or around 10% of its corporate and US office support workforce. Technology and its plans to build the "pharmacy of the future" will further drive savings, he said.

"We are optimizing the model through our micro fulfillment centers, tech-enabled centralization of in-store activities and telepharmacy solutions," Kehoe said.

Hochul celebrates federal green light for congestion pricing

The long-delayed road tolling program is set to start in Manhattan next year.



Gov. Kathy Hochul, center, was joined by (starting second from left) state Department of Transportation Commissioner Marie Therese Dominguez, Riders Alliance organizer Danna Dennis, Reps. Dan Goldman and Ritchie Torres, MTA Chair Janno Lieber, Comptroller Brad Lander, state Sen. Brad Hoylman-Sigal, City Council Member Gale Brewer, Assembly Members Deborah Glick, Tony Simone, Jo Anne Simon and Jessica Gonzales-Rojas.

JUNE 29, 2023

NEW YORK (TIP): If Gov. Kathy Hochul drove to her press conference near Washington Square Park on Tuesday, June 27, she - along with nearly everyone else driving into Manhattan's Central Business District - could owe as much as \$23 under a congestion pricing program that is set to go into effect as early as next spring.

In an address at New York University on Tuesday, June 27, Hochul celebrated the clearing of the final federal hurdle for the city to implement congestion pricing. "More vehicles have come back than we had even before the pandemic," said Hochul. "These vehicles have an alternative - an incredible alternative - called public transportation."

(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)

Mayall appointed President of Board of Nargis Dutt Memorial Foundation

JUNE 28, 2023

EAST MEADOW, NY (TIP): Jaspreet S. Mayall, Partner in the Telecommunications and Bankruptcy Groups at Certilman Balin Adler & Hyman, was unanimously appointed as the next president of the board of the Nargis Dutt Memorial Foundation of New York on June 14.

The Nargis Dutt Memorial Foundation, a New York based non-profit organization, was first established in 1981 in New York City by Sunil Dutt in memory of his wife and legendary actress Nargis Dutt, who died of cancer in 1981. The Nargis Dutt Foundation spreads cancer awareness and knowledge, organizing free screening camps in rural areas of the country.

Earlier, Mayall was honored with the Nassau County Community Service Award as an Indian American Leader. He was also appointed to the board of the American Heart Association and is charged with helping the organization build awareness in the South Asian community.



Jaspreet S. Mayall has been appointed as the next President of the board of the Nargis Dutt Memorial Foundation

What the U.S. Supreme Court's ruling on affirmative action means for colleges

THE LANDMARK DECISION STRIKES DOWN DECADES-OLD POLICIES SET UP TO BOOST DIVERSITY IN U.S. COLLEGE ADMISSIONS

The U.S. Supreme Court on June 29 struck down race-conscious policies in college admissions, ending decades of precedent that had allowed schools nationwide to use such programs to increase the diversity of their student bodies.

Here is an explanation of the policies commonly known as affirmative action, their history and the possible consequences of the Court's decision.

WHAT IS AFFIRMATIVE ACTION?

In the context of higher education, affirmative action typically refers to admissions policies aimed at increasing the number of Black, Hispanic and other minority students on campus.

Colleges and universities that take race into consideration have said they do so as part of a holistic approach that reviews every aspect of an application, including grades, test scores and extracurricular activities. The goal of race-conscious admissions policies is to increase student diversity in order to enhance the educational experience for all students. Schools also employ recruitment programs and scholarship opportunities intended to boost diversity, but the Supreme Court litigation was focused on admissions.

WHICH U.S. SCHOOLS CONSIDER RACE?

While many schools do not disclose details about their admissions processes, taking race into account is more common among selective schools that turn down most of their applicants.

In a 2019 survey by the National Association for College Admission Counseling, about a quarter of schools said race had a "considerable" or "moderate" influence on admissions, while more than half reported that race played no role whatsoever.

Nine States have banned the use of race in admissions policies at public colleges and universities: Arizona, California, Florida, Idaho, Michigan, Nebraska, New Hampshire, Oklahoma and Washington.



Protesters gathered in October in front of the Supreme Court as the justices heard oral arguments on affirmative action cases involving Harvard and University of North Carolina admissions

Photo credit : Bill Clark/CQ Roll Call

WHAT IS THE CURRENT LITIGATION ABOUT?

The Supreme Court decided two cases brought by Students for Fair Admissions, a group headed by Edward Blum, a conservative legal strategist who has spent years fighting affirmative action.

One case contended that Harvard's admissions policy unlawfully discriminates against Asian American applicants. The other asserted that the University of North Carolina unlawfully discriminates against white and Asian American applicants.

The schools rejected those claims, saying race is determinative in only a small number of cases and that barring the practice would result in a significant drop in the number of minority students on campus.

HOW HAS THE U.S. SUPREME COURT RULED IN THE PAST?

Before Thursday, the Court had largely upheld race-conscious admissions for decades, though not without limits.

A divided Supreme Court took up the issue in the landmark 1978 case, Regents of the University of

California v. Bakke, after schools began using affirmative action in response to the Civil Rights era to correct the effects of racial segregation.

The swing vote, Justice Lewis Powell, ruled that schools could not use affirmative action to rectify past racial discrimination and struck down the university's practice of setting aside a certain number of spots for minorities.

Nevertheless, Mr. Powell found that increasing campus diversity was a "compelling interest" because students of all races - not just minorities - would receive a better education if exposed to different viewpoints. Mr. Powell ruled that schools could weigh race in admissions as long as it remained only one factor among many.

In 2003, the Court struck down the University of Michigan's use of a system that awarded "points" to minority applicants as going too far but affirmed Bakke's central finding that schools could use race as one of several admission factors.

The Court in 2016 again upheld race-conscious admissions in a challenge backed by Blum to the University of Texas policies. But the Court has moved sharply to the right since then, with six conservative justices now and only three liberals.

WHAT WILL COLLEGES DO IN RESPONSE?

The decision on Thursday will force elite colleges and universities to revamp their policies and search for new ways to ensure diversity in their student populations. Many schools have said other measures would not be as effective, resulting in fewer minority students on campuses.

In briefs filed with the Supreme Court, the University of California and the University of Michigan - top public college systems from States that have outlawed race-conscious admissions - said they have spent hundreds of millions of dollars on alternative programs intended to improve diversity, but that those efforts have fallen far short of goals. (Source: CNN)

CONTRACTS RESTORED AT RAINBOW CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER IN QUEENS AS PARENTS FLOCK TO RE-ENROLL

JUNE 30, 2023

FLUSHING, NY (TIP): State Senator John Liu, on June 30, proclaimed victory in the battle over the future of the Rainbow Child Development Center in Queens after it was threatened with closure by the Department of Education. The reversal follows weeks of discussions with the DOE and advocacy from families, educators and elected officials who held that the DOE was wrong to close the school and reassign families to other schools they never applied to, often to schools outside the borough.

After meeting with the DOE this week, Rainbow informed parents that enrollment for the 2023-2024 school year at the Rainbow Child Development Center has been restored. Parents are now beginning the enrollment process.

Rainbow has had its Pre-K and 3-K contracts with the Department of Education since 2010 and has rapidly

become an early childhood learning center of choice serving bilingual and low-income Chinese/English-speaking families through its four schools in Flushing, Little Neck, Fresh Meadows and Long Island City.

After a payment dispute between a handful of parents and Rainbow at the start of the pandemic, the Special Commissioner of Investigation opened an investigation into Rainbow that concluded in May 2023. For the last three years, Rainbow continued operations as usual without updates or the \$2 million in reimbursements it was owed by the DOE for those operations. Instead, Rainbow's operators were forced to use personal funds to stay afloat. It was only when Rainbow approached the City Comptroller to inquire about its lack of payments that the school suddenly learned it would be shut down for the next school year and parents were promptly reassigned to other

schools.

When approached by Rainbow in early June, Senator Liu rallied with Rainbow families and sent a letter (attached) to Chancellor Banks rebuking the DOE for false public statements regarding outstanding payments and demanding the DOE not close this desperately needed community school that serves about 400 children throughout Queens. This week, Rainbow at long last received an update from the DOE on enrollment indicating that it may continue to offer free Pre-K and 3-K for the upcoming 2023-2024 school year.

State Senator John Liu stated, "The DOE has made the right decision and we thank the Chancellor for recognizing the importance of this early childhood learning center that serves hundreds of families throughout Queens with bilingual English/Chinese competency.

(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)



State Senator John Liu

Photo credit / New York Senate - www.flickr.com

History This Week

JUNE 30 - JULY 06, 2023

JUNE 30

June 30, 1971 - The 26th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution was enacted, granting the right to vote in all federal, state and local elections to American citizens 18 years or older. The U.S. thus gained an additional 11 million voters. The minimum voting age in most states had been 21.

June 30, 1997 - In Hong Kong, the flag of the British Crown Colony was officially lowered at midnight and replaced by a new flag representing China's sovereignty and the official transfer of power.

JULY 1



July 1st - Canada Day, a national holiday in Canada, formerly known as Dominion Day, commemorating the confederation of Upper and Lower Canada and some of the Maritime Provinces into the Dominion of Canada on July 1, 1867.

July 1, 1893 - President Grover Cleveland underwent secret cancer surgery aboard a yacht owned by his friend, Commodore E.C. Benedict. The surgery was performed on a cancerous growth in his mouth. The entire left side of his jaw was removed along with a small portion of his soft palate. A second, smaller operation was performed on July 17th. Cleveland was then fitted with a rubber prosthesis which he wore until his death in 1908. The secrecy was intended to prevent panic among the public during the economic depression of 1893.

JULY 2

July 2, 1788 - Congress announced the United States Constitution had been ratified by the required nine states and that a committee had been appointed to make preparations for the new American government.



July 2, 1881 - President James A. Garfield was shot and mortally wounded as he entered a railway station in Washington, D.C. He died on September 19th.

July 2, 1917 - A race riot occurred in St. Louis, Missouri, resulting in an estimated 75 African Americans killed and hundreds injured. To protest the violence against blacks, W.E.B. DuBois and James Weldon Johnson later led a silent march down Fifth Avenue in New York.

July 2, 1964 - President Lyndon B. Johnson signed the Civil Rights Act of 1964, prohibiting discrimination on the basis of race in public accommodations, publicly owned or operated facilities, employment and union membership and in voter registration. The Act allowed for cutoff of Federal funds in places where discrimination remained.

Birthday - The first African American on the U.S. Supreme Court, Thurgood Marshall (1908-1993) was born in Baltimore, Maryland. Nominated by President Johnson, he began his 24-year career on the High Court in 1967.

JULY 3



July 3, 1775 - During the American Revolution, George Washington took command of the Continental Army at Cambridge, Massachusetts.

July 3, 1976 - The raid on Entebbe airport in Uganda occurred as an Israeli commando unit rescued 103 hostages on a hijacked Air France airliner. The jet had been en route from Tel Aviv to Paris when it was hijacked by pro-Palestinian guerrillas. Three hostages, seven hijackers and twenty Ugandan soldiers were killed during the rescue.

July 3, 1988 - Iran Air Flight 655 was destroyed while flying over the Persian Gulf after the U.S. Navy Warship Vincennes fired two surface-to-air missiles, killing all 290 passengers aboard. A subsequent U.S. military inquiry cited stress related human failure for the mistaken identification of the civilian airbus as an enemy F-14 fighter jet.

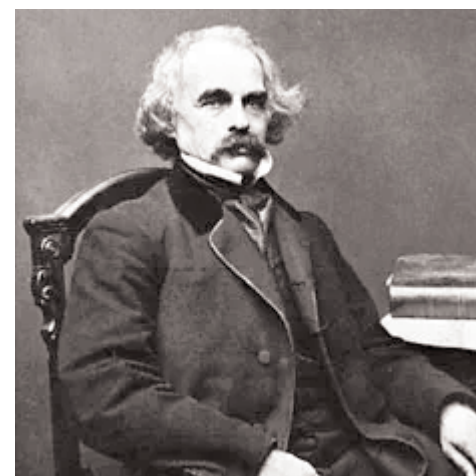
JULY 4

July 4, 1776 - The Declaration of Independence was approved by the Continental Congress.

July 4, 1863 - Vicksburg, the last Confederate stronghold on the Mississippi River, surrendered to

General Grant and the Army of the West after a six week siege. With the Union in control of the Mississippi, the Confederacy was effectively split in two, cut off from its western allies.

July 4, 1882 - The "Last Great Buffalo Hunt" began on Indian reservation lands near Hettinger, North Dakota as 2,000 Teton Sioux Indians in full hunting regalia killed about 5,000 buffalo. By this time, most of the estimated 60-75 million buffalo in America had been killed by white hunters who usually took the hides and left the meat to rot. By 1883, the last of the free-ranging buffalo were gone.



Birthday - Novelist and short-story writer Nathaniel Hawthorne (1804-1864) was born in Salem, Massachusetts. His works included; The Scarlet Letter, The House of the Seven Gables and The Blithedale Romance.

Birthday - Song writer Stephen Foster (1826-1864) was born in Lawrenceville, Pennsylvania. Among his nearly 200 songs were; Oh! Susanna, Camptown Races, Swanee River, Jeannie with the Light Brown Hair, and Beautiful Dreamer. He died in poverty at Bellevue Hospital in New York.

Birthday - Calvin Coolidge (1872-1933) the 30th U.S. President was born in Plymouth, Vermont. He became President on August 3, 1923, after the death of Warren G. Harding. In 1924, Coolidge was elected President but did not run for re-election in 1928.

JULY 5

July 5, 1775 - The Continental Congress adopted the Olive Branch Petition expressing hope for a reconciliation with Britain. However, King George III refused even to look at the petition and instead issued a proclamation declaring the colonists to be in a state of open rebellion.



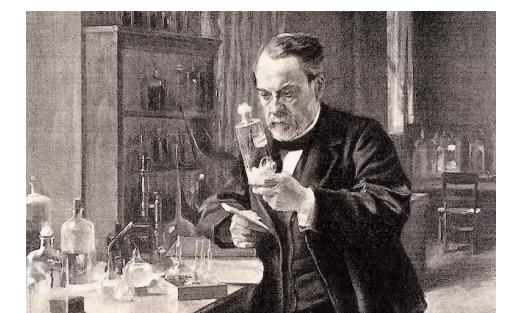
Birthday - Civil War Admiral David Farragut (1801-1870) was born near Knoxville, Tennessee. He is best remembered for his yelling "Damn the torpedoes, full speed ahead!" during an attack on his fleet by the Confederates.

Birthday - Promoter and showman P.T. Barnum (1810-1891) was born in Bethel, Connecticut. His American Museum opened in 1842, exhibiting unusual acts such as the Feejee Mermaid, Siamese Twins Chang and Eng, and General Tom Thumb. In 1871, Barnum opened "The Greatest Show on Earth" in Brooklyn, New York. He later merged with rival J.A. Bailey to form the Barnum and Bailey Circus.



Birthday - Cecil J. Rhodes (1853-1902) was born at Bishop's Stortford, Hertfordshire, England. As a South African millionaire and politician, he was said to have once controlled 90 percent of the world's diamond production. His will established the Rhodes Scholarships at Oxford University for young scholars aged 18-25. Rhodesia was also named for him.

JULY 6



July 6, 1885 - Louis Pasteur gave the first successful anti-rabies inoculation to a boy who had been bitten by an infected dog.



Birthday - Revolutionary War Naval Officer John Paul Jones (1747-1792) was born in Kirkbean, Scotland. He is best remembered for responding "I have not yet begun to fight!" to British opponents seeking his surrender during a naval battle.



A World without Childhood Blindness

Only by doing good can one benefit
-Rig Veda



An Eye Institute in Rajahmundry,
Andhra Pradesh to prevent
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**

Triples 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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Performing free cataract surgeries
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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.
<https://youtube/B23VvUaloN4> <https://youtube/KiCzqLQe2VE>

To know more about the work of Eye Foundation of America or to donate, visit 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